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12/14/06 - Posted from the Daily Record newsroom

'Uncle Jimmy' no longer welcome at WMTR's table

Station dumps him after comment over spray-on condoms

BY ROB SEMAN
DAILY RECORD

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Jim Woll learned many things in his years in the business world as a securities broker. One of them was to have a contingency plan.

That kind of wisdom is what he liked to share under the moniker of "Uncle Jimmy," with listeners of his radio program "Everybody's Uncle," on WMTR every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

But this week, Woll found it fortunate that he had taken his own advice when the station not only opted not to renew Woll's contract but also pulled the plug on "Everybody's Uncle" for the remaining Saturdays of this year.

The station won't comment, but Woll believes his departure is connected to an on-air discussion about spray-on condoms.

Woll began the show, which offered financial advice and frank discussions on whatever his listeners wanted to talk about, three years ago on WMTR, for which he paid a fee of \$900 per show.

In the basement of his home in Pine Brook, Woll has set up his own radio studio, filled with more than \$40,000 in sound consoles, microphones and other equipment. From there, he can broadcast via a special phone line to any radio station he wants, and now plans to air on WNYH, 740 AM.

Nancy McKinley, WMTR's station manager, confirmed that "Everybody's Uncle"

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JOHN BELL / DAILY RECORD

Jim Woll, who has been known as 'Everybody's Uncle' on WMTR radio, shows off his radio studio at his Montville home. He says he can't understand why the station is canceling his show and firing him at the end of the month after he made an observation that he thinks was typical of the show.

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would no longer air on the station, but declined to comment on the matter.

The station will not seek a replacement talk show for Woll's spot, but instead will play oldies. No other talk shows on the station have been canceled, she said.

Woll said he mentioned on his Dec. 7 show that the station had not offered him a new contract, and that his last show would be Dec. 30.

That spurred calls from loyal listeners, who expressed their displeasure with the station's decision.

"I don't know why this radio station would let you get away," one caller, Al from Little Falls, told Woll.

Woll responded by leaving the answer to the station.

"I will invite anybody from the station to come here next week, sit down with me and if they can explain to the public why this show is not going to be continued, I'd be happy to hear their side of it," Woll said.

Woll said the mantra for the show has always been "no politics, no vulgarity." But he said that on Tuesday he was told by McKinley that his show would be discontinued for the rest of the year because the subject matter was inappropriate, alluding to a discussion of spray-on condoms.

Woll brought up the topic as a news item, as both he and his on-air partner, Shawn Newman, laughed and joked at the idea.

"This is a killer," Woll said on the program on Saturday. "Did you know they have, coming out, spray-on condoms?"

"How do they select a group of people to test the product out?," Newman asked.

"Very simply," Woll replied, chuckling. "Call here at WMTR and we'll put your name on the mailing list if you want to be a test subject."

Woll said he was taken aback that McKinley would take issue with the discussion.

"Where were they the last three years?," Woll said. "We've all talked about all sorts of topics."

Woll said that despite the station's decisions, he would return to WMTR if he were offered the chance.

"Never take business personally," Woll said. "It's not my business to fight with WMTR."

Rob Seman can be reached at (973) 267-9038 or rseman@gannett.com



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