

# Comments called 'racist, sexist despicable'



Members of the Rutgers women's basketball team hold a news conference on campus in Piscataway, N.J., Tuesday to react to derogatory remarks directed at their team made on air by radio personality Don Imus. (AP photo)

continued ▲ from Front

their gifts and talents, you know, to bring the smiles and the pride within this state in so many people, we had to experience racist and sexist remarks that are deplorable, despicable, and abominable and unconscionable. It hurts me."

Imus started the firestorm after Rutgers lost the championship game. He was speaking with producer Bernard McGuirk and said "that's some rough girls from Rutgers. Man, they got tattoos ..."

"Some hardcore hos," McGuirk

said.

"That's some nappy-headed hos there, I'm going to tell you that," Imus said.

Imus' comments about the Rutgers players struck a chord, in part, because it was aimed at a group of young women enjoying athletic success.

"What I did was make a stupid, idiotic mistake in a comedy context," Imus said on his show Tuesday morning, the final week before his suspension starts.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called the suspension "not nearly enough. I

think it is too little, too late." He said presidential candidates and other politicians should refrain from going on Imus' show in the future.

MSNBC, which telecasts the radio show, said Imus' expressions of regret and embarrassment, coupled with his stated dedication to changing the show's discourse, made it believe suspension was the appropriate response.

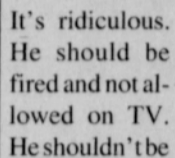
"Our future relationship with Imus is contingent on his ability to live up to his word," the network said late Monday.

## In the Neighborhood

What's your reaction to radio host Don Imus calling the Rutgers University Women's Basketball Team "Nappy-headed hos?"



It's unbelievable that a person would say such things. It seems to be a racial comment towards blacks and that's not a good work ethic. -- Heather DeWalt



It's ridiculous. He should be fired and not allowed on TV. He shouldn't be allowed to influence us through mass media. -- Abraham Pearce



It's not good but you can't blame him. Rappers use negative words towards black women all the time. It sends a message to people like Imus that it's okay to talk about black women like that. -- Gilda Moffett



I don't support him. He's stereotyping people and it's bad to use those words against women. He came from a woman so why would he do that? -- Zaira Barnett

BY NICOLE RONAL HOOPER AND MARK WASHINGTON/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



## Kids to Dance It Up

Kids from the Blazer Boys and Girls Club prepare to dance it up for a Saturday 8 p.m. performance at the Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott St. The hip hop troupe has been working since October with choreographer TiAnna McDaniel, also known as Ms. T. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and available only in advance by calling Mr. T at 503-351-0887.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Obama Rakes in \$25 Million

(AP) -- Democrat Barack Obama raked in \$25 million for his presidential bid in the first three months of 2007, placing him on a par with front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton and dashing her image as the party's inevitable nominee.

The donations came from an eye-popping 100,000 donors.

The figure was the latest evidence that Obama, a political newcomer who has served just two years in the Senate, has emerged as the most powerful new force in presidential politics this year.

## Jefferson Principal Replaced

continued ▲ from Front

was placed on leave, whether it is paid or if he will return to Jefferson next fall.

Dudley has been mired in controversy since joining the district last August, after being recruited by Superintendent Vickie Phillips.

He most recently left his position as principal of a large and diverse school district in Dallas, Texas, where he was investigated for misuse of school funds. Before that, Dudley led a middle school in Salem, where teachers took a vote of no confidence regarding his leadership.

Before the end of his first semester leading Jefferson, Dudley

had been criticized for frequent and long absences and was the subject of a sexual and racial harassment complaint by a Jefferson staff member.

In March students booed Dudley during a black history assembly and earlier this month students staged a walk out to protest their principal.

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Questions? Greg Wolley  
503.823.6860 or [gwolley@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:gwolley@ci.portland.or.us)

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