

ASIAN HORIZON

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PEOPLE'S CHINA

October 1, 1949 marks a great turning point in the history of the people of the world. It is recognized as the founding day of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Since then the people and government of China have desired contact and have extended a hand of friendship to the rest of the people of the world.

In 1971, the PRC was restored its rightful seat in the United Nations and the United States government had to end their 23 year long isolation policy. Since then, American and Chinese delegations such as cultural and sports, doctors, scientists, and journalists have visited each other's countries. Interest to learn about life in Socialist China has grown at an extremely rapid pace.

The founding of the People's Republic of China has signalled a new life of independence and progress in the interests of the majority of people. Rapid advancement has developed in their society socially, culturally, politically and economically. But in order to fully understand and appreciate these great changes in China's society one must understand the conditions in China before liberation in 1949.



WHEW!!!! We finally did it! This is the first collective Asian Horizon Newsletter of the year. Through the past months the Asian Student Union has sponsored and participated in some of the local October First celebrations. Out of this we have learned about many new aspects of China. This is why this issue of the Asian Horizon is focused around China. If you'd like to help out on the next issue, have any suggestions, or would like more copies just pop up to room 411, 4th floor of the Student Center and just ask!!!

Hope you enjoy this issue!

Asian Student Union



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Before the revolution the great majority of people in China lived under intolerable conditions. Often millions of poor peasants would die in a single year due to corruption in the government, starvation and sickness. Foreign governments controlled large areas of China as well as most of the industry. Only a small handful of wealthy Chinese shared any power while workers toiled for pennies a day, often being forced to take their wages in opium. It was this kind of oppression that sparked and stirred the masses of Chinese people to unite and struggle for the right to live as human beings and determine their own lives and that of their motherland. After a century of fighting foreign domination and the cruelty of the corrupt rulers of their own country, the People's Republic of China was established.

In the 25 years since then, through self-reliance and hard work the Chinese people have transformed their country into one full of employment and adequate food, housing medical care and education. In the past few years many Americans have been able to visit China and enthusiastically described the amazing transformation there, especially in their standards of living.

Looking at China through the eyes of the world, its role as a Socialist country is also significant. Countries with different social systems have established diplomatic relations with China based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence developed by the PRC in 1954. These are: Respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty; equality and mutual benefit; mutual non-aggression; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; and peaceful co-existence. China also gives genuine support and aid to other developing countries; in Tanzania, Africa for example, China has helped finance the building of the Tan-Zam railway, which stretches across Tanzania and links Zambia with the sea. The Chinese government whose economy is one of the most stable in the world, also provides long-term interest free or low-interest loans to other developing countries to help them advance.

The Chinese people still face many problems. China is still a relatively poor country, and the struggle against old ideas also continues. As a Shanghai dock-worker expressed to a recent American visitor, "We are the masters of our own fate." The Chinese people continue to struggle together to advance society. The progress of the Chinese people from misery, degradation, and poverty to a socialist society where people are free from exploitation is an achievement worthy of praise and from which we can all learn.

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China's Revolution in Education



In the twenty-five years since the founding of the People's Republic, education in China has made great strides forward. At the time of Liberation in 1949, only the rich landlords and merchants could afford to send their children to school. Thus, almost 90% of China's population was illiterate. But even those few who were able to attend could only choose between traditional Chinese schools which were focused on Europe and America.

China's revolution in 1949 swept away centuries of rule by landlords and foreigners, and began to build a new society. In education, foreign schools were taken over and thousands of new schools were built so that by 1959, all children (except some in very remote areas) had at least a primary education. Adult and part time education were combined with this to reduce the illiteracy to 50% in 1960. Hundreds of thousands

of teachers, doctors, scientists and engineers were trained to meet China's growing educational needs.

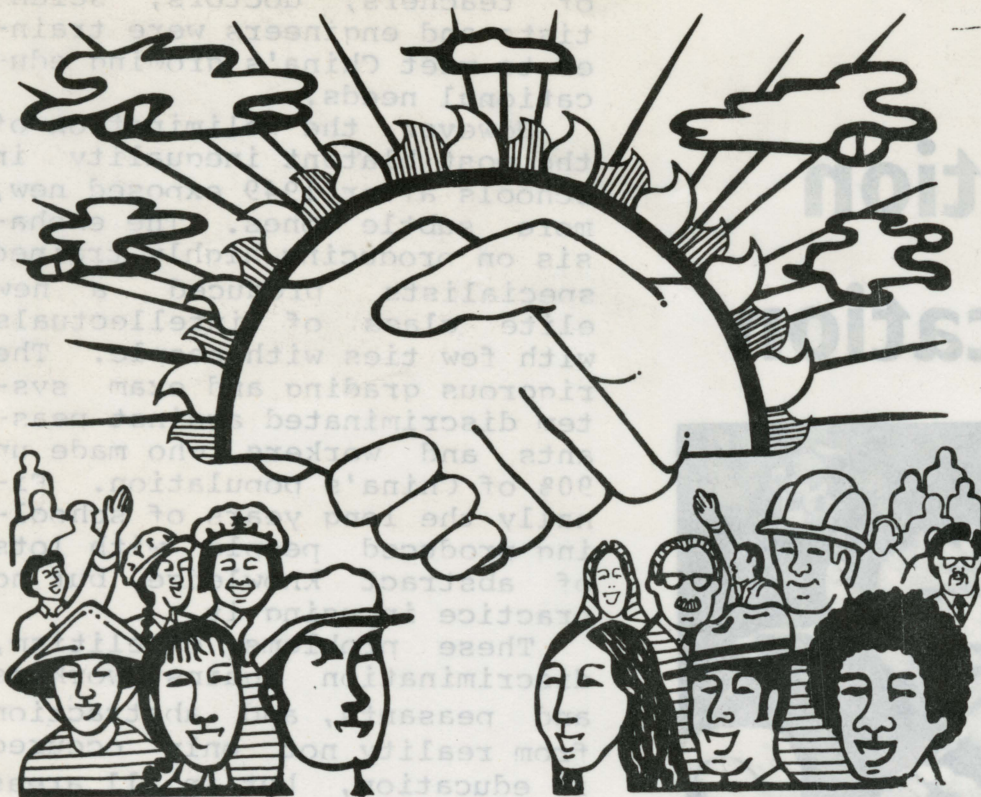
However, the elimination of the most blatant inequality in schools after 1949 exposed new, more subtle ones. The emphasis on producing highly trained specialists produced a new elite class of intellectuals with few ties with people. The rigorous grading and exam system discriminated against peasants and workers, who made up 90% of China's population. Finally the long years of schooling produced people with lots of abstract knowledge, but no practice in using it.

These problems of elitism, discrimination against workers and peasants, and abstraction from reality not only occurred in education, but in all areas of society. In order to defeat this trend, the Cultural Revolution began in 1966. Many schools were closed as young, militant Red Guards attacked these problems. Out of the Cultural Revolution came many changes in China's education.

The outlook and spirit in education after the Cultural Revolution has progressively improved. The Cultural Revolution brought forth working class leadership and working class attitudes of students. Workers, teachers, students and often the People's Liberation Army soldiers together take charge of the schools. Workers are aware of the political, social and economic problems in

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Oct

1st

Laney's Asian Student Union celebrated the 25th anniversary of the People's Republic of China with an enlightening program concerning the different aspects of China's new socialist society.

The October 1st celebration, held on campus September 24th, included a film showing of Felix Greene's "One Man's China" series and also photo displays of daily life in China's urban and rural communes. This all day event gave Laney students the opportunity to view and discuss the dynamic changes which have taken place since liberation in 1949. Students were also given information about other events occurring in the Bay Area commemorating the historic turning point of China, and the political trend taking place in the world today. It was greatly encouraging to see a progressive, youthful society growing in China's centuries old history of internal conflict caused by feudal and foreign imperialist rule.

On September 21st, a colorful friendship Fair was held at Galileo High School in San Francisco. Chinese cooking demonstrations, martial arts, music, information booths and speakers highlighted the fair's program, introducing a broad perspective of Socialist China today. A multitude of people turned out to support the purpose of the fair which stressed promoting friendship between the American and

Chinese people. Laney's ASU participated with an information booth and a photo display showing the various activities of the youth in China.

If you happened to be in San Francisco Chinatown on Saturday, September 28, you would have seen over 800 people gathered in Portsmouth Square. Community people, working men and women, students, and children came out to celebrate China's National day. This was the third outdoor October First event in Chinatown. Each year the friendship movement with China grows larger. These events are significant because it reflects the mass support of China and the decline of power of the Kuomintang in Chinatown. The ASU was also a part of the overall program.

The Bay Area Joint Committee for Events on the Occasion of the 25th anniversary of the People's Republic of China concluded this year's October 1st celebrations with an evening program at the Masonic Auditorium the following Sunday. Laney and U.C. Berkeley ASU members joined together to sing along with the Joint Committee chorus group. The program consisted of speakers such as Felix Greene, Owusu Sadaukai, former chairman of the African Liberation Support Committee, and music by the Bay Area Progressive Musicians.

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All these local celebrations in the Bay Area were part of the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is composed of a broad coalition of students, workers, and community people uniting together under the three basic principles of unity:

1. To promote friendship between the People of the United States and China.
2. To support the normalizations of relations between China and the United States.
3. To encourage people to learn about the People's Republic of China.



from page 3

society, therefore they would see to it that schools are geared more towards the needs of society and serving the people.

The major idea in education is taken from Chairman Mao's thoughts, that is putting theory into practice. At least one month of the year is spent in working in a factory or in agri



Political Science Students at Yenpien University

culture, depending on the area. Most universities require at least two years of work or army experience before entry. In working, students are using the knowledge they've studied from books and are doing actual labor in factories. The materials produced are utilized, which

reinforces students' feeling of developing and serving China, rather than for their own self interests. The students not only gain the practical skills by working, but also can see the ties between school and society from a less abstract and academic perspective.

The entire set up of schools has changed since the Cultural Revolution. Students attend 5 years of primary school and 5 years of middle (high) school, a shortened, revolutionized and politicized curriculum. The competitive atmosphere in schools has disappeared since the reformation of examinations. Exams are open book tests that involve more thinking and creativity rather than memory. The emphasis in schools is put on trying to find ways of solving the problems of society. Textbooks are still being experimented by having all texts put together in the particular area or province it will serve. Therefore the conditions and problems are of local nature, which will enable students to relate to.

These changes are not seen as a final solution to China's educational problems. Today many reforms and struggles are taking place to further improve education.

COMMITTEE AGAINST NIHONMACHI EVICTION

1858 Sutter Street San Francisco, 94115

921-8841



On Friday, October 18, 1974 three members from the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction (CANE) gave a presentation to ASU members. Their presentation was about the history of attempt to disperse and destroy the Japanese community (Nihonmachi or J-Town) in San Francisco. The first dispersal came in 1942 when Japanese Americans were put into concentration camps. In spite of this unjust relocation many Japanese Americans returned to San Francisco to rebuild their community. In the 1950's the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) of San Francisco began to "redevelop" Nihonmachi. They first demolished the area where the Japanese Trade Center now stands, and today are clearing a further four square blocks. Over 3,000 residents and small businesses were forced to move to make way for big business outlets such as the Miyako Hotel, and are now in the process of building a totally unnecessary Hotel, the Sunflower Motor Inn, both owned by Kintetsu Enterprises, Mitsubishi etc.

CANE was formed in February of 1973 to oppose this latest redevelopment project. CANE has opposed the redevelopment process in general because it serves to destroy the community. CANE also worked to help people affected by redevelopment.

On October 22, 1974 CANE organized a community demonstration to demand that RDA meet with residents of Nihonmachi to discuss their unjust treatment as residents and complaints. Over 200 members and supporters of CANE went to the rally and the RDA meeting. There, CANE presented its demand for the community meeting and that;

- 1) Residents have the right to remain in Nihonmachi;
- 2) RDA must stop its harassment of residents;
- 3) RDA, as landlord must maintain its own occupied buildings;
- and 4) RDA must provide prompt benefits as required by law to those they have evicted or will evict.

Speakers at the meeting include the International Hotel Tenants and Owners Opposed to Redevelopment, TOUR from the Yerba Buena Project, Western Addition People's Action Coalition, (WAPAC) and the Chinese Progressive Association and Getting-Together Newspaper. Student group supporters included people from ASU Berkeley, San Francisco State, and Laney College.

CANE
SAYS:



CANE'S PRINCIPLES

1. To stop the destruction and dispersal of the Japanese Community and to keep Nihonmachi a small business and residential area.
2. To uphold the rights of residents and small businesses.

Cultural Page

Reply to Comrade Kuo Mo-jo

When the seas are in turmoil
 Heroes are on their mettle.
 Six hundred million people,
 Strong in unity,
 Firm in principle,
 Can keep the falling heavens suspended,
 And create order out of the reign of chaos.
 The world hears the cock crowing,
 And day breaks in the East.

The sun rises,
 The icebergs melt away.
 Gold is not pinchbeck
 And can stand the proof of flames.
 Four great volumes
 Show us the way.

How absurd for Chieh's dog to bark at Yao;
 The clay oxen plunge into the sea and vanish.
 The red flag of revolution is unfurling in the east wind,
 The universe is glowing red.



(These are two poems written by Mao Tse Tung who is presently chairman of the Chinese Communist Party in the People's Republic of China. Many of his Poems were written during the famous "Long March" in which 100,000 Red army members marched through Southeast China to North China during the 1930's. Ed.)

The Long March



The Red Army is not afraid of hardship on the march,
 the long march.
 Ten thousand waters and a thousand mountains are nothing.
 The Five Sierras meander like small waves,
 the summits of Wumeng pour on the plain like balls of clay.
 Cliffs under clouds are warm and washed below by the River
 Gold Sand.
 Iron chains are cold, reaching over the Tatu River.
 The far snows of Minshan only make us happy
 and when the army pushes through, we all laugh.

October 1935

port of our brothers and sisters

THE MASSES

The masses, the masses only
Are the makers of our history!
The masses, the masses only
Have the power to create.
The masses, the masses only
All our heroes come from you,
The masses, oh the masses
You are the masters of our fate.

The people's wisdom is our guide,
And from them comes our light
Learn from the people
And serve the people,
And then united we will fight!

(REPEAT)

Makibaka, dare to struggle!
Huwag Matakot, have no fear!
When the struggle is united,
We will know our victory is near.
MAKIBAKA! HUWAG MATAKOT!
We will know our victory is near!

*This song, originated in China
has been translated into many
different languages. On page
are translations into taga-
log and romanized Mandarin.
If you'd like to learn this
song and others, ASU has a
singing group every Thursday,
12-1 PM on the fourth floor
of the Student Center!*

With the rising consciousness of Asians in America, so has developed the Asian American culture. Through different events and activities (anti-war rallies educational forums and Asian cultural programs) of the past few years, Asian Student Unions from campuses around the Bay Area joined together to learn and sing songs. We began singing songs that related to us as Asians in America to ones which expressed our solidarity and support of our brothers and sisters

(Ed. This is an excerpt taken from Good Morning Revolution, written by Langston Hughes.)

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMIES IN CHINA-
1949

"What is happening in China is important to Negroes, in fact, to people of color all around the world, because each time an old bastion of white supremacy crumbles its falling weakens the whole Jim Crow system everywhere. Under the Nationalist government in China with its white western backers, there was a great deal of Jim Crow. I saw it with my own eyes in Shanghai and Nanking when I was there before the war. Being colored, I felt it too. I do not like Jim Crow in either Chicago or China. The majority of Chinese people did not like Jim Crow either. But the Chinese Uncle Tom like Jim Crow because they grew rich from it. Chiang Kai-shek was a Chinese Uncle Tom.



TANZANIAN FRIENDS MEET A CHINESE TECHNICIAN who worked on the construction of the Tanzanian-Zambia Railway

across the ocean (Vietnam, China Philippines, Japan, etc...)

If you like to sing (know any songs) play an instrument, would like to learn new songs, or just want to meet new people, a joint Asian Student Union (S.F. State, Chinese Progressive Assoc. Youth Group, U.C. Berkeley, College of San Mateo, Laney) singing group will be forming in the near future. For more information-come on up to the ASU office!

ROAR CHINA !

By Langston Hughes

Roar China!
 Roar, old lion of the East!
 Snort fire, yellow dragon of the Orient,
 Tired at last of being bothered.
 Since when did you ever steal anything
 From anybody,
 Sleepy wise old beast
 Known as the porcelain-maker,
 Known as the poem-maker,
 Known as maker of firecrackers?
 A long time since you cared
 About taking other people's lands
 Away from them.
 THEY must've thought you didn't care
 About your own land either--
 SO THEY came with gunboats,
 Set up Concessions,
 Zones of influence,
 International Settlements,
 Missionary houses,
 Banks,
 And Jim Crow Y.M.C.A.'s.

THEY beat you with malacca canes
 And dared you to raise your head--
 Except to cut it off.
 Even the yellow men came
 To take what the white men
 Hadn't already taken.
 The yellow men dropped bombs on Chapei.
 The yellow men called you the same names
 The white men did:
 Dog! Dog! Dog!
 Coolie dog!
 Red!...Lousy Red!
 Red coolie dog!

And in the end you had no place
 To make your porcelain,
 Write your poems,
 Or shoot your firecrackers on holidays.
 In the end you had no peace
 Or calm left at all.
 PRESIDENT, KING, MIKADO
 Thought you really were a dog.
 THEY kicked you daily
 Via radiophone, via cablegram,
 Via gunboats in the harbor,
 Via malacca canes.

THEY thought you were a tame lion.
 A sleepy, easy, tame old lion!
 Ha! Ha!
 Haaaa-aa-a!...Ha!
 Laugh, little coolie boy on the docks
 of Shanghai, Laugh!
 You're no tame lion!
 Laugh, child slaves in the factories of
 the foreigners!

Laugh, red generals in the hills of
 Siang-kiang, Laugh!
 You're no tame lion!
 You're no tame lion.
 Laugh-and roar, China! Time to spit fire!
 Open your mouth, old dragon of the East,
 To swallow up the gunboats in the Yangtze!
 Swallow up the foreign planes in your sky!
 Eat bullets, old maker of firecrackers,
 And spit out freedom in the face of your
 enemies!
 Break the chains of the East,
 Little coolie boy!
 Break the chains of the East,
 Red generals!
 Break the chains of the East,
 Child slaves in the factories!
 Smash the iron gates of the Concessions!
 Smash the pious doors of the missionary
 houses!
 Smash the revolving doors of the Jim Crow
 Y.M.C.A.'s.
 Crush the enemies of land and bread and
 freedom!
 Stand up and roar, China!
 You know what you want!
 The only way to get it is
 To take it!
 Roar, China!

Langston Hughes article con't.

Emerging slowly from feudalism with large sections of the country dominated by war-lords, China has long had slavery--child-slavery, woman-slavery, "white-slavery." From this ancient slavery white westerners have long profited along with the rich Chinese. Factories in which children purchased from their parents at an early age worked twelve and fifteen hours a day under guards brought huge profits to foreign and Chinese investors alike. Child prostitution and the dope rackets profited people in far off London and Paris. Our own United States, with large investments in China, supported the Chiang Kai-shek regime that permitted these antiquated and inhuman exploitations to exist.

I am not speaking of what I have read. I am speaking of what I saw myself in China."

ASU FIRST GENERAL MEETING

The Asian Student Union called its first general meeting on October 17. Approximately 25 students came up to the ASU office and learned what the ASU is, and what kind of activities we are planning for this year.

Everyone sat in a circle, munching cookies and snacks, while Steven Hom gave a short talk on why the ASU was formed. Asians have been oppressed throughout the history of this country, and we still face this common oppression, racism. Although racism today does not seem as blatant as in the past, such as the Chinese Exclusion Acts or the Japanese being put in concentration camps it still exists in more subtle forms. We experience it in communities, like Nihonmachi, where the Japanese residents and small businesses are being dispersed by the RDA and corporations, or at our workplace, being last to get raises, in applying for jobs, and even here at Laney, where there aren't any bilingual counselors for foreign speaking students.

For just these few reasons alone, we feel that there is a need for an Asian student organization. This need was felt by a group of Asian students, out of which the ASU was formed two years ago. Since then, we have been sponsoring events that try to bring forth our common history and experiences. One event was the Lunar New Year celebration in the spring of this year. This celebration brought out both traditional and Asian-American culture, such as the Japanese Taiko drummers and the Lion Dance the Gung Fu school demonstrated, as well as the history of racism Asians have experienced and are still experiencing, portrayed through a

skit. Over the summer, we also had a general study group which focused on Asians in five areas: labor, imperialism, women, community and campus. A field trip while studying labor was to Berringer Bros. Winery where we saw the limestone caves that the Chinese built and also sampled the wines.

Some of the activities are now being planned for this year. We are organizing a trip to Agbayani Village in early December to help finish the housing unit built for the Marongs and older farmworkers. We have started singing and guitar practice every Thursday at noon on the 4th floor of the Student Center, and plan to have joint singing practices with Berkeley and S.F. State's ASU's (dates to be announced). The Asian Horizon newsletter is put out usually twice a semester, which we encourage any suggestions, letters, articles and help on. And last but not least, the ASU plans on having potlucks, where we can all enjoy ourselves eating, and learn tips on cooking from each other.

The ASU wants to continue these activities to build unity among Asians by working on different events and sharing our experiences together. We would like to sponsor activities that all Asians can relate to and see that we have so much in common. But, we do need input from students, and encourage people to help on any of the activities being planned, and would like to hear any new ideas. The ASU hopes to bring together more students and in doing so we can share our experiences, learn more about each other, ourselves, and our society.

