

Hip-Hop Education Activism and Community

Written by Robert ID1271

Wednesday, 27 April 2005 00:39 -

Join REACHip-Hop at 11 am to confront urban broadcasters and advertisers at The 7th Annual Power of Urban Radio Symposium being held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on Park Avenue at Grand Central Station in Manhattan, NY 10017.

The Power of Urban Radio Symposium, co-hosted by Barry Mayo, General Manager of Hot 97, will bring together over 300 of the country's leading national marketers, their advertising agency partners and senior executives from leading broadcast corporations to discuss and learn how to effectively target urban consumers.

REACHip-Hop coalition will gather at 11 am to advise broadcasters that the best way to connect to the urban audience and utilize public airwaves is to first serve the community interest by immediately ceasing the promotion of racist and misogynistic content.

REACHip-Hop wants to make it clear to symposium attendees that marketing to urban consumers should not mean their degradation through constant airing of the "N" word and other racial slurs as well as misogynistic content. Likewise it should also not include violent promotions like "Smack Fest" and shock jock stunts like airing "The Tsunami Song" which had nothing to do with Hip Hop.

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Should successful marketing to the multi-cultural Hip Hop community depend on airing songs that glamorize criminal behavior and glorify substance abuse and other social ills? Does targeting this demographic necessitate playing lyrical content which calls women "b*tches" and "ho's"?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) states that it is illegal to broadcast sexually explicit content from 6 am to 10 pm, but songs with adult-themes are plaguing the airwaves and targeting children. It is illegal to play obscene content at any time, yet words like "b*tch" , "ho" and the N word are used daily on urban radio. Why do advertisers support this behavior and why do broadcasters think this is acceptable?

Hot 97 (NYC) and Power 106 (LA), both owned by Emmis Communications, are the

#1 urban Hip Hop radio stations in the United States. Emmis sets the pace for what the other radio stations will do to market more effectively across the country. Executives at Emmis surprisingly admit they do not understand Hip Hop, yet continue to promote racist and obscene lyrical content.

"The younger end of the audience is very much interested in these street records. If Hot 97 doesn't play them, we run the potential at some point of being viewed by the audience as a sellout.....I mean, there are a lot of things about the hip-hop culture that I cringe about. And look, I'm a 50-year-old white guy. I don't understand it...I mean, do you understand everything you promote or that you are about? I don't think so." Rick Cummings, Vice President, Emmis Communications Hannity & Colmes Show (FOX News) 3/8/05

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"That's the hip-hop culture," Smulyan said. "Do I condone some of the lyrics in hip-hop music? No. No more than I do Rush Limbaugh's show.....We reflect contemporary culture."

Jeff Smulyan, Chairman/CEO, Emmis Communications The Indianapolis Star 3/27/05

"I find it interesting that Rick Cummings admits that he does not understand Hip Hop culture. I can only assume that this is his excuse to continue to promote negative stereotypes and sexually explicit content," says Lisa Fager REACHip-Hop advisory board member and Industry Ears, President. "On the other hand Jeff Smulyan thinks misogyny and racism ARE Hip Hop culture."

REACHip-Hop founder, Candice Custodio aka DJ Kuttin Kandi explains, "Unlike Rush Limbaugh's audience, the Hot 97 audience is not made up of adult males, instead it caters to the youngest demographic - those not mature enough to always understand the indecent and obscene content."

REACHip-Hop IS ENCOURAGING HIP HOP ENTHUSIASTS, PARENTS & CONSUMERS TO TAKE ACTION:

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1. REACHip-Hop is joining The Council Against Hate Media (CAHM) in asking New York City to divest their stock in Emmis Communications. Stock in a company whose radio station broadcasts racial stereotypes and misogynistic lyrics is not socially responsible. Help us continue to make investors and advertisers aware of the community's growing disgust with Hot 97's antics. As a result of Hot 97's poor decision to air "The Tsunami Song", Sri Lankans are asking President Bill Clinton to speak out against Hot 97.

British Parliament has denounced Hot 97.

Al Sharpton, Essence magazine, Zulu Nation, New York City Councilmembers, KRS One and foreign dignitaries are all speaking out against Hot 97. EVERYONE CAN'T BE WRONG!

2. ARBITRON: If you receive an Arbitron diary, DO NOT LIST Hot 97 or any other urban station promoting racist or misogynistic content anywhere in the diary. If just a mere 3% do not list radio stations which play offensive lyrics, radio broadcaster's bottom line will be drastically effected. Stations need to know what you listen to so they can better meet your needs. They respond to your input by improving their programming. In the New York area Arbitron sends out over 10,000 diaries for each quarterly survey. Each diary represents hundreds of households. Arbitron tries to reach numerous zip codes and all ethnic groups.

3. FCC: File an FCC complaint form at www.IndustryEars.com . FCC complaints must be placed in a broadcasters public file and will be reviewed when the broadcaster's license is up for renewal. Filing a complaint is more legally binding than sending an email or a letter to the radio station because the FCC is able to track the complaint and hold the broadcaster accountable.

ReacHip-Hop Coalition is dedicated to encouraging and creating fair and equal representation of the diversity of Hip Hop Culture, including, but not limited to; race/ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. We are a pro-active body made up of

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activists, artists, teachers, performers, organizers, and individuals all dedicated to positive change within our communities. We believe Hip Hop's true legacy belongs to the people, and we strive to utilize Hip Hop as a vehicle of social and political justice to promote education, information, and empowerment for the masses, while preventing the dissemination of negative stereotypes, discrimination, and violence.

For more information about REACHip-Hop please visit www.HipHopLivesHere.com .