



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

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JACL Condemns Racist Comments of Fox News Guest

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), 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 this past Monday. Bo Dietl, a former NYPD detective and a regular guest on Imus' show, made disparaging, racist comments against Asian Americans as part of a rant on Katie Couric's appearance.

During Imus' show, Dietl began criticizing Katie Couric's appearance, saying, "She's got her eyes pulled so far, she's starting to look Chinese herself," and "Ten years ago she looked American. Today, she looks Oriental." Dietl even goes as far as to pull back his eyes to demonstrate his point, in a gesture painfully familiar to any Asian American.

The JACL condemns Dietl's offensive, racist behavior. In addition to their misogynistic undertones, Dietl's comments attack the immutable physical characteristics that have long been used to alienate and humiliate Asian Americans. Bill Yoshino, JACL's Midwest Regional Director, has sent a letter to the CEO of Fox News, Roger Ailes, objecting to Dietl's behavior. In the letter, Yoshino stated, "By continually inviting Dietl as a guest, Fox News gives credence to his childish behavior and the racist, hateful views he demonstrates." Dietl's comments are neither amusing nor illuminating, and the JACL believes Fox News has an obligation to its viewers to ensure that such racist behavior is not given a platform.

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