



## “Career death wish’ dogs Opie and Dopey”

**By: Gayle Fee and Laura Raposa**  
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Opie, right, whose real name is Gregg Hughes, and Anthony Cumia, left, of the radio show "Opie & Anthony". (AP)

The Boston broadcaster who first put shock jocks **Opie & Anthony** on the air said he believes the duo has a “career death wish” after they were benched for 30 days yesterday for on-air raunch.

“The reality they have is one that the rest of the world isn’t in tune with at the moment,” said **Bruce Mittman**, who hired **Greg “Opie” Hughes** and **Anthony Cumia** as his afternoon-drive hosts in 1995 when he was the GM of **WAAF**. “I think, on some level, there’s a career death wish.”

**XM Satellite Radio** suspended the not-so-dynamic duo yesterday for making crude sex comments about **Condoleezza Rice**, **Laura Bush** and **Queen Elizabeth** then making light of the brouhaha on the air.

“The management of XM Radio decided to suspend Opie and Anthony to make clear that our on-air talent must take seriously the responsibility that creative freedom requires of them,” the satellite station said in a statement.

The kerfuffle began a week ago after Opie and Anthony aired a segment with a guest they called “Homeless Charlie” who fantasized about sexually assaulting Rice, Bush and the Queen of England. The deejays laughed as they imagined Rice’s “horror” and described a sexual encounter in which Rice is punched in the face.

The duo apologized for the bit the next day but XM said their suits decided to suspend the perverse pair yesterday after they complained about the uproar.

“Comments made by Opie and Anthony on yesterday’s broadcast put into question whether they appreciate the seriousness of the matter,” the company said.

**CBS Radio**, which simulcasts the pair’s XM show in a number of markets, including Boston on **WBCN**, said the shock jocks will be on the air tomorrow. (The “Homeless Charlie” bit aired only on satellite, not on the so-called “terrestrial” radio stations.)

The XM suspension is ironic given the fact that the duo moved to satellite to be out of the reach of the **Federal Communications Commission**, which regulates obscenity on the airwaves. However, XM is attempting to merge with its chief satellite rival, Sirius, and the deal requires FCC approval. FCC Commissioner **Kevin Martin** has said the two companies face a high hurdle.

It also comes in the wake of the firing of syndicated blowhard **Don Imus**, who lost his CBS gig after calling the Rutgers women’s basketball team “nappy-headed ’hos.”

Of course, the blow-up is par for the Opie & Dopey course. They were fired by WAAF in 1999 after broadcasting an April Fool’s joke that Mayor **Tom Menino** died in a car crash.

In 2002, they lost their syndicated radio gig after they cheered on a couple having sex in New York’s St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

“They have a pattern of getting lazy,” said Mittman. “They resort to conversations that are inappropriate and aren’t funny instead of relying on getting good guests and creating bits that are funny and not mean spirited.”

As always, do stay tuned.