

JACL

Midwest Office

Japanese American Citizens League
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois
60640-1294

William J. Yoshino, Midwest Director
773 728-7170
773 728-7231 Fax
midwest@jacl.org



November 12, 2009

Roger Ailes
Chairman & CEO
Fox News Channel
1211 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Ailes,

The Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, was disgusted by the behavior of one of the guests on Don Imus' radio show on Monday morning. Bo Dietl, a regular guest on Imus' show, made disparaging, racist comments against Asian Americans as part of a rant on Katie Couric's appearance.

Besides their misogynistic undertones, Dietl's remarks are extremely disrespectful to Asian Americans, highlighting the immutable physical characteristics that have long been used to alienate and humiliate an entire race. In the simulcast of Imus' show on Fox Business Network, Dietl can be seen demonstrating his point by pulling back his eyes in a gesture painfully familiar to any Asian American, a reminder of schoolyard taunts and childhood bullying. Furthermore, the term "Oriental" is a derogatory term tinged with a racist history, used to dehumanize Asians in an era when they were regarded as unscrupulous foreigners who were not to be trusted.

We respect Imus' attempts to change the subject and stop Dietl's tirade; however, by continually inviting Dietl as a guest, Fox News gives credence to his childish behavior and the racist, hateful views he demonstrates. As an international news corporation, we believe that Fox News has an obligation to its viewers to ensure that hate is not given a platform, and should make a stronger effort to stem such racist behavior.

Sincerely,

William Yoshino
Midwest Regional Director
Japanese American Citizens League

JACL

Midwest Office

Japanese American Citizens League
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois
60640-1294

William J. Yoshino, Midwest Director
773 728-7170
773 728-7231 Fax
midwest@jacl.org

