



Blonde jokes... dark roots

Have you heard the one about the blonde Nike spokesperson that confused the company motto with 'Just Do Me'?

Ok. Ok. It's tasteless but, no matter how tired we get of demeaning stereotypes, we still leave the back door open for a cheap laugh.

In all fairness to blondes let's consider their gullibility. Hmm, it's unfortunate but the only blondes that I know aren't gullible enough. There is this brunette however that has the most incredible soft spot for canvassers and strangers-in-need. I guess that doesn't count.

You want to know something else? Born to Polish parents I've encountered far too many attractive Polish girls to accept the common stereotype that Polish women are actually men in drag. The actual female Pole stereotype may carry subtle nuances depending on where you're from, but the ultimate result is the same – she's the '*Princess of Cracow*', Mimi Bobeck on the Drew Carey show.

How's that for a cheap laugh? (Our apologies to Kathy Kinney the non-Polish actress who plays the exaggerated Mimi).

Let's face it, as individuals we have enough real faults to sort out without having to put up with banal stereotypes. Ingratitude, envy, aggressiveness, we're a potpourri of human faults. But since stereotypes appear to have exceptional staying power, we'll all need to take the jokes less seriously. Yes, we'll need to tell ourselves that most Jewish, Scottish and Dutch

people are probably not stingy at all, and if it's so damn jolly to be fat, why are most overweight people on diets?



(Actress Kathy Kinney)