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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Fed delivers small rate increase, says ‘some additional’ tightening possible

WASHINGTON, March 22 (Reuters) - The Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point, but indicated it was on the verge of pausing further increases in borrowing costs amid recent turmoil in financial markets spurred by the collapse of two U.S. banks.

The move set the U.S. central bank’s benchmark overnight interest rate in the 4.75%-5.00% range, with updated projections showing 10 of 18 Fed policy-makers still expect rates to rise another quarter of a percentage point by the end of 2023, the same endpoint seen in the December projections, even amid uncertainty about how much tighter financial conditions will weigh on a strong labor market and the currently resilient pace of inflation.

In a key shift driven by the sudden failures this month of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank, the Fed’s latest policy statement no longer says that “ongoing increases” in rates will likely be appropriate. That language had been in every policy statement since the March 16, 2022 decision to start the rate hiking cycle

Yields on Treasury securities dropped following the release of the statement, led by a fall of more than 10 basis points in the yield on the 2-year Treasury note, which is highly sensitive to Fed rate expectations. U.S. stocks surged, with the benchmark S&P 500 index (.SPX) rising from the unchanged mark to a gain of 0.6%. The dollar weakened against a basket of major trading partner currencies (.DXY).

“The Fed has been spooked by Silicon Valley Bank and other banking turmoil. They certainly point to that as a potential depressant on inflation, perhaps helping them do their job without having to raise rates as aggressively,” said Tim Ghriskey, senior portfolio strategist at Ingalls & Snyder.



U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell holds a news conference after the Fed raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point following a two-day meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) on interest rate policy in Washington, U.S., March 22, 2023. REUTERS/Leah Millis

The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee said only that “some additional policy firming may be appropriate,” leaving open the chance that one more quarter-of-a-percentage-point rate increase, perhaps at the Fed’s next meeting, would represent at least an initial stopping point for the rate hikes.

Though the policy statement said the U.S. banking system is “sound and resilient,” it also noted that recent stress in the banking sector is “likely to result in tighter credit conditions for households and businesses and

to weigh on economic activity, hiring, and inflation.”

Job gains are “robust,” according to the Fed.

Officials projected the unemployment rate would end the year at 4.5%, slightly below the 4.6% seen in projections issued in December, while the outlook for economic growth fell slightly to 0.4% from 0.5% in the previous

Jerome Powell testified in Congress that hotter-than-expected inflation would likely force the central bank to raise interest rates higher and possibly faster than expected.

The March 10 collapse of California-based SVB (SIVB.O) and the subsequent collapse of New York-based Signature Bank (SBNY.O) highlighted broader concerns about the health of the banking sector, and raised the possibility that further Fed rate increases might tip the economy towards a financial crisis.

Powell is scheduled to hold a news conference at 2:30 p.m. EDT (1830 GMT) to elaborate on the policy decision and the Fed’s views on recent events.



disagreements on the policy decision.

**ELEVATED INFLATION**  
The policy statement made no presumption that the battle with inflation has been won. The new statement dropped language saying that inflation “has eased” and replaced it with the declaration that inflation “remains elevated.”

projections. Inflation is now seen ending the year at 3.3%, compared to 3.1% in the last projections.

The outcome of the two-day meeting this week marks an abrupt repositioning of the central bank’s strategy from just two weeks ago, when Fed Chair Je-

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/21/2023

## This Is Our Home

At the invitation of the Arab National Symphony Orchestra, we listened to a very touching and intoxicating musical event last Saturday night.

The inspiring operatic musical is based on the story of a Lebanese girl who immigrated to the United States with her family in her first year of high school. Due to the great difference in the culture and living habits, she suffered greatly and had to wash her face often with her tears of disappointment. After many months of struggle, she eventually made new friends and got used to her new environment and she became more proficient in her school studies. But still she missed her Arabic friends and culture. Now she has graduated from college and has a good career and she is very grateful for the opportunity to be governed by this country. She had become Arabic-American, but even though she loved her native culture, so she chose to become a new American. This is her home now.

The orchestra is composed of dozens of musicians who played many touching Arabic musical compositions.



Amidst the cheers from an audience of more than 2,000, many classical and well-known folk songs were artistically intertwined on the stage and were all sung together making it into a spectacular and very unique-sounding song.

I saw many people wiping away their tears following the performance. The Arabic world represents thousands of years of cultural heritage. They have brought many beautiful songs and a wonderful culture to our city.



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## Editor's Choice



U.S. President Joe Biden presents singer Bruce Springsteen with a National Medal of Arts during a ceremony in the East Room at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



Supporters of former U.S. President Donald Trump gather for a loyalty rally at a busy intersection in Laguna Hills, California. REUTERS/Mike Blake



A clown poses for photographers ahead of the annual service of remembrance in honour of British clown Joseph Grimaldi, at the All Saints Church in Haggerston, London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Police officers check cargo trains amid sandstorm at a border checkpoint in Erenhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. cnsphoto via REUTERS



Women wearing traditional attire attend celebrations to mark the Gudi Padwa festival, the beginning of the New Year for Maharashtrians, in Mumbai, India. REUTERS/Niharika Kulkarni



Cars sit abandoned on roads as floodwaters from the Tule River inundate the area after days of heavy rain, in Corcoran, California. REUTERS/David Swanson



# Vincent Chin Was Killed 40 Years Ago And His Case Still Resonates

Forty years ago, 27-year-old Vincent Chin was enjoying a night out with his friends in Detroit. It was meant to be a celebration ahead of Chin’s upcoming marriage, but he didn’t make it to the wedding. That night he was beaten to death by two white men who worked in the auto industry and, according to witnesses, were angry over what they perceived as the loss of American jobs to Japanese imports. The men targeted Chin because he was Asian – not knowing he was Chinese American, not Japanese. The killing galvanized Asian Americans across the entire country to fight for civil rights. It’s a battle that continues today.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The murder of Vincent has become particularly relevant in the past two years, as racist attacks against Asian Americans have risen exponentially since the start of the pandemic. At least 10,905 hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were recorded from March 19, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021, according to the coalition Stop AAPI Hate. Chin’s death on June 23, 1982, came at a time when the Japanese automotive industry was a flashpoint for racism. Today’s hate incidents can be traced in large part to the anti-Asian rhetoric used at the beginning of the pandemic, including that by former President Donald Trump who referred to the coronavirus as “the Chinese virus.”

The similarities between the rhetoric used 40 years ago and today present a chilling pattern, says social justice activist Helen Zia, who is also the executor of the estate of Vincent Chin and his mother, Lily.

“That was what was going on in America in the 1980s. And that’s why as soon as that callout in the White House was pointing the fingers at China, everybody Asian American knew that that was going to land very hard on Asians in America,” Zia told NPR’s All Things Considered in reference to the former president’s remarks.



Vincent Chin

“So, yes, the rhetoric, the innuendo – it has its impact. And when people are targeted and scapegoated, we know that that’s only going to be bad for every American.”

The fact that Chin was Chinese American, Zia said, is also telling about how Asian Americans are perceived in the U.S. “Asian Americans have always been lumped together, even though Asia is the largest continent on the planet,” she said. “And so when people have hate or anger directed at some nebulous thing about Asia, it doesn’t matter. If you’re Asian, you’re a target. And that’s what’s going on today. Every different ethnicity of Asian American has suffered the hate incidents that are going on today.”

Zia is one of the organizers of the Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance & Rededication happening in Detroit this weekend. Events, including film screenings, public art, performances and panel discussions started on Thursday and go through Sunday.

David Han, commissioner of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, spoke at the official kickoff event. He told member station WDET the rededication also serves as a reminder that “underneath the surface things are not OK,” and that people in power play a role in the safety of the communities they represent.

“In leadership roles of any kind, whether it’s the presidency or leaders in companies, leaders in our communities or even

leaders in our churches, the positions and the narratives that different folks speak, based on self-interest as well as fear, certainly impacts the Asian community in America,” Han said.



While political leaders play a role in combating anti-Asian American sentiments, so do average citizens. Connecting the older and younger generations through Chin’s legacy is another aim of the commemoration.

“The Vincent Chin Legacy Guide” was put together by Zia, with help from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. It’s a teaching tool that tells the story of what happened 40 years ago. It is also meant to inspire people to take action. It ultimately shows why Chin’s case still matters today.

“It really stands out as a landmark, not only for Asian Americans – it stands out as a landmark in American history,” Zia said. “It’s a time when a people in America, who were treated as though they were aliens — those people stood up and said, ‘this is wrong. And not only that — we are a part of the American democracy, and we deserve to be treated as full Americans and full human beings.’” (Courtesy npr.com)

**Related**  
**Vincent Chin’s Death Gave Others A Voice**

An Interview With Writer Paula Yoo

Writer Paula Yoo was 13 years old and finishing up seventh grade when Vincent Chin was killed. Chin was a 27-year-old draftsman who was celebrating his impending wedding at a strip club in Detroit, when he was bludgeoned to death by a pair of white men. Those men were apparently upset by their perception that American auto jobs were disappearing as a result of Japanese success in the auto industry. (Chin was Chinese.)

You didn’t learn much about Chin’s killing when it actually happened — let alone imagine that it would eventually become the subject of one of her books. But as an adult, she became fascinated by Chin’s story and how it spurred a new generation of Asian Americans into political action. She started doing some reading and research, which eventually turned into her latest non-fiction book, geared toward young adults, which will be published next month: From A Whisper to A Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial That Galvanized the Asian American Movement.



Writer Paula Yoo

Full disclosure — Paula and I first met in the 90s when we both worked for People magazine in Los Angeles — so I’ve

known her for years. She’s now a TV writer and producer in addition to being the author of several children’s books about famous Asian Americans.

**Tell us a little bit about who Vincent Chin was, and what happened to him.**

Vincent Chin is famous in the Asian American community; his name has resurfaced recently due to the spike in anti-Asian racism. His was the first federal civil rights trial for an Asian American. On the night of June 19, 1982, the night of his bachelor party, Vincent Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two white auto workers in Detroit. Ronald Ebens was a foreman at Chrysler at the time, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, was a recently laid-off auto worker. The reason I mention that is because this happened during the height of anti-Japanese sentiment. The American auto industry was



reeling, due to increased competition from Japanese import cars and mass layoffs happening across the country. Things were especially bad in Michigan, home to the Big Three: Ford, Chrysler and GM.

Vincent was beaten in the head so badly, he lapsed into a coma and died four days later. Before he lost consciousness, he whispered three words to one of the friends who’d been out with him that night: “It’s not fair.” He was buried the day after what should have been his wedding day.

**What happened after Vincent’s death? Was there a trial?**

More than one. The first was presided over by Judge Charles Kaufman. He gave both Ebens and Nitz three years’ probation, fined them \$3,000 and court costs and released them. He later said that they “weren’t the kind of men you send to jail.” Citing the fact that neither man had a previous record, Kaufman said that he just didn’t think putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society. That “you don’t make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal.”

**It’s Not Fair!**

**What was the public’s reaction?**

Judge Kaufman’s lenient sentencing angered not just Vincent Chin’s family, but the entire Asian American community. Led by activist Helen Zia, several Asian American lawyers and community leaders banded together to create American Citizens for Justice. This grassroots advocacy organization rallied with several diverse groups—churches, synagogues, Black activists—to protest Kaufman’s sentencing.

This inspired other Asian Americans across the country to hold their own demonstrations. These protests resulted in the first federal civil rights trial for an Asian American. In 1984, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz were indicted on two counts of conspiracy and violating Vincent Chin’s right to be in a place of public accommodation because of his race, and sentenced to 25 years. In the trial that followed the indictment, Nitz was cleared of all charges. Ebens (who held the baseball bat) was convicted of violating Chin’s civil rights, and sentenced to 25 years.

But due to accusations of alleged witness coaching, Ebens was acquitted in a second trial held in 1987, in which his guilty conviction was reversed. He would ultimately be found not guilty, and he never spent a day in jail.

**You started this book before this most recent surge in anti-Asian violence. Why did you want to write it, and why write it for a young adult audience?**

My whole life I always kept thinking one day I’d love to write a non-fiction adult book, like In Cold Blood. And I remember everybody that I talked to about Vincent, everybody that I worked with, they all responded with, “This is an incredible story. We know nothing about it.” So that’s why I think it’s a special book not just for adults, but also for teenagers, because I hope that it gives them a firsthand understanding of what this was like.



When I was offered a job at The Detroit News, for instance, I remember the first thing my Asian American journalist friends said to me was, “Are you afraid to go live in Detroit because of Vincent Chin?” You know, being Asian American in this country, we’re often alone. We’re often the only one in our high school or the only family on our block because for many, many decades, we have been a very small part of the percentage of the population. So being an Asian American in this country is very lonely. I’ve been very lonely my whole life.

**Did you do first-person interviews for this book, or rely mostly on archival information?**

I have thousands of pages of transcripts from 1982 to 1984; I read every single motion, all the boring stuff. I read everything. I have primary sources. I’ve actually talked to people who have refused to talk about this case for almost 40 years. And I have exclusive new information.

I’m one of the first and only people to have met Ronald Ebens in person in his house. And it was an off-the-record informal visit. So I can’t talk about what we talked about, but that was one of the most profound, deep and very disturbing moments in my life.

**One of the interesting things about this book is you show all sides of this tragedy. Even Ebens and Nitz. You actually had some compassion for these white men who killed someone who looked like you...**

You can have compassion, but compassion is not mutually exclusive from justice. At the end of the day, now that I know the humanity behind these two men, I can have compassion for them. But I can still think, “You still should have gone to jail. What you did was wrong. Justice was not served.”



**Many people believe that Vincent Chin did not receive justice in the legal sense. But some important things emerged from his death. Tell us what some of those things are.**

His death had a tangible effect; he’s not just a symbol. It changed manslaughter sentencing in Michigan. Because of Vincent Chin and other cases very similar to his, victims’ families are now allowed to deliver a victim impact statement to the judge at a hearing. At Vincent’s first trial, the prosecutors were just overwhelmed with cases and they didn’t appear in court. Now, because of this, prosecutors have to be at all hearings.

His case also inspired Asian baby boomers. They came of age [about standing up for themselves and other people of color]. This was part of their civil rights education.

Aside from the tangible legal changes that happened in the court system, Vincent’s case inspired a younger generation to get involved as activists, as writers, as lawyers going into politics, trying to effect policy change. There are so many Asian American politicians out there now, which is so wonderful! So I think our voice has been raised, our stories, our history, our contributions have been raised. So we’ve got to go out there and fill in the blanks, because if we don’t, who will? (C NPR)

## Suicide Is The Leading Cause Of Death Among Asian American Young Adults And The Only Racial Group With This Distinction. Why?



Death by suicide is the number one cause of death for young adult Asian Americans. (Photo/Kelvin Murray/Getty Images )

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Racially motivated violence looks like the mass shootings that killed Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Chung Park, Hyun Grant and Saoyou Kim in Atlanta on March 16, 2021. Racially motivated violence also looks like suicide, which is defined as a deliberate act of self-directed violence in order to cause injury to oneself that results in death.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. When broken down by race, suicide is the first leading cause of death among Asian American young adults age 15-24. This is true of no other racial group in this age range in America.

Despite this disparity, very little attention is paid by society and by gatekeeping institutions like academe and private and public funding agencies as to what causes suicidal behavior among racial minorities like Asian Americans. There is not enough research on how to prevent suicide among Asian Americans in particular. What makes this research more challenging to do is that Asian Americans are also the least likely racial group to

seek and utilize mental health services. I am a doctoral candidate studying public health, with a focus on minority mental health disparities research. Here’s what I think is important to know about how violence, suicide and disparities all connect to affect Asian American lives.



**Determining who might be at risk for death by suicide is a difficult task. (Photo/MStudioImages/via Getty Images)**

**Beyond risk factors**

When an Asian American death occurs by suicide, it is not simply because that person experienced risk factors. Sure, the evidence suggests that the risk of a suicide attempt increases if there are easily accessible means such as guns in the home or if the person knows someone

who died by suicide. But is that the full picture for Asian Americans, or even for other racial minorities?

The truth is, the people who study suicide are still trying to come up with a profile of who is “at risk” in order to precisely predict, and ultimately prevent, suicidal behavior and death. Today, many research dollars go into the development of computer algorithms and genetic biomarkers to precisely calculate who is at risk. Will these methods do justice to the racialized experience of being Asian American in the U.S.?

**Only one national study targeting Asian American mental health**

So the question now becomes: How can research scientists better understand and develop suicide prevention efforts that precisely address racial minorities like Asian Americans? To answer this question, there must first be research on Asian Americans to study. Unfortunately, the first, only and last study that assesses national epidemiological prevalence estimates of mental disorders in the Asian American community occurred and was published in the early 2000s, nearly two decades ago. Since these data were collected, the U.S. Asian population grew 72% by 2015, making Asians the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group, surpassing Hispanics.

In my view, suicide among Asian Americans is a seriously unaddressed problem that could become endemic in a rapidly growing community with little to no direction on how to stop it



**Comic Anna Akana discusses stigma about mental health issues in Asian Americans.**

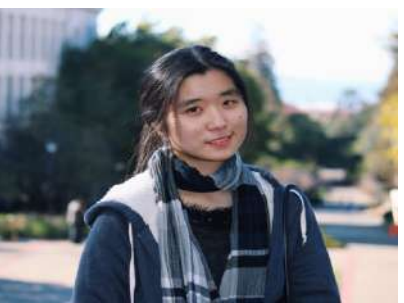
**Centuries of Stigma**

What if there was a way to scientifically account for racism as the fundamental cause of health disparities? The answer lies in understanding stigma. Stigmatized identity is arguably a universal phenomenon. People who are stigma-

tized are unwanted by society, negatively stereotyped, rejected and excluded, and ultimately othered. Asian Americans have experienced this kind of stigmatization institutionally since the early years of modern America as racial categorizations began to solidify.

As America continues to racialize Asian Americans, it continues a legacy of structural violence and historical trauma. This means that anti-Asian violence exists within the very fabric of American society. It is this societal oppression and violence that becomes internalized into self-hatred, self-harm and ultimately the self-directed violence that is suicide.

When it comes to being Asian in America, though, the story is incomplete with looking only at race. There are plenty of violently oppressive systems that Asian Americans face that pile on the risk of self-directed violence.



These are intersecting in nature. It is the intersectionality, or cross-sections, of Asian American identity that must be closely investigated to uncover insights into suicide prevention for this incredibly diverse community.

Being an immigrant and experiencing xenophobia, for example, is a dominant experience for many Asian Americans. Although many have lived in the United States for several generations, Asian Americans do account for a large portion of today’s adult second generation. Second-generation immigrants are people who are native-born citizens in the United States and have at least one parent who is foreign-born.

**What makes this important to know?**

Current trends indicate that the U.S. is explosively growing into an immigrant-rich nation. More than 36% of all Americans are projected to be of immigrant origin

– that’s first- or second-generation – by 2050. By that time, the overwhelming majority – 93% – of the country’s working-age population will be of immigrant origin, too. Here’s the problem: Second-generation immigrants are considered an at-risk group for suicidal behavior and death by researchers across the world. Researchers aren’t fully sure why yet, and that’s why this research is so timely.



**Signs of suicidal thinking are hard to know. Everyday actions may not change at all. (Photo/Sean Justice/Getty Images)**

**A complicated and time-consuming issue**

Research takes decades to implement. It also takes decades to figure out the problem and how to address it. The public health scientists who work on disparities research are aware of the complex problems facing minority populations like Asian Americans. If there were an intervention to end racism and xenophobia, perhaps many Asian American lives would be saved both from homicide and suicide.

The reality is that white supremacy runs so deep in America that even reversing racism would not undo the disparities in health outcomes such as suicide. This is because assimilation is “traumagenic.” That means the traumatic exposures of racist and xenophobic violence and discrimination hold the power to disrupt psychological and physiological functioning and alter genetic code for generations to come. Race-based traumatic stress holds the power to predispose entire populations, entire communities like Asian Americans, to self-directed violence.

In my view, what is left to do is to work to change the norms of inclusion. It won’t take years of research to do that. Just start now. Act locally. That’s a first step. (Courtesy <https://theconversation.com/>)