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Tempuras Were Flaring

Written by Editrix
THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2009

editrix: there is an account below from alleged victim of racist incident.

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Protest at Matsumoto 6.24

Dear Editrix:

There was a group of people protesting in front of Matsumoto Restaurant on Larchmont Avenue Wednesday night.

What was it all about?
---curious

Dear Curious:

People who were in the restaurant at the time tell theLoop there were about 20 people, clearly all High School students. The signs they were carrying indicated they were upset because the owner had failed to hire an African American MHS Senior because of her race. One sign reportedly read, "We can have a black President, why not a black Hostess?"

The owner of the restaurant, who is quite upset by all this, says this is absolutely untrue and race had nothing to do with the fact that she did not get a job there.

[pix of protest](#)

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BANGA SAID:

...
Hi, I thought there was a law against discrimination based on race & gender, maybe the person involved should complain to the State

6/30/2009

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or Federal agency that handles these cases.

There are very few people of colour working in retail or restaurants in Larchmont other than the banks, and I know that there are other employers lurking in town w/ the same attitude as the owner of the restaurant, they just haven't been called out on it.

The people of Larchmont are open and accepting of all races and I really don't think they care what the skin colour is of the person who attends them as long as its service w/ a smile! So you lurkers get over it. A beg thank you to the young people who took a stand , you've maintained my faith in the humanity!

June 29, 2009

[IAY](#) SAID:

...

What a disgrace! Based on the actions these young folks have taken, I suspect that the owner is a big time bigot and this establishment should be shut down! Too bad I wasn't a fan of the food to begin with, but I will use their menus to pick up my dog's poop.

I loved the sign "we can have a black president, but not a black hostess." The owner should just pack up and leave--NOW!

June 27, 2009

[K](#) SAID:

...

I am very proud of the high school students who chose to stand up for what is right. The students' protest shows real maturity. It is unfortunate that in this day and age discrimination still exists. Protests like these will let people know that it is not ok to discriminate against anyone regardless of their race, ethnicity or gender and people will not patronize establishments that do. I am a person of color living in Larchmont and am proud of the actions that these students took. I go out of my way to support and shop at the stores in town but I will not dine at Matsumoto, especially when there are so many other restaurants where I can spend my hard earned money.

June 27, 2009

[OLDER](#) SAID:

...

How sad- just when we get a decent Japanese restaurant! Boycotting Matsumoto might send a message to the owner, but will hurt the others who work there who do not share the owner's prejudice.

This should be a stern warning to the owner (and to others lurking in the shadows) that the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community does not look kindly on discrimination, especially when OUR children are involved.

June 26, 2009

[YOUNGLADYINVOLVED](#) SAID:

...

also - here is a link showing the pictures of the protest taken by an attendee -<http://matsumoto.giguhbite.com/main.php>

June 26, 2009

[YOUNGLADYINVOLVED](#) SAID:

...

I am the young lady involved and what happened to me is this: I was brought in by my friend to take her spot as a hostess because she was quitting. Earlier that day, she had called the

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Flyerboard



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owner and asked him if it was possible if I could take the job. He agreed stating that he was very happy to have me on the team and could not wait to meet me. I was to begin that night and begin training as well as getting paid. I arrived at the restaurant and began training with my friend behind the counter. About a half hour later, the owner came in and was very hesitant about shaking my hand or even saying hello. Ten minutes later he pulled my friend aside and she came back to me sobbing to the point that she could not speak. I took her outside to calm her down and that is where she proceeded to tell me that the owner refused to hire me because I was black and that I would drive business away from the restaurant. We then re-entered the store, grabbed our belongings and left.

I was taking the job because I desperately needed, and still need, money in order to attend college this fall and Matsumoto was the first place to offer me a chance to obtain a job.

But we used the protest in order to show the Larchmont community what was happening and that we, as a community, should not let this happen. As my friend said, when she was confronted by the owner, "This isn't like 1940's Birmingham, Alabama - this is a liberal town in the Northeast in 2009"

June 26, 2009

[LARCHMONTLIFER](#) SAID:

...

Dear Editrix,

Would love if you would please do a follow up article. There's more there than meets the eye. Of course the owner would say it's not true. My son was there protesting, along with more like 30+ of his co MHS grads, in support of their friend.

editrix:

Lifer, there is always more than meets the eye. theLoop's issue is that we were not there and do not want to exaggerate the situation. The only eyewitness we have found thus far counted 20 people. If your son can write in, or if the young lady involved would like to voice her experience, that would be helpful.

June 26, 2009

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