

JACL

Midwest Office

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September 8, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Sellinger,

We object to your segment called “Farnfucious Say” on CBS Mobile’s Farnsworth and the Fox. The segment uses a mock Asian accent in an introduction that depicts a puppet portraying Confucius who also spews forth in a mocking accent.

You should know better than to dress up tired racial stereotypes in the guise of comedy. Seemingly harmless stunts can be racially cutting to Asian Americans who grow up enduring racist slights that come in the form of mock accents, slanted eyes and the “Confucius says...” taunts. We are deeply concerned that you have chosen to reinforce the use of these negative stereotypes within a powerful medium, which effectively sanctions this slander among all who view it.

We have no objection to the use of comedy and satire as a means to inform and enlighten. However, when it is reduced to racial mockery as in “Farnfucious Say” it goes beyond the bounds of acceptability. As the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) asks that you remove this offending segment so that the public will not be encouraged to engage in similar behavior.

Sincerely,

William Yoshino
Midwest Director
Japanese American Citizens League