

Racial Insensitivity RE

MEH

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An Arkansas TV news anchor and a weatherman are back on the air three weeks after wearing black wigs during a newscast led to complaints of racial insensitivity. KATV anchor Chris May and meteorologist Barry Brandt made apologies to viewers during last (Wed) night's newscast. It was their first time back on the air since the September 16th broadcast. Brandt said he took part in what he thought was "a light-hearted reference to the 1970s" when they wore large curly wigs. The stunt prompted complaints of racial stereotyping at channel 7 and the firing of News Director Nick Genty. May said he "appropriated a look that was not just unprofessional," but was "insensitive" and "offensive." The National Association of Black Journalists said it reflected a pattern of behavior at the ABC affiliate.