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National News

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

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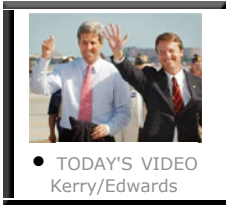
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Today's Newspaper



Bill Cosby has harsh words for black men

The Associated Press

July 2, 2004

CHICAGO -- Bill Cosby went off on another tirade involving the black community yesterday, telling activists that too many black men are beating their wives while their children run around not knowing how to read or write.

Cosby made headlines in May when he upbraided some poor blacks for their grammar and accused them of squandering opportunities the civil rights movement gave them.

He shot back yesterday, saying his detractors were trying in vain to hide the black community's "dirty laundry."

"Let me tell you something, your dirty laundry gets out of school at 2:30 every day, it's cursing and calling each other -- as they're walking up and down the street," Cosby said during an appearance at the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition & Citizenship Education Fund's annual conference. "They think they're hip," he said. "They can't read; they can't write. They're laughing and giggling, and they're going nowhere."

He also had harsh words for black men who don't have jobs and are angry about their lives. "You've got to stop beating up your women because you can't find a job, because you didn't want to get an education and now you're [earning] minimum wage," Cosby said.

Cosby lamented that racial slurs once used by those who lynched blacks are now a favorite expression of black children. He blamed parents. Cosby also said he wasn't concerned that some whites took his comments and turned them "against our people." "Let them talk," he said.

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