

Attacks on or near schools have forced Iraqi teachers and other school staff to try to protect their students.

"Children are very perceptive of teachers' moods and actions," said Hadoon Waleed, a psychology professor at Baghdad University. "It's very important that teachers are trained to handle their students during stressful situations."

Fawad Al-Kaisi, 59, headmaster at the Al-Hurriyah primary school in south Baghdad, said his staff has learned through experience.

"When explosions go off in the area, the students become very nervous," Al-Kaisi said. "We try our best to create a positive environment to make them feel safe."

Like others among Iraq's professional elite, psychiatrists are scarce, in part because they have been targets of kidnapers and assassins.

Al-Malaki, the psychiatrist at Ibn Rushd, survived two bullet wounds in his right arm from an assassination attempt in his clinic last year. He is among the few psychiatrists who have remained in Iraq and continued to work.

The Iraqi Society of Psychiatrists estimates at least 140 of the country's 200 psychiatrists were killed or have fled the country in the past four years.

LITTLE HELP AVAILABLE

A shortage of psychiatric facilities further limits the availability of mental health care. Ibn Rushd is the only government-funded psychiatric hospital in Baghdad, a city of 6 million people.

For Hussain Haider, now 7, and other children, the need is urgent. He stopped speaking for months after his father was killed in a crossfire between fighters of the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia group, and U.S. forces April 6, 2004.

Hussain's mother, Thuraya Jabbar, said his grades have fallen, and he is awakened frequently by nightmares.

"He starts crying whenever we start speaking about his father," she said.

DENOUNCING THE REPREHENSIBLE COMMENTS OF DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me take a moment to offer my condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible and senseless violence at Virginia Tech. As they struggle to cope with their tremendous loss, we must give proper respect to their lives and the lives of the thousands of innocent people that are cut short every year in this country by gun violence. And let us honor their memories by committing ourselves to bringing an end to gun violence.

Before I begin, I want to commend my colleague, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, because today is the 200th time she has come to this floor to speak out against this unnecessary war in Iraq. I commend your tenacity, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, and I thank you for your leadership and your commitment to ending the occupation of Iraq and to bringing our troops home. I am proud to serve with you in this body as your colleague and as co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, and I want to say to you that your voice has become the voice of America. Thank you, Congresswoman WOOLSEY.

Let me also thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, and members of the CBC for their leadership in addressing and denouncing the latest reprehensible comments by Don Imus.

First, I want to congratulate the Rutgers women's basketball team. We are so proud of you. Your record of achievement as women, as students, as athletes speaks for itself and no one can take away your accomplishments.

As we all know, on April 4, the morning talk show host Don Imus, who has, for years, mind you, for years, made disparaging remarks towards people of color and others, referred to the very distinguished women of the Rutgers basketball team with such disgusting words that I don't even want to repeat them.

Not only did his comments belittle the ethnicity of these women of valor, but he apparently felt entitled to denigrate these women as women. We are here today to say that there is no place for that kind of sexism and racism in our public discourse.

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So while we acknowledge MSNBC and CBS did the right thing by firing Imus, we need to ask the question, what took so long? CBS's initial response, which was to suspend Imus 2 weeks with pay, suggested that they thought that a token punishment would appease the public outcry and demonstrated a complete disregard and insensitivity to both the women of the Rutgers basketball team and the millions of Americans who were outraged by the comments.

The fact is, this incident is just one of many Imus should have been fired for a long time ago. For example, he should have been fired 14 years ago when he referred to Gwen Ifill, who was then the White House correspondent for the New York Times, and he said, "Isn't the Times wonderful? It lets the cleaning lady cover the White House." The point is this was not an isolated incident.

If you look back at what he said with regard to New York Times sports reporter Bill Rhoden, he said he was a "quota hire." When you look at what he said about the tennis player, Amelie Mauresmo, he called her "a big old . . ." And I don't even want to say what he said there, but go back and check the record. He even admitted that he picked one of his producers to do the "N jokes."

You know, this is unbelievable. The point is, and I want to make this clear, this is not an isolated incident. And while I, for one, am glad that his show has been cancelled, I believe that we should be concerned with the fact that it took him so long to be taken off the air.

It is also important to understand that this is just not about Imus. There is a tendency in this country to treat racism as an issue of personal ill will so that people can say to themselves "I

don't hate black people" and ignore all of the ways that the status quo in our society today reinforces racial inequality as well as sexism. Institutional racism and sexism don't need any personal ill will in order to continue. They rely on indifference, and people like Imus promote that indifference.

The grim reality is that women still earn 75 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The fact is that in the United States a woman is raped every 6 minutes, and women of color are especially vulnerable to sexual violence. The fact is that, in spite of all the progress we have made in America, an African American woman is still less likely to make it to college than a white woman.

What is dangerous about people like Imus, and he is only one of many, is that their racist and their sexist commentary serves to celebrate and uphold the status quo, to make it okay to be indifferent to the racism and sexism that still surrounds us. That is unacceptable.

Finally, let me just say to Imus's sponsors: Let me congratulate you again, you did the right thing. But before you get too complacent, let me remind you, Procter & Gamble and American Express and all the rest, that the makeup of your corporate board rooms reflects the indifference to institutional racism and sexism in this country, and we are looking to you to do more than stop sponsoring bigots. We are looking to you to help young women, young black women like the women on the Rutgers basketball team, to overcome the hurdles that face them and to find the opportunities that are too often denied them.

So let me thank again Congresswoman KILPATRICK for her leadership in the Congressional Black Caucus. Also let me say thank you again, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, for your leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REMARKS ON DON IMUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing condolences to all of those who were directly affected by the gun violence that has just taken the lives of so many young people with so much promise. Again, I think it is an indication of a tremendous need to better regulate the acquisition and ownership of guns in our country, and I join with all of those who call for increased regulation.

Mr. Speaker, America's radios, televisions, newspapers, and Internet sites

have been consumed for the past several days over remarks by radio personality Don Imus.

Two weeks ago Imus referred to the women of the Rutgers University women's basketball team in language which can only be described as racist, sexist, and viciously offensive. Faced with an uproar of disgust and protest in response to those remarks, Imus apologized on one hand and on the other denied any racism and insisted that his words carried no malice.

Imus has a history of similar remarks and demands for him to be fired escalated by the hour and day. Under pressure from the public and advertisers, MSNBC agreed to drop the Imus show, and then, of course, CBS came to the same decision. I commend them for coming to the realization that this kind of rhetoric has no place on the public airways. I hope this outcome will be viewed as a victory for free speech and corporate responsibility.

I consider myself an apostle of the first amendment. Free speech is fundamental to our very notions of what and who we are as a people and as a Nation. Nevertheless, I believe that the outcry and protest over the Imus remarks and the demands for his dismissal are not only justified, but are totally consistent with the first amendment.

Nothing has eaten away at the soul of America, nothing has divided our Nation, and nothing has more persistently infected our democracy than the monstrous evil of racism.

Racism dehumanized and continues to dehumanize African Americans and others. Racism continues to ravage the lives of Black America from health to housing and from income to imprisonment. It has taken almost 150 years of struggle and sacrifice, but we no longer accept the racist practices and we no longer excuse racist speech.

No one is demanding that the government muzzle Mr. Imus. However, it is logical and just that large, extremely profitable media companies whose existence and whose profits are based on freedom of speech, would want to ensure that they are not profiting from the abuse of African American women, from the poisoning of relations between Americans, or from discrimination or oppression of any sector of our society.

Last week it was an outcry against Mr. Imus for his remarks. Today and tomorrow it must be against the rappers, hip-hop artists, and comedians who use vile language as a part of their public acts.

My mother used to take washing powder or soap and wash out our mouths if we were to use language that was unacceptable to her. Now, I know that we can't do this with some of our entertainers, but we certainly can sanitize and let them know that we are not appreciative of their language.

I join with those who commend the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for her leadership. And I also commend

Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Reverend Al Sharpton for the tremendous roles that they played in raising this issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE RUTGERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was only going to speak about our Rutgers women, but I do want to also add my voice to the condolences for the Virginia Tech students. Out of the number of students who were killed, four students came from my State of New Jersey. So our hearts are heavy for all of the families, but especially for our four New Jersey students.

I also want to add my congratulations to Congresswoman WOOLSEY for being the persistent voice against the war. Day in and day out she has brought this to our attention, and I think much of what we see today in the movement against the war can directly be attributed to her tenacity.

I want to also commend Speaker PELOSI for the groundbreaking trip she took to Syria. I think that the dignity and the knowledge and the respect that were shown to her will begin to break the ground, and I hope that she continues to do that.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from New Jersey, I am pleased to rise here in the United States House of Representatives to praise the young women of the Rutgers basketball team, the Scarlet Knights, and their inspirational coach, C. Vivian Stringer. They are true champions not only for their academic and athletic achievements, but for the dignity, for the strength, for the class they have shown during this ordeal.

These 10 women overcame disappointing early losses in the season to advance, amazingly, to the Final Four. Around the Nation fans watched as the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers, who had lost four of their first seven games, defeated Duke's Blue Devils in an exciting 53-52 upset victory. This was after a lopsided 59-35 victory over LSU.

When the ugly incident with Don Imus cast a shadow over their success, these young women showed what they were made of. In standing up for themselves and their school and for New Jersey, they also took a stand on behalf of all young women who insist on being treated with respect and refuse to be insulted and stereotyped.

Don Imus and those of his ilk vastly underestimated New Jersey's strong

and proud Scarlet Knights. He underestimated the pride we feel in New Jersey about our remarkable women on that team. As a matter of fact, during the founding of the Nation, New Jersey had a theme: "Don't tread on us." Don Imus may have had a microphone, but he was no match for these young women and their coach, who so eloquently spoke up for what is right and fair. I am so proud that through their actions they were able to persuade two major networks, MSNBC and CBS, as well as numerous advertisers, that the days of using public airways to ridicule and debase anyone they choose are over.

Let me add that it is time that the FCC start doing its job by halting the use of racial and gender slurs over the public airways. As long there is weak enforcement, there will continue to be hate language used by the so-called "shock jocks." In Rwanda it was the radio that urged people to kill and to go. It is hate radio that can create problems, serious problems, as we have seen, like I said, in Rwanda.

History has shown us that words matter, and once society accepts ugly language, ugly incidents will follow. We see the indecent exposure at the Super Bowl, where a tremendous amount of attention was paid. However, we let a Don Imus go on year in, year out, year in, year out, and many others. Something is wrong with that picture.

I call on the networks to examine their record of hiring minorities for top on-the-air and executive positions so that African Americans are fairly represented in the media. One reason that the networks made the decision to discontinue the Don Imus show was that the network employees let the management know how disturbed and embarrassed and offended they were by these demeaning commentaries and that they were a part of that institution, and that was the overriding factor. However, it was Rosa Parks, who 50 years ago decided that she would not sit at the back of the bus, and the people from Montgomery walked for a year, 2 years, and broke the back of the bus company. It was once again the economics that had a play in this 50 years later that people said that if you continue to advertise on that station, we will not use your product. So I am proud of the American people.

Finally, let me say that once again I am proud of these young women, one from my district in Newark, New Jersey, from the high school Shabazz that I taught at.

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200TH SPECIAL ORDER ON THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the 200th time to express my