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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

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In the eye of the offended

The Nov. 13 Style article “About face,” about Al Jolson impersonator Bobby Berger, quoted Mr. Berger as asking, “Do I seem like a racist to you?” However, Mr. Berger (now retired) should be informed that it is not whether he perceives his impersonations and performance of “Mammy” as racist. It is the affected party who makes that decision.

Although Mr. Berger maintains that thousands of black people saw his show and had no problem with it, his explanations are reminiscent of those of so many college students and others before the 1960s who sported blackface and claimed that they weren’t mocking anyone — they were only having some good, clean fun.

Black activists found such acts to be racist. As a result, most of them ceased in the 1960s.

DOLPH LEE HATFIELD, *Washington*