

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

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It seems that Citadel Communications is again having trouble hiding its insensitivity, ignorance and bad taste. During a recent morning show on 103.3 WEDG, personalities referred to domestic violence victims as "pathological," "pathetic" and "an embarrassment," while jokes about slipping the date rape drug "roofies" to a "virgin" were laughed at on air. Apparently these personalities think violence against women is funny.

Making a joke of domestic violence and rape affirms the distorted and dangerous beliefs of abusers, and provides the message to impressionable young listeners that such violent and criminal behavior is acceptable. In doing so, these personalities are making an already dangerous society even more inhospitable for women of all ages. Citadel and these on-air personalities need to understand that they have a choice: They can continue to make the world more dangerous and hateful, or they can choose to make it better. I spoke with the station's general manager, who informed me that the program content and brand of humor was geared toward its target audience: men ages 18 to 34. I think all men of that age should be insulted by the implication that they would find domestic violence and rape to be a laughing matter.

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