
APPENDIX
To
CFRB-FM re a spoof (CBSC Decision 02/03-0738, December 15, 2003)

I. The Complaint

The following complaint dated February 24, 2003 was sent to the CRTC and forwarded to the CBSC in due course:

I would like to submit a formal complaint about a song that was broadcast [by] 100.3 'The Bear' in Edmonton on Saturday February 22 at approximately 11:15 am.

The song matter dealt with an explicit request for oral sex and graphically described how he would like it to be performed.

It was a spoof of a 1960's style "crooners" song, (*i.e.* Frank Sinatra) but was completely inappropriate, especially for the time that it was aired.

I would appreciate it if you would acquire a copy of the song that was played and advise if this did or did not meet acceptable community standards.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

II. Broadcaster Response

The broadcaster responded to the complainant's letter on March 5, 2003 with the following:

Dear [complainant]

My name is [name] and I am the Program Director of CFRB-FM, a division of Standard Radio Inc.

I am happy to respond on behalf of the station to the concerns expressed in your email correspondence of 24 February, 2003 to [name], Correspondence Officer, Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (CBSC). Your complaint was subsequently received by CFRB-FM on 27 February, 2003.

I have reviewed the parody song aired on CFRB-FM at approximately 11:15 am on 22 February 2003. I agree that the material in question was inappropriate, particularly at the time aired. The parody song has since been removed from active play. In fact, that was the one and only time it was ever played on CFRB-FM. I apologize if you were offended. It was in no way our intention to do so.

Mr. [name], please understand that CFRB-FM is an adult rock radio station targeting a listening audience of primarily males between the ages of 18 and 49. Much of the programming aimed at the target group is meant to be of humorous nature, similar to many mainstream television shows such as the *Simpson*, *Saturday Night Live*, of various shows on the Comedy Network. As is the case with all forms of humour, not everyone finds it funny – again, my apologies.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I can be reached at [telephone number].

Sincerely,
Via e-mail
Signed

III. Additional Correspondence

The complainant was unsatisfied with the broadcaster's response and sent the following e-mail dated March 7, 2003.

[name],

As noted below, [name] of CFBR-FM has agreed that the material aired was inappropriate. While I appreciate this acknowledgement, I fail to understand how removing a song from "active play" that was never on their active play list ("that was the one and only time it was ever played on CFBR-FM") will prevent "one time only" inappropriate material from being aired in the future.

For this reason I am submitting the attached Ruling Request Form and request that the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council review the material in question with respect to:

1) Definition 4 of the *CAB Sex-Role Portrayal Code For Radio and Television Programming*, in that "negative or degrading comments on the role and nature of women in society shall be avoided."

2) Clause 9(b) of the June 2002 *CAB Code of Ethics*, given the time of day that the material was aired and likelihood of children hearing this material:

Recognizing that radio is a local medium and, consequently, reflective of local community standards, programming broadcast on a local radio station shall take into consideration the generally recognized access to programming content available in the market, the demographic composition of the station's audience, and the station's format.

Within this context, particular care shall be taken by radio broadcasters to ensure that programming on their stations does not contain:

- a) Gratuitous violence in any form, or otherwise sanction, promote or glamorize violence;
- b) Unduly sexually explicit material; and/or
- c) Unduly coarse and offensive language.

Again, I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and I look forward to your reply.

Via e-mail
Signed