

Prejudice and injustice present on campus

by Jennifer Mulcaster

It takes a subtle form—grimaces as they wait in line for financial aid checks, racist graffiti on bathroom walls and snickers when they speak their own language.

Prejudice of the Asian population on campus rarely manifests into violence. Instead, it has taken a more subtle role.

"MOST INCIDENTS involve mild to gross degrees of insensitivity, not so much blatant acts," said Eric Terrell, head of the Multi Cultural Department.

Feb. 8, however, was an exception. What started out as name-calling developed into a fight between three white male students and an Asian waiting for his sister in parking lot B.

According to a letter-to-the-editor written by De Anza instructor Warren Mack, who witnessed part of the scene, racial slurs were exchanged before the side of the Asian's car was kicked in and he was beaten before an assembling crowd. The three white students didn't wait for Security to arrive.

Although Security Chief Joe Kimble said he sees a growing evidence of anti-Asian feelings surfacing on campus, Feb. 8's incident was the first overt action to his knowledge.

"WE'VE BEEN LUCKY so far," he said.

Dean of Students Don Perata said an investigation into the episode has gone as far as it can go. No one has identified the three

white students and the Asian student did not give his name. Perata also said he has never heard of a similar act at this campus since he has been the dean.

Joseph Coung Ngo, president of the Vietnamese Club, said he feels the incident should not go unnoticed.

He and a few other Asian students gathered to write a letter to the editor denouncing the three white students' action.

"THE INCIDENT doesn't change our thinking, but every time we see something like this we must counteract it to stop the spread. If stopping it (racial violence) doesn't happen here—on a college campus—it's not going to happen anywhere else."

He agrees that there is some resentment and bigotry from white students toward Asians in on-campus jobs and "hording" financial aid dollars.

Asian students, new to the country, will settle for low pay and they get the jobs primarily because whites don't apply explained Ngo.

NGO DEFENDED THE influx of Asian students in computer classes as a result of an increase in computer majors.

"Most people realize the prospective job opportunities; Asian students realize that, too."

Increasing competition within the job market is traditionally coupled with a strong conservative backlash at whoever enters the country last, explained Terrell.

"In this case it's the Indo-



Chinese, particularly the Vietnamese," he said.

Terrell spoke at a recent Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission hearing which investigated increasing bigotry against Asians in the San Jose area.

Representing De Anza, Terrell

said he didn't have any major complaints involving violence at the College.

IN THE PAST year he has intervened in about 10 incidents involving cultural insensitivity. Some were episodes between a student and an instructor. One

involved a student employee who quit after being threatened he would lose his job if he persisted speaking Vietnamese to his co-workers.

According to James McEntee, executive director of the Human Relations Commission, a report on the hearing's findings will be given in about two months.

The commission listened to testimony on outbreaks of physical violence to mock bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with water balloons during a spirit week at Homestead High School.

As to the first reported violent act against Asians at De Anza, Ngo said he realizes it was an isolated incident.

"I don't carry any hate for those people. An average person with average intelligence would realize such conduct is not acceptable at any time. Through Intercultural Studies and history courses one can see reason enough that prejudice doesn't work. College is where change should take place."

Students have path to justice

by Carl Scarbrough

De Anza students who feel they have been treated unfairly by the College or by the faculty do have a means of receiving justice.

According to Don Perata, dean of student services, there are two procedures a student can use. Each covers a different type of situation.

The Student Grievance Procedure is for use by a student who feels he or she has been wronged by an act of the College.

The Student Grievance Procedures, passed by the Board of Trustees on June 2, 1980, have been used only once and "they might have just tossed it out," said Perata.

A student who wants to file a grievance must first try to resolve the problem on an informal basis. If it cannot be resolved informally, the student may obtain the Standard Grievance Form from the Activities Office or from the dean of student services.

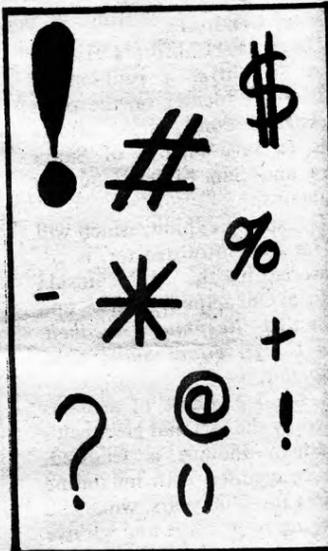
The form must be filled out and returned to the dean of student services within 20 days after the student learns of the event on which the grievance is based. In no case shall the grievance be timely if it is filed more than one year after the occurrence of the event on which the grievance is based.

The dean of student services and the student body president shall agree upon an impartial employee of the college to act as grievance officer as well as two members of the Academic Council, one of whom shall be a student.

The Grievance Review Board will make their recommendation to the college president who may accept or reject, in whole or in part, the recommendations made. If the college president determines the grievance is a result of a rule or regulation, he shall make a recommendation to the district chancellor and the trustees.

The other form of grievance involves the Academic Council.

If a student has an academic problem he may go to the Academic Council. This procedure is



for contesting a grade received from an instructor or for petitioning the council to take additional units. Contesting a grade is not a common occurrence.

"We feel that our instructors are responsible when they assign a grade to a student," said Perata.

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