

The Most Trusted News in Radio

INSIDE RADIO®

Monday, April 9, 2007

Editor: Tom Taylor (609) 883-3321

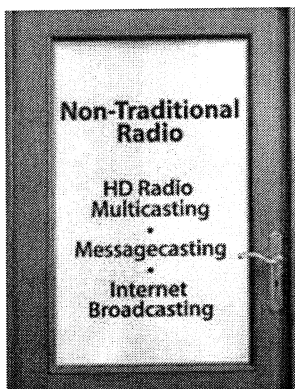
Is a new group ready to take almost 200 of the Clear Channel selloff stations? Look for an announcement this week — just ahead of the busy NAB show in Las Vegas. This buyer's reportedly led by a former television network executive. Other principals include a former radio group owner and a former NAB exec. Total span of the deal — about 40 markets. Clear Channel's already announced deals with Kevin Wagner (URBAn Radio), Todd Lawley (Peak Broadcasting), Rolland Johnson (Three Eagles) and George Laughlin (Gap Broadcasting). Adding in this new group and its close to 200 stations — San Antonio's within sight of its goal of selling the 90 markets on its "Departing" list.

Going into the Las Vegas NAB next week — the deal market is heated up, all right. The brokers burrowed into their suites at the Bellagio should have full schedules. Broker Mike Bergner tells *Inside Radio* "the Clear Channel thing has really stirred the pot." He says "It still won't be like the late 1990s" — but a considerable improvement over late 2006 when things were quiet. So the timing's good for Las Vegas — the busiest bazaar of the year for brokers, buyers and sellers.

Imus is in trouble. Of all the million-and-one putdowns he's directed at himself and others — last Wednesday's crack about the "nappy-head hos" of the Rutgers women's basketball team may be the one that gets him in the deepest trouble. The denunciations — from the NCAA, from Rutgers, from the Rev. Al Sharpton — flew quickly. Sharpton wants the I-Man fired. Newspaper sports columnists around the country roasted him and don't accept his apology (though the NCAA did). It probably didn't seem like a big deal to Imus at the time. But by Friday he was reading an apology and CBS is clearly taking this seriously. (WFAN also apologizes.) The storm breaks just as longtime Imus defender Joel Hollander is leaving and new CBS Radio chief Dan Mason is set to take over. We remember that Mason was leaving CBS the first time back in mid-August 2002 — when the Opie & Anthony Sex for Sam blowup occurred. Big question now — does this die down? Or grow?

Imus will appear on Al Sharpton's radio show today. Though Sharpton apparently won't budge from his position that CBS and MSNBC (which simulcasts the radio show) should fire Imus. And — the AP's reporting the Rev. Jesse Jackson's plans to protest outside the Chicago offices of MSNBC operator NBC. This ugliness comes just days before WFAN's big charity fundraiser — the Spring event founded in 1990 to benefit the CJ Foundation for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome which also plows money into the Tomorrow's Children Fund and the Imus Ranch. You have to wonder — how will the firestorm affect the fundraising? Imus is the big horse in the effort. Another thing to watch — whether guests start to shun the Imus show. He's been a loyal friend to many.

NAB's campaign against the XM+Sirius merger could get sticky. The NAB — like broadcasters — is up against some fervent grassroots opposition on this issue. Bloggers and columnists are quick to spotlight the NAB



C'mon In. We'll Get The Door.

Leverage your station's brand in more ways than ever before.

Meet and defeat the competition with BE's exclusive multi-platform radio solutions—ready today.

- More programming options.
- New potentials for advertising.
- Revenue growth.



Broadcast Electronics Inc. • Telephone: (217) 224-9600
email: dontpanic@bdcast.com • www.bdcast.com

