

ASIAN STUDENT VOICE



ASIAN STUDENTS, UNITE!

The Asian Student Union here at SFSU recognizes that Asian people in America have been oppressed and denied our rights throughout our history in this country. We believe that we share a common experience and struggle against racism and inequality. We can look at our own lives. We can examine our history and the contributions of Asian people in this society. We can see this common bond - the systematic exploitation of our labor, the denial of our democratic rights, and the denial of our culture and identity as a people. All this has profoundly affected our lives and present-day conditions. Our history of oppression in America points to the need for unity among Asian people, because a fundamental change in American society is the only way to solve the inequalities and oppression that we face as oppressed nationalities.

What do these injustices mean for Asian students? We realize our common oppression and many of us are justly proud of our Asian identity. But this is not enough. We feel that Asian students must actively begin to find answers to change the injustices we see; that we and our parents have experienced. This means we should become participants in the growing progressive movement among Asian people; in the communities, at the workplaces, and on the campuses. Asian people are becoming conscious of this task and are uniting and organizing for our rights in many aspects of society.

The formation of the ASU in the Spring semester of '72 was an important step in this direction. We want to unite Asian students on campus into a broad, mass organization that will expose the political and economic contradictions and concerns that affect us all. We understand that the injustices of racism and inequa-

lity are present on the campuses and come out. We cannot ignore this fact or feel that this is a "fact of life" to be accepted.

The ASU feels that unity is decisive. By building the Asian Student Movement, we can contribute to fundamental social change in American society; to transform the American political and economic system which profits from the oppression of Third World people.

How have Asian students contributed to transforming our society? We think that Asian students have a history of active participation in the progressive movements and have stood in firm support of the struggles of Asian, Third World and all oppressed peoples. Although many of us were not around and did not directly participate in such struggles as the Third World strikes and the anti-war movement, we can still learn from them. It was here at SFSU in '68 that many Asian students, along with other Third World students, became involved in the fight for Ethnic Studies. We were instrumental in winning the right to establish Asian Studies on many campuses across the nation. Asian students were also an important force in exposing the US government's aggression and genocide against the Vietnamese people. We saw how the war related to the racism and national oppression of Asians in America. Through these and many other struggles in the Asian communities Asian students have helped to bring about important changes.

Our ASU has helped struggle against the oppression of Asian people, and to build unity among Asian students. The following principles of unity established over the summer, state the purpose and direction of the ASU, and guide our work on campus:

- 1) To promote the commitment of students to transform society;
- 2) To build unity among Asian students in light of our common oppression.

- a) To fight racism and inequality which are inherent in the American political and economic system.
- b) To build the Asian student movement as an integral part of the Asian and progressive movements.

Through our programs, we have tried to bring these ideas to Asian students:

- * Trip to Agbayani Village in support of the United Farmworkers
- * Lunar New Year celebration, celebrating the struggles of Asian peoples.
- * Educational forum on the concentration camps which imprisoned Japanese during World War II
- * Mass pilgrimage to Tule Lake concentration camp with other Asian student organizations.
- * Celebration of Oct. 1st, the founding day of the People's Republic of China.
- * Community support work for Jung Sai Workers Strike, Mandarin Restaurant workers and Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction.

Currently, the ASU is getting our committees together - we have a newsletter committee, women's group and study group. There is still much to be done to plan new programs and broaden our work. Through working together in the ASU, our members are learning to work collectively, to discuss and plan our relevant events and to learn from our mistakes. In this way, we are also changing our own attitudes and ideas about Asian people and learning through our practice to advance our understanding.

Although there are different people from varying backgrounds in the ASU, we are all united around our principles, and see the need to bring these ideas to Asian students, in the fight against our common oppression in America.

ASIAN STUDENTS, UNITE!

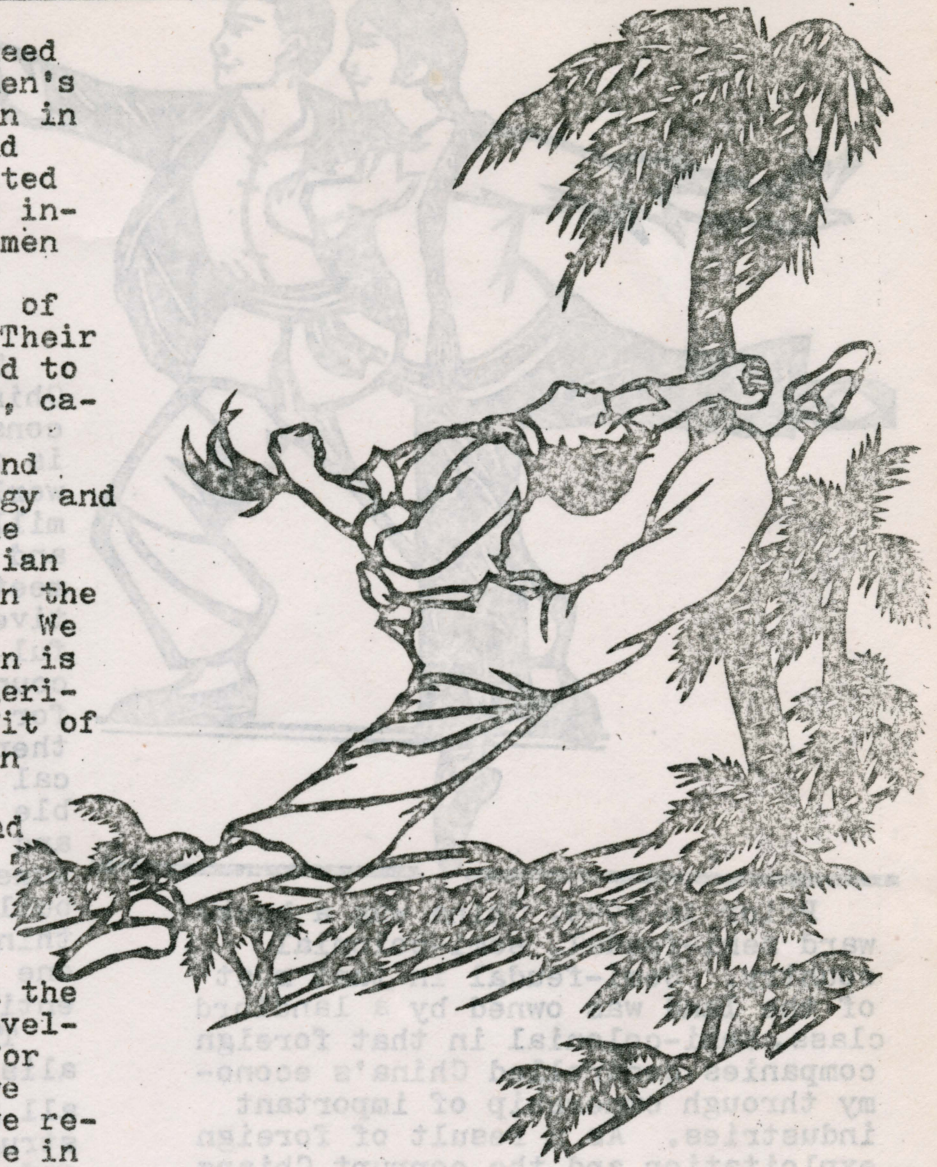
WOMEN'S OPPRESSION and ASU WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The ASU has recognized the need and importance of forming a women's group. The sexism against women in this country is so pervasive and has been effectively indoctrinated into many people's thinking and institutionalized in society. Women are exploited as a mass labor force and barred from positions of economic and political power. Their social position has been reduced to that of a domestic--an inferior, catering role.

Such oppression is created and reinforced by sexist ideology and institutionalized into laws, the educational system, etc. As Asian women we also face oppression in the forms of racism and inequality. We recognize that such exploitation is an inherent structure of the American social system for the benefit of the capitalist ruling class. In light of such oppression, it is necessary for women to unite and fight for change.

As women working together in the Asian Student Union, we have developed respect and appreciation for the strength and support that we have gained as sisters. Also we recognize the conflicts that arise in working with our brothers, like having to combat chauvanism and seeing our weaknesses in defining ourselves in relation to men. The women's group hopes to build a better understanding of our work and our individual lives as women. By coming together, we can share our experiences as Asian women. We recognize the importance of these discussions to see that as women, our personal encounters are not unique, but are a common experience. Together we can work towards solutions.

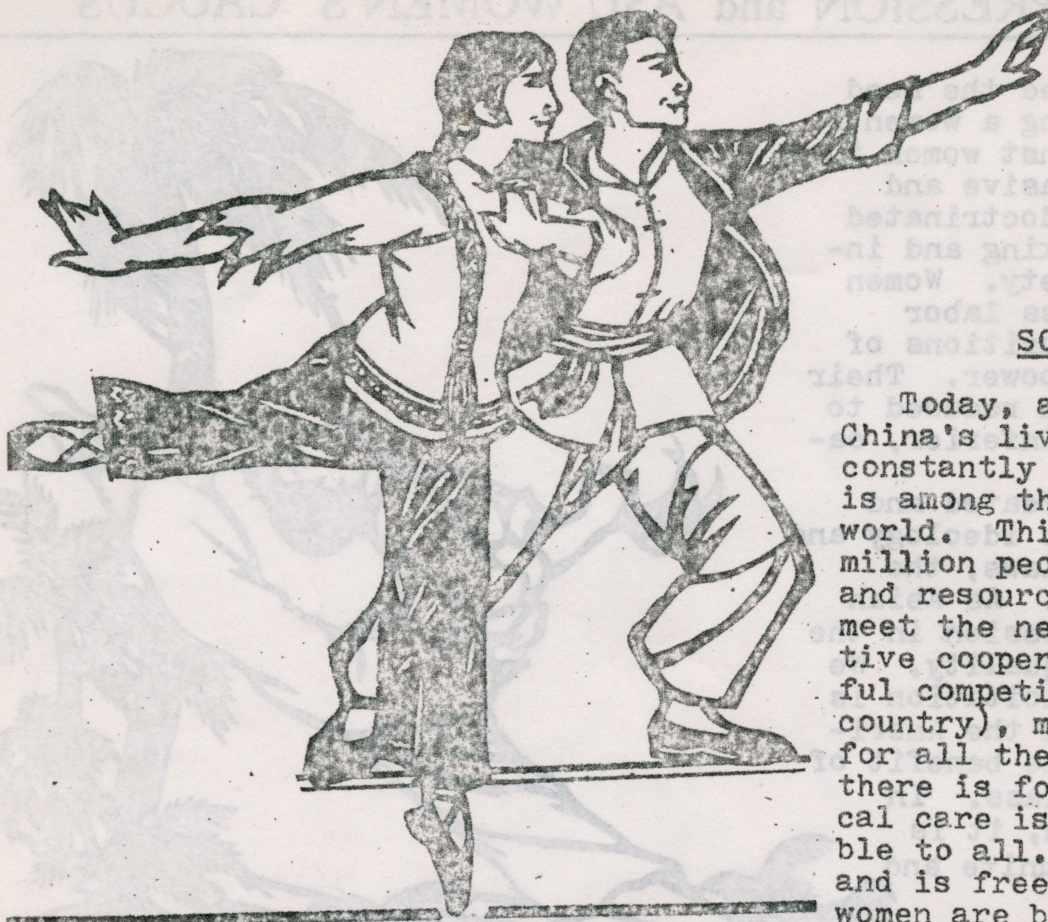
We realize that it is important to study ourselves as Asian women in a political light. We can begin to understand the roots of our oppression by learning how our society is structured and how racism and sexism are used to oppress Third World people.



Organizing the group is an ambitious and difficult undertaking. This in itself is significant. This is a sign of Third World women, initially organizing themselves, uniting together to fight the oppression that we face.

Women who are interested in joining our group are invited to attend our meetings, or just drop by our office to talk. We feel new women can greatly contribute to the building of our women's group and the ASU. The energy, strength and potential of Asian women is overwhelming and must not be disregarded.

ASIAN WOMEN UNITE!



SOCIALIST CHINA

Today, as a socialist country, China's living standard has been constantly rising and its economy is among the most stable in the world. This is because China's 800 million people control the factories and resources, and work together to meet the needs of society. Productive cooperation instead of wasteful competition (as found in this country), maintains a better life for all the people. For example, there is food for all. Good medical care is inexpensive and available to all. Education is a right and is free for all. The roles of women are becoming equal to men's in building society. There is no such thing as unemployment because everyone works to meet the needs of the entire population.

The PRC, as an independent socialist society, is an inspiration to all peoples of the world who are struggling for national liberation and justice --the right to establish a social system which best benefits the masses of people.

STUDENTS & THE PRO-CHINA MOVEMENT

As more Third World countries took on the struggle towards national liberation, China's support in these struggles became evident. The United States was forced to recognize China's support of these struggles. China's role could no longer be hidden.

It became clear, then, that for two decades, the United States government had hidden the truth about China. Lies and distortions about China had been perpetuated by the US government. Many students saw that their fellow students had accepted these lies. Asian students saw the need to change these incorrect ideas.

cont. on pg. 8

Prior to 1949, China was a backward semi-feudal, semi-colonial country. Semi-feudal in that most of the land was owned by a landlord class. Semi-colonial in that foreign companies controlled China's economy through ownership of important industries. As a result of foreign exploitation and the corrupt Chiang Kai-shek regime, the masses of the Chinese people existed under an intolerable environment marked with mass starvation and disease. Rebellions by the people were frequent.

On October 1st, 1949, the Chinese people and the Chinese Communist Party successfully established the People's Republic of China (PRC). The exploitative foreigners and the corrupt regime of Chiang Kai-shek were thrown out of the country. No longer were the Chinese people subjugated by the Chiang Kai-shek regime.

China now transformed into a new democratic independent society, building towards socialism. The Chinese people were now the sole determiners of their fate. The people collectively worked towards restructuring society for the betterment of all.

**COMMUNITY and LABOR
SUPPORT WORK**

Asian students should join in the struggle being waged by Asian people in our communities and on the job. We should see these struggles are part of our own. The poor housing conditions, health care, working conditions and low wages are part of the common oppression that we face as Asian people in America.

If an Asian student sincerely wants to become involved in the life of the community, his or her skills, knowledge, and determination can be used. There are great demands for education and administrative skills, e.g., helping to run schools, establishing health services, spreading publicity over the issues, engaging in discussions over various struggles, taking part on a picket line, etc.

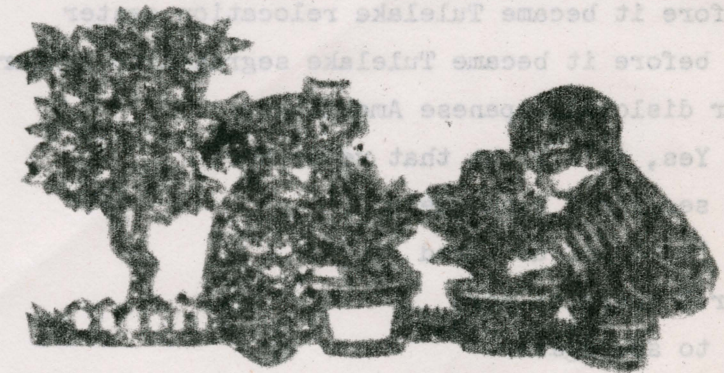
Over the past few semesters, the ASU has seen the importance of supporting the struggles in the Asian communities and drawing lessons from them for our own work. We supported the Jung Sai garment workers who went on strike in Chinatown for unionization in 1974. In the Japanese community, we have supported the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction in their fight for low-cost housing and against the destruction of J-Town. We helped to build Agbayani Village in Delano for the Pilipino farmworkers in support of the United Farmworkers Union. Recently, we have sent representatives to the Mandarin Restaurant Committee, because we support the Chinese workers who are struggling for unionization.

In a word, where there is a desire to help change existing conditions of life in the community, an Asian student can approach the Asian Student Union for our aid in becoming involved in issues and projects going on in the communities.

Unity is Strength!



STAFF: Kris Duarte, Dennis Feng, Mike Feng, Cecil Geron, Sue Kubota, Warren Nor, Edwin Sukunote, Wayne Sasaki, & Paul Wong.



DROP BY THE ASU OFFICE

Stop by the Asian Student Union Office; meet some other Asian students and find out about the ASU! We're located in the Student Union Bldg. in the Basement Level, Room 137.

A POEM - RETURN TO TULE LAKE

Written and read at Tulelake Calif. on April 19, 1975

BY HIROSHI KASHIWAGI

The bus ride to Tulelake
in the night over dark highways
rain through the flatlands
and snow beyond Weed

Up, to the roof of California
was a movement back in time
back to the years 43, 44, 45
when I was 19, 20, 21.

Being among you
sensing your youthfulness
hearing your strong voices
I searched for reasons why
I came after 30 some years.
Tulelake, Tulelake ---that
was a name I dared not mention
spoken wearily, always with
hesitation, never voluntarily.

But you have made it
a common name again
of a small sleepy town
that it was
before we came here
before we were confined here
before it became Tulelake relocation center
before it became Tulelake segregation center
for disloyal Japanese Americans.

Yes, it's right that we're here
to see first hand where
18,000 of us lived
for 3 years or more
to see again
the barbed wire fence

the guard towers, the M.P.s
the machine guns, bayonets
and tanks, the barracks
the mess halls, the shower rooms
and latrines.
Yes, it's right to feel
the bitter cold
of the severe winters
the warmth of the pot bellied stove
and the dust storms
how can we forget
the sand biting into your skin
filling your eyes, and nose, and mouth
and ears, graying your hair
in an instant.

Yes, it's to recall
the directive
of the war relocation authority
their threats and lies
the meetings, the strikes
the resistance, arrests
stockades, violence, attacks
murder, derangement
pain, grief, separation
departure, informers
recriminations, disagreements
loyalty, disloyalty
Yes Yes, no no, no yes
Issei, Nisei, Kibei.
These are words now
but they were lived here.
There were deaths and births
and love making in the fire break



with the wardens flash light
shining on you.

Yes, and movies, socials, dances
sports, card games
and religion.

Sewing classes, flower
arrangement, doll making, wood carving
beauty behind barbed wires.

Recreation was big
it was encouraged.

"Keep'em busy
keep'em occupied
keep'em sane,
for heaven's sake!"

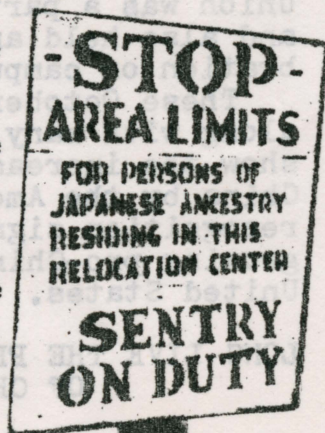
But a Chronicle reporter
observed: "there are

18,000 mental patients living
in confinement at Tulelake."

So it is right that we are here
it is right that I remember
and tell it.

I wish I could share
the feeling I have now
with the Issei and Nisei
they who lived here
they who do not speak of it
who pass it off
as a good time experience.

Whatever we did here
the commitments we made
loyal or disloyal
compliance or resistance
yes or no
it was right!
Because the young people
make it so



Because they seek the history
from those of us who lived it.

So we must remember
and tell it.

So we are here
the Abalone mountain
the Castle Rock
the dry lake bed
where tules still grow.

But the barracks
where are the barracks?

And where APT. 40 05 D
Sold? demolished? gone.

Little remains
except what's trapped
in our heads
far back some where.

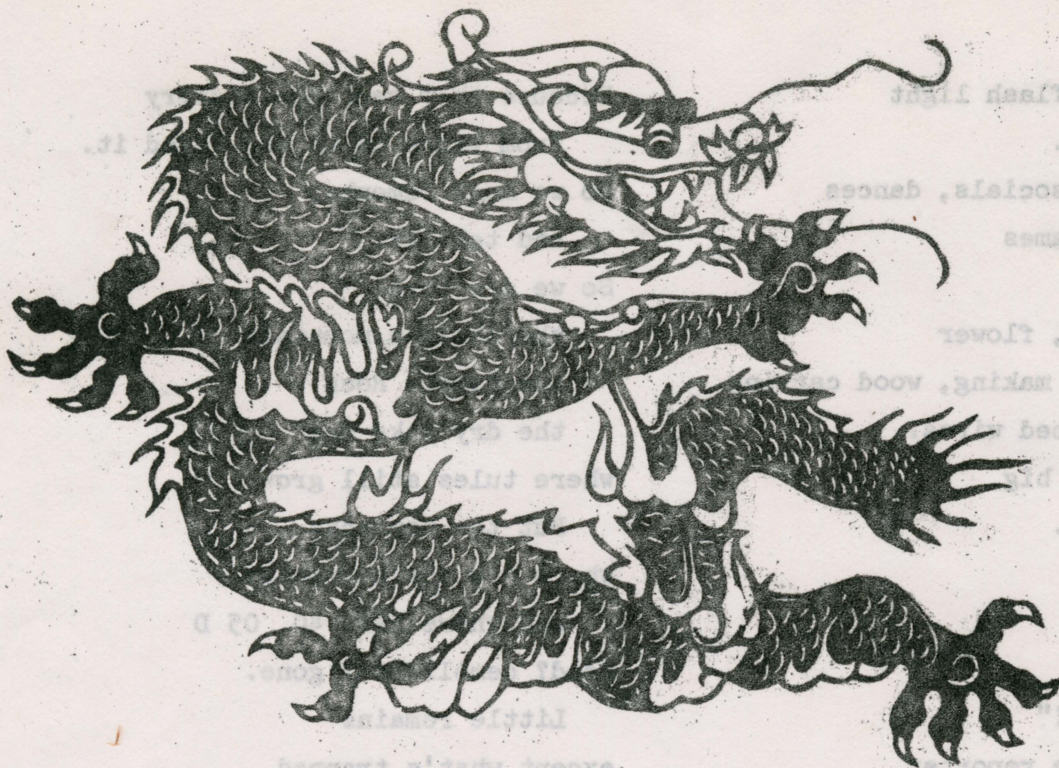
I'm glad I made this trip.
Some how I feel
a meeting of youths
your youth, your energy
your enthusiasm, your
sense of justice
was the youth that I was
idealistic, intense, angry.

It's a happy meeting
it is even better
that I can stand aside
after 30 odd years
and see it, this meeting
to meet, to share, to learn
to struggle, to continue.

I sense an immense feeling
of continuity
with
you-----
all of you.

Yes. It's right, it's right
and I'm glad I came back to Tulelake with you.

JOIN THE ASU!



Oct. 1 (cont, from pg. 4)

Students have always been quick to grasp progressive ideas on bettering society. As students, we must see the incorrect ideas that have been brought out about China. We must wage a consistent struggle among students to correct these wrong ideas and bring forth the true progressive ideas about China. Asian students have been an important force in bringing out the truth about China and fighting the incorrect anti-communist, anti-China ideas that the US government perpetuated.

In 26 years of hard work and self-reliance, the Chinese people have transformed China into a productive, functional country. In contrast, we must see that our society does not serve the interests of the masses of people. Many people go hungry. Adequate health care is hardest to obtain for those who need it the most. Unemployment is forever present. With China as an example, students must see the need to change our own society to better meet the needs of the people.

We, the Asian Student Union recognize and support the PRC because

of the struggles waged by the people towards progressive change, and because we see the need to follow China's example in changing to a socialist society for the betterment of all.

In recognition of China's national day, the Chinatown Committee to Celebrate October 1st held an October 1st celebration at Portsmouth Square under the three principles: 1) Building friendship between the Chinese and American people; 2) Education about the People's Republic of China; 3) Supporting normalization of relations between the United States and China. The Asian Student Union was a part of this committee and also held an October 1st celebration on campus.

These October 1st celebrations, along with many others in the US, show the increasing recognition of China by the American people. This recognition signifies the ever growing pro-China movement in the United States.

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA!!

Studying together to improve our work

Beginning last semester and through the summer, the ASU has initiated the study of various topics as an ongoing program within our organization. The idea of doing collective study had come up many times. People saw the need to learn more about the projects and programs we were working on. For example, we should study about the concentration camps that incarcerated the Japanese people because we were doing a forum on it, or do some study on the struggle of women since last year we were participating in a celebration for International Women's Day taking place in the Chinese community. It was in this spirit that we felt studying together could help us sharpen our programs by understanding the reasons we were having a program, and what ideas we wanted to bring to students on campus.

Studying together has built unity in the ASU around our tasks in building the Asian Student Movement. Study together has also been a good means by which we learn from each other and share experiences. Since the topics are decided upon by ASU members, we ourselves have learned to take initiative in leading discussions and planning reading materials.

Working together collectively and studying together has an advantage in that we can concretely apply our



study to our practice, since we all participate in a common area of work. This is a very important factor for those of us who see a need to study. It is a good thing to see the need of study, perhaps to gain a better understanding of society, or to learn more about our situation as Asians in this country and the oppression we face. Only through linking up our study to reality and applying it can we make study an active part of life.

At the present time, the ASU is in the process of developing study sessions on the Asian student movement; starting with its early history around the civil rights and anti-war movements. We hope to draw lessons from the early development of the Asian student movement to better understand our tasks at the present. We will also be discussing the role students have, and should play in changing society. All interested persons should be sure to get in touch with us, drop by our office.

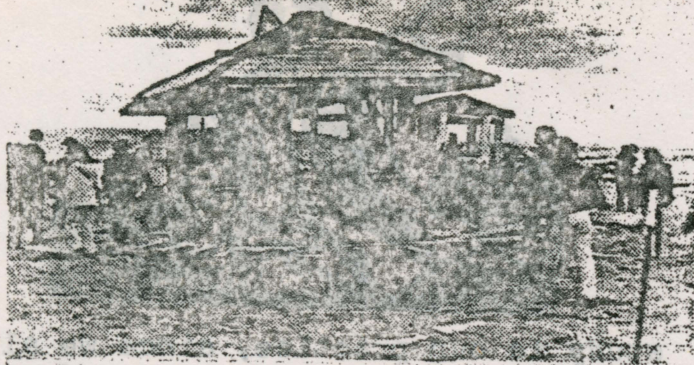
WORKING WITH OTHER ASIAN STUDENT GROUPS

From April 18-20, 1975, over 250 people, mostly Asian students, participated in a mass pilgrimage to Tule Lake concentration camp in northern California. Guided by a collective interest in America's concentration camps of WWII, and united under the theme, "Learn from past struggles, unite for future victories!", Asian students from 10 northern Calif. campuses saw the pilgrimage not only as a memorial, but also as a vehicle for learning Asian-American history. In addition, the pilgrimage was seen as a concrete means of building uni-

ty and solidarity among the Bay Area student organizations and drawing lessons from our past history of oppression.

The Japanese American concentration camp experience is not an isolated incident, but is a product of racism and national oppression in its most blatant form which still exists today in America. Racist sentiments and hysteria (perpetuated by politicians, union leaders, big businessmen, farming interests and especially the Hearst press) labelled the Japanese as a "threat to national security" and engineered the incarceration of 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry, robbing them of their homes, property and personal belongings.

cont. on pg. 10



Guard towers at Tule Lake

(cont. from pg. 9)

Tule Lake was the camp where oppression and resistance had been most acute. Out of the ashes of Tule Lake will come a spark of revolutionary change that will inflame the inspirational hearts and minds of every Asian-American against all forms of national oppression.

By learning about our past struggles and resistance against national oppression, the ASU hopes to present an accurate perspective of our history. Our struggles for future victories against the rich ruling class in this country must take on an international perspective. Because the U.S. ruling class continues to exploit all races throughout the world, whether they be black, brown, red, yellow or white.

Following the Tule Lake pilgrimage, the various Asian student organizations saw a need to continue to work together and share lessons from our work in organizing Asian students on various campuses. What resulted was a weekend retreat from August 22 to 23, where speeches, workshops, and social interaction took place and was significant towards building unity in the Asian student movement. Our ASU feels that joint work among Asian student organizations is important, because we can learn a great deal from each other. Many Asian student organizations are forming on different junior campuses and we need to broaden our contact with them also.

In future articles, we hope to write more about the Asian student movement and the different Asian student organizations that exist today. We will also be planning joint work and encourage all interested students to become active in this aspect of the ASU.

THE FORMATION OF THE FEBRUARY FIRST MOVEMENT

Uniting around the theme, "now is the time to unite all black students in the struggle against US imperialism and national oppression", the February First Movement (FFM) a black anti-imperialist student organization formed in December, 1974. The ASU asked FFM to speak at our October 1st celebration on campus on September 29. We thought that through this article we could further explain the organization, why it was formed and how it sees itself working with black students.

The date February 1st is significant in that on February 1, 1960, 4 black students from North Carolina university staged a sit-in at a local Woolworth's. It was the first time such tactics had been used to attack racism and the oppression of nationalities and sparked off many sit-ins.

The formation of FFM was marked by the fact that black students joined together in a common struggle. Presently the FFM sees its tasks is to summarize the 1960's and to "renew the spirit of militancy, of courage, of sacrifice which characterized the struggles of the 1960's..."

The FFM sees US imperialism as the cause of problems facing people, in particular the problems of black students. Fluctuation in the economy, resulting in cutbacks directly affect the black students who are dependent to a large extent on state/federal aid to go to universities.

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FFM sees that previously there were two obstacles to the students fighting these cutbacks. 1) That the movement was spontaneous and didn't link campus struggles to larger issues, and 2) the conscious anti-imperialists were disunited and couldn't provide leadership. FFM hopes to overcome the obstacles by firstly emphasizing the need for students to committ themselves to struggles.

The organization has defined certain areas that they see students can get involved in. They are to support 1) the struggle for the right to education, to fight cutbacks, 2) the struggles of workers, 3) community struggles, 4) anti-imperialist struggles in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Latin America, 5) the struggles of oppressed nationalities, 6) the fight against women's oppression.

The ASU invited the FFM to speak at our October 1st forum, recognizing that their existance and formation is a step forward not only for the black student movement but for the overall student and progressive movements.

Kimi's Cheese Cake

1. Make graham cracker crust as directed on the box. Refrigerate to cool.
2. 12 oz cream cheese
3 eggs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla

Beat until smooth, pour into cool pie crust. Bake at 350° for 18-20 mins. Let cool.

3. Topping:
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of sour cream
4 tablespoons of sugar
2 teaspoons of vanilla

Beat until smooth and pour over baked cream cheese. Bake at 475° for 5 mins.

(It's better to make 1 day in advance)

Come to the next ASU meeting!

Sunday, November 16, 1975
at 781 7th Ave, 10:00 am

ASIAN JUMBLE



Section 1

C A S M I R

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Z A R O N E G I

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Section 2

N I T C U M O N Y

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T E G L U R G S

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R O D M E E F

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Section 3

A L E U T Y O I

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D I S C R I M I N A T E

HOW TO:

Unscramble the words. Then unscramble the circled letters in each of the three sections to form three words which completes the rhyme.



**IN COMMUNITES, CAMPUSES,
FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT,
BUILDING STRENGTH AMONG OURSELVES,**

Special thanks to United League Community Services & Chinese for Affirmative Action for the use of printing facilities.