

Asians endure bias, audience at UT is told

But speaker says hope, chance for accomplishments still exist

By **CARL RYAN**
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The situation is pretty grim if you're an Asian-American.

That, at least, seemed to be the opinion of a local lawyer who participated yesterday in a panel discussion at the University of Toledo.

Fan Zhang of Wagoner and Steinberg Ltd. said he sees injustices and violations of civil rights "in every sector" of society.

He recounted a civil rights lawsuit he brought against Butler County, Ohio, near Cincinnati, after an immigrant client of his who had overstayed his visa was arrested by sheriff's deputies and ordered deported. Mr. Zhang said the deputies stopped his client only because he was Chinese.

He won the lawsuit. A federal judge found that the client had been arrested without probable cause and dismissed the deportation order.

"There is injustice, but there is hope. If you want to fight, you have a chance to accomplish something," he told an audience of 30 in the Student Union.

Mr. Zhang mentioned that he had never appeared before a judge who showed any prejudice toward Asian-Americans, and that his first job after graduating from law school was as a staff attorney for Ottawa County, where the population is 98 percent white, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The panel discussion was or-

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Haoxiong Li, a University of Toledo student, listens during the panel discussion sponsored by the 80-20 Initiative, a political action committee that aims to increase Asian-Americans' political clout by marshaling their votes and donations to candidates.

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ganized by the 80-20 Initiative, a political action committee that aims to increase Asian-Americans' political clout by marshaling their votes and donations to candidates.

The Toledo area has about 10,000 residents of Asian origin or descent, according to the group's handout.

The panel's other members were Larry Y. Chan, associate general counsel at Bowling Green State University, and Morris Jenkins, a professor of criminal justice at UT.

The moderator was Yue-



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Lawyer Fan Zhang addresses the audience of about 30. He told them he has observed injustices against Asian-Americans in 'every sector' of society.

Ting Lee, a professor of psychology at the university. The subjects included affirmative action and immigration law. After a discussion of af-

firmative action, Mr. Chan acknowledged to a questioner that making race a consideration in university admissions could disadvantage Asian-Americans, whose enrollment in higher education greatly exceeds their proportion of the general population.

Mr. Chan talked about the elimination of Chinese immigration from 1882 to 1943, during which time millions immigrated from Europe.

Mr. Jenkins described the U.S. government as illegal and later said it was trying to scare the citizenry after the attack on the World Trade Center.

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