

GREETINGS AT EASTER



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Audience Offended Twister

TOKYO — Members of an audience in blackface make-up and Confederate flags hanging on the wall so incensed Twister Chubby Checker at an army camp show here that he walked off the stage and cancelled three performances at U.S. installations during a tour of Japan last week.

The performer said he regarded this as a slur on his race. The balack faces said to be a hold over from a minstrel show that preceded his scheduled performance. Earlier he had been peeved at a display of an unfavorable review of his show by Al Ricketts of Pacific Stars and Stripes.

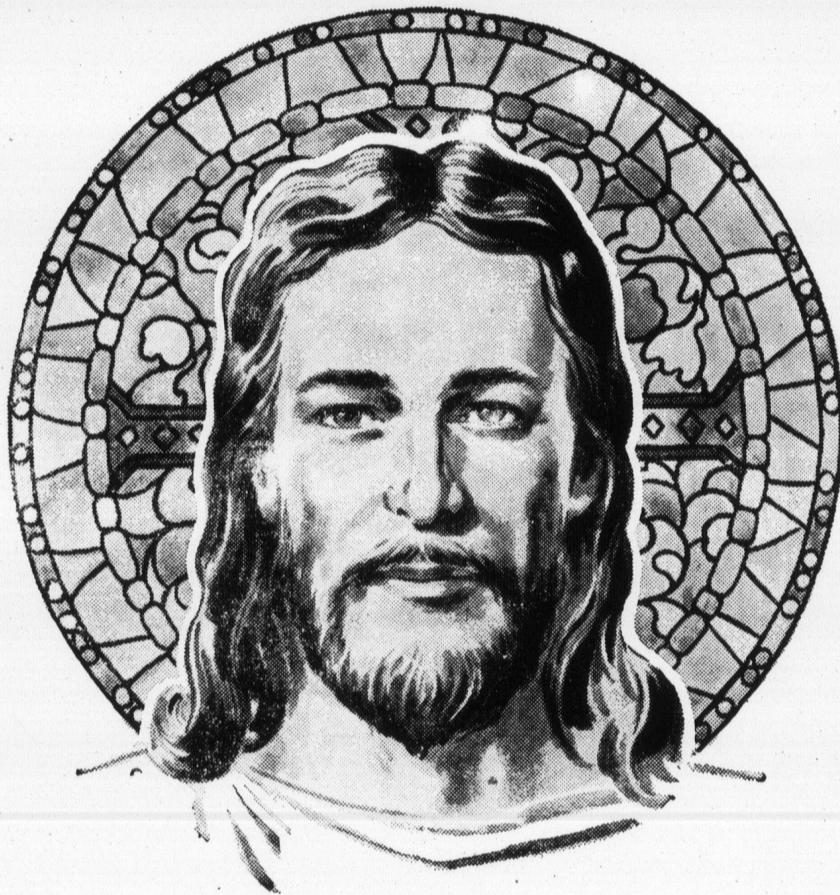
There were offensive cat-calls at one stage and then Checker announced that he found the situation intolerable for him to continue his performance. He left the stage despite pleas from some people for him to continue.

The cancelled dates included two performances at Tachikawa Air Base, including an afternoon show for teenagers at a gymnasium and another that evening at the Officers Club, and one at the Meiji Club, whose members are U.S. military civilian employees.

A report in Variety, the show business weekly continued:

"When Checker heroically tried to perform, he was upstaged by a woman blackfaced guest, who took the stage to do her own version of the Twist. The young Negro tried to reason with his audience explaining that he had a job to do. This was greeted by a mixed reception, including offensive cat-calls. Checker did as much of his show as he could before finding the situation impossible."

"Those close to him pleaded with him to be a real pro and complete his bookings, but the singe-dancer declined. Among those who urged Checker to stay was GAC v.p. Henry Miller, who was in town with the Nat King Cole unit. But Checker told Miller, "You couldn't understand unless you were a Negro."



Easter Promises

(Ginie Glasmeire)

Against late smudgy melting snows
A clump of crocus brightly blows.
Their cups so full of precious gold
Life's promises do surely hold,
As we recall those bulbs so dry
That deep in dark, cold earth did lie.
And now see glories of rebirth
In purple, white, and golden mirth.

So against our varied sordid woes,
A hold golden shine e'er glows.
Our Lord salvation's gifts unfold
More than our meager cup can hold.
And now those sins that loud did cry,
In glory wither up and die;
As Easter shows us Christ's great worth,
And we at last find our rebirth.

Comedian Satirizes Prejudice

GREENWOOD, MISS. (AP) Negro comedian Dick Gregory, who has forsaken the plush night clubs of the north for civil rights demonstrations in Mississippi, took along his gift for the barbed quip.

"They got my No. 1 writer," he said when the police jailed James H. Sanders, 28, of Chicago. "I told him, 'Box, you haven't ever been to jail. Go ahead and go. Maybe it'll make you a better writer.'"

He can be deadly serious, too. "I will stay here," he said recently, "until the federal government does something about police brutality and allows these people to go to the courthouse and vote."

Gregory said in a telephone interview today that he went to Greenwood, Miss., because of personal convictions.

"If a war comes," he said. "I'd be overseas protecting the rights of others, so why not here, too?"

"We gave Winston Churchill an honorary citizenship, which is fine, but how about making the taxpayers in this country citizens?"

Gregory made his name in show business as one of the first Negroes to joke about the trials and triumphs of his race.

"Segregation is not all bad, he tells an audience. "Have you ever heard of a wreck where the people in the back of the bus got hurt?"

And:
"I sat at a lunch counter for nine months. When they finally integrated, they didn't have what I wanted."

The Greenwood police have refused to take him into custody although other demonstrators have been arrested since Monday, when he arrived and began leading demonstrations and speaking at rallies.

The entertainer, who wears a moustache and a goatee, has said he is considering bringing his wife to Greenwood from Chicago. They have 3 children. The oldest is three years old.

The U.S. government yesterday dropped an immediate request for an order banning

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