

Aug. 20, 1986
Tracy C. Gibson
4635 Sansom St.
Phila., Pa. 19139

Dear David:

Hope all is well with you. I have really been getting fed-up lately. I have enclosed a letter I sent to Darlene recently. I have yet to get any feedback from her. I am really beginning to see what you mean about the Task Force and Darlene in particular. I have decided to concentrate on my work with the All-People's Congress and just support Tyrone and Carl as much as possible. By the way the Congress will be looking for a place to have a dance in the fall. If you know places that are cheap to rent and centrally located, please give me a ring. Call me anyway if you wish, I haven't talked to you in weeks.

Last week a friend and I went to Woodies. They wouldn't let my friend in. Needless to say I was pissed. It just really fucks me off that that kind of racism exist in the Gay community when Gays themselves are under such pressure and attack. People never seem to learn. I just really got tired of fighting against the Task Force because there is really no channel through which to fight. It seems that the only thing Darlene goes armed with when she faces the Task Force is butter--which she lays on pretty thick. It seems that the more I get involved, the angrier I get.

I have also enclosed a letter that I sent to B.J. in the morning at Power 99. I am getting really tired of the Gay jokes. I am sending that letter to at least three papers and the two gay ones.

Well take care. Keep up the good work, I'm here if you need to talk. Hope your sister is well.

Sincerely,



Tracy C. Gibson

Mr. Tracy C. Gibson
4635 Sansom St.
Phila., Pa. 19139
747-7839

Aug. 16, 1986

Ms. Darlene Gardner
2929 Poplar St.
Phila., Pa.

Dear Darlene:

I hope you and your family are doing well. I don't like the fact that I feel I have to write this letter, but I must. I hope you won't take any of this personally because I have sent a similar letter to Tyrone. It is ment to give some suggestions and try to straighten IMPACT as a whole.

At our last meeting you said, noting the lateness of the hour, that you would like to stay on the agenda and not use meeting time to bitch about the tast force. That may be good and reasonable for IBM, but I don't think it's going to work for minority people concerned about helping in providing life-saving information to our community. The controversy and stigma attatched to the disease AIDS and the high stress level that is forced on people of color (or any color for that matter) that try to work around this issue cannot be overlooked. Frankly dealing through an organization as racist--intentional or not--as the Task Force has a further demoralizing effect. I think our co-chairs have to be a lot more cooperative and tolerant of people such as Carl who are the real people we need to keep the wheels of IMPACT turning. He was right, the more I thought of it the more I realized that we are being used by the Task Force and we don't even get to shout and scream at them directly. I don't think the velvet glove approach is totally successful. I feel a lot of frustrations and I can't cope with it. For my own sanity I have decided to scale down my involmmentin IMPACT. I am only one volunteer, and I am a lot more sensitive and easily hurt than most, but I did what I could do when I had the energy to do it. I have some suggestions for you and Tyrone that might help others from becoming discouraged:

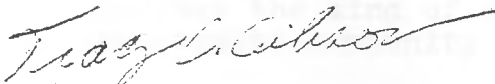
1) We have to be more supportive of each other. IMPACT is going to come under attack from all sides the more and more it deals with this issue. Some are jelous, some have great fears some are just ignorant. If we can't be supportive of each other our ship will soon sprout holes and people will start jumping off. You and Tyrone will be left with a worthless hull.

2) I think you need to start setting up, at least bi-monthly meetings where no issues at all are delt with except inter-personal ones so that personalities can be delt with and if people think someone is not running things right or does not feel the Task Force is offering enough help or is acting racist, or if individual work need be critized it can happen in an open posative light. Perhaps even over dinner.

3) I think IMPACT's regular volunteers need to have an open forum with someone from the PATF leadership. Either, Nick Iift, Tom Livers or Ed Dehile. (Excuse my spelling) This I think is crutual because they can begin to get a real feel for some of the frustrations that are going on in IMPACT. The fact that people like Carl are so discouraged, and he is certainly not the ~~only~~ one, says that things are not as positive as they could be. It is hoped that the minority coordinator can help alliviate some of this, but I truely feel the Task Force must take some more steps soon to deal with the whole issue of cooperation, shairing responsibilities, the purse strings, and they really need to look at how serious they are about outreaching to minority communities.

Lastly I just want to say that I don't mean to be entirely critical, of you. Things have ~~some~~ a long, long way since those first meetings and you have played a major role in that. However, it is going to take a lot of people to put this puzzle together and I don't think we can afford to make anyone feel left out.

Sincerely,



Tracy C. Gibson

Aug. 20, 1986

Mr. Tracy C. Gibson
4635 Sansom St.
Phila., Pa. 19139

Dear B.J. in the morning and other homophobic staff members at Power 99:

I recently heard you (B.J.) make comments about the population decline in San Francisco. Whether or not your remarks were a crack about the raise of AIDS or just about the fact that San Francisco has a large Gay population, I find the remarks disgusting. Not only because they reflect a homophobic point of view, but also because they reflect the kind of backwards, paranoid, stupid attitude about gays that is deseminating from the White House and the Supreme Court. These attitudes, which reflect immense ignorance, are being spread and accepted throughout the country. Taken to the extrem, they are responsible for such atrocities as the recent murder of transexuals and the Gay bashing we in the Gay community know all too much about.

I have lived most of my life in Philadelphia. I am a Black Gay man who is lucky enough to also be politically active and willing to speak out on several issues. Since I have become politically active in the Gay and Black communities I have been confronted with racism from some white Gays and white Gay establishments. On the other hand, I have also had to face the kind of homophobic madness expressed by members of the straght community both Black and white.

Do you have any idea of how difficult it is to live anywhere in this country as a Black Gay man? Don't you realize that a good percentage of your listeners are Gay or bisexual? Don't you know that a good percentage of your listeners are very young and still determining their sexuality and doing so in a society where speaking frankly and openly on sexual matters--something you know nothing about--is still unfortunately taboo? When are media outlets such as your, going to be used to bring Blacks, Hispanics, whites, ect. in Philadelphia out of the unenlightened ages and into a real sense of awakening about race, sex and a host of other issues.

It amazes me that such stupid comments are made when a good percentage of people whose music is played on your station is by Gay or bisexual people. Is Power 99 for heterosexuals only? If so maybe you should go back a few years, brother B.J., to a time where Blacks weren't allowed to be D.J.'s. At least where you're concerned I think the airwaves would be better off. Our brothers and sisters, some of whom I am sure were Gay, did not fight and die in the struggles in the 60's and in all the other struggles before and after that for you to castigate sexual minorities on the air. You didn't earn that job, the people who fought battles before you did. You are a poor role model for young minorities. Your mind is not only closed it is obviously also unused.

Don't worry about not mentioning this letter on the air, it will be sent to area newspapers and your boss. I bet you won't have the nerve to mention it on the air. Now who is the you-know-what B.J.?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy C. Gibson". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tracy C. Gibson