

July 2, 2008:

Dear Mr. Remes, Mr. Lindner, Mr. Shaver and Mr. Perkins,

I'm writing on behalf of the Asian American Journalists Association's Minnesota Chapter to air our grievance with use of the phrase "Asian invasion" in a KARE 11 video clip titled "Asian Representation at U.S. Open in Interlachen."

The clip, dated Tuesday, June 24, 2008 features Randy Shaver introducing a piece by Eric Perkins about the influx of Asian golfers at Interlachen. One search on the Kare 11 web site yielded a clip with Shaver, but later searches yielded the same Perkins' piece without Shaver's introduction. In the first clip, Shaver and Perkins each use the phrase "Asian invasion" once. The clip in question is: <http://www.kare11.com/video/player.aspx?aid=74967>

The phrase carries negative connotations, evoking the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in WWII, and has been historically used to tarnish Asians and Asian Americans. It continues to be hurtful and offensive to some members of our community.

We hope KARE 11 will be sensitive to such language in the future and welcome any discussion on this issue. We also want to acknowledge Eric Perkins' apology in the comment thread for this piece on the web site.

AAJA Minnesota is always available as a resource for future stories about Asians and Asian Americans. You can also find a style guide compiled by the Asian American Journalists Association at: [http://www.aaja.org/resources/apa\\_handbook/](http://www.aaja.org/resources/apa_handbook/)

Please contact us with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Chao Xiong, AAJA Minnesota Media Watch Coordinator

Thomas Lee, AAJA Minnesota President

The AAJA Minnesota Chapter Board

*OUTCOME:*

KARE met with the Thomas and Susanna and agreed to be more careful in the future. They also expressed interest in receiving a copy of the style guide (which will be mailed to them) and in working with AAJA.