

Asian students accuse paper of racism, demand apology

by Kerri Harrop

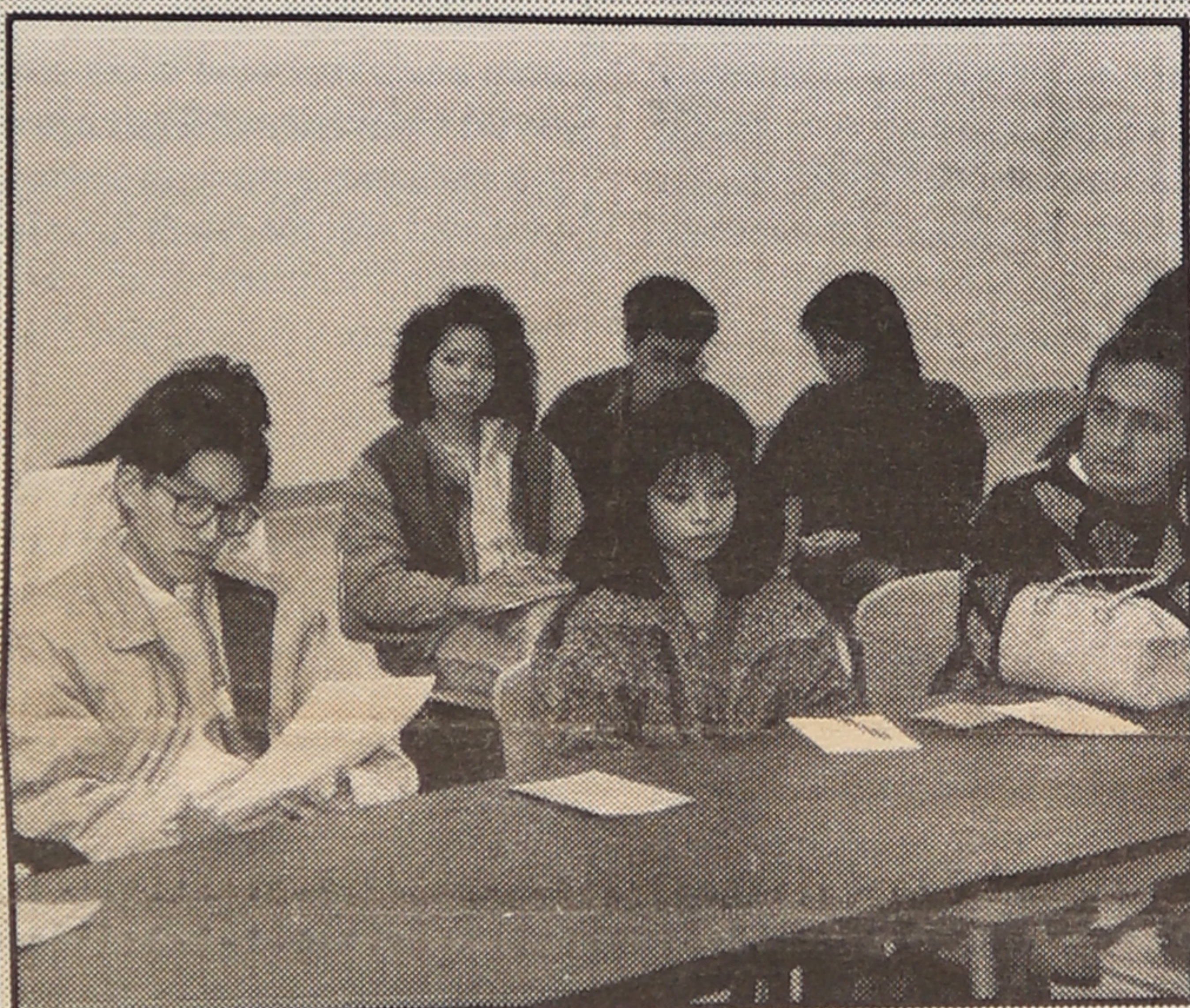
The Asian Pacific/Islander Student Union held a general meeting Wednesday, November 29 to discuss the "increasing number of discriminatory acts" against Asians at Central.

The group is targeting their information campaign on two specific incidents that occurred within the week of November 16. A cartoon entitled *Red Ruffensor*, appearing in the *City Collegian*, featured a character named Ding Dong and was viewed as a demeaning depiction of Asians. In a separate incident, a piece of graffiti, reading "Speak English Or Die, Squinty Eye," was scrawled on a wall at the north end of campus a day later.

According to Todd Hiraiwa, APSU President, the two issues fall under charges of racism although they are unrelated. "It's really unfortunate that these issues coincided," he said. "It comes across that the *City Collegian* is endorsing or giving permission for such inflammatory actions," Hiraiwa stated.

Members of the APSU met with *Collegian* adviser Mike

Petition presented



Approximately 35 students and faculty members were in attendance for the presentation of a petition suggesting a printed apology and multicultural training for the *City Collegian*. Additionally, a long range goal of increased multicultural awareness within the curriculum and faculty at Central was proposed.

Doane, Editor in Chief John Lewis, Dean of Students Mildred Ollee, and faculty member Sandra Schroeder to discuss the cartoon and request a formal apology and retraction from the newspaper. Both Tracy Lai, adviser for the APSU, and Justin Freet, *Collegian* cartoonist, were absent from the meeting. An apology was verbally given by Doane and Lewis on behalf of the *City Collegian*.

The apology was "clearly expressed," said Dean Ollee. "I did feel that John (Lewis) was sorry of the impact and that no harm was intended... although I do think it was shortsighted (to print the cartoon) in this multicultural environment," she stated.

Hiraiwa was quoted in the *Seattle Times* as saying "they

weren't sorry at all." He later added, "The attitude of the *Colle-*

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Transients in garage

by Emily Dyer

As the season changes and winter sets in, day and night become colder and colder. Seattle's population of transients seek shelter from the rain. Central's Harvard Parking Garage is one shelter. Various doorways around the building's perimeter are also frequented by homeless people.

Students and faculty who leave the building at night are at particular risk. Women, particularly those who walk alone to their cars at night, appear to be the favorite panhandling targets. After asking for money, depending on the reaction they receive and their state of intoxication, a transient may verbally assault a woman, usually with sexual overtones.

Jeff Watts, Director of Campus Security, sees this issue as more than just merely moving transients and making them someone else's problem. "It's a problem, but not a new problem," said Watts. "We keep moving them along, but they come back sooner or later. Even-

tually they will tire of Security hassling them," said Watts, "and they'll appear less often. Everyday we clean up human waste (around the building's perimeter)." Watts sees the vandalism, in the form of defecating, as a result of the officers' running them off. "(It's) their way of trying to pay (us) back."

Watts called it a checkerboard pattern. Security removes the transients from the garage and they head back down Broadway to sit in front of the post office or other businesses. They're eventually moved on again either by some internal or external force. Then they're back at the garage or in the park next to it. "It's a vicious circle," said Watts.

Crime on college campuses has been increasing. Because the Central is a public institution, anyone can walk through its doors, and anyone can walk through its parking garage. "It's 9 a.m., the parking lot is being filled and the attendant is busy," explained Watts. "They're (transients)

Continued on page 3

Graffiti left on wall for two days

by Phil Hadler

The slogan, "Speak English or die, squinty eye," was spray-painted on the north end of the main campus building recently, causing an uproar among students who feel that there is an increase in racism at Central.

It's isn't known whether or not the graffiti was spray-painted by a Central student.

A student, who wished to

remain anonymous, said, "In an urban school that stresses multicultural awareness and exploration, this sort of thing is a disgrace. It's like taking a giant step backward."

Another student, who also requested anonymity, questioned "the lack of concern on the part of the school" in letting the slogan remain on the wall for more than two days.

Jeff Watts, Director of Campus Services, explained that his staff acted on the incident as soon as

they were notified.

"We don't have full-time painter or anything like that," he said. "Other factors that could cause a delay would be weather conditions and the availability of proper cleaning solutions in addition to the texture of the surface to be cleaned. Fortunately, it was on brick and not a painted surface which would involve priming as well as repainting. It was ultimately removed within four hours from the time we were notified."

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER											
26	27	28	29	30							
DECEMBER											
						1	2				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16					

11/30: AIDS Memorial Scrapbook will be exhibited in room 1142B. Donations will be accepted, and all the money will go to IN TOUCH: A Community Service Program for people with AIDS. The exhibit is sponsored by the Student Affairs Department. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event is in recognition of World AIDS Day.

12/4-12/5: Holiday Cele-

brations will take place Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the main building. Arts, crafts, and international cuisines will be featured. Applications and general information sheets are available. This event is co-sponsored by Student Programs and Multicultural Programs. Please write SCCC, Student Programs 2BE1143; Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122 or call 587-6924 for

more information.

12/6: An orientation session to learn about teaching strategies from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. in room 4158. All full and part-time faculty are encouraged to attend these sessions which will give an overview of the content and process for the Alternative Pedagogies Workshops that will occur during winter quarter of 1990. Salary credits can be

obtained (if prior approvals are completed).

Coming Events is a free listing of events taking place on campus. Events will be posted on a space available basis. Copy should be as brief as possible, typed, and received two weeks in advance of the publication date. We reserve the right to edit all material for space and readability, and the right to refuse publication for any reason. Send to the *City Collegian*, care of the Calendar editor.

Racism...

from page 1

gian sends a message of ambivalence... to the extent of facetiousness which threatens to polarize our campus."

The *City Collegian*, however, disagrees. "We apologized to the APSU," Lewis said. "We're truly sorry we offended certain Asian students by this. There was no malicious intent on the part of the *Collegian* editorial staff or the *Red Ruffensor* cartoonist," he added.

A formal apology will not be printed nor will the *Collegian* issue a retraction. "It's not our policy to issue a retraction unless it's a factual error," Lewis said. "We've already apologized and we feel the issue was resolved amicably," he continued.

The APSU believes a retraction should be printed, regardless of journalistic policies followed by the newspaper. "It would be a good gesture and would demonstrate that they realize the gravity of their mistake," Hiraiwa said.

Hiraiwa sent copies of a letter to the editor, along with a flyer promoting the meeting, and a cover letter to various members of the faculty and administration. "I want people to know what happened," he said. "This is a state-funded school and publication of such negative racial stereotypes is tantamount to government-endorsed racial harassment."

Some students were not aware of the racist implications that the APSU is inferring. "I didn't realize at first that the character was Asian," said Peter Tjahjadi, Associated Student Council Vice President and APSU member. "The only thing I really resent is the name Ding Dong," he added. "It would be nice to have a (printed) apology, but it's not a must."

Future action by the APSU will depend largely on ideas generated at yesterday's meeting. Hiraiwa was unwilling to comment on what this action may include. The *Collegian*, however, has decided to stand firm to its decision. "No amount of pressure will change our stand. Certainly the stu-

dents of this college can expect The *Collegian* to refer to this issue of racism," Lewis stated. "If we retract this will we then have to retract any stand we take, just because someone disagrees? You cannot take back artistic ideas. By doing that we open ourselves up to censorship," Lewis commented.

"This has been a difficult and bitter lesson," Ollee said. She does feel the issue can and will be solved between the APSU and the *City Collegian*. "I think every problem has a solution if the people involved want to see that issue solved," Ollee offered.

Leslie Cossitt, Director of Student Affairs, said at the meeting, "I feel the cartoon was damaging and inappropriate, but I want to clarify the issue of the *Collegian's* right to publish and freedom of the press."

Cossitt also said that there are rules within Washington's community colleges that are designed to protect the rights of journalism students. "We need to educate students on multi-cultural awareness. We cannot take away that right to publish."

ASC election results

Associated Student Council election voters passed an amendment that requires the election procedure to be repeated this spring, meaning that the newly elected representatives will hold office one quarter this year rather than three.

The constitutional amendment changes the election period from fall to spring beginning in 1990.

Voters also agreed to eliminate Styrofoam on campus. This measure was put into effect by the Atrium before election results were tallied.

"There were no big surprises," said ASC Vice President Peter Tjahjadi. "It was a good election, with voter turnout up three percent from last year," he added. Approximately 11 percent of Central's students cast ballots in the November 21 and 22 election.

The seven positions were filled by three women and four men. Two of these representatives are black, four are white, and one is an American Indian.

Plans for the appointed council include an orientation "in the near future" and a retreat over winter break. "The retreat enables us to get to know each other so we're able to work together better," Tjahjadi said.

The representatives, in order of most votes received, are: Caroline Scott, Aliah Perkins, Derek Walker, David Longknife, Jeff Hagen, and Erin Kennedy. Susan Moeller, elected Wood Construction Representative, ran unopposed.

Red Ruffensor

by Justin Freet



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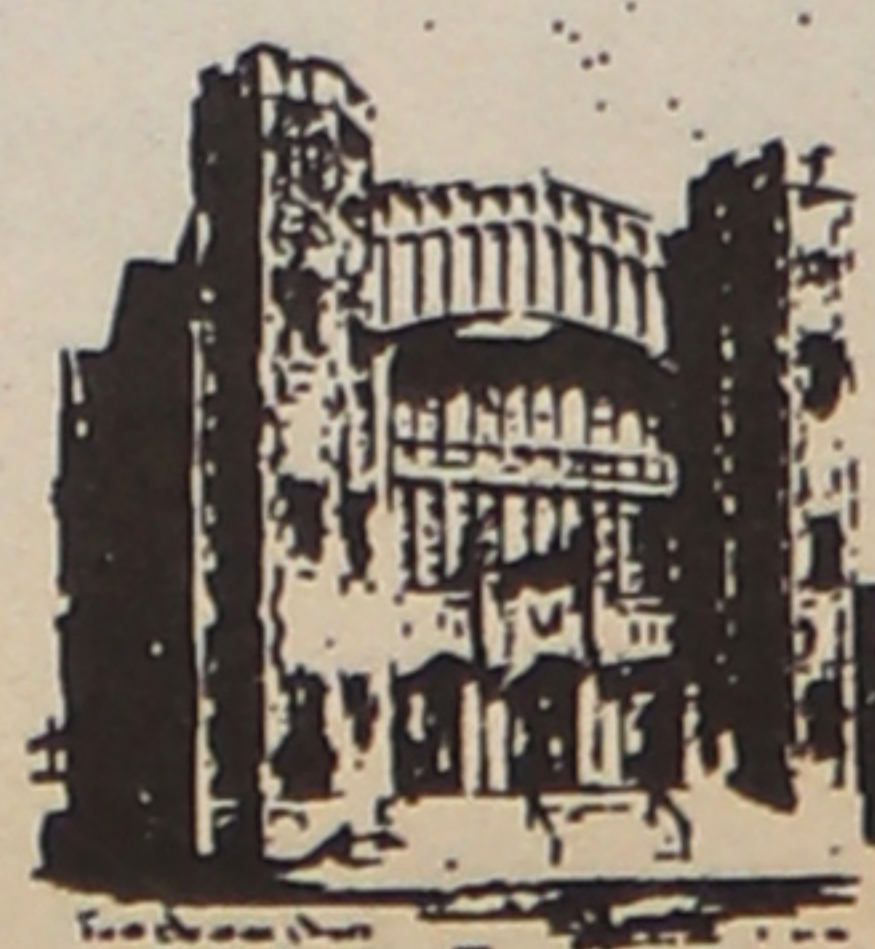
associated student council



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Worship Service 10:55 a.m.



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