

# FOUNDING CONFERENCE FOR A WEST COAST ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS ASSOCIATION!



*Deepen Our Unity!  
Advance the Asian Student Movement*

at San Francisco State University

1600 HOLLOWAY AVE. S.F. CALIF.

**APRIL 15 & 16 9am -**

FOR MORE INFO:  
N.C. CALIF. SO. CALIF.  
UC Berkeley ASU Cal State LA ASU  
(415) 647-6728 (213) 265-2492

• SPEAKERS / • WORKSHOPS / • CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS / • DANCE

# West Coast Asian-Pacific Islanders Student Founding Conference

On April 15-16 there will be a founding conference for a West Coast Asian and Pacific Islander Students Association at San Francisco State University. Asian organizations throughout the West Coast will be attending this conference to strengthen the existing communications network, plan joint campaigns and activities and to build and develop Asian and Pacific Islander student organizations. The general goals of the conference are to formalize a West Coast body, develop principles of unity and a structure, and to take up major issues like the Bakke Decision.

Asian and Pacific Islander student organizations exist on almost every campus on the West Coast. Why do we have these organizations? As Asians, we have faced a common oppression, shared similar experiences and have similar needs. Everywhere Asian and Pacific Islander students are working together to defend Ethnic Studies, supporting community struggles and striving to meet our social, cultural, political and educational needs on campus. The goals of the conference are to bring these organizations together to develop the unity among Asian-Pacific Islander students, to build our movement and to continue to fight against racism and the oppression of Asian-Pacific Islander people.

In February of this year, over 200 students from California, Hawaii and the East Coast attended the West Coast Asian Student Conference at Pasadena City College. We met throughout the day to discuss Asian student organizing, the Bakke decision, community and labor work, joint work with other Third World organizations, Ethnic Studies and formalizing into a Western Regional body. Many resolutions were passed to sum-up these perspectives. The most important resolution passed was the formation of a West Coast Asian and Pacific Islander Students Association.

The founding conference is the product of a long term working unity that has developed among Asian Student organizations. Many organizations have worked together on community issues like International Hotel, China and the concentration camps, and campus issues such as Asian American Studies and the Bakke Decision. The founding conference will lay a path for Asian and Pacific Islander students to become a single unified force fighting for the interests of Asian and other oppressed people and to strengthen the unity among Asian and Pacific Islander students. This founding conference will be a significant advancement for Asian and Pacific Islander students throughout the West Coast.



The conference will include cultural presentations, speakers, skits and a dance. In addition, there will be numerous workshops on the Bakke Decision, principles and structure of the West Coast body and practical workshops on outreach, resources, putting on educational programs, films, newsletters, and taking up the Bakke Decision.

WEST COAST ASIAN/PACIFIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDING CONFERENCE - SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIV.

APRIL 15 - 16, 1978

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Last February 18, a very important conference at Pasadena City College brought together over 250 students from 35 campuses throughout the West Coast. Directly flowing from this successful event, the West Coast Asian/Pacific student network was formed to develop joint activities and communications to bring Asian campus organizations closer together. As resolved by the Feb. 18 Conference, the West Coast Asian/Pacific Student Association is calling for its founding conference on April 15-16!

The weekend conference offers a wide context to meet new people, deepen friendships and discuss mutual questions and concerns. For the weekend, cultural activities, a dance, and socializing will combine with workshop discussions, educational media and presentations to reflect and amplify our solidarity. In this way, the conference hopes to generate ongoing collective discussions and activities among all Asian students. Thus, the three basic goals of the conference are:

- 1) To build and strengthen broad and democratic Asian student organizations, in order to solidify the Asian Student Movement as a whole. We want to develop our understanding of the role of Asian student organizations in serving the needs and promoting the interests of Asian students - including social, cultural, political and educational needs. We want to draw lessons and share practical ideas to help Asian students get better organized.

- 2) To formally establish the West Coast Asian/Pacific Students Association. Such a body can better coordinate meetings and activities and provide a forum for sharing experiences and providing mutual support; and have a greater impact on the issues that affect Asian students.

- 3) To take up the Bakke campaign (spring offensive) as an important part of our work as Asian student organizations, and deepening our understanding of the role we play in advancing the struggle.

WEST COAST ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
APRIL 15-16, 1978

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Morning Program
1. Cultural Performance
  2. Introduction/Welcome
  3. Keynote Address- History of the West Coast Asian Student Network
  4. INTRODUCTION to the Principles of Unity  
Skit by Northern and Southern California Regionals
  5. Slideshow presentation- "Asian Students and the Bakke Decision"
  6. Proposal from the Coordinating Committee for WCAPSA spring campaigns
    - a. Anti-Bakke work
    - b. Initiating an Asian American History Month
- 12:00 p.m. LUNCH
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Session
1. Solidarity statements
  2. Introduction to workshops
  3. Workshops Session I  
Principles of Unity  
Structure  
Name  
CC Campaign proposal
  4. Sum-up of workshops
  5. Presentation of resolutions
- 5:30 p.m. DINNER at Konko-Kyo Buddhist Church
- 9:00 p.m. Evening Program  
Cultural performance by Bamboo  
Dance with Filinese

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

- 9:30-11:30 a.m.
1. Introduction
  2. Review of Resolutions and Voting Rules
  3. Voting
  4. Conference sum-up and concluding statements

SCHEDULE

11:30-12:30 p.m.

BRUNCH

12:30-3:30 p.m.

Afternoon Workshops

1. Taking up the Bakke Campaign among Asian/Pacific students
2. Media resources/How to do a slideshow
3. How to put on programs
4. Newsletters and other publications
5. Outreach and organizing

3. Keynote Address - History of the West Coast Asian Student Network  
 4. INTRODUCTION to the Principles of Unity  
 5. Slideshow presentation - "Asian Students and the Bakke Decision"  
 6. Proposal from the Coordinating Committee for WCAPSA spring campaign  
 a. Anti-Bakke work  
 b. Fostering an Asian American History Month

BRUNCH

12:00 p.m.

Afternoon Session

1:00 p.m.

1. Solidarity statements
2. Introduction to workshops
3. Workshop Session I  
Principles of Unity  
Structure  
Name  
CC Campaign proposal
4. Set-up of workshops
5. Presentation of resolutions

DINNER at Kooko-Kyo Buddhist Church

2:30 p.m.

Evening Program  
 Cultural performance by Bamboo  
 Dance with Willness

9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

9:30-11:30 a.m. 1. Introduction

2. Review of Resolutions and Voting Rules

3. Voting

4. Concluding statements and concluding statements

Workshop Session I

*3 copies on white*  
*in any paper*  
*prints*  
*of by my mpt*  
*gr*  
*manual under*  
*guidance*

Constitution for the WCAPSA

- a) principles of unity
- b) structure
- c) name
- d) campaign proposals

a) Principles of Unity

Last February 18th we strove to build the unity of Asian student organizations around various questions and issues such as : what is the character and purpose of Asian student organizations? How can we build such organizations? How can we take up community and labor support work? What is our relationship to Asian American Studies? How can we work with other Third World students? What can we do to fight the Bakke Decision? At the end of the conference we summed up our ideas in the form of resolutions which were passed by the general assembly. The resolutions continue to guide the work of the network.

However, in formalizing the network into a APSA, the C.C. felt that the resolutions were too specific, cumbersome and time restrictive to express a general basis of unity. Therefore, from these resolutions the C.C. derived the following five suggested principles of unity which would state the character and purpose of our organization and would be used to unite us and guide our future work. Points for discussion are also listed after each principle.

Although every participating organization may not have these specific principles, the C.C. proposes that all organizations agree with them as a basis for joining the APSA, and sincerely try to uphold them in their work.

Proposed Principles of Unity and points for discussion :

1. PROMOTE UNITY AMONG ALL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS THROUGH MEETING OUR SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

- reflects the broad character of Asian/Pacific student organizations integrating different aspects of our common interests and needs based on our common experiences and histories

- by socially coming to understand each other (different nationalities, native-born/immigrants, etc..) we begin to realize our cultural similarities and bonds and understand the different political issues facing our broader communities

- because of our history of oppression in this country, we have been long denied means to socialize amongst ourselves, to learn of our own cultural heritage, and to understand our past and present history of struggle

(Proposed Principles of Unity and points for discussion:)

2. FIGHT AGAINST THE RACISM AND NATIONAL OPPRESSION FACING ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER PEOPLES

- expresses the objective situation that our peoples as oppressed national minorities in this country must deal with in all aspects of our lives, in the substandard and irrelevant education we receive, in impoverished communities, exploitative jobs, and denial of our language, culture and history

- the term 'national oppression' recognizes that Asian and Pacific Islander peoples have been systematically oppressed in the historical development of this society, and deepens our understanding of racism in America

- encourages us to become concerned and aware of issues affecting us on campus such as Ethnic Studies cutbacks, the Bakke Decision, and broader issues in the different Asian communities, workplace struggles, etc.

3. SUPPORT THIRD WORLD, LABOR, COMMUNITY, WOMEN, AND ALL PROGRESSIVE STRUGGLES.

- points out that the struggles of Asian and Pacific Islander peoples are not isolated, but part of the broader struggles affecting workers, women, and oppressed nationalities.

- all Third World people in America share a common history of struggle and resistance against national oppression. The continuing struggle can be strengthened by the mutual support and solidarity between different oppressed nationalities

- the vast majority of Asian and Pacific Islanders are working people, laboring in the fields and factories and menial jobs (usually the most exploitative) since our inception in America

- the struggles of our peoples are the struggles of all laboring people in America, and we can only grow stronger with our mutual support and alliance with the entire working class

- Asian and Pacific Islander peoples must express resolute support for our sisters in struggle, and women of all nationalities, to play an active role in changing society and in ending male domination and chauvinism

4. PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURES AND HISTORY.

- to deepen our own understanding of our rich cultures and histories which have long been denied us, also to educate people of all nationalities of our cultures and history. To promote a better understanding of our peoples experiences and to share our knowledge with all nationalities

3. BUILD FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ALL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER PEOPLES.

- real friendship is rooted in a mutual understanding of each other and sharing common ideas and experiences

- strong bonds of friendship can develop by building common perspectives and struggling for common goals

(Proposed Principles of Unity and points for discussion:)

- (5) - to break the barriers of different nationalities and cultural differences to become a basis for friendship, through collective sharing and joint action

Structure

From discussions held both within the regionals and in the C.C., members of the West Coast Asian student network generally felt that we should keep the network's present structure, yet more clearly define and specify the role and function of each body.

The following structure is thus proposed:

I. membership

membership is contingent upon each organization or individuals from campuses without organizations agreeing:

1. have unity with principles of unity
2. actively uphold principles of unity to the extent of organization's abilities
3. consistently try to attend regional meetings and general body conferences

II. organization

1. general body

the general body is the highest decision-making body. It should meet twice per year at annual conferences to plan out activities and campaigns for the school year in the fall, and to sum-up the year's work and make summer plans in the spring. It would have the representation and participation of all members of the APSA (see #3 c.). Each organization or group of individuals on campuses which don't have organizations will receive one vote.

2. regional bodies

regional bodies, presently located in northern and southern California (though we hope to form some in the Northwest and Hawaii), meet more frequently than the general body to take up and discuss general conference decisions as well as regional activities and campaigns. For practical and geographical reasons it is more feasible for organizations and students to meet and participate on a regional level. It also enables the body to take up local issues and concerns and more easily coordinate communications.

3. coordinating committee (C.C.)

the C.C. is to be selected by each regional. Each regional may select as many C.C. representatives as it wishes, but only 4 will be given voting status.

The responsibilities of the C.C. includes:

- a. providing day to day leadership and direction to the APSA
- b. coordinate communications between regionals

- c. act as a liason body between the APSA and other organizations
- d. plan general body conferences
- e. give leadership and oversee regionals
- f. actively seek input and advice from campuses in the APSA and act as a grievance body to receive complaints and handle problems

4. name

It was felt that the name "West Coast Asian and Pacific Islanders Students Association" was too long and should instead be shortened to "Asian/Pacific Students Association (APSA)"

At the last conference it was raised that we should include the term "Pacific Islander" or "Pacific" to encompass students of Samoan, Hawaiian, Micronesian and Fiji Island descent since this term is widely used in these communities.

In short, we want to have more discussion at the conference to have the widest possible participation in choosing a name. We want to choose a name which best reflects the broad character of our body. Any other suggestions?

Coordinating Committee Proposal for a 1978 Spring APSA Campaign

At the 12/11/77 conference, we resolved to form a network to take up Bakke and other issues of importance to Asian/Pacific people. Again at the 2/18/78 conference, we reaffirmed our commitment to do anti-Bakke work, to work with the the ABDC. We recognize the Bakke Decision as a serious attack against our rights and against such fundamental programs as special admission and ethnic studies, which we fought hard to win in the 1960s.

In light of these resolutions, the C.C. proposes that we, the APSA, take up the National ABDC spring offensive, in particular :

1. to mobilize and build for the May 13 West Coast Demonstration in San Francisco
2. to have programs on each campus during the week of struggle, May 6-13, to bring out the importance of Asian/Pacific students taking up anti-Bakke work

*2 activities take up AP wk & why. it is all aspects of our work*  
As a means to organize around these two points, the C.C. proposes that APSA initiate an Asian/Pacific people's History Month. The Asian/Pacific History Month would provide a theme for our work : bringing out the historical nature of the Bakke Decision and through our history show that the idea of "reverse discrimination" is truly a myth. While we have suffered a history of such attacks as the Bakke Decision, we have always resisted and fought back. Through this history month, we can bring out the importance of continuing and building this movement of resistance.

The C.C. realizes that organizations within the APSA have a wide range of abilities, resources and activities planned for the spring. Therefore we encourage each organization to participate and show solidarity with this campaign in different ways - through having a movie or slide showing, putting on a program, going on a field trip, having an Asian/Pacific cultural fair, etc... In northern California programs on the concentration campus (to build up for the Tule Lake Pilgrimage) can also be linked to this campaign. We feel that this campaign not only will be an influential force in helping to overturn the Bakke Decision, but can also provide a focus and help build each individual organization.

*3 to undertake our AP hist month during May  
At this time because the SD is directly affecting Asian pop.  
we should strive to integrate, educate and arm the SD.  
in these activities*

## WORKSHOPS

The workshops are a large part of our sharing of ideas, questions and experiences during our conference. Following are the topics for the workshop discussions, which we hope you can look over and prepare any comments or questions you may have. Suggestions before the conference for preparations of the workshops would also be greatly appreciated.

### Topics: (Afternoon workshops)

Taking up the Bakke Campaign among Asian/Pacific students

Media resources/ How to do a slideshow

How to put on programs

Newsletters and other publications

Outreach and organizing

## TAKING UP THE BAKKE DECISION AMONG ASIAN/PACIFIC STUDENTS WORKSHOPS

### I. history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in America

- A. oppression and resistance - dispelling myth of "reverse discrimination"
- B. mass movements of the 1960s- how we got special programs
  - TW Strikes on campuses - role of Asian/Pacific students in fighting for special admissions, Ethnic Studies, EOP, etc....

### II. present situation

- A. the Bakke Decision as a legal assault on our gains of the 1960s
  - examples : attacks on Asian American Studies - cooptation
  - elimination of Asian special admission at Boalt Law School
  - attacks at Hastings and USF Law Schools
  - the Bakke Decision already being implemented in other instances?

### III. taking up anti-Bakke work among Asian students

- A. review Saturday morning presentation
- B. review ABDC pspring offensive plans
- C. organizing on campus
  - establishing Bakke committees
  - intercampus Bakke networks
- D. programs
  - How can we present the Bakke case in a creative way? Examples from some campuses : skits, fundraising social activities, etc... programs, demonstrations, movie showing, etc....
- E. other ideas, experiences?

## MEDIA RESOURCES / HOW TO DO A SLIDE SHOW WORKSHOP

- I. use of facilities and materials
  - A. joint work or cooperation with community media groups (JAM, Kearny St. Workshop, Visual Communications, etc....)
  - B. educational films, books (for a library)
  - C. publicity/outreach - Asian American readion shows, TV time, skits
  - C. leads (sources) , cheap goods and developing
- II. creating our own materials
  - A. art - graphics, silkscreening, murals, photography/photo displays, newsletters, slideshops
  - B. printing - mimeos, dittos, offset
- III. actual listings of resource centers
  - A. audio visual community groups - leads
- IV. que stions
  1. How can these materials help bring out the goals of our organizations?
  2. How can they broaden outreach?
  3. Please bring some examples of your work :
    - slide shows
    - list of resources

# "ORGANIZING A PROGRAM" WORKSHOP

## I. general discussion on organizing a program

1. ways to creatively bring out ideas  
use of skits, slide shows, speeches, music etc...
2. learning the skills of writing and performing skits, speeches, slide shows,  
etc...
3. being economical - resources in your campus
4. logistics  
getting a place, sound equipment, putting out publicity

## II. questions

1. Why is it important that everyone be united on the purpose and theme  
of the program?
2. How can people work collectively on a program? Division of labor/sharing  
responsibilities
3. Why is it important for a program to be as diverse as possible and to be  
creative?
4. In what ways are "outreach" and "publicity" crucial to the success of a  
program?
5. Why is it important to sum up each program at the end, particularly its  
strengths and weaknesses?

I. What's a newsletter supposed to do?

A. Communication and Education

- 1) expresses opinion of Asian students/organizations on various issues
- 2) promote ideas among Asian and other students on campus
- 3) exchange of ideas between campuses and communities

B. Outreach and Expression

- 1) advertise activities
- 2) getting feedback and response from students
- 3) creative writing publications

II. What form should newsletter take?

A. Content - written by members or students

- 1) editorials, opinions, commentaries, reviews
- 2) articles of issues
- 3) creative- poems, short stories, etc.
- 4) graphics and photos
- 5) calendar of events
- 6) recipes
- 7) games and puzzles

B. Form

- 1) xerox
- 2) mimeograph
- 3) offset
- 4) ditto
- 5) tabloid (printed)

III. Organization and Production

A. Committee within ASU

- 1) working collectively to write, decide upon and edit articles, etc.
- 2) discussion within ASU about articles to get unified perspective and feedback for improvement
- 3)

B. Production

- 1) setting schedules with deadlines, editing
- 2) layout process

IV. Distribution

A. When to come out

- 1) weekly
- 2) monthly/quarterly
- 3) must suit needs of organization

B. Who to distribute to

- 1) EVERYONE!
  - a. on campus
  - b. classes
  - c. other organizations
  - d. other Asian student groups - network
  - e. community groups

V. Special problems - Funding, etc.

I. outreach questions for discussion on outreach

1. Why is outreach so important to strengthening our campus organizations?
2. How can What are some methods of outreach?
2. How can we set up periodic orientation meetings or programs to introduce new students to our organizations?
3. What kind of initial outreach to students could we use to start up new campus organizations?
  - a) use of creative methods
    - i. setting up tables/leafleting
    - ii. phone trees/mail outs
    - iii. importance of follow-up
  - b) how to relate to broader communities, etc....
  - c) develop collective workstyles in outreach
    - i. division of labor/sharing responsibilities

II. organizing

questions for discussion

1. How can we appeal to a broad range of student interests and maintain our overall goals? Ideas for social/cultural/political/educational events?
2. What kind of issues are important to take up (Asian American Studies, community, labor, etc...)? Work with other Third World groups, and other progressive forces ex: Third World Coalitions, cutback coalitions, October 1 committees, etc....)

A. Content - written by members or students  
 1) editorials, opinions, commentaries, reviews  
 2) articles of issues  
 3) creative - poems, short stories, etc.  
 4) graphics and photos  
 5) calendar of events  
 6) reports  
 7) games and puzzles  
 B. Form  
 1) letter  
 2) mimeograph  
 3) flyer  
 4) poster  
 5) handout (pamphlet)  
 C. Distribution  
 1) door to door  
 2) weekly  
 3) monthly/quarterly  
 4) must suit needs of organization  
 D. Who to distribute to  
 1) KAYROE!  
 2. on campus  
 3. classes  
 4. other organizations  
 5. other Asian student groups - network  
 6. community groups  
 7. special groups - funding, etc.