

ASIAN STUDENT VOICE



Women's Day Celebration -1974

ASU CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8

This semester, the ASU is planning a program to celebrate March 8, International Women's Day. We want to commemorate the struggles and contributions of women, particularly of Asian women, in U.S. society, and discuss how we feel women's oppression can be fought. Like all of our programs, the International Women's Day celebration is part of our on-going work in organizing Asian students against the systematic oppression of Asian people. Through our IWD program and our other activities, we hope students, particularly Asian women, will take up the struggles of Asian people and become active in the struggle for fundamental social change.

HISTORY

International Women's Day originated in tribute of women's participation in two labor strug-

gles here in America, both of which occurred on March 8 in New York City. In 1857, women who worked in garment factories marched from their workplace to the richer sections of town in protest of their poor working conditions and long working hours (10-14 hours a day). They intended to demonstrate in front of the homes of the wealthy and ask the richer women to support their cause. Instead, police on horseback intervened; there were many injuries and mass arrests. In 1908, thousands of women in the needles trade industry took part in a similar demonstration with the added demands of a union and a law against child labor. Two years later, Clara Zetkins proposed at the International Socialist Congress that IWD be declared in commemoration of these events to recognize the struggle of working women everywhere.

TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
TRIPLE OPPRESSION

I W D

Today, International Women's Day is celebrated throughout the world, as well as in the U.S. by all progressive peoples. The ASU is celebrating IWD this semester in recognition of the oppression of women which exists under American society and to honor the many heroic struggles of those women who struggled in the interests of women's liberation and society in order to fight our oppression today.

Under American society, women are systematically exploited, facing inequality and sexism in every aspect of their lives. Today in the U.S., the miseries of women are intensifying and for Third World women, especially. Women face inequality and exploitation in virtually every institution of society, such as in education, health and employment. This oppression is perpetuated and reinforced by male chauvinist ideas and stereotypes which degrade women and justify their lower status in society. All these directly benefit big businessmen.

For Third World women, we face oppression on three fronts--as workers, as national minorities (Blacks, Asians, Chicanos, Native Americans etc.) and as women. Third World women, although a growing part of the U.S. labor force, are concentrated in some of the most tedious and low paying jobs in society. For example, the positions usually available to most Asian women are those in the clerical fields, garment factories, or in restaurants as waitresses or maids. Generally these jobs are not unionized and offer little opportunity for advancement. In the media, racist stereotypes of Third World women distort the true history and lives of Third World people. In our communities, we face the ongoing oppression and systematic attacks on the democratic rights of Third World people, such as in housing, health care, and working conditions. In addition, women face the double burden of the responsibilities of home and family. With the general lack of society's responsibilities to the family thru abortion laws, lack of child care facilities, etc., the ability of women to fully participate in social production and in society is restricted. Often too, women must struggle with backward ideas which chain them to the home and their "proper" place.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY THRU SOCIAL CHANGE,
SOCIAL CHANGE WITH WOMEN'S EQUALITY.

Through our study of women's oppression, the ASU has come to the understanding that women's oppression is a component part of the American economic and political system of capitalism. We have struggled to understand the roots of women's oppression through studying women's liberation in China, and our own experiences as Asian women in America. Women are not born "inferior" to men. The oppression and inequality of women benefits the imperialist system of exploitation and the ruling class who controls



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Superpowers out of Angola

Self-determination for Angolan People



For over 400 years the Angolan people have suffered under the brutal oppression and the systematic exploitation of Portuguese colonialism. An example of this is the slave trade, in which over six million Angolans were exported to the Americas as slaves. Throughout this entire period the Angolan peoples' resistance never ceased. In the last 15 years three liberation organizations--MPLA, FNLA, and UNITA--formed to lead the struggle against the Portuguese. The Portuguese were fully backed by the U.S. imperialism. Although tribal, regional and political differences existed, the three groups fought against the common enemy of the Angolan people, for self-determination. After the Portuguese colonialists had been defeated, they took concrete steps to solve their differences and form a transitional coalition government.

Although supported by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Peoples Republic of China, and others, the coalition government never materialized.

Instead the Soviet Social imperialists started a civil war by their intervention into the internal affairs of Angola. They poured tons of bombs, guns, tanks etc. into Angola (weapons they never gave the liberation forces during the war against Portugal) declared one organization "revolutionary" and labelled the other two "reactionary." They also pushed Cuba into sending over 10,000 troops to interfere in the affairs of the Angolan people. Hiding behind the rhetoric of "supporting National Liberation struggles" and being a "friend" of the Angolan people the true colors of the Soviet social imperialists have been shown through their actions of aggression and intervention.

INDOOR RALLY

Program: March 27 at 7:30

Oakland Tech High School

COALITION FOR ANGOLAN SELF-DETERMINATION

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS (partial list):
 Revolutionary Workers League, Fruitvale Law Collective, October League, J-Town Collective, I Wor Kuen, February First Movement, Fight Don't Starve, Communist Youth Organization, S.F. State and Laney Asian Student Union, Marxist Leninist Organizing Committee, Bay Area Communist Union

JOIN THE ASU!

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society's wealth. Similarly, the oppression of Asian and other Third World peoples is also rooted in imperialism.

We firmly believe that women cannot be liberated without fundamental social change; incomplete solutions that only attack men as the problem and raise the status of a few individual women are not true solutions to our oppression. In the same light, the fight against male chauvanism will not end the systematic oppression of women. We must recognize the limitations of these "solutions" and strive to understand the roots of women's oppression and inequality. With this understanding we can see that to really fight women's oppression means to participate in the progressive movement to transform society to the interests of the masses of people.

In order for women to become active and take up their role in fighting sexism and other forms of exploitation, we must pay special attention to organizing women. Because of this important point, the ASU formed a women's caucus last semester. The women's caucus sees the responsibility of involving Asian women in the ASU and bringing

Celebrate International Women's Day!

Tuesday, March 23

HLL 135, 12-2 pm

the political ideas of the ASU to the broad numbers of Asian women at SFSU. We recognize that social change cannot take place without the full participation and leadership of women. Also, we see that our organization is not free of male chauvanist and sexist ideas. We must struggle to combat these ideas that hold back the development of our sisters and the whole ASU.

We hope that our Women's Day celebration will provide a better understanding for all of us on the nature of women's oppression, how Asian women are affected, and how we can change it. The program will include an ASU speaker, a slide show on Asian women, and poetry. After the program, there will be refreshments and discussion. Everyone's invited! See you Tuesday, March 23, 12:00 in HLL 135.

ANGOLA Don't from page 3

Other reactionary forces such as the U.S. imperialists and the racist South African regime have also intervened. Throughout the world U.S. imperialism role in Africa, its economic and military support of Portuguese colonialism and racist South African apartheid has long been known. It is important that progressive people throughout the world and in America realize that there are two imperialist threats to the self-determination of the Angolan people--U.S. and Soviet social imperialism--with the social imperialists being the more aggressive and dangerous at this time.

The Asian Student Union feels it is very important to support the national liberation struggles of the 3rd world countries. Learning from our participation in the anti-war movement in support of the Indo-Chinese liberation struggles, we can see that the 3rd world continues to be the main force against imperialism today. We have confidence, that in the final analysis, it is not the imperialists who are strong, but the masses of Angolan people, who will kick both superpowers out of Angola, win their self-determination, and build a prosperous, self-reliant country for the benefit of the Angolan people.

"CELEBRATE the STRUGGLES of ASIANS in AMERICA"

The following speech was delivered at the ASU's Lunar New Year celebration on February 19 at UCSU. The program's theme was "Celebrate the struggles of Asians in America" and included speakers from Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction, Chinese Progressive Association, and Asian American Studies, as well as cultural presentations of Lion Dance, Taiko Drummers and singing.

Hi, we'd like to welcome y'all to our Lunar New Year Celebration. Our theme for this year is "Celebrate the struggles of Asians in America" and we hope to see this new year, 4674, the Year of the Dragon, advance the struggles of Asian and all oppressed peoples in America.

For those who aren't familiar with us, we are an organization united around the need to organize Asian students against our common oppression as a people. We consciously try to involve students in actively taking up the struggle to change society as a way of fighting oppression.

This celebration today is part of the ASU's on-going work. All of our programs reflect the political ideas of the ASU and attempt to raise the progressive political understanding of students. We feel that our culture and cultural events should reflect the true struggles and experience of Asians in America.



Why do we think it's so important to celebrate the struggles of Asians in America?

Well, we feel that Asian students share the common history of oppression of all Asians in America, as well as a rich history of struggle for our full rights in American society. Looking at the history of Asian people and other Third World people in the U.S., we can see the systematic denial of our democratic rights and culture, and not just as isolated incidents of discrimination or prejudice. Being super-exploited as a source of cheap labor, the racist anti-Asian legislation of the 1900's and the Concentration Camps of WWII, are but a few examples of our history of oppression as Asians in America.

Con't on page 6

Principles of Unity

The ASU has always strived to put forward our principles of unity in our work in organizing Asian students. These principles serve to guide our activities, committees, and general direction. Participation in ASU is based on agreement with these ideas.

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.

Come to the next ASU meeting!

Sunday, March 28, 1976
at 781 7th Ave, 1:00 pm

LUNAR NEW YEAR Con't from page 5

From our past work on campus, we have seen that many Asian students recognize our common history of oppression. Here at State, many students recognize and face it in their everyday lives. Being able to recognize oppression is a good thing, but it cannot stop there. We can't just accept oppression. We can't just ignore it. We can't just say "Heey, I know there's oppression, but there ain't nothin' that can be done!"

You see, that's not the way. As students, we should be able to understand the roots of our oppression and actively take a role in struggling to change things.

Struggling to change things and taking up the fight against the oppression of Asian people can't be done without understanding the source of our oppression. We can't be fooled into fighting for band-aid answers or Mickey-Mouse solutions to change society. Nor can we have the illusion of "making it" into capitalist society. These won't change things or eliminate the oppression throughout U.S. society. Our oppression as Asians in America is rooted in the system of imperialism.

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We have always been a part of the struggles of the Asian and Progressive Movements. Asian students have always been active in the progressive struggles in the U.S. As students, we are quick to grasp progressive ideas and open to struggling against oppression. For example, in the Bay area anti-war movements, Asian students participated in the Bay Area Asian Coalition Against the War, playing an important role in exposing the roots of U.S. aggression in Vietnam and linking it to our own struggle here in the U.S. Likewise, in the struggle for Ethnic Studies, Asian students along with other progressive students, united with community and working people and contributed to the establishment of Ethnic Studies across the country.

If you're an Asian student, whether you live in Chinatown, J-Town, the dorms, out of the city, where-ever, you can participate and contribute to the struggles of Asians in America.

DROP BY THE ASU OFFICE!

SU Bldg. room 137 ext 4292 ¹⁹²⁹

We call for your support in the various struggles waged by Asians in America. Support, whether it be active support, like on the picket line, or support in spirit, should not be seen as just support for separate individual struggles. But rather, should be seen as advancing the entire struggles and interests of Asian and all oppressed peoples.

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So in our struggles, who do we rely on for change? ASU recognizes that the masses are the makers of history. We see that we should not rely on, or depend on, professionals or individual "heroes" in the struggles to change society. We must work for fundamental changes and thusly, we see that the masses of people, with an understanding of their oppression, and concrete organization against their oppression, hey, , the masses will be the main force in changing society. As students, our participation in struggles should not be with missionary attitudes of "teaching the people" or "saving the people". We must instead learn from the masses and recognize the leading role of the working class as the main force in changing society.

In conclusion then, we would like to reaffirm that the ASU formed because of the common oppression of Asians in America.

We recognize that individuals alone and individual struggles will not bring about fundamental change in society. Instead, struggles must be waged in a mass way through organized means.

We put forth the call for students to become active to advance the struggles of Asians in America and to advance the struggles of all oppressed peoples.

Join us in celebrating the victories of the past and advance the struggles towards victories this year!!!!