



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 15, 2021
Greenwood Village, Colorado
info@nathanyipfoundation.org

Since 2002, the Nathan Yip Foundation has contributed substantially to the delivery of educational resources in both rural Colorado and rural China. We, as its Directors, friends, and loyal supporters, are very proud of this important work and, therefore, we must condemn The Villager, its April 1, 2021 “joke” article, and its subsequent attempts to atone for its grave mistake. Ultimately, we believe The Villager must immediately retract and sincerely apologize for the cover story from its April 1, 2021 edition and acknowledge it was wrong to publish the story. While we understand The Villager believes it was a joke and a simple exercise of its Constitutional rights, the consequences of The Villager’s actions on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (“AAPI”) are extremely real and present serious danger.

Decades ago, our Founders, Linda and Jimmy Yip (named 2019 Villager Man and Woman of the Year), immigrated to Colorado, where they built a business and a community based on the universal values of decency, respect, and opportunity – values that they taught their son, Nathan, and upon which they established our Foundation in his memory.

While the Foundation has appreciated The Villager’s support of its mission, such past support does not erase The Villager’s mistakes. The Nathan Yip Foundation is no way complicit in The Villager’s actions and does not condone the use of the Foundation’s materials and its good works in The Villager’s attempt to mask its errors. While the intent may have been satirical, the actual impact of the article on AAPI people, who have historically suffered severe bigotry in our country, is incalculable harm. While this “humor” would be inappropriate and hurtful at any time, it comes after a devastating year for the AAPI community, who have been wrongly scapegoated and hatefully attacked due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As we are deeply outraged by The Villager’s intransigence, we strongly encourage the publication’s leadership to 1) please immediately retract and sincerely apologize for this hurtful article, in the express interest of our community’s safety and security, and 2) please desist from using the Yips and the Nathan Yip Foundation in its defense against the rightful criticism The Villager has faced. Once The Villager accepts responsibility for its wrongful actions, we can begin a path of mutual healing and understanding. In addition, the Foundation’s leadership is eager to meet with The Villager’s publishers to discuss effective ways to build a more respectful relationship between its publication and the AAPI community, in coordination with other community leaders.

In this troubling time, our community reflects strength only through unity, and we gain understanding only through communication. We eagerly await a response from The Villager so we can resume our important work in service of rural students in our state and abroad.

Sincerely,
The Nathan Yip Foundation Staff & Board of Directors

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