

Nissin takes down ad after complaints on Osaka's depiction

By Yuri Kageyama
AP Business Writer

TOKYO — One of Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka's main sponsors has taken down an online ad campaign that depicts her with pale skin after it was criticized as insensitive.

Daisuke Okabayashi, a spokesman for Japanese noodle-maker Nissin Foods Holdings, said two animation clips that went up in January were deleted from the company's online site.

"We as a company put human rights first, and our stance of valuing diversity is unchanged," he said in a telephone interview. "Whitewashing has never been our intention."

The clips showed a light-skinned, doe-eyed woman in the trademark style of Japanese *manga*, or comics. Critics said the depiction does not reflect Osaka's biracial background — Osaka has a Haitian father and Japanese mother.

Okabayashi said the ads were approved by Osaka's agent, but the company was later asked to take them down. He said the company continues to support Osaka and did not want the flap to be a distraction.

Nissin became Osaka's corporate



WHITEWASHED AD. Customers at a restaurant in Tokyo watch the television monitor at the end of the Australian Open women's tennis final between Naomi Osaka of Japan and Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic. Osaka won the match. One of the tennis star's main sponsors has taken down an online ad campaign that depicts her with pale skin after it was criticized as insensitive. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

sponsor in November 2016, joining a list of companies such as Nissan Motor Co. and the watch brand Citizen hoping to cash in on a level of stardom that's rare among Japanese athletes.

Osaka's appeal has been growing in Japan since she beat Serena Williams in last year's U.S. Open. She had been topping daily news coverage during the Australian Open, which she won.

This is not the first time Japan has been criticized for insensitivity to diversity issues, including race, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation. Osaka's visibility and natural charm are seen as contributions to Japan's acceptance of racial and other differences.

Baye McNeil, an American who has lived in Japan for more than a decade, said Japanese are often not aware of what may

upset a global audience. His commentary in *The Japan Times*, a local English-language daily, was among the first to express outrage over the Nissin ad.

"She looks totally like a white woman in the ad," said McNeil, who writes and lectures about the problem of race in Japan. "It was very whitewashed."

Japanese companies need to take skin color seriously and become more inclusive if they hope to appeal to a global market, he added.

"They are not thinking on that level," McNeil said. "It may be painful, but Japan is going through growing pains right now."

Nissin's ad was based on a manga and animation series called *The Prince of Tennis*, created by artist Takeshi Konomi. The ad showed characters from the work and also characters meant to depict Osaka and male Japanese tennis star Kei Nishikori playing on a court.

China population rises 15.23 million in 2018, but rate slows

BEIJING (AP) — China's population rose by 15.23 million people in 2018, marking a continued decrease in the growth rate of the world's most populous nation.

Numbers released by the National Bureau of Statistics put the population at 1.395 billion in 2018, marking a growth rate of 3.81 percent over the previous year.

The total included 30 million more men than women, considered a long-time outcome of the recently abandoned one-child policy under which boys were favored over girls for cultural reasons.

The government estimates China's population will peak at 1.442 billion in 2029 before beginning to decline the year after.

India, the world's second-most populous nation, has also been experiencing slower population growth. Its total population stood at 1.362 billion in January based on United Nations estimates.

China added more than 17 million people to its population in 2016 and 2017 following the scrapping of the one-child policy, but the effect hasn't endured.

Care for the elderly is a rising government concern as the working-age population continues to fall as a percentage of the total.

Chinese increasingly enjoy better living standards, education, and healthcare, but a yawning gap between the wealthy and poor has experts saying the country will grow old before it grows rich.

The government also announced China's 2018 economic growth fell to a three-decade low, adding to

pressure on Beijing to settle a tariff war with Washington.

The world's second-largest economy expanded by 6.6 percent over a year earlier, down from 2017's 6.9 percent, official data showed.

China's ruling Communist Party is trying to steer China to slower, more self-sustaining growth based on consumer spending instead of trade and investment. But the deceleration has been sharper than expected, prompting Beijing to step up government spending and order banks to lend more to shore up growth and avoid politically dangerous job losses.

Chinese model in derided Dolce & Gabbana advertisements apologizes

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese model in widely derided advertisements for Italian fashion line Dolce & Gabbana has apologized for her appearance in the campaign.

Zuo Ye said on her Weibo microblog that as a recent college graduate, she hadn't had time to consider the effect of the ads, in which she was filmed trying to eat pizza, spaghetti, and a giant version of a cannoli pastry using chopsticks.

"I will grow from this experience and will better display the character of a Chinese citizen," Zuo wrote in the post.

Following the criticism of the ads, the Milan designers cancelled a Shanghai runway show last year meant as a tribute to China, as their guest list of Asian celebrities joined protests.

Many Chinese social media users called the advertisements racist and based on outdated stereotypes.

China plans major cut in number of Everest climbers

BEIJING (AP) — China will cut the number of climbers attempting to scale Mount Everest from the north by one-third this year as part of plans for a major cleanup on the world's highest peak, according to state media.

The total number of climbers seeking to summit the world's highest peak at 29,035 feet from the north will be limited to less than 300 and the climbing season restricted to spring, the reports said.

The cleanup efforts will include the recovery of the bodies of climbers who died at more than 26,246 feet up the mountain, they said.

Parts of Everest are in China and Nepal. Each year, about 60,000 climbers and guides visit the Chinese north side of the mountain, which China refers to by its Tibetan

name, Mount Qomolangma. China has set up stations to sort, recycle, and break down garbage from the mountain, which includes cans, plastic bags, stove equipment, tents, and oxygen tanks.

On the Nepalese side, mountaineering expedition organizers have begun sending huge trash bags with climbers during the spring climbing season to collect trash that then can be winched by helicopters back to the base camp.

Everest claims multiple victims each year, often in the "death zone" above 26,246 feet, where the air is too thin to sustain human life.

In 2017, 648 people summited Everest, including 202 from the north side, according to the nonprofit Himalayan Database. Six people were confirmed to have died on the mountain that year, one of them on the north side.

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CLACKAMAS COUNTY

- MULINO CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT COALITION**
13700 S Freeman Rd, Mulino
Feb 19 9:15-11:15 a.m.
- SALVATION ARMY NORTH CLACKAMAS**
8495 SE Monterey, Happy Valley
Feb 15 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- CAREOREGON**
315 SW 5th Ave, Portland
Feb 6 9-11 a.m.
Feb 13 9-11 a.m.
Feb 20 9-11 a.m.
Feb 27 9-11 a.m.
- CLACKAMAS SERVICE CENTER**
8800 SE 80th Ave, Portland
Feb 12 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**
50 SW 2nd Ave, Portland
Feb 5 9-11 a.m.
Feb 12 9-11 a.m.
Feb 19 9-11 a.m.
Feb 26 9-11 a.m.
- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ALBERTA**
30 N Webster St Ste A, Portland
Feb 5 1-3 p.m.
- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SE**
8129 SE Malden St, Portland
Feb 12 1-3 p.m.
- JOIN**
1435 NE 81st Ave Ste 100, Portland
Feb 14 12-2 p.m.
- PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION**
111 W Burnside, Portland
Feb 14 8-10 a.m.
Feb 28 8-10 a.m.
- SALVATION ARMY SOCIAL SERVICES FAIR**
5325 N Williams Ave, Portland
Feb 8 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- UNION GOSPEL MISSION**
3 NW 3rd, Portland
Feb 26 2-4 p.m.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- BEAVERTON LIBRARY**
12375 SW 5th St, Beaverton
Feb 13 1-3 p.m.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CULTURAL FAIR
Convention Center
Feb 2 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR
Holiday Inn, Portland Airport
Feb 2 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For information, or to host our team, call Tamara at 503-416-1479 or Caleb at 503-416-4883.

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