What to do...

Steps to take if you are the victim of a hate crime, or if you witness a hate crime:

■ Call the campus police or the local police immediately and be sure a report is taken.
■ If there are injuries, call the paramedics immediately.
■ Leave all evidence in place. Do not touch or remove anything.
■ Inform the police that you were a victim of a “hate crime.”
■ If the police hesitate to report a hate crime, insist on it.
■ Inform school administrators about the hate crime.
■ Utilize the victim’s support resources offered by the college or university.
■ Inform organizations such as the JACL about the incident.

Japanese American Citizens League

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Anti-Asian Sentiment
on Campus

Japanese American Citizens League
Anti-Hate Program
www.jacl.org
Hate crimes are an unfortunate reality of campus life. Every year, thousands of students are victimized by hate-motivated slurs, threats and assaults. In 1998, to increase awareness of hate violence on college campuses, Congress enacted an amendment to the Higher Education Act requiring all colleges and universities to collect and report hate crime statistics to the Department of Education.

The college experience brings young adults together from widely diverse backgrounds of race, religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation. College life offers young adults new freedoms with relatively few restrictions on their behavior. But the freedoms that accompany this new independence also make colleges a high-risk environment for behavior where attitudes reflecting bigotry may be expressed more openly.

What is a hate incident or a hate crime?

A hate incident involves name-calling or using racial slurs, hate speech, the distribution of racist leaflets or other disrespectful non-threatening behavior that is not illegal.

A hate crime, which is defined by federal or state statutes, is an act such as assault, battery, criminal damage to property, or mob action occurring against a victim because of his or her race, religion, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Hate crime laws vary from state to state.

2000 – SUNY Binghamton: Four Asian American students were viciously assaulted by three white members of the university wrestling team. During the attack, the assailants used racial slurs, calling their victims “chinks.” One of the students was severely injured sustaining a fractured skull.

1998 – University of California, Irvine: A former student sent e-mail death threats to sixty Asian American students, signing his name “Asian hater.” He also threatened that he would “make it my life career to find and kill every one of you personally.” He was sentenced to one year in prison.

1998 – Boston College: An e-mail was sent to minority student leaders that read “Hey monkeys and apes, you all need to go back to where you came from because BC (Boston College) is for the white man, no spics, niggers, chinks or faggots.”

1997 – Syracuse University: Six Asian American students and a white companion were repeatedly passed over for seating in a Denny’s Restaurant. After complaining to the restaurant manager, the students were escorted out of the restaurant where they were accosted by a group of whites who called them “chinks” as security guards and sheriff’s deputies stood by without acting. Two of the students were severely beaten.

College and university procedures on hate crimes and hate incidents

- College or university administrators should have a clear policy of immediately condemning hate crimes and expressions of bigotry on campus.
- A college or university should have a procedure for reporting hate-related incidents.
- A college or university should be made aware that anti-Asian sentiment is serious and that it must be dealt with in the same manner as are acts of bigotry directed at other minority groups.

Hate speech

Academic institutions are committed to encouraging free speech to stimulate intellectual curiosity. Even though racists have a legal right to speak on campus, the college or university does not have an obligation to provide them with a platform. College and university administrations have a responsibility to condemn hate speech and expressions of bigotry on campus.

From 1997 to 2001, campus hate crimes increased by 58%.