
**APPENDIX B TO
CJAY-FM RE FORBES AND FRIENDS (PARODY SONG RE CHINESE
RESTAURANT & THAI SEX TRADE WORKERS)(CBSC DECISION 03/04-0259,
APRIL 16, 2004)**

I. The Complaint

The following complaint was sent to the CBSC on November 6, 2003:

Dear [...] and Mr. [...]:

Good morning to both of you. I have another complaint I must make regarding some of the comments made by CJAY 92.1 FM, a radio station in Calgary, Alberta. The broadcasts in question took place on November 5 and 6th, 2003 on the Forbes and Friends Morning Show. These broadcasts took place at approximately 9:48 am on Nov 5, 2003 and on 9:26 am on Nov 6, 2003.

The reason I am filing this complaint is that the Forbes and Friends morning crew has once again found it appropriate to continue their array of ethnic skits designed to mock and ridicule Asians in general. It seems that the morning crew has taken advantage of current events and used that as an excuse to continue their campaign of mockery and ridicule against Asians.

I am infuriated that the Morning Crew has ignored my previous complaint dated August 11th, 2003 (CBSC File Number C02-03-1646) and has continued their campaign of intolerance.

Due to CJAY 92.1's continued offensive behaviour, I would appreciate it if the CBSC expedited its investigation into this matter.

Thank you.

The complainant also attached a copy of the letter dated September 8 that he sent regarding another file (CBSC File Number 02/03-1646) involving the same broadcaster and the same nature of the complaint at hand.

Dear Mr. [...]:

First off, I would like to thank you for taking the time to answer the e-mail sent to you on August 12th, 2003. You will notice that I am also sending this message to members of the CBSC and to Jerry Forbes and the rest of the CJAY morning crew. It is very important to me that you, the CBSC and the rest of the CJAY 92.1 morning crew understand why I have taken the steps I have in recent days.

As you know, I am offended by the content aired by CJAY on August 11th during its morning show. Your reply to my original message was thoughtful and it is obvious you took some time to put the message together. However, after reading your message, I feel your ultimate goal is to protect CJAY and its radio announcers and not to address my concerns. **This is the reason I have asked the CBSC to adjudicate my complaint.**

To be blunt, I feel your comments about subjective humour and humour based on dialect voices are nonsense. There is nothing funny or acceptable about what was aired on August 11th, 2003. The banter between Jody, Forbes and another unknown voice actor was crude, disgusting and brings to mind some of the most offensive stereotypes imaginable. I would argue that CJAY 92.1's habit of broadcasting skits like the one broadcast on August 11th that it does promote racism and prejudice among its listening public. The ethnic comedy routine broadcast on August 11th, 2003 was only the latest of a whole array of ethnic skits designed to mock and ridicule Asians in general. Just off the top of my head, I can name several instances when CJAY decided it was funny to mock and degrade Asians. Do the following songs and skits sound familiar to you? Perhaps Mr. Forbes and the rest of the morning crew will find the follow skits and songs familiar.

Singapore Whore Song
Wing the Wong number skit
Korean, Chinese sitcom gag
Korean Olympic committee mockery (After Vancouver was awarded the Olympic games)

I have been really patient with CJAY and, in the past have tried to accept CJAY's offensive comments as SNL or Simpson's type "humour". But now, after hearing all the degrading comments they have made against Asians, I see that CJAY seems to be more malicious than I thought they were in the past. My theory is that your radio station is has [sic] singled out and targeted one ethnic group for ridicule and bigotry. Unfortunately Mr. [...], your last letter has not convinced me this is **not** the case.

Mr. [...], I know that you have invited me to call you so that we can discuss this matter over the telephone. I have decided not to do so because I do not believe that you and I can come to an understanding. To be blunt again Mr. [...], you have showed me your interest is in preserving the reputation of CJAY and not in addressing my legitimate concerns. I can only hope the CBSC will make an acceptable ruling in the months to come.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me through e-mail.

Thanks.

The following day, the complainant sent another email adding the broadcast date of November 7th and providing more details concerning his complaint:

Dear [...], Mr. [...] and the rest of the CJAY 92.1 Morning Team:

Yesterday I submitted a complaint against the programs broadcast by CJAY 92.1 FM on November 5th and 6th. I realize that I did not provide all the information required by the CBSC for a complaint. This message will provide you with more information regarding why I find it necessary to protest the actions of CJAY 92.1

Radio Station

CJAY 92.1 FM

Name of Program/On Air personality

Forbes and Friends Morning show (Gerry Forbes in particular)

Date and Time of Broadcast

November 5th 9:48 am
November 6th 9:26 am
November 7th 7:15 am

Specific Concern

My concern is that Mr. Forbes and his coworkers have taken advantage of recent events in Edmonton and Calgary to continue a series of comments and radio skits designed to humiliate and ridicule Asian Canadians. On August 12th I sent a complaint to CJAY 92.1 regarding a radio dialogue that mocked and demeaned Chinese People and Chinese language (CBSC# C02/03-1646). Please refer to this file for more information.

On November 5th Mr. Forbes and the rest of the morning crew found it amusing that a Chinese Restaurant in Edmonton had the gutted carcasses of dogs or coyotes in its freezer. As a dog owner and Chinese Canadian I am very sorry and even embarrassed that this happened. Mr. Forbes and the rest of the morning crew responded to this situation by playing an interesting radio skit where they suggest all Chinese people eat dogs and cats.

On November 6th, Mr. Forbes found it amusing that several Thai sex slaves were arrested in Calgary. The song "Singapore Whore" was played prior to a radio dialogue where an Asian prostitute offers to let a man make love to her in her "ahsk" (ass). The rest of the Morning crew then make rude comments of their own. My question to the morning crew: Do you believe the existence of Asian sex slaves to be amusing? Are Asian women whores to you?

Today on November 7th at 715 a.m. Mr. Forbes, who found the topic of sex slaves to be very funny yesterday called the incident involving Thai sex slaves to be "sad". This is an absolutely a pathetic attempt to redeem himself for the stupidity he gleefully exhibited yesterday.

In summary, it seems that CJAY 92.1 believes Asian people are dog eating freaks and that the Asian women are whores who deserve to be ridiculed and mocked. The programs broadcast during the three day in November I mention, in addition to the situation I describe in CBSC Case No. C02/03-1646 have led me to believe CJAY 92.1 has violated Section 3 of the Radio Regulations, 1986.

II. The Broadcaster's Response

The broadcaster responded to the complainant on November 26:

Dear Mr. [...]

The purpose of this e-mail is to reply to your complaint of November 7th, regarding content aired on the CJAY 92 Morning Show on November 5th, 6th and 7th, 2003.

I can assure you, Mr. Forbes and his coworkers have not "taken advantage of recent events in Edmonton and Calgary to continue a series of comments and radio skits designed to humiliate and ridicule Asian Canadians". As stated in my earlier correspondence, I would like to reiterate that the programming in question is meant as comedy. CJAY 92 is a Rock radio station targeting and delivering [to] an audience of adults between 18 and 49 years of age.

Due to the nature of our format and our audience, humour is found to be one of the main ingredients of the radio station. The use of dialect voices and skits is by no means "meant to mock or demean Chinese People or the Chinese language". This is subjective humour as is your interpretation.

In closing I must absolutely disagree with your summary. Our offices and broadcast facilities are located in the Asian community and many of our friends, clients, listeners and neighbours are of Asian decent. CJAY 92 does not "believe that Asian people are dog eating freaks or that Asian women are whores who deserve to be ridiculed and mocked".

II. Additional Correspondence

The complainant sent the following message to the CBSC, along with a Ruling Request from, dated November 26:

Dear [...] and Mr. [...]:

Today I have received Mr. [...]’s response to the complaint I made regarding CJAY 92.1’s broadcasts on November 5th -7th. Due to the brusqueness and asperity of this message, I have come to the conclusion that further correspondence with CJAY 92.1 regarding my complaint will be of little use. I am unsatisfied with the broadcaster’s response and would request that the CBSC panel consider my complaint.

One thing I would like to point out is that CJAY 92.1 has a very peculiar way of dealing with listener complaints. On November 10th at approximately 9:45 am I did receive a response from Gerry Forbes. On the radio station he said “ I have something for my buddy Al! (I assume he was referring to me, unless he has another buddy called Al)” Gerry Forbes then played a Wing the Wong number radio dialogue. In this dialogue, a man with a Chinese accent calls people up, asks for their last name and says “Sorry! I wing the Wong number” Mr. Forbes then yells into the radio “Ha ha ha I am sooo funny”. He then goes off the air (by the time all this was finished it was about 10am. Forbes and Friends show ends at 10am) Obviously Mr. Forbes and CJAY 92.1 does not take my complaint seriously. **Please consider this incident when the CBSC panel makes its ruling.**

[Nota: A separate complaint file was opened with respect to this incident. Following the broadcaster response, no Ruling Request was returned.]

Mr. [...],

Twice Mr. [...], you have responded to complaints I have made about the radio station you manage and twice you have insisted that there is no maliciousness, cruelty or racism behind the “humorous” comments made by CJAY 92’s Forbes and Friends Morning team. I disagree and believe that the comments made by CJAY are inherently racists and demeaning. You also repeatedly state that humour and the interpretation on humour is subjective. Very well, I suggest that rely on the interpretation of the CBSC gives regarding the humour your radio station broadcasts.

Thank you.

