

## **Asian American Leaders to CBS: Fire Radio Hosts for Racist Prank**

*Friday, April 27, 2007*

**SACRAMENTO** – Asian American leaders throughout the country today sent a letter to CBS Radio President and CEO Dan Mason calling for the firing of two radio hosts who recently broadcast a six-minute racist and sexist phone prank.

Earlier this month, Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay, also know as “JV and Elvis,” called a Chinese restaurant and proceeded to harass employees, repeatedly making degrading sexual references and demeaning Asian culture. On Monday, Vandergrift and Lay were suspended indefinitely.

The letter signed by over 35 leaders – including California Senator Leland Yee, Minnesota Senator Satveer Chaudhary, Maryland Delegate Kumar Barve, Texas Representative Hubert Vo, California Assemblyman Ted Lieu, Minnesota Representative Cy Thao, and Connecticut Representative William Tong – calls for the immediate dismissal of Vandergrift and Lay, for CBS to review any existing policies and develop guidelines regarding acceptable use of the public airwaves.

[The six minute segment can be heard by clicking here.](#)

Attached is the letter sent to CBS Radio.

**Dan Mason  
President and CEO  
CBS Radio  
1515 Broadway  
New York, NY 10036**

**Dear Mr. Mason:**

**It is completely appalling that just one week after Don Imus was fired from CBS, that yet another CBS radio host found racist and sexist dialogue funny and acceptable to broadcast over the public airwaves.**

**As you know, two former San Francisco Bay Area radio personalities now working in New York outraged the Asian American community. The commentators, Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay also know as “JV and Elvis,” called a Chinese restaurant and proceeded to harass employees with sexist and racist comments, repeatedly making degrading sexual references and demeaning Asian culture.**

**We are supporters of the First Amendment and do not believe it is the government’s responsibility to prohibit such speech. However, it is the right and responsibility of CBS to protect the public airwaves from such racist and sexist commentary. Furthermore, individuals should not be humiliated before millions of listeners, especially when as small business employees they are simply trying to assist a potential customer and work hard to earn a living. In this particular case, it was insulting that the hosts found individuals’ language barriers amusing.**

**While we applaud the action CBS took with Mr. Imus, we believe that Mr. Vandergrift and Mr. Lay must meet the same fate – immediate dismissal.**

**Asian Americans and all those who find such comments insulting also deserve an immediate apology.**

In addition, we urge CBS to review any existing policies and develop guidelines regarding acceptable use of the public airwaves.

CBS needs to not just talk about a zero tolerance policy for these types of sexist and racist remarks, but instead demonstrate a real commitment. If instead CBS decides to have a double standard when derogatory jokes and stereotypes are levied at Asian Americans, we hope advertisers respond as they did in the Imus case.

Enough is enough. Our community should not have to deal with any more disparaging and belittling comments from radio personalities.

We urge your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

**SENATOR LELAND Y. YEE, PH.D.**  
Assistant President pro Tem  
California Senate

**SENATOR SATVEER CHAUDHARY**  
Minnesota Senate

**DELEGATE KUMAR P. BARVE**  
Majority Leader  
Maryland House of Delegates

**REPRESENTATIVE HUBERT VO**  
Texas House of Representatives

**ASSEMBLYMAN TED LIEU**  
California Assembly

**REPRESENTATIVE CY THAO**  
Minnesota House of Representatives

**REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM TONG**  
Connecticut General Assembly

**SUPERVISOR MARIKO YAMADA**  
Yolo County Board of Supervisors

**MAYOR CHRISTOPHER CABALDON**  
City of West Sacramento

**RICHARD KONDA**  
Executive Director  
Asian Law Alliance

**JOE CHOU**  
President  
Asian Business Association of San Diego

**STEVE YEE**  
California Department of Education  
Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources

**WEI CHI POON**  
Asian American Studies Collection Specialist, Ethnic Studies Library  
University of California, Berkeley

**LINDA NG**  
President  
OCA Sacramento

**MICHAEL HEAD**  
Director  
OCA Sacramento, Director

**ANGELA M. LAI, ESQ.**  
Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott, LLP  
OCA-Sacramento.

**KENT WOO, MSW**  
Executive Director  
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

**LILLIAN CASTILLO-SPEED**  
Head Librarian, Ethnic Studies Library  
University of California, Berkeley

**MADELINE RITCHIE**  
Retired Director  
Chinatown Public Health Center

**NANCY LIM-YEE, LCSW**  
Program Director  
Chinatown Child Development Center

**JOHNNY PECAYO**  
Editor-in-Chief  
Manila-U.S. Times

**LINDA E. PLAZA**  
Diversity Officer of Internal Operations  
CalPERS Diversity Outreach Program

**RUSSELL MOY**  
Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity

**JADE K. AGUA**  
Senior Program Coordinator  
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.

**LINDA TU**  
San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans

**CHARLES TU**  
San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans

**LEN NAVARRO**  
San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans

**ROBERT YAE**  
San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans

**MELINDA J. SEID, MT(ASCP), Ph.D., CHES**  
Program Coordinator and Professor  
CSU Sacramento

**BILL ONG HING**  
Professor of Law and Asian American Studies  
University of California, Davis

**MARGARET IWANAGA- PENROSE**  
President & CEO  
Union of Pan Asian Communities

**MELVIN LUMAGUI**  
Economic Development/Special Projects Coordinator  
Union of Pan Asian Communities

**HELLEN LEE-KELLER, PH.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Multi-Ethnic Literatures  
California State University, Sacramento

**DEREK LEE- KELLER, PH.D.**

**JEE CHOY**  
Organization of Chinese Americans

**KIM W. CHOY**  
Organization of Chinese Americans

**HARVEY DONG, PH.D.**  
Lecturer in Asian American Studies, UC Berkeley

**TOM BHE, PH.D.**  
OCA Sacramento

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*Contact: Adam J. Keigwin,  
(916) 651-4008*