

## Imus didn't fit freedom of speech

It's a no-brainer. Former radio talk-show host Don Imus deserved to lose his job over the racially based insult he threw at the Rutgers' women's basketball team. Insults, especially racial ones, have been around long enough to upset people. People want information, not accusation. The people who air and televise his shows would have taken on a massive public relations disaster keeping Imus.

Those who attempt to defend Imus using his freedom of speech and or press, have failed to realize how important African-Americans have been in sports so far this year. African-Americans have had their monumental moments in sports, which just intensified Imus' comments.

Remember, this year was the first time two African-American head coaches were in the Super Bowl. The problem with that was much of the national media thought that was the only important part of coaches Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith.

Those two coaches found the right combination of decisions, talent and strategy to make it to one of the biggest sporting events in the country. That is more important than the color of skin.

Imus could not have picked a worse time to say what he said. Sunday, marked the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson becoming the first African-American player in Major League Baseball. Select teams across the country held ceremonies before their games.

Imus' comment was not only unnecessary, but downright ignorant, knowing how long African-Americans have been a part of American sports.

Imus' action is another black eye for the media the past years. Former New York Times reporter Jayson Blair started the trouble with his plagiarized stories. Other papers' reporters false stories cropped up after that.

Then there was Janet Jackson's unforgettable wardrobe malfunction during a Super Bowl halftime show and the continual lack of talent by another radio talk-show host Howard Stern. The company that had Stern's show was fed up with his obscene material and let him go.

A newspaper botched John Kerry's running mate in the 2004 campaign, hours before he made the official announcement of who it was.

I haven't even listed the awful daytime talk television shows like Jerry Springer and Maury Povich and others who continue to churn out the garbage rather than something with intellect.

The challenge for media consumers, and I am one of them too, is knowing what is garbage and what is information valuable enough to use.

What Imus said is garbage but the tendency with all of us is getting upset at people who don't have similar opinions or perspectives on topics. So we think that is garbage too. Nine-point-nine times out of 10 that falls into political-oriented stories.

A loyal Democrat may not like a story about the developments of the Republicans, just because it does not list the growth of the Democrats. Just because someone reads something they do not agree with does not mean it does not have news value.

There is a difference when the media makes a mistake with content and when the media, like Imus, makes a mistake with attitude.

—By John Van Nostrand, publisher of the Colby Free Press



## Times and kids — they are a changin'

It's part of my job, at the newspaper, to cover social events in the community. Prom certainly falls into the "social" category. I have been to proms the last two weekends in a row and I'm feeling a little "prommed out."

After hearing me rant, someone accused me of being the "prom police." But certainly a class sponsor or adult leader should have spotted the enormous amount of gum being chewed by the prom-goers before they stepped into public view.

I don't have anything against gum-chewing per se. I enjoy the occasional Juicy Fruit myself. But when all eyes are going to be on you, I would think you wouldn't want to look like a cow chewing her cud.

I'm sure it was just a subconscious thing, and most even forgot they had gum in their mouths. Next year, maybe a mom will post herself at the entrance and command, "Spit!" when she sees a chomping offender.

-ob-

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



When I was in school (here we go again) chewing gum would earn you a one-way trip to the principal's office.

Girls weren't allowed to wear slacks (forget jeans) and boys had to have their shirts tucked in and belts on their pants. T-shirts were considered underwear and only white ones could peek through the neck of a boy's shirt. Girls' skirts had to be, at least, to the top of the knee. And no one was allowed to have a toothpick stuck in their mouth.

Another no-no was public display of affection, or "necking" as we called it. Handholding was even *verboten*.

Were kids any better then than they are now? I don't know. It seemed like we had a little clearer picture of right and wrong. But kids these days have a better sense of self and know what they want to do with their lives.

When I graduated from high school I didn't have a clue. College was not even a blip on my radar screen until one of my classmates called me a week before school was to start.

"Hey, Kelley, come on down," she said. (She lived in Winfield by then). "We can go to Juco (Arkansas City); the classes are cheap and the boys are cute."

Say no more. That's all the thought I gave to my future: cute boys.

-ob-

Right now, we have a granddaughter in high school and a steady stream of grandchildren coming along behind her. What will their future hold?

I don't know. But the possibilities are exciting and endless.

## Listening Tour a valuable tool

To the Editor,  
I recently completed my eleventh annual Big First Listening Tour, making community visits in each of the 69 counties of the First Congressional District. It is always a pleasure joining residents for a discussion about current issues and ways I can better serve the interests of Kansans in Washington, D.C.

Many of my tour stops came off the heels of the severe winter storms that swept the western part of the state. Despite the devastation, I was once again reminded of the strength and spirit of our communities and the values that make Kansas a great place to live, work and raise a family. I not only appreciated hearing Kansans express their views on national policy, but also talk about their successes and achievements. Our state will continue to thrive thanks to the hard work ethic and dedication of its citizens.

In our nation's capital, I continue to work on the issues important to our state. For a number of Kansans, the farm bill is the most important piece of legislation Congress will consider this year. In the

coming months, I will also be working closely to improve No Child Left Behind. In bettering our education system, we should not take the joy and passion out of the teaching profession by overregulating the classroom.

Finally, I appreciate the advice I received from Kansans about our country's course of action in Iraq, as well as their concerns for the well-being of our service members and veterans.

If there were any issues that we did not have the opportunity to discuss or if you were unable to attend my tour stop, you can always contact me through my website at: [www.jerrymoran.house.gov](http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov).

Please let me know how I can better serve you as, together, we strive to make good things happen for Kansans.

Very truly yours,  
Jerry Moran

First District Representative

### LETTER

To the Editor,

"16. For all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living." K.J. 2 Timothy 2, 16.

"17. Do you think I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets? I have not come to do away with them, but to give them real meaning. 18. Remember this! As long as heaven and earth last, the least point or the smallest detail of the Law will not be done away with — not until the end of all things." K.J. Matthew 5, 17-18.

No one bible concordance has any listing for original sin or infant baptism as a word, phrase, index reference or subject matter.

"18. I, John, solemnly warn everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book; if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to his punishment the plagues described in this book." K.J. Revelation 22, 18.

The religious doctrine of original sin with its collateral event of infant baptism did not report itself until after 1340 AD.

"1. False prophets appeared in the past among the people. And in the same way false teachers will appear among you. They will bring in destructive, untrue doctrines." K.J. 2 Peter 2, 1.

The religious doctrine of original sin is an extrapolation of the doctrine of The Sin of Adam; which is the cause of physical death of all humans.

"12. Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result death spread to the whole human race, because all men sinned." K.J. Romans 5, 12.

The words, "death, original sin and the

### LETTER

sin of Adam" all mean the same thing. By whatever name, this sin has been removed from the human race by the Crucifixion.

"18. So then as one sin condemned all men, in the same way the one righteous act sets all men free and gives them life." K.J. Romans 5, 18.

"14. For sin must not rule over you; you do not live under law but under God's grace." K.J. Romans 6, 14.

"18. You were set free from sin." K.J. Romans 6, 18.

"23. For sin pays its wage — death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord." K.J. Romans 6, 23.

One should not confuse infant baptism with infant purification. (Baptists use the term "Dedication Ceremony.")

"23. This is what is written in the law of the Lord; 'Every firstborn male shall be dedicated to the Lord.'" K.J. Luke, 2, 23.

Jesus was dedicated as an infant.

"22. The time came for Joseph and Mary to do what the Law of Moses commanded and perform the ceremony of purification. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." K.J. Luke 2, 22.

As an adult, Jesus was required to be baptized by immersion.

"15. But Jesus answered him: 'Let it be this way for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires. 16. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water.'" K.J. Matthew 3, 15-16.

The crucifixion removed the sin of death and all sin from all humans that have ever been upon the earth at any time in history.

"14. He cancelled the unfavorable record of our debts, with its binding rules, and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross." K.J. Colossians 2, 14.

However, for those who have heard the Holy Scriptures, one must accept the gift of life by baptism.

"20. ...The few people in the ark — eight in all — were saved by water. 21. This water was a figure pointing to Baptism, which now saves you, ...Baptism saves you through the resurrection of Christ Jesus." K.J. 1 Peter 20-21.

Baptism is not a ceremony; it is a "way of life."

Therefore baptism is not absolute, it is conditional.

"28. Remember this! Men can be forgiven all their sin and evil things they say, no matter how often they say them. 29. But the person who says evil things against the Holy Spirit can never be forgiven, for he has committed an eternal sin." K.J. Mark 3, 28-29.

Anyone who committed blasphemy by participating in Darwinism will surely be sent to Hell.

"4. For God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell. 5. God did not spare the ancient world, but brought the Flood....

"6. God condemned the cities Sodom and Gomorrah, destroying them with fire, and made an example of them for the wicked, of what will happen to them." K.J. 2 Peter 2, 4-6.

Arthur Loyd Shelton  
Oberlin

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654  
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd

Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

Office hours:

8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail: [telegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:telegram@nwkansas.com)

STAFF

Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher

Christie Anderson ..... advertising

Veronica Monier ..... staff reporter

Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports

Carolyn Plotts ..... society editor

Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation

Vicki Henderson ..... computer production

