

ASIAN STUDENTS UNITE!

VOL. 4 NO. 5

The Newsletter of the Berkeley ASU

MAY '76

ASU BUILDS CHINATOWN MAYDAY CELEBRATION

The ASU is participating in the Chinatown Committee to Celebrate Mayday and we are encouraging all Asian students to build the event by coming to the celebration. On Mayday we bring forth the leading role of the working class in carrying out our struggles against imperialism to their victorious conclusion. It is an international holiday especially devoted for all progressive people concerned with fundamental social change to come together in celebration, strengthen the unity and commitment, share the lessons of past struggles, and set directions for the future. In unity there is strength and this is a time of strength for the movement.

The work of the ASU must be consciously linked to the overall revolutionary movement. For it is not students or Asians alone who will make revolution. Rather, we must understand our relation to the overall movement, grasp our particular responsibilities in the movement, and carry them out. From this base, we hope that our participation in the coalition not only contributes to the building of the overall celebration but also helps us in establishing a stronger political context which can improve our work on campus. It is from this view that we are working in the Coalition.

The Chinatown Committee to Celebrate Mayday was initiated this year by the Chinese Progressive Association. Those participating in the Coalition represent a broad cross section of organizations and individuals in the revolutionary movement. It includes the Asian Student Unions from Berkeley, Laney, and San Francisco State, the Chinese Progressive Association, the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction, IWor Kuen, the Japan Town Collective, the Marxist Leninist Organizing Committee, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, San Francisco Fight Back Committee, and various individuals. The basis upon which people are participating in the Coalition can be summed up in the principles of unity:

- 1) Recognize the historic mission and leading role of the working class in changing U.S. society. Build the unity of the working class.
- 2) Oppose National Oppression. Support the struggle of Chinese and other oppressed minority workers against double oppression and exploitation.
- 3) Support the struggles of workers and all oppressed peoples of the World. Oppose the two Superpowers, U.S. Imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism.



4) Learn from the working masses of Socialist China.

These principles reflect the state and particular needs of the movement at this time. In terms of the need for social change, we must see that it is the masses of working people, the working class, that make change. It is the masses who create the wealth of society, and who, when organized, have the power to direct society to meet the needs of the people. At this time, the working class is divided, by racism and sexism as well as differences which objectively exist in the status and oppression of peoples in Capitalist society.

In the coalition we see that it is vital to build the unity of the working class in order to take up the struggles against the exploitation inherent in Capitalist society. The way that we see building that unity is reflected in the second principle of unity. Merely calling for unity does not deal with the objective divisions which exist in society. We must all take up the struggle against the systematic exploitation of Third World people, National Oppression, in order to advance the struggle against Imperialism and build the unity of the working class.

The struggles of working, Third World, and oppressed peoples cannot be seen in a vacuum. We must understand who the people's struggles are being directed against. At this time the main enemies of the World's peoples are the two superpowers, U.S. Imperialism and Soviet Social Imperialism. The role of the U.S.

throughout the world has been one of brutal oppression and exploitation. The situation in Southeast Asia as well as in the U.S. are excellent examples of this. The Soviet Union, once the great upholder of Socialism, has degenerated since the late 1950's. Their actions in the Middle East, support of the corrupt Lon Nol clique in Cambodia against the revolutionary Khmer Rouge, their invasion of Czechoslovakia, and their actions in Africa, have exposed their true reactionary nature to the peoples of the World.

On the other hand, the struggles of the Chinese people led by the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao, hold many lessons for the oppressed peoples of the world. China has been a guiding light in terms of the ideological struggle for a revolutionary line as well as being a key force in the awakening and advancements of the Third World.

The program we have developed will bring out the view of the coalition in various forms. The keynote speech will discuss the principles of unity in depth and show how they

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NEWSLETTER SUMMATION

In order for the newsletter committee to advance its work in the Spring Quarter, we wish to evaluate where we are now in our long range goal of implementing ASU's principles of unity:

- 1) Striving to meet the political-educational-social-cultural needs of Asian students,
- 2) Exposing and carrying on work against racism and inequality,
- 3) Defending and building the educational rights of Asian students,
- 4) Establishing communications and building relations between Asian people both on and off campus.

The Same

by Langston Hughes

It is the same everywhere for me:
On the docks at Sierra Leone,
In the cotton fields of Alabama,
In the diamond mines of Kimberley,
On the coffee hills of Haiti,
The banana lands of Central America,
The streets of Harlem,
And the cities of Morocco and Tripoli.

Black:
Exploited, beaten, and robbed,
Shot and killed.
Blood running into

DOLLARS
POUNDS
FRANCS
PESETAS
LIRE

For the wealth of the exploiters--
Blood that never comes back to me
again
Better that my blood
Runs into the deep channels of
Revolution,
Runs into the strong hands of
Revolution,
Stains all flags red,
Drives me away from

SIERRA LEONE
KIMBERLEY
ALABAMA
HAITI
CENTRAL AMERICA
HARLEM
MOROCCO
TRIPOLI

And all the black lands everywhere.
The force that kills,
The power that robs,
And the greed that does not care.
Better that my blood makes one with
the blood
Of all the struggling workers in the
world--
Till every land is free of

DOLLAR ROBBERS
POUND ROBBERS
FRANC ROBBERS
PESETA ROBBERS
LIRE ROBBERS
LIFE ROBBERS--

Until the Red Armies of the Inter-
national Proletariat
Their faces, black, white, olive,
yellow, brown,
Unite to raise the blood-red flag that
Never will come down!

- 5) Working with and supporting progressive struggles, particularly those of Third World people, and
- 6) Striving to involve Asian students in the broad movement for social change.

Clearly, these principles can only be implemented through conscious, ongoing political development. This article is a part of this development. In assessing our work, we hope to clarify the purpose and process of the newsletter both for ourselves and for those who would like to become involved with the newsletter.

The ways we see implementing the principles of ASU can be summed up in three goals: 1) Striving to put forth the political ideas and activities of ASU in a manner that is relevant and unifying to Asian students, 2) Working collectively within the committee to deepen our political understanding and commitment, and 3) Establishing the newsletter as a vehicle for exchanging and developing ideas among Asian students.

The implementation of our first goal, putting forward the ASU's politics in a clear and concise form, entails the long range process of developing a mass style. We are working to develop language, form, and topics in a style that is relevant to the majority of Asian students. Last quarter we covered diverse topics which included Asian Special Admissions, Asian Studies, the woman's question, Asian communities, calendars and poetry. We began to deal with the problem of rhetoric by developing our ideas more fully. The focus of each article was political education, written in relation to the overall activities of the ASU.

The second goal, working collectively to deepen our political understanding and commitment, addresses itself to the internal development of the newsletter committee. We place emphasis on collectivity throughout the planning, writing and editing processes of the newsletter. With each issue, two or more people are on top of each process, this leading to more involvement, responsibility and commitment from our committee members. We encourage struggle through regular discussions in order to fully develop article content, increase understanding, come to unity, and raise new questions. Since the make up of the committee is

always changing, discussion is considered as important as the printing of the newsletter itself.

The implementation of the second goal involved consciously functioning as an active part of the ASU rather than simply as a reporting device. Each newsletter focuses on the issues which are paramount to ASU at any one time, and coordinating this discussion and work with other work areas of the ASU, as was done with IWD, we contribute to the development of the entire organization. The newsletter overall contributes to the promotion of the programs and activities of the ASU.

The third goal, establishing the newsletter as a vehicle for exchanging and developing ideas among Asian students, deals with strengthening communications between ASU and other Asian students on campus. Outreach has been and will continue to be a main objective of the newsletter. By covering timely issues like the Boalt Hall demonstration and IWD, the newsletter informs students of the current situation and its historical roots. Articles on Asian Studies inform students of the classes being offered and of current events within the department. By distributing the newsletter in Asian Studies classes, consistent contact is made. Leafletting in Sproul Plaza, phoning, and talking to interested people results in more consistent outreach and constructive feedback.

Constructive criticism is welcome and encouraged. Our forum series was introduced for this purpose and is only one of the ways available for anyone to express his/her own/organizational viewpoint. The enclosed questionnaire was designed as a tool by which people can give criticism or suggestions regarding the newsletter or the ASU. We would greatly appreciate the return of completed questionnaires, as this would give us an indication of our progress this year. We, as a committee, feel that we have made strong advances towards our goal of addressing student needs. This has evolved mainly through input from new members and discussions with other interested individuals. In order for more progress to be made, additional support and input must be given. Therefore, we would appreciate any comments about this newsletter that you may have, and especially the return of the completed questionnaire. We encourage all Asian students to contribute to the building of the ASU newsletter.



artist appeal

We would like to set up contacts for art related to progressive themes. Anyone interested in graphics, photos, poems, songs, skits, or other ideas should come up to the ASU office or contact the newsletter committee, 642-6728.

ASU SPRING QUARTER PLANS

The ASU's plans for this spring quarter are trying to achieve two main goals 1) of developing more consistent ongoing activities on campus and in the communities and 2) of developing more outreach programs and activities to involve more people and develop participation within ASU.

One of the main activities of this quarter will be the celebration of International Worker's Day and participation in the Chinatown Committee to Celebrate May Day. Our participation is directed toward understanding the significance of May Day as a commemoration of the struggles of the working class and the work of ASU in supporting workers' struggles. This understanding will focus on the importance of the working class in revolutionary struggles and the role ASU plays in supporting these struggles within the revolutionary movement. Similarly, our participation in the Chinatown Committee to Celebrate May Day will help us to develop our relations with community organizations and other revolutionary organizations within the movement by taking up struggles to develop a program around International Worker's Day.

With this perspective on advancing our understanding of ASU's role in the movement, we are developing ongoing work this quarter with organizations in the community and on campus. Our work with CANE (Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction) will include organizing around a current campaign, scheduled for May 11, to challenge current San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's plans on the resident's site of Sutter and Laguna streets in Japantown.

Ongoing work with CANE and other organizations will also encompass more active educational work and outreach around the struggles of these groups. ASU's role in an International Worker's Day celebration by NICH (Non-Intervention in Chile) and a celebration of the May Fourth Movement (Youth movement of 1919 in China) with the campus US China People's Friendship Assoc. is directed toward working with campus organizations more and developing our understanding of these programs as well as actively organizing for all our activities: a symposium around Ethnic Studies (May 13) will also reflect these goals.

A continually developing aspect of the work of ASU centers around outreach and active involvement in ASU. A film series scheduled every Friday in the month of May will enable active discussion and political education around progressive films as well as a means for students to contribute to and participate in programs geared toward outreach and contact with students. A proposed sports night will also enable Asian students to come together on a regular basis and get to know each other. A picnic at Roberts Park on May 8th will also provide an opportunity for people to relax and informally get to know each other and the ASU better. On a day-to-day basis, the office/lounge (505 Eshleman) encourages people to come by and check things out. Outreach activities with in the ASU are focused not only toward involving new people but also in developing communications within the ASU as a means of consolidating the organization.

Ongoing work within ASU this quarter will focus toward continuation into summer and next fall. Committee work in particular should address itself to developing greater participation of active members, a process of the internal consolidation within ASU. Continuing development of the study group and work around Asian Studies and the student caucus will also contribute in deepening our understanding of how students can more fully take part in ASU and help it develop more consistently. More importantly, this understanding will lend to clearer programs and participation within ASU as a whole. With this in mind, we can see that a development of our commitment is a means of developing outreach and general involvement in all programs of ASU. We encourage people to become active in contributing to and gaining from these programs and activities.

FILM SERIES

- May 7 - "Slow Death" and "Justice"
Tan Oak Room. 7pm
- May 14 - "Traitors" (time and place to be arranged)
- May 21 - "Sandakan #8". (time and place to be arranged)
- May 28 - "Hearts and Minds" (time and place to be arranged)

calendar

Fourth Week:

May 1 - International Worker's Day
"An Evening of Internationalism" NICH. 7:30 I-House

May 2 - International Worker's Day
Chinatown Committee. 7:00
Chinese Cultural Center,
Holiday Inn. San Francisco.

Fifth Week:

May 4 - CANE forum. ASU office,
505 Eshleman. 3:30

May 4 - May Fourth Celebration with
US China People's Friendship. 12 noon. Sroul Plaza
steps.

May 8 - ASU picnic. Roberts Park
11-5pm

Sixth Week:

May 11 - CANE demonstration. Central
RDA office, 939 Ellis St.
San Francisco. 2-4pm

May 13 - Ethnic Studies Symposium
12-6pm

General meeting (to be arranged)

Seventh Week:

May 21 - Film "Sandakan #8". ASU
Women's Caucus. Fundraiser.
Place and time (to be arranged)



Take Up The Struggle! CANE DEMONSTRATION

The Sutter/Laguna tenants and CANE is calling for people to join with them to confront the Redevelopment Agency officials, to protest RDA's blatant disregard of the tenants' rights. The struggle of the Sutter/Laguna tenants is a part of the historic struggle of oppressed and working people for the right to live

in a community of their choice with decent conditions in which to live, work and earn a livelihood. On May 11, at 2:30, there will be a demonstration at the Central RDA office, 939 Ellis St., SF. The ASU will have a forum about CANE and what we can do to unite with the tenants, on May 4th, at 3:30, in 505 Eshleman.

ETHNIC STUDIES FORUM

On May 13, the Department of Ethnic Studies and various Third World student groups will sponsor a symposium on the future of Ethnic Studies. The event will give students and faculty an opportunity to evaluate the present status of Third World Studies, especially as it exists at UCB.

On May 17, the ASU with Black Board, MECHA, and NASA (Native American Students Assoc.) will sponsor a forum commemorating the Third World Strike of 1969. Students and other speakers will address some of the major questions and problems of Third World Studies and the role students play in resolving the problems.

The events will provide students with opportunities to familiarize themselves and provide feedback on the current status and future of Ethnic Studies as it develops toward a Third World College. In 1969, Third World students led a massive strike at UCB to demand a Third World College and self-determination for Third World students. In response, the University was forced to establish the department of Ethnic Studies, with the understanding that this would develop into a Third World College. The formation of Ethnic Studies was a major victory for Third World students in allowing them to develop curricula responsive to students and community needs, especially bringing out the true history of the oppression and struggles of Third World people in America.

Throughout the history of Ethnic Studies, the University has consistently made attempts to co-opt Ethnic



Studies and take back the deserved gains of the Third World Strike. The University has constantly criticized the Ethnic Studies attempts to incorporate student input and community work into curricula. Since the strike, students have always united with the faculty to defend Ethnic Studies and make it responsive to the need for fundamental social change.

Now, a proposal for a Third World College has been approved and the Department of Ethnic Studies is making definite advances toward that goal. This means that students must be aware of the situation in Ethnic Studies and must support and build it. It is only through organized student support and input that the Third World College can justly represent the interests of Third World

people.

Thus, we hope that students will attend either or both of the events. The symposium will include speakers from other Ethnic Studies departments around the country who will address the general goals and purposes of Third World Studies. The speeches will be followed by a panel discussion and various workshops, for more detailed discussion. The event will be in Pauley Ballroom from 12 noon till about 4.

The Third World Strike forum will include the film of the Third World strike at SF State, speakers on the history of Ethnic Studies at UCB and plans on mobilizing student support and input into Ethnic Studies, and different cultural presentations.

For more information contact ASU in 505 Eshleman or call 642-6728.

MAYDAY continued

(from page 1)

are concretely rooted and applied in our current situation. Progressive poems and songs are an important form for expressing political ideas. There will be a speech by the Marxist-Leninist forces in the Coalition which will deal with the need for socialist revolution, and the importance of a Communist Party to lead the struggle. A skit will bring out the leading role of the working class and the need for proletarian internationalism. The particular revolutionary nature of the history and current struggles of Asian peoples will be brought out in a slide show. Solidarity speeches from different groups will bring out the breadth and unity of the movement in support of the Coalition. The program will be in English and Chinese.

The Celebration will be taking place in S.F. Chinatown at the Chinese Cultural Center, third floor, of the Kearney St. Holiday Inn between Washington and Clay, at 7:00 pm on Sunday May 2. Come and show your support.

Celebrate International Workers Day

SUNDAY - MAY 2, 1976

7:00 pm AT

CHINESE CULTURAL CENTER

KEARNY & WASHINGTON ST. SF

(ENTER FROM PORTSMOUTH SQ. BRIDGE)

slide show, skit, singing

speeches, photo display.



**Workers and oppressed peoples of the world, unite!
Countries want independence,
nations want liberation,
people want revolution!
Chinese workers organize to advance the struggle!**