

THE COMPASS

THE AWARD WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VOL. 72, NO. 6 CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING SENIORS APRIL 16, 2007

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, BLAME HIP HOP

By Keisha Hill
Editor-at-large

I vaguely knew of Don Imus prior to the firestorm of controversy surrounding his comments about the women's basketball team from Rutgers. Imus' show only entered my airwaves on the rare occasion when I flipped past his simulcast on my way to another channel. But now he has infiltrated every channel, all times throughout the day, and if anyone did not know who he was – they do now.

When I heard the words “jiggaboo”, “hard-core hos” and the now infamous words heard around the globe - “nappy headed hos” being played in constant rotation as if they were a re-released single from Beyonce's “B-day”

album, I was stunned, but my astonishment was not beyond belief. It was clearly one of those “did he say what I thought he said?” moments. But why are we shocked that there are those that feel this way about black people?

In his lame attempt at having a comic relief moment, Imus' poisonous diatribe managed to escape the white players on the team. His omission solidified for many of us that he had underlining racist tendencies. Yet, there are some who will say, “Well, he said the players from Tennessee were nice looking,” as if that gives him a get out of the racist corner pass. In my opinion that is parallel to saying, “You're a pretty woman to be black.”



Photos Courtesy of Getty Images

fetches in any way to think that racism and sexism are still alive in America. We see it on a daily basis. It is not hard to believe there is a segment of America that still has a “good ole boy” with the Confederate flag flying high mentality. It is a wonderful notion that people of all races can stand and hold hands as one, but such is not the case.

African Americans may no longer be reduced to being forced to pick cotton, or be considered three-fourths of a human being, and the signs saying FOR COLORED PEOPLE may be gone, but there are issues of race this country still needs to face. The elephant is still in the room, and unless we do something now, it will more than likely remain there until the end of time.

Imus is definitely in good company in his limited views as it is apparent by the vast listening audience he had accumulated. The shock jock earned over \$10 million per year talking negatively about African Americans, women, gays, and handicapped persons. According to CNN Money, Imus accounted for about \$20 million in ad sales for CBS last year.

As Imus and his producer, Bernard McGuirk tossed back and forth disparaging remarks at the expense of the Rutgers team, there was a segment of America that laughed in unison with them.

see Imus page 4



It is not far-