

# West Coast

# Asian Pacific Student Union Bulletin

SUMMER 1979

## ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT UNION

Only a year and a half ago 200 Asian and Pacific Islander students came together at a conference in San Francisco, uniting to form the Asian Pacific Student Union (APSU). Since then, APSU has grown to represent over 50 Asian and Pacific student organizations -- colleges and high schools from Hawaii and Los Angeles to Oregon, Washington and Colorado. We united to form this network recognizing the need to support each other, coordinate our activities and involvement in common issues, and to share news, resources and ideas.

This past year we took up an Education Campaign, celebrating Asian/Pacific Heritage week, supporting Ethnic Studies, sponsoring programs and joining the Tule Lake Pilgrimage. We're looking forward now to an exciting summer of activities, expanding ties and preparation for the next West Coast fall conference. APSU'S ON THE MOVE!

## INTRODUCING THE APSU BULLETIN

The Coordinating Committee of the West Coast Asian/Pacific Student Union initiated this news bulletin because a number of exciting events in recent months have demonstrated the growth and the deepening unity of the Asian Pacific Student Movement nationwide. In this bulletin we have tried to report on several major conferences which took place this spring throughout the U.S., as well as recent developments of the APSU and the Asian Pacific Student Movement as a whole. We're sending this bulletin to Asian Pacific student organizations throughout the country, and we hope that people will write back: tell us what you think, send suggestions, additions; all help is wel-

come! We hope this bulletin will serve as encouragement for all the different campuses to send each other news of their struggles and activities and to exchange resources and newsletters.



APSU'S SPRING TOURS A SUCCESS!

Recently, representatives of the Asian Pacific Student Union completed tours of East Coast, Midwest, and Pacific Northwest colleges and participated in conferences in Oberlin, Ohio; Amherst, Massachusetts; and Eugene, Oregon. During the tours, APSU met with Asian student organizations from Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois, Oregon, and Washington. These tours were a great opportunity for the APSU to learn more about what's happening with the Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and East Coast Asian Pacific Student Movement.

ON THE EAST COAST

"Learn From Our Past to Build for the Future" was the theme of the conference sponsored by the Asian American Student Alliance of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Almost 200 participants attended, many coming from New England and New York schools. There were workshops which addressed a broad range of topics from community issues in Chinatowns, to Asian American writers, and Asian women. The Concentration Camps workshop drew much interest; here, APSU reps were able to share their experiences with the West Coast pilgrimages to Manzanar, Tule Lake and Poston. The East Coast Asian Student Union (ECASU) participated in the conference, bringing students from over eight campuses in the New England area. ECASU is an East Coast network of Asian student organizations which grew out of the Intercollegiate Liaison Committee set up in the summer of 1977.

Students from the New York-Connecticut area, such as City Col-

lege of New York, Hunters College, and Yale, also came. Both the APSU and ECASU facilitated the concluding workshop titled "Advance the Pacific Asian Student Movement." The ECASU and APSU showed slide presentations on their networks and activities. Afterwards, there was much fruitful exchange voicing common concerns, such as current issues affecting Asian and Pacific students and ideas for summer regional plans.

Tuition hikes by the school administrations particularly concerned many of the East Coast schools. These hikes especially hurt minority students because financial aid often will not cover these increased expenses, and special admissions and EOP programs are inadequately funded or cut altogether. The strategies developed to fight for student educational rights enlightened APSU members as to how to prepare for similar hikes which may soon face junior and state colleges and universities on the West Coast.

APSU members were able to share information on West Coast Asian American Studies departments and the Asian Pacific Islander Education Campaign. Some schools on the East Coast have several Asian American Studies classes, but few have departments. Ideas on class content, resources and setting up departments were of special interest.

Through discussions in the workshops and meeting other students during the conference, APSU gained a much better sense of the activities happening, especially in the New England ECASU. One of their major spring events was an Asian American Culture Week during April 1-7. Acti-

vities included a concert/dance featuring "Sojourners," an Asian American jazz band, and Charlie Chin, a popular Asian American folksinger. Summer plans for the New England ECASU include sponsoring resource workshops in Boston Chinatown.

In the New York area, the Concerned Asian Students (CAS) at CCNY and the ASIA club at Hunters College will both be working to strengthen their communications and activities with other city and state colleges. While visiting with the two schools at a reception in New York, the brothers and sisters at CCNY told APSU reps that they wanted to link up with the APSU! (ALL RIGHT!)



#### IN THE MIDWEST

The recent Midwest Asian Students Organizing Conference in Oberlin, Ohio was a significant step in rebuilding Asian/Pacific student organizations on the Midwest campuses, and rekindling ties between campuses. Representatives were present from Chicago Circle, Bowling Green, Ohio State, Kent State and APSU. Getting together in this spirit of helping and supporting each other was especially exciting because it was the first such experience for some of the participants! For others, it was old hat.

Through sharing the successes and problems experienced by the different organizations, everyone came away with more ideas on how to resolve common difficulties and how to build their organizations. Discussion on the importance of principles

of unity as a solid base for an organization helped to clarify the purpose and method in building organizations. Also, there was unity in recognizing the importance of integrating cultural, social, and political aspects in all activities.

Through this conference, APSU came to see an even wider range and greater extent of activity and development of the Asian Pacific Student Movement as reflected by the students on Midwest campuses. This conference was the first time APSU had been able to meet with students in the Midwest. APSU hopes to continue much more communications and exchanges with the Midwest organizations.



#### IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

On May 18-19, the Asian American Student Union at the University of Oregon hosted a conference for Asian American students in the Pacific Northwest. Over 80 students from surrounding campuses including Eugene, Portland, and Seattle gathered to honor our heritage and contributions as Asians to American society. Several students from the California Bay Area drove up to the conference to further our history of exchanges through APSU's network.

Under the theme "A Tribute to John Okada" (author of No No Boy), a day-long program of speeches, films and workshops emphasized the need to reach a common understanding of the Asian American experience. Workshops addressed the roles that Asians can

play in Ethnic Studies programs, social/health services, law, and media. In recognition of the common issues and problems that we all face as Asians, and the strength we can generate in approaching them together, students voted unanimously to form a PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OF THE APSU!

The successful day was capped with a colorful Spring Festival held in the warm open-air of the evening. AASA members, friends and guests performed Taiko and obon dancing, martial arts, dance and readings. The "Warriors of the Rainbow" gave an inspiring performance with songs and music expressing our feelings as Asians and struggles in the movement. Enthusiasm was high, and everyone joined in on the tankobushi!!

Overall, the conference gave us a chance to exchange news, ideas and lessons learned from our campus activities. The initiation of a formal Northwest Region of APSU has been a really significant step in streng-

thening our unity and familiarity with one another.

At U. of Oregon, despite the enrollment of over 300 Asian Americans and even more foreign born students, their only Asian American history class is constantly hounded by threats of elimination, and no EOP services exist at all for minority students: conditions which a lot of us can identify with on our own campuses. But the AASA at U of O puts up a determined fight in actively opposing such attacks, working for improved services for students, and challenging racist incidents in the community. The Third World student organizations are strong in their support for each other, recognizing that campus administrations will often try to divide and pit groups against each other. We learned a lot from the AASAs of Oregon and Washington and hope our ties will develop still more in the years to come!

#

#### BUILDING ASIAN/PACIFIC STUDENT UNITY

The spring tours were a great learning experience for the APSU, and hopefully, for all the other campuses we met! Through the conferences we were able to learn concretely how all the different organizations are working to build the Asian Pacific Student Movement. These exchanges reaffirmed our similar goals in building organizations that address the needs and interests of Asian Pacific students; that fight our oppression as Asian Pacific people; and that aid Third World, women, workers', and other progressive struggles. These recent tours contributed to these efforts, and strengthened our unity nationwide.



LINKING UP NATIONALLY!

During the school year 78-79, four major Asian Pacific student conferences took place: in the Midwest, the Pacific Northwest, and on the West and East coasts. The conferences reflect a growing interest and increased activity of collective efforts in building the Asian Pacific Student Movement. Similar concerns and goals have led all of us, though in different areas of the U.S., to sponsor similar campaigns on Asian Pacific Heritage and History; to help organize and participate in Pilgrimages and Days of Remembrances at Concentration Camp sites; and to pool efforts and resources on building Asian and Pacific student organizations.

In recognition of and to further this unity of efforts and concerns, APSU would like to propose linking up with other campuses across the nation, and together, eventually form a nationwide organization. At this time, we would like to form a network as an initial building step, and begin to more systematically exchange and communicate with everyone, and make a goal of forming a national organization, possibly in the spring of 1980.

A national organization can help to strengthen each of our present networks, as well as individual campuses. Through such a structure we can create a vast pool of resources and experiences. We can systematize communications and the sharing of materials. A national organization can also help to provide means for more regional activities and to establish common campaigns to focus all of our energies towards addressing common needs with greater impact (nationwide!). Most important, through a national organization we will have the means to help each other more and to provide leadership for ourselves, new groups, and the Asian Pacific Student Movement as a whole! ON TO A NATIONWIDE ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT ORGANIZATION!

H



APSU SUMMER BRIEFS

\*\*Regional conferences in California during June: sum up the year's activities, get summer activities underway, and plan for the West Coast fall conference and campaign.

\*\*July 7: S. Cal's Art collective presenting a display of murals and other art forms through which we can bring out our heritage and culture.

\*\*Bay Area Asian Communities will host summer street fairs which the APSU will participate in. Lots of fun and fundraising too!

\*\*Field Trip to Agbayani Village, Delano, California. Learn about the farmworkers' struggle and how the village was built by concerned community people and students.

\*\*Building relations with all of you out there! With your help, there will be more issues of this Bulletin!

AND MUCH MORE!

FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK  
\* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBACK \* FEEDBA

PLEASE LET US KNOW:

\*\*What do you think of the Bulletin? Comments, Contributions?  
\*\*How about forming a national organization?  
\*\*Let's make a national contact list!!

Before we can all form a national organization, we need to get to know each other's networks and campuses: how they developed, activities, and so forth. Let's start NOW by compiling a national contact list and beginning exchange of newsletters and other info on who we all are and what we're up to. APSU can compile the list and send it to everyone. All communications with APSU should be addressed to:

ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT UNION  
c/o Asian Student Union  
505 Eshleman  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, California 94720

office phone: 415-642-6728  
415-841-8724 (Tracy/ Jenni/ El)

-----  
ADD ME TO THE NATIONAL CONTACT LIST:

NAME / SUMMER RESIDENCE / PHONE

NAME / SCHOOL ADDRESS / PHONE (Please include organization address/phone)

\*\* COMMENTS \*\* COMMENTS: