
CANADIAN BROADCAST STANDARDS COUNCIL

BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL PANEL

CFBT-FM re a segment on *The Kid Carson Show*

(CBSC Decision 08/09-1275)

Decided September 24, 2009

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THE FACTS

The Kid Carson Show is the morning show on CFBT-FM (The Beat 94.5, Vancouver), which airs weekdays from 5:30 to 10:00 am. It is hosted by Kid Carson, Nira Arora and Amy Beeman. It includes the usual morning show fare of music, news, and banter among the hosts about current affairs and other topics of interest. The program occasionally welcomes celebrities or other public personalities as guests.

On March 2, 2009 at around 9:30 am, the hosts of the *Kid Carson Show* did a telephone interview with Dick Masterson, the author of a book entitled *Men Are Better than Women* and the creator of a website of the same name. His ideas are known to be controversial and, by the date of the Kid Carson appearance, he had already been on the American talk shows *Dr. Phil* and *The Tyra Banks Show*, among others, to discuss his views. (A summary of the most relevant portions of the March 2 episode follows, but a complete transcript of the segment can be found in Appendix A.)

Prior to placing the call to Masterson, the hosts provided some background information about their decision to invite him onto the program. They explained that they had played audio clips from Masterson's website on a previous program, which contained "brutal" views about women, and that they had received some viewer feedback

suggesting, on the one hand, that they bring him on to debate him and, on the other hand, that they should not “spread this negative energy.” Arora joked that she had referred to him as a “dick” because his name is Dick. Following the broadcast of a song, there was an alarm sound and then a male voice stated “Warning. The following topic may not be suitable for younger audiences. Listener discretion is advised.”

Carson then introduced the segment by re-playing some of the clips from Masterson’s website that had been aired on the *Kid Carson Show* the previous week. The clips were of Masterson making the following statements:

There’s nothing more liberating and freeing to a woman than chauvinism.

A woman has no responsibilities because I don’t expect her to get anything right.

All women are whores. They trade sex for money, they trade sex for cars. How is prostitution illegal but alimony isn’t? They’re basically the same thing. You’re paying for the whore to leave.

A penny saved is a woman fired. Women make horrible employees.

Women should not be allowed to vote. It’s ridiculous. A woman president would be a disaster.

Women know in their hearts that women cannot make decisions. A woman would never vote for Hillary Clinton. She embarrassed herself by not pleasing her man, essentially. And women know it.

Women are only good for having kids. Unfortunately they’re not very good at raising them.

Hitler was raised by a single mother.

Men have created everything you see in the world. Men invented electricity. Men invented cures for diseases –

After some additional introductory comments about their decision to have Masterson on the show, the actual conversation with Masterson began:

Carson: And he’s on the phone. Please welcome to the show the, uh, I guess the, the author of a book he’s come out with and also the guy who runs this website. Uh, he’s been on *Dr. Phil*. Very controversial. Dick Masterson is his name. Dick Masterson, good morning.

Masterson: How you doin’, Kid Carson, ladies? Good morning.

Arora: We have names too. [Masterson laughs] You can’t just call us “ladies”.

Masterson: Do you, uh, do your husbands have last names? I can call you “Missus Blank” and “Missus Blank”.

Arora: No, I haven’t changed my name, so if you could just call me “Nira” if you can pronounce it properly, then that would be greatly appreciated.

Masterson: All right, Nira, dear. You sound like a fiery vixen. I like it already.

Carson then observed that Masterson had appeared on the American talk show *Dr. Phil* and Masterson bragged that he had insulted a woman on that program who had accused him of not being able to get a date. Masterson recounted that he had responded, “If she hits the treadmill a little more she’d be, uh, she’d be in front of the line. To date me.” Carson then suggested that much of Masterson’s controversial opinion was simply exaggerated in order to sell his books. Masterson replied:

I am trying to sell a book. Uh, I started the website as more as [*sic*] a hobby. I’ll tell you how much of it is serious. As long as eight-year-old kids are getting expelled, uh, from schools for things like sexual harassment, as long as the rampant feminization of society is going on, I’m dead serious. Because that’s a huge problem. You look at, uh, at, take something like police officers. We’re all supposed to pretend that men and women are so equal, women are just as qualified to be cops and that’s just not true. That’s insane.

Arora and Masterson then debated women’s ability to be police officers and Arora questioned Masterson on his own mother’s opinion of his views. Masterson claimed that his mother “loves what I’m doin’.” He then explained his position that all women are “whores”:

Women are, you know, it’s a, it’s a necessity, uh, in society that women are whores because men have more money and we want sex more than women do. So what’s gonna happen, we’re gonna try to dump money on you guys to put out. It’s a necessity of the system.

At his point, Carson declared that he felt like he was in a comedy skit because he could not believe that Masterson was serious and that, if Masterson were serious, Carson would be “furious and I’d be shuttin’ you down.” Arora then asked Masterson what he was “trying to prove” with his book and website. Masterson replied that he was “trying to make men laugh” because men are made to feel guilty about being men. Arora and Masterson then argued about which sex was more oppressed throughout history, men or women. That exchange was followed by a discussion between Carson and Masterson about whether the intent of the book and website was just “extreme, hardcore, edgy comedy for guys.” Arora expressed her view that, even if part of it were exaggerated, Masterson had gone too far.

Arora: Obviously there’s jokes out there. But, come on, you’re writing a book that’s sitting there and saying that women shouldn’t even be allowed to vote and the only thing we’re good for is giving birth. [...] You’re calling us all “whores”. Whether you’re saying it’s a joke or not, you’re still saying all women are whores.

Masterson: Well, I do think you’re all whores. You’ll, you’ll all take, um, –

Arora: So –

Masterson: – take free stuff because you know guys wanna bang you.

Arora: I don’t take free stuff from guys!

Beeman: Wow!

Masterson: You've never in your life taken –

Arora: You don't even know me!

Masterson: – a supersize 'cause a guy was tryin' to hit on you?

Arora: You don't –

Masterson: You've never taken a free drink?

Arora: No! I don't, I, that's one thing about, that was one of my things. And I was, because I was one of those "oh, I'm gonna be a feminist. I don't need men" and you're the reason why I was like that. And I'm now at a post-feminist stage in my life [Masterson chuckles] where I'm just, like, you know what, let it all go, let it all go, we're equals, we're havin' a good time together. But then I read things like, things that are on your website, Men Are Better than Women. And then hear that you're writing books about this and I feel like going backwards and just wanting to hate on men.

Masterson: Well, honey, you're the exception to the rule then. You're the one in a million exception that *proves* the rule. You prove it because you've made it such a big deal that you're not going to behave like this. You've proved that all women do behave like this.

Arora: No!

Carson: In fact this is –

Beeman: Oh, twisting words!

Masterson: You can just jump onto a freeway and fall on a mattress truck, but that doesn't mean it's a good idea. The general rule is that women do behave like whores.

[...]

Carson: Okay, that proves it then. You are the [Arora laughs]. All right, this is the website. It's, uh, a little bit [?] you're hearing. Dick Masterson. He's, um, got this website, got this book, Men Are Better than Women dot com. It's very out there. It's very extreme. It's very wrong. I tend to look at it more like an extreme comedy. I don't think it's funny, but I think that, I think that Dick is not as much of a bad guy as he's saying. He's trying to get everyone's attention. I think that's, you know, –

Arora: Shock value.

Carson then accidentally hung up on Dick Masterson as he was trying to put a caller on air. The hosts discussed the legitimacy of Masterson's outrageous views and eventually got Masterson back on the line to speak with listeners who had phoned the station.

Carson: Listen. If this guy obviously is, I mean, if, if this is all really dead serious, if he wasn't trying to sell a book. Obviously. I mean, the guy's a total ham. The guy's a total ham. I think he just feeds off the fact that he's getting you so worked up. That you're like

[affects funny angry voice] “No, I’m not one of those girls!” He loves it. He’s trying to sell books. Who, the, it’s impossible for there to actually be a guy like this. It’s impossible.

Arora: I don’t think it’s impossible.

Carson: I can’t, I can’t even believe –

Arora: I really don’t think it’s impossible.

Carson: I can’t even –

Arora: There are people that are twisted and he’s a twisted person.

Beeman: And it’s scary.

Carson: I don’t know. He can’t be for real. Anyways, I, I just feel bad I hung up on him.

The first caller was a man who called Masterson a “chauvinistic pig” and suggested that, if Masterson truly thought men were better at everything, then Masterson must be gay. Masterson replied that he had received a piece of fan mail from a man who had had sexual experiences with both men and women and had agreed with Masterson that “guys do *everything* better in the sack too. I can’t speak from personal experience, but I gotta go with the guy.” When the caller insisted that Masterson was gay, Masterson said “F you, pal. I’m not gay.”

The second caller was a woman named Paris. Masterson greeted her with “How’re you doin’, baby?” The caller expressed her disagreement with Masterson in the following terms:

Paris: I’ve been listening to your nonsense and I actually checked your website the other day. And I’ve been listening to the conversation you’re been having with Nira and Kid. And everybody’s against you. And there’s a reason that, actually, everybody’s against you. I just have a proposition for you. I have a friend that works, um, actually downtown where you go and change your name. Um, your first name actually suits you *perfectly*. But I just wanted to know if you would like I can book it for you for free – because you have to pay – they’re willing to waive the five hundred dollars and you can change your last name to “Head”. [Arora & Beeman laugh & clap]

[...]

Masterson: You know what? You have such a sexy accent. I love hearing every word of that, uh, five-year old’s insult. Did your kid help you come up with that? [Arora laughs.] If you continue looking at my site, you talk about how much people hate me, but if you keep lookin’ at my site a little bit better, you’re gonna find a page full of women who’ve sent me pictures of their gorgeous racks with the name of my site written across it [*sic*].

Paris: Oh my, you must have been either abused in childhood or your mother did something to you or something has been done to your mother because psychologically you’re screwed. You’re absolutely screwed.

Masterson: You know what happened to me? When I was a kid, I got this disease that, uh, gave me gigantic balls.

Paris: Oh God, you're mentally screwed. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Masterson: And that's what turned me into the man I am today.

Carson: Thank you, Paris.

Caller Anita then voiced her opinion on Masterson's philosophy about women. She stated that she was a mother of two boys and that she felt sorry for Masterson's mother who had to watch her son making money by insulting females. She also questioned the reason for Masterson's "hatred for females". Masterson explained and engaged in a lengthy debate with that caller, with interjections from Arora:

Masterson: No, no, I don't hate women at all. Uh, I just don't, uh, I don't want to see them, you know, get, uh, go for the career girl life. 'Cause it's, it's unfulfilling to women. Women –

[...]

Anita: No, but say, for example, even if you didn't [get married] and you got a woman pregnant. And she had a female, which would be your daughter, you would say that your daughter's a "whore"?

Masterson: Well, I'd raise, I'd raise her to embrace what makes her a woman. I wouldn't teach her to act like a man.

Anita: Okay, so what if –

Masterson: I wouldn't teach her to take on the boys.

Anita: Okay, well, what is a woman? Please, define –

Masterson: A woman should be, uh, is, is, uh, well, she should get her priorities straight. [...] She should go for personal fulfillment. Because women need kids. Women want to have a kid. They wanna, they wanna have kids, they wanna get married. And they shouldn't, they shouldn't neglect that until late in life like a lot of broads are doing these days.

[...]

Arora: Broads?

Anita: Okay, now, first thing: "broads". Okay, why would you call a woman a "broad"?

[...]

Masterson: 'Cause it's funny. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Beeman: Oh geez!

Arora: What is wrong with you?! [...] I want to smack you!

Masterson: Women like it. Women like to be treated like this.

Anita: No, we do not.

Masterson: Women like to be treated with disrespect.

Arora: I don't think so.

[...]

Masterson: You treat 'em like dirt, they'll stick to you like mud. That's my philosophy.

Anita: No, no. The point is you're not respecting the females.

Masterson: No, I never would respect the females! I don't respect men either until they've earned it!

Anita: Okay, but the point is that's sad. That means you don't respect your *mother*?

[...]

Masterson: You know what? My mother is so classy that she wouldn't listen to things that pissed her off. That's the difference between my mother and most chicks out there these days.

Anita: So basically, so you, you've created a book so people can go buy it so you can inst-, insult the female and your mom's a female. So what does that represent? So the mother has not done a good job. That's what you're telling me? Mom hasn't –

Masterson: So are you teaching your boys to only do things that impresses [*sic*] mommy?

Anita: No! I'm teaching my boys to stand up there, not to be afraid of anybody, to be afraid of God. And respect anybody that's around you, twenty-four seven. That is –

Masterson: Well, I hope daddy is teaching a different lesson. [...] He's at work while you're gabbin' on the phone. Like all over the world, the man's at work, the woman's at home gabbin' on the phone.

[...]

Anita: But I'd like to tell him, um, I own my own company. And it's under *my* expenses. It's, I run the business. And my husband –

[...]

Anita: I think it's, I think it's pretty sad, Dick. And it's, it's so sad [Arora laughs], like the –

Carson: Anita, you don't have to convince everyone that you're right.

Arora: We know, Anita. We're on your side, okay?

[...]

Carson: We're just havin' some fun. You're havin' fun callin' up and bitchin' him out, okay? We're, I didn't even, Amy, it's Amy's fault! Amy booked him to come on the show!

The hosts concluded the call with Anita and continued to argue with Masterson:

Arora: Can I just quickly bring up that, Dick, I feel that you've contradicted yourself in a few of these phone calls that we've had recently. Because at one point you're saying that us women are whores because we rely on men because we can do, we'll do anything for money, right?

Masterson: Right.

Arora: So wouldn't that make sense because you want us to stay home and not have a career and take care of the kids anyways. So if that's our role, like what you assume is our role, uh, then where are women supposed to get the money anyways? From the man, right?

Masterson: From the man, yeah. When I s-, I don't say, um, I'm not meaning to demean you by calling you a "whore". That's, that's –

Arora: [sarcastically] Oh, I'm sorry.

Masterson: That's not the basis of what I'm saying.

Arora: I didn't know that.

Masterson: It's simply what you are. You take money for sex. It makes, makes you a whore.

Arora: But you are, you're saying that that's what my role is supposed to do. So then why, why are you calling me a "whore"? Then I'm just being a woman.

Masterson: Right. Right. That's why, that's what I'm trying to get across.

Arora: So just say "be a woman" instead of saying "being a whore".

[...]

Masterson: No, I, I definitely think a woman's natural place is at home spending a man's money. And I think men need to be aware of this when they get in these relationships. Today's men think that it's a fifty-fifty partnership, a marriage. And it's not.

[...]

Arora: It is in some.

Carson then questioned Masterson about how old he was when he developed these viewpoints. Masterson stated that he had always seen the world this way:

Masterson: No, you can tell, uh, if you, I think if you pay attention in life, you can tell who's, who's getting, uh, screwed over in things like divorce. Uh, who's generally at home taking care of the kids and workin' an eight-hour day, you know, watching TV and cleaning the house. And who's out there busting their ass for twelve hours a day commuting. And, uh, puttin' food on the table. All right, you can tell this stuff.

Arora: You don't know people at all. That's all I have to say, is that's all, you're, you live in this tiny little bubble. And you just, you're making up all this crap. And you're judging the rest of the world on it. But that's okay 'cause you're allowed 'cause that's your world. And I don't want to be a part of it, so that's my choice.

After some additional debate, they ended the call with Masterson. Carson reiterated that Masterson's goal was to generate controversy and Carson did not want to play into his game by getting all worked up:

Carson: You know, I, I can't even, I'm not even, I just, I can't sit here on the phone and, like, bash him or rip him apart because it's almost, like, then, uh, I don't want to feed into his whole, you know, thing. It's, it's already, it's so obvious that's he's ridiculous and he's absolutely insane and what he's saying is so pre-historic and, and crazy that, that it's, like, I just have to laugh at it. It's like –

Arora: So you don't want to give him what he wants?

Carson: Yeah. I don't want to sit here and bash him and give him what he wants. So, but, I mean [...] I want, I don't wanna give him that satisfaction. [...] 'Cause he's ridiculous, obviously. I mean, anyone who, if I don't want to get e-mails later going "you had this guy on your show and you, you didn't attack him at all" and blah blah blah. [...] That's not, I'm not gonna give, he wants me to attack him. He wants you guys to jump on him. [...] He's tryin' to sell books. It's probably a scam. You know what I mean?

The hosts then mentioned that they had received an e-mail from Chris Flett (a male author and speaker who promotes and assists a greater participation for women in the business and corporate world), who expressed his desire to appear on the program to debate Masterson sometime. The hosts agreed that it would be interesting to hear Flett and Masterson go head-to-head.

Arora: Chris Flett is a man. So hearing it from a man's perspective for Dick might actually affect him in a different way. [...] 'Cause he, I think he automatically tunes out women and what women have to say.

The segment (and program) then concluded with a discussion between the hosts about Masterson's appearance, as Arora in particular tried to calm down after having confronted his chauvinistic views. When Carson commented that Arora "needs to go outside and cool off", she replied "I really do!" Arora also commented that it was "so frustrating" and that she had not attacked Masterson as much as she had wanted to. Carson again repeated that he did not want to give Masterson the satisfaction of attacking him because that would only help his desire for publicity and controversy.

The Correspondence

The CBSC received two complaints about this broadcast, but only one complainant requested a CBSC ruling. That listener's letter, dated March 3, read as follows (the full text of all correspondence can be found in Appendix B):

I was deeply offended that the show hosted a male chauvinist whose book *Why Men Are Better than Women* [*sic*, actually only *Men Are Better than Women*] was being promoted. In the interview, he claimed that all women are whores, are only good for sex and having children, and that any job that exists is better done by a man. He claimed that women enjoy being treated like dirt and that hiring a woman is the worst idea because, in addition to being unable to make decisions, they'll leave you in the lurch when they get pregnant.

I wonder if the show would invite a racist or white supremacist who wrote a book entitled *Why White Men Are Better than Men of Colour*. Not so funny is it? So why is it acceptable to promote these misogynistic views about women? We all have a mother – can we please at least stand up for her on this issue?

I turned off the radio when the show's host told an angry caller that it was all meant to be fun – that she had fun calling in to complain so she shouldn't be upset. I promise you I was not having fun listening to the show and I definitely do not have fun thinking about the systems which allowed this hate speech to be broadcast (and on mainstream radio no less).

The station's Program Director replied to the complainant on March 24 explaining how it had addressed the complaint:

Before I address your specific concern, it should be noted that CFBT-FM is a member of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, and adheres to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' (CAB) *Code of Ethics* and *Equitable Portrayal Code*, and the Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) of Canada *Code of (Journalistic) Ethics*. If you would like to view any of these codes, you may do so at www.cbsc.ca.

I understand your concern and apologize if you were offended by the comments and beliefs of Dick Masterson, the guest of *The Kid Carson Show* March 2nd, 2009.

Since receiving your complaint, I've listened to the logger tape of this Broadcast and also talked to our morning show about this particular guest.

The members of *The Kid Carson Show* do not share and do not agree with the views of the guest and told me that their intention was not to offend anyone, but rather expose a person who has such negative and ridiculous views on women. Mr. Masterson has been a guest on *Dr. Phil* and *The Tyra Banks Show* to express his views as well.

Having said that, I feel that our morning show could have used better judgment in allowing this person on their show.

I can assure you that The BEAT 94.5 does not share the views of this guest and will not be having him back on the station.

The complainant was not satisfied with that response and wrote back to the CBSC on March 30:

The show featured a chauvinistic man promoting his book *Why Men Are Better than Women* [*sic*]. He used extremely offensive language including "slut", "whore", "stupid", etc. to describe women, argued that women are unreliable, good only for sex, etc., etc.

This violates Clauses 4, 5, 7 and 9 and, although the station sent me a letter assuring me that they do not share the man's views and will not have him back on the show, I was so deeply concerned that I felt a need to take further action.

If the man had written a book *Why White People Are Better than Non-White People* would he still receive air time?

THE DECISION

The British Columbia Regional Panel examined the complaint under the following provisions of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' (CAB) *Code of Ethics* and *Equitable Portrayal Code*:

CAB Code of Ethics Clause 2 – Human Rights

Recognizing that every person has the right to full and equal recognition and to enjoy certain fundamental rights and freedoms, broadcasters shall ensure that their programming contains no abusive or unduly discriminatory material or comment which is based on matters of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental disability.

CAB Code of Ethics, Clause 3 – Sex-Role Stereotyping

Recognizing that stereotyping images can and do have a negative effect, it shall be the responsibility of broadcasters to exhibit, to the best of their ability, a conscious sensitivity to the problems related to sex-role stereotyping, by refraining from exploitation and by the reflection of the intellectual and emotional equality of both sexes in programming. Broadcasters shall refer to the *Sex-Role Portrayal Code for Television and Radio Programming* [replaced by the *CAB Equitable Portrayal Code* in March 2008] for more detailed provisions in this area.

CAB Equitable Portrayal Code, Clause 2 – Human Rights

Recognizing that every person has the right to the full enjoyment of certain fundamental rights and freedoms, broadcasters shall ensure that their programming contains no abusive or unduly discriminatory material or comment which is based on matters of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental disability.

CAB Equitable Portrayal Code, Clause 3 – Negative Portrayal

In an effort to ensure appropriate depictions of all individuals and groups, broadcasters shall refrain from airing unduly negative portrayals of persons with respect to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental disability. Negative portrayal can take many different forms, including (but not limited to) stereotyping, stigmatization and victimization, derision of myths, traditions or practices, degrading material, and exploitation.

CAB Equitable Portrayal Code, Clause 4 – Stereotyping

Recognizing that stereotyping is a form of generalization that is frequently simplistic, belittling, hurtful or prejudicial, while being unreflective of the complexity of the group being stereotyped, broadcasters shall ensure that their programming contains no unduly negative stereotypical material or comment which is based on matters of race, national or

ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental disability.

CAB Equitable Portrayal Code, Clause 7 – Degrading Material

Broadcasters shall avoid the airing of degrading material, whether reflected in words, sounds, images or by other means, which is based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental disability.

CAB Equitable Portrayal Code, Clause 10 – Contextual Considerations

- a) Legitimate artistic usage: Individuals who are themselves bigoted or intolerant may be part of a fictional or non-fictional program, provided that the program is not itself abusive or unduly discriminatory;

[...]

- c) Intellectual treatment: Programming apparently for academic, artistic, humanitarian, journalistic, scientific or research purposes, or otherwise in the public interest, may be broadcast, provided that it: is not abusive or unduly discriminatory; does not incite contempt for, or severely ridicule, an enumerated group; and is not likely to incite or perpetuate hatred against an enumerated group.

The BC Panel Adjudicators read all of the correspondence and listened to a recording of the broadcast. The majority of the Panel concludes that the station did not violate Clauses 2 or 3 of the *CAB Code of Ethics* or Clauses 2, 3, 4 or 7 of the *CAB Equitable Portrayal Code* due to contextual considerations outlined in Clause 10 of the latter Code. One Adjudicator dissented.

Are There Any Limits to Outrageous Opinions?

The B.C. Regional Panel understands the perspective of the complainant and shares the complainant's concern about the Masterson attitude. It is hardly necessary for the Panel to refer at length or in detail to the statements made by the interviewee, Dick Masterson, regarding women. Almost all of his generalized comments relating to women quoted above were abusive or unduly discriminatory and most constituted Code-breaching sex-role stereotyping pursuant to Clause 3 of the *CAB Code of Ethics* and unduly negative stereotyping on the basis of gender pursuant to Clause 4 of the *CAB Equitable Portrayal Code (EPC)*. Many of the comments were also degrading pursuant to Clause 7 of that Code. Those comments would also be contrary to Clause 2 of both the *Code of Ethics* and the *EPC*. They were, on their own, outlandish, preposterous, outrageous and unacceptable in terms of the foregoing codified standards. Under the *Equitable Portrayal Code*, though, in the view of the majority of

the B.C. Regional Panel, such a characterization does not necessarily put an end to the question of a *breach* of the foregoing codified standards.

The reason is the formal set of contextual considerations established by the *EPC*. These include legitimate artistic usage (Clause 10(a)) and intellectual treatment (Clause 10(c)). While the language in Clause 10(a) would *appear* applicable, the Panel considers that it is more appropriately applied to dramatic or documentary programming than to a program of the nature of that under consideration here. The Panel fully appreciates that another Panel may encounter a circumstance in which an extension of the application of that provision may be warranted; however, in the matter at hand, it is unnecessary to the B.C. Panel majority's conclusions. In its view, Clause 10(c) is precisely applicable. While some may react to the word "intellectual" as applied to the *Kid Carson Show*, it is after all only the *label* identifying the list of programming purposes covered by the paragraph; namely, academic, artistic, humanitarian, journalistic, scientific, research "or otherwise in the public interest". The Panel readily finds that the challenged program partakes of humanitarian, journalistic and public interest-oriented qualities. In other words, it falls within the codifiers' anticipated categories of defence or exemption. Even assuming, though, that Clause 10(c) may in principle be applicable, the question for the Panel is whether or not there are criteria to be met in order for that clause to have its full effect.

The Panel considers that it is of the essence of these contextual considerations that there may be circumstances in which otherwise unacceptable comments may be broadcast. These have much, if not everything, to do with the idea of dialogue, exchange, discussion. In the view of the Panel, a comment that would be abusive, unduly discriminatory or unduly negatively stereotypical *on its own* loses some of that stinging quality if it is part of a give-and-take. In effect, unilateral abuse may cease to be *problematically* abusive when it meets an equally effective defusing force. In the view of the B.C. Panel, the factors that must be weighed in the assessment of the neutralizing comments will include their nature, strength and timeliness. In other words, where they do not really oppose the offending statements, are weak and ineffective or not proximate from a time perspective, they are unlikely to benefit from the contextual "defences" provided in Clause 10.

Applying those criteria to the challenged broadcast, the Panel concludes that the unsavoury Masterson comments were effectively blunted, indeed destroyed. By reason of the reaction of the three hosts, supplemented by the callers, nothing remained but buffoonery. The segment was introduced as including "brutal" views about women; it was described as "spread[ing] this negative energy"; and the broadcaster took the unusual step of providing a listener advisory. He was continually mocked by the women co-hosts, and Carson suggested that much of the controversial opinion was simply exaggerated to sell books. Carson asserted that he could not even believe that

Masterson was serious and that, if he thought he was, he would “be furious and [would] be shuttin’ [him] down.” He added:

It’s very out there. It’s very extreme. It’s very wrong. I tend to look at it more like an extreme comedy. I don’t think it’s funny, but I think that, I think that Dick is not as much of a bad guy as he’s saying. He’s trying to get everyone’s attention.

When they got him back on line, they referred to him as a “total ham” just out to sell books. As Carson said, “it’s impossible for there to actually be a guy like this. [...] He can’t be for real.” One caller called him a “chauvinistic pig”. Another said that “everybody’s against you.” After the conclusion of the call, host Carson himself concluded: “it’s so obvious that’s he’s ridiculous and he’s absolutely insane and what he’s saying is so pre-historic and, and crazy that, that it’s, like, I just have to laugh at it.”

The bottom line for the Panel is that Dick Masterson’s ridiculous standards-violating anti-female assertions were shredded by the hosts and the callers. However offensive they *might* have been on their own, they did not survive the torrent of reaction. This is precisely the type of situation anticipated by Clause 10(c). Freedom of expression prevailed. The unduly discriminatory, unduly negative stereotypical and abusive comments were debated on a level playing field, and the unacceptable comments were left tattered on that field of debate. Not a sentence, not a phrase, not a word was left credibly afoot. However problematic the opening and periodic Masterson assertions, there is in the result the contextual survival of the program itself. The Panel finds no ultimate breach of the codified standards.

That it may not have been wise to have Masterson on as a guest, that giving him a platform was risky, that there was a retrospective uncertainty by the broadcaster’s representative about the decision to have him on the show at all are strictly programming issues. The majority of the Panel finds no fault in that decision. Having made the choice to have him on the air, the hosts provided the internal program balance that the Masterson persona required. The Panel is satisfied that the broadcaster’s hosts defused and neutralized a potentially problematic situation. And the Panel wishes to respond to the complainant’s speculative concern about whether “the show would invite a racist or white supremacist who wrote a book entitled *Why White Men Are Better than Men of Colour*.” As she said, “Not so funny is it? So why is it acceptable to promote these misogynistic views about women?” The Panel presumes that the complainant expected that its conclusion would be different in the event that it had concerned men of colour. The Panel hastens to assure the complainant, as well as all other persons, that, in circumstances analogous to those presented in the matter at hand, any CBSC Panel would rule similarly. No identifiable group would be treated any differently.

A Dissenting Perspective (J. Doobay)

My dissent from the majority's decision relates to the initial decision to give Dick Masterson a platform to express his venomous perspective. I agree with the majority's characterization of his comments as "outlandish, preposterous, outrageous and unacceptable in terms of the foregoing codified standards." My difference with the majority is that I do not consider that Clause 10(c) is of application here. Whether the programming does or does not fall within any of the categories enumerated at the start of that clause, the challenged programming is not saved by the clause unless it "is not abusive or unduly discriminatory; does not incite contempt for, or severely ridicule, an enumerated group; and is not likely to incite or perpetuate hatred against an enumerated group." It is my view that, by allowing Masterson on the program, the broadcaster has in effect polluted the program by his abusiveness directed at women. In the end, that abusive quality has rendered the entire episode abusive and unduly discriminatory, unduly negatively stereotypically and/or degrading, in terms of the various Code clauses cited above. In my view, the challenged program is not salvaged by the application of any of the contextual considerations included in Clause 10 of the *EPC*.

Broadcaster Responsiveness

In all CBSC decisions, the Council's Panels assess the broadcaster's responsiveness to the complainant. In the present instance, the Panel finds that the response of the broadcaster's Program Director was, in this regard, thoughtful and responsive. It acknowledged that the program's hosts "do not share and do not agree with the views of the guest." It also went as far as admitting that "our morning show could have used better judgment in allowing this person on their show." In all, the Panel finds that the broadcaster's reply was particularly open, frank and honest. That this did not satisfy the complainant is not the Program Director's fault. In any event, the bottom line is that the Panel considers that the broadcaster has fully met its responsiveness responsibilities of CBSC membership.

This decision is a public document upon its release by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council. It may be reported, announced or read by the station against which the complaint had originally been made; however, in the case of a favourable decision, the station is under no obligation to announce the result.

APPENDIX A

CBSC Decision 08/09-1275 CFBT-FM re a segment on *The Kid Carson Show*

The Kid Carson Show is the morning show on CFBT-FM (The Beat 94.5, Vancouver) which airs weekdays from 5:30 to 10:00 am. It is hosted by Kid Carson, Nira Arora and Amy Beeman. It includes the usual morning show fare of music, news, and banter among the hosts about current affairs and other topics of interest. The program occasionally welcomes celebrities or other public personalities as guests. They refer to fans of the show as "P1 listeners".

On March 2, 2009 at around 9:30 am, the hosts of the *Kid Carson Show* did a telephone interview with Dick Masterson. Masterson is the author of a book entitled *Men Are Better Than Women* and the creator of a website of the same name. Masterson's ideas are controversial and he had appeared on other media outlets, such as the American talk shows *Dr. Phil* and *The Tyra Banks Show*, to discuss his views.

Carson: All right. Listen. We have a special guest coming up on the show next.

Arora: Oh ho.

Carson: Okay.

Arora: Not very special.

Carson: Yeah, this, uh, I kind of Well, we talked about this, uh, website on Fr-, Thursday or Friday. And it was, um, Men Are Better Than Women dot com. We were, you know, playing clips of this guy who has this website and it's just, uh, brutally, brutally, I mean, against women.

Arora: Brutal.

Carson: Brutal. And so I said, "Amy, we should have him on the show, blah, blah, blah." So, I kinda was just, like, half joking. And then, uh, Amy has informed me that we have booked the guy for the show for now. He's coming on in, like, two minutes.

Beeman: Don't ever say anything to me joking. I'm on it immediately.

Carson: So, we got a lot of e-mails after that, after I said "Hey, should we have him on the show?" And a lot of e-mails saying "No, you should not have this guy on the show. Why would you want to spread this negative energy?" Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. You know. Which I kind of agreed. I'm like yeah, this guy's a jerk. But we already booked him on the show, so. Sorry. So, he is, uh, Nira, you're going to freak out.

Arora: I know.

Carson: Remember we called his voice mail?

Arora: I know.

Carson: Yeah.

Arora: I know, I called him a dick. [Beeman snickers] 'Cause it's his name!

Beeman: Yes, it is.

Carson: His name is Dick.

Arora: Yeah!

Carson: Yes.

Arora: So?

Carson: And, um, anyways, we're going to come back and tell you more about this and he's going to be on the show with us. Isn't that lovely?

Arora: Are we saying we're not going to hang up on him?

Beeman: Oh! Really?!

Carson: I don't know.

Arora: Okay.

Carson: Men Are Better Than Women dot com.

Arora: Mm hm.

Carson: On the show next. Just a warning.

Arora: I know, I know.

Carson: Ten four. Let's do some, uh, Kardi Kardi. And it's called "Dangerous". Nine thirty.

- song "Dangerous" by Kardinal Offishall

Alarm sound followed by male voice: Warning. The following topic may not be suitable for younger audiences. Listener discretion is advised.

[warning repeated]

Carson: All right. We talked about this website last week. And, um, it's called Men Are Better Than Women dot com. Mm hhm. Wanna hear a little clip of, uh, the videos from the home page?

Arora: Sure.

Carson: If you forget this from last week.

clips from Masterson's website of Masterson's comments:

There's nothing more liberating and freeing to a woman than chauvinism.

A woman has no responsibilities because I don't expect her to get anything right.

All women are whores. They trade sex for money, they trade sex for cars. How is prostitution illegal, but alimony isn't? They're basically the same thing. You're paying for the whore to leave.

A penny saved is a woman fired. Women make horrible employees.

Women should not be allowed to vote. It's ridiculous. A woman president would be a disaster.

Women know in their hearts that women cannot make decisions. A woman would never vote for Hillary Clinton. She embarrassed herself by not pleasing her man, essentially. And women know it.

Women are only good for having kids. Unfortunately they're not very good at raising them.

Hitler was raised by a single mother.

Men have created everything you see in the world. Men invented electricity. Men invented cures for diseases –

Carson: Are we kind of getting the point here?

Arora: A little bit. I think we're done.

Beeman: Uh, yeah.

Carson: Okay, got the point, okay.

Beeman: Yeah.

Carson: Um, so, on last week I'm like "Amy, show producer, we should, uh, you know, is this someone we should have on the show?" And, um, I was kind of half kidding. And then Amy went ahead and booked him.

Beeman: Mm hm.

Carson: And he's on the phone. Please welcome to the show the, uh, I guess the, the author of a book he's come out with and also the guy who runs this website. Uh, he's been on *Dr. Phil*. Very controversial. Dick Masterson is his name. Dick Masterson, good morning.

Masterson: How you doin', Kid Carson, ladies? Good morning.

Arora: We have names too. [Masterson laughs] You can't just call us "ladies".

Masterson: Do you, uh, do your husbands have last names? I can call you "Missus Blank" and "Missus Blank".

Arora: No, I haven't changed my name, so if you could just call me "Nira" if you can pronounce it properly, then that would be greatly appreciated.

Masterson: All right, Nira, dear. You sound like a fiery vixen. I like it already.

Arora: Thank you. [Beeman chuckles] Mm hm.

Carson: It's actually weird to be, uh, talking to you after watching this video on your home page of you being on *Dr. Phil*. When were you on *Dr. Phil*?

Masterson: Is it weird, uh, last year. Almost exactly a year ago. You guys missed the best part when I shut this, uh, behemoth soccer mom down with probably the best, uh, the best comeback in TV history.

Carson: What was that?

Masterson: Oh, she, she accused me of never being able to get a date and I told her if she hit the treadmill a little more she'd be, uh, she'd be in front of the line. To date me. [Arora scoffs]

Carson: So, is this, like, how much of this is, I mean, you're, 'cause you're trying to sell a book, right?

Masterson: I am trying to sell a book. Uh, I started the website as more as [*sic*] a hobby. I'll tell you how much of it is serious. As long as eight-year-old kids are getting expelled, uh, from schools for things like sexual harassment, as long as the rampant feminization of society is going on, I'm dead serious. Because that's a huge problem. You look at, uh, at, take something like police officers. We're all supposed to pretend that men and women are so equal, women are just as qualified to be cops and that's just not true. That's insane.

Arora: What do you mean? Physically?

Masterson: So, as long as that's going on, my insanity will continue.

Arora: Well, when you say that, you're talking about physically, right? Just, the difference between men and women.

Masterson: Doesn't matter. Whatever a cop's gotta do. Uh, I don't necessarily mean physically, no. I don't think women can handle the emotional stress of being police officers either.

Arora: Really? But you don't think women can handle anything except for having babies, though. So we can't really win in any situation with you.

Masterson: Well, any job that needs to be done will be done better by a man. I will say that. There are competent women out there, there are women holding down jobs. Uh, there are women, you know, that make great attorneys, great whatever. I wouldn't hire them personally because at any moment those women could have a kid and leave you in the lurch. They're gone. They're off on, to raise the kids for the rest of their lives and you're screwed if you hired them.

Arora: Did your mom walk out on you?

Masterson: My mother's great, actually. She loves what I'm doin'.

Arora: Really? She's okay with you calling all women "whores"? 'Cause then you're calling her a "whore" and your mother's okay with that?

Masterson: Well, she would rather me clean up my language a little bit, but she gets it.

Arora: Hmm, I don't know.

Masterson: Women are, you know, it's a, it's a necessity, uh, in society that women are whores because men have more money and we want sex more than women do. So what's gonna happen, we're gonna try to dump money on you guys to put out. It's a necessity of the system.

Arora: That's romantic.

Carson: I just can't even take it seriously 'cause it feels like I'm in, in an *SNL* skit. [Arora & Masterson laugh] Like, it, it feels like I'm part of a joke right now and it's like, it's like when what's-his-name went on *David Letterman* and said he was going to be a rapper.

Arora: Oh, Joaquin Phoenix? [Beeman laughs]

Carson: Yeah, I feel like that's what I'm a part of right now, so. 'Cause if I was taking this seriously, I'd be furious and I'd be shuttin' you down and probably would've already hung up

by now. But I'm just kind of entertained by this thing that's goin' on. You're sellin' the book. Have you sold a lot of copies of the book or ...?

Masterson: Yeah. Oh yeah, it's doin' great. *Men Are Better Than Women*. You can pick it up in your local bookstore. I actually sold one personally. I was hitting on this chick in a, in a bar on Friday and I made her march across the street with me and buy it. She loved it.

Arora: What do you mean? I don't, I don't underst-, okay, maybe you need to explain what you're trying to prove with this book and with your website.

Masterson: I'm trying to make men laugh. That's what I'm trying to do. Men don't get enough, men don't get the opportunity to laugh these days. Men have to feel guilty about being men most of the time. Look what's on TV. Every guy on TV is a bumbling idiot. So I'm trying to give men, uh, men a voice back. And look, we're not stupid. Where have women been for the last ten thousand years while we were building *everything*?

Arora: Because we were oppressed! You were oppressing us!

Masterson: So were we!

Arora: No you weren't!

Masterson: Yes, we were. Galileo, Socrates was put to death for, for preaching logic!

Arora: Um, women –

Masterson: Men were oppressed.

Arora: Women were burned at the stake because they, they had a brain!

Masterson: So were men. Alan Turing, the inventor of the computer –

Arora: So we're on the same team!

Masterson: – was medicated to death because they thought he was gay!

Arora: Well, then we're on the same team!

Masterson: Men have been just as oppressed as women. In fact, I would say more so.

Arora: Oh no, that's, that's bullcrap.

Masterson: How 'bout Jesus, baby? You guys gotta, you guys gotta figure who's been more oppressed than Jesus? All he preached was love. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Arora: Oh loovvve, baby.

Carson: Just wanna have some wine, have some love. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Beeman: Jesus and John Lennon, you know?

Carson: Huh. Okay, so, um, Ben, you have, uh, people that wanna talk to him? Okay. We might have some listeners that might want to talk to you. Please, everyone, let's keep it, like, you know, clean for the air. See, when doc-, when you were on *Dr. Phil*, Dr. Phil, like, I mean, obviously Dr. Phil's all about, like, the hype and making everything really dramatic and whatnot. But –

Masterson: Oh yeah, he's a huge a-hole too.

Carson: I've heard that. I've heard, actually, the one thing I can agree with you on is that.

Masterson: Yeah.

Carson: I've heard he's a real, a real loudmouth, a real know-it-all. Privately, off-camera he's a real schmoo. Um –

Masterson: He's as serious as it gets.

Carson: Um, now, you're kind of saying, okay, I mean, you're, you're preachin' this stuff that is obviously very, it's, for a lot of people, and you're even saying for yourself, uh, in-, insane. Kind of insane.

Masterson: Yeah.

Carson: But your, your whole thing is, this is, like, an extreme, hardcore, edgy comedy for guys.

Masterson: Yeah, it's definitely, if, if, if, uh, if guys are laughin' then I consider it a success. That's the whole point.

Carson: Okay. 'Cause, yeah, –

Masterson: Entertainment for guys.

Carson: Right. Okay.

Masterson: But I think, uh, you know, it's up to everyone else to decide what's, what's true and what's not. And, uh, I want to give guys the, a, uh, a comforting opinion. You know, uh, a, uh, a forum to do that in.

Arora: Um –

Carson: If, uh, so if –

Masterson: So if you're asking –

Carson: So it's a little bit exaggerated. 'Cause, I mean, --

Arora: Really?

Carson:-- most people, people wanna kind of feel like, okay, well this, he's gotta be exaggerating a little bit because there can't be anyone who's really this, um, hardcore to say that, you know, that women are, all women are whores, et cetera, et cetera. Just between you and I and Vancouver. [Arora laughs] We're not going to tell the other cities or the other stations that you interviewed. Or Oprah.

Masterson: You're not going to tell anybody south of the border.

Carson: We're not going to tell Oprah that you're actually kinda just exaggerating a little bit. 'Cause you, you sound like you're pretty, like, smart and, you know, guy. Well, maybe not smart, but, I mean, you have a nice voice. Maybe that.

Masterson: Well.

Carson: Is that smarter?

Masterson: Thanks, man.

Carson: Better safe.

Arora: I don't really know what you're saying to him here. Even if you are saying –

Carson: What I'm saying is this can't be –

Arora: -- this could be an exaggerative website.

Carson: This can't be serious.

Arora: Then –

Carson: I'm saying it can't be serious.

Arora: -- obviously there's jokes out there. But, come on, you're writing a book that's sitting there and saying that women shouldn't even be allowed to vote and the only thing we're good for is giving birth.

Masterson: Yeah.

Arora: You're calling us all "whores". Whether you're saying it's a joke or not, you're still saying all women are whores.

Masterson: Well, I do think you're all whores. You'll, you'll all take, um, --

Arora: So –

Masterson: -- take free stuff because you know guys wanna bang you.

Arora: I don't take free stuff from guys!

Beeman: Wow!

Masterson: You've never in your life taken –

Arora: You don't even know me!

Masterson: -- a supersize 'cause a guy was tryin' to hit on you?

Arora: You don't –

Masterson: You've never taken a free drink?

Arora: No! I don't, I, that's one thing about, that was one of my things. And I was, because I was one of those "oh, I'm gonna be a feminist. I don't need men" and you're the reason why I was like that. And I'm now at a post-feminist stage in my life [Masterson chuckles] where I'm just, like, you know what, let it all go, let it all go, we're equals, we're havin' a good time together. But then I read things like, things that are on your website, Men Are Better Than Women. And then hear that you're writing books about this and I feel like going backwards and just wanting to hate on men.

Masterson: Well, honey, you're the exception to the rule then. You're the one in a million exception that *proves* the rule. You prove it because you've made it such a big deal that you're not going to behave like this. You've proved that all women do behave like this.

Arora: No!

Carson: In fact this is –

Beeman: Oh, twisting words!

Masterson: You can just jump onto a freeway and fall on a mattress truck, but that doesn't mean it's a good idea. The general rule is that women do behave like whores.

Carson: Uh, Dick Masterson –

Arora: Wow.

Carson: -- is on the phone. And, uh, Nira, he's actually shipped a Ferrari outside the building and says "if you sleep with me you can have it". [Arora & Beeman laugh] What is your answer?

Arora: Hell no, thank you.

Carson: Will you sleep with me for the Ferrari?

Arora: No thanks. I'm okay. [Beeman groans.]

Carson: Okay, that proves it then. You are the [Arora laughs]. All right, this is the website. It's, uh, a little bit [?] you're hearing. Dick Masterson. He's, um, got this website, got this book, Men Are Better Than Women dot com. It's very out there. It's very extreme. It's very wrong. I tend to look at it more like an extreme comedy. I don't think it's funny, but I think that, I think that Dick is not as much of a bad guy as he's saying. He's trying to get everyone's attention. I think that's, you know, --

Arora: Shock value.

Carson: That's what he's trying, no one's done this before. Um, let's get on the phone real quick with, um, Adam. Adam, go ahead, you're on the phone. Oh no. I just hung up on him.

Beeman: Oh, good job.

Arora: On [?]? See, men are not that competent. Okay?

Carson: I just hung up on our guest.

Arora: If I was a [?].

Beeman: You hung up on our guest?

Arora: If I was, oh, on Dick?!

Carson: I hung up on Dick!

Arora: Oh!

Beeman: Oh, I thought you meant you hung up on the caller!

Arora: That's what I was trying to say to Dick. That you're not competent.

Carson: Adam.

Adam: Yes?

Carson: I was going to put you on the phone with, uh, um, the Dick and, and I hung up on him by mistake.

Adam: Oh no.

Carson: When I answered your phone line.

Beeman: Ben's calling him back.

[Adam laughs]

Carson: Do we want to even call him back?

Beeman: Yeah.

Arora: Yeah, I think we have some listeners who have some questions for him.

Carson: He was, and, um, you know obviously, if this guy is being dead ser –

Adam: I just have some comments.

Carson: Yes, yep. Hold on one second there.

Adam: No problem.

Carson: I'll try not to hang up on you, Adam.

Arora: "I'll try not to hang up on you."

Carson: Listen. If this guy obviously is, I mean, if, if this is all really dead serious, if he wasn't trying to sell a book. Obviously. I mean, the guy's a total ham. The guy's a total ham. I think he just feeds off the fact that he's getting you so worked up. That you're like [affects funny angry voice] "No, I'm not one of those girls!" He loves it. He's trying to sell books. Who, the, it's impossible for there to actually be a guy like this. It's impossible.

Arora: I don't think it's impossible.

Carson: I can't, I can't even believe –

Arora: I really don't think it's impossible.

Carson: I can't even –

Arora: There are people that are twisted and he's a twisted person.

Beeman: And it's scary.

Carson: I don't know. He can't be for real. Anyways, I, I just feel bad I hung up on him.

Beeman: I think we should call his mom.

Carson: I mean, the guy's a jerk, but, I mean, you know, I don't want to hang up on anyone. When we booked him as a guest on the show.

Arora: Oh yeah.

Carson: Ben, can you get a hold of him? Oh crap, he's prob-

Arora: Oh, he probably thinks we hung up on him. Like –

Carson: Oh! Yeah, probably.

Arora: – as in not by mistake. Dammit! What have you done!? You ruined everything! If I was the one answering the phone, I wouldn't've hung up! See?!

Carson: 'Kay.

Arora: Men are not better than women at everything.

Carson: So.

Arora: Oh.

Beeman: Oh, we got him.

Carson: Oh. Okay, Adam, Adam, we're, uh, we got you back. We're gonna put you back through to, uh, Dick Masterson.

Adam: Excellent.

Carson: Okay. Hang on one second here. Let's, uh, ... okay.

Masterson: Who's it?

Carson: Believe me, that was not on purpose.

Masterson: Cool.

Carson: We, we got you back. Um, I was trying to connect you with one of our other listeners. So we have, uh, Dick Masterson back on the phone. Uh, the website is Men Are Better Than Women dot com. And you're on the air with one of our listeners, Adam.

Adam: Yes, how're you doin' today?

Masterson: Hey, Adam, what's goin' on? I'm doin' good.

Adam: Uh, not much. Just basically I wanted to comment that, yeah, you are a chauvinistic pig. And basically, like, you're sayin' that guys will do everything better than girls? So how does your boyfriend feel about this? Because if you're sayin' that guys do everything better, so you must be gay and have a boyfriend. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Masterson: You know what? I get a lot of fan mail. And one of them was from a guy, uh, who, who became, he turned gay later in his life. I don't, I don't know what the deal was. But he told me that, uh, that, yeah, guys do *everything* better in the sack too. [Arora laughs] I can't speak from personal experience, but I gotta go with the guy.

Adam: Well you must. Because if you're sayin' that guys are doin' everything better, you must be out there chasin' all the guys. And you're sayin' that the girls are –

Masterson: All right, all right. F you, pal. I'm not gay.

Adam: F me?

Masterson: Yeah.

Adam: You must be, buddy. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Carson: Thank you, Adam. Thank you, Adam.

Masterson: Thanks for that.

Adam: [??] high schools lookin' at all the boys. Because you say, you want to train them to be better than the girls.

Masterson: Yeah.

Carson: Adam, thanks for the call, man.

Adam: Thanks.

Carson: Appreciate it.

Beeman: Thanks, Adam.

Carson: Okay. All right, there we go.

Arora: So it's not just us girls that are getting riled up. It's the boys too.

Beeman: Which is nice to hear.

Arora: Mm hm. [Masterson laughs] Interesting. This is good times.

Carson: How do I ...? All right. Doo doo doo loo doo doo. Let's talk to [Arora laughs], do you mind taking callers?

Arora: You didn't hang up on him again, did you?

Carson: Oh, okay.

Arora: Oh.

Carson: All right, there. Do you mind taking callers, Dick?

Masterson: Oh no. I love it. Yeah.

Carson: Okay, cool. Let's, uh, --

Masterson: Bring 'em on.

Carson: Let's talk to ... is it Paris?

Masterson: Hear what Canada thinks of my views. [Arora laughs]

Carson: Paris, go ahead, you're on the phone with, uh, Dick.

Paris: Hello, Dick.

Masterson: Hello. How're you doin', baby?

Paris: I'm good. How are you doing?

Masterson: Pretty good.

Paris: I've been listening to your nonsense and I actually checked your website the other day. And I've been listening to the conversation you're been having with Nira and Kid. And everybody's against you. And there's a reason that, actually, everybody's against you. I just have a proposition for you. I have a friend that works, um, actually downtown where you go and change your name. Um, your first name actually suits you *perfectly*. But I just wanted to know if you would like I can book it for you for free – because you have to pay – they're willing to waive the five hundred dollars and you can change your last name to "Head". [Arora & Beeman laugh & clap]

Masterson: Yeah.

Paris: I'd be more than happy to give you the phone number.

Arora: Thanks, Paris.

Paris: [???] go and change it because it absolutely suits you.

Arora: Oh wow.

Masterson: You know what? You have such a sexy accent. I love hearing every word of that, uh, five-year old's insult. Did your kid help you come up with that? [Arora laughs] If you continue looking at my site, you talk about how much people hate me, but if you keep lookin' at my site a little bit better, you're gonna find a page full of women who've sent me pictures of their gorgeous racks with the name of my site written across it [sic].

Paris: Oh my, you must have been either abused in childhood or your mother did something to you or something has been done to your mother because psychologically you're screwed. You're absolutely screwed.

Masterson: You know what happened to me? When I was a kid, I got this disease that, uh, gave me gigantic balls.

Paris: Oh god, you're mentally screwed. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Masterson: And that's what turned me into the man I am today.

Carson: Thank you, Paris.

Paris: [??] that day?

Carson: Thank you, Paris.

Paris: You're welcome. Bye.

Carson: Okay, the website, the website is Men Are Better Than Women dot com. We have, uh, the author of the book of the same title. Dick Masterson is on the phone. We just want to get some, uh, listeners who want to jump through. I gotta be honest with you. As much as I'm completely against what you're doin', I've, I've never had a guest on our show and invited other callers to call up and say, uh, "change your last name to 'Head'." Um, making your name Dick Head. It's a little –

Masterson: Yeah, I, I get that one, like, once a week.

Carson: Okay, well, you're gettin', like, a whole bunch just in one day here. This is amazing. Uh, let's talk to Anita.

Anita: Hi.

Carson: Anita, you're on the phone with Dick.

Anita: Yes, actually, you know what? I actually am a mother of two boys. And I've never heard a man ever insult any females. And I actually, you know, everybody's laughing, they think it's a joke or this. But I think this is so sad that, I feel sorry for your mother that you're making money, or if anybody's buying this book, by insulting *females*. Did you –

Masterson: Yeah.

Anita: -- like, you didn't –

Masterson: Do those boys have a father around the house?

Anita: Yeah. Did you have a father around the house or did you date a lot of girls and they insulted you or did they put you down that you have so much hatred for females?

Masterson: No, no, I don't hate women at all. Uh, I just don't, uh, I don't want to see them, you know, get, uh, go for the career girl life. 'Cause it's, it's unfulfilling to women. Women --

Arora: But then that contrad—

Masterson: -- turn about thirty and then they [starting with psycho-hood?]

Anita: No, no. But I just want to know, for example, Dick, okay, if you, in the future, you, you know, you're dating, you get married, hopefully to a female –

Masterson: Oh god no! I'm never getting married!

Anita: No, but –

Masterson: Marriage!? Are you kidding?!

Anita: No, but it you, say –

Masterson: Are you kidding?!

Anita: No, but say, for example, even if you didn't and you got a woman pregnant. And she had a female, which would be your daughter, you would say that your daughter's a "whore"?

Masterson: Well, I'd raise, I'd raise her to embrace what makes her a woman. I wouldn't teach her to act like a man.

Anita: Okay, so what if –

Masterson: I wouldn't teach her to take on the boys.

Anita: Okay, well, what is a woman? Please, define –

Masterson: A woman should be, uh, is, is, uh, well, she should get her priorities straight.

Anita: Okay, what's her priorities?

Masterson: She should go for personal fulfillment. Because women need kids. Women want to have a kid. They wanna, they wanna have kids, they wanna get married. And they shouldn't, they shouldn't neglect that until late in life like a lot of broads are doing these days.

Anita: Okay, no. Okay, now –

Arora: Broads?

Anita: Okay, now, first thing: "broads". Okay, why would you call a woman a "broad"?

Arora: Mm hm.

Masterson: 'Cause it's funny. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Beeman: Oh geez!

Arora: What is wrong with you?!

Anita: Okay, but if you think –

Arora: I want to smack you!

Masterson: Women like it. Women like to be treated like this.

Anita: No, we do not.

Masterson: Women like to be treated with disrespect.

Arora: I don't think so.

Anita: And do you know –

Masterson: You treat 'em like dirt, they'll stick to you like mud. That's my philosophy.

Anita: No, no. The point is you're not respecting the females.

Masterson: No, I never would respect the females! I don't respect men either until they've earned it!

Anita: Okay, but the point is that's sad. That means you don't respect your *mother*?

Masterson: Well, yeah, sure, I respect my mother. 'Cause she's my mother.

Anita: No, okay, so, so, exactly.

Masterson: She's great.

Anita: The point is, every, your mother's a female.

Masterson: Yeah. So?

Anita: Unless if she wasn't a female then [??], but [Arora laughs], I mean, the way you're saying is [*sic*], it's just such an insult. And by making a book, and you talked about [god?] –

Masterson: You know what? My mother is so classy that she wouldn't listen to things that pissed her off. That's the difference between my mother and most chicks out there these days.

Anita: So basically, so you, you've created a book so people can go buy it so you can inst-, insult the female and your mom's a female. So what does that represent? So the mother has not done a good job. That's what you're telling me? Mom hasn't –

Masterson: So are you teaching your boys to only do things that impresses [*sic*] mommy?

Anita: No! I'm teaching my boys to stand up there, not to be afraid of anybody, to be afraid of God. And respect anybody that's around you, twenty-four seven. That is –

Masterson: Well, I hope daddy is teaching a different lesson.

Anita: You know what? Daddy –

Masterson: Because that's gonna get them kicked around when they grow up.

Anita: You know what? You know, if my husband was on the phone, oh my god. [Arora & Beeman laugh]

Carson: Anita, we're going to get rid of you before you get your husband on the phone.

Arora: Thanks, Anita.

Masterson: He's at work though, right?

Anita: My husband –

Masterson: He's at work while you're gabbin' on the phone. Like all over the world, the man's at work, the woman's at home gabbin' on the phone.

Anita: Okay, you know what? Okay, you know what? Like, I could –

Carson: Anita, Anita, Anita. I've, other people want to make fun of him too.

Anita: But the point is, you know what?

Carson: Okay? We have, like, ten people on the line who want to talk to Dick.

Anita: But I'd like to tell him, um, I own my own company. And it's under *my* expenses. It's, *I* run the business. And my husband –

Masterson: What is it?

Anita: Pardon me?

Masterson: What's your business?

Anita: Well, it's a polling company. And I run it. I have men working for me, buddy.

Arora: Yeah!

Masterson: So why are you so pissed off at me? [Arora & Beeman laugh] Why do you [?] that?

Anita: Well, I just think it's –

Arora: This is wonderful.

Anita: -- sad if any man to go and sell books by insulting females. And when you were from [*sic*], where did, who delivered you? Were you carried from a man or from a woman?

Masterson: Yeah, a woman. You know how it works.

Anita: I think it's, I think it's pretty sad, Dick. And it's, it's so sad [Arora laughs], like the –

Carson: Anita, you don't have to convince everyone that you're right.

Arora: We know, Anita. We're on your side, okay?

Beeman: Yeah.

Arora: Okay.

Anita: No, but I just, and you know what? I –

Masterson: [laughs] You can't stop!

Arora: Okay.

Masterson: You can't stop. This is what, this is women's thing!

Anita: No, but –

Masterson: Uh, they want to change you.

Anita: But you know what?!

Masterson: They cannot stop comin' at you.

Anita: No, but you –

Masterson: And the next thing you know, they're rollin' around in the sack and they don't know how they got there.

Arora: Ho.

Anita: No, I'm not coming at you. I just feel sad for you. And I really, really, really hope that one day you will open your eyes, really open your eyes. And I can told [*sic*] you that –

Masterson: Well, thank you, honey. Say a prayer for me.

Anita: I love the radio station. I think it's so sad that the radio station is putting *you* on to give your five minutes [*sic*], whatever. And I feel –

Masterson: And how dare you. They're doing a great job.

Carson: Anita. [Arora chuckles] Anita. Anita, Anita, Anita.

Anita: I'm, yes?

Carson: We're just havin' some fun. You're havin' fun callin' up and bitchin' him out, okay? We're, I didn't even, Amy, it's Amy's fault! Amy booked him to come on the show!

Beeman: Actually, if you listen to the clip, you say "Can you book him on?"

Carson: All right.

Beeman: And I said, quote "Against my better judgment" end –

Carson: Fine.

Beeman: quote. End quote. Thank you.

Anita: I love all of you guys. I love you guys, but –

Carson: Love you too, Anita.

Anita: You know, it just wrecks the morning by listening to a guy like this.

Arora: No, at least you vented, though. You vented, you released.

Anita: I, I'm so glad I have two healthy boys that got, at least, brains.

Arora: [chuckles] And leave it on that.

Beeman: Yes.

Arora: Let that be the last thing you say this morning.

Carson: Thank you, Anita.

Beeman: Good call, Anita.

Carson: Thank you, Anita.

Anita: Have a good day.

Arora: Can I just quickly bring up that, Dick, I feel that you've contradicted yourself in a few of these phone calls that we've had recently. Because at one point you're saying that us women are whores because we rely on men because we can do, we'll do anything for money, right?

Masterson: Right.

Arora: So wouldn't that make sense because you want us to stay home and not have a career and take care of the kids anyways. So if that's our role, like what you assume is our role, uh, then where are women supposed to get the money anyways? From the man, right?

Masterson: From the man, yeah. When I s-, I don't say, um, I'm not meaning to demean you by calling you a "whore". That's, that's –

Arora: [sarcastically] Oh, I'm sorry.

Masterson: That's not the basis of what I'm saying.

Arora: I didn't know that.

Masterson: It's simply what you are. You take money for sex. It makes, makes you a whore.

Arora: But you are, you're saying that that's what my role is supposed to do. So then why, why are you calling me a "whore"? Then I'm just being a woman.

Masterson: Right. Right. That's why, that's what I'm trying to get across.

Arora: So just say "be a woman" instead of saying "being a whore".

Masterson: Well, I think a lot of women would misinterpret that.

Arora: No, but that's your definition, though.

Masterson: Right. Yeah.

Arora: Okay, I'm confused. That's okay.

Masterson: I think I'm

Arora: I think I got you, but you don't want to admit that I got you. But that's okay.

Masterson: No, I, I definitely think a woman's natural place is at home spending a man's money. And I think men need to be aware of this when they get in these relationships. Today's men think that it's a fifty-fifty partnership, a marriage. And it's not.

Carson: When was it that –

Arora: It is in some.

Carson: So, at what point, um, in your life, did you kind of come to this, uh, personal realization? Was it, like, in your teens or?

Masterson: I've always felt like this. I've always felt like this. Uh, I only started talking about it when I started the website.

Carson: So, like, when you were a kid –

Masterson: And I wanted to make it –

Carson: somebody must've, uh, um, your father or your mother, someone must've given you this, uh, information. You don't just dream it up.

Masterson: No, you can tell, uh, if you, I think if you pay attention in life, you can tell who's, who's getting, uh, screwed over in things like divorce. Uh, who's generally at home taking care of the kids and workin' an eight-hour day, you know, watching TV and cleaning the house. And who's out there busting their ass for twelve hours a day commuting. And, uh, puttin' food on the table. All right, you can tell this stuff.

Arora: You don't know people at all. That's all I have to say, is that's all, you're, you live in this tiny little bubble. And you just, you're making up all this crap. And you're judging the

rest of the world on it. But that's okay 'cause you're allowed 'cause that's your world. And I don't want to be a part of it, so that's my choice.

Masterson: Well, I think the amount of anger that we're getting is, uh, means that I'm somewhere close to the truth. I'll just say that. I think female anger is the weather vane of truth.

Arora: I said that to you pretty calmly.

Masterson: Because people don't get pissed off at things that aren't true. They don't get pissed off at ridiculous stuff, they get pissed off at the truth.

Arora: But this is ridiculous.

Carson: So the website is Men Are Better Than Women dot com. The book is on sale now. Um, and do you find that mostly women are buying this book because they're peed off at you? Or men are buying it because they want to be entertained by it?

Masterson: It's pretty much exclusively men buying it to be entertained. Or, uh, women who, uh, really want to keep their boyfriends, really want to impress 'em, so they buy it for them.

Beeman: Oh yeah.

Arora: [sarcastically] Lovely. [Masterson laughs] That's my kind of relationship.

Carson: Well, Dick, it's been, it's been something special having you on.

Masterson: Hey, it's been great, guys. That was a good one.

Carson: Uh, where, whereabouts do you live? Not, like, specifically [Arora laughs], but like?

Masterson: I live in Hollywood. I live in North Hollywood.

Carson: In Holly-, in North Hollywood Okay, cool.

Arora: The exact address. [she & Beeman laugh]

Carson:[chuckles] Okay, yeah, what is your address?

Beeman: We will post that.

Arora: We'll send you a present, actually.

Carson:What's his licence plate number?

Arora: Mm hm.

Carson:Uh, Dick, uh, have a wonderful day.

Masterson: Is it true that all the chicks are gorgeous in Toronto? I've heard that.

Arora: We're –

Carson:We're in Vancouver. Other side, other side.

Arora: Other side.

Masterson: Oh, you're in Vancouver, okay. I've been up there.

Carson:Yeah.

Masterson: I've been up there.

Carson:Awesome. Thanks, man, have a great day.

Masterson: You too.

Carson:Cheers.

Arora: Apparently us Vancouver women aren't as beautiful as the Toronto ones are.

Beeman: Yeah.

Carson: You know, I, I can't even, I'm not even, I just, I can't sit here on the phone and, like, bash him or rip him apart because it's almost, like, then, uh, I don't want to feed into his whole, you know, thing. It's, it's already, it's so obvious that's he's ridiculous and he's absolutely insane and what he's saying is so pre-historic and, and crazy that, that it's, like, I just have to laugh at it. It's like –

Arora: So you don't want to give him what he wants?

Carson: Yeah. I don't want to sit here and bash him and give him what he wants. So, but, I mean –

Arora: 'Cause Anita did that all. [she & Beeman laugh]

Carson: 'Cause Anita took care of that.

Arora: I was

Beeman: She took care of him!

Carson: One of our P1 on listeners.

Arora: She was just friggin' hilarious.

Beeman: She was great!

Arora: Um, I think she did exactly what he wanted. I would've cut her off a little bit earlier 'cause she was doing *exactly* what he was looking for.

Carson: Right.

Arora: Exactly.

Carson: I want, I don't wanna give him that satisfaction.

Arora: Yeah.

Carson: 'Cause he's ridiculous, obviously. I mean, anyone who, if I don't want to get e-mails later going "you had this guy on your show and you, you didn't attack him at all" and blah blah blah.

Arora: Yeah.

Carson: That's not, I'm not gonna give, he wants me to attack him. He wants you guys to jump on him.

Arora: Yeah.

Carson: He's tryin' to sell books. It's probably a scam. You know what I mean?

Arora: Paris was the funniest. P1 Paris and she called up and she wants to give him the last name "Head". Like, she was perfect.

Carson: Yeah. That was good.

Arora: That's exactly what I was lookin' for.

Beeman: We got an e-mail from Chris Flett, our friend who writes What, uh, Men Don't Tell Women About Business and he just wrote, "I'd like to be on the show with this guy one morning." [laughs]

Carson: Oh my god, we should've done that.

Arora: Combat?

Carson: Yeah, 'cause Chris Flett, if you've heard him on the show, he's been on a couple times and he's great. He's very much, uh, pro-women in, in –

Arora: In the workforce.

Beeman: Yeah.

Carson: -- the role of CEO and helping women in business. He's dedicated his career to that now. Uh, as a, as an alpha male. And that would be very, that would be very, very interesting to hear that.

Beeman: That'd be a good debate.

Carson: The very pro-women and the very anti-women –

Arora: And it helps because –

Carson:-- battle.

Arora: Chris Flett is a man. So hearing it from a man's perspective for Dick might actually affect him in a different way.

Carson: Mm hm.

Arora: 'Cause he, I think he automatically tunes out women and what women have to say.

Carson: Well, the next time we find an author who's written a book called *Men Are Wo-, Better Than Women*, um, I'll have to get, uh, Flett in.

Arora: Let's hope we don't have to worry about that.

Carson: Phew.

Beeman: Yeah.

Arora: All right. Oh my gosh. [Carson chuckles] Deep breath.

Carson: You ready for the rest of your day now?

Arora: Oh, I hope so.

Carson: It can only get better now. Think about that.

Arora: So frustrating.

Carson: Okay.

Arora: I was trying, I thought you'd be proud of me. I was trying. I didn't attack him as much as, you know.

Beeman: As you wanted to?

Carson: Yeah.

Arora: I thought I was –

Carson: I just didn't want you to think that I was supporting what he was saying by not attacking him. I just didn't want to give him the credit.

Arora: I'll just attack you.

Carson: I just still feel like I'm on *SNL* right now.

Beeman: Yeah.

Carson: That this is all a, this is a character that's made-up and et cetera, et cetera. Appreciate all your phone calls.

Arora: Okay.

Beeman: And all the e-mails.

Carson: Thank you for, yes, thank you. Are we gettin' tons?

Beeman: Mm hm.

Carson: Oh god. Okay, well, um, thanks for the women who called up and P1 listeners who called up to throw your zingers at him.

Arora: Thanks, Anita.

Carson: Very entertaining, very entertaining for me.

Arora: Okay.

Carson: There's my say.

Arora: All right.

Carson: Okay, I think that's it for us.

Arora: We're done.

Carson: Uh, don't forget, uh, that we, uh, let you know that there's information leaked about Gwen Stefani and No Doubt. They're coming to town.

Arora: Mm hm.

Carson: Uh, details at The Beat dot com. Uh, what else did we announce this morning we should repeat?

Arora: Oh, the, we're doing the treasure hunt.

Carson: Captain Kid's Treasure Hunt!

Arora: Right, so –

Carson: That's right.

Arora: -- that information's on the website and the Gwen Stefani tickets are going on sale this Saturday.

Carson: Okay.

Arora: Oh sorry, sorry, sorry!

Beeman: The No Doubt ...

Arora: I want to correct myself. *No Doubt* tickets are going on sale this Saturday.

Carson: Okay.

Arora: Mm hm.

Carson: Um, have a great day.

Arora: All right.

Carson: Gotta get her outta here.

Arora: I will! [laughs]

Carson: Nira's, Nira needs to go outside and cool off.

Arora: I really do!

Beeman: Whew.

Carson: You're sweating.

Arora: I know.

Carson: Okay. Have a great day. We'll see you tomorrow.

APPENDIX B

CBSC Decision 08/09-1275 CFBT-FM re a segment on *The Kid Carson Show*

The Complaint

The CBSC received the following complaint via its webform on March 3, 2009:

Station: The Beat 94.5 FM
Program: *Kid Carson Show*
Date: March 2, 2009
Time: 9:00 am

I was deeply offended that the show hosted a male chauvinist whose book *Why Men Are Better Than Women* [sic] was being promoted. In the interview, he claimed that all women are whores, are only good for sex and having children and that any job that exists is better done by a man. He claimed that women enjoy being treated like dirt and that hiring a woman is the worst idea because, in addition to being unable to make decisions, they'll leave you in the lurch when they get pregnant.

I wonder if the show would invite a racist or white supremacist who wrote a book entitled *Why White Men Are Better Than Men of Colour*. Not so funny is it? So why is it acceptable to promote these misogynistic views about women? We all have a mother – can we please at least stand up for her on this issue?

I turned off the radio when the show's host told an angry caller that it was all meant to be fun – that she had fun calling in to complain so she shouldn't be upset. I promise you I was not having fun listening to the show and I definitely do not have fun thinking about the systems which allowed this hate speech to be broadcast (and on mainstream radio no less).

Broadcaster Response

The station replied on March 24:

Thank you for your correspondence (CBSC File C08/09-1275) regarding your complaint about The BEAT 94.5's (CFBT-FM) Kid Carson morning show on the date of March 2nd, 2009.

Before I address your specific concern, it should be noted that CFBT-FM is a member of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, and adheres to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' (CAB) *Code of Ethics* and *Equitable Portrayal Code*, and the Radio Television News Directors Association (RTNDA) of Canada *Code of (Journalistic) Ethics*. If you would like to view any of these codes, you may do so at www.cbcs.ca.

I understand your concern and apologize if you were offended by the comments and beliefs of Dick Masterson, the guest of *The Kid Carson Show* March 2nd, 2009.

Since receiving your complaint, I've listened to the logger tape of this Broadcast and also talked to our morning show about this particular guest.

The members of *The Kid Carson Show* do not share and do not agree with the views of the guest and told me that their intention was not to offend anyone, but rather expose a person who has such negative and ridiculous views on women. Mr. Masterson has been a guest on *Dr. Phil* and *The Tyra Banks Show* to express his views as well.

Having said that, I feel that our morning show could have used better judgment in allowing this person on their show.

I can assure you that The BEAT 94.5 does not share the views of this guest and will not be having him back on the station.

Additional Correspondence

The complainant wrote back with a Ruling Request on March 30:

The show featured a chauvinistic man promoting his book *Why Men Are Better Than Women* [sic]. He used extremely offensive language including "slut", "whore", "stupid", etc. to describe women, argued that women are unreliable, good only for sex, etc., etc.

This violates Clauses 4, 5, 7 and 9 and, although the station sent me a letter assuring me that they do not share the man's views and will not have him back on the show, I was so deeply concerned that I felt a need to take further action.

If the man had written a book *Why White People Are Better Than Non-White People* would he still receive air time?