
**APPENDIX TO
CJAY-FM re Forbes and Friends (Chinese language translation)(CBSC Decision
02/03-1646, April 16, 2004)**

I. The Complaint

The following complaint was sent to the CRTC on August 12, 2003 and forwarded to the CBSC in due course (see note below):

I have a complaint to make against CJAY 92.1 a radio station in Calgary, Alberta.

This radio station has made tasteless remarks about a particular ethnic group several times during the past few months.

Most recent case – August 11th 2003

Forbes and Friends morning show
Forbes, Hughes, Wicks and Malone broadcast a dialogue that demeans ethnic language (Chinese)

'Zman' - Zack Hewitt – 3:00 pm (approximate time)
Repeats morning show program.

Mel Rison- 9:20 pm
Repeats morning show program.

CJAY 92 has made tasteless ethnic comments 4 times in the past

Singapore Whore song
Wing the Wong Number Skit
Korean/Chinese Sitcom gag

I contacted the station myself to voice my concerns but they have ignored my request and have continued playing the morning show skit)

I would appreciate any help you can provide concerning this matter.

While dealing with the CRTC, the complainant requested that additions be made to his initial complaint. In an email dated August 13, the complainant wrote:

Dear Mr. [...]:

Thank you for responding to my complaint against CJAY 92.1 FM, a radio station in Calgary so promptly. I would like to clarify some of the things I have read in the message you sent me. Please let me know if my assumption is correct. I assume that you have forwarded a copy of the complaint I submitted to the CRTC to CJAY 92.1 FM (Standard Broadcasting) and that they have three weeks to respond to this complaint. CJAY 92.1 (Standard Broadcasting) must respond directly to me and also must send you, a representative of the CRTC, a copy of this response. Is that correct?

I also assume that when you refer to "my letter" in your message you mean the message I sent to the CRTC using the online web form. If that's true, I would like to add a few brief points to my complaint. It is important to me that the radio station and its announcers understand why I am angry enough to complain about them to the CRTC.

Dear CJAY 92.1 FM Staff

I feel that it is very important for you to understand why I have taken steps I have in recent days. Below you will find the reasons I have filed a complaint to the CRTC against CJAY 92.1.

I am disgusted that CJAY 92.1 has targeted a specific ethnic group (Chinese and Asians) for ridicule and contempt. On August 11th alone, I count three instances when demeaning remarks were made against Chinese people and Chinese language. This is not the only time CJAY has targeted Asians. In the past CJAY 92.1 has made other unflattering remarks about Chinese people and Asians in general.

I complained to CJAY 92.1 directly before I contacted the CRTC. They ignored my request to stop demeaning Asians and continued to broadcast their racist and demeaning humour throughout the day. (August 11 Forbes and Friends Morning Show, Zman – Zack Hewitt 3:00 pm, Mel Risdon 9:20 pm)

CJAY 92.1 has made comments that will validate anti-Asian sentiments in those individuals that already feel prejudiced against this group of people.

Clearly, CJAY 92.1 has violated Section 3 of the Radio Regulations, 1986.

If these comments could be added to my original complaint, that would be appreciated.

Thanks.

II. The Broadcaster's Response

The broadcaster responded to the complainant on August 27:

Dear Mr. [...]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 11th, 2003 regarding content aired on the CJAY 92 Morning Show August 11, 2003.

First of all, let me express my regret for your "anger, embarrassment and sadness". It is never our intention to offend any listener with the humour that is aired on CJAY FM.

In addition, I am sorry that you found the banter aired between Jody Hughes and Gerry Forbes on August 11th as "most inappropriate".

I am sure you can understand that humour is a very subjective issue. The humour on this program was based on the use of dialect voices. This is a common staple of comedy shows, dating back to Sid Caesar in the 1950's and now found in such popular television programs such as the Simpsons, Saturday Night Live and the Just For Laughs Comedy Show carried by CBC.

You can also see the Subjectivity of certain kinds of humour in popular television commercials such as the most recent Alexander Keith's campaign starring an outspoken Scottish individual in a role that some may feel is stereotypical.

I can assure you that CJAY 92 does not "promote racism and prejudice", nor have we "singled out and targeted one ethnic group for ridicule and bigotry".

As members in good standing of the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, CJAY 92 is committed to broadcast programming of the highest quality.

I hope this addresses your concern, and I appreciate your listening to CJAY 92. Letters from listeners like yourself will only help us to be a better radio station. Should you wish to discuss this matter any further, please feel free to contact me directly at [...].

II. Additional Correspondence

The complainant sent the following message to the CBSC on August 29:

Dear Ms. [...]:

I have received a response to my complaint from Mr. [...]. I must thank you for your assistance, without your help I do not believe I would have received a response at all. I have some questions I need to ask you:

1. I am not quite satisfied with the letter Mr. [...] has sent me. I would like to send him another letter so we can discuss this matter further. Should I cc you any correspondence I send to him?
2. If I do choose to submit my complaint to the CBSC for adjudication and they make a ruling in favour of my complaint, what power do they have over the radio station?
3. I believe other people have submitted complaints against CJAY 92.1 before. Is there a place or website I can look at previous complaints made against the radio station? If there is a place or website where I can find this information please direct me to it.

Thanks.

The complainant sent the following message to the CBSC, along with a Ruling Request form, dated September 5:

Dear [...],

I am not satisfied with the response the broadcaster sent me on August 27th and request that my complaint be adjudicated by a Panel of Industry and Public Representatives. I am returning the Ruling Request Form through this e-mail. If you have questions or comments please contact me. I will explain why I found Mr. [...]s response to my complaint unsatisfactory in a future message.

Please respond so that I know this message has been received.

Thank you.

The complainant wrote back to the broadcaster on September 8 with the following message:

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.