

Asian Immigrants Help New York Thrive;

Apology Demanded

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Body

To the Editor:

As an elected member of the **New York** City Council, Julia Harrison should acknowledge the contributions that Asians have made to Flushing, Queens, which is now a vitally **thriving** business center. She should be trying to bring about a good working relationship among the diverse populations that live in her district. Instead, she lights a fire where none existed before and castigates and denigrates all **Asian**-Americans (front page, March 31).

You report that she alludes to Asians as "criminal smugglers," "robbers" and "paupers," and "talks about rude merchants and illegal aliens." She says that the arrival of **Asian**-American businesses was "an invasion, not an assimilation."

Asian-Americans are only 12.3 percent of the registered voters in the 20th Council District, and many more are politically apathetic. Still, the **Asian**-American community **demands** a public **apology** from Mrs. Harrison. The City Council should condemn her statements in a public session. And all **Asian**-Americans should take note and vote.

JOSEPHINE CHUNG

New York, April 3, 1996

The writer is president of the **New York** chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

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