

Tintin book is crude, racist and must be banned, says watchdog

Adventure contains 'hideous racial prejudice'

Borders moves book from children's sections

Jack Malvern

the heroic Belgian journalist, should not be sold in Britain, the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday.

The racism watchdog said that it was unacceptable for any shop to sell or display *Tintin in the Congo*, a comic book written in 1930 that features crude racial stereotypes.

A spokeswoman said that the book, which includes a scene featuring Tintin 40 the Land of the Soviets, the fact is that being made chief of an African village because he is a 'good white man', was highly offensive. 'This book contains imagery and words of hideous racial prejudice, where the 'savage natives' look like monkeys and talk like imbeciles,' she said.

'How and why do Borders think it's 20 OK to peddle such racist material?

The commission said that neither high street nor specialist shops should stock it. 'The only place that it might be acceptable for this to be displayed would be in a museum, with a big sign saying 'old-fashioned, racist claptrap'.

Egmont, which publishes the book, said that every edition delivered to shops had a band of paper around the A cartoon adventure featuring Tintin, 30 outside making clear the content is offensive. A warning notes that it features 'bourgeois, paternalistic stereotypes of the period - an interpretation some readers may find offensive'

Hergé, who drew the story in the late 1920s, later admitted that the books were offensive, and apologised. Concerning Congo, as well as Tintin in while I was growing up, I was being fed the prejudices of the bourgeois society that surrounded me,' he said. 'It's true that Soviets and Congo were youthful sins. I'm not rejecting them. However, if I were to do it again, they would be different.

The current edition, the first in colour to be published in Britain, was

'Racist' fiction

Little Black Sambo, by Helen Bannerman Although it is set in India, the illustrations depict a character with exaggerated African features

Ten Little Niggers, by Agatha Christie The title was later changed to Ten Little Indians and subsequently And Then There Were None

The Three Golliwogs THRE by Enid Blyton Golliwogs, which resemble caricatures of African men, were often portrayed as Villains



in black and white in Britain for more than ten years. The commission was alerted to the book by David Enright, a solicitor who found it in the children's section of Borders. 'I was aghast to see page after page of representations of black African people as baboons or monkeys, bowing before a white teenager and speaking like retarded 60 children,' he wrote. 'The book shows Tintin's dog,

50 released in 2005. It has been published

Snowy, being crowned king ... You are promoting the racist view that black people are disposed to violence and must be led, guided and commanded by white people and even dogs.' Mr Enright is white and is married to a black woman.

Borders said it was moving the book 70 to its adult sections, but declined to withdraw it. 'Naturally, some of the thousands of books and music selections we carry could be considered controversial or objectionable depending on individual political views, tastes and interests,' a spokesman said. 'Borders stands by its commitment to let customers make the choice.

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[The Times, Thursday July 12 2007]

Glossary:

Borders: a bookshop chain based in the USA

Affairs of the Lips: Why We Kiss By Chip Walter

Researchers are revealing hidden complexities behind the simple act of kissing, which relays powerful messages to your brain, body and partner.

When passion takes a grip, a kiss locks two humans together in an exchange of scents, tastes, textures, secrets and emotions. We kiss furtively, lasciviously, gently, shyly, hungrily and exuberantly. We kiss in broad daylight and in the dead of night. We give ceremonial kisses, affectionate kisses, Hollywood air kisses, kisses of death and, at least in fairytales, pecks that revive princesses.

Lips may have evolved first for food and later applied themselves to speech, but in kissing they satisfy different kinds of hungers. In the body, a kiss triggers a cascade of neural messages and chemicals that transmit tactile sensations, sexual excitement, feelings of closeness, motivation and even euphoria.

Not all the messages are internal. After all, kissing is a communal affair. The fusion of two bodies dispatches communiqués to your partner as powerful as the data you stream to yourself. Kisses can convey important information about the status and future of a relationship. So much, in fact, that, according to recent research, if a first kiss goes bad, it can stop an otherwise promising relationship dead in its tracks.

To the extent that kissing is linked to love, the act may similarly boost brain chemicals associated with pleasure, euphoria and a motivation to connect with a certain someone. In 2005 anthropologist Helen Fisher of Rutgers University and her colleagues reported scanning the brains of 17 individuals as they gazed at pictures of people with whom they were deeply in love. The researchers found an unusual flurry of activity in two brain regions that govern pleasure, motivation and reward: the right ventral tegmental area and the right caudate nucleus. Addictive drugs such as cocaine similarly stimulate these reward centres through the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine. Love, it seems, is a kind of drug for us humans.

Despite all these observations, a kiss continues to resist complete scientific dissection. Close scrutiny of couples has illuminated new complexities woven throughout this simplest and most natural of acts – and the quest to unmask the secrets of passion and love is not likely to end soon. But romance gives up its mysteries grudgingly. And in some ways, we like it like that.

[From an article published in *Scientific American*, February 2008]





Ask a hundred people what they do for fun and you get a hundred different answers.

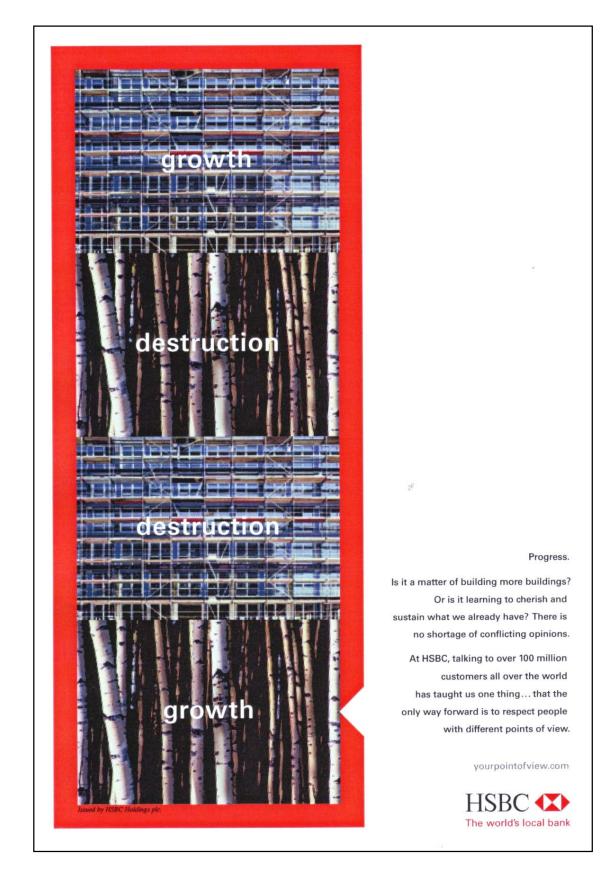
Ask a hundred million customers all over the world and you can guess what happens.

At HSBC we're involved in this conversation on a daily basis. What people want from life, what they want to do and how they like to fill their free time.

It would be easy to see this diversity as a problem, but we prefer to see only potential.

What if we all thought the same? Now that really would be boring.

HSBC The world's local bank



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Text 6



You are what you wear.

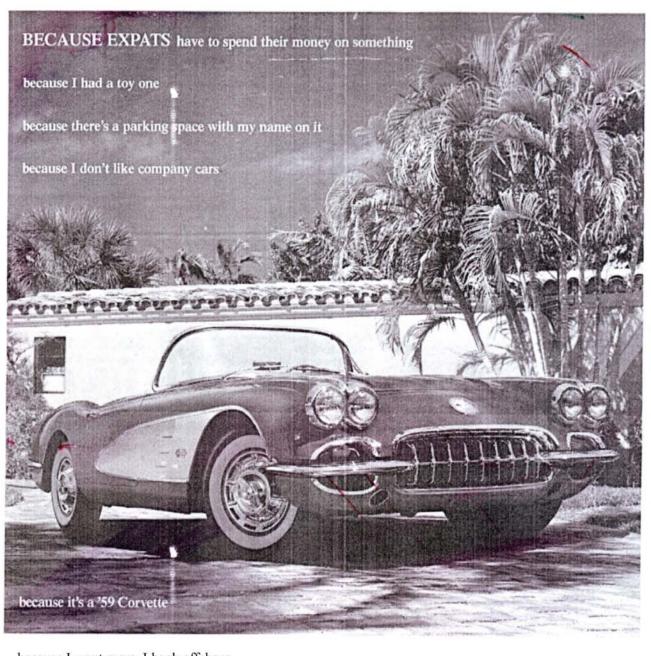
But what you wear depends on where you are.

In different parts of the world a simple pair of jeans could signal rebellion or the day-to-day uniform of the CEO.

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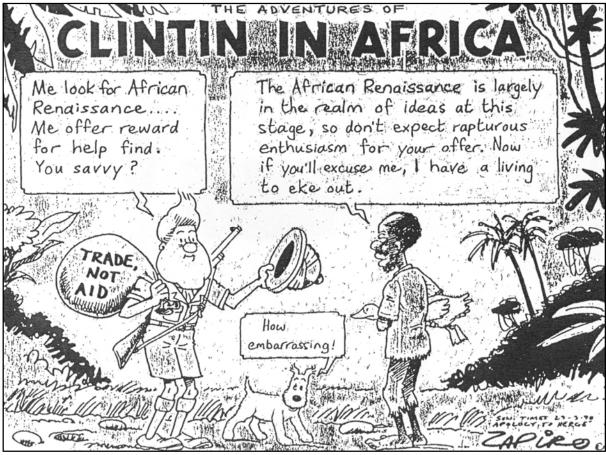
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[The Sunday Times, 29 March 1998]