



Teaching Comprehensive History: Newspaper Resources for AAPI Research

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What is the Library of Michigan?

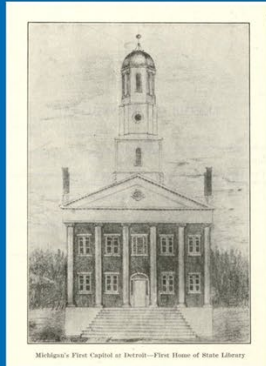
An institution created in 1828 to collect, preserve and provide access to the story of the State, and to support libraries in their role as essential community anchors.



LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN COLLECTION SIZE



1828



2022



At its creation in 1828, the Library's collection consisted of only 131 books. The Library of Michigan has expanded to several million items that preserve the story of Michigan. **#MiLibSNAP**



Newspapers as Research Sources

- Eyewitness accounts in the context of their time
- Multiple viewpoints
- Can trace the development of a subject over time
- Can be a Primary and Secondary Source

Print Newspapers

- Some old newspapers still exist, but newsprint doesn't hold up well.
- Sometimes they've been indexed, but usually not. Be prepared to read.



Vertical File or Clipping File

- Some libraries had or still have staff clip out articles from the newspaper and organize them into folders by topic.
- These can be a goldmine, if you have a topic that's covered in a clipping file.
- Articles can be the original clipping or a photocopy.



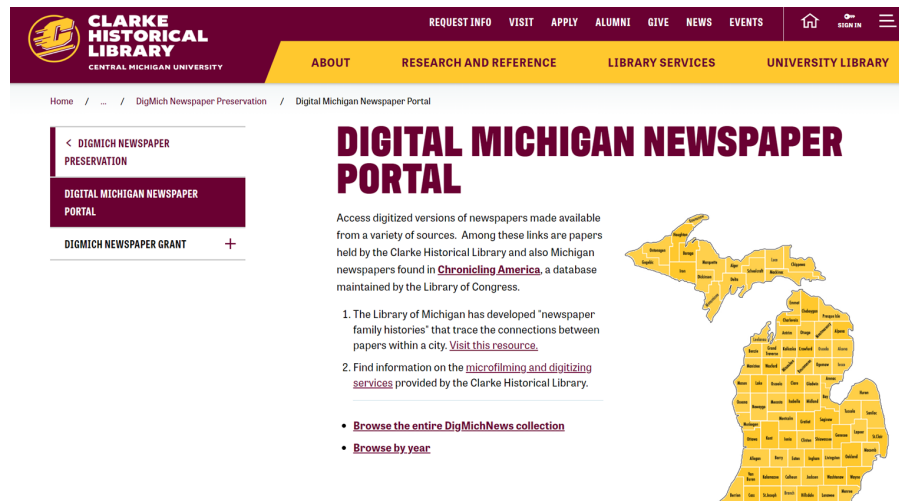
Newspapers on Microfilm

- The Library of Michigan has one of the largest collection of Michigan newspapers on film.
- Rolls of film with photographs of newspapers or other documents.
- Durable, but requires machinery and aren't keyword searchable.
- Find our newspaper title list on our website at www.Michigan.gov/LibraryNewspapers



Newspaper Websites

- Some open database and digital collections
- Central Michigan University Clarke Historical Library's Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal
- Chronicling America
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>



Newspapers in Databases

- Newspaper databases can be hard to find.
- Often only available in-house or to paying subscribers.
- Statewide access to some newspapers in MeL.org and through Library of Michigan (with an LM library card).
- Speedy, digital searching and easy ways to save the article.

MeL.Org Resources

- MeL.org (Michigan Electronic Library) is freely available to all Michigan residents, no library card required.
- Social Studies eResources include:
 - Explora for Middle Schools and High Schools
 - Newspaper Source Plus
 - Gale in Context: Opposing Viewpoints



A Brief Tour of MeL.org



Public Libraries

[AtoZdatabases](#)

[Explora for Public Libraries](#)

[NovelList Plus](#)

[See More](#)



K-12 Schools

[Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints](#)

[PebbleGo](#)

[World Book Kids](#)

[See More](#)



Browse All eResources

[Academic Search Complete](#)

[Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center](#)

[LearningExpress Library](#)

[See More](#)

Go to eResource by Letter

[All](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#) <#>

LM Newspaper Databases

- Library of Michigan Library Card gives remote access to many Michigan and national newspaper databases. To apply for card, visit www.Michigan.gov/LibraryCard
- To view full list of online resources available to card holders, visit www.Michigan.gov/LMDatabases



Michigan Notable Book 2022

Timeline Highlights

1961: Vincent is adopted by Lilly and Hing Chin

1978: Vincent meets Vikki Wong

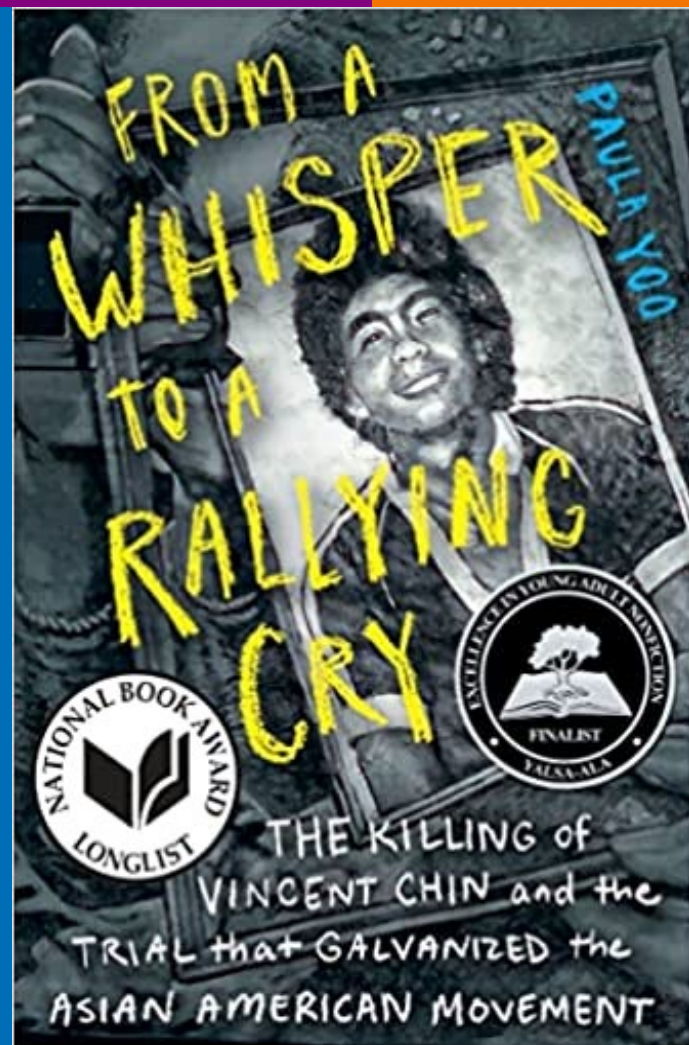
6/23/1982: Vincent dies from bludgeoning at his bachelor party

2/8/1983 - 6/3/1983: Trial and sentencing reevaluation of murderers.

7/1983 - 7/1987: Federal civil rights trials of murderers, Ebens and Nitz, appeal and retrial of Ebens.

Nitz was cleared of all charges. Ebens was fined \$1.5 million dollars, which he never paid.

3/2020: COVID-19 detected in the U.S.; Asian-Americans targeted as instrumental.



A Brief Tour of LM Patron Databases

Online Resources for Library Cardholders

WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LMDATABASES



Newspapers/Family History

[African American Biographical Database \(Chadwyck-Healy\)](#)

The largest Electronic Collection of Biographical Information on African Americans, spanning 1790-1950. Includes photographs and illustrations, and covers the famous to the everyday person. Information ranges from biographical profiles to full-text sketches.

[America's News - Historical and Current \(Newsbank\)](#)

Collection of several Michigan newspapers subscribed to by the Library of Michigan through Newsbank, including current MLive publications.

Primary Research using LM Databases



Nickie McWhirter

A lesson — and a license that kids should never get

After exchanging insults and strangers in a Highland Park Bar, Chin was pursued by the men and brutally beaten with a baseball bat. Injuries four days later, in Henry was 27 years old.

Last week his attackers, originally second-degree murder, were permitted to the reduced charge of manslaughter by Wayne County Judge Kaufman. Ronald Ebens, 43, and Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, were fined \$3,000 each and serve the

Judge Kaufman, who heard the case and admitted he had seen only one incident — which may or may not contain the pertinent information, accurately explained his lenient sentence:

"We're talking here about a man who has done a responsible job with the same 18 years and his son (Nitz) who is a part-time student. These men are not going to harm anybody else. I just did them in prison would do any good for them or for society."

Response to sentencing *Detroit Free Press* March 25, 1983



Slaying ends couple's dream

By BRIAN FLANIGAN
Free Press Staff Writer

Vincent Chin was to be married Monday. On Tuesday, he was buried instead.

On Wednesday, Chin's best friend talked about how much Chin — beaten to death a week ago with a baseball bat — looked forward to his wedding day.

"This ... it ended the dream," Danny Lew, 30, said haltingly.

The "dream," according to friends, began about three years ago when Vincent Chin, of Oak Park, met Vickie Wong, of Mt. Clemens, and fell in love. Late in 1980, Vincent was hired at Efficient Engineering Co., an Oak Park firm that provides mechanical engineering work for automotive and aircraft companies.

Reporting on Vincent Chin's death *Detroit Free Press* July 1, 1982

Federal grand jury convicts Vincent Chin's killer

Chew, Ron. *International Examiner* (1976-1987) ; Seattle, Wash. [Seattle, Wash]. 04 July 1984: 1.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

Defense attorneys argued that Chin himself started the fight. "Something snapped inside" [Ronald Ebens], a defense attorney argued, and he "cannot recall large portions of the evening's events." In opening remarks, defense attorney Frank Eaman said of Ebens, "He did something that cannot be justified. But what he did wasn't racially motivated."

On June 19, 1982, Chin had gone to a topless bar with three friends to celebrate his upcoming wedding. Mrs. [Lily Chin] testified that when she asked [Vincent Chin] not to go to the bar, he responded, "Ma, just one last time." At the bar, Chin got into an altercation with Ebens and [Michael Nitz]. A dancer at the bar, who testified as a prosecution witness, said the altercation began when Ebens, an auto plant foreman, told Chin: "It's because of you m-----s that we're out of work."

FULL TEXT

A 14-member federal grand jury in Detroit last Thursday convicted one man and acquitted another for their role in the June, 1982 beating death of 27-year-old Vincent Chin.

Chin, a draftsman, was charged with prosecutors a

The jury — composed of Ebens, 44, and Nitz, 23, August, now

The jury, however, was 25-year-old

Helen Zia, in testimony, had lobbied for involving an auto plant foreman, told Chin: "It's because of you m-----s that we're out of work."

But at a press conference, saying that it

On June 19, 1982, Chin had gone to a topless bar with three friends to celebrate his upcoming wedding. Mrs. [Lily Chin] testified that when she asked [Vincent Chin] not to go to the bar, he responded, "Ma, just one last time." At the bar, Chin got into an altercation with Ebens and Nitz. A dancer at the bar, who testified as a prosecution witness, said the altercation began when Ebens, an auto plant foreman, told Chin: "It's because of you m-----s that we're out of work."

Later that same night, Ebens and Nitz, who went looking for Chin, found him and cornered him several blocks from the bar. According to prosecution witnesses, Ebens, armed with a baseball bat, bludgeoned Chin repeatedly in the head.

27 September 2022

Page 1 of 13

ProQuest

Reporting on federal trial by Seattle Asian Pacific American newspaper ProQuest Ethnic NewsWatch, *International Examiner* July 4, 1984

Articles from Multiple Perspectives

Chin Murder Verdict-Chilling!

Sheffield, Horace L.
Michigan Chronicle (1939-2010); Apr 30, 1983; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Michigan Chronicle
pg. A7

AS I SEE IT

Chin Murder Verdict-Chilling!

By HORACE L. SHEFFIELD

WHAT DID YOU see the man with the baseball bat do?" This question was asked Highland Park Police Officer Michael Gardenshire II during the Oct. 5, 1982 preliminary examinations of defendants Ronald Ebens and Michael J. Nitz, who were charged with second degree murder in the death of Vincent Chin on June 19, 1982, following an altercation between the deceased and the defendants over slurs the defendants are alleged to have made to the deceased.

The Vincent Chin case — now more commonly referred to as "the case in which a Chinese-American was beaten to death with a baseball bat" — has sparked a storm of outrage throughout the total community, following Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman's plea-bargaining agreement that enabled the defendants to escape prison completely with three years probation and minor court costs.

The preliminary examination was presided over by 30th District Court Judge Thomas Bayles. The "man with the baseball bat," and the object of the question was Ronald Ebens, stepfather of the other defendant, Michael Nitz, who allegedly made the slurring remarks to the deceased that precipitated the altercation. "He was striking the subject (Vincent Chin),



HORACE L. SHEFFIELD

when he spoke to the monthly membership meeting of the Detroit NAACP in the Downtown YWCA the next afternoon.

I participated in quite a sizeable rally of Chinese-American and other Oriental American citizens held Sunday, April 17, in the cafeteria of the Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn. There is no question but that the Chin case has brought the Oriental community together.

The Chinese Welfare formally requesting the defendants. The factual errors and mis the sentencing." Judge

Atty. Chan gave a statement of 30th Dis preliminary examination after almost two and a

"Gentlemen, after and all the testimony of the defendants, in this murder is here. First

"Mr. Saperstein (of ficient time for the bl more than enough time this two days. He did a Park and he found out

"I say to you ge killing of a human bea cease or justification. There was first degree murder.

Reaction to sentencing from African American Detroit newspaper Michigan Chronicle April 30, 1983

D4 | TUESDAY TV

'P.O.V.' series begins season on controversial racial issue

By MIKE HUGHES
Gannett News Service

For Christine Choy, this remains a vivid memory.

She was in a Cincinnati courtroom, watching the final moments of a case that had begun with a Detroit killing, five years earlier. "It was a very intense day," she recalls. "Everyone was nervous."

At the front of the courtroom was Ron Ebens, who admits killing Vincent Chin with a baseball bat. In the back was Chin's mother, Lily.

"Lily was there with cotton in her ears," Choy says. "She



Vincent Chin
Clubbed to death with baseball bat

his arms, Ebens smashed him to death with a baseball bat.

The plea bargained sentence

Article advertising documentary about Vincent Chin's murder and the subsequent trial The San Bernardino County Sun July 18, 1989

\$175,000. She finished one version in 1985, but pronounces it "horrible." She scrambled for extra money to stick with it through

Judge agrees to re-examine his sentence Probation in killing had drawn protest

By JOHN CASTINE
Free Press Staff Writer

Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman decided Friday to further study arguments on whether to change the probation sentences he gave the convicted killers of Vincent Chin.

Nearly 100 protesters at an emotional hearing applauded when attorneys asked the judge to put the defendants in prison.

"This is a very emotional and volatile issue," Kaufman said at the end of arguments on motions brought by the American Citizens for Justice, a group with nationwide support in its protest of Kaufman's decision to sentence Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz to probation and a fine of \$3,780 each.

MEANWHILE, the U.S. Justice Department said Friday it has asked the FBI to investigate whether Chin's civil rights may have been violated.

Justice Department spokesman John V. the national office of the Organization of Americans in Washington, D.C., asked for investigation. It may take up to six weeks to do the Justice Department has jurisdiction, Wayne


Ebens, 43, and his stepson Nitz, 22, Detroit, were sentenced March 17. Ebens' guilt and Nitz no contest to a reduced sentence in the death of Chin.



Photo of Chin's mother and article of judge re-examining probation sentence for Chin's murderers Detroit Free Press April 30, 1983

by DAVID C. TURNLEY
...ly fainted after a
... emotions caught
...st."

Secondary Research using LM Databases



 **manslaughter** / the price of life

It's one crime, many punishments

First in a six-part series
By DAVID ASHENFELTER
and JOHN CASTINE
Free Press Staff Writers

Shortly before noon on Jan. 28, 1982, him repeatedly. She reloaded and fired again, wounding him nine times in the head, chest and limbs.

The men died. Their wives went through the criminal justice system and were convicted of manslaughter. The cases were remarkably similar — until the women were the killers have comparable backgrounds. It also shows that manslaughter — called “the undefined garbage bin of homicide” by one outstate prosecutor — has become a convenient and frequent dumping ground for first- and second-degree murder cases that overworked prosecutors see too busy to



Free Press/IRA ROSENBERG

Investigative reporting series on sentencing practices, inspired by the trial verdict for Chin's murderers
Detroit Free Press
October 9, 1983

Decades After Infamous Beating Death, Recent Attacks Haunt Asian Americans

Smith, Mitch. New York Times (Online), New York: New York Times Company. Jun 16, 2022.

[ProQuest document link](#)

FULL TEXT

Vincent Chin, a Chinese immigrant, was beaten to death after being pursued by two white Detroit autoworkers in 1982. On the 40th anniversary of his death, many hear frightening echoes.

Vincent Chin's death continues to symbolize anti-Asian sentiments in the U.S.
New York Times (Online)
June 16, 2022

Daily Gazette, The (Schenectady, NY) - August 27, 2022 - page 27
August 27, 2022 | Daily Gazette, The (Schenectady, NY) | Schenectady, New York | Page 27

THE DAILY GAZETTE ♦ WWW.DAILYGAZETTE.COM

OPINION

♦ SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022 ♦ C7

Asian American history must be taught in schools

BY KIMI WAITE

Between March 2020 and March 2022, there were 11,400 self-reported hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the country.

Almost half of Asian Americans who reported hate incidents also reported depression and anxiety.

A national survey of American adults of all racial and ethnic backgrounds found that 42% couldn't name a historical event involving Asian Americans, and 58% couldn't name a single prominent Asian American person.

Vincent Chin's death reminds Americans of the need for teaching AAPI History
The Daily Gazette (Schenectady, NY) August 27, 2022

As preparations for the school... Stories from Asian American his...

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M-F 10-5 PM & Saturday 10-4 PM

