



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
1828 L Street NW, Suite 802 • Washington, DC • 20036  
Ph: (202) 223-1240 • E-mail: natdir@jacl.org

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Mr. Mike Fowler  
President and General Manager  
WLS AM Radio

Dear Mr. Fowler,

It was recently brought to our attention that during the Don Wade and Roma show aired on WLS AM radio on August 6, 2008, the hosts engaged in racist humor at the expense of Chinese and Chinese Americans by laughing about serving dog at restaurants and transposing the letter “r” for “l” in their pronunciation.

Some may view this display as mindless juvenile behavior, however, in truth, it is racist. Mocking the culture of others and the manner in which they sincerely attempt to speak the English language is racially offensive.

Asian American communities have battled these degrading mockeries for decades, with the understanding that sometimes seemingly harmless racial comments can often draw out underlying racist – or even violent – behavior. A joke is not always a joke, especially when it provokes racist sentiment. We would have thought that WLS AM radio would subscribe to a higher standard. If not, it’s time you did, and you can begin by conveying a lesson in human decency to Don and Roma.

Sincerely,

William Yoshino