

**Press release**

For immediate release

**No Thai!: A bad joke**

*Ann Arbor, 9 November 2007:* Although business names are chosen at owners' own will, it is obviously not appropriate to adopt a name that signals discrimination against race. Despite the attempt of Michigan State to emphasize its determination against racism with the issue of proposal 2 that rules affirmative action, it seems to stir more intensity on the issue, especially here in Ann Arbor.

The emergence of "No Thai!" restaurant that serves Thai and oriental food on South University Street has made Thai students in Ann Arbor outraged as it signals discrimination against Thai people. With its second branch in Kerry Town, it has been suspected that "No Thai!" restaurant is not only a bad joke but also a propaganda planned by some racists. As the University of Michigan has embraced a non-discriminating policy, Thai Student Association of the University of Michigan urges the university's members to make a standing.

"We strongly believe that the University of Michigan always encourages non-discriminating practice and we Thai students can live our life without facing racism in this prestigious academic institute. The incident of "No Thai!" restaurant has disturbed us as it is not rational to name a restaurant that serves Thai food with such words of choice. We have contacted the staff at that restaurant to reconsider changing the name and so far there is no response or action taken by the vendor. We, once again, propose "No Thai!" restaurant vendor to change the name and would like to ask our university to ensure that the university will not tolerate actions against racism as to make us see diversity really matters at Michigan," said Sirarat Sarntivijai, TSA President.

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