

# ASIAN STUDENTS UNITE!

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The Newsletter of the Berkeley ASU

MAR. '76

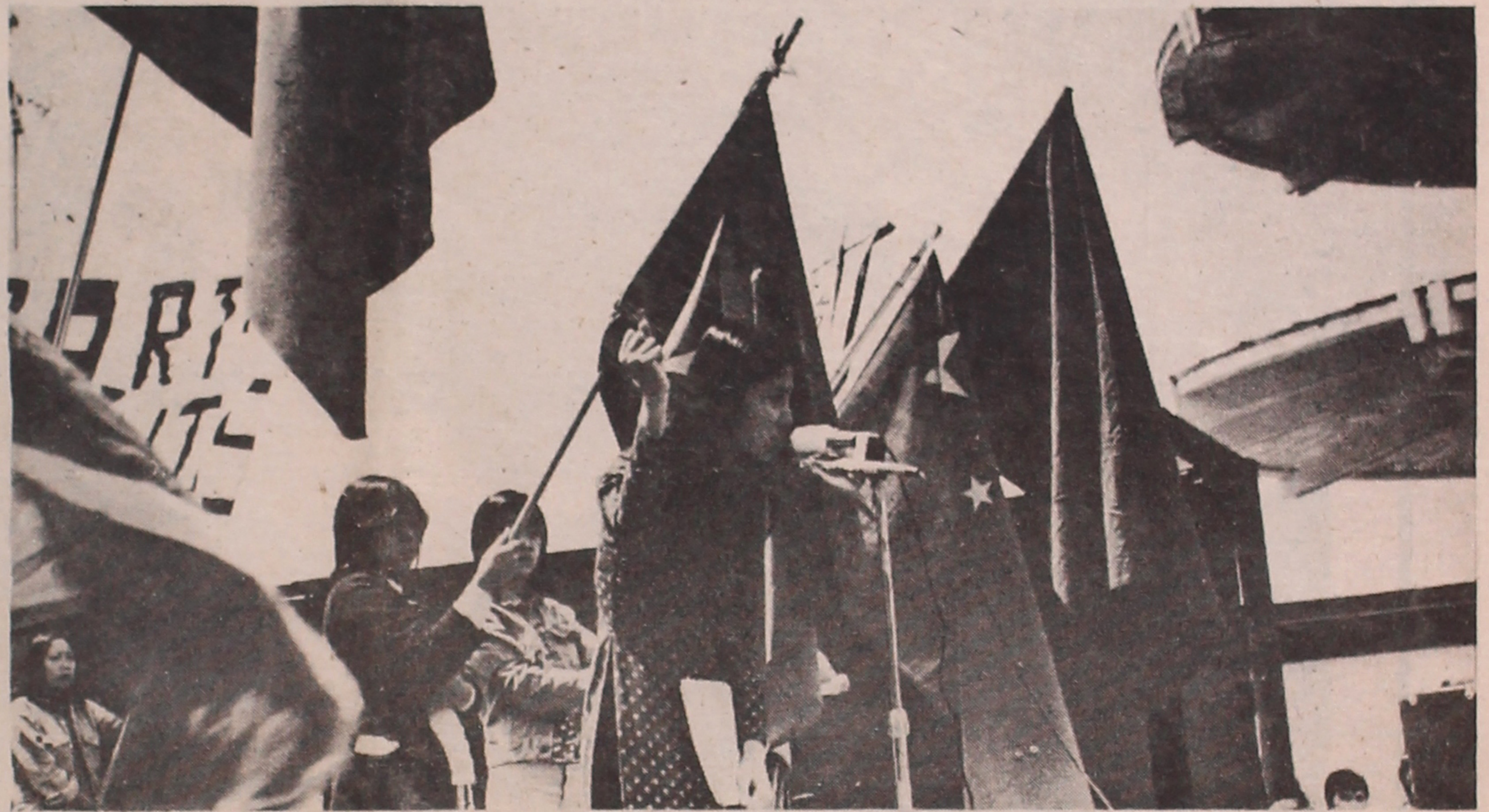
## ASU CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Asian Student Union will be sponsoring a celebration of International Women's Day for the week of March 8. We see this celebration as an integral part of the organizational focus for this quarter, the political consolidation of the ASU. Through the study group, our work in the student caucuses in Asian Studies, the consolidation of women in the organization and our other activities, we hope to develop a deeper understanding of our role in the Asian and Revolutionary movements, and thus lend greater clarity and cohesiveness to our political work.

In the past the primary focus of the Caucus has been outreach. While this is still important we see now that outreach alone is not enough. It is necessary for us to sharpen and redefine our function and goals. Presently, we see the main task before us as consolidating the women in ASU; this means taking an active and conscious role in addressing sexism in the organization and its day to day effects on our work. 2) Building the participation and political leadership of women in ASU and 3) deepening our understanding of the oppression of women through our study and practice. It is important that we as women take on the leading role in combatting sexism. However it is equally important to see how women's struggles are integrally linked to the struggle for fundamental social change; women, especially Third World and working class women, characteristically occupy the lowest positions in the economic and social structures often carry the double burden of both maintaining the household in addition to working and must deal with sexism and its effects in all aspects of our lives. The systematic exploitation which women face is integrally tied to the maintenance of Imperialism. The struggle against sexism and women's oppression must be seen in this light. Therefore, it is essential that both women and men actively take up the question.

For women in the ASU working on the program, the questions now being raised are "what is the nature of women's oppression? In what ways is it manifested, and how does it effect us as Asian women students." Through the focus of the program, "Asian Women in the progressive movement" we want to bring out the concept of women's triple oppression; the oppression faced as women, as national minorities, and as workers. Beyond the degrading portrayal of

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ONE OF MANY DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST US IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE THEME OF THIS YEARS CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS "ASIAN WOMEN IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT."

### Boalt Cuts Asian Program;

## Students Defend Special Admissions

On Friday, Feb. 13, the Asian American Law Students Alliance held a demonstration protesting the elimination of Asian special admissions at Boalt Law School. At 2PM about 300 people met at Boalt where speakers from The Asian American Law Students Association (AALSA), Raza and Black Law Students Associations spoke against the elimination of the Asian admissions program. Afterwards, people picketed and chanted outside a Boalt faculty meeting where the elimination of Asian admissions was being "discussed".

The Faculty and administration of Boalt Hall had been planning to eliminate special admissions since May of last year. Around the second week of January, a committee appointed by the Boalt faculty to deal with the question of Asian admissions voted to completely eliminate Japanese special admissions and to cut Chinese to two to three slots per year. The AALSA has been working since May against the elimination of special admissions and practices which systematically exclude poor and Third World people.

Asian Special Admissions was fought for and won in 1969, as a part of the struggles of Third World people at that time against National Oppression. The struggle pointed to the need for

progressive lawyers who would address themselves to the legal needs of the community, such as problems in housing, immigration, education, health, welfare etc. However, only so much can be done through the law. The fact that these problems exist point to the inherent contradictions in society and that the law itself serves to perpetuate them. One must remember that the law is created by the ruling class, big business and government, and that it serves their interests. In this way, Asians, Third World and poor people have been systematically oppressed throughout history. This may be easily substantiated by a brief review of the numerous laws such as the Chinese exclusion Act, the incarceration of Jap-

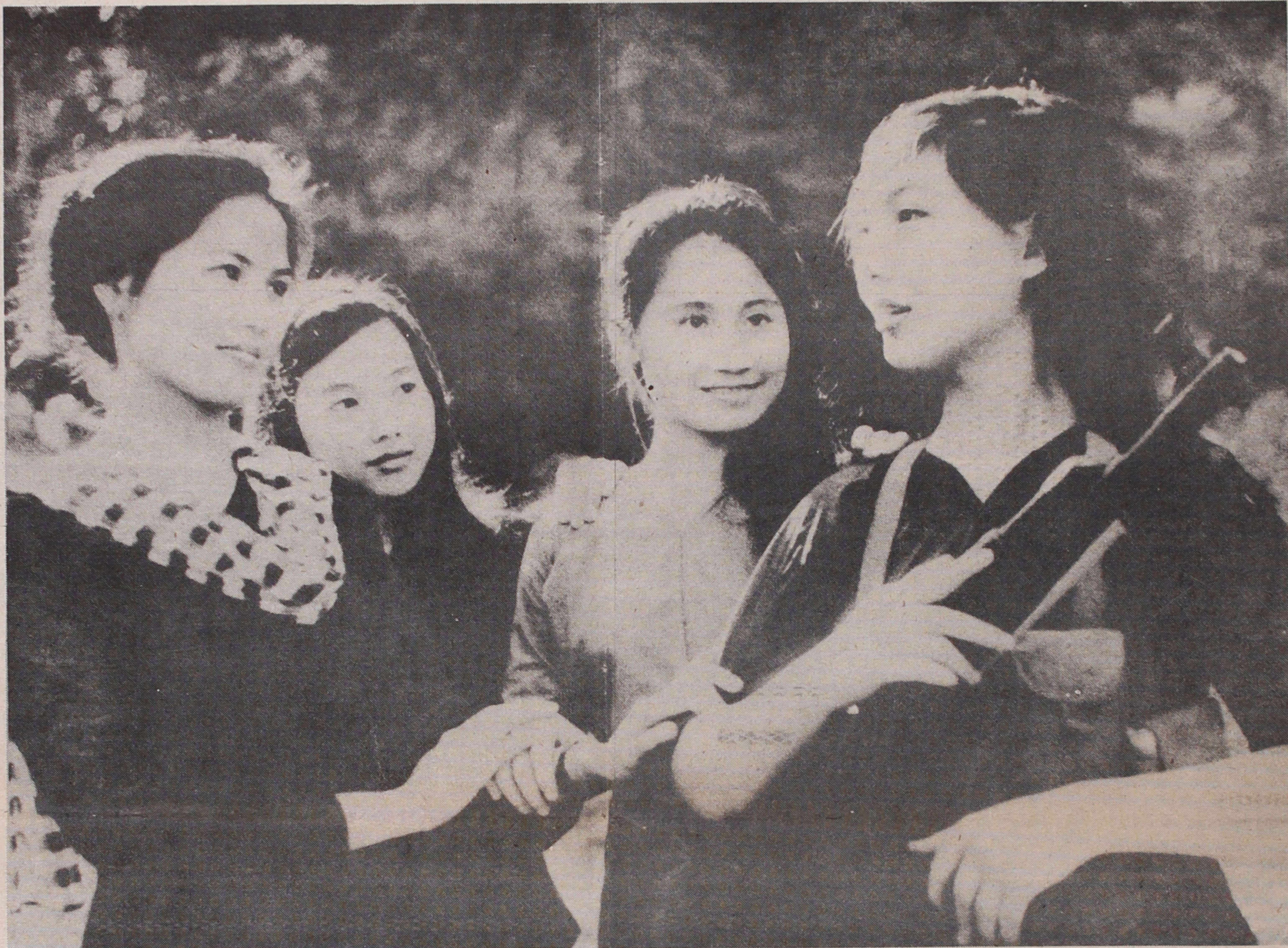
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ASIAN STUDENTS UNITE !  
505 Eshleman Hall  
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Berkeley, Calif. 94720

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# CELEBRATE INT'L WOMEN'S DAY



**FRI. MAR. 12      12-2 PM**  
**TAN OAK ROOM      3RD FLR.**  
**STUDENT UNION BUILDING**

March 8, International Women's Day, brings to the forefront the question of women's rights and women's liberation. This March 12, the ASU will be sponsoring a celebration of International Women's Day. In developing our program, we hope to increase both for ourselves and for students in general an understanding of women's oppression and sexism, and the revolutionary nature of the struggles against them.

International Women's Day originated in tribute to women's participation in two labor struggles here in America, both of which occurred on March 8, in New York City. In 1857, Women who worked in garment factories marched from their workplace to the richer sections of town in protest of their poor

working conditions and long hours (10 to 14 hours per day). They intended to demonstrate in front of the homes of the wealthy and ask the richer women to support their cause. Instead, police on horseback intervened; there were many injuries and mass arrests. In 1908 thousands of women in the needles trade took part in a similar struggle with the added demands of a union and a law against child labor. Two years later, Clara Zetkins proposed at the International Socialists congress that International Women's Day be declared in commemoration of these events to recognize the struggle of working women everywhere.

The ASU celebration will be held on Friday March 12, from 12 to 2

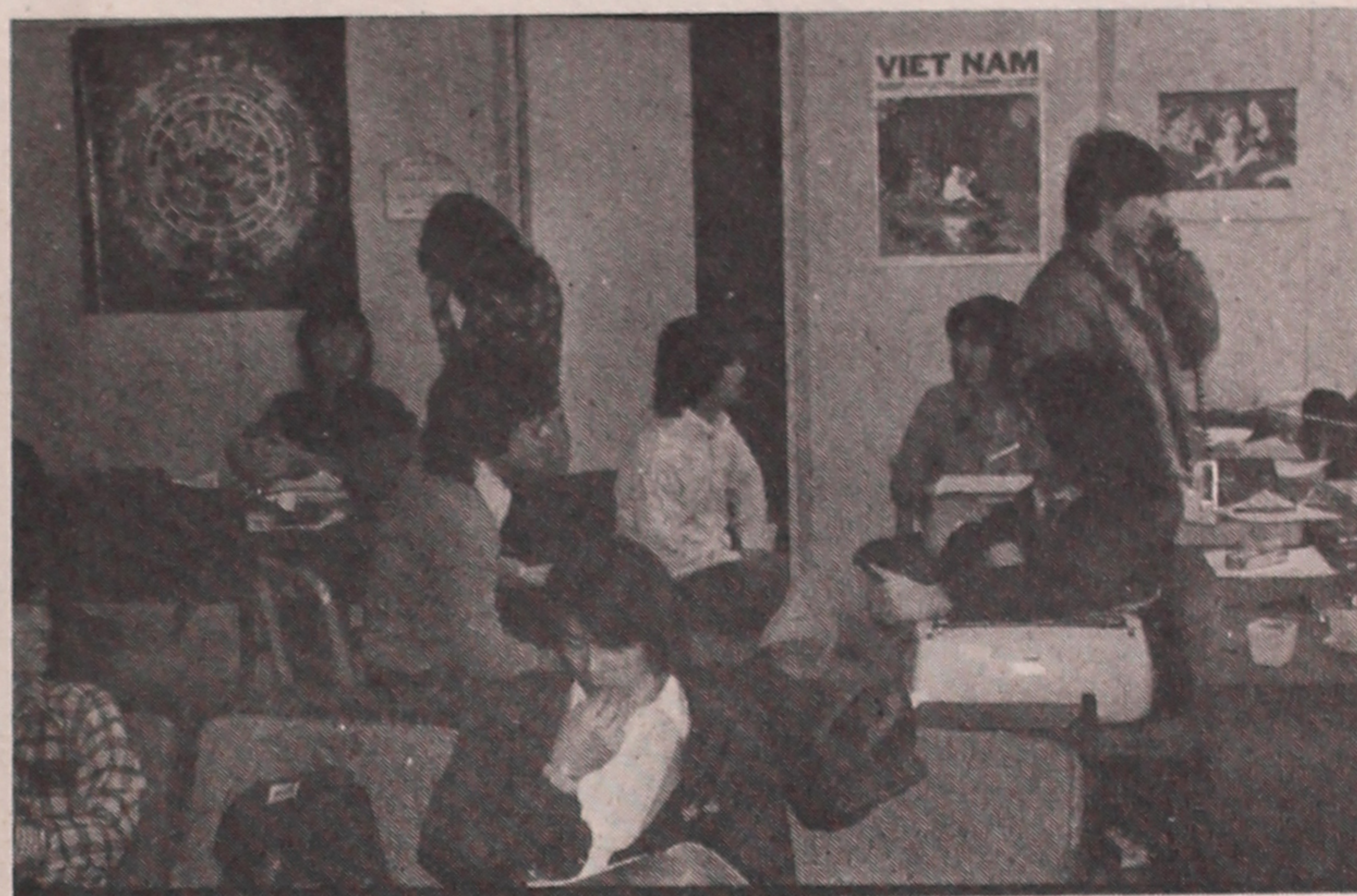
in the Tan Oak Room in the Student Union Building. The focus of our program, "Asian women in the progressive movement" will develop and analyze concepts of triple oppression. We will trace the history of Asian women, the nature of women's oppression and our role in the struggle for women's rights within the movement as a whole, thru dramatization, speakers, songs and cultural presentations. We hope our program will contribute to peoples understanding of women's oppression and encourage further thought and participation in the women's struggle. In this respect, the celebration of International Women's Day is one part in the ongoing struggle against women's oppression, a question we must take up and deal with every day and in all aspects of our lives.

# Asian Student Lounge Serves Student Needs

The ASU lounge/center continues to serve the needs of Asian students. Its use has increased within the last quarter. Its use has increased within the last quarter. In terms of building unity, communication, and activity among U.C. students, the lounge/center has proven to be an effective place to facilitate such needs.

For examples, the Lunar New Year celebration attracted over 70 people--many of whom were acquainting themselves to the lounge/center for the first time. Subsequently, more students have become familiar with the facilities: ping-pong table, study and work tables, couches, refrigerator, printing equipment, and music---and have begun to utilize them.

In addition, the lounge/center has been a center for



on-going political action and education. Presently, the Student Caucus, ASU general membership, and ASU committees (Study Group, Newsletter, etc.) hold regular meetings here. Special educational programs have been held in the lounge/center also. The Boalt Hall Asian Special Admissions Program and a presentation of International Women's Day are two examples of recent on-going issues discussed here and more are planned for the future. We see the lounge/center as vital in fulfilling these and future needs of students. The ASU hopes that the lounge/center will continue in this capacity as an active center for campus activities. Open from 11-3 daily, students are welcome to drop in at the lounge at 505 Eshleman.

## Student Caucus Progresses

Now past its initiation stage, the Student Caucus is progressing in its work within Asian American Studies. The long range goals of the Caucus are to provide a systematic framework for student input into Asian American Studies and to involve students in the progressive Asian movement. For example, students can participate within an Asian American Studies work subcommittee or become actively involved in issues and struggles of concern to Asians in America. These goals include the process of political education to establish a progressive perspective on which to base the ongoing work of the caucus. Also, by encouraging active participation in Asian American Studies, a mass student support base can be built for the department. Within the framework of the caucus, student input and support can be coordinated into Asian American Studies.

For the past few weeks, organizing has been focused upon each individual course. Students have been consolidating these respective classes and developing the context in which each caucus will participate in the course. For example, in the

20A class (Introduction to Asian American History), review sessions have been planned to study the course material. In the 151 class (Asian Women in America), a course evaluation was done and the work-group appreciated the efforts of the students. A follow through on constructive changes in the course is now needed. Also, the caucus has been working on the question of accreditation for the Asian American Studies language classes. At present, the 12 course (Community Cantonese) and the 14 course (Community Japanese) do not have accreditation for L and S breadth and language requirements. Students and language instructors have been building support and unity around this issue.

The future directions of the caucus are open to new ideas and input. Recently, the caucus petitioned and received two positions in the Asian American Studies Steering Committee. People interested in having input into the caucus or an Asian American Studies work committee should talk to the students within their Asian American classes or contact Richard (653-6855), Glenn (548-3512), or Rita (548-7185).

### ASU CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.. CONT. FROM P.1

women in the media, the tracking of women into certain roles, women, especially Third World women, occupy the lowest positions on the job market and receive the lowest wages. In every way, women are at the bottom of the social stratum.

To understand the essence of women's oppression we must point to the forces which perpetuate and benefit from it. In this respect the celebration of International Women's Day goes beyond March 8; we see International Women's Day as one part of the ongoing struggle of women's oppression, a question we must take up and deal with every day and in all aspects of our lives.

We encourage people to help build for the International Women's Day celebration and to build the Women's Caucus and the ASU in the struggle against women's oppression.



# STUDY GROUP CONSOLIDATES ASU

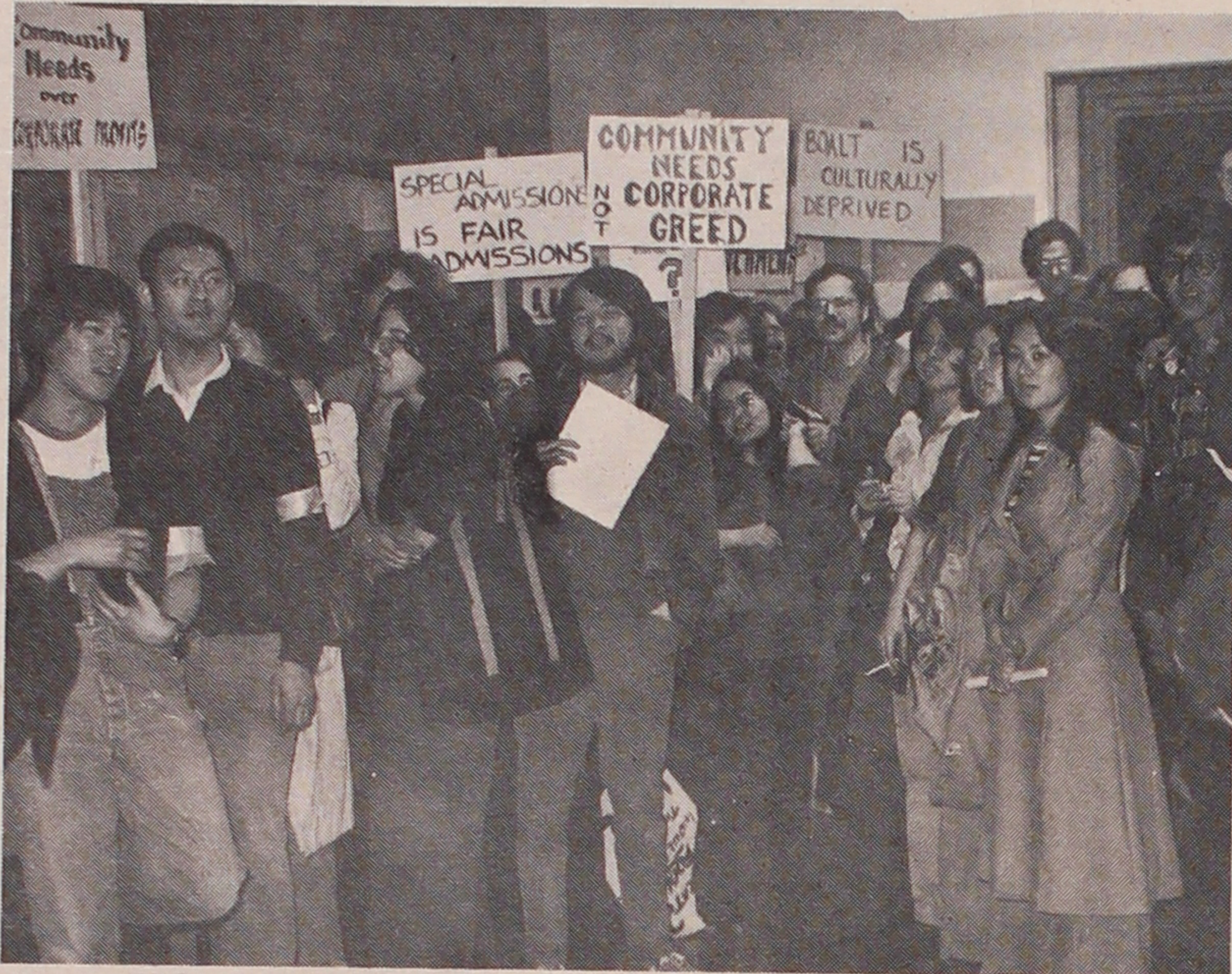
The ASU study group has begun. During the past few weeks the ASU study group discussion has been a concrete step in the continual process of the political consolidation of the ASU. Through these discussions, we have deepened our understanding of the ASU's role in the progressive movement and broadened

the basis of unity within the organization. By constantly integrating this developing consolidation with our work we can better evaluate our past work and improve the implementation of our principles of unity in the future. Thus, we see the study group as a definite step in developing unified theory which can guide and improve the ASU's work.

In order to implement our organizational goal of building an Asian student movement we must more thoroughly understand the need for an overall revolutionary movement and the role of Asians, particularly Asian students, within this movement. The study group is addressing this need by striving to understand our personal experiences, ideas, and work in the ASU in terms of four major topics:

- 1) Asian-American History. By studying concretely how Asians have been systematically oppressed economically, socially, and culturally in this country throughout our history we can better understand the roots and nature of the oppression we deal with now.
- 2) Imperialism. Our view of the systematic oppression of Asians must be seen in the proper context as an integral part of the imperialist system and our understanding of imperialism must be deepened in order to see how we can change this system which oppresses everyone.
- 3) National Oppression. Since the systematic oppression of Asians is a particular aspect of imperialism, we must deepen our understanding of national oppression to be able to form specific plans in our fight against imperialism to improve our situation.
- 4) Student Movement. We must further understand the student situation and the role that students have often played at the forefront of progressive movements in order to effectively organize on campus and link up with the overall movement for social change.

In our study, key to our developing understanding is the fact that these topics manifest themselves in diverse and subtle forms and that they are a major influence in the life of every Asian student. With the study group, by sharing our particular experiences and understanding them at a more general theoretical level, we can start to understand the common situation we all face under systematic oppression, establish a firm base of unity in our common struggles, and join in the concrete fight against the oppressive imperialist system in order to improve the overall situation. As this internal consolidation lays a basis for the ASU to advance through our work areas towards the goal of implementing our Principles of Unity, the study group is a vital part of the development of the ASU.



## Boalt Demonstration

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anese during World War II etc. Thus, the struggle for Asian special admissions is and should be seen as a part of the overall struggles of Asian and oppressed peoples.

The Faculty committee, in its recent report on Asian admissions cited three reasons for the elimination of special admissions: 1) That, economically, Chinese and Japanese have made it and do not qualify as being "disadvantaged". 2) According to a projection of the increase of numbers of Chinese and Japanese lawyers in the U.S. over the past 10 years, there will be an equal number of Asian attorneys to Asian people as White attorneys to White people in 10 years. 3) Adequate numbers of Asians are being admitted to Boalt under regular admissions.

These rational are not hard to refute. The "reasons" which the faculty states for eliminating Asian special admissions (besides being statistically and methodologically bankrupt) entirely miss the essence of special admissions. That is, not just to get Asian lawyers or yellow faces into the law school, but people who will fight to defend Asian communities and peoples against a legal system which inherently serves to exploit and oppress them.

Why then did the faculty eliminate Asian special admissions and why should Asian students fight to defend it? Boalt Law School and the University are part of the same system which serves to oppress Asian peoples. Neither the laws or the institutions which teach them are meant to serve the people, this it should come as no surprise that the Boalt faculty would summarily eliminate the special admissions program. There are three aspects to the faculty's attack on

special admissions. The attack on Boalt admissions is a part of the general retrenchment of education in the U.S. today, every here today we see attacks on the educational rights of students. What characterizes the struggle though, is that it is, in particular, an attack on Asian students. It is an attempt by the Boalt faculty to eliminate the hard won gains of Asian people. Lastly, it is an attempt by Boalt to co-opt the Asian national movement. The Boalt faculty claims that there are enough Asian lawyers- and in one sense this is true. But the Boalt struggle is not simply a struggle for more Asian lawyers, Having Asian corporate lawyers working for ITT does no good for Asian peoples. Rather, it is a struggle for Asian lawyers who understand the role of law and are committed to struggling for the full rights of Asians in America.

The struggle at Boalt Hall draws its revolutionary significance from being a part of the historic struggle of Asian peoples against national oppression. We must see the attack at Boalt as an attack on all Asian peoples, thus seeing the struggle at Boalt as a part of the struggle of Asians against national oppression and imperialism and for revolutionary change.

At present the faculty has definitely eliminated Asian admissions. However, the AALSA is continuing its work for Asian admissions. The AALSA is planning a walkout as well as using various legal means to gain support for the Asian admissions struggle. The primary focus at all times however, is to mobilize students to fight for our rights. The ASU hopes to continue work with the AALSA in the future around issues of law etc. in the interests of Building of the Asian student Movement.

