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Kakutani, a Connecticut native, Asian Americans.

On behalf of the 2,000 reporters, editors and industry executives of Asian descent represented by the Asian American Journalists Association, we'd like to thank Rolling Stone for exposing the bigotry of one of America's prized authors.

To Mr. Mailer, we'd simply like to say: Shame on you.

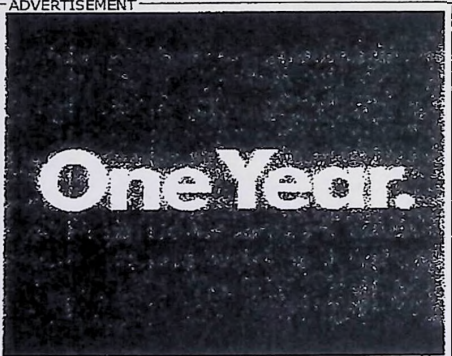
Sincerely,

Esther Wu, AAJA National President
Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan, AAJA National Media Watch Representative

cc: Norman Mailer, author
Michiko Kakutani, book critic, The New York Times
Will Dana, Managing Editor, Rolling Stone
Mae Cheng, President, Unity: Journalists of Color
Herbert Lowe, President, National Association of Black Journalists
Veronica Villafañe, President, National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Dan Lewerenz, President, Native American Journalists Association
Deepti Hajela, President, South Asian Journalists Association

Posted by Rachel | 04:21 PM | Enemies List

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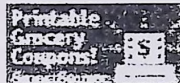
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Lloyd Grove

Ethnic group is stormin' over Norman

BY **LLOYD GROVE** **L W D O W N**



Lloyd Grove is The Daily News' newest gossip columnist, joining us from The Washington Post, where he wrote the widely read 'Reliable Source' column.

E-mail:
lloydg@nydailynews.com

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[COLUMNIST ARCHIVE](#)

Talk about a kamikaze attack!

Norman Mailer yesterday undertook a cultural suicide mission, dive-bombing not only The New York Times but also a group of Asian-American journalists incensed over his strike on Times book critic **Michiko Kakutani**.

The 82-year-old novelist - who in an interview with Rolling Stone called the Japanese-American critic "a one-woman kamikaze" and "a token" minority hire - received a spanking yesterday from Dallas Morning News reporter **Esther Wu**, president of the 2,000-member Asian American Journalists Association.

"Calling out Norman Mailer as a racist ... would be easy," Wu wrote to Rolling Stone publisher **Jann Wenner**. "But that's not why we're writing. We take greater offense at his reference to her as a 'two-fer' and a 'token' because she's 'Asiatic, feminist,' which essentially diminishes the accomplishments of all women and journalists ... To Mr. Mailer, we'd simply like to say: Shame on you."

From his summer home on Cape Cod, Mailer dismissed Wu's letter as "an excellent example of high-octane political correctness."



Monaster NEWS

Norman Mailer tore into Times book critic Michiko Kakutani (below) in a Rolling Stone interview, and the head of the Asian American Journalists Association is firing back.



Wu fired back: "Perhaps if Mr. Mailer were a little more politically correct, he would not be making such racist remarks."

In an exclusive statement to me, Mailer repeated his "token" charge and added that "authors do like to reviewed on publication day, not two weeks earlier with a heinously bad review ... This is what Ms. Kakutani has been doing to my books for many years now, and that may not be politically correct, but it sure is foul."

Wu retorted: "But this has nothing to do with political correctness and everything to do with character assassination of two whole classes of people (women and minorities) by Mr. Mailer."

Wu also chided the author of the Rolling Stone piece, **Douglas Brinkley**, who made a big deal of Mailer's two Pulitzer Prizes (for nonfiction and fiction), but failed to mention Kakutani's 1998 Pulitzer for criticism.

"I think it's a shame," Wu told me.

Kakutani, through a Times spokesman, declined to comment.

Brief Britney fling gives us Alexander the not-so-great

Forget **Tom Cruise** and **Katie Holmes**.

Here's the true sign the apocalypse is upon us: **Britney Spears'** first husband, **Jason Alexander**, has hired a publicist.

Never mind that the 23-year-old Kentwood, La., native - whose 2004 Las Vegas marriage to Spears was annulled after 55 hours - has no showbiz career to speak of. He wants to get into acting, modeling and professional party-hopping, okay?

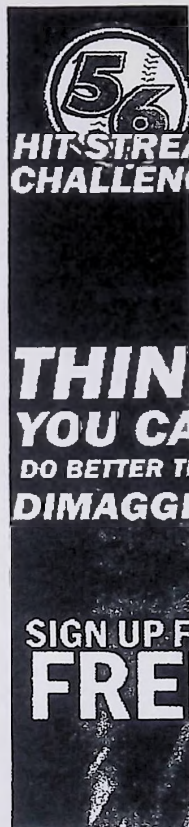
A Lowdown spy at LaFace Records' pre-BET Awards party the other night in L.A. reports: "His publicist kept calling me, begging me to let him in. The doors opened at 9:15, and Jason arrived at 8:30. I said, 'Do you want to come back?' They said, 'No,' and waited 45 minutes!

Added the spy: "When I said 'Jason Alexander' to the paparazzi on the red carpet, they were like, 'Where, where?'" And then they looked at him and were like, 'Oh, it isn't the "Seinfeld" guy,' and did some courtesy shots."

But even with his ex-wife's pregnancy by former backup dancer **Kevin Federline** making daily headlines, Alexander is apparently struggling to get ink.

"No one wanted to interview him," said the spy. "It was like, crickets. He's so nice, very gracious - but desperado." Dejected, Alexander finally surrendered the red carpet to actual celebs, including **Vin Diesel**, **Lil' Bow Wow**, **Andre Harrell**, **Gabrielle Union**, **Timbaland** and party host **Ciara**.

Yesterday, Alexander's publicist - who works at the Sports and Entertainment



Group of California - did not return what was probably her first call from a gossip column.

The Briefing

GREAT SCOTT! Celebs had some astonishing confessions about actor-director **Campbell Scott** at his Film Society of Lincoln Center tribute on Tuesday night. "He is a good kisser," revealed **Peter Sarsgaard** - Scott's lover in "The Dying Gaul," which premiered at the event - before being dragged away by his publicist. "He has on scruffy shoes. I've had to talk to him about it once or twice," whispered his girlfriend, actress **Patricia Clarkson**, who plays his wife in the film. "He has a secret desire to be those guys who sit and look for forest fires," said "Off the Map" star **Joan Allen**. Maybe the ugly clodhoppers are for firefighting?

IT LIST: Have the "It" boys shoved aside the traditional female socialites? Word is that New York magazine set out to prove that thesis by assigning writer **Amy Laroeca** to profile the likes of furniture mogul **Eric Villeroy**, social moth **Fabian Basabe** and banker **Euan Rellie** (aka Mr. **Lucy Sykes**). Apparently the piece has been ready to run for weeks, but its fate remains uncertain. The mag's slack had no comment.

With Hudson Morgan

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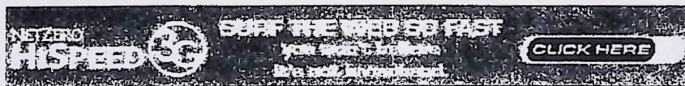
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The letter to Jann Wenner from Esther Wu is an excellent example of high octane political correctness. I would propose that is what the New York Times was serving when they decided that Michiko Kakutani was a perfect, indeed even talented, token they could use to avoid the accusation that they were a white male newspaper serving white males.

This is all very well—white males deserve no special privileges. But authors do like to be reviewed on publication day, not two weeks earlier with a heinously bad review, the first reaction most readers will see or hear about. ~~That is also~~

~~politically incorrect~~, and ^{is} this what ~~Michiko~~
Mrs. Kakutani has been doing to my
books for many years now,
and that may not be politically
incorrect but it sure is foul.

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Norman Mailer

This is a perfect example of high octane political correctness which

precisely ~~is~~ what the New York Times was serving when they

decided ^{that} Michiko Kakutani, despite her ineradicable prejudice, was

a perfect, indeed even talented, token they could plug into the

politically correct switch board. ~~use to avoid~~

the accusation that they were
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This is a very wealthy white
males deserve no special
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publication day, not two weeks earlier with a heinously bad

review, the first ^{reaction} ~~one~~ most readers will see or hear about. That is

also politically incorrect.

My quarrel is with Kakutani, not Esther Wu. The latter is just
~~and doing it well~~ ^{and doing it well} ~~and doing it well~~ ^{and doing it well}

doing her job and doing it well. Kakutani is not ^{doing her job} ~~doing her job~~ ^{doing her job} ~~doing her job~~

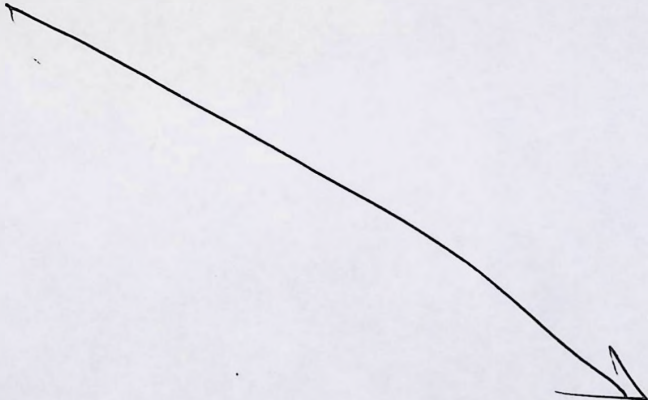
As for petified ^{correctness} ~~correctness~~ ^{that political correctness} ~~that political correctness~~
 I would say it is toxic to
 American freedom, ^{it was certainly} ~~it was certainly~~ ^{a great deal} ~~a great deal
 done more to vitiate
 the initiative and integrity
 of the Democratic
 party. ~~Then any~~ over
 these last twenty years.
 The Republicans despite their
 endless catalogue of
 sins and hypocrisies have
 profited ~~nevertheless~~
 thereby. That is because it confirms ~~it~~~~

As for my being a racist
 or next-door to one, my
 response is not printable.

① ~~Then~~ their prejudice—which
 is at least half well-seated
 that ^{in their} ~~in their~~ ^{self} ~~self~~ ^{adversarial} ~~adversarial~~
 love of ^{humanity} ~~humanity~~ ^{those who} ~~those who ^{are} ~~are ^{full of} ~~full of
 political correctness, are both
 wishy-washy and totalitarian~~~~~~

Whatever her literary sins, Kakutani is in no way a kamikazi. They were, after all, willing to die for their country. Suicide bombers may be evil, but they are not cowardly, and the kamikazis were not attacking peaceful crowds but looking to destroy American battleships.

In contrast, Kakutani, ~~by now~~ ^{the gleazy} is committed to ~~her~~ ^{the gleazy} practice of coming out with a very bad review of each of my new books ^{one to} two weeks ahead of publication day. That does not make her a suicide bomber but a most effective sneak.



*Justith - write down to
two separate pages
No general rush
this. Tomorrow A.M. is
adequate.*

Whatever her literary sins, Kakutani is in no way a kamikazi. They

were, after all, willing to die for their country. Suicide bombers may be evil,

but they are not cowardly, ^{and} especially the kamikazis who were not attacking

peaceful crowds or ~~petty officials waiting on line to be paid~~, ^{but} ~~were~~ looking

to destroy American battleships.

In contrast, Kakutani, by now ^{is} ~~to~~ committed by her practice of coming out

with a very bad review of each of my new books two weeks ahead of

~~publication day. That does not make her a kamikazi but she is a most effective sneak. She is not~~ ^{is a} ^{official} ^{but a}

~~brave. She was invited to meet with me at the New York Times after her~~ ^{books} ^{office}

~~review of my last The Spooky Art, and of course she declined. What [??]~~

Wu saw fit to say, "Shame on Norman Mailer." I say, "Shame on
Michiko Kakutani."

and a steady but *wasting trickle of minor works* [yes, italics mine] about everything from Marilyn Monroe to graffiti to Lee Harvey Oswald."

My real case does not come down, then, to Kakutani's personal abuse

of my work. She hates my writing, but that is not an abuse. That is her

literary privilege. And I am bound to defend her right to attack all I do.

Nonetheless, she still ^{exploits} ~~abuses~~ her position, ^{by appearing} ~~That is because it is not enough to~~

~~appear~~ with a dreadful review, ^{She has also proceeded time and again to}

^{one to} ~~come out~~ two weeks ahead of everyone else. ^{Five} ~~Eight~~ ~~CK~~ ~~JML~~ checked-

^{main} ~~this~~ times she has done this. It is an effective ploy if you want to ~~injure~~ a

^{work,} ~~new book~~. The first review one reads ^{always} ~~has~~ the most powerful impact. It can ^{sometimes}

take three good reviews to ^{compensate for the early} ~~balance off~~ a bad one. I approached the Times

^{something like two years ago,} ~~about this about a year ago~~ ~~[no, more like two years]~~ ~~Spooky Art came out~~

~~in Jan 2003~~ and Steven Erlanger promised me in Kakutani's absence (I had

asked for a meeting with her) that it would not happen again. Let us see.

people" (meaning American blacks) is condescending, or at least, a sign of

being—gasp, shudder—out of date. And of course, next year the "approved"

terms could change again.]

redo this page

does not come

personal (of my work)

My real case comes down, then, to Kakutani's abuses ^{of} ~~she~~ ^{she} hates my writing, but that is not ~~an abuse~~ ^{an abuse} ~~work~~ ^{bound to} ~~that is not an abuse.~~ ^{And I am} That is her literary privilege, which I would defend

her right to attack all I do. ^{still} ~~completely~~ ^{that is because it} Nonetheless, she abuses her position. She has not only given

~~has not been enough to combat~~ ^{and pay} ~~with a pleasant review~~ ^{she has also proceeded} ~~two weeks~~ ^{ahead of everyone else} ~~dreadful reviews to my last three books, but has proceeded to come out first~~ ^{Eight}

~~with her ugly review. Six (eight) times she has done this. That is the art of~~ ^(CR) It is an

effective play if you want to injure a new ~~the cheap shot and the proof of its efficacy is that I lost my cool.~~

book; The first review one really has the most powerful impact. It can take

three good reviews to balance off a bad one. I approached the

Times about this about a year ago,

and ^{Steven Forster} ~~they~~ ^{promised} in Kakutani's

absence (I had asked for a meeting ^{with her} that it would not happen again.

Let us see,

We now get to say "Shame on Goodman Hunter." It says, "Shame on

including Kakutani

A Thought for the Op-Ed Page

Somewhere in the innermost and most militant citadels of Islam they

ought to put up a monument to George W. Bush ^{for} since he has done more than

any ^{other} man or woman in the United States ^{the United States} to humiliate our country in the eyes of

the world, ~~as well as intensify our fear of the Arab world.~~ One would do well

to ask whether this is the price our country must pay ^{because a little} for desiring a leader

^{a president} less than half ~~the~~ ^{of} our voters desired
whose married life ^{was} beyond reproach. In retrospect
that may ^{very} have been his only
Qualification for high office.

Norman Mailer

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