

Imus: On Jones, I was trying to be sarcastic

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — Don Imus, responding to criticism about racial remarks on his radio program, said on the air Tuesday he was trying to “make a sarcastic point” about unfair treatment of Blacks in the criminal justice system but had been misunderstood.

Imus resurrected his radio career six months ago with a pledge to mend the wounds caused by a racist and sexist comment he made about a women’s basketball team.

On Tuesday, he said he was following the spirit of that promise by calling attention to the unfair treatment of Blacks — in this case the arrests of suspended Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam Jones.

“What people should be outraged about is that they arrest Blacks for no reason,” Imus said Tuesday. “I mean, there’s no reason to arrest this kid six times. Maybe he did something once, but everyone does something once.”

He called the flurry of criticism surrounding the comments “ridiculous” and said that his program’s cast is now more diverse than ever — and includes a Black producer and two Black co-hosts, a man and a woman.

“How insane would I have to be? What would I be thinking?” Imus wondered aloud.



Don Imus recently returned to the airwaves.

The latest comments by Imus to come under scrutiny were aired on Monday’s broadcast. During a conversation about Jones’ run-ins with the law, Imus asked, “What color is he?” Sports announcer Warner Wolf said Jones — formerly known as Pacman — is “African-American.” Imus responded: “There you go. Now we know.”

The on-air exchange came months after Imus’ return to work on a new show on WABC-AM following his firing from MSNBC and CBS Radio for calling the Rutgers University women’s basketball team “nappy-headed hos.”

When he returned to work, Imus gave a lengthy on-air apology and pledged to use his new show to foster an open dialogue on race relations.

Co-host Karith Foster, who is Black, came to Imus’

defense during Tuesday’s broadcast, saying, “People who interpret what you said as racist clearly didn’t hear the whole thing, and they don’t know who you are and what the program is about — and they obviously haven’t been listening.”

Jones told *The Dallas Morning News* in Tuesday editions that he’s upset by Imus’ comments and plans to pray for the radio host.

“I’m truly upset about the comments,” Jones said. “Obviously Mr. Imus has problems with African-Americans. I’m upset, and I hope the station he works for handles it accordingly. I will pray for him.”

WABC and Citadel Broadcasting Corp. Vice President Phil Boyce said Monday that it was unlikely the broadcasters would take disciplinary action against Imus.

Grocery CEO: Bias suit settled vs. Kroger Co.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The grocery chain Kroger Co. has agreed to pay \$16 million to settle a race discrimination lawsuit brought by 12 current and former employees, according to a memo from the chain’s chairman and chief executive.

The workers claimed in the 2001 federal lawsuit that Kroger blocked promotions of Black employees and paid them less than Whites.

A judge hasn’t yet approved any agreement in the suit, which was filed in U.S. District Court in Louisville, Ky., in 2001 by employees in six states on behalf of Blacks working for Kroger nationwide since 1998.

Chairman and Chief Executive David Dill said in a memo to about 1,500 employees Tuesday that the money — minus attorney fees and administration costs — will be placed in a fund and disbursed among Black employees who meet certain criteria.

“We take our commitment to inclusion and our policies against discrimination very seriously,” Dillon wrote. “The plaintiffs ... obviously felt strongly that the company was not treating them fairly or respectfully. No one in our company should feel this way.”

The lawsuit seeks to change Kroger’s hiring, promotion and compensation practices. The workers also requested back pay, preferential consideration for jobs and damages for lost pay and benefits.

Dillon said there has been no finding that the Cincinnati-based Kroger engaged in discrimination.

An attorney for the plaintiffs, Joseph Sellers, said he would have no comment unless an agreement is finalized.

“There is no agreement unless and until the court approves it,” he said.

Kroger spokeswoman Meghan Glynn also declined to comment.

The lawsuit named plaintiffs who worked at Kroger stores in Alabama, Georgia,

Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas but said the claims applied to “all stores and geographic areas.”

“Kroger follows a policy and practice of restricting Black employees’ employment opportunities to lower job classifications and compensation levels,” the suit says. “The systemic means of accomplishing such racial discrimination include, but are not limited to, Kroger’s promotion, selection and compensation procedures.”

Dillon’s memo points out steps taken in an effort to improve policies, including the appointment of a diversity officer to focus on recruiting and retaining a diverse work force and the implementation of training and communication devices to improve diversity.

Caucus

(Continued from Page 2)

the current political environment, “especially [Sen.] Barack Obama’s grassroots approach,” will have positive, mutual impact for the newly established CCDBC and the presumed Democratic nominee Obama’s quest for president. “I met Yvette up at the [Democratic] state convention; now she is one of my ambassadors working on the Obama yearbook. I think that she is completely, unbelievably organized. She is definitely a leader, a natural leader,” Benzer concluded.

The CCDBC general membership meets monthly and its calendar of events includes hosting a Grassroots Unity Party in conjunction with the Clark County Democratic Party and other groups on July 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For information, call 596-2559.

Unity

(Continued from Page 1)

paign chairman, County Commissioner Rory Reid, spoke about unity and why Obama is the best choice for Nevada in the presidential election. He is competing against Republican presidential nominee John McCain, the senator from Arizona.

“Today is about Democrats coming together and uniting around the candidacy of Sen. Barack Obama and winning in November,” Horsford said. “The game plan is... creating new jobs and renewing efforts to establish new energy alternatives to combat growing gasoline costs in our country. We look forward to engaging supporters and precinct captains of Sen. Clinton’s campaign to join our efforts as we reopen our campaign offices and establish the infrastructure to win in November.”

“I have a responsibility to reach out to supporters of Hillary Clinton,” Reid added, “to remind voters that she said it’s too much at stake to hold a grudge, and that we must do what is important for our country, and that is to elect Barack Obama as the next presi-

dent of the United States.”



Enmity still lingers in both camps, as each worked hard to put their candidate in position to make history: Clinton would’ve been the first female presidential nominee of a major political party.

Obama is the first African-American nominee of a major party. Issues of racism and sexism came up during the contentious primary.

But all seemed forgotten on this day. State Senator Dina Titus praised the new focus on the future, while former Nevada Governor Bob Miller said the combined strengths of the Obama and Clinton campus bode well for Nov. 4.

“This is a great event today.” It is about uniting Democrats,” County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly said.

Added Las Vegas City Councilman Ricky Barlow, “The significance of today’s event is to bring together the supporters of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton to deliver Nevada as a Democratic win in November and elect Obama as president.”

**Hope Home Foundation and
Housing and Urban Development
presents**

HOUSING HEATWAVE

Homebuyer Back to Basics

Homebuyer Education
Mock Closing – What to expect at the closing of your home
Mortgage Process – Basics of FHA Loans
Home Inspection / Energy Saving Tips

Saturday, June 28, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Trinity Impact Center
950 E. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104-3022

Open to the Public • FREE Admission

For more information call 702-497-6967