

NETWORK UPDATE

A periodic report from the Japanese American Citizens League Anti-Hate Program

Issue 10, Spring 2009

WHEN HATE HITS YOU: COLLEGE CAMPUS OUTREACH TWO YEARS LATER

BY: JACQUELINE MAC

The JACL began its college campus outreach in the Fall of 2006, when the first anti-hate workshop, *When Hate Hits You: Responding To Anti-Asian Sentiment*, debuted at the National Asian American Student Conference at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

This workshop was developed by Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino, Northern California – Western Nevada – Pacific Regional Director Patty Wada, and then Ford Fellow Brandon Mita. The workshop helps participants learn the history and causes of anti-Asian sentiment, and the definition and distinction between hate crimes and hate incidents, and provides real-life examples of hate crimes so students learn how to organize and respond.

This recent effort has reached over 80 students representing 20 universities and colleges

JACL has conducted workshops at several student conferences, such as the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference, and at individual colleges across the country. Over the past five months, JACL has facilitated four college campus workshops and attended national and regional student conferences. This recent effort has reached over 80 students representing 20 universities and colleges. More than two dozen students also signed on to serve as JACL Anti-Hate Campus Liaisons at their respective schools.

By becoming a liaison, these individuals alert the JACL when defamation or a hate crime or incident occurs on campus or in their area, and if they require broader assistance in addressing the issue. JACL's hate crime liaisons – drawn from the JACL chapters and college campuses -- establish a broad network of advocates who are schooled in the law and how to effectively respond to hate crimes when they occur. This network help to address the concern that Asian American Pacific Islanders are less likely to report hate crimes when they are victimized, let alone respond to incidents that may arise.

The workshop and Campus Hate Crime Liaison network are only part of JACL's outreach to college campuses. Ford Fellow Brandon Mita (2006-07) created a

comprehensive booklet on youth leadership, called *Filling the Pipeline: Asian American Leadership and Empowerment*, while Ford Fellow Elaine Low (2007-08) developed a publication detailing the role of Asian Americans during the Civil Rights Movement called *An Unnoticed Struggle: A Concise History of Asian American Civil Rights and Issues*. Current Ford Fellow Jacqueline Mac (2008-09) is adding to the JACL's library of resources by crafting a workshop module addressing Asian American identity issues through personal empowerment.

Below is a list of conferences and campuses where JACL's anti-hate workshop have been held. If you are interested in hosting a workshop in your area, please contact Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino at [Midwest\(at\)jacl.org](mailto:Midwest(at)jacl.org)

- November 3-5, 2006: National Asian American Student Conference (NAASCon) at Northwestern University – Chicago, Illinois
- March 9 -11, 2007: Midwest Asian American Student Union Spring Conference (MAASU) at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Urbana, Illinois
- March 29, 2007: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Urbana, Illinois
- May 15, 2007: Seattle University – Seattle, (COLLEGE OUTREACH Continued on page 2)



Midwest Regional Director Bill Yoshino (L) leading a discussion on the history of Anti-Asian American sentiment at the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference on February 28, 2009 at Rutgers University

JACL Chapter Liaisons

Alaska, Jonathan Lack
 Arizona, Charles Tadano
 APAN, Gary Mayeda
 Central California Dist. Council, Bob Taniguchi
 Chicago, Pat Yuzawa-Rubin
 Cincinnati, Ray Takigiku
 Cleveland, Scott Furukawa
 Clovis, Fumio Ikeda
 Contra Costa, Don Delcollo
 Dayton, Ron Katsuyama
 Detroit, Maryann Mahaffey
 Diablo Valley, Mary Kobayashi
 Eden Township, John Yamada
 Florin, Fumie Shimada
 Fremont, Alan Mikuni
 Fresno, Bob Shintaku
 Greater Los Angeles, Tom Hayashi
 Honolulu, Karen Nakasone
 Houston, Sandra Tanamachi
 Lake Washington, Corey Moriyama
 Las Vegas, Ben Nakagawa
 Livingston-Merced, Grace Kimoto
 Lodi, Linda Ogata
 Marin County, Lewis Kawahara
 Marysville, Neelam Canto-Lugo
 Monterey, Larry Oda
 New Mexico, Sei Tokuda
 New York, Kari Kokka
 Olympia, Reiko Callner
 Omaha, Sharon Ishii-Jordan
 Philadelphia, Joyce Horikawa
 Placer County, Bill Tsuji
 Portland, Marleen Wallingford
 Reno, Vincent Johnson
 Reedley, Stan Hirahara
 Riverside, Clyde Wilson
 Sacramento, Dean Okimoto
 St. Louis, Wendy Roll
 Salinas Valley, Myra Malaga
 Salt Lake City, Jeff Itami
 San Benito County, Kurt Kurasaki
 San Diego, David Kawamoto
 San Fernando, Brian Moriguchi
 San Francisco, Troy Yoshino
 San Gabriel, Bruce Haines
 San Jose, Tom Oshidari
 San Mateo, Nichole Cadiente
 Sanger, Ralph Kumano
 Santa Barbara, Ted Muneno
 Seattle, Joyce Shigaki
 Selanoco, Steve Matsubara
 Selma, Mitchell Nakashima
 Snake River Valley, Janet Komoto
 Solano County, Gene Urabe
 Sonoma County, Carol Kawase
 South Bay, Wilbur Sato
 Stockton, Mas Ishihara
 Torrance, Alayne Yonemoto
 Tulare, Larry Ishimoto
 Twin Cities, Gloria Kumagai
 Venice Culver, Diana Nishiura
 Ventura County, John Kataji
 Wasatch Front North, Curtis Oda
 Washington DC, Scott Sakakihira
 Watsonville-Santa Cruz, Paul Kaneko & Mas Hashimoto
 West Valley, Ron Watanabe

Campus Liaisons

Boise State University, Stephen Heleker
 Boston University, Tori Miyagi
 Cornell University, Laura Yamasaki & Lawrence Lan
 Emory University, Vu Nguyen
 Fordham University, Erin Yang & Patrick Yee
 Georgia Institute of Technology, Eric Liu & Andrew Change
 Hendrix College, Julia Shimada
 Howard University, Brandon Mita
 Michigan State University, Xu Gao
 Mount Holyoke College, Aileen Wang
 New York University, Sondra Merishima
 North Carolina State University, Andrew Poon
 Nova Southeastern University, Amy Onaga
 Oberlin College, Truc Linh Nguyen
 Old Dominion University, Nam Luu
 Pierce Law, Sarah Cho
 Purdue University, Lisa Hanazono
 Seattle University, Sabrina Chen
 University of California-Berkeley, Annie Kim
 Noguichi
 University of California-San Diego, Kimberly Shintaku
 University of California-Santa Cruz, Laurel Shannon
 University of Florida, Taketo Nakao
 University of Georgia, Kim Huang Ruiz
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Stephanie Nitahara
 University of Notre Dame, Matthew Teshima
 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Jaelei Yang & Kathy Yang
 West Point, Eric Holly

JACL CHAPTER AND STAFF ACTIVITIES

Midwest Office – August 2008: The JACL responded to a website posting by Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) where the congressman titled an article, “Protecting our Families From Asian Invaders.” The blog title was used to explain Knollenberg’s reaction to a consumer protection bill. “The title is sadly reminiscent of racist sentiment that has targeted Asian Americans throughout our history in the United States,” said JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino in a letter to the congressman. The JACL requested that Congressman Knollenberg issue an apology for the terminology in the original title and exercise caution and diligence to eliminate the use of anti-Asian references in the future.

Midwest Office – August 2008: During the Don Wade and Roma show aired on WLS AM on August 6, 2008, the hosts engaged in racist humor at the expense of Chinese and Chinese Americans, and laughed about serving dogs at Chinese restaurants and transposing the letter “r” for “l” in pronunciation. “Mocking the culture of others and the manner in which they sincerely attempt to speak the English language is racially offensive,” said JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino in a letter to WLS AM Radio President and General Manager Mike Fowler. The JACL requested that WLS AM subscribe to higher standards and convey a lesson in human decency to the hosts of the show.

National Office – August 2008: The JACL issued a press release chiding the Spanish basketball team for their racially offensive pose in an advertisement for a leading Spanish newspaper. The advertisement showed members of the basketball team pulling back the corners of their eyes. In a letter to International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge, JACL National Director Floyd Mori said, “There is a lesson framed within the fundamentals of the Olympic movement that promotes peace and the preservation of human dignity.” The JACL urged the Spanish Olym-

COLLEGE OUTREACH

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Washington

- February 8, 2008: University of California – Riverside – Riverside, California
- February 15-17, 2008: East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference (ECAASU) at Cornell University - Ithaca, New York
- March 28-30, 2008: Midwest Asian American Student Union Spring Conference (MAASU) at University of Kansas – Lawrence, Kansas
- October 17-19, 2008: National Asian American Student Conference (NAASCon) at Emory University - Atlanta, Georgia
- December 8, 2008: Purdue University - West Lafayette, Indiana
- February 24, 2009: University of Notre Dame - Notre Dame, Indiana
- February 27-28, 2009: East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference (ECAASU) at Rutgers University - New Brunswick, New Jersey

pic Committee to be mindful of this lesson as they pursue their bid to serve as hosts in 2016.

Pacific Southwest Office – August 2008: The 2008 Edition of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area Zagat Rating Guides used the term “JAP” throughout as an abbreviation for “Japanese.” In a letter to Zagat Survey Co-Chairs Tim and Nina Zagat, JACL Pacific Southwest Regional Director Craig Ishii said, “As Zagat rating guides are used widely, we appreciate it if you would join us in discouraging its use for future guides by using the proper abbreviation.”

National Office – August 2008: The JACL responded to the LPGA’s recent English-only policy which would suspend players who have been on Tour for two years if they did not successfully pass an English proficiency evaluation. JACL National Executive Director Floyd Mori said, “The language requirement is clearly aimed at a specific cultural group of players who have excelled in the LPGA. It is ironic that when we have just completed the Olympics...the LPGA regresses into such an unacceptable policy.” The JACL urged the LPGA to reconsider this policy and respect the culture of their international players.



One of many episodes of “Farnfucious Say.” Source: Google.com

National Office – September 2008: An offensive segment called “Farnfucious Say” was aired on CBS Mobile’s Farnsworth and the Fox on YouTube. The segment is introduced by a narrator that uses a mock Asian accent and uses a puppet portraying Confucius to deliver satirical philosophies. JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino said in a letter address to CBS, “We are deeply concerned that you have chosen to reinforce the use of negative stereotypes within a powerful medium, which effectively sanctions this slander among all who view it.”

Honolulu, HI – September 2008: The Honolulu Chapter of the JACL responded to a series of unprofessional and offensive emails sent by the CEO of the Hawai’i Tourism Authority (HTA), Rex Johnson. Honolulu JACL Chapter President Shawn Benton said in a recent press release, “These emails were deeply hurtful to the women and minorities who were denigrated within them.” The JACL called upon Mr. Johnson to resign or that the HTA Board remove him from his position.

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Midwest Office – October 2008: The JACL responded to a recent activity during spirit week at Union Grove High School in Wisconsin where an assistant principal was to wear an inflated sumo costume to wrestle someone selected by the student body. In a letter to Union Grove High School Principal Alan Mollerskov, JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino said, "Furthermore, this particular activity denigrates an ancient and venerated Japanese sport, which is rich in history and tradition." Alan Mollerskov, the principal of Union Grove High School, contacted Yoshino to inform him that the school decided not to proceed with plans to use an inflated sumo costume for its "Spirit Week" activities.

Midwest Office – November 2008: The Midwest office of the JACL responded to an attack on an Asian American alumnus of the University of Colorado at Boulder, in which the victim was punched in the face and forced to say "I love America." Officials from the Boulder Police Department and the University of Colorado at Boulder responded quickly by issuing a call for information from the public and statements condemning this attack, respectively. In a letter to Chancellor G.P. "Bud" Peterson, JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino said, "this incident reminds us of the pointless column 'If it's war the Asians want...It's war they'll get'... While the column and this recent attack may not be linked, it demonstrates that an atmosphere of intolerance exists at the University." Police have released a sketch and are still searching for the perpetrator.

Savannah, GA – December 2008: A Ford dealer criticized Congress and consumers of Toyota automobiles in a radio advertisement after being angered over the proposed bailout of the Big Three. O.C. Welch, who owns a dealership near Savannah in South Carolina, called vehicles "rice ready...not road ready" and blamed politicians for being good only at "slinging mud and spending our tax dollars" in a minute-long advertisement on a dozen radio stations. Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director, spoke with an Associated Press reporter, citing Welch's comments as reminiscent of anti-Asian sentiment traced back to the 1930s.

Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Office – January 2009: The JACL responded to a report that two students were targets of racial slurs, threats and attacks. It has been

reported that the racial epithet "jap" has been used to harass and taunt them, as well as comments such as "flat face," "Asian bitch" and "Go back to where you came from." Both students are of Japanese ancestry. In a letter to Superintendent Larry Snelling, JACL Northern California – Western Nevada – Pacific District Regional Director Patty Wada said, "[these students] are Americans – Asian Americans -- and those who either don't accept or understand that fact require a lesson in American history and tolerance." The JACL also asked that a thorough investigation of these charges be conducted by the Superintendent's office.

Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Office – January 2009: Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga joined a growing group of city leaders and community organizations to address the recent spate of hate incidences after receiving a hateful e-mail days before being sworn into office and being racially taunted by a group of boys when walking her daughter from school. A group of city leaders and community organizations hope to hold an event called "Not In Our Town" as a community response. JACL Northern California – Western Nevada – Pacific District Regional Director Patty Wada and San Jose JACL contacted this group to further support this effort.

Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Office - January 2009: JACL Headquarters received a phone call from Mr. A* who saw a sign on the Carlmont Village Shopping Center in Belmont, California, that read "Jap Maple Pruning Seminar Jan. 18 10-2." Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific Regional Director Patty Wada contacted the Carlmont Shopping Center Management Office and Carlmont Nursery, the vendor who requested the sign. Both were unaware that "jap" was a slur and the sign was taken down within an hour-and-a-half.

**Mr. A's name has been changed to protect his identity.*

National Office - January 2009: The National JACL responded to what appeared to be a pattern of perpetuating racial stereotypes of Asian Americans on the Stephanie Miller show. The show presents a Kim Jong-Il character, voiced by Jim Ward, in which he transposes the letter "r" with "l" in speech, and uses the song "We Have to Celebrate Our Differences" that includes the lines "ching-chong" and "ugga-booga." In a letter to the show's executive



*Carlmont Village Shopping Center in Belmont, California. Source: Mr. A**

director, Chris Lavoie, JACL National Director Floyd Mori said, "We fail to find humor or commentary in what appears to be nothing more than a stunt carelessly laced with childish racial mockery."

National Youth/Student Council - February 2009: The JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) issued a press release expressing their dismay of a photo showing Miley Cyrus and some friends pulling back their eyes. In the statement, National Youth Chair Kimberly Shintaku and National Youth Representative Brandon Mita said, "Many of us consider Ms. Cyrus as a role model who has now offended a portion of her fans." The JACL NY/SC wrote a follow up letter to Cyrus days later, acknowledging that a subsequent posting on her website explaining her behavior was not enough to undo the damage of her actions. The NY/SC asked Cyrus to take responsibility by sincerely apologizing and stating that she understands why her behavior was offensive.

Midwest Office – March 2009: The JACL responded to the Veteran's Administration hospital in Indianapolis where a controversy arose when a framed newspaper front page declaring "Japs Surrender" was removed at the request of an employee who was offended by the headline. A group of retired marines objected to the removal claiming the removal white-washed history. At the request of the VA, JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino responded "the use of the term "jap" was common during World War II and in preceding decades as a

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way to demean a group of people...This does not mean, however, that we need to perpetuate the use of slurs today or in the future. People, especially the young, who view the headline may come to believe the use of the term is acceptable, and it is not. In 1942, the security of our nation was threatened by war and the use of racial slurs was employed to dehumanize the enemy. Tragically, this also led to a failure to distinguish the loyalty of Japanese Americans from the enemy resulting in constitutional failures that brought shame to our nation."

National Office – March 2009: The JACL sent a letter to Dartmouth College President Jim Wright and expressed dismay at the racist email about Dr. Jim Yong Kim, who is to become the 17th President of Dartmouth College on July 1, 2009. The email was dismissed by the Dartmouth administration as "an offensive attempt at humor." JACL National Executive Director Floyd Mori stated, "While Dartmouth positions itself as a premier Ivy League school with excellence in academics, it should be a leader in promoting more tolerant human relations and educate its students that racial slurs and dehumanizing comments should not have a part in today's society."

JACL PSW District Council -- March 2009: The JACL Pacific Southwest District is monitoring and assisting in a case where Thanh Hong, a Vietnamese student, at the University of California at Santa Barbara and an Asian American friend were accosted with racial epithets such as "Chinaman," "Chink," and "gook" when they passed in front of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house. Without provocation, as they tried to walk away, one of the men hit Thanh's friend in the face and then attacked Thanh. The man continued to use slurs during the attack. Thanh and his friend sustained injuries including a facial laceration requiring stitches and a concussion. Both the university and Santa Barbara police were called and an investigation is in progress. The JACL PSW office has also been in contact with Vietnamese organizations on the case.

HATE CRIMES AND HATE INCIDENTS

New York, NY – August 2008: ABC "Nightline" Anchorman Martin Bashir has written a letter of apology to the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) after making crude sexist remarks about Asian women. During his keynote speech at the annual AAJA convention, Bashir said "I'm happy to be in the midst of so many Asian babes. In fact, I'm happy that the podium covers me from the waist down... A speech should be like a dress on a beautiful woman – long enough to cover the important parts, and short enough to keep your interest – like my colleague Jujus." In his letter to the AAJA, Bashir apologized for his remarks, stating that "upon reflection, it was a tasteless remark that I now bitterly regret."

St. Paul, MN – August 2008: A healing ceremony was held at Phalen Park, a St. Paul Park where a statue was vandalized with hate symbols. On July 12 during a Dragon Festival celebrating Asian Pacific culture, the sculpture of a woman resting on her chin on the back of her hand titled "Meditation" at Phalen Park was defaced with profanity, swastikas, "KKK", and ethnic slurs. No arrests have been made yet, which is being treated as a felony and hate crime.

Sacramento, CA – August 2008: Sacramento officials cancelled a controversial screening of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" during the city's free Screen on the Green movie series. Asian American activists voiced their concern for the movie's racist scenes with Mickey Rooney's stereotypical depiction of the character Mr. Yunioshi.

San Francisco, CA – September 2008: The California Supreme Court upheld the death sentence for a man convicted of the first-degree murder of a Vietnamese American man in 1996. Thien Minh Ly was attacked while in-line skating on a high school tennis court in Southern California. Gunner Lindberg became the first person in California to be sentenced to death row for a racially-motivated murder after being convicted of first-degree murder.

Oakland, CA – September 2008: A former Oakland police officer is sued by an alleged harassment victim. The victim is the 19th Asian American woman to file a suit against former officer Richard Valerga, claiming he pulled her over for no apparent reason and touched her

inappropriately. Attorney Jim Chanin said that Valerga took advantage of Asian American women who didn't speak English well but avoided Asian American women that had jobs and spoke English. Valerga, who has already received jail time and probation, entered into a no contest plea for the most recent suit.

Montgomery County, MD – September 2008: Montgomery County police are looking for two men responsible for robbing three Asian couples after following them home in September 2008. In all three cases, the couples were about to enter their residences before being hit and attacked by a pair of young men. Montgomery County police are urging residents to heighten their awareness of their surroundings.

Revere, MA – September 2008: Two men were charged with carrying out conspiracy that interfered with the fair housing of rights of two Muslim families. The defendants were charged with repeatedly vandalizing and damaging vehicles parked in front of the home shared by both families in 2004 and 2005. If convicted, both men face a maximum sentence of one year in prison, a \$100,000 fine, one year supervised release, and an unspecified amount of restitution for the victims.

Washington, DC – October 2008: A North Carolina man pleaded guilty for federal hate crimes charges for threatening employees of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) because of their race and national origin. Christopher Szaz was sentenced to 45 days of imprisonment and one year of post-release supervision for sending threatening emails to NCLR and CAIR employees in an effort to hinder their federally-protected right to be employed without intimidation based on race or national origin. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice

Berkeley, CA – October 2008: University of California Berkeley (UCB) Campus Liaison Annie Noguchi reported a recent hate crime at UCB, where posters displayed at bus stops promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace were defaced with signs equating the Star of David with a swastika. Student organization Tikvah: Students for Israel created a coalition called "Erase the Hate Coalition at UCB" to help raise awareness about the severity of the crime and rally against further acts of hate. The Nikkei Student Union, UCB's Japanese American interest group, became part of the coalition. SOURCE: Campus Liaison Annie Noguchi

St. Paul, MN – October 2008: Two Macalester College water polo players are seeking three resolutions after Monmouth University players allegedly displayed racist and homophobic conduct during the men's water polo tournament. The Macalester players are seeking a formal apology for themselves and the school, changes in the Collegiate Water Polo Association's policies on racial slurs and harassment, and an effective resolution in the harassment case. The Monmouth players allegedly used the racial slur "chink" and slant-eye gesture against one of the players, who is Japanese American, and called the other player "gay" while warning his teammates to avoid that player. Monmouth University administration has yet to respond publicly to these allegations. SOURCE: The Mac Weekly

Roanoke Rapids, NC – November 2008: A man and his wife were asked to leave a local mission after he refused to remove his turban while trying to make a donation. A staffer asked Gary Khera to remove his turban according to the mission's building policy. When Khera declined and cited that it was part of his religious beliefs, Reverend Ron Weeks asked him and his wife to leave for being "argumentative." Khera and his wife have stopped making donations to this local mission. Reverend Weeks is considering changing the policy because of this incident. SOURCE:WRAL.com

San Francisco, CA – December 2008: The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced that it has obtained a monetary settlement of \$37,000 for a Chinese American worker who was allegedly racially harassed while working for a Texas construction company on a San Francisco Municipal Railway project. The settlement includes the monetary settlement and a requirement that the company, Cadit Company Inc., must provide managers and employees with training to avoid harassment. In 2006, Ru Jian Lin was harassed daily by the construction foreman and was fired after he launched a complaint. SOURCE: cbs5.com

Philadelphia, PA – December 2008: Five men have been arrested for committing at least 10 recent robberies targeting Asian business owners in Southwest Philadelphia and Delaware County. These men allegedly followed these business owners to their homes and robbed them, several at gunpoint. Officials suggest that business owners should vary their routine until all perpetrators have been apprehended.

Police are still investigating these men in relation to two other robberies in the area. SOURCE: Philadelphia Daily News

Houston, TX – December 2008: A Sikh family in Harris County was allegedly harassed by county deputies after their home was burglarized on the night before Thanksgiving. A thief had broken into the home through a bathroom window and stole about \$15,000 worth of items. Ramandeep Singh, who called the police, said that the first deputy to arrive at the home seemed intimidated by his turban and his sister's Kirpan, a religious ceremonial knife mandated to be worn by the Sikh faith. The deputy allegedly pointed a taser gun at Singh's sister. Other deputies arrived and allegedly began handcuffing several of the family members while using expletives. Singh was detained in the back of the sheriff's for hours. A supervisor arrived later and ordered that everyone be released. The command staff at the Harris County Sheriff's office is investigating these allegations. SOURCE: Houston Chronicle and Click2Houston.com

Bakersfield, CA – January 2009: A UPS driver wrote "terrorist" as the signed name for a delivered package on the UPS website. After receiving one of two packages, the Singh family went onto the UPS website to look for the second package. They stumbled upon the "signed by" section and saw that it was labeled "terrorist." UPS has since changed the "signed by" name on their website from "terrorist" to "Singh." A UPS spokesperson said that UPS hired seasonal employees during the holidays and is investigating this incident. SOURCE:TurnTo23.com

Tacoma, WA – February 2009: A Seattle man is charged with a hate crime for attacking and yelling racial slurs at a taxi driver of Indian heritage. Adam J. Whitney allegedly ran from the Yellow Cab he took and attacked the taxi driver when he was confronted for payment. The taxi driver took shelter in his cab and Whitney kicked the doors and threw a tile from a flower bed that broke the windshield. If convicted, he faces six to 12 months in jail. SOURCE: TheNewsTribune.com

Los Angeles, CA – February 2009: DNA of a man accused of attacking and raping seven Asian women matched DNA samples collected from two of the victims. Tyreese Reed's DNA has been matched by a Los Angeles Police Department criminalist, who testified at his trial.

Reed, dubbed by police as the "Koreatown rapist," is charged with attacking seven Asian women aged 17 to 55 between August 26, 2004 and June 15, 2005. If convicted, Reed faces a maximum of 150 years in state prison. SOURCE: GlendaleNewsPress.com

Sacramento, CA - March 2009: Federal civil rights violation charges have been brought upon a couple who has already been sentenced in late 2008 with battery charges for attacking an Indian American man at Lake Tahoe in July 2007. Georgia and Joseph Silva had hate crime charges dropped when a judge ruled that prosecutors failed to produce enough evidence to prove that the attack was racially motivated. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner, there is no double jeopardy involved because the U.S. Justice Department may successively prosecute defendants in cases where federal interest in enforcing civil rights violations were not vindicated in early state prosecution. SOURCE: The Sacramento Bee

2007 FBI Statistics on Hate Crimes

The most recent report on hate crimes released by the FBI shows that there were 7,624 hate crime incidents in 2007. The report, released at the beginning of October 2008, was based on reports received from law enforcement agencies in the United States. The report includes data submitted and categorized by city, county and state. It also includes reports submitted by colleges and universities.

Of the 7,624 hate crime incidents, 50.8 percent were racially motivated, 18.4 percent were motivated by religion and 16.6 by sexual orientation. Sixty percent of these crimes were committed against persons and the rest were property crimes. The most frequent type of crime committed against a person was intimidation, followed by simple assault. The breakdown of racial incidents showed that 4.6 percent were anti-Asian, with anti-Black constituting the largest percentage at 69.3. Crimes motivated by religion showed that 68.4 percent were anti-Jewish and 9.0 percent were anti-Islamic.

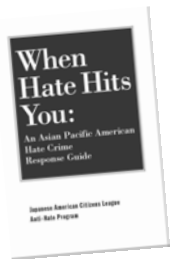
Even though the reporting by schools and colleges does not appear to be comprehensive, nevertheless, an alarming 54.4 percent of the incidents that took place at schools and colleges were motivated by race bias and nearly 20 percent were motivated by religious bias.

JACL Anti-Hate Material Available to Chapters

Words Can Kill the Spirit—a brochure to combat the use of racial slurs directed against Asian American. This brochure is intended to inform the public that the use of slurs and other forms of defamation must not be tolerated.



Anti-Asian Sentiment on Campus—a brochure that highlights the increase in anti-Asian sentiment on our college and university campuses. The brochure provides examples of actual incidents and steps to take if similar incidents occur.



When Hate Hits You—a comprehensive handbook that provides a historical look at anti-Asian sentiment in our country, along with recent examples of anti-Asian violence and a section on how you and your community can respond to hate incidents.

These materials can be ordered free of charge to JACL chapters. Contact the nearest JACL office and please give at least two weeks notice. *

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