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Sherry Grindeland

## Theater group's language barrier

By **Sherry Grindeland**

*Seattle Times staff columnist*



Three writers and actors coming to the Kirkland Performance Center (KPC) want to defuse certain language. They're not making much progress.

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Ads for the show "N\*GGER WETB\*CK CH\*NK" have been rejected by several radio stations, two university newspapers and now The Seattle Times. Two other publications, The Stranger and The Seattle Weekly, are running the ads. Even shortening the title to N\*W\*C doesn't help.

"Frankly, it has been an intense week," said **Rachel Jackson**, the public-relations manager at KPC.

Explaining that the trio who wrote the show and perform it are black, Latino and Asian doesn't convince ad managers. But that's the point, claim the performers, **Miles Gregley**, **Allan Axibal** and **Rafael Agustin**, and KPC executive director **Steve Lerian**.

Until we take away the negativity those words evoke, they carry enough power to raise the hackles on the neck, bring out the pickets and the censors.

N\*W\*C — the nickname for the show in conversation — runs Nov. 4 and 5.

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