



## CHICAGO CHAPTER JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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September 8, 2008

Mr. Jeff Sellinger  
Executive Vice President and General Manager  
CBS Mobile  
CBS Headquarters  
51 West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Sellinger,

It was recently brought to our attention that CBS Mobile's "Farnsworth and the Fox" posted a derogatory segment called "Farnfucious Say" on Youtube on July 30, 2008, in which Farnsworth is dressed up in traditional Chinese clothing and makes mock Confucius sayings in a stereotypical accent. (For a specific video, see videos titled "Farnfucious Say" under user "farnsworthandthefox.")

We are concerned that while some may view this segment as comedy or satire, however, in truth, it is racist in several dimensions. The opening scene has Farnfucious portrayed with slanty eyes, which is a racially offensive gesture directed at Asian Americans and highly reminiscent of the recent controversial advertisement pose by the Spanish Olympic team. The stereotypical accent used by Farnfucious and the female narrator has been long used to ridicule the culture of others and the manner in which they attempt to speak English. The mock portrayal of Confucius is offensive and an insult to the Chinese philosopher whose teachings have deeply influenced many cultures.

Asian American communities have fought these degrading mockeries for decades, with the understanding that sometimes seemingly harmless pieces of humor can often draw out underlying racist – or even violent – behavior. A joke is not always a joke, especially when it provokes racist sentiment. CBS and its divisions are highly visible to locally and nationwide, therefore we hope that you would take action in response to our concern and encourage multicultural understanding and celebration.

Sincerely,

Floyd Mori  
JACL National Director

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