

ASIAN HORIZON

LANEY COLLEGE ASIAN STUDENT UNION

FEBRUARY 1978



Editorial: Asian Horizon is back!

Asian Horizon is the newsletter of the Asian Student Union at Laney College. Through Asian Horizon, we hope to keep you informed of the activities of the ASU, on campus and in the community. We hope that you will read about our plans and check out some of our programs. Asian Horizon is also a chance for you to express yourself on issues you're concerned with. We welcome contributions on your personal experiences as an Asian student, poetry, creative writing, etc. We hope to publish the newsletter twice a semester; covering community news, campus issues, Asian American history, activities of Asian students statewide, and much more!

The ASU has existed at Laney for several years. It was formed by Asian students who saw the need for a progressive organization that would bring together Asian students at Laney. The ASU meets important needs: from educating Asians about our history to current issues in our communities, promoting the culture of Asian people, building friendships and planning events together. The ASU will always stand up for the rights of Asian students and all Third World people in the U.S.

Asian people have a common history that ties us together. From the first day we were brought here in the 1800's, we were forced to work the mines and fields and build the railroads under slave conditions. Asian people in the US today face inequalities on the job and in the communities.

Happy Lunar New Year

Year of the Horse

This is a holiday that is traditionally celebrated by Asian people throughout the world. This is the beginning of another new and beautiful year.

This is also a time for everyone to be happy and love one another, ENJOY YOURSELVES!

This is a time to unite;

Celebrate our cultures.

Open up the new year in a good way,

A traditional holiday for Asian people.

Our luncheon is on Feb. 7th.

Please come; why not check out A.S.U. activities!

presented by newspaper headlines and by one or more letters to local and national political leaders and by similar communications to military officers. Finally, on Feb. of 1942, 3 months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Pres. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which implemented the mass evacuation of Japanese Americans.

Before the signing, many Japanese had already been incarcerated. After Dec. 7 FBI and other law enforcement agencies raided and apprehended many prominent leaders in Japanese communities. More than 1500 Japanese were rounded up, questioned, and in jails. FBI also confiscated cameras, weapons, most of it coming from Nisei owned sporting goods, and communication equipment like radios.

Order 9066 demanded the immediate withdrawal of all aliens on the West Coast. The order did not effected people of German or Italian origin. Because of the immediate evacuation, Japanese were given insufficient to leave their homes and businesses. Many Japanese were forced to sell their assets at a nominal cost. Friends of Japanese, volunteered to secure their home, while others abandoned theirs'. From there homes, they were herded into buses and trains, taking only the possessions they could by hand.

Japanese were first brought to assembly centers. These assembly centers were racetracks like Santa Anita and Tanforan, fairgrounds, and livestock exhibition centers. In a short time, these places were converted to something approximating human habitations. Bad conditions such as insanitary, overcrowding, food, and illness were imposed on the internees. These conditions were to remain until the of the war.

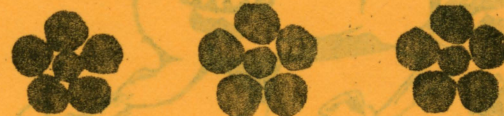
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Asian students are part of the struggle to fight this oppression and change society.

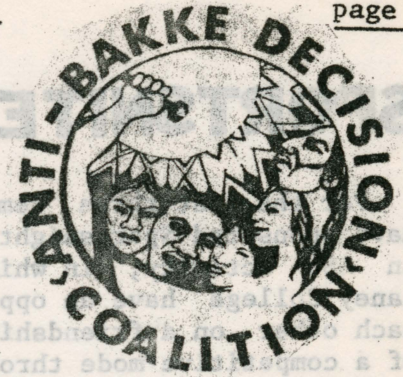
The ASU is here to unite Asian students to deal with these problems, whether on the campus or in Chinatown, J-Town or other communities. This semester, we will be starting up activities like Sportsnight, a Film Program, a Lunar New Year luncheon, the newsletter, community support, and a Ping Pong Tournament. We will also continue organizing against the racist Bakke Decision.

The rest of the newsletter covers more detail on these plans. And new ideas and people are needed! Stop by our Office in the Student Center Room 411 and JOIN THE ASU!



Did you know that in the ASU office there is a library? Yes, the ASU of Laney has a small collection of books, newspapers and magazines. The library is still growing and is in need of more resources. If you have any donations in forms of books, magazines and newspapers; please drop them by the ASU office on the 4th floor of the Student Center. Come up and check out our progressive, entertaining and informative materials today!

Asian students & the Bakke Decision



The Asian Student Union is committed to overturning the racist Bakke Decision. This decision will have a deep impact on the lives of Asian students and all Third World people across the country. At Laney, the ASU has been active in educating students about the Bakke Decision and also organizing with other campuses, community and workers in the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition.

WHAT IS THE BAKKE DECISION?

The Bakke Decision stems from a law suit filed by Alan Bakke, a white engineer in his mid-30's. Bakke applied to UC Davis Med School and 10 other schools. Each time he was rejected for admissions. Bakke claimed that he was a victim of "reverse discrimination", that he was denied admission because "less qualified" minorities were guaranteed admission through the Special Admissions program. The Calif. Supreme Court upheld Bakke's charge of "reverse discrimination" and declared the Special Admissions program "unconstitutional". Now, the case is before the U.S. Supreme Court (highest court in the country) and is already having a backlash on special programs on the campuses, in communities and on the job.

We in the ASU see the "reverse discrimination" charge as a racist myth, that distorts the whole history of Third World people. How can programs like Ethnic Studies, Special Admissions or Affirmative Action be called "discrimination" against whites? Some of us remember that these programs did not always exist--these programs were won by broad support and struggles like the Third World strikes at SFSU and UCB. These programs were demanded in the first place because of the years of inequalities suffered by Third World people in the areas of education and employment.

ASIAN STUDENTS & THE BAKKE DECISION

How will this decision affect us as Asian students? Already, this racist decision is having an affect on many campuses. Asian students will again have difficulties en-

tering law and medical schools. Special Admissions programs, like at USF Law School are facing drastic cuts of elimination. We will also face the Parducci Plan, which raises the regular admission standards for the UC campuses.

We may also face increasing attacks on Asian American Studies and other Ethnic Studies classes. These important programs that speak to the history and needs of Third World people could be labelled "reverse discrimination" too and justify cutbacks and attacks.

As Asian students, we will see the Bakke Decision affecting our communities and future jobs. Many community services and Affirmative Action programs are under threat by the charge of "reverse discrimination". The Bakke Decision will affect our families and friends.

But wiping out these programs won't be an easy task for the UC Regents, Courts and US Government. Thousands of people from campuses, communities and workplaces are taking stands against the Bakke Decision and the oppression of Third World people. The Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition has been an important part of this movement. The ABDC is laying important plans step up the struggle against the Bakke Decision. The ABDC is calling for a nationwide anti-Bakke conference on February 19th in Los Angeles. This conference will bring together people from across the U.S. and set coordinated plans for nationwide protests on April 29th.

The Laney ASU supports the nationwide work of the ABDC and will be attending the conference on Feb. 19th. We will be providing rides for everyone interested. Our future Bakke work will also include programs at Laney and work with other campuses to put out a intercampus newsletter. We hope you can get involved at Laney or support the activities against Bakke in the next few months.

SPORTSNITE

For the last three semesters, the ASU have sponsored Sportsnight. Sportsnight is an ASU activity, in which, students of Laney College have an opportunity to meet each other on a friendship level instead of a competitive mode through sports.

Sportsnight was established in order to build a strong relationship with students and to help build the anatomy of the ASU. The ASU also invites people from the Asian communities (CANE, CPA) and other student organizations (Laney-CSA, BSU; ASU-UCB, S.F. STATE). Here, the students of Laney College have an opportunity to associate with these organization and to get an up to date report from their communities and schools.

Sportsnight have been very successful. It has attracted more than 40 people every week. Some of the activities includes : badminton, basketball, volleyball, and ping pong. There is also a get together party after the completion of Sportsnight. This semester, the event is schedule for every Monday night from 8:00-10:00 PM inside the Laney's gym. If you would like to help organize Sportsnight, please come by the ASU-CSA office rm 411 on the 4th floor of the Student Center.

ASIAN COMMUNITY

The Asian Student Union has contacts with community groups so that students can better understand the concerns and problems that exist in the Asian Communities and to give support to the movements that deal with problems.

The Committee Against Nihonmachi Evictions (CANE) is a group of progressive people. They are working to maintain a Japanese community which has a history of struggle. These housing areas, which are similar to the I-Hotel housing, are dwellings of their ancestors. These were the only available living quarters opened to early Asian immigrants. Presently,

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Ping Pong, anyone?

PING PONG TOURNEY!!! Do you like to play Ping Pong? Then this ASU-Sponsored tournament is for you. In order for it to be a success, we need your support. If interested, come by the ASU Office (Room 411, Student Ctr.) or drop by our information table. Anyone can participate in the Tourney--so do come and sign up today!!

Anti-Bakke Calendar

The ASU encourages everyone to participate in the upcoming events against the Bakke Decision, especially the nationwide conference in Los Angeles.

Friday, February 3:

Laney Chapter of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition will be having its first meeting of the semester. 6:00pm at 434-41st St. in Oakland.

Saturday, February 11:

Intercampus Committee of the ABDC will be meeting at 1:00pm at 505 Eshelemann' Hall on the Berkeley Campus.

9:00-?? Intercampus Committee will be holding a fundraising party to raise money for a joint newsletter. Disco and Drinks, bring yer friends! place to be announced..

Weds. February 15: UC Berkeley ABDC will hold an outdoor program against the Bakke Decision, 12noon.

Thursday, February 16: Merrit College will be having an anti-Bakke rally at 12:00 on campus.

Sunday, February 19th: Nationwide anti-Bakke conference will be held in Los Angeles at the International Institute. Transportation provided.

Saturday, April 29th: Nationwide demonstrations against Bakke.

ASU FILM SERIES

The ASU will be sponsoring a film series this semester. We'll have films on the People's Republic of China, Asian American Experience and martial arts. There'll be films every two weeks in Romm 401 on the fourth floor of the student center noontimes. Come on by! The films are free, there'll be refreshments and time to talk about the films and meet people after each showing. These are the first four scheduled showings. There'll be more later, check it out!

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7

EIGHT OR NINE IN THE MORNING

This is a film by British journalist Felix Greene on youth in the People's Republic of China.

FRIENDSHIP FIRST, COMPETITION SECOND

This film, also by Felix Greene is about sports in the People's Republic of China and how sports there are used to promote friendship and health rather than "winning at all costs"

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24

DRAGON INN

This is considered to be a classic of Chinese martial arts films.

FRIDAY MARCH 10

THE EAST IS RED

This is a film staged and produced in the People's Republic of China. Through modern opera and ballet this film traces the history of the Chinese Revolution and the liberation of the Chinese people.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

TAN-ZAM RAILWAY

The Tan-Zam railway was jointly constructed by the African and Chinese people. The railway is a vital link in the economic growth and self-reliance of these two African states. This film was produced by China and is an excellent example of the strength of Third World unity put into practice. It also shows China's revolutionary policy of mutual aid and assistance.

ASIAN COMMUNITY CONT'D FR. P. 4

these occupied areas are being threatened by big business opportunists who seek profits at the expense of the Asian community. ASU members demonstrated for CANE and the I-Hotel as well as doing other supportive work. CANE won victories in maintaining their community. Their present work will include newsletter committee, and a class in English for Japanese speakers. CANE will organize Sports Night and participate in ABDC activities.

The Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) is an organization situated in Chinatown. They deal with issues on Peoples Republic of China (PRO-China) and sponsor national holidays in relations to China. In addition, they are active in fighting Chinatown problems among workers for suff-

icient health, housing, and working improvements. CPA has a storefront where ASUs can meet and participate in their programs.

This Jan., the UCB, SFState and Laney ASU's sold beef teriyaki and soda at the Japanese New Year's festival. The Fair in SF J-Town was attended by many people from the community.

Community and workers support will continue to be important parts of ASU's activities. The problems and oppression we face don't exist only at school. That's why it's so important that we build the unity of these different fights - whether on campus, in the community or the workplace. Join the ASU and help to build the unity of Asian people in fighting our common oppression.

Concentration Camps USA



The Asian Student Unions from over 9 Northern California campuses sponsored a pilgrimage to Tule Lake Concentration Camp in 1975. The slogan raised around the pilgrimage was: "Learn from past struggles-Unite for future victories!"

This is the 1st of 2 parts, 2nd part to be published in the second upcoming newsletter. Part I will cover the period before the concentration camps and, Part II will cover the camps, loyalty question and the return home.

Since the arrival of the Chinese, there has always been an anti-Oriental movement on the West Coast, especially in California. But during WWII, the military, organized pressure groups, and other factors successfully pressured the U.S. government and Pres. Roosevelt into the signing of Executive Order 9066, which implemented the immediate evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans living in the West Coast.

The confinement of Japanese-Americans was the most prominent of all anti-Oriental bills passed by Congress. Other notable bills also passed by Congress were the Chinese (1882) and Japanese (1924) exclusion laws, which prohibited immigration of these ethnic groups into the U.S. Another bill similar to exclusion was the Repatriation Act of 1935, which limited Filipino immigration to a quota of only fifty. The evacuation of Japanese-Americans was not an accident, but was based on almost a century of anti-oriental fear, prejudice, and misunderstanding.

The military was one of the main advocator of the evacuation. They declared

the entire Pacific Coast a war zone, prohibiting all aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian origin. But the Japanese were the only aliens to be removed from the West Coast and incarcerated in camps. The military also concluded that there would be imminent danger of sabotage, espionage and fifth column activities by the Japanese, and in retaliation, vigilante activities by the non-Japanese. But up to this date, there had not been a single proven incident of sabotage that fevered the imagination of both General Dewitt, the man who guided the evacuation, and of civilians such as Earl Warren, then Attorney General of Calif.

The most active proponents of mass evacuation were certain agriculture and business groups. They wanted to see Japanese-Americans incarcerated, because Japanese farmers controlled over 450,000 acres or 1% of California of agriculture land, some of it among the most fruitful and most productive in the state. These farms were once undeveloped and unsuitable to grow any kind of vegetation. Japanese helped develop the agriculture growth of Calif. by converting the swamps and desolated lands into productive farms. These groups were in favor of evacuation in order to eliminate the competition of Japanese farmers, which would propelled enormous losses for the farmers.

While Japan was winning the war, the demand for Japanese evacuation increased. Virtually everyone of the hundreds of resolution in favor of evacuation was re-

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An Interview With Gordon Chang

Asian Horizon felt the need to research the development of Asian Studies at Laney College. We hope to bring out the dynamics involved in developing and maintaining such areas of study. Gordon Chang, who is the Asian Studies coordinator was interviewed to give us some idea of the existing situation with Asian Studies.

Gordon Chang is the Asian Studies coordinator here at Laney College. He has knowledge in Chinese History as well as in Asian-American history. Gordon obtained this knowledge through institutions like Princeton and Stanford, on his own through personal research and from working in the Asian communities. As a graduate student at Stanford, he began his teaching career. After he went to U.C. Berkeley for two quarters. In 1972, Gordon came to Laney to teach Asian-American and China History courses.

We asked Gordon how did Asian Studies develop here at Laney? He replied that a general interest in Asian Studies and other Ethnic Studies came about due to three political reasons. One was the anti-Vietnam movement, the next being the Civil Rights movement and particularly for Asians the development of China during the Cultural Revolution. Since the establishment of Ethnic Studies at Laney, it has been a constant struggle to maintain and expand these areas of studies. The main reason is the political games of the administration which include members of the faculty senate.

Presently, there is a struggle to develop the Asian Studies department. A few years ago, Asian Studies offered three Asian languages--Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog. For some unknown reason, the Chinese and Japanese courses have been transferred to the Foreign Language department. This administrative tactic is not unique to the Asian Studies department. The Black Studies department is presently struggling to get courses into their department from the History department.

We then asked why have Asian Studies or any other type of Ethnic Studies? How do such classes prepare four year bound students? Gordon replied that it is important to learn the basic skills that are to be used to obtain academic knowledge. In addition, it is essential for Asians and other Third World students to see how history or the social system has effected them. At the same time, having Asian Studies classes aids students in orally expressing their feelings about their family, job or other personal life experiences.

When asked why he teaches at a Jr. college as opposed to a University or State, Gordon replied that teaching at Laney is more down to earth and serious. In his university experience, students there are so intense and are grade fanatics. The students were made to be concerned of their grades. At Laney this exists somewhat, but not to the same degree. As for seriousness, students at Laney take courses for interest and need as oppose to just taking a class for a grade. Many students have a wide range of life experiences, while University and State students have a young academic background--many just out of high school.

Lastly, Gordon commented that Asian Studies is not solely for Asians.

As an addition to this interview with Gordon Chang, Asian Horizon wanted to comment on why such struggles like Asian Studies' persist. Overall Ethnic Studies has the second highest total student enrollment. This reflects the interest and need of the students here at Laney. We need progressive instructors who are aware of the needs of Third World students. It is no wonder the administration would like to absorb these Ethnic Studies courses under their department to booster their low enrollment standing. In our opinion, this low interest in certain departmental courses and high enrollment in Ethnic Studies demonstrates the need to strengthen the present Ethnic Studies department rather than trying to dismantle it.

Come to the West Coast Asian student conference

On February 18th there will be a conference at Pasadena City Coll. Asian students and Asian organizations from all over California will be attending this conference. The meeting will aid students in developing strategies to deal with ASU organizational problems.

Asian student organizations exist on almost every campus in California where Asians are enrolled. Why have Asian student organizations? Whether we're at a Junior College, a State University or at a University California campus, we face a common oppression, share similar experiences and needs. Everywhere Asian student organizations are working to defend Ethnic Studies, supporting community struggles and doing different social and cultural events. The goals of the conference are to bring these organizations and activities together. Once together we will develop the unity among ASU's, advance the Asian Movement and continue to expand the struggle against the oppression of Asian people.

This conference is the product of a long term working unity that has grown between Asian student organizations in California. Many of the organizations have worked together on things like the International Hotel, education about People's China or the Japanese concentration camps during WWII. The conference will bring together a lot of old and new friends. It will also strengthen the unity that exists between Asian students. Having the conference will lay a path for Asian students all over California to become a single unified force fighting for the interests of Asian and other oppressed people. February 18th will be a big step forward for Asian students all over California.

Subscriptions to Asian Horizons are welcome; send your name and address to us or drop a note at the mailbox in the lobby of the Tower. Donations to cover costs are accepted. The Asian Horizons also will accept articles. Send copies: A.S.U. Laney College - 900 Fallon St. Oakland, Ca. 94607

The conference itself will include speakers, historical presentations of the Asian student movement and the purposes of Asian student organizations. There will be cultural performances and a dance. In addition there will be numerous workshops:

- a. building an ASU,
- b. the Bakke decision & Asian students,
- c. supporting the community & workers' struggles,
- d. developing and defending Asian Studies,
- e. building unity with other Third World people and
- f. dealing with the special needs of women in the Asian student movement.

So come by the ASU office and find out more about the conference. We'll be having carpools on that weekend so try to make it down with us!

BUILD THE ASIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT!



WORKSHOPS / CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS / DANCE WITH "BIBOROHINA"