

# OPINION

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## Corporations Stealing Iraq's Oil

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

A bumper sticker about the Iraq War asks: "What's our oil doing under their sand?"

Of course, the Bushites hotly denied that their disastrous war is about grabbing the second-largest oil reserve in the world. "It has nothing to do with oil, literally nothing to do with oil," barked Donnie Rumsfeld!

Could that be yet another of their lies? Yes!

A cabal of kleptocrats -- including the Bushites, the Iraqi cabinet, and the major oil corporations -- has drafted a new oil law requiring Iraq to open up its fields to control

by Western corporations. This was kept secret from both the Iraqi and American peoples, but the draft has now been submitted to the Iraqi parliament for its approval, so details of the thievery have leaked out.

The law would transform Iraq's huge oil reserve from a nationally owned resource to a privatization model, opening two-thirds of the known oil fields to foreign control.

Instead of parliament making the major decisions over oil, an unelected authority called the Federal Oil and Gas Council would take charge. And guess who would have seats on this council? The major oil

corporations!

This scheme is nothing but a license for Big Oil to plunder a nation and its people. So much for Bush & Company's rhetoric about "bringing democracy to Iraq." They're using our troops to give away Iraq's oil... and its sovereignty.

To learn more about this shameful ripoff, call the watchdog group Oil Change International at 202-518-9029.

Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, public speaker, and author of *Thieves In High Places: They've Stolen Our Country And It's Time to Take It Back*.



## Racism in Mainstream Media

Don Imus hate speech was more of the same

BY REP. CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK

The comments made by radio personality Don Imus were completely insensitive, inappropriate, and ignorant.

Historically, Mr. Imus has made inflammatory statements with minimum retribution. This most recent display of blatant ignorance is a microcosm of racial and sexist lawlessness that exists in mainstream media and our society as a whole.

The national and local media networks proudly tout the ascension of Don Imus from notorious 'shock jock' to credible news source, while routinely affording him a free pass to misuse the airwaves to promote his narrow-minded and offensive propaganda.

These young women exhibited strength of mind, body and spirit to make it to the championship game. However, Mr. Imus did not celebrate their accomplishment or their skills.

Instead, he commenced a direct assault on these young ladies, making negative remarks about their hair and referring to them using what might be the most derogatory term you can call any woman—regardless of her race.

Mr. Imus' blunder is more than



an egregious error; it is a blatant and callous disregard for the struggles and sacrifices these young women face as they strive to improve the quality of their lives.

These young women deal with the pressure of being student-athletes at a predominantly white university in a country where the odds are already stacked against them. They need and deserve our support.

Mr. Imus just does not get it. He

about diversity in the media and tolerance in America. They prove that we still have much work to do to break the chains of bigotry, racism, and sexism that still shackle our country.

Mr. Imus' public apology is not enough. I am calling for the immediate termination of Mr. Imus and his executive producer Bernard McGuirk.

CBS Radio and MSNBC must also increase their representation of African Americans and other people of color at all levels within

*Mr. Imus' crass and offensive remarks speak to a broader issue about diversity in the media and tolerance in America.*

does not recognize—and does not want to understand—the damage and destruction he caused with his stereotypical, racist comments. Such statements destroy and divide instead of encourage and embrace. At a time when our country faces immense challenges in education, employment and healthcare, our children need to be buoyed by hope—not broken by hurt.

Mr. Imus' crass and offensive remarks speak to a broader issue

their organizations and practice zero tolerance towards racist, sexist, anti-religious, and other discriminatory commentaries.

Additionally, I urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to mandate diversity training and to impose fines against both networks."

Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-Mich., is chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

## Gambling Treatment Works

Hear it from a former addict

BY JEFF MAROTTA

The scene was a public hear-



ing this spring before a committee of the Oregon Legislature. The 50-ish man at the witness table was articulate and was dressed professionally. But his personal story of battling a gambling problem was one that legislators don't often hear.

"I wasn't a person who was stealing your car stereos," he told the committee, "but that's where I was headed. Through treatment I got the tools necessary so I could get on my feet."

Today he is among the more than 80 percent of Oregonians for whom free, confidential treatment for a gambling addiction has been successful, meaning that six months later they either are gambling less or not at all.

On any given day approximately 1,300 Oregonians are in treatment for gambling disorders, some of the estimated 75,000 of our neighbors who are believed to have a current serious problem with gambling. It's a safety net paid for by the Oregon Lottery, and the sad fact is that most people who would benefit.

Oregon's free treatment for gambling addiction, which typically has a value of approximately \$1,200, is recognized nationally as a model for its effectiveness.

Another Oregonian remembers she began watching a friend gamble \$40 to \$60 on video poker during her lunch hours. The former nongambler, a religious person who describes herself as conservative,

became interested and then hooked. After seeing a television commercial urging treatment, she says she got into treatment, which showed her how to channel her interests into other activities. "Thankfully, I also have a good job and a supportive family," she says.

But suppose you are married to a problem gambler who refuses to seek treatment. Help is still available. Getting into counseling will help you understand that you are not alone, you are not to blame, and that it's okay to accept outside assistance.

Although total abstinence is the best answer for many problem gamblers, it isn't a requirement of Oregon's treatment program. For some people, it's enough to convert their gambling from spending harmful amounts of time and money into an occasional recreational activity.

To get into treatment, one need only call the toll-free helpline: 1-877-2-STOP-NOW (1-877-278-6766).

One woman says she gave her husband an ultimatum to call the helpline after he gambled away \$50,000. Without treatment, she says, "we wouldn't be married, there's no doubt in my mind."

Another woman, whose husband incurred \$120,000 in sports-gambling debt, says, "It not only saved our marriage but it also helped me become stronger."

Jeff Marotta is problem gambling services manager in the Oregon Department of Human Services.

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