

PAUL ANDRE MICHELS

DELAINA ASHLEY YUAN

XIAOJIE TAN

DAOYOU FENG

JULIE PARK

HYEON JEONG PARK

Eight people were killed at three spas in the Atlanta area by white gunman Robert Aaron Long on Tuesday night, six of whom were of Asian descent and seven of whom were women. Long was charged on Wednesday with four counts of murder and one count of aggravated assault. The shooting and police response have prompted outrage and fear within the Asian American community.

According to *The New York Times*, Acting Chief of the Atlanta Police Department Rodney Bryant said that it was not yet clear whether the shooting spree would be classified as a hate crime. “We are still early in this

investigation, so we cannot make that determination at this moment,” Bryant said. “We are just not there as of yet.”

Principal William Rawson emailed the student body at 11:25 a.m. on Wednesday to address the tragedy. “I ask everyone to stand with and support our Asian community members in the wake of the sickening and devastating news of the violence and killings in Georgia yesterday, including six Asian women,” Rawson said.

According to *The New York Times*, Long told the police that he had a “sexual addiction” and had carried out the shootings at the massage parlors to eliminate his

“temptation.” He also said that he had frequented massage parlors in the past and launched the attacks as a form of vengeance.

In his email to students, Rawson also wrote that “Dean Hernandez and the OMA [Office of Multicultural Affairs] team are working with other campus resources to organize support and also provide opportunities to be in the community in the days ahead.”

OMA will be offering in-person drop-in hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Asian Voices will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Elting Room on Thursday.

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PAUL ANDRE MICHELS

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Today, *The Exonian* honors the eight victims of the Tuesday night Atlanta spa shootings—Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Julie Park, Hyeon Jeong Park, _____ and _____—two victims yet to be named. Six of these victims were Asian women. We name this tragedy for what it is: a hate crime rooted in racism and misogyny.

The Chosun Ilbo, a leading South Korean daily newspaper, reported that a spa worker heard the gunman scream, “I want to kill all Asians.” And yet, major news and media outlets, government officials and America have still hesitated to name a motive.

According to Captain Jay Baker of the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office, the gunman targeted the spas for “providing an outlet for his addiction to sex.” Baker described the spas as “temptation for him that he wanted to eliminate.”

Across the arc of American history, Asian women have been marginalized, alienated and dehumanized as hypersexual. The Page Act of 1875, the first restrictive federal immigration law the United States ever passed, prohibited all Chinese women from entering the United States under the assumption that they were all prostitutes—“unsanitary and immoral, deviant.” We must place the

gunman’s categorization of Asian-owned spas and Asian women as “sexual temptations” within the context of the historic fetishization of Asian women.

Make no mistake—this is no “recent” rise in anti-Asian violence. Tuesday’s events mark another installment in the long legacy of anti-Asian racism and misogyny America inherits. In looking back at Asian American history, we chart tragedy spanning hundreds of years: exploitative migrant labor, xenophobic exclusion, denial of citizenship, brutal violence and lynching. Our blood, sweat and tears have built this country. Yet the history, trauma and conflict of Asian Americans is perennially erased—our story is never taught or learned. We remain perpetual foreigners with no accessible past to draw upon when we need to affirm our place as Americans.

At Exeter, the model minority myth prevails. White and Asian students are casually grouped together. The experiences of wealthy, East Asian immigrants and children of immigrants are inaccurately positioned as the experiences of all Asian Americans. We remind the Exeter community that Asian American is a nebulous term, as broad as the continent of Asia is wide, diverse and incongruous. Many of the

Asian Americans who attend Exeter are first or second generation—the children of documented immigrants who arrived to America with a college education, representing a more privileged, wealthy and self-selecting strata of Asian Americans. The limited filter of Asian Americans we interact with at Exeter is not representative of the breadth of our community.

Across our history, we also tell stories of resistance, coalition-building and solidarity. We hope this issue is one more installment in this history. While *The Exonian’s* funds may only be directed towards the costs of printing, we hope this disruption from our regular printing cycle, incurring the full expenses of a color issue, is a testament to the significance we believe this story has. You can find the hard work of our writers and the articles we prepared for our March 18 issue at theexonian.net.

Know their names—Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Julie Park, Hyeon Jeong Park, _____ and _____. Say them aloud. Learn our history. Tell our stories.

With hope,
Daniel Zhang
*Editor-in-Chief of the
143rd Board*