



Walter Crockrel

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“According to the EPA, there are more than 300 million ink jet cartridges now in landfills, and each one takes about 10 years to break down and destruct.”

This Strikes Us ...

A Sojourner's Truth Editorial

It should never have been just about Don Imus.

And now that he's off the airways, let's not just move on and assume that the problem he brought to light has been eliminated, because the problem is really not just about Don Imus.

Imus made an assumption, you see. Imus assumed that it was within the accepted bounds of today's low standards of etiquette and taste to call young, college women "hos." He assumed that he had been given a pass to refer to them as "nappy-headed hos" at that. Don Imus was a very confused master of ceremonies of the airways. As he would say in his defense, days after the event: black people use those terms, why can't I?

Can you understand his confusion?

Let's clear up that part about what black people say first. And let's place those comments in the realm of entertainment not simply street colloquialisms. Entertainers – comedians, radio jocks and television hosts – have license to refer to their own folks in ways that others cannot. It's that simple.

If a Jewish comedian, such as a David Steinberg, makes a reference to the Jewishness of his grandfather, that does not give a black comedian, such as a Chris Rock, the license to say the same things about Steinberg's relatives. And, similarly, Steinberg needs to use care should he infringe upon the territory that must remain exclusively that of Rock and other black comedians.

When we poke fun at ourselves ... that's funny and it can be funny for virtually everyone who is part of the audience. When we poke fun at others, the appeal of such humor narrows considerably.

Having said that, sometimes the lines of demarcation become blurred, especially when the words – such as "ho" and "bitch" – become so generic that they become of the day-to-day conversation one hears among members of all ethnic groups.

And that is, regrettably, what has happened in this hip-hop age.

If Imus was confused about when and where and how the standards of respect, good taste, civility and manners had disappeared over time, well ... join the rest of us, Mr. Imus. Many of us are similarly confused these days.

The issue of freedom of speech has been frequently raised as the country has grappled with this issue over the last several weeks, but freedom of speech has never been an acceptable excuse to verbally abuse others. And being free to speak has never granted anyone immunity from the consequences of that speech.

Imus used words that are so commonplace, they can be heard in every strata of society. So now that Imus is no longer on the scene, where do we go from here?

And, by the way, it's not just the words that are so offensive and so denigrating to women in the world of so much of hip-hop entertainment, it's the repeated references to violence, it's the incessant sexual objectification of women, it's the constant statements that the only thing girls and women appreciate is a little bling.

Has everyone heard why Snoop Dogg was so offended by Imus's remarks? OK, we know ... the mere notion that Snoop would be offended by anyone else's language seems more than a bit surreal, doesn't it? Talk about the pot calling the kettle ...

This is what Snoop had to say: "Rappers are not talking about no collegiate basketball girls who have made it to the next level in education and sports; we're talking about hos that's in the 'hood that ain't doing s**t, that's trying to get a n**ga for his money. These are two separate things."

A mind is a terrible thing to waste, isn't it? By the way, if you don't know who Snoop is ... good.

So we arrive at the ultimate irony of the past few weeks. The shock jock repeats what he has learned from the rapper and the rapper's idea of taking the high ground is to differentiate those who can and have achieved from those who have been powerless to do so. How much sense is all of this making to you?

Does anyone out there believe that Snoop, and other social commentators of his ilk, are really quite so discerning? Does anyone out there believe that this is really the first time the women of the Rutgers basketball team have been called "bitches" and "hos."

The guess here is that too many guys on the Rutgers campus – black and white – use those terms frequently and indiscriminately. That's what we have come to in our society.

We have eschewed respectful behavior, civility and good manners in ever increasing measure. We can use Imus as a scapegoat for this brief period, but if we draw any satisfaction from his demise, we are kidding ourselves.

Imus may be gone, but the rest of us have a lot of work to do.

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

April 17-19

• Mt. Zion Baptist Church: Prayer Conference; "Takin' It by Force;" Featured speakers and instructors: 419-246-1850

April 18

• Free Community Fair: 4 to 7 pm; Crossroads Family Resource Center; Free health screenings, informational booths, cooking demonstrations; OSU extension, Presenters include - Pampered Chef, Move 2 Improve, Life Styles and American Red Cross: 419-475-3258
• Spirit of Faith Adoptions: Informational meeting for domestic and international adoptions; 3315 Centennial Rd. Ste A-2: 419-843-5355

April 20

• STOMP UT: 2007 Step Show presented by National Pan-Hellenic Council; Stranahan Theater, 7p: 419-381-8851 ext 1
• 13th Annual Take Back the Night Celebration: Resource fair, community rally, women's march, survivor speak out and men's program, clothesline project, silent witness project; 6 pm; Bowsher HS: 419-530-6206
• Big Brothers Big Sisters Rock 'n Bowl for Kids' Sake: Interstate Lanes in Rossford; Silent auction, games; 6 to 9 pm OR 9 to Midnight: 419-243-4600 ex 38
• Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge Hall; 11 am to 5 pm: 419-531-7079
• Bethesda Christian Center's Shoe Rally: Sponsored by the pastor's aid committee; 7 pm Service; Donations requested: 419-726-9707

April 21

• Pilgrim Church: Benefit concert to raise funds for mission work in Central America and the Caribbean; 6:30 pm: 419-478-6012
• A Kite Day!: Monroe Street Neighborhood Center; Non-competitive family fun; 1:30 to 3 pm; Bring your favorite kite: 419-973-1167
• Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Ohio: "Bigs and Littles" Tea and Fashion Show; 10:30 am; Park Inn Toledo; Performance by Miss Teen Ohio; Tea service, door prizes, fashion show: 419-243-4600
• Warren AME Women's Day Committee: "Sisterhood in Christ" celebration; 6 pm

April 21-22

• Servant's Heart Christian Church: Open House; Saturday from 4 to 7 pm; Sunday's morning worship and special dedication service at 4 pm: 419-241-2023 or 419-241-1804

April 22

• Greater St. Mary's MBC 4th Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Robert Lyons and First Lady Shirley Lyons: Guest minister is son Pastor Robert Lyons, Jr. and the Word of Faith Church family from Dayton; 5 pm: 419-973-4157
• New Prospect Baptist Church Women's Day Program: 11 am speaker Scharita Barry-Lacey; 4 pm speaker Ashley Futrell; "Women Reaching Higher Heights:" 419-241-2624

April 24

• COMPASS presents: An evening with author and recovery specialist William Cope Moyers of the Hazelden Substance Abuse Center; Main Branch Library; 6:30 pm: 419-241-8827

April 27

• Bethesda Christian Center's Shoe Rally: Sponsored by the pastor's aid committee; 7 pm service; Donations requested: 419-726-9707

April 27-28

• Frederick Douglass/Warren AME 2nd Annual Health Fair/Walk-a-Thon: funded by the Ohio Commission on minority Health; Kick-off at 6 pm on Friday; Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm walk-a-thon at Warren; Free health checks, eye and dental exams, lunch: 419-244-6722

April 27-29

• Calvary Baptist Church Women's Retreat: Deadline for registration is March 11: 419-865-0019 or 419-531-9443

April 28

• LifeWalk: Fundraiser for Path to Life; Helps moms and babies; 2.9 mile walk, Yuk Yuk the Clown, raffle prizes, sketch artist, face painting; 9 am – walk at 10 am – to 5 pm

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

John Hobbs, Jr., a local barber-shop owner and young businessman, is in need of an appointment with Governor Ted Strickland.

Hobbs wants to tell the governor how the State of Ohio should deal with barbers, particularly black barbers who live inside of Ohio's urban core. Hobbs believes that the state board which oversees hair cutting is tilted way too far in favor of white males. According to Hobbs, white male barbers are a dying breed, giving way to white female hair cutters who work for big chains such as Borics Hair Care. Here's hoping that Strickland hears Hobbs' laments and gets with him for the purpose of re-aligning the Ohio State Barber Board.

It looks to me like the Westgate area development is going great. Business is spilling over onto adjacent properties and more is coming in. It is curious that this development has worked almost in spite of itself while Southwyck and the Marina District projects languish.

I do not think anything substantial is going to happen soon at Southwyck. The owners are probably just waiting until the

City of Toledo pumps in millions of dollars to fix that area up. The city, of course, does not have that sort of cash right now. As a matter of fact, the city is shedding some plans – the East Side amphitheater, for example – in order to identify more cash for development. It is amusing to witness the continuing announcements of this plan or that plan with the same characters playing supporting roles. Larry Dillon and Don Monroe remain marquee players.

Each semester, I pick one day to give the "ethics" talk to students. Last Wednesday, I spent 45 minutes on a speech I have given at least 40 times over the years to a variety of students.

The words were given to me and to Mayor Carty Finkbeiner 20 years ago by Howard Collier during a Saturday morning breakfast at Charlie's Waffle House on Central Avenue. Collier reminded us that ethics is the practice of doing what's right each and every time, even when no one is watching.

Ethics should be the guiding light for public officials because of the "public trust" given to them. Collier went on to say that it never pays to



Jack Ford

lie in public service. First, no one can even keep a secret hidden for very long, so things ultimately come out.

Second, the press is always on the prowl. Third, we all have personal enemies who like nothing more than to embarrass us. Fourth, according to Collier, people have a need to tell on themselves, either through outright admission or via conspicuous consumption.

Remember, the good life led by Tom Noe in a very public, flashy way? Why draw attention to yourself unless you secretly want to be found out?

Collier was a positive guy who enjoyed both food and politics. Everybody liked him and he gave such good advice. Among his numerous roles in Toledo circles, I now see that he was first and foremost a great teacher.

Contact Jack Ford at jack@thetruthtoledo.com

Dear Editor:

I am writing to thank you for your outstanding coverage of the community's response to the mayor's attempts to dismantle the Office of Affirmative Action. The community's reaction has been strong and swift. We overwhelmingly reject any attempt to weaken or dilute the Office of Affirmative Action. We want it put back just the way it was, period. It is the only agency that we can turn to for immediate redress of our many grievances.

The march on One Government Center was a great success. The 125 brave souls who attended the rally are to be commended for standing up for what they believe. We made our point and we did what we said we were going to do. This is only the beginning. I estimate that for every person that showed up 20 more are still very strong supporters. We will continue to gain momentum. We intend to give those 2,500 supporters an opportunity to demonstrate their support.

We need to send the powers that be a very strong clear message. This issue is of paramount importance. The Democratic Party and City Council must reign in the mayor and reverse this political blunder. If they do not stand with us, then certainly we will not stand with them in November. Let's see how many Democrats win without our support. That is what it comes down to.

I call on all unregistered African-American adults to register to vote now. Everyone can do something. We must consider all strategies from recalling the mayor to forming our own Independent Black Political Party (The Fannie Lou Hamer Party). I don't believe in continually petitioning people who are not listening.

This issue is not going away. It will only escalate.

I respectfully ask the mayor to show leadership and correct his mistake. He can do this by restoring Perlean Griffin to her rightful position as director (not commissioner) of the Office of Affirmative Action with previous funding and staffing levels, not interfering with the Office and diversifying his cabinet.

Yours in the Struggle,
Rahwae Shuman
President, The Toledo Alliance of Black School Educators

It's Not Just Imus

By Jan Scotland
Guest Columnist

The Don Imus incident was a sad chapter in American broadcasting. Imus was a long-time icon in radio who succumbed to the poison of breathing his own breath. He spent so much time buried in the positive admiration of his fans that he could not see the tractor trailer of ego that was heading his way.

Too many of these shock jocks spend time palling around with like-minded groups. They believe that everyone in the world thinks as they do. If they do have one or two voices that get through to the contrary, they simply write them off as ignorant or misinformed.

I have to admit that I was a

big Imus fan when I lived in New York. This was when he was just a local phenom on New York radio. Later when I went home to visit my family I would always tune him in. He was funny and irreverent in a way that poked fun at everyone in a light-hearted way. How he went from that to the mean-spirited comments of more recent years I can only imagine.

You see absolute power does corrupt absolutely. People need to stay in touch with the world around them in order to remain sensitive. Ethnic jokes are not totally taboo but insensitivity or a feeling that you are above all can bring you down to earth in ways you



Jan Scotland

can never conceive.

Imus will truthfully tell you that he did not see anything wrong with his comments. As ridiculous as that seems he would pass any lie detector exam. But here-in lies the problem. Individuals, who have risen to a level of influence, as has Imus, where millions of people are absorbing your every word, should make sure that they

(Continued on Page 6)



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Marsyl's Vandalized After Towing Errant Parked Cars

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Marsyl's Soulfood Restaurant was victimized during the early morning hours of Friday, April 6, after having a tow service remove cars parked in its lot.

The black-owned and operated restaurant, which features traditional soul food and Caribbean fare, has been plagued for months by an accumulation of cars and trash from a neighboring business, Gatorz Bar and Grill, according to one of Marsyl's owners, Paulette Lalor.

In order to correct the problem, Marsyl's contracted with Accredited Roadside Service (ARS) to tow cars whose drivers were not patronizing the soul food restaurant. The towing was announced and began on the evening of Thursday, April 5. From the outset, however, the project did not proceed smoothly. Off-duty Toledo Police officers, who moonlight as security personnel



for Gatorz, threatened employees of the towing service, according to the ARS owner and manager, and prevented them from performing their tasks after four of the cars were towed from Marsyl's lot.

After all of the businesses were closed during the early morning hours, vandals broke all of the storefront windows of Marsyl's. Since a number of the windows are double-paned, the scofflaws smashed the glass front door, entered the restaurant and then smashed the window from the inside

out to complete the devastation.

No suspects, as of press time, have been identified.

The owner of Gatorz declined a request for an interview although others interviewed noted that the bar tried, when hearing of the impending towing on that evening, to inform their customers as quickly as possible, to remove their cars from Marsyl's parking lot.

Marsyl's managed to make repairs in time to reopen for that Friday night's service.

Human Chain of Dignity Calls for Fair Treatment, Diverse City Cabinet

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Approximately 100 people formed a "Human Chain of Dignity" outside of Government Center last Friday, April 13, and demanded a restoration of the City of Toledo affirmative action office, a diverse Finkbeiner administration and fair treatment of minorities.

The march, organized by the Committee for Improved City Governance, came about as a result of last month's budget balancing which brought about the diminution of the status of the city's Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance and the dismissal or resignation — depending upon the version — of the office's director, Perlean Griffin.

Griffin declined at that time to support the proposed changes to the office and since filed two actions with federal agencies in order to maintain the office's status quo and to be reinstated to her former position.

"We are gathered here



today as a show of unity in demanding from Mayor Finkbeiner a more diverse cabinet," said Francis Dumbuya, the founder of the Committee for Improved City Governance and organizer of Friday's march and demonstration. "We are here today because the mayor has not taken these issues seriously and has trivialized their importance."

Griffin, a long-time supporter of Finkbeiner, campaigned with the mayor in 2005 and directed the Office of AA/CC during his previous time in office. She has

stated that she was dismissed due to her finding of probable cause for a discrimination situation involving a member of the mayor's cabinet, Tom Kroma.

During the interim, the mayor has amended his original decision to split the affirmative action part of the office from that of contract compliance. The two functions will now operate in one office and the office itself will report to a variety of other offices including human resources, the mayor, the chief of staff and the Board of Community Relations.

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- Pregnancy verification (if applicable).
- Proof of income (pay stubs for most recent four week period, a letter from your employer verifying your monthly gross income or an IRS form 1040 C or F).
- A copy of your insurance card, if you are insured.



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April is Minority Health Month: 'The Perfect Reason To Quit Smoking'

Ohioans who are ready to quit smoking can now call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line, 1-800-934-4840, to get the help they need to save their lives. If you want to quit smoking, now is the perfect time as Ohio observes its 19th annual celebration of Minority Health Month. Take this time to focus on your health and make it your reason to call the Quit Line.

Minority Health Month was launched in April 1989 and was "designed to promote healthy lifestyles, provide crucial information to allow individuals to practice disease prevention, showcase the resources for and providers of grass roots health care and information, highlight the resolution of the disparate health conditions between Ohio's minority and non-minority populations and gain additional support for the ongoing efforts to improve minority health year round."

Did You Know?

- Over 47,000 African-Americans die from preventable tobacco-related disease each year. According to information obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), tobacco-related diseases kill more African-Americans each year than "car crashes, AIDS, murders and drug and alcohol abuse put together."

- Using tobacco can take 10 to 15 years off of your life.

- The benefits of ending tobacco use begin right away. Twenty minutes after quitting, blood pressure and pulse rate decrease. By the end of the first week, the chance of a heart attack decreases and the sense of smell and taste improve. Within the first nine months of quitting, circulation and lung function improve. Decreases in coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue and shortness of breath will also be seen.

- Smoking also harms non-smokers through secondhand smoke. According to Pathways To Freedom, a pamphlet published by the CDC, "the number of African-American children with asthma is 25 percent higher than the number of Caucasian children with asthma." Secondhand smoke also adds to the risk of ear infections, allergies and bronchitis in children.

- Tobacco companies are making a fortune from the sale of cigarettes to African-Americans. The money African-Americans spend on cigarettes in one day could pay one year's college tuition for over 2,500 African-American students. The money spent on one pack of cigarettes per day in one year would allow a smoker to buy a new computer or put a down payment on a car.

Trained counselors at the Quit Line give callers resources for reaching the goal of quitting and provide information about nicotine replacement products that may be helpful to the caller. Detailed information about tobacco use and quitting are also mailed to callers who ask for them.

With proven success, telephone counseling helps about one out of four people quit and stay tobacco free for good. On average, counseling has been highly effective and usually requires five, telephone sessions.

The Ohio Tobacco Quit Line, 1-800-934-4840, is available in English and Spanish to people calling from anywhere

Start! Walking at Work Day is April 25

Workers urged to bring their sneakers to work and walk at 2:41 p.m.

The American Heart Association (AHA) is asking employers to encourage workers to bring their sneakers to work and walk for 30 minutes on Wednesday, April 25 at 2:41 p.m. "We chose the time 2:41 p.m. because you'll gain about two hours of life expectancy for each 1-hour of regular exercise. The benefits are clear: two-four-one" said Jan Motter, executive director of the American Heart Association Northwest Ohio division.

The goal of Start! Walking at Work Day is to encourage more individuals to make walking a regular part of their work day. The nation-wide event is part of the Start! program, a

wellness initiative aimed at the workplace to encourage walking and other healthy habits.

Motter said, "Walking is the simplest change Americans can make to improve their heart health and it has the lowest drop out rate of any physical activity."

Why Walk?

- With the lowest drop out rate of any physical activity, walking is the simplest positive change you can make to effectively improve your heart health.

- Heart disease is everyone's No. 1 killer. Physical inactivity doubles the risk of heart disease, increasing your risk.

- Research shows that for every hour of physical activ-

ity, there is a gain of 2 hours of life expectancy.

- The average annual healthcare cost per person exceeds \$3,000 and 60 percent of CEOs cite healthcare as their top cost pressure.

Start! Is presented nationally by Subway Restaurants, Healthy Choice and Astra Zeneca and locally by The University of Toledo.

If your company would like to participate in the Start! Walking at Work Day event, contact the American Heart Association at (419) 740-6180 and ask for a Start! Walking at Work Day packet. You can also log on to americanheart.org and download free resource materials.

in Ohio. The deaf and hard of hearing community may utilize a TTY by calling 1-888-299-2182.

The Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation (TUPCF) was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 2000 and is funded with mon-

ies secured from the national Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) between tobacco companies and 46 states. TUPCF is charged with reducing tobacco use among Ohioans, with an emphasis on youth, minority and regional populations, pregnant women and others who

may be disproportionately affected by the use of tobacco. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Best Practices, TUPCF programs range from the distribution of community grants to stand, Ohio's tobacco use counter-marketing campaign.



At College Park Communities everyone is welcome.

The Enclave Apartments in celebration with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission is proud to support Fair Housing and recognize that April 2007 marks the 39th anniversary of the Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Federal Fair Housing Act, which provides for equal housing opportunity for all Americans and prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin/ancestry, familial status and disability.

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Scientific Racism

By Carol Chehade
Sojourner's Truth Columnist

Any person who has ever questioned who is used for the experimentation of new medical research or simply the inequality of health care should read Harriet A. Washington's book, *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*.

Washington is a bioethicist with a resume that includes working at Harvard Medical School and Tuskegee University.

Many of us have long questioned the modern-day, sophisticated use of eugenics, but talk of such atrocity lands us with the label of paranoid conspiracy theorists.

Washington's meticulous research leaves no room for conspiratorial labels. In the book, she analyzes one of the most well-known racist experiments like the Tuskegee experiments, in which men with syphilis were unknowingly used as a control group who were not treated. Washington uncovers the informa-

tion that one of the precursors to governmental racial genocide occurred when Thomas Jefferson exposed countless slaves to an experimental smallpox vaccine.

Not all of these atrocities are in the distant past. In the 1990s, New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University used drug experimentation on lower-economic black male youth.

The drug of choice by the researchers was called *Fenfluramine*, better known as the deadly weight loss drug *Fen-Phen*. The purpose was to test whether there was a "genetic predisposition" for blacks to exhibit unruly conduct.

Washington digs deeper and documents how inmates have been used like rats in a lab. Currently, there is legislation being drafted that promises a shortened sentence for inmates if they agree to donate one of their organs.

Washington points out how we should question the new trend of DNA research, especially given that DNA databases have higher numbers of samples that come

from the African-American community. Without proper monitoring and safeguards, this could further disempower a group because all sensitive information is contained in samplings.

Most of the experimentation done with black subjects were done without consent. A 1945 case involving African-American vehicle accident survivor was used to test U.S. Atomic Energy Commission experiments with radiation.

In another case, Floridians were in tests conducted by the CIA and the Army to mosquitoes carrying yellow. What is frightening is that experiments like these were not done by individuals in the medical community, but by organizations that symbolize and represent the United States of America.

Although every exploitable group is vulnerable to medical experimentation, Washington narrows her study to how the history of medicine and research has affected African-Americans. With our global environment opening up even more Third



World people to extermination, this book is a must read.

As we speak, there is an active, multi-billion dollar organ trade industry that either forcibly takes organs from impoverished people in the world community or manipulates them into giving their organs in exchange for basic survival. By the time the federal government approves a certain drug, we can bet that the road to its approval for some of those drugs was paved with a prickly road of subjugated human subjects.

Washington's book teaches us that it is our right to question what drug we are given, what our children are vaccinated with and, to treat doctors as humans and not as gods who can heal us.

It's Not Just Imus

(Continued from Page 3)

have a circle of friends and acquaintances who challenge your understanding of reality.

Imus probably spends time with people who share his diminished image of black females - people who think that if Spike Lee can say it, along with 70 percent of rappers in the world, then it is open season for him. He was wrong. His firing was justified and I hope other icons of the airways will take heed of his folly.

That being said we should not comment on Imus without considering the validity of some of his comments made in the aftermath. Why do we give a blind ear and eye to the so-called artists who make a living out of calling our wife's and daughters the "H" and the "B" words? Why are they able to make videos depicting them as gyrating sex objects mesmerized by Bling bling, fancy cars and expensive homes?

Why is Bill Cosby the only black leader taking them to task for using the "N" word as though it is a fond expression for people they hang out with. Where are the Jesse Jacksons and Al Sharptons when our own black artists are insulting our culture and making money lowering the level of our kids

esteem?

The hypocrisy runs high when you note their silence on these atrocities. Rev. Jackson and Rev. Sharpton have the gall to vilify Bill Cosby when he addresses these issues - the same two who labeled the Duke lacrosse players guilty before proven innocent. They were silent when liberal newspapers depicted Condoleezza Rice as Aunt Jemima in their cartoons. They write off these rich rappers as expressing their pain and justify our violent crimes against each other as a result of the oppression of the white man.

They attack the easy targets of conservative talk show hosts and racially-charged incidents but disappear when the difficult job of addressing our own comes to the forefront.

Let us not miss the deeper lesson from what happen to Imus. His insensitivity due to ignorance reflects on us. Life in our community seems to imitate the media we are surrounding ourselves with. And what becomes acceptable practice in our community may influence what others think of us.

Contact Jan Scotland at jan@thetruthtoledo.com

Toledo Idol Youth Talent Show

Sunday, April 29, 2007
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Winners will be announced on May 9th, just before Mother's Day!



The Sojourner's Truth Business

Business Section • Business Section • Business Section • Business Section • Business Section • Business Section

Walter Crockrel: Retirement Propelled Him to Launch New Ink Jet Refill Business Venture

By Alan Abrams
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Longtime business executive Walter Crockrel has found a way to spend his retirement doing what he's

always done best – working.

“I was sitting at my computer and trying to do what

I usually did whenever I found I needed a new inkjet cartridge, which was order one off the Internet,” recalls the former Sears executive. That’s when he started doing some research. Soon, Crockrel realized there’s more than just black ink in those computer ink jets. There’s a lot of green – both as in the environmentally friendly variety and the color of money.

That’s when Crockrel’s savvy business sense clicked into gear. He realized there was no one else

in northwest Ohio offering small and medium-sized businesses – and computer users – the opportunity to save money and time by having their ink jet cartridges refilled. The closest comparable service is a franchise operation located in the downriver Detroit suburb of Southgate, Michigan, about 45 minutes north of Toledo.

Crockrel’s search led him to locate the manufacturer and distributor of an ink jet factory machine located in Franklin, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville. The pricey machine – it sells for the median price of a 2007 car – was developed by Swedish engineers and is manufactured by a company that’s been in the print image business for 15 years and has won numerous awards for quality.

Once Crockrel made the decision to invest in the machine, he arranged for his son, Walter Crockrel III, to receive two days of intensive 10-hour training sessions to master the machine.

Both Crockrels, aided by Walter Crockrel III’s son Devon and several other employees, will staff the family-owned and operated business which opens May 1 as Ink Jet Express – 1 Hour Refill at 4895 Monroe, almost in the shadow of Kohl’s.

“My wife, Phyllis, has indicated she may want to be our bookkeeper,” says the senior Crockrel. The couple’s other son, Kavan, lives in Chicago.

The pricing will be competitive, promises Crockrel. Although prices may change when the business actually opens its doors, Crockrel believes he can



Walter Crockrel



Walter Crockrel III

keep the basic price down to \$17.99 for a black-ink cartridge refill and \$19.99 for color. The company can service all makes and brands of ink jet cartridges.

The much-smaller Epson ink jet cartridges will probably be in the \$5.99-\$6.99 range while Epson color ink jet cartridges may be priced at \$7.99 for refills, says Crockrel.

One factor that is certain is that Crockrel’s staff will do a print test before the customer leaves.

Crockrel also plans to sell remanufactured laser toners at a savings of 30 to 50 percent over standard pricing.

Extremely cognizant of the role his business plays in being environmentally friendly, Crockrel has instituted a recycling program. “According to the EPA, there are more than 300 million ink jet cartridges now in landfills, and each one takes about 10 years to break down and destruct,” says Crockrel.

He hopes his business will help keep cartridge prices down. He is planning to launch a major marketing campaign to small and medium businesses.

Crockrel has the required expertise to pull off a successful game plan for a start-

up business. He chalked up 37 years of experience in retail business prior to his retirement, all of it spent with Sears.

“I joined Sears right out of high school and while going to college to help pay for my tuition,” says Crockrel, who was born and raised on the east side of Detroit.

During his management career, Crockrel worked in Sears’ Troy, MI regional headquarters. “I was a store manager in Ann Arbor, and I used to manage the Toledo Woodville and Adrian, MI stores. Basically, I worked in the Michigan-Ohio-Indiana region,” says Crockrel, who formerly lived in West Bloomfield, Michigan before moving to Toledo in 1978. He is an active member of James Caldwell’s 50 Men and 50 Women group.

You can e-mail the company for more information at Inkjetexpress@sbcglobal.net or call them at (419) 475-4651.

Their fax number is (419) 475-4677.

Crockrel says their Web site is currently under construction.

Contact Alan Abrams at alan@thetruthtoledo.com.

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Lucas County Children's Services

Housing Discrimination Complaints Increase in Region: Most Complaints Filed Based on Disability and Race

Special to the Truth

Complaints of housing discrimination rose in each of the last five years in northeast Ohio, reaching their highest level in 17 years in 2006, according to a new report issued by the Housing Research & Advocacy Center in Cleveland. From 2001 to 2006, the number of complaints filed with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) more than doubled, from 98 to 214. Of the complaints filed in this five-year period, 38 percent involved discrimination based on disability, 34.1 percent involved race discrimination, and 13.3 percent alleged discrimination based on familial status.

Jeffrey D. Dillman, executive director of the Housing Center, stated, "While the increase in the number of complaints filed is disturbing, we know that this is just the tip of the iceberg, and the actual number of instances of discrimination is much higher." The Housing Center estimates that there are

annually at least 33,690 instances of housing discrimination in the region against African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the rental and sales markets, meaning the vast majority of cases are never reported to a government agency. This increase in complaints is consistent with national data from HUD which reported in March 2007 that it had received more complaints in 2006 than in any previous year.

The Housing Center's report, entitled "The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio: April 2007," analyzes housing discrimination and segregation in a six-county region made up of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties. Among the report's other findings:

- the number of housing discrimination complaints filed increased by 61 percent in the last five years (2002-2006) compared to the period 1997-2001, from an average of 89.0 per year to

143.6 per year;

- upper income African Americans were denied more loans than low income whites, and for those individuals who obtained loans, upper income African Americans were more than twice as likely to obtain high-cost home purchase loans as low income whites (58.9 percent compared to 24.6 percent);

- 49 localities in the region have fair housing ordinances, including 34 in Cuyahoga County, three in Ashtabula County, three in Lake County, seven in Lorain County, and two in Medina County. There are no local fair housing ordinances in Geauga County.

Dillman continued, "This report documents the continuing extent of housing discrimination in the region and shows how far our region has to go to end this practice. It is time for governments at all levels to make a strong stand against housing discrimination and to commit additional resources to ensure that all individuals have

an opportunity to choose their housing free from discrimination."

Federal law prohibits discrimination in the rental or sale of housing, and in the mortgage lending and homeowners insurance markets, based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status and handicap. In addition, Ohio law prohibits discrimination based on ancestry.

The report recommends that local governments enact stronger fair housing laws, implement comprehensive education efforts, vigorously enforce fair housing laws through systemic testing for discrimination as a means of addressing housing discrimination in the region, and increase investigation of mortgage lenders.

The Housing Research & Advocacy Center is a non-profit fair housing organization whose mission is to eliminate housing discrimination and assure choice in northeast Ohio by providing those at risk with effective

Type 2 Diabetes Study Seeks Participants

ProMedica Health System is searching for African American adults age 21 and older for a free, Type 2 diabetes study. Individuals should be receiving care from a physician and looking for additional information on managing their diabetes.

As part of the *Long-term, Self-management Support System* study, ProMedica will hold registration sessions on **Tuesdays, April 17, 24, and May 1, at 5 p.m.** at the Center for Health Services, 2150 W. Central Avenue, 1st-floor lobby. Participants will be offered free study visits over the next three years; weekly education sessions on Tuesday evenings; and useful, ongoing information to help them better manage their diabetes.

Diabetes is a life-long disease that cannot be cured but can be controlled to prevent or delay serious complications. Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes, in which the levels of blood glucose are too high. High blood glucose may cause symptoms such as blurred vision, frequent urination, increased thirst, unintended weight loss, slow-healing sores, and feelings of hunger or tiredness. However, some people with diabetes do not have symptoms. While it occurs in people of all ages and races, Type 2 diabetes is more common in African Americans.

ProMedica has partnered with the University of Michigan for the study, which is funded through a grant from the National Institutes of Health. For more information about the study, call 1-800-529-5345.



• WHAT IS LUPUS?

Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood and kidneys. Although the immune system usually protects the body against viruses and bacteria, in lupus patients the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissues.

• LUPUS FACTS

- Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Americans and strikes adult women 10-15 times more likely than men.
- Lupus is MORE prevalent in African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asians.
- Approximately 2,400 people in Lucas County have been diagnosed with Lupus
- Lupus can be difficult to diagnose as the symptoms are like other illnesses. Symptoms include joint and muscle pain, fatigue, a rash made worse from sunlight, low grade fever, kidney problems and hair loss.

• EVENTS IN TOLEDO AREA

- April 23 Online Support Group/7pm
- May 10 World Lupus Day
- May 20 Toledo Support Group/2pm at Flower Hospital, Sylvania Ohio
- May 21 Online Support Group/7pm
- June 11 Chapter Annual Meeting & Support Group Picnic/6pm in Findlay

○ CONTACT INFORMATION

Lupus Foundation of America
Northwest Ohio Chapter
1800 N. Blanchard St Suite 102
Findlay, Ohio 45840
(888) 33-LUPUS or (419) 423-9313
E-mail: info@lupusnw.org



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Academy Holds Free Uplifting Lock-in for Young Boys

By Artisha S. Lawson
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Excited boys filled the South Toledo YMCA gym on Friday, April 13, to attend the first annual King's Kid's Academy. The overnight event focused on development and continuation of personal, physical and mental awareness through mentor-taught workshops and speeches.

"I really felt the young men are not being taught who they are at home or at school. We will show them that men can unity and show them the right direction," stated primary organizer King Keyser of 97.3 FM.

An estimated 200 young boys between the ages of 13 to 16 attended the overnight

lock-in, which co-organizer Jason Daniels, director of Community Impact for the United Way, described as an inaugural event for the city of Toledo.

"I consider tonight an inaugural event, because there hasn't been an event like this in the city of Toledo for a while," Daniels explained.

Boys from various Toledo neighborhoods crowded the gym and prepared notes on donated school supplies, as speakers engaged with the youth through physical examples. Keyser gathered support from the United Way and several other community organizations.

Several volunteer mentors delivered workshops on topics ranging from entrepreneurship to power, which all tied into the theme "Everything I can Dream, I can Achieve." Mentors included Coach Tuck, Coach Leroy Bates, William Lucas Sr, Jason Daniels, Kevin McQueen, Boyd White,



Chuck Waters, Keyser, Lawrence Tribble, Stephen Ward, Albert Carl and Jason Rome.

The featured speaker, Waters, inspired the boys through Biblical references. Most of the youth cheered and responded to questions asked by the speaker.

Daniels spoke from the heart and shared his life struggles. He spoke about dealing with negative forces that can ruin your life, including drug dealing, violence and gangs. "All of you have the ability to achieve your dreams, but you must have a plan. That is what we are going to focus on today, helping you form a plan."

The evening included not only educational workshops and inspirational speakers



but also recreational fun such as basketball-playing time and swim time.

In light of the success of turn-out, organizers have already planned more events that will target the same demographics in hope of continuing the work already in progress.

If you are interested in volunteering for future events and/or financial contributions through sponsorships, can contact Jason Daniels at 419.254.4670 or 419.248.2424.

Organizers wish to thank the following sponsors who made this event possible through financial donations and physical contributions: Toledo Youth Commission, City of Toledo Board of Community Relations, United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, JLJ Vision Outreach and Citizens for Richard Brown for Toledo Public Schools President.



Jason Daniels, King Keyser, Dwayne Morehead

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Epsilon Alpha Chapter Crowns "Miss Black & Gold" 2007

By Nadean Hamilton
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Dressed as though they were about to attend a photo shoot for Ebony Magazine, the eight contestants vying for Miss Black & Gold 2007 sauntered on stage to the theme song from the motion picture *Dreamgirls*, on Thursday, April 5, in the University of Toledo Student Union Auditorium.

Those competing for the top honor this year were Devon Johnson, Niya Key, Jacqua Ray, Cine Sanders, Shawna Simon, Markisha Thomas, Ashley Vance and Megan Woodruff.

The contestants were judged on the basis of business attire/introduction, swim wear, talent and the question and answer session.

In the talent showcase, each contestant demonstrated a talent that they felt reflected who they were as individuals. Five contestants performed various dance routines to express their inner-most selves, two others recited poems and one played the violin.

During the question and answer phase, each contestant was required to select and answer a question at random about current world events.

According to the master of ceremonies, Brandon Tucker, the questions were designed to test each contestant's ability to "think on her feet."

Contestant Ashley Vance received the loudest round of applause when she demonstrated her deductive reasoning skills by suggesting that American voters would not elect a woman or a person of color president in 2008 because America seeks to preserve the status quo.

"I believe Americans are afraid of change, and they don't know how to adapt to it well," said Vance. "A person [with] that [much] power is usually stereotyped as a white male, and I don't think America will know how to steer away from that stereotype," Vance continued.

After concluding the competition portion of the program, the judges of the 2007 Miss Black & Gold "Scholarship Pageant," which included members of Alpha Phi Alpha, community members, and UT leaders, crowned senior health science major, Cine Sanders, Miss Black & Gold 2007.

Sanders, whose career goals include obtaining a master of science degree in nursing, and opening up a clinic in inner city Toledo, received a standing ovation, and a \$500 scholarship. Sanders, a Toledo native who was crowned Miss Debutante in the 2004 Debutante Cotillion presented by the Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., is no stranger to winning such events.

The Epsilon Alpha Chapter began presenting the annual "Miss Black & Gold" Scholarship Pageant in 1985. The pageant is a part of the fraternity's national events, and each chapter winner is afforded the opportunity to compete at the district, regional, and national level.

According to the program, the purpose of the pageant is to display positive images of African-American collegiate women, and to foster the connection between success and etiquette.

UT College of Business Uses Innovative Approach to Teaching

Service Learning project builds future business leaders and a strong community.

The University of Toledo College of Business Administration remains on the cutting edge of learning by offering a unique opportunity to a group of honors students. Under the direction of Professor Jackie Flom and with grant support from the University of Toledo Office of Service Learning & Community Engagement – this group of dynamic students are learning the value of volunteerism and sustainable business practices. The concept of service learning combines academic principles with meaningful community service in the hopes of teaching social responsibility and encouraging life long civic engagement. It promotes learning through active participation by providing an opportunity for students to use skills and knowledge in real-life situations. Furthermore, it provides an environment for students to re-

flect on issues facing the community in which they live and fosters a sense of caring for others.

To pilot this program the students chose to partner with Mom's House® – a non-profit organization that helps low income single mothers complete their education. Currently, there are seven University of Toledo students in the Mom's House® program, so it was a natural fit. The goal for this semester is to renovate the playground at the Mom's House® daycare and install a more age-appropriate climbing structure. With supply donations from such community partners as Sherwin Williams and Lowes and volunteers from UPS, the project is well on its way. "We are still trying to secure the additional funds needed to purchase the climber and the rubber mulch to create a safe fall-zone underneath," says Zac Stein, a UT Freshman and chairman of the project's fundraising

committee. "But we are confident in the generosity of the Toledo community and expect we will raise the money we need" he adds.

"I am impressed with the intelligence and professionalism of these young adults," says Stephanie Koehler, executive director of Mom's House®. "I am equally impressed that Professor Flom and the University of Toledo recognize the value of service-learning and the long-term benefit to the students and the community at large," she adds.

The class is continuing its fund-raising efforts and has several more work days scheduled for April. Stay tuned for an invitation to the unveiling later this spring! For more information on the playground project, contact Anna Hollingsworth at 440.339.1050.

Mom's House® is located at 2505 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43610.

For more information visit www.MomsHouseToledo.org.

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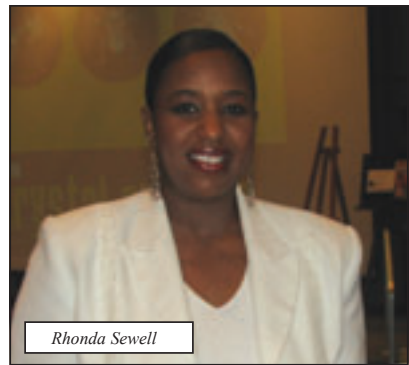


NOBMA's 13th Annual Impact Newsmaker Awards

The Northwest Ohio Black Media Association, the local affiliate of the National Association of Black Journalists, will be hosting its 13th annual Impact Newsmaker Awards, Friday, May 11, at the Clarion Hotel Westgate, 3536 Secor Road in Toledo. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Honorees include: State Rep. Edna Brown, Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, Charles Cohen, the late Edrene Cole, the African American Legacy Project and the Toledo Museum of Art. Media Achievement Award winners include Alexis Means, of WTVG-TV; Rhonda Sewell, of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library; and Shenikwa Stratford, of WNWQ-TV.



Alexis Means



Rhonda Sewell

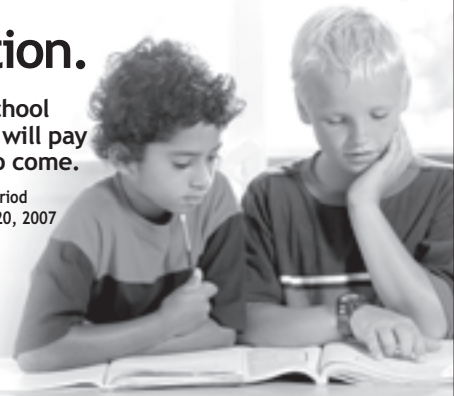
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Who You Callin' A Ho?

By Geneva Chapman
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Me, that's who! Don Imus is gone and so is the moment of vindication for African-American women – not *all* women. **African-American women.**

As painful as it is for so many people in this country to deal with issues of race, the phrase “nappy-headed ho” is a very specific remark, not only denoting gender, but race.

One of the reasons I'm “happy to be nappy” is because being “nappy-headed” is part of my racial identity and I am proud to be African-American or as I say, using the rules of the language created by African slaves, which allows the blending of words much like the French language, *AfrAm*.

Those who insist on ignoring the racial part of Imus' statement further insult AfrAm women by generalizing the remark to all women. Imus' executive producer (who is a black male, I'm told) did make a *general* statement referring to the women on the Rutgers basketball team as “hardcore ho's.”

That statement was about gender only and included the two white players on the team in a denigrating put-down of *all* women. However, Imus moved from the *general* to the *specific* when he identified a racial characteristic, hair texture, in his now infamous reference to “nappy-headed ho's” or the AfrAm women on the Rutgers' basketball team.

I find it rather interesting that folks who can understand that a demeaning word like “ho” (or whore) refers to women, don't understand that “nappy-headed” refers to race. The

latter is not a derogatory term in and of itself, but even among AfrAm people, having “nappy” hair is considered unattractive by some, who still in 2007, refer to straight or curly hair as “good hair.”

The rest of the exchange between Imus and his black male producer included an observation by Imus that the light-skinned girls on the Tennessee team were “cute” and his black male producer's correlation of the opposing teams with the “jigaboos and wannabees” in Spike Lee's movie, *School Daze*.

It has been said that AfrAm people spend too much time worrying about skin color and hair, which was a subtext of Lee's movie about life on a black college campus. Having attended a state-supported black college in Texas, I understood the context completely.

When I was a freshman, the yearbook featured the “Ten Most Beautiful Girls on Campus” (I know) and they were without one exception so light-skinned you couldn't tell the nine AfrAm girls from the one Hispanic girl in the photo – there were very few Hispanics attending the college, so I don't know how they managed to find one for the photo.

By my sophomore year, I was editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper and president of the Press Club, the organization that selected the “10 most beautiful.” So, that year, the yearbook photo represented the whole spectrum of women of color and included various styles of hair, including the afro, which was at its peak of popularity back

in 1971. (I was told the Dean of Women ripped up her proof of the yearbook photo; and she did kick me out of school shortly after the start of the second semester without a hearing before the judicial committee, of which I was the chairman.)

Lee captured this subculture based on skin color and hair completely, which is why it was brought up on Imus' show. There is still a belief, even among some AfrAm men, that dark-skinned AfrAm women (with or without nappy hair) are not as attractive as light-skinned AfrAm women.

The whole conversation was about race and gender and what men like Imus and his producer consider attractive. You cannot separate these three issues. They coalesce into one gigantic problem of Americans not being able to appreciate more than one standard of beauty (white skin, white features, white hair texture) and not appreciating the beauty of AfrAm women or other women of color. Three hundred years ago, West Indian slave-owner, Willie Lynch, made a speech to slave-owners in the American South about how to keep their slaves under control, dividing them along various lines, including skin color and hair texture.

Willie Lynch's dictum is still in play in 2007, and I suspect had as much to do with the visceral reaction to Imus' statement as the statement's racist and sexist nature.

There was little economic impact, to my knowledge, after Tommy Hilfiger purportedly said he did not want blacks to buy his de-

signer clothes, despite rumors of those remarks quickly spreading through the AfrAm community.

Not since the Montgomery Bus Boycott has AfrAm economic power been felt as it was following Imus' ill-conceived description of a group of student athletes who happen to be black and female. Not since the 1960's has a concerted outcry from the AfrAm community (not just Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton) resulted in bringing an industry – Imus multi-million dollar radio show – to a halt, despite the considerable economic clout we have with the over six billion dollars we spend annually.

Efforts have been made to marshal AfrAm economic power by Louis Farrakhan and others, but it took an insult on a radio show about some young AfrAm women whose honor we all felt compelled to defend to bring us together and wield our economic voice in this country.

Now, if we'd just do the same thing with the record industry that made words like “ho” part of popular vernacular in the first place or to get health care for the working poor and better schools in the inner city, as well as jobs and better wages....

I have to admit, I felt vindicated, as a nappy-headed (I accept that part of Imus' description of me) *woman* (I don't accept the label of “ho” from anybody!) by what happened to Don Imus. His mistake cost him a \$10 million/year job.

However, on an intellectual and professional level, as a journalist, I feel that keeping Imus on the air with limitations on his freedom to insult AfrAm people, Jewish people, Irish people, Catholics, women, gays and whomever else he's been targeting all these years would have been a better lesson for him and society.

After the two-week suspension and loss of some big advertisers, I'm sure he would have gotten the message. It's not just about forgiving him – and I do believe in forgiveness as a Christian and think the Rutgers team and their coach were right to forgive Imus – it's also about creating real change.

I'm sure many of the so-called “shock jocks” will be more careful now that Imus lost his job, at least until all the noise dies down and Imus rises as the underdog of a movement of racial hate and misogyny that is growing in this country, so that the *next* time someone objects to a racial or

gender slur or *both*, as in this case, the real haters will be ready to counter our protests with solid support for whomever makes the next faux pas.

And what about Imus? I'm sure he'll probably never say the words “nappy headed ho” in public again, but he'll probably keep thinking that way about AfrAm women, at least the dark-skinned ones (with or without nappy hair).

Meanwhile, beautiful AfrAm women like Essence Carson, captain of the Rutgers women's basketball team, may now be looked at in a different light by the media and the rest of the population under the glare of publicity and, perhaps, someone other than those of us whose eyes are not colored by prejudice will see her beauty and the beauty of other AfrAm women, regardless of skin color or hair texture.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who does not usually align herself with the likes of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton (as well as many others who voice the same sentiment without the media attention), even called Imus' remarks “disgusting” and “an insult to black women.”

Thanks, Secretary Rice for getting it right!

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Hip Hop and Don Imus ... We Have to Talk About It

By Michael Hayes
Minister of Culture

Was He Wrong For Saying It?

Answer: Hell Yeah!

Referring to a group of young black females (collegiate athletes at that) as "... a bunch of nappy headed hoers" when coming out of a white person's mouth is racist.

You can go to hell if you don't agree or simply stop reading right now.

I don't give a damn what anyone says. That is racist as hell and professionally irresponsible.

Is that a double standard? HELL YEAH IT'S A DOUBLE STANDARD!

And the mere thought of a WHITE person complaining about a double standard is ridiculous.

Just the slightest hint of them complaining about double standards is insulting to one's intellect.

White people benefit everyday from double standards that reach far beyond semantics and what can/can't be said on the air. When dealing with law enforcement, employment etc. they benefit everyday.

If you don't believe me, just look at the other big news story that came out the day CBS finally let Imus go - the Duke University lacrosse players who were accused of gang raping a young black woman were all pronounced innocent.

Out of all those people, and the entire duration of the incident, not one single conviction.

Now we all know, if it had been a group of black college men and the accuser was a white female the conclusion to this story would have been drastically different and, if there had not been enough

evidence to carry the matter to trial, never, never, never would a prosecutor have gone before the cameras to proclaim that the defendants were innocent.

That is a double standard worth complaining about.

Black folks live everyday with double standards that are life threatening, and silly-ass white conservatives are all taking up for Imus on the premise that they should be able to use the language we use???

%&* THAT!

And there are a bunch of idiots all over you tube saying that he shouldn't have been fired.

That's dumb as hell. Of course he should've been fired and possibly sued for slander.

With this little article of mine, I don't reach even a 100th of his audience but if I singled out a group of people and berated them needlessly about their looks and made racial and sexist remarks ... guess what?

I'd be in trouble.

It's just common sense. You have a job where you speak to the public, you need to exercise some professional restraint and some measure of political correctness. But for these neo-conservative types, they don't feel they have to answer to anyone at all.

And you're damn right if I'm singling them out, but it's not about their looks - it's because their point of view is exactly what fuels situations like Don Imus ruining a lifetime achievement for dozens of hardworking people with the Rutgers' women's basketball team.

Their point of view is cor-

rupt and it angers me even further to see upstanding black folks agreeing with them on this next point.

If Rappers Call Black Women Hoers, Why Is It So Bad When Someone Else Does It?

You're an idiot if you allow these evil white men to poison your mind into thinking that they should be able to call black women hos because rap music does it.

First of all - A ho is ANYONE who sleeps around.

I've known a number of guys who will have sex with any female they see... guess what?

THOSE GUYS ARE HOS!

Slut, Ho - etc. those terms can be for a man, too. If the shoe fits.

And that's the main part of calling anyone any name... it has to be appropriate for their actions.

For Example:
Paris Hilton = Ho
Anna Nicole Smith = Ho
Y'all get it now?

It's not rocket science, but Don Imus violated in multiple ways with his comments and he can't blame us.

Second of all - the rap music you hear that disrespects women, IS NOT ALL HIP HOP!

If you only listen to G-Unit or some garbage like that, then that's your own damn fault for drowning your ears in nonsense that most real hip-hop heads aren't even proud of.

Nas coming out with an album called *Hip Hop Is Dead* last year is proof, y'all.

Most of us who make music are even getting sick and tired of being sick and tired with the over-used gimmicks, and the overall dumbing

down of our culture.

It's hard to listen to the radio these days, it's tough finding an album to buy these days, because mostly white-owned record companies feel that the only way to sell rap music is to appeal to our own self hatred by promoting rappers whose lyrics demean all of us (not just women, but all of us as a whole). And I admit I'm de-sensitized to it. I've been de-sensitized to it since I was about 12 years old.

But it's funny to me how Alanis Morissette can call herself a bitch, sell 15 million albums and yet she's not accused of reversing the women's struggle.

The point of all art is to imitate life.

I won't allow hip-hop music to be the scapegoat for Don Imus and other white folks of his ilk who wanna whine "well, they did it first."

And to try and drag hip-hop music into this, that stuff is angering me even as I type this.

You know what, let me calm down.

I'll do what I always try and do in this article and use personal examples so you can see that I'm not just talking to be talking.

My group, The Undergodz - on our Myspace page is a song of ours called "Why Do Birds." In this song, the first verse deals with a certain type of female someone might come across in the inner city.

I once had a rock and roll music fan visit the page and I asked them what they thought of the music.

When they hit me back their only comment was that we had said "chicken heads" and "hos."

They completely missed the point.

The entire first verse is

questioning why so many of our black females make that choice to expose their bodies, routinely choose men that abuse them and just live that life of immoral behavior.

In NO way are we saying that ALL our women get down like that.

But our song is an attempt to question the ones that do.

Hip-hop is an intellectual person's endeavor. It's a way of learning about realities we face as a people.

When you listen to Outkast, when you listen to Mos Def, when you listen to Little Brother you are witnessing someone's thoughts on the world around them.

You are witnessing art being painted on the canvas.

You are getting the real CNN.

Because the news does NOT report on life as we know it.

For many of us in the hip-hop generation, we can't even depend on our own elders and role models to report on life as we know it.

Ebony magazine, Oprah Winfrey, Terry McMillan and the like... are all pillars of our Black America but they don't even take hip-hop seriously enough to consider all the issues we address in our songs.

The communities we live in have all sorts of people.

Women that are doing well, working and making a positive life for themselves... we are proud of them and we love them.

But for every sister on her way to work or school in the morning, she passes two or three who are hanging out on the block about to go and do some dirt.

We see the good.

We see the bad.

We speak on it all.

THAT'S HIP HOP.

Now if the only hip-hop you know is Ying Yang Twins, Young Buck and Lil

Wayne...well that's ya own damn fault.

You should educate yourself on all that our music has to offer instead of just reacting to the radio.

Any true hip-hop head will tell you that radio doesn't have s*** to do with what's real hip-hop.

And don't even get me started on videos... because anyone that feels that rap videos on MTV and BET are examples of black women powerless to control their own image - you need to be reminded that MTV and BET are both run by black women!!

Every image you see on those networks is a result of someone giving it a green light.

In both cases, that someone is a powerful black woman.

Does that make it okay? No.

But it should show you that a black female growing up in our society can be anything she wants.

She can become a stripper or a video girl and have some of these dumb ass rappers pour champagne all over her and make songs about what they've done to her.

Or she can become a dignified leader of a major corporation whose success is so enviable that conscious rappers adore her and make songs about wanting a woman just like her.

How you raise your daughters will have more to do with which direction she goes in.

Not Lil Wayne's video.

Not Don Imus.

But it's hard to ignore that hip-hop's ugly side is getting more and more popular as the audience gets younger and younger.

The state of our culture worries me at times, but I just try to support those artists who make me proud and keep an open mind as to who
(Continued on Page 14)

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Hip Hop and Don Imus ...

(Continued from Page 13)

is using language in a destructive way versus who is using language in a descriptive way. Trust me, I wish rappers would step their game up in a big way, but you can't blame hip-hop for everything you see in the streets or everything that

comes out of an idiot's mouth.

Conclusion:
Yo, honestly this isn't a conclusion because I'll probably be addressing this again soon.

But in the meantime I wanna know what ya'll think

about my article.

If you've read my articles/reviews on any hip-hop album that may have contained offensive material then hit me up and let me know what you would like to see in the future.

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Sealed bids will be accepted by the Board of Education of the Toledo Public School District until 1:00 p.m. on May 15th, 2007 at the Toledo Public Schools Treasurers' Room 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43608, for all labor, material and supervision necessary for the new Chase Elementary School Bid, as more fully described in the drawings and specifications for the project prepared by Demci & Stough and will be opened publicly and read immediately thereafter.

Bid Documents for the project may be examined at the following locations: Dodge plan rooms in Maumee and Columbus, Builders Exchange in Toledo, University of Toledo - Capacity Building, E.O.P.A. - Hamilton Building, Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and The Plan Room in Ann Arbor, Construction Association of Michigan, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Construction News.

Bidders may obtain copies of the documents starting April 18, 2007 which can be purchased from Toledo Blue Print, 6964 Mc Nerney Street, Northwood, Ohio 43619 Phone: 419-661-9841. Drawings may be obtained on CD-ROM for no cost with the purchase of the specifications.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for May 3, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at Toledo Public Schools' Board Room, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo Ohio 43608

If you have any questions or a need for additional information, please direct all questions in writing to Charles.Jackson@tqb-llc.com by phone at (419) 776-5600, or (fax) (877) 288-8407

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Bids will be received by the Toledo Public School District (the "District or TPS"), at the Treasurer's Room 3, 420 E. Manhattan Blvd., Toledo, Ohio 43624 for the Grove Patterson Elementary School and Rogers High School Pre-demolition Asbestos/HazMat Abatement Projects in accordance with the Drawings and Specifications prepared by:

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Toledo, Ohio 43604

Phone No. 419-324-2222
Fax No. 419-241-0146

Any Proposed Equal for a Standard shall be submitted to the Consultant, no later than ten (10) days prior to the bid opening. If no Addendum is issued accepting the Proposed Equal, the Proposed Equal shall be considered rejected.

Sealed bids will be received for:

Bid Item No. 1: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Grove Patterson Elementary	\$ 84,700.
Bid Item No. 2: Asbestos/HazMat Abatement of Rogers High School	\$160,000.

until **APRIL 30, 2007, at 12:00 NOON, (as determined by Stratum clocking (cell phone time))** when they will be opened and read.

A PREBID CONFERENCE is scheduled for April 20, 2007, at 10:00 A.M. at the existing Grove Patterson Elementary School, 3020 Marvin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43606 (ROGERS SITE VISIT WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THIS SITE VISIT).

Bidders will be required to comply with the Toledo Public School District's Community Inclusion Plan.

Contract Documents can be obtained starting April 12, 2007 from Newfax Corporation, 333 W. Woodruff Ave., Toledo, OH 43624, phone: (419) 241-5157 for the cost of the printing, to be paid to the printing company at the time the drawings are picked up. CD-Rom copies of the bid drawings are also available for no cost with the purchase of the specification books.

The Contract Documents may be reviewed for bidding purposes without charge during business hours at the following locations:

Maumee F.W. Dodge Plan Room 3521 Briarfield Blvd., Suite D Maumee, OH 43537 PH: 419-861-1300 FX: 419-861-1325	Dayton F.W. Dodge Plan Room 3077 S. Kettering Blvd., Suite 301 Dayton, OH 45439-2200 PH: 937-298-7378 FX: 937-298-1451
Columbus F.W. Dodge Plan Room 1175 Dublin Rd. Dublin, OH 43215-1073 PH: 614-486-6575 FX: 614-486-0544	Southfield F.W. Dodge Plan Room 25330 Telegraph Rd., Suite 350 Southfield, MI 48034 PH: 248-799-3300 FX: 248-799-3339
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10th Annual Omega Psi Phi Prostate Cancer Screening

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Xi-Tau chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held its Tenth Annual Prostate Cancer Screening on April 7, 2007 at the Vince Davis State Farm Insurance Agency on the corner of Cherry and Sherman Streets.

The annual screening brings more minority men in for the free tests than does any other such clinic in the area.

The sponsors for the event are the Toledo Council of Black Nurses, Inc., the American Cancer Society, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, The Mayors Coalition on Prostate Cancer Awareness, MUO Hospital, St. Vincent's Mercy Medical Clinic, the Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church and the Area Office on Aging.

As has been the case in the past, the Toledo Council of Black Nurses provides part of the staff for the event and area physicians, such as Dr. Anyse Storey volunteer their services.



Members and pledges of Omega Psi Phi



Toledo Council of Black Nurses

ACT-SO Competition on April 29

The Toledo branch of the NAACP will be hosting its ACT-SO competition for African-American high school students on Sunday, April 29, at the University of Toledo's Student Union. Competition will be held in 26 categories in ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics) ranging from the sciences, poetry, original essay, dramatics, singing, dancing, visual arts, and business. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a public opening ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Contact 419-243-7349 or e-mail: toledo_naACP_act-so@hotmail.com for more information or if you'd like to volunteer or be a judge. Applications for contestants will be accepted until Friday, April 20.



Loganne Bond from 2006

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Food for Thought:

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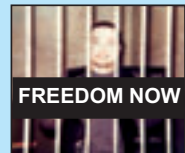
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