

Freedom of speech — a constitutional right

After careful consideration over the weekend, and rethinking our initial knee-jerk reaction that Don Imus stepped over the line, we discovered the issue is not Don Imus at all. Rather, the issue is retaining our most valued freedom, that of speech. Forget responsibility, that is nothing more than a diversion at this point.

We cannot be classified as a Don Imus junkie. Yes, we've watched his morning program on television, every now and then in the past, and didn't always appreciate what he said about a lot of people and how he said it. On occasion we would find ourselves in the crowd he would be degrading.

We thought his remark about the Rutgers ladies' basketball team was distasteful, nasty and served no purpose at all. He owed them an apology, he did not owe us an apology. But what he said was no worse than the foul-mouthed language coming from the hip-hop rappers and carried over the same air waves that Imus' comments are carried. The rappers aren't issuing any apologies to anyone. They aren't being asked to do so, either. What about those who are reaping millions, perhaps billions of dollars are they turn out this stuff 24/7.

And to think after all these years of "Imus in the Morning," advertisers are just now waking up to what they have been paying him to say over that period of time? He was making them money, there was no need to monitor his mouth.

MSNBC-TV's news president never knew until now what Imus was saying?

Ditto CBS?

Give us a break!

If we can silence Imus, people, don't yell when you are silenced the next time you want to speak your mind publicly. This is just the first step designed to eventually reign in the First Amendment, to dilute it.

Change the channel, but don't silence the channel jocks. Freedom of speech can be hurtful, and while we don't always like what we hear, we will continue to defend anyone's right to say what they want — responsibility, accountability aside.

We fear this freedom we have cherished all these years is being stripped from us by a couple of reverends (Al and Jesse) who strategically select their targets and whom, perhaps, should similarly be muzzled, if that is their desire. They are not act-

ing responsibly, they are acting selectively.

This is not about Don Imus, any more than it is about any of us, this is about stealing a freedom, trying to wrap in an old, familiar piece of tissue.

Our television set has an on-off button, it has a wide selection of channels, and the instructions do not mandate what we watch. There are a number of channels we skip over because we know the contents and don't approve.

But if we are going to fire everybody on radio or television who says something we feel is offensive, we then wouldn't have the Leno, Letterman, Kimmel, O'Brien, Ferguson, etc., shows each night. They say things we consider gross, nasty, down right irresponsible, offensive, but we also know they have that right. And if we don't like it, nothing says we have to watch it.

We are advocates of freedom of speech, and we'll take our knocks and bruises for standing up for that right. And as much as we would want those who offend to be responsible, we are not about to slip the noose around their necks.

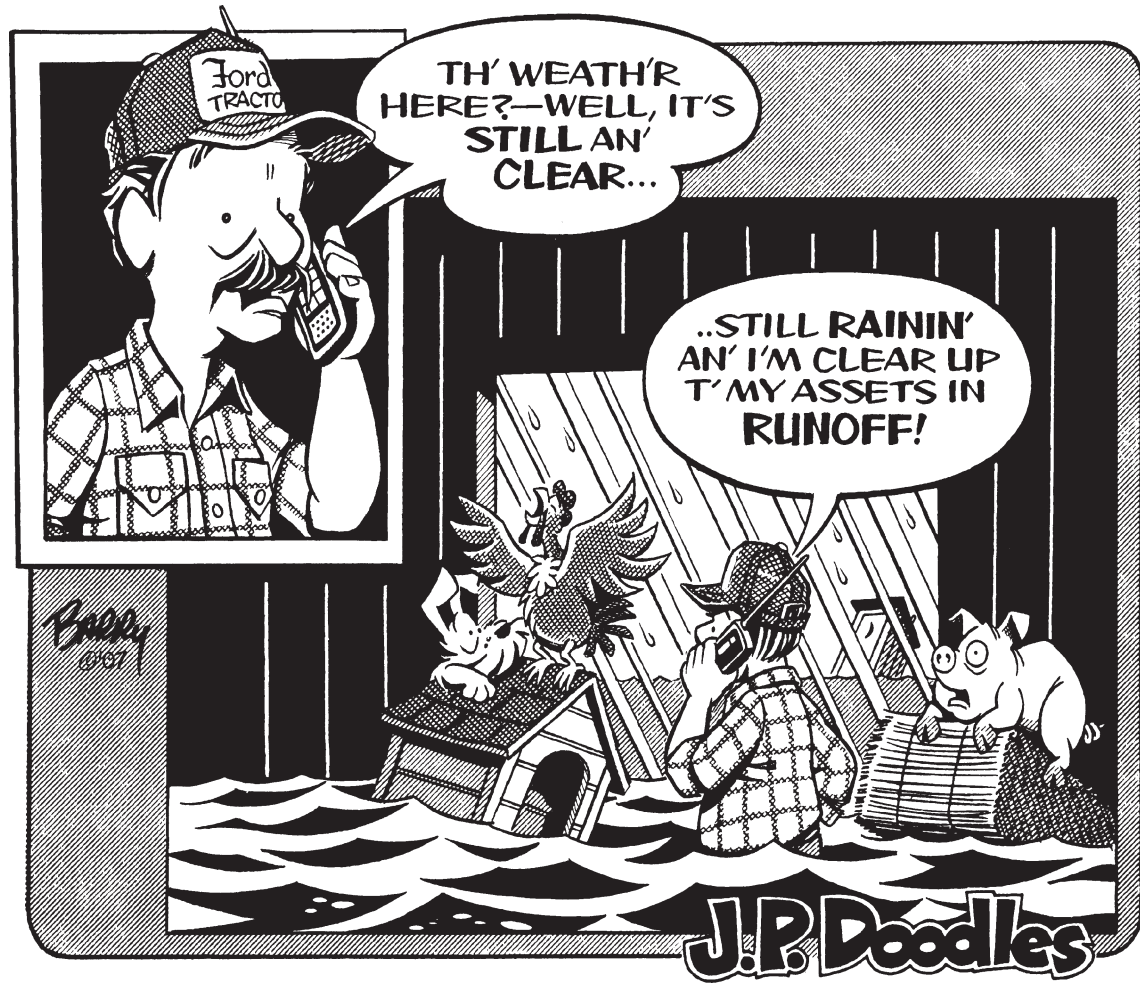
This is AMERICA! This is what AMERICA is all about!

Additionally, buried in the "I-Mess" and not addressed by Mr. Al and Mr. Jesse is the fact Don Imus is a charitable person, a good person in that regard. He runs a ranch in Arizona for benefit of children with cancer. It takes millions of dollars, and it will be interesting to see if the advertisers who successfully ran him off the air, and were contributors to his ranch and its cause, discontinue kicking into it. If they pull the plug on that charitable and most worthy cause, then they will be in hot water with the public. They put themselves in a no-win situation.

There are those who think this uproar over Mr. Imus will spark a national conversation as it relates to the hip-hop music culture. Dream on. Money is driving that aspect of society. And in no way is it going to toss in the chips. And it shouldn't. What comes out of the mouths of the rappers falls under freedom of speech, also.

So this whole thing is not about Mr. Imus, or the hip-hop culture. It boils down to living in a country that cherishes and respects everybody's right to say what he, she or they want. While we wish they would all practice responsibility and accountability, that's not written in that freedom.

—Tom Dreiling



Serviceman stationed in Iraq sends message home

Letter to the Editor:

Just a few lines to give you my address here in Iraq and explain a little about the work I am doing with the guard unit I am assigned to. I have been in the National Guard for 23 years with 19 of those years with the 170th Maintenance Unit in Goodland. I was activated to Fort Riley from May to November 2005, with the 995 Maintenance Company. The headquarters for the 995 is in Belleville.

The mission at Fort Riley was helping repair several vehicles and trucks belonging to Iowa Guard and reservists that were being re-deployed back to Iraq in 2006. In October of 2006, I transferred to the 731st Transportation Unit for a promotion.

They have detachments in Larned, Wichita and Hays. Shortly after my reassignment, I was activated with this unit to go to Iraq. I

Letter to the Editor

spent two months in Fort Dix, N.J., training for this deployments. I never thought I would see that place again as I went there for basic training 22 years earlier.

I was sure glad when that two months was over. I lost 34 pounds in two months during that training period. Most of the company I am with do convoy escorts to other camps here in Iraq. They escort trucks carrying supplies and water to other bases and camps in Iraq. We have approximately 60 armored Humvees in our company. I am one of the mechanics for this mission. There are approximately 12 of us and we work in shifts. I work the afternoon shift from 3:30 p.m. to midnight. When the weather starts getting hotter, we will work nights when it is cooler.

I have been here since the 18th of February and will be here for at least a year. Hopefully, I will be able to come back to the states in June. I am looking forward to the school reunion.

If possible, please send me a copy of The Herald when you publish my address. Hope you can read my writing okay. Here is my mailing address:

Sgt. Randall Lee, 731st TC, Camp Adder, APO AE 09331
E-mail: randall.lee@US.Army.Mil

P.S. If anyone sends care packages, please do not send anything with chocolate after May 1 as it starts getting very hot here by that time. Also, they are greatly appreciated!

Randy Lee

Karen's Korner

St. Francis' Betty Crocker

By Karen Krien



The other day, I decided to try my hand at making bierocks. I had some cabbage and frozen roll dough that needed to be used.

Lezlie, at work, had made it sound so easy... She would make a big batch in just a little bit and, gee, I had the whole afternoon.

First, I tried flattening the balls of dough out but, they just squished back together so, I put them between two pieces of waxed paper. Now, that really worked until, I tried to peel the waxed paper off...it came off in little pieces and, by the time I had the paper off, I had a little limp ball again.

After trial and error (mostly error), I had the little disks shaped and ready for the mixture. I had made the hamburger and cabbage mixture earlier because Lezlie said it needed to cool. It was still a little warm but, oh,

what the heck! It was surely cool enough

Wrong, it was warm enough that it made the dough slick. I put the first piece of cheese on the side that I was wrapping — That was disaster. I took it apart and put it on the bottom and then it was really hard to get the corners to stick together.

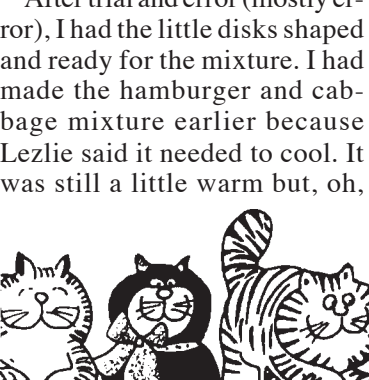
I finally mastered the knack of quickly pulling the corners over and plopping them on the baking sheet, ugly side down (actually, the top didn't look too good either), before they came apart.

I let them raise a little and then stuck them in the oven. Of course,

part of the corners hadn't sealed so there was juice and cheese running out on the pan. Which was harder than a rock when I went to wash it later.

Billy and Todd thought they tasted really good (of course they had to wait a couple hours past dinner time) and, I had to admit, they weren't too bad.

However, next time I decide I would like a bierock, I'm going to the store and buy one of Becky's Bierocks. A quick pop in the microwave and dinner is on the table... better than spending a couple of frustrating hours!



GOD SAYS
Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.
Romans 12:9, 10

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Hangin' With Marge

Toilet paper Tillie

By Margaret Bucholtz



Saturday Kurt and I took two of the grandchildren to Denver to see Casey. I was really excited as I not only wanted to see Casey and Lezlie, but I also hadn't been to Denver for about three years.

I always look forward to the sight of viewing the outline of the Rocky Mountains as you come up the last long hill. No matter how many times I have made that trip I still get that feeling of seeing the awesome beauty of nature. The

snow-capped mountains were particularly beautiful that morning.

We stopped at Byers to have a quick breakfast before heading on into Denver. After we had eaten I went to the restroom and I guess I have to admit I was still in awe, but fortunately not completely, as I was able to catch what could have been embarrassing.

I had on a heavy sweater and when I had pulled it down I must have caught the tip of the toilet pa-

per roll. As I turned to wash my hands I felt something give me a slight tug. I turned back to look and there I found the toilet paper was caught under my sweater and each step I took I was unrolling it off the roll.

I'll bet if I would have walked out with that unrolling neither Kurt nor the grandchildren would have acted like they knew me.

Praise the Lord

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Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
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Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
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