

## Hey Rush, Here's a Little Back At Ya

(<http://www.suntimes.com/news/roeper/368668.CST-NWS-roep03.article>)

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Rush Limbaugh is the master of the preemptive strike. Sometimes when Limbaugh says something controversial, he'll immediately launch into a bit about how the "drive-by media" will misinterpret his remarks.

A few days after the Virginia Tech shootings, Limbaugh said the killer "had to be a liberal . . . it's a liberal that committed this act."

He added, "Now the drive-bys will read on a Web site that I'm attacking liberalism by comparing this guy to them."

That's the move. Before the "mainstream" media can jump on Limbaugh, he will predict his comments will be taken out of context and misconstrued.

Fortunately we have Rush to set things straight. If not, we might be offended by a song called "Barack, the Magic Negro."

### Social satire or racist garbage?

In March, David Ehrenstein wrote an op-ed for the L.A. Times titled, "Obama the 'Magic Negro.' "

Obama "is running for an . . . important unelected office, in the . . . popular imagination -- the 'Magic Negro,' " wrote Ehrenstein, who didn't coin the term.

He says the Magic Negro "is a figure of postmodern culture" who "appears one day to help the white protagonist," according to a description on Wikipedia.

Ehrenstein (who is black) makes the argument that Obama has a fantasy appeal for some liberal white voters as a kind of "comic book superhero . . . there to help, out of the sheer goodness of a heart we need not know or understand. For as with all Magic Negroes, the less real he seems, the more desirable he becomes."

You might not agree with the piece, but it's food for genuine, intelligent debate.

It was also fodder for "Barack, the Magic Negro" by Paul Shanklin, a white "humorist" and Limbaugh fave.

Shanklin impersonates Al Sharpton, to the tune of "Puff, the Magic Dragon."

*Barack the Magic Negro, lives in D.C.*

*The L.A. Times they called him that  
'Cause he's not authentic like me*

*Yeah the guy from the L.A. paper*

*Said he made guilty whites feel good  
They'll vote for him and not for me  
Cause he's not from da hood*

*See real black men like Snoop Dogg*

*Or me or Farrakhan  
Have talked the talk and walked the walk  
Not come in late and won*

Google around and you can hear the song and decide if Shanklin's humor is satire -- or borderline racist. Listening to the guy gives me the creeps -- but I'm a white liberal, so what do you expect?

**Rush to judgment**  
Black comics do white voices -- so why can't white comics parody blacks?

I have no problem with that. But "Barack, the Magic Negro" isn't funny. Shanklin doesn't sound like Al Sharpton, he sounds like "Amos and Andy."

But it's not as if Limbaugh or his listeners are chuckling at the stereotyped voice -- they're mocking the op-ed piece, and the liberal media's fascination with Obama. Right?

Some folks criticize Limbaugh for playing the song, for using the term "Magic Negro" over and over, for calling Obama "Barack Hussein Odumbo," for saying Obama is "Halffrican American," for calling him "Obama Osama" -- even though he's just engaging in satire based on what others have said or written. Uh-huh.

It's funny how things can get twisted like that. To illustrate, here's a song about Rush, sung to the tune of "Puff, the Magic Dragon," as written by a white liberal (me). I'm making fun of the way liberals portray Limbaugh, not Limbaugh, himself, OK?

*Rush the right-wing a-----*

*Is loud and often crass  
He's a chickenhawk who never served  
Cuz he had a cyst near his big fat ass*

*He railed against drug users*

*On his radio show  
But when he got hooked on painkillers  
Rush forgot to Just Say No*

*Oh Rush the right-wing a-----*

*Is straight as straight can be  
He proved that with wife number one  
Wife two and then wife three!*

*He said the media favored McNabb*

*Because the QB is black  
ESPN they let him go,  
They didn't have Rush's back*

Now, you watch. Some people will take this out of context and claim I'm making fun of El Rushbo. Damn media.