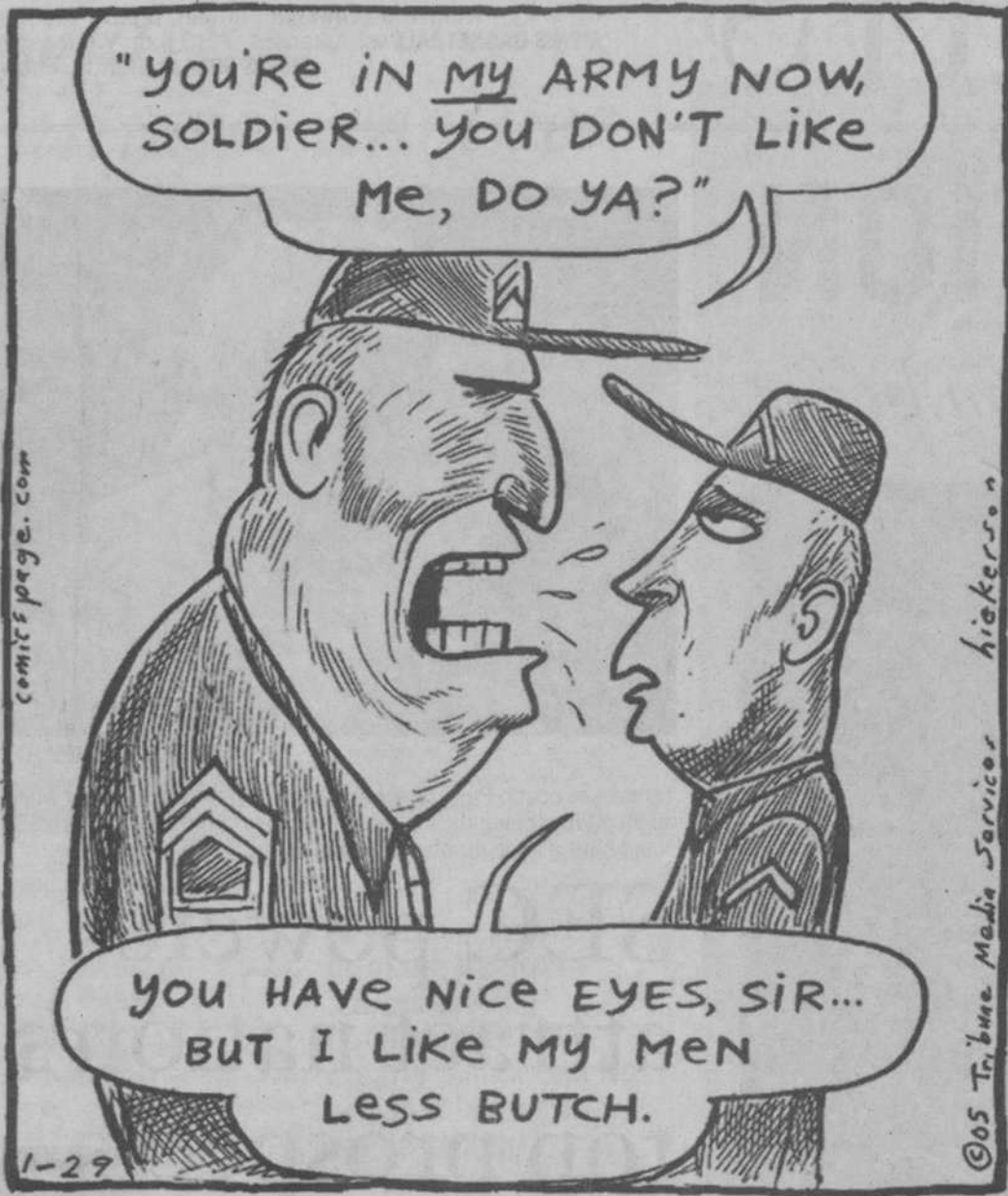


Quigmans ■ By Buddy Hickerson



The Family Monster by Josh Shalek



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Haiku Circus by Ken Sakamoto



Black nominations increase at Oscars

By DAVID GERMAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Six years ago, Chris Rock joked that the Academy Awards looked like the "million white man march" for its traditional under-representation of blacks. This time, with Rock taking his maiden voyage as host of Hollywood's biggest party, he will preside over a record Oscar night for black actors, who earned five of the 20 nominations.

Jamie Foxx was the first black performer to receive two nominations in the same year, as lead actor for his soul-stirring portrayal of Ray Charles in "Ray" and supporting actor for "Collateral," playing a wily cabdriver who holds his own against a relentless hit man.

In the best-actor race, Foxx's competition includes Don Cheadle for "Hotel Rwanda," in which he plays real-life innkeeper Paul Rusesabagina, who shielded refugees during the Rwandan genocide. Sophie Okonedo earned a supporting-actress nomination as Rusesabagina's wife.

Among Foxx's rivals for supporting actor is Morgan Freeman, who earned his fourth nomination, playing an ex-boxer and resident sage of a run-down gym in "Million Dollar Baby."

The wave of nominations comes three years after another historic Oscar celebration for blacks, when Halle Berry won the best-actress award for "Monster's Ball" and Denzel Washington took the best-actor honor for "Training Day." It was the first time blacks won both lead-acting prizes, and with "Ali" star Will Smith also nominated, the first time in 29 years that blacks earned three nominations in the lead categories.

"I think you have to look toward Denzel and Halle for being such great ambassadors," said Foxx, considered the favorite to win the best-actor prize for "Ray." "They made it look good, did

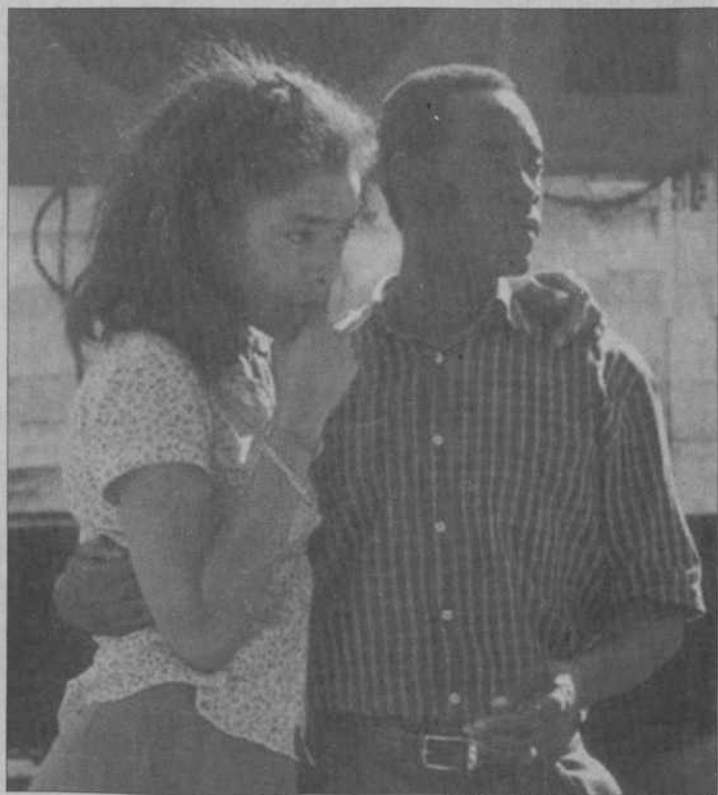


PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Sophie Okonedo and Don Cheadle, who play the inn keeper and his wife in "Hotel Rwanda," are nominated for Academy Awards.

they not? It was so great to see them up there holding those statues. Whatever race you are, you couldn't help but think they looked great.

"To be wrapped in that beautiful black skin, it made young actors such as myself want to do more in film and be able to go to that big dance. The opportunities are getting better."

Rock's presence as host will add to the luster for blacks at the Feb. 27 Oscars. The feature-length documentary nominees include "Tupac: Resurrection," a portrait of slain rapper Tupac Shakur, and the documentary short-subject category features "Mighty Times: The Children's March,"

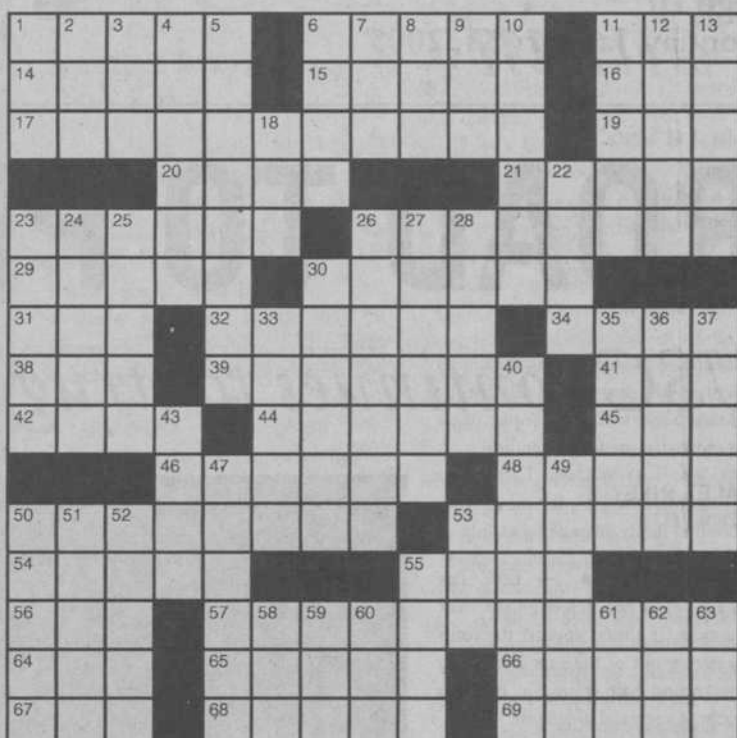
chronicling anti-segregation efforts in Alabama in 1963.

In the academy's 77-year history, a scant 3.2 percent of the acting nominations have gone to blacks. While that figure has risen from 2.8 percent three years ago, it remains a weak track record given that blacks make up 13 percent of the U.S. population.

The Oscars were largely a whites-only affair in their first four decades, with just eight black nominees before 1970 and two winners, Poitier for best actor with 1963's "Lilies of the Field" and Hattie McDaniel for supporting actress with 1939's "Gone With the Wind."

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Barbie and Ken, e.g.
 - Buckle
 - Inspire wonder
 - Heep of Dickens
 - Book before Joel
 - Arthur or Lillie
 - Casual party
 - Horse's relative
 - At any time
 - Personal preference
 - Perceived
 - Lacking notoriety
 - Muse of verse
 - Noisy insect
 - Burns poem, "O'Shanter"
 - Spanish dictator
 - Beat it!
 - Play for a fool
 - Epee wielders
 - "Town"
 - Chilean cash
 - Cultural
 - Citrus cooler
 - Pickpocket's pick
 - Citrus fruits
 - Emphasizes
 - Wave tops
 - Total number
 - Remove rind
 - Suitable
 - Being a typical example of
 - Net-judge's call
 - Fido's friend
 - Spine-tingling
 - Lacking moisture
 - T-bone or strip
 - Hang in loose folds



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01/31/05

- DOWN
- Used spades
 - Product of mine
 - Ignited
 - Most up-to-date
 - Hit the road
 - "Mask" star
 - Plat section
 - Volcanic dust
 - Told you so!
 - Separated
 - Take down a peg
 - Adam and Benjamin
 - Slackens
 - H.S. dropout's second chance
 - Lamenter's comment
 - Arrange
 - Wipe from memory
 - Titles
 - Family of seed-eating birds
 - Language variation
 - Native New Zealander
 - Saddle part
 - Film spools
 - Embers
 - Ledger examination
 - Lock of hair
 - Scampered
 - Writer Wister
 - Daisylike flowers
 - Old coot

Solutions



- Burn with hot liquid
- Sot
- Full of furrows
- Eccentric wheel
- Swine meat
- Quantity of gold
- Now ___ seen everything!
- Herbal drink
- Personal pension \$
- Bite
- Holy smoke!

HOROSCOPES

ARIES Don't be disrespectful, even if all your friends agree. And don't pile onto a person who's weak. That's beneath your dignity.

TAURUS Postpone an outing until the job is finished. Then use it to celebrate. Grant yourself a reward that means something special to you.

GEMINI Everything seems to be going your way, but try not to be impatient. There's one thing you won't be able to get yet, but you don't have to give up on it. Persevere.

CANCER You do need to take someone else's wishes into consideration, but once that's done, a lovely compromise can be arranged. There's plenty for all.

LEO It's important to show you're

dependable now. Others, some of them very highly influential, want to lean on you. Stand firm, and the synergy works.

VIRGO Accept an opportunity to make some extra cash, but not if it's going to wreck domestic plans already made. Better call and see if it's OK for you to work overtime.

LIBRA As you explore possibilities and imagine consequences, you'll discover which paths you want to take and which ones to avoid. This is good. Don't hurry.

SCORPIO Get things at home organized just the way you want. A combination of luxurious efficiency, subtle opulence and technical sophistication can be achieved.

SAGITTARIUS The trick now is to keep some of that newfound wealth safely in your pockets. Don't blow it all on fun and games. Some, yes, but not all.

CAPRICORN Don't be ashamed or frustrated if you're feeling less confident than you'd like. This could actually work in your favor. Let others help you for a change.

AQUARIUS As you roll along with the flow, pay attention to where you're going. You can steer around the barriers that pop up quite easily — if you're watching.

PISCES You don't have to tell how much you have. In fact, you probably shouldn't. It's not disrespectful at all to keep your finances private. So do it.

CALENDAR

TODAY
"Hero": 8 p.m. Russell House Theater.

TUESDAY
7 p.m. New Brookland Tavern. 122 State St. \$7. All ages.
"Hero": 8 p.m. Russell House Theater.

'Tarnation'



7, 9 p.m. Nickelodeon Theatre. Monday and Tuesday.

www.dailygamecock.com

Five days a week. Oh yeah.

