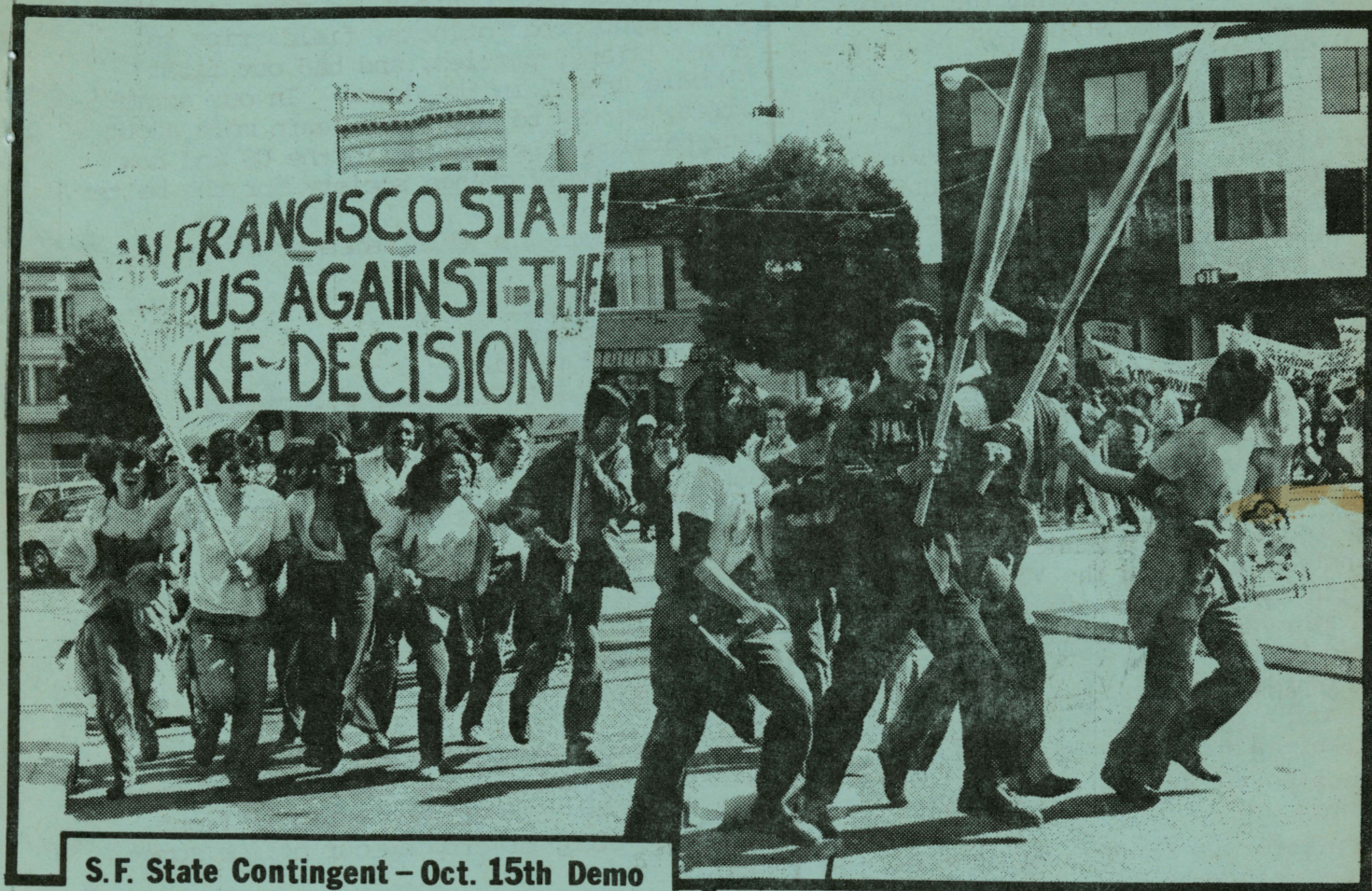


# ASIAN STUDENT VOICE

Asian Student Union, SFSU, volume 5 - No.1, FEBRUARY 1978

Student Union B-137 1600 Holloway San Francisco 94132

Ext. 1929



S.F. State Contingent - Oct. 15th Demo

## Asian Students and the Bakke Decision

Asian student organizations like the ASU here at State have been fighting the oppression of Asian students since they first started to organize. In the late 60s and early 70s, Asians came together in high schools and colleges across the country to fight for our rights as students: the right for more Asians on college campuses both as faculty or staff and as students, the right to a relevant education and to learn our true history of the hardships and struggles of our peoples in the US and in Asia, the right to study and practice our cultures and languages.

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## STATEWIDE ASIAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

A joint Asian student conference was held at California State University Los Angeles on Sunday, December 11, 1977 where Asian student organizations from 17 different college campuses were represented. The conference was called by the Asian Student Union at CSULA for the purpose of establishing a communications system that would bring together all the Asian student groups in California. This meeting was particularly significant for building for future statewide conferences and for uniting Asian students on a statewide basis.

Cont.



# EDITORIAL -

## JOIN THE ASU!

The Asian Student Union (ASU) here at SFSU consists of young men and women who are concerned with meeting the needs of Asian not just here at State, but throughout the nation.

Upon our arrival in the 1800's and 1900's Asians were forced to work the most difficult jobs with the worst pay and working conditions for our survival. Even today, Asians are used as a cheap labor force in housekeeping, garment factories, restaurants and electronics assembly plants.

As a people, Asians in America have been denied the right to practice our cultures, languages, and to be able to learn about our own history.

Asians helped to build this country. Throughout our history, Asian people have struggled bravely against this national oppression that we face.

During the sixties, Asian students played a leading role in opposing the Vietnam War and fighting for Ethnic Studies and the right to a relevant education for all Third World people. The ASU at SFSU was born out of the struggle against national oppression and a real need for an Asian student organization that meets the political, educational, and cultural needs of Asian students.

Last semester we tried to better meet the needs of Asian students on campus by diversifying the activities of the ASU. By supporting the struggles of the I-Hotel Japantown tenants, we have deepened our understanding of the importance of Third World communities, how redevelopment attacks mainly Third World communities and seeing how redevelopment is part of the oppression that Asians in this country face.

Through such issues as Bakke, the ASU budget, and other cutbacks, we have tried to work with all Third World and other progressive groups and students in the fight for the rights of students on campus. We have put on educational and cultural programs such as the concentration camp forum, the Asian Unity Festival, working with students in Asian American Studies and other unity organizations on these projects.

We think it is important for Asian students to get together and meet each other so we sponsored potlucks, field trips to Angel Island, parties, and had our first "Noodle Break" in the dorms. In our activities, we try to teach and learn more about our particular situation in the US and how we can actively change society for the better.

Our plans for this semester are:

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ping pong tourney  
Angel Island picnic  
joint N. Cal. ASU Tule Lake pilgrimage  
dorm activities

### BAKKE COMMITTEE

Spring nationwide anti-Bakke demos

### NEWSLETTER/PHOTO TEAM

newsletter  
tee shirts  
photo classes  
photo displays

Join a committee! These are only initial plans, so we welcome new ideas & input from YOU! Come by our outreach table in front of the SU Bldg, or drop by our office sometime.

SUPPORT THE ASU--BUY A MEMBERSHIP CARD!!!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

*all the friends who  
generously donated in  
memory of our  
beloved friend, Sharon.*

AND

\*\*Japanese American Curriculum Project--  
especially Mrs. Yoshiwara\*\*Japantown Art  
& Media Workshop--especially Grant and  
James\*\*Berkeley ASU\*\*and all the  
State ASU folks who spent time and energy  
on this newsletter

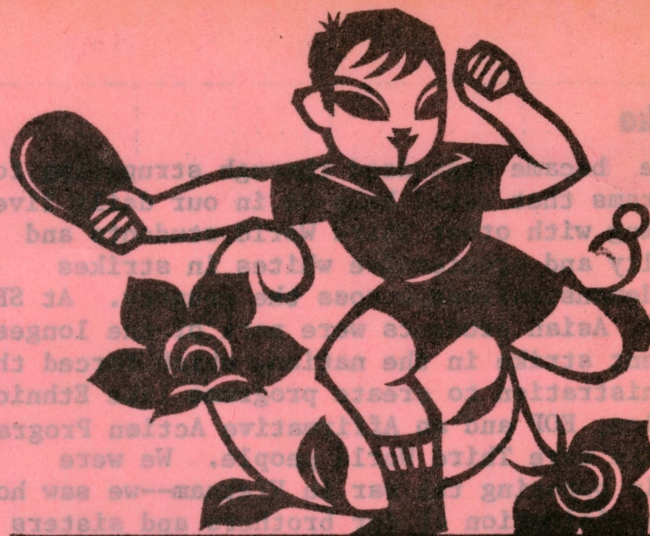


# ASIAN UNITY FESTIVAL

"Celebrate our cultures and take up the struggles of Asian people in America" was the theme to last semester's Asian Unity Festival (AUF). The two-day event was sponsored and organized by the Asian Student Union (ASU) & students from the Asian-American Studies classes. The festival brought out the continuing struggles of Asian people here in America, as well as sharing the different Asian cultures. The AUF also contained informational booths from various community & campus groups.

On the first day of the festival the program addressed itself to issues concerning our communities. In particular, the struggle of Third World communities for the right to housing that meets our needs. Speaking on these issues were the I-Hotel Support Committee and Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction (CANE). Both organizations spoke to the need for low-rent housing in Chinatown/Manhattan and Japantown and the continual destruction of our communities. A speaker from the Chinese Progressive Association talked about police harrassment in Chinatown and how the community is fighting this. Also on the program for that day were the Chinatown Lion Dance Association who performed a lion dance and martial arts, the Obon Dance (Japanese Folk Dance) in which the audience was able to participate. Robert Kikuchi & Sam Takamoto from the group Bamboo also performed by singing some songs reflecting the struggles of Asian in America.

On the last day of the festival, the program reflected many issues concerning students. A speaker from the ASU brought out how the Bakke decision affects Asian students. S.F. State ASU is one of the many organizations participating in the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition (ABDC). A speaker from the ABDC spoke on the background of the Bakke decision and future plans for defeating the Bakke decision. Also on the program was Rodell Rodis, an Asian-American Studies instructor, who spoke about the importance of maintaining Ethnic Studies and the fight it took to get it. Students from his class performed a skit about the exploitation of Pilipinos as a cheap labor source. PACE (Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor) performed some Pilipino dances, and K. Yip studio performed a lion dance and martial arts demonstrations. On both days there were workshops after the program, where students could ask questions or become more involved in the is-



## PING PONG

During the week of November 14-21, the Asian Student Union held the first ping-pong tournament of the Fall Semester. Due to the death of an ASU member we had difficulty and delays in starting the tournament, but finally all things were underway. The tournament got off to a really good start. There were lots of students who signed up. Some were signed up as advanced, intermediate and some as beginners. It was lots of fun watching and especially participating in the tournament. After the tournament, there was a play off match for each category and a potluck dinner at one of our ASU member's home. After the matches were over, we announced winners from our different categories of players. So it was a great success and we have decided to have another tournament next semester. The theme of the tournament along with all our activities, emphasized the idea of "friendship through sports." This is one of the many ways last semester, the ASU tried to meet the needs of Asian students and get to know Asians through social activities as well as our political work. ■



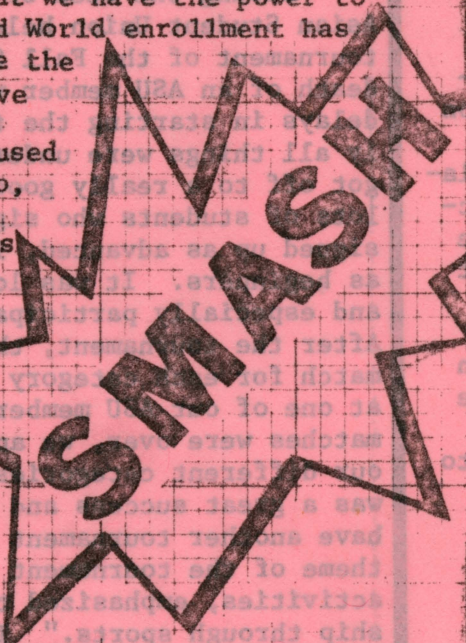


**Bakke**

We became organized through struggling for programs that would help us in our daily lives joining with other Third World students and faculty and progressive whites in strikes and demonstrations across the country. At SF State, Asian students were part of the longest student strike in the nation, which forced the administration to create programs like Ethnic Studies, EOP and an Affirmative Action Program to hire more Third World people. We were key in opposing the war in Vietnam--we saw how the exploitation of our brothers and sisters in Southeast Asia was directly tied to the oppression of Asian people within our communities and in our schools. Through these struggles we saw that we have the power to make changes. Third World enrollment has doubled since before the strike in '68. We've got Asian American Studies classes focused on Chinese, Pilipino, Japanese and Korean Studies. A lot of us got into school through EOP or Upward Bound which also offers us counseling and tutoring programs. However, these concessions from the administration in themselves aren't going to change the fact that we are oppressed peoples who have been systematically denied the right to maintain and control our own communities. We get a couple of Asian faces in high places and we still see the majority of our people slaving away in the restaurants, in the garment factories, in the fields, in corner grocery stores. We have the police brutalizing our communities, big business and the Redevelopment Agency moving in and kicking people out of their homes. On campus, through cutbacks, policy changes and denials of tenure or full-time status to Third World professors, the programs we succeeded in winning are constantly under attack. In the Ethnic Studies Department, we have the opportunity to learn some of the history of our peoples, but the average class in any of the other departments continues to ignore the roles Asian and other Third World people in the US, because "this isn't Ethnic Studies." We

have a higher percentage of Third World on-campus staff, but largely due to hiring more Third World clerical and maintenance workers. Almost all the Asian, Black, Native American and Raza professors are in those corresponding Studies programs. The single Third World administrator on campus is the Affirmative Action coordinator! Financial aid for part-time students and Upward Bound no longer exist. Because we can see what's gone down in the past and what we still are up against, we in the ASU know that we must continue the struggle we took up when we first began to organize. Right now, one of the main issues facing us as Asian students is the Bakke Decision.

This upcoming US Supreme Court decision threatens to wipe out the same programs we fought for and won during the 60s. The case is not the picture the media paints--a poor little white engineer suing the University of California in a court of "justice" because their Special Admissions program kept him out of Medical school. By promoting the concept of "reverse discrimination", by saying that any program which serves Third World people discriminates against whites,



**the Bakke Decision!**

the government and the administrations are joining together to not only continue but to also intensify their attacks on Third World people and the programs that serve us. This court case is already setting an example across the country for cutbacks in federally-funded community programs, bilingual services, childcare programs, Affirmative Action on the job, and Special Admissions and minority recruitment programs in the universities.

They try and tell us that Asians are the "successful minority;" that the Bakke Decision won't affect us. But the myth of Asian people being the successful minority and the concept of "reverse discrimination" are part of the same racist lie: Asians as a whole have never gained equality in this society and until then saying we've "made it" or that we're discriminating against whites is ridiculous. These lies are just another way to try and justify the continuing attacks on our programs and communities.

Asian student organizations throughout California and on the East coast have been





Thousands linked arms to form a human barricade to show their support for the I-Hotel.

# STRENGTH

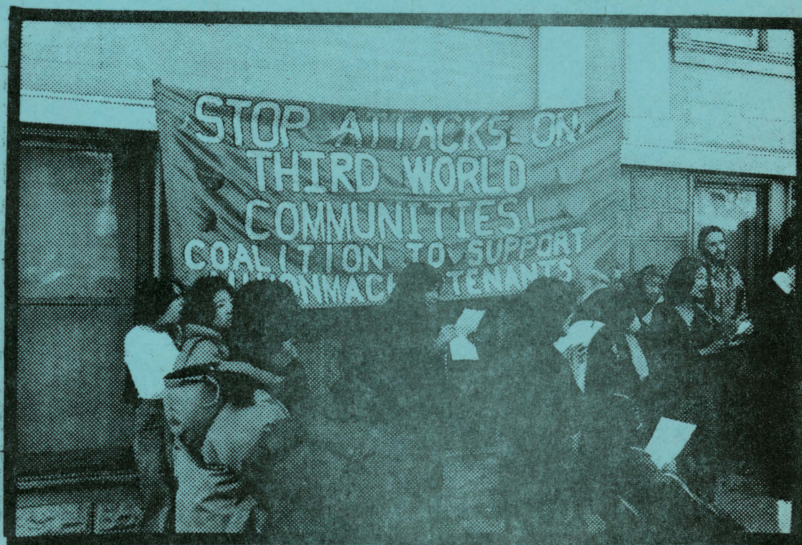
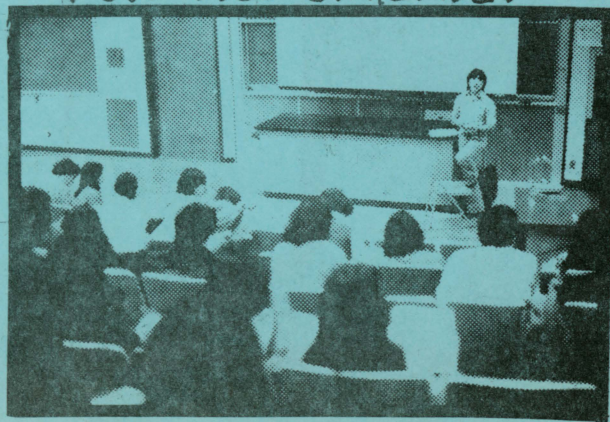


The ASU supports Nihonmachi tenants.



# THRU UNITY

ASU GOES STATEWIDE!

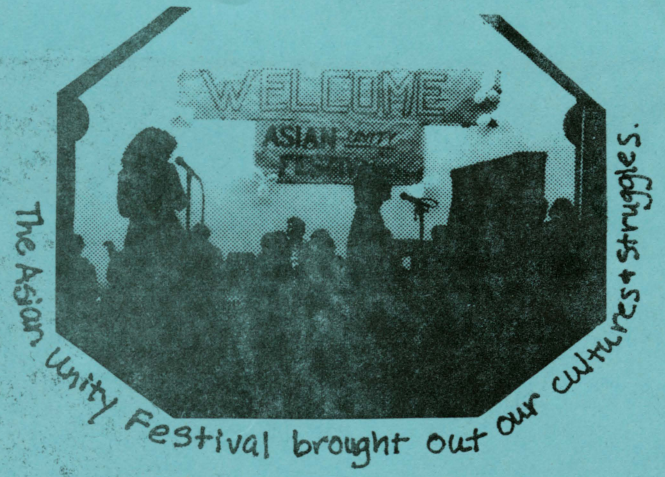


Joint singing at J-town rally.





Our sister in struggle, Sharon,  
1955 - 1977.



The Asian Unity Festival brought out our cultures + struggles.



The ASU taught everyone Japanese folk dances.

October 15 anti-Bakke march and rally. ↓



The ASU works with other third world organizations.





# BAKKE

a major force in pushing forward the struggle against the Bakke Decision. At the same time, organizing and educating people about the Bakke Decision is increasing the unity of Asian students on the different campuses.

The ASU has been active in opposing the Bakke Decision since last year, when we helped form a coalition of the Third World student organizations against the Bakke Decision. Since then we've united with students, community organizations and workers caucuses throughout California, people of all nationalities, to form the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition (ABDC). Through ABDC, we created an educational slideshow, informational literature, spoke at campus and community events, on television and radio programs, held educational forums, and last October organized the statewide demonstration in San Francisco which brought over 4,000 people out on the streets to show their opposition to the Bakke Decision.

The ABDC is calling for a national conference February 19, 1978 in Los Angeles where people from all over the country will be attending. We are seeing a growing movement nationwide to defeat the Bakke Decision and to defend the rights of Third World people. Through organizing against the Bakke Decision, through struggling for and defending programs that address our daily needs, we are building an Asian student movement which grows stronger every day.

All around the state, Asian students are fighting cutbacks in Ethnic Studies, financial aid & counseling services. Third World people everywhere face the same type of attacks. The Asian student movement and the growing movement against the Bakke Decision are part of the same struggle. Asians and other Third World people have continued to wage against the systematic oppression of our peoples. We must realize that attacks against us did not begin, nor will it end with the Bakke Decision. It is only by continuing this struggle against national oppression, by more and more of us getting involved, that we can win.

## NATIONAL ANTI-BAKKE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 19th SUNDAY

in Los Angeles

Sleeping accommodations & transportation will be provided. For more info contact the ASU office. Student Union B137 or call Ext. 1929

## Asian Unity Festival

sues spoken to that day.

For the ASU, we felt that the Asian Unity Festival was a success. Many students were able to check it out and find out more about the activities of the ASU. The festival was one way the ASU tried to meet the cultural, social and political needs of Asian students last semester. The ASU was able to work with many students in different Asian-American Studies classes in order to make the event a success.

The festival was a success despite the fact that we had virtually no money to work with in holding the event. All the speakers

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## DEFROST A.S. BUDGET

There is still no solution to the Associated Students budget freeze. The \$531,000 A.S. budget, comprised of the \$10.00 student activity fees, has been frozen for the past semester. At least, 40 campus programs and organizations including the ASU has not received any funding. Although the ASU has not received any funds, the ASU is still operating and active on campus.

The main conflict is over the right of students to control their money. The ASU feels that the students not the administration should control the A.S. Budget and that students should not be forced to fund anything against their will. That certain programs should be funded by the state.

The most controversial item in the proposed budget is that the A.S. wants to stop funding all instructionally related programs. Included in instructionally related cuts are athletics.

President Romberg held up the budget with questions about procedure and the funding of some organizations and that the budget is not in the interests of all students.

The administration of the university is extremely hostile to Third World Student organizations and their programs. For example last semester when the ASU and La Raza marched to Romberg's office to demand that he take a public stand on the Bakke decision & stop cutting back programs and services. He refused to meet with us. During the summer, the Upward Bound program was annihilated, not only at State, but across the country.

Cont. on Pg. 9

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# STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR COMMUNITIES!

Since its founding in 1974, the Asian Student Union has actively opposed the systematic exploitation and oppression of Asian and all other Third World people. Through the course of our work, we see that it is important to build ties with all Third World communities and organizations. We cannot confine ourselves to just campus struggles because national oppression affects not only students but all third world people in all aspects of society. Our struggles on campus and in the communities are part of the ongoing struggle of Third World people against inequality and national oppression.

Within Chinatown and Japantown, the struggle for low-income housing that meets the needs of the community has been a continuous battle. In Chinatown, the International Hotel has been the focus of the fight for low-income housing for 9 years. During these past 9 years, the tenants of the I-Hotel were constantly threatened with evictions. Because of mass support the struggle continues to the present day. By relying on the people and not on the city government, the I-Hotel has withstood continuous attacks and eviction attempts. The city overnment's "Buy-Back" Plan was still further proof that the city wanted to evict the tenants. "The Buy-Back Plan is an eviction plan," stated one of the tenants. It put the burden on the tenants by making them buy the Hotel for 1.3 million dollars within five years. Failure to raise the money at the end of five years would result in eviction.

On August 4, 1977 the tenants of the International Hotel were forcibly evicted by the San Francisco police and sheriff's departments. Over 2000 supporters of the Hotel formed a human barricade in front of the building to resist the brutal eviction, requiring over 400 policemen and deputies to carry out their brutal task. It took over 8 hours to carry out the eviction at a ridiculous cost of a quarter million dollars. This large sum of money could have been the down payment to purchase the Hotel.

The fight for the I-Hotel has intensified since the evictions into a fight to stop the demolition. The struggle for the Hotel is not a dead issue. For many, the International Hotel has been the symbol of resistance against national oppression.

In Japantown similar attempts by the city to destroy the community are being fought. The Committee Against Nihonmachi Evictions (CANE) has been fighting the Redevelopment Agency in their attempts to destroy buildings that are vitally needed for low-income housing. Currently RDA is trying to evict the tenants of 1869 Buchanan and 1531 Sutter St. They have resorted to all types of harassment to force the tenants to move. Daily visits, midnight phone calls, and even the placing of armed guards in the buildings have been tried to intimidate the tenants. The tenants compared this armed occupation to the Japanese concentration camps of World War II. They were constantly harrassed by the guards and on different occasions even barred from their homes because "they didn't have adequate identification on them." One evening an elderly couple living in the Buchanan st building returned from their vacation to find their apartment ransacked and their money and valuable possessions stolen. RDA claimed the guards were there to protect the tenants and their property. Since that time the guards have been kicked out of the buildings by CANE and its supporters. Still the struggle around the evictions continue. There are 90-day eviction notices at both buildings.

The ASU sees these attacks on our communities as part of the continuous and systematic oppression of Asian people in this country. We believe the city government should buy and maintain the International Hotel including the small shops and community organizations as low cost housing. We also support CANE in their demands that RDA maintain the two buildings as low-income housing in Japantown. Students can play an important role in resisting these attacks on our communities. You can help by signing up for our phone tree and supporting the various programs on community issues that the ASU sponsors. For more information contact the ASU office at the Student Union Building, room B 137 or call ext. 1929. ■

## Festival

and the performers donated their time to the program and a lot of time was put into publicity and organization of the event. But since the Associated Students budget was frozen last semester, the ASU realized that we can't rely on the money from the administration in order to function. We learned to rely on ourselves and we made last semester an active semester for the ASU without any funding from the school. ■



## IN MEMORY OF SHARON LEW

Sharon was a member of the Asian Student Union at SF State. She was always involved in projects and activities that helped people and because she sought to serve people's needs, she gave her all helping, organizing and educating people. On October 23, 1977, Sharon was helping to photograph and put together an educational documentary about the various labor camps in the agricultural town of Watsonville, California. On that day she was killed in an automobile accident.

Sharon devoted her life to fighting against inequalities. She always stood firm against all forms of exploitation and oppression. Her commitment to serving the people was exemplified in her leading role at San Francisco State. As a member of the ASU coordinating Committee, she strictly adhered to the ASU's Principles of Unity in actively fighting the oppression of Asian people and trying to change things to benefit the majority of people. Her participation and ideas were reflected in the many activities of the ASU. Sharon was instrumental in the formation of our campus chapter of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition. She saw the need to build closer ties and unity amongst all Third World peoples in our common struggle against national oppression. She helped to bring out the Bakke issue to many students on campus. Her outstanding ability to talk with students contributed greatly to the growth of the anti-Bakke movement. Sharon also worked as a peer counselor in the Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) because she recognized the importance of special admissions programs such as EOP in combating the oppression of Third World people.

she wholeheartedly supported the struggles in the Asian communities. She always offered her assistance whenever possible. Sharon helped defend the International Hotel against evictions. She supported the Japanese community in their fight to save Japantown from being torn apart by urban redevelopment. She participated in community events and programs that educated people about different issues concerning Asians.



## PERSONAL VIEW OF THE ASU

Although I had heard of the ASU last October, I was a bit hesitant in joining the organization because I just didn't want to get involved in such issues like the Bakke case, I- Hotel and the J-town evictions, just to name a few. The reason why I'm in the ASU now is because of the people and their caring attitude about others. By others I mean people of all races.

I see the main goal of the ASU as a fight to free this nation of its discriminatory ways of life.

Now that I am part of the ASU I can see the ASU is an organization that reaches out to all Third World students and trying to unite them. In my own experience I feel the only way anyone can really understand the ASU is to come down to room B137 of the Student Union and just talk with us and find out what the organization is striving for-- equality for all! ■

Sharon's life was committed to serving the people. She was a fighter for the people. Her ability to struggle against incorrect ideas and her unselfish attitude are shining examples to us all. Sharon was always cheerful and eager to help people. Even if she was feeling down, Sharon would never let her personal problems interfere with her work. Sharon was not one to slack off or give up. Her boundless energy and her powerful determination reflected her total commitment to serving the people.



# JOINT ASU STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

A joint Asian student conference was held at California State University, Los Angeles, Sunday, December 11, 1977. Asian student organizations from seventeen campuses from various parts of the state were represented. The conference was called by the ASU at CSULA to initiate a communications system that would bring together all the Asian Student organizations in California. This meeting was particularly significant for having future statewide conferences and through these, building closer ties and more unity among Asian students throughout the state.

Peoples pointed to the long history of Asian students working together for social change like in the anti-war movement and throughout the Third World strikes. A woman at the conference recalled the 1975 Tule Lake pilgrimage that was sponsored and organized by 11 campuses in northern California, and how it not only strengthened the ties and unity between the campuses into a powerful force, but also helped each of the participants in their organizing on their own campuses. With new ASU's represented at the conference and hearing of many more just beginning in different parts of the country, there seems to be a growing concern and increasing understanding of the need to have campus organizations for Asian students, as organizations are being established at many campuses where students had previously appeared to have little interest. Asian students across the state are realizing the need for organizing students on their own campuses and ultimately into a statewide body.

One of the main catalysts in strengthening the Asian student movement has been through working together in the growing anti-Bakke movement. Students everywhere are realizing that the Bakke Decision is an attack on the rights of Third World people in this country and that we must organize ourselves to combat this and other similar forms of oppression.

Talking with representatives from other organizations reaffirmed how we at State are part of a broader Asian student movement. We discovered that there are many similarities in what we are trying to accomplish. We also found that we face similar problems, like...what kinds of activities to have to really broadly meet the needs of Asian students on our campuses and fight the national oppression we face. Integrating cultural, political, social, and educational programs.

Show to integrate community support work with the campus work and other such questions.

We summed up that there was much we could learn from each other, that we would all benefit greatly by having consistent statewide meetings, through working together on activities, mutually supporting each other, sharing resources, and that through this, build an invincible Asian student movement. One of the results of the conference was the passage of some resolutions that would provide direction for future activities. They are as follows:

We must continue to build ties with other Asian students throughout California. We realize that we can learn from the experiences of all organizations, new or old. It is important for Asian students to work together on not only our own campuses and communities, but throughout the entire state. The ASU at San Francisco State has always seen the importance of building unity among Asian student organizations and that it has been one of our foremost endeavors.

HELP BUILD THE ASIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT!!!!  
WEST COAST CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 18th,  
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE.

Buses leaving Berkeley and San Jose, contact ASU office for more info. Student Union B137 or call Ext. 1929.

## RESOLUTIONS:

1. Establish communications net work whose purpose is to do outreach on other campuses, mutual support, exchanges experiences, joint activities. To do this we set up North and South regionals (Designated UCB and CSULA as the Central Contact campuses for responsible regions) which will elect reps to the coordinating committee (C.C.) The C.C. is to take up the task of planning for a statewide conference February 18-20 in Southern California whose purpose is to do: formalize a communications network statewide, take up questions facing Asian student organizations, to facilitate joint activities between campuses.
1. To work with ABDC (Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition), to learn with other student, community, and workplace organizations in fighting against the Bakke Decision.
2. Do more outreach to foreign and bilingual/non-English speaking students; high school students; to our parents; to our communities; about the Bakke Decision.
3. For Southern California to establish inter-campus ABDC network.