

# Animated feature offers only flat, muddled fare

By Gerri Pare  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Based on characters created by the late comedian Robin Harris, *Bebe's Kids* (Paramount) is the first animated feature with essentially all African-American characters.

The lackluster story has love-struck Robin (voice of Faizon Love) finding out his first date at an amusement park with Jamika (voice of Vanessa Bell Calloway) includes not only her little boy Leon (voice of Wayne Collins) but also three surly kids she is baby-sitting — the infamous Bebe's Kids.

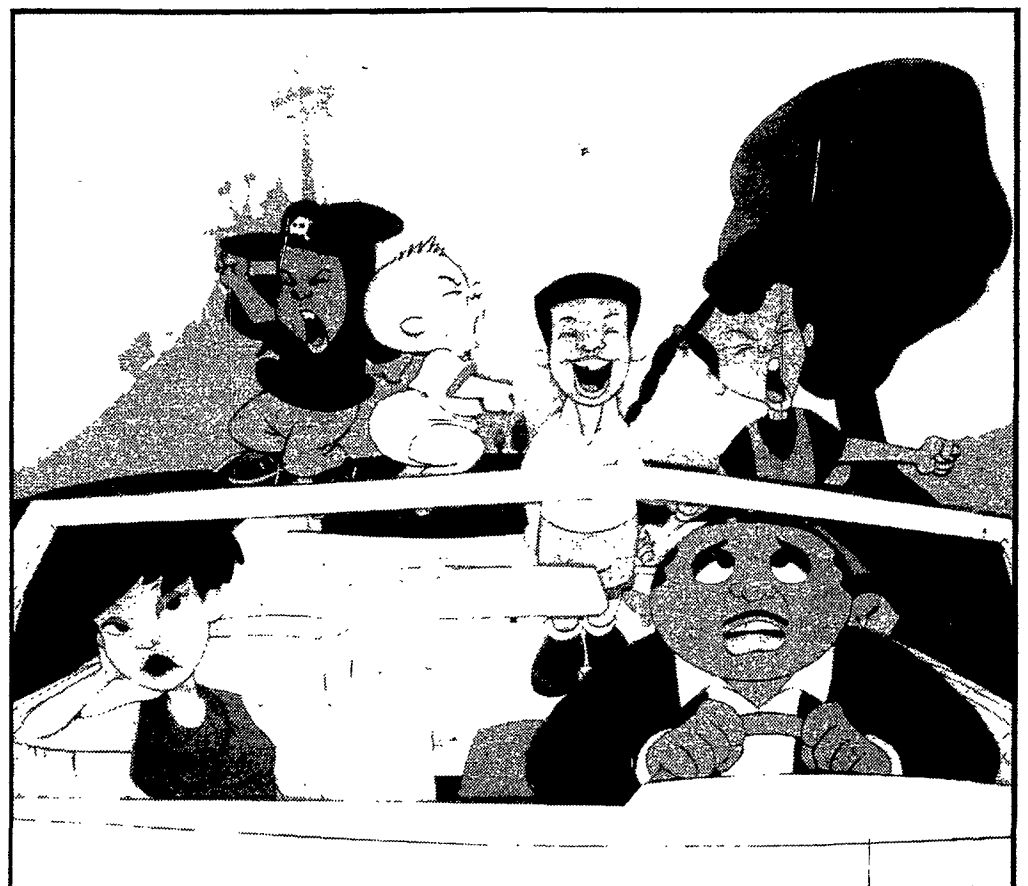
Fun World doesn't live up to its name when Robin's ex-wife (voice of Nell Carter) spots the lovebirds there and proceeds to make trouble. But she's a joyride compared to the cantankerous kids intent on demolishing the park.

Director Bruce Smith has a good

sense of the rhythms of ethnic language and the characters are full of brass and sass. Yet neither the story or the animation shine. Visuals are flat, colors muted and the movements routine and uninteresting.

The story is simply dull with a muddled message about latchkey kids and taking pity on the unseen Bebe, who apparently has no husband to help her control her three problem kids. The characters are not especially appealing so emotional involvement is nil. After an hour of bratty behavior the audience will feel it got stuck baby-sitting, too.

Due to cartoon violence and mild sexual innuendo, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Paramount Pictures  
Robin's first date with Jamika is foiled after she insists that her well-mannered son and her neighbor Bebe's three kids accompany them on a trip to an amusement park in the animated film *Bebe's Kids*. The comedy is based on characters created by late comedian Robin Harris.

## COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

### GENERAL

#### 10 Announcements

**SEARCHING FOR A WILLIAM WHO RESIDES IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.** Originally from Horry County, South Carolina. Attended family reunion there, June 6. Contact Joan Newsom, 1795 Kentucky Highway, 78 Stanford, Kentucky 40484-9301. (NYSKAN)

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THANKS to St. Jude for favor received. M.H.

#### 16 Miscellaneous

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