

We, the editors of the Fed, would first like to reiterate our apology to the student body and our commitment to the fight against racism, bigotry, and ignorance. We have apologized and students across the campus have voiced their concerns and justifiable anger. It has been a long and trying week and we must now ask ourselves, as a community, what our next step is going to be.

Students are demanding to know how such a hurtful cartoon made its way into our paper. The cartoon is clearly offensive; no one denies this. However, it was not our intention to further racist or bigoted ideals. Author Ben Schwartz intended the cartoon, part of the *Wacky Fun Whitey* series, as satirical critique of racial stereotypes. Those familiar with the strip know that it has for several years been published in the Fed and the Spectator, the latter of which stopped running it at the end of last year. While typically used to criticize social absurdities and ignorance, this most recent edition inarguably failed to present any sort of meaningful message. It is here that we, as the editorial board of the fed, have failed to do our job and for this we apologize sincerely and wholeheartedly.

The cartoon was poorly done satire, but this does not excuse its publication in our newspaper. While an open forum for debate and a humor paper, we still have a certain obligation to insure the quality of all works submitted and realize that we are not required to print everything that is submitted. This is not an issue of censorship as the abrasively flippant disclaimer attached to the comic suggested. We now realize this and regret terribly our publication of a cartoon in which the message is so obviously lost.

We recognize the need now to engage in thoughtful and reasonable dialogue with the Columbia Community. We are working to set up forums for discussion with offended groups and individuals. We sympathize fully with the plight of students of color and had no intention to aggravate what was clearly a bad situation to be begin with. We are willing to take whatever steps are necessary to help make amends with a student body we have alienated through our thoughtlessness. To this end, we need your help. We welcome and encourage your suggestions, feedback, and input on this or any other matter.

On Tuesday an editorial in the Spectator suggested that “the protestors won and the The Fed lost.” This implies that The Fed and the protestors have mutually exclusive goals and are engaging in a battle with one side promoting racism and the other attacking it. To the contrary: we do not support racism and the individual members of The Fed are not racists. On this issue our goals are one in the same: to promote meaningful discussion and address an issue that is of serious concern on the Columbia campus.

Once again, the editors of the fed are truly sorry for publishing the comic. Where we go from here is up to you.