

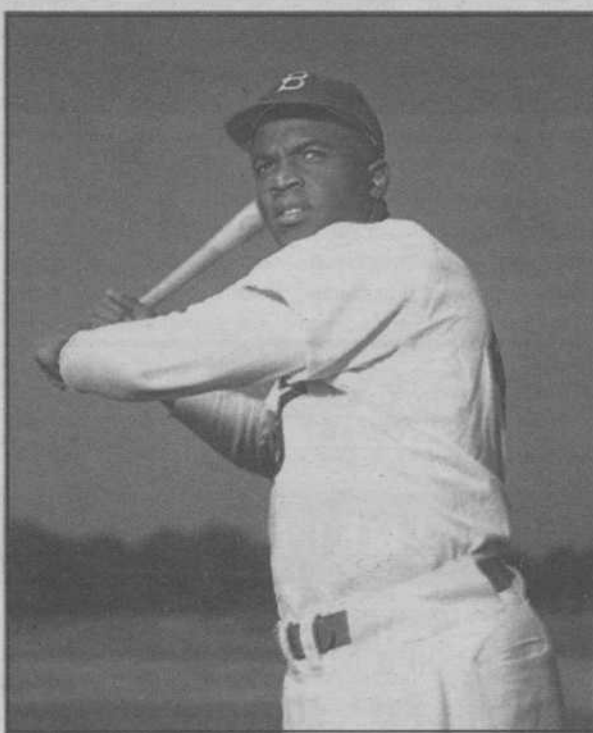
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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Major League Baseball recently commemorated the contributions of the late and great Jackie Robinson.

MLB celebrates Robinson's day

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Dodgers solemnly lined up along the third-base line, each and every one wearing No. 42.

Jackie Robinson broke major league baseball's color barrier on April 15, 1947, with the Brooklyn Dodgers, and the sport celebrated the 60th anniversary of his debut throughout the country Sunday, when more than 200 players, managers and coaches wore his number.

"I've often said that baseball's most powerful moment in its really terrific history was Jackie Robinson's coming into



Jackie Robinson's Brooklyn Dodgers Baseball Card

baseball," commissioner Bud Selig said during an on-field ceremony before the Dodgers beat San Diego 9-3.

"It's an incredible story — not just for baseball, but for society. Jackie was an American hero and the ul-



Jackie Robinson's Commemorative Stamp
timate barrier-breaker. Threats to his life were commonplace. Yet Jackie took everything hate-mongers had to offer him. Not only is he a baseball Hall of Famer, he's a Hall of Famer for all-time."

Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson threw out ceremonial first pitches, and fellow Hall of Famers Joe Morgan and Dave Winfield were on hand, joined by actors Courtney B. Vance and Marlon (See Robinson, Page 4)

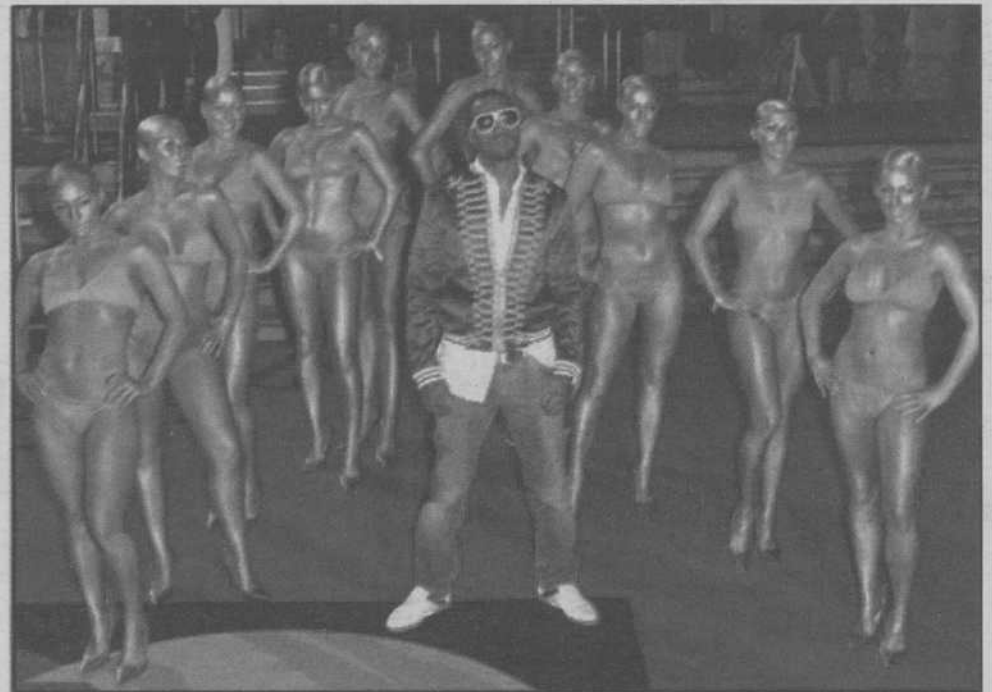
After Imus, rap is targeted

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA)

- Fallout from the "nappy-headed 'ho's" slur that cost Don Imus his CBS radio and MSNBC television careers last week has moved national Black leaders to take action against racist and sexist language in all of America, including the hip-hop industry, dominated by Black men accused of spewing insulting lyrics about Black women.

"We're going after the record industry. We're going at a record company that has consistently put out the misogynistic records and the records using the n-word," said activist Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network, who led pickets against MSNBC and CBS last week, forcing advertisers to drop the "Imus in the Morning" radio and simulcast programs within days after his remarks.

Sharpton and a string of activists applauded the firing of Imus, but say it's now time to demand an end to the self-inflicted wounds in the Black community. Sharpton said he would announce a specific action to pressure a specific record company during NAN's ninth annual conven-



Kanye West's hit single "All Fall Down," demonstrates the reach of rap's materialism. Lyrics include: "Drug dealers buy Jordans, crack heads buy crack... And a White man get paid off of all of that." Black leaders are now pushing rappers to clean up their vulgar

lyrics underway this week through Saturday in New York.

"I'm talking about boycotting, I'm talking about picketing, I'm talking about demanding that they do what they've done [when others are insulted]," Sharpton said.

"Any company can say, 'It's against our policy to put out records that say misogynistic and racist terms. That does not stifle free speech. That's company policy.'"

A unified national outrage hardly seen since Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott was forced to step down after praising segregationist Strom Thurmond in 2002 became volcanic last week. The Imus comments, which insulted the Rutgers University championship basketball team, drew ire from major Black organizations from coast to coast, most of whom called for continued action.

"The explosive national

furor over the "Imus Incident" reflects that a deep and raw nerve in the American psyche has been touched and exposed," said Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw, president of the 7.5 million-member National Baptist Convention USA in a statement.

Organizations that support Black women, including *Essence* magazine, the Links, and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Carolyn (See Rap, Page 9)

Big Tobacco loves Black people

Blacks buy enough cigarettes to send 2,500 students to college — every day!

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice
Part three of a series

More than a half million African-Americans have died from smoking-related diseases over the past decade. That's enough people to fill the cities of Atlanta, New Orleans, Kansas City, Mo., or Cleveland, Ohio. Yet, "cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States", according to the Centers for Disease Control. Then why are so many Black people dying from cigarettes, and why is it so difficult to quit? This eight-part series, "Nicotine Addic-

tion," seeks to explore these questions by featuring real people, real circumstances and real answers.

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Once upon a time, Wayne Greer of Richton, Park, Ill., would spend more than \$30 a week on his "pack-and-a-half, sometimes-two-pack-a-day" cigarette habit.

Recalling the more than \$65,000 he spent on the 42-year habit this week, Greer scoffs humorously, "I would be rich."

Maybe not rich, but, there's a whole lot he could have done with that money.

According to a special report by the Centers for Dis-

ease Control, "the money that African-American smokers spend on cigarettes in a single day could send more than 2,500 Black students to college for an entire year."

The 41-page report, "Pathways to Freedom, Winning the Fight Against Tobacco," also states that in one week, smokers could save enough money to pay for two CDs, get a manicure and pedicure, a full tank of gas, pay a cell phone bill or buy a ticket to a sporting event.

In one year, it states, a smoker could save enough money for a new computer, a vacation for two, a down payment on a new car or an

entertainment system for the house or auto, the report states.

It adds, in 20 years, a smoker could buy the latest sports car or have enough for a down payment on a house.

Instead, Greer had made a down payment on cancer.

"I had been going back and forth to the doctor for five years," he recalls his life three years ago, trying to convince medical experts that his "sweating and breathing hard" were not normal. "I couldn't figure out what was wrong with me."

The doctors insisted they couldn't find anything, he (See Nicotine, Page 14)