

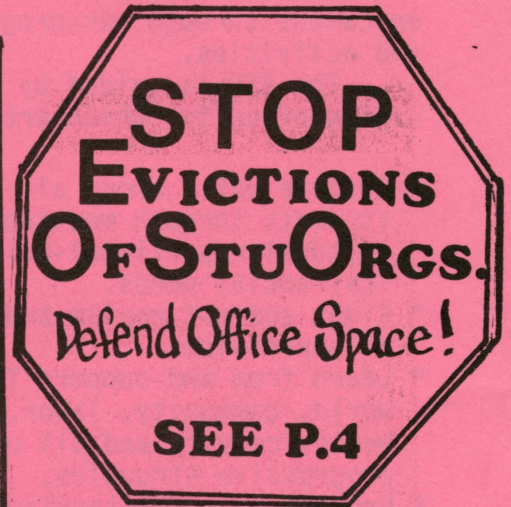
ASIAN STUDENT VOICE

Asian Student Union, SFSU, volume 6 - No.1,

April 1979



Early morning raids removed defiant Japanese to special FBI camps.



“Learn From Our History To Make History”

... ASIAN/PACIFIC STUDENT UNION

The Asian Pacific Student Union (APSU) has launched a campaign in five West Coast states to "learn from our history to make history." This theme runs through all of APSU's activities for Spring '79.

So what's APSU? APSU is a network of Asian/Pacific student groups from California, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. Founded last year, APSU brings together students from different campuses in regional intercampus activities and yearly conferences.

At State, the Asian Student Union, the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor and the Korean Student Association are members of the APSU.

To get a better idea what type of things APSU does, just take a look at some of the spring campaign activities. In order to learn from history, Asian/Pacific students are fighting for Ethnic Studies classes and defending existing programs from cutbacks, elimination or other administrative undercutting. Visits to Agbayani Village, Angel Island and Tule Lake help us to under-

stand our past.

And across the West Coast, people are celebrating Asian/Pacific Heritage Week (May 4-10) with programs and festivals on Asian/Pacific history, culture and current issues.

If you're interested in finding out more about the APSU, drop by the ASU office, Mezz. 100, Student Union (con't on p.3)



**Tule Lake
Pilgrimage
May 27**

Along with other student and community organizations, the SF State Asian Student Union is currently planning the annual pilgrimage to Tule Lake, one of ten concentration camps which interned over 110,000 Japanese people in the United States during World War II. The Tule Lake Committee, the overall sponsor of the pilgrimage, will organize a program and tour of

(con't. on p. 2)

EDITORIAL

We are the Asian Student Union, an organization starting our sixth year at State. We strive to meet the needs of Asian students on campus through our programs and activities.

The ASU is guided by principles of unity, which are:

- * Promote unity among all Asian students through meeting our cultural-educational-political-social needs.
- * Fight against racism and national oppression.
- * Learn from and support Third World, community, labor, women's, campus, and all other progressive struggles.
- * Promote an understanding of the cultures and histories of Asian people.
- * Defend and build the educational rights of Asian students.
- * Build friendship among all Asian people.

One of the largest programs that we will be participating in will be the festival at State celebrating



Asian/Pacific (A/P) Heritage Week. The month of May was declared A/P Heritage Month at the last Asian/Pacific Student Union (APSU) conference. Also, the U.S. Congress designated the first week of May as A/P Heritage Week. It is in this light that A/P organizations on campuses and communities all across the country are coordinating events to celebrate this historic week. The ASU, Pilipino-American Collegiate Endeavor (PACE), Korean Student Association (KSA), Vietnamese Club, members of Asian-American studies, and of the Equal Opportunities Program (EOP) are

working together to put on the festival.

The ASU feels that our Heritage Festival is a very positive event in that it will bring out the histories and cultures of Asian/Pacific peoples, as well as being a good opportunity to work with other groups and organizations.



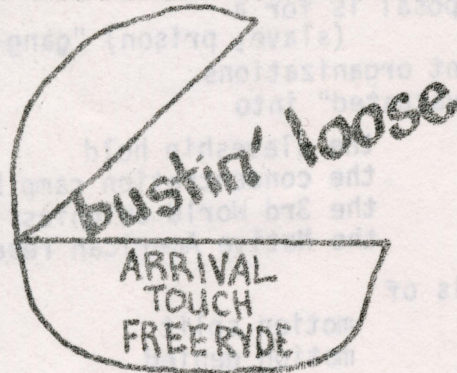
JUSTICE for CHOL SOO LEE!

Chol Soo Lee is a young Korean immigrant serving time at Deuell Vocational Institute. Originally framed for a 1974 Chinatown killing, (since overturned), Chol Soo is now facing the death penalty for a second case. In the second case, an act of self-defense against a neo-Nazi prison gang member has been turned into "first-degree murder" by the court.

Chol Soo Lee's case is a prime example of the brutal oppression and injustice suffered by Korean and other Third World people daily. Police harrasment of our youth has become an everyday event in our communities. This is why his case has drawn support from every Korean community in the country and many Asian and progressive organizations.

The ASU at State and the West Coast Asian/Pacific Student Union as a whole urge everyone to support the Chol Soo Lee Defense Committee.

Drop by for updates on the current situation, and come to the Chol Soo Lee benefit dance-- Friday, May 11, at the Kabuki Theatre--featuring Touch, Freeryde, and Arrival.



**ARRIVAL
TOUCH
FREERYDE**

lights by disco world internationals

Friday May 11
9-1am
Pauley Ballroom, UCB

... a benefit dance ...

Bay Area Chol Soo Lee Defense
UCB Asian Student Union

APSU con't...

building. APSU holds monthly meetings (subregional) with other Bay Area campuses. Within the Bay Area subregional, we have an Asian/Pacific Women's Group, a Tule Lake Committee, a High School Committee, and a Chol Soo Lee committee.

All the committees and campuses are helping to make the APSU's campaign to "learn from our history to make history" a success.

CELEBRATE MAY 4-10
ASIAN/PACIFIC HERITAGE WEEK!!!



ASIAN PACIFIC STUDENT UNION

Celebrate Normalization of Relations

The ASU happily celebrates the long-awaited normalization of relations between the U.S. and the People's Republic of China (PRC). Establishing state-to-state relations, and finally recognizing the PRC as a legitimate country and government is a great victory for all progressive people in the US and especially for the Chinese in America.

On Jan. 1, 1979, President Carter and Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping agreed on 5 principles of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence in line with China's relations with almost all of the rest of the world.

This is the result of 30 years of mass pressure to recognize China (in the US and internationally)--from demonstrations, to friendship fairs and marches. The ASU since its origin in 1974 has been a part of this growing pro-China movement.

Asian students throughout the country have historically helped to build understanding and support of the PRC. This is because China is such an inspiration to us in our fight against racism and national oppression. China's 54 national

(con't. on p. 6)

Defend Office Space!

Prior to the opening of the Student Union Building in Fall 1975, there was no central place on campus where students could meet and organize programs and activities. The Student Union Governing Board (SUGB), which has jurisdiction over the Student Union Building, had not considered the needs of student organizations for having space. We feel that the Student Union is for students and that space for student organizations' offices should be a primary concern.

The Asian Student Union (ASU), La Raza Organization, Pan-African Student Union (PASU), Filipino American Collegiate Endeavor (PACE), and the Student Council of American Natives (SCAN) were the first organizations to force the SUGB to respond to the office space needs of student organizations. We have always been the first to defend the right of student organizations to have office space. As such, The SUGB has always considered us a thorn in its side and has harassed us the most.

Recently, the SUGB forced ASU and other student organizations to move our offices. But this was not before we were able to make definite gains. By uniting together with all other student organizations in the building, we resisted evictions for over 3 months and learned that by uniting together, we will not be defeated. We were also able to pressure the SUGB into granting more space in the building to student organizations as gang office space.

We know that the SUGB will try to kick us out of the Student Union building altogether next semester. We know that the SUGB wants to replace our offices with commercial, money-making enterprises. Only through uniting the student organizations against the SUGB's plans and pressuring the SUGB to find more space will student organization offices be able to remain in the Student Union, where we should be.

APRIL 25, 1979: Space Allocations Committee of the Student Union Governing Board (SUGB) votes 7-2 to eliminate student organizations from having office space in the Student Union. The 100 groups would have lockers in a single room with all other space going to 1) "student services" (proposals are not open to students although it has been confirmed that there is at least one offer from Bank of America) and 2) rooms fixed up to appeal more to off-campus groups (renters).
What is the reasoning behind this plan? Since so many new organizations applied for office space, instead of looking for more space in the Student Union building

On the issue of space...

This is "orders of the Day"
this is "Standard Operating Procedure"
this is Board business-as-usual

Something fails in the translation

The talk revolves around
"corporate status"
"profit-making"

The talk is of
"democratic process,"
each in their various disguises
of accommodation & deceit,
& the reality is abt money & power

The talk revolves around
(office) space
& the proposal is for a
(slave, prison) "gang office"
for student organizations
as tho "evacuated" into
the slaveship hold
the concentration camp barracks
the 3rd World colonies
the Native American reservation

The talk is of
motion split
motion denied

& it is abt
Our Selves
Our Space (Land, Home)
Our Motion of Life

We Will Unify & Fight
For Our Space
& We Will Win

Richard Oyama
April 26, 1979

(paid for and "used for" students); the Space Allocations Committee seeks to blame the organizations currently holding space--no one gets space.

Through the semesters since the Third World organizations first fought for space, the SIIGB has tried every way possible to continue to attack our right to office space. This is line with their historical stand against Third World organizations and people, only this time with an "equality for all" flair. Is it a coincidence that this comes at a time when it is even more critical for TW organizations to step up our organizing and defense of Ethnic Studies, EOP, and all cuts on education are intensifying?

The Asian Student Union and other organizations urge you to help defend our office space. Only through building a strong, united force will we be able to provide enough pressure on the SUGB to "convince" them to maintain office space (student organizations) and in particular Third World organizations in the Student Union building.

Pack the meeting: Thu. 5/3

Picket Fri. SU Plaza 12 noon

**March to Pres. Romberg
Wed, 11 am**

7-A 3:00 PM CONF A-E

The Exclusion Act of 1924 saw the anti-Japanese movement at its worst. Yet, at the same time, more than half of the foreign trade from the Pacific Coast states dealt directly with Japan.

The oldest "newspaper" in the world, dating back to the 10th century, was probably from Peking. It was a court journal where characters were carved into wooden blocks.

After American farmers tried and failed to grow rice in California, a group of Japanese farmers bought waste land in Northern California at less than \$2 per acre to try their luck. Within 10 years, rice had become a staple Ca. crop with 140,000 acres being used to grow rice.

The "yo-yo" was coined from a Filipino word. The original yo-yo's were used for weapons to hunt small game in the Phillipines.

***Submit your info tidbits to:
ASU, Student Union bldg. Mezz. 100.

did you know?

Celebration

Everything is in motion.
You can see the broad canvas
made of rice paper,
the misty outline taking shape
before, and without you,
with the grandeur of Hokusai,
masses of our people
milling, eating,
laughing and talking
within our own homespace
iridescent with bright colors,
the shimmering sound of the cheng,
the gay, festive mood in the air.

This motion is coming strong now.

Sailing towards the old New World.

Richard Oyama

September 13, 1978

(Written for the Asian American Folk Festival, Basement Workshop, N.Y., September 1978)

adobo

2-2-1/2 lbs. pork, cut into pieces about 2" long and 1-1/2" thick.

1 head garlic, pounded

4 t. salt or toyo to taste

1 t. black pepper, ground

1 T. lard

2 C. water

1/2 C. vinegar (native)

Place the pork in a saucepan. Add vinegar, garlic, pepper, salt or toyo and water. Cover the saucepan and cook slowly until the meat is tender and most of the broth has evaporated and only 1/2 cup remains.

Drain, separate the pieces of garlic from the port and fry in lard until brown. Add the pieces of pork and fry until brown. Add the broth and let simmer about 5 minutes. Serve hot.

UNITED LEAGUE OF MISSISSIPPI

On November 25th, 1978, over 3,500 persons marched through Tupelo, Mississippi, demanding opportunities for Black people and an end to Ku Klux Klan terror. Strikes, boycotts, and demonstrations called by the United League (UL) have renewed the movement for freedom and justice for Black people in the South.

The UL made a speaking tour of the West Coast in January, raising money and support for their struggles. The ASU endorsed this tour because we see many similarities in the oppression of Asians and of Blacks, and can learn from the United League's struggle.

The ASU, along with the Pan-African Student Union, La Raza Organization, and the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition, SFSU chapter, sponsored a speaking engagement last February.

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

The International Hotel, once a low rent home for many elderly Pilipinos and Chinese, as well as a community center, is the last remnant of Manilatown.

Four Seas Corporation, the hotel's owner, is tearing down the building to replace it with a more profitable venture. The first eviction notice was issued in 1968, but actual eviction was delayed until 1977 because thousands of people fought to save the I-Hotel as a community center and for low rent housing. Though Four Seas finally succeeded in evicting the tenants with the help of City Hall and 600 police, people have learned the need for concerted action to protect their interests.

The ASU has been involved in the I-Hotel struggle for years, due to the critical need for low-rent housing in Third World communities. We will continue pressing for this goal. Currently, actions are being focused on getting low-income housing built on the I-Hotel site.

For more information, contact the Chinese Progressive Association at 956-9055.

COME TO

Our Next General Meetings

TUESDAY MAY 8
12:15 ASU office

STUDENT UNION MEZ 100

SATURDAY MAY 12
5:00 (Potluck Meeting)

CHECK WITH US FOR LOCATION
TO BE DECIDED

VISA/HARRASSMENT OF FOREIGN STUDENTS STEPS UP.

Harrassment of foreign students is stepping up in San Francisco. As has been mentioned in the Phoenix recently by Hamilton Leong, there has been some interest in those foreign students who do not attend school in the United States after receiving an acceptance. It has been recommended by the U.S. Immigration Department to "interview" foreign students who are currently enrolled.

It would be interesting to look at some of the numbers involved. In the last 2 semesters, State has admitted 410 foreign students. Out of this group, only 296 registered. Total students admitted was 11,000 with only 8,000 enrolling. This means that 27% of the admitted class did not attend, which is the same percentage of foreign students who did not eventually enroll.

We feel that it is unfair for the foreign students who are currently enrolled to be subjected to questioning by the school. In fact, it is interesting to note that: 1) Many foreign students must already report at least once a semester, and 2) this and other ways of "questioning" comes at a time when more and more foreign students are becoming active in extra-curricular activities to celebrate their culture and history. In some cases, (for example, the Iranian students) showing support for their motherland and the ousting of US foreign domination. This is all very "undesireable" to the Immigration Dept.

Learn from Laney APSU!

On March 30, students at Laney College, Oakland, won back classes that had been massively cut by the Peralta Board of Trustees. These cuts would have severely crippled Ethnic Studies and virtually eliminated Asian Studies.

This is a rare victory these days when college administrations everywhere are trying to wipe out the gains of the '60's. Ethnic Studies, in particular, has been a main target of attack all across the country.

At Laney, the Asian Pacific Student Union led the fight to regain Asian Studies. Through uniting with students, community and faculty of all nationalities and ages, they organized pickets, petition drives, demonstrations and packings Board meetings. This organizing inspired and provided direct leadership to the overall Laney struggle against cutbacks. In less than two weeks, they had won back all Ethnic Studies instructors' jobs and reversed over 75% of the layoffs district wide.

Support Farmworkers

Boycott
Chiquita

To publicize and support the current United Farm Workers (UFW) strike in Southern California, the ASU is participating in a volleyball game at Everett Junior High School.

The game, held every other Wednesday and Thursday was organized by State's La Raza Organization to solicit donations of clothing and canned foods. The donations are to help the farmworkers survive on their \$25 weekly strike benefits.

In the past ASU helped to construct Agbayani Village, housing for retired Pilipino and Chicano farmworkers.

Today, though the ASU focuses on the concerns of people of Asian and Pacific heritage, we support other groups struggling for the right to control their own lives.

Only through working together and supporting each other's struggles can we move forward and improve things.

SF State Strike Commemoration - 7

Continue to Defend... EXPAND Asian Studies!

Last year the ASU took part in the tenth anniversary commemoration of the 1968 SF State Student Strike.

The program educated current students about the struggle in the 1960's for special programs to meet the needs of minorities stemming from their oppression. Since college administrators opposed demands for special admissions and Ethnic Studies, demonstrations erupted at many campuses. The SF State strike was a very successful action, leading to the creation of this country's first and only School of Ethnic Studies. Programs, services, and admissions policies that help Third World Students were also started.

The ASU performed our own skit on the myth that Asians have "made it" and no longer need those services. In the wake of the Bakke Decision, the program also brought out that now is the time to defend those rights.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Committee Against Nihonmachi Evictions (CANE) for use of their facilities.

PEOPLE WHO HELPED PUT THIS NEWSLETTER TOGETHER

Dodie Almendral, Hoover Chan, Cynthia Chaing, Mike Fong, Raymond Go, Mel Kang, Dennis Lee, Nelson Lee, Lydia Lowe, Edward Moy, Grant Narita, Oscar Naval, Tony Ng, Richard Oyama, Francis Quan, Rulan Tom, Lynn Yokoe, and others.

APSU DANCE**Night Flight**

Moonlight and Self-Expression were the featured bands at the Asian/Pacific Student Union (N. Calif. Sub-regional) dance. Entitled "Nightflight", it was held at the Kabuki Theater to help raise funds for APSU activities. The dance also included a simultaneous disco by Nous Sommes Musique.

NORMALIZATION...

Minorities have educational, political, economical, social and cultural equality and respect. Women play a leading role in all spheres of life and are striving for true equality. The standard of living for the broad masses of Chinese people is surging forward, especially now with socialist modernization and the ousting of the "Gang of 4."

In particular, the normalization of diplomatic relations with the PRC will mean a concrete blow to the reactionary KMT, the arm of the political party in Taiwan. In this country, it is fact that Chinatowns are some of the most densely populated areas. It is also fact that the working conditions in sweatshops and restaurants, and the housing conditions of Chinatown are some of the worst in the country. Who is responsible? The Kuomintang is!! The KMT owns and controls most of the businesses and housing in Chinatowns. They make great profits off the miserable working and housing conditions of our people. Normalization of relations is a concrete blow against these reactionaries who for so long had "legitimacy" as the "representatives of Chinese in America."

**DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
SOCIALIST CHINA!!!**

**LONG LIVE THE FRIENDSHIP BTWN.
THE PEOPLES OF THE US AND PRC!!!**

DOWN WITH THE REACTIONARY KMT!!!

Get your Tule Lake Pilgrimage registration forms in now!!! Last day is May 7.

Committee Against Nihonmachi Evictions (CANE): May 5, 1979, 1858 Sutter St.
2pm: Tour of Japantown.
3pm: Workshop on concentration camps

Night of Remembrance: Camp Home Movies.
May 5, 7:30 pm, Konko-kyo Church.

Cultural Benefit for the Tule Lake Pilgrimage:

May 18, 7:30 p.m.
S.F. Buddhist Church, Pine and Octavia.

TULE LAKE PILGRIMAGE/PLAQUE DEDICATION

May 26-28

ASU Films

One of the functions of the ASU is to show films containing Asian subject matter. Previous showings have ranged from documentaries such as "Freedom Railway" to entertainment films such as "Enter the Dragon" (with the late Bruce Lee) and "The Seven Samurai" (directed by Kurosawa, starring Mifune).

Our next film will certainly be an exciting one. On April 4, we will be showing "Chinese Connection", one of Bruce Lee and Miao Ker Hsiu. This will be a benefit, with all proceeds going to the Tule Lake Pilgrimage Committee.

Support ASU by coming out to the Barbary Coast at 7:30 PM on April 4!!

In the future, we plan to show a greater variety of films, including some educationally-related films as well as more films "a la" martial arts entertainment types.

If you know of any films you would like to see or know of any distributors, please stop by the ASU office and express your ideas.

the former stockade site to commemorate the camp experience.

The imprisonment of Japanese in the camps for almost 4 years was the culmination of many years of anti-Asian legislation: immigration quotas, denial of citizenship rights to the Issei, and thus, the denial of the right to own land. The Issei, however, learned to purchase property in the name of their Nisei children who were citizens and turned unwanted swamplands and marshes into fertile fields. Here is Weglyn again: " 'A great many West Coast people distrust the Japanese (and various special interests would welcome their removal from good farm land and the elimination of their competition,' the Attorney General (Biddle) wrote the President on February 17, 1942, to assert for the record what he plainly believed were the racist and economic motivations behind all the public and political proevacuation hysterics."

As a result of the evacuation, the Japanese suffered financial losses estimated at \$400 million and untold psychological and spiritual damage. The evacuation violently uprooted them from their homes and property, disrupted careers and wrecked lives in some instances. This is in stark contrast to the "sudden" economic boost of the agri-business immediately following the evacuation. Confiscation of Japanese-owned land directly kicked off the monopolization of agriculture in California.

Tule Lake was an object lesson on how the easy availability of power corrupts men who wield it - of righteousness sinking to ruthlessness as ordinarily decent men harness themselves with near-sadistic zeal to the trappings and techniques of tyranny, relieved of any sense of personal accountability by their patriotic commitment to what was clearly national policy: an inflamed chauvinism that fed on hatred and contempt of things Japanese.

-Michi Weglyn
Years of Infamy

The Tule Lake pilgrimage is a significant event. In 1975, Asian Student Unions from many campuses worked jointly on the first pilgrimage. It was one of the first events which involved inter-campus work and helped lead to the formation of the Asian Pacific Student Union (APSU). (see article, front page).

The pilgrimage is also particularly significant because of the special history of Tule Lake. "Tule Lake was chosen to be converted into a maximum-security segregation center for having had the largest percentage of evacuees who refused to register or who answered 'no' to the loyalty question." (Weglyn) Overcrowding, poor sanitation, terrible living and working conditions and diet deficiencies led to farm work stoppages, stockade arrests and hunger strikes by the internees. The events at Tule Lake and Manzanar form part of a long history of rebellion and struggle by Asians in America and should be better known to us:

As the APSU slogan states, one of the purposes of this pilgrimage is to "learn from history to make history."

This is the stronghold,
the heart, the molten
flow solidified
blood of ancestors.

The blood of us
is the red tule rope.

-from "At The Stronghold,"
by Lawson Fusao Inada

The Tule Lake pilgrimage is scheduled to be held May 26-28th. We strongly encourage and welcome your participation in making this event a success. It is an opportunity to share with those of us who were interned in the camps, to learn from their experience and to come together with other Asian students. For more information and details, contact the Tule Lake Committee at 921-8841.