

# Newsletter of the Central Valley Asian-Pacific Student Union

Vol. 1 No. 1 Fall 1979



Aug. 30,  
Hi! how ya doin'?  
Sorry I haven't  
you believe the summer's almost over! Who!  
Well, this summer sure ended up better  
than I thought it would. You know how the  
beginning of the summer always is - all  
of a sudden you have all this free time  
on your hands - but nothing to do with it!  
There's always something dead in the time  
ain't it the truth?!) Anyway, I started  
creating out the Asian-Pacific Student  
Union since they had all these  
activities going on through these  
summer. I really didn't know  
what to expect - I never really  
got to creek it out myself. But I  
really learned a lot about or  
Asian-Pacific experiences in the  
America, through the APSU's in-  
volvement in things like the Tule  
Lake, a WWII  
concentration  
camp for

cmx.  
pg. 2



Central Valley APSU newsletter, we  
have decided to change the format  
of our publication. The newsletter,  
BAMBOO BRIDGE, will be published  
ed quarterly, and a new 1  
page bulletin, the  
BAMBOO BULLETIN, will  
will come out  
monthly.

is our hope that APSU and this  
news letter will 'bridge the gaps'  
between not only the individual  
campuses in the Central Valley  
Asian and Pacific nationalities  
as well. Bamboo has also been  
a symbol of the Asian and  
Pacific people in America  
because of its inner  
strength that enables  
it to bend in the  
wind without  
breaking.

.. from pg. 1

Japanese Americans, and the trip down to Agbayani Village, a home for retired farmworkers which was built by students and community people. There were a lot of fun and educational things too, like the Nihonmachi Street Fair in San Francisco. Was that a great day!! Music, food, and mellow folks checking out all the exhibits and booths. Can't wait until next year's...but there's a serious side too, to the stuff we've been doing. Like the work APSU's been doing for Chol Soo Lee, a Korean brother who's been in prison for 6 years on a framed-up murder charge...wow, the more I learn about his case, the more I see that what happened to him could have happened to any of us. And of course APSU had to do some fundraising, so we had a car wash... it was pretty fun, spending a day outside with the folks from the different campuses, even though I got a sunburn you wouldn't believe!! I even got to learn to silkscreen posters with the Southside People's Program Committee's Art Collective. So it's really been a summer to remember, all right! And the fall will be just as good, with all the different ASU orientation programs, the CSUS barbeque and party with SCC, the fundraiser party for Chol Soo Lee with the Korean students, the fall APSU conference...oh, there's so many things and not enough time or room to list them all!! Can't wait for school to start so I can see all the folks...looking forward to seeing YOU, too!! We've got a lot to catch up on!

*Hope to see you  
real soon!!*

*Just...  
"me"! ☺*

## "WHAT IS APSU?"

APSU stands for the Asian/Pacific Student Union. It is composed of Asian student organizations on over 40 campuses spread throughout the West Coast. Its inception on April 15, 1978 at a conference held at San Francisco State University resulted from the need felt among Asian/Pacific students to share their ideas and experiences, develop a sense of identity and awareness as Asian Americans, and to learn about and take pride in the rich cultural heritage which we all share.

Spanning the varying cultural backgrounds of Chinese, Japanese, Pilipino, Korean, Samoan, Vietnamese, and other Asian and Pacific students, APSU is building unity amongst the different groups by encouraging the understanding of Asian/Pacific culture and heritage-- a heritage which includes a very similar experience shared by all Asian/Pacific people in the United States. APSU does this by meeting the social, cultural, political, and educational needs of the Asian/Pacific student.

It is important to recognize that APSU is not a mysterious, unseen organization, but a coalition held together by the energy and enthusiasm of hundreds of students like all of us. So if APSU sounds interesting to you, check out the Asian Student Union on your campus-- and don't forget the 1979 West Coast APSU conference coming up this fall in the Bay Area.



# Campus Reports

## CSUS

During the summer, members of the CSUS ASU were very active in Central Valley APSU activities. We will be entering the Fall 1979 semester with most all of last year's ASU returning. With many valuable experiences behind us, we want to capitalize on this by really 'being out there' on campus to publicize ASU. Look for our ASU table on the crowded library quad starting the second week or school...stop by to check us out and chat.

The following Tuesday, September 18, we are planning an ASU orientation program in the afternoon. We will be talking about the ASU--past and present activities as well as future plans. It's also our way of welcoming new Asian and Pacific Islander students to our campus and sharing our experiences.

That same week, on Thursday afternoon, September 20, we're planning a barbeque.

On October 5th (tentative date), we plan to have a Chol Soo Lee fundraiser house party with the Korean students in the citywide network.

As you can see, getting to know one another is an important part of having an organization that meets the diverse social-political-educational-cultural needs and interests of students. The integration of all of this is what ASU's reflect and continually strive for.

Look for signs on the kiosks, the information table on the library quad, announcements in Asian American Studies classes. For more information, call Doreen at 428-9512, Diane or Mark at 451-7011, or Roland at 455-8186.

## SCC

Sacramento City College's ASU will once again kick off the school year with a fall orientation program. Orientation will be on Tuesday, September 11, at 12 noon in B222--so come early, as light refreshments will be served.

This year's program includes photo displays and a slide show highlighting our past activities. We're also planning a get-together party with CSUS's ASU.

The ASU at City College has been very active over the past few years. We've put on successful programs such as Asian Cultural Day and the Multi-Cultural Bazaar. We've also had field trips to places like Tule Lake, the former site of a concentration camp for Japanese Americans, and Locke, a Chinese settlement in the Delta. We've been able to learn about and take up issues such as the Chol Soo Lee case and redevelopment in our communities, and also sponsor many parties, picnics, and dances.

The ASU wants to continue and expand on its work but in order to do this, we need your ideas and support--and most of all, we need YOU!

For more information contact:  
Lisa at 925-2600 or Mark at 451-7011.

## UCD

September 25 has been tentatively set as the date for the 1979 Asian Orientation Night at UC Davis.

Plans will be finalized at a meeting on September 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Asian Studies conference room at T.B. 98. All interested people are invited.



# ASIAN/PACIFIC STUDIES FACE CUTBACKS!

Asian/Pacific Studies classes face cutbacks across the state of California. With the passage of Proposition 13, a strong sentiment has arisen that higher education, especially Ethnic Studies, is a wasteful luxury which should be cut back. It seems only natural that university administrators would make Ethnic Studies programs their first targets for elimination, since they were given very little support from the beginning.

At California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), many classes face immediate cancellation. The administration has decreed that any class which has not registered at least 10 students through the school's computer-registration system will be eliminated. This policy does not take into account a number of people who might want to sign into a class late, after the semester begins.

The acting director of Asian-Pacific Studies at CSUS says that a number of classes may be affected. Chris Tomine said that as of August 14, it was too early to tell whether any classes had been cancelled, but he did express concern over most of the Asian/Pacific courses. Here are the classes which faculty and students are worried about:

Pilipino History; instructor: Maxie Villones.  
Asian American Women; Betty Eng.  
Third World Women; Betty Eng.  
Intro to Ethnic Reporting;  
K.W. Lee.

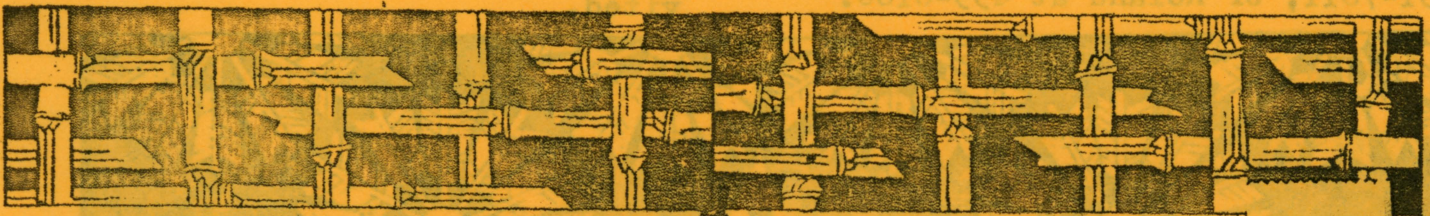
The only class which Tomine considers 'safe', other than the language courses, are two sections of Wayne Maeda's Asian Americans class. However, Maeda himself feels that even he may very easily be in trouble in the next semester or two, which raises the possibility that CSUS could be left without a single Asian/Pacific Studies class.

Similar attacks took place in the spring of 1978. At that time classes were again threatened with cancellation if 10 students didn't register during the initial computer run. Many students and faculty members banded together to counter these attacks, setting up tables at strategic locations around the campus, passing out leaflets to educate the student population about the situation, and urging them to sign up for the classes before it was too late. The actions were successful; the classes were retained.

Now, this time the registration took place during the summer, when few students are on campus. There was little time to organize any sort of action.

There is no doubt that other colleges on the West Coast have begun cutbacks in Asian/Pacific Studies. Back in the late 60's, when massive pressure from students and people in the community forced the universities to recognize the need for ethnic studies, progress was brought about through demonstrations and constant vigilance, to make sure that the gains wouldn't be taken away. Now, ethnic studies programs face their most serious attack since their initiation. Asian/Pacific people face the real possibility that their history, culture, and concerns will once again be totally ignored in the educational process.

How, will we, as Asian/Pacific people, be able to find a place in society and solve our unique problems, if we are educated completely in a white-dominated system? It may again be time to reach out to the community for help in fighting these latest attacks. We have the right to an education which is relevant to our special needs. Defend ethnic studies!



# Summer Activities

Summer activities not only kept students busy, but continued our work and maintained close ties between the individual campuses throughout the summer.

On July 20, the Sacramento Tule Lake Committee held a fund-raising program at the Japanese United Methodist Church. Approximately 70 people attended the event which included displays of artifacts from the camps, speakers, a koto performance, and a film of the 1979 pilgrimage.

The Nihonmachi Street Fair, in San Francisco's Japantown, was one of the summer's more popular activities. The fair is organized every year by youth and community groups in order to bring the Japanese community together for a weekend of sharing and relaxation. The street fair featured ethnic foods, displays of arts and crafts, and music by many Asian American bands.

## **CONTINUE the STRUGGLE-- FREE CHOL SOO LEE!!**

The Central Valley APSU has actively supported the defense of Chol Soo Lee, a 26-year-old Korean who now faces the death penalty for two murder conviction frame-ups. We see his case as a gross distortion in the Court's delivery of so-called 'justice'.

Throughout the year ASUs in many areas have done educational presentations and fundraising. We've been able to work with Korean students to get the word out broadly and solicit active support.

### **IMMIGRANT/YOUTH EXPERIENCES**

Chol Soo's experiences reflect the situation faced by many immigrants and youth here, such as indifferent school authorities, adjustments to a new culture, language difficulties, as well as insensitive and racist legal and prison systems. Broad support has exposed these injustices and mass

Sacramento City College's ASU held a retreat at Lake Tahoe in early August which included a fun weekend of swimming, boating, gambling, and tennis. SCC's ASU also met to sum up their work of the past year and to make plans for their fall orientation program.

In late August many students from both Northern and Southern California APSU's traveled to Agbayani Village in Delano. A retirement home for elderly Pilipino farmworkers, Agbayani was built with the support of both students and the community. Students who went on the trip hoped to learn more about the many hardships and struggles faced by the Pilipinos as they contributed to the success and growth of California's prosperous agriculture industry.



pressure brought about a writ of habeas corpus in which the first murder cast must be re-tried. Presently the prosecution has appealed this decision and this will be heard by the District Court of Appeals in Sacramento this fall. The second murder conviction (in reality, an act of self-defense) has resulted in an automatic death penalty.

*continued on page 4*

...from pg. 5

## BROAD AND ACTIVE SUPPORT

Broad support has been amassed for Chol Soo's defense. This has been a rallying point by and for the Korean community (churches, professionals, etc.) as well as the larger Asian community.

## ASIAN/PACIFIC STUDENTS SUPPORT CHOL SOO LEE

Asian and Pacific students on the West Coast have enthusiastically taken up Chol Soo Lee works, which reflect a broader understanding of the national oppression faced by Asian and Pacific peoples. On August 4th in Boston, the East Coast Asian Student Union (ECASU) and the Asian American Resource Workshop held an "Asian American Coffeehouse". One portion was devoted to education around Chol Soo Lee and circulation of an ECASU petition demanding his free-freedom.

## LOCAL PLANS

Chol Soo Lee work will be one of the focuses of the 1979 Fall APSU Conference. In the Central

# PURE DRAGON TEEN CENTER

Since 1975 the Pure Dragon Asian Teen Center has been providing youth from the Sacto area a place to hangout. Here teens can play pool, foosball, air hockey, games, etc...with ping pong as the main attraction. Other than the equipment previously mentioned, the four rooms in the Center are bare. The walls, ceiling and furniture need repairing. You would think that the teens would get tired of the limited facilities, but what keeps them coming back?

It's not so much the occasional swimming trips, park outings, or sports tournaments, but the fact that the Teen Center is a place where the teens can just bullshit around. Here they meet with their friends to talk about who's better than who in sports, cars, girls, etc. When asked for their opinions on the Teen Center, this is what some replied: "We need air condi-

Valley area we will also continue to do active support work. Members of the CV APSU met with members of the city-wide Korean student network to coordinate joint activities. One of these is a fundraiser house party tentatively set for October 5th in Sacramento.

We look forward to subregional Chol Soo Lee activities and continued joint work with the Korean students and community! For more information on the above, contact your campus ASU, Diane at 916-451-7011, or Uncha at 362-0094.

tioning."/"It's alright for ping pong, but I'd like to see more older kids."/"Better equipment."/"It's come a long way."/"It's a sad place."/"It's the same

here every day. That's not so bad, except we need more interest and energy for new activities - working for the Center. Instant gratification: 'me first, high today, gone tomorrow.' It's only when the Teen Center is threatened (Prop. 13) that people here realize the importance of the Center.

"The Center could be a real live place. There aren't any other places in Sacto just for Asian youth. What we need are more people who are willing to work for the Center.

"There is a lot of dissatisfaction for many reasons. One is that the Sacto Dept. of Community Services, who sponsors the Center, doesn't show much support and concern in this program. Their new administration is impersonal and their bureaucracy is inefficient; all they care about is getting the paper work in!! (Forms have to be submitted and approved before any activity can take place.) I think there is a lot of potential in this Teen Center. We would be able to offer more to the teens if more community support was there."

ASU members have supported Pure Dragon Asian Teen Center in its beginning, when it was threatened by Prop. 13, and now with some members working at the Center. The Teen Center can not only be a hangout for Asians. It can also be a Center where Asians can organize together around social, cultural, political and educational concerns. Let's make the Teen Center a center for action! Come visit us, we're open M-F, 1-9 pm through Sept. 4; Fall hours are M-F, 4:30-7:30 pm. Our address is 2020-16th Street (between 'T' and 'U' Streets).

# ANTI-"GOLD RUSH DAYS"

## PROTEST at CSUS

In the midst of booming cannons fired by men dressed in Confederate Army uniforms, a wagon filled with parading saloon girls, a hundred-piece concert band, hundreds of students, teachers, and administrators engaged in various carnival-type games involving waterballoons, darts, and a dunking machine, the CSUS Anti-Gold Rush Days protest took place, watched carefully by several plainclothes campus police officers.

The day was Friday, April 27, the final day of the week-long campus-sponsored Gold Rush Days themed Open House. Literally surrounded and overpowered at first by the multitude of activities occurring at the time, a small group of students from the Third World Coalition, composed of members of three campus organizations-- Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), Asian Student Union, and the Pan African Student Union-- began the Anti-Gold Rush Days Rally by leading chants and forming a picket line.

The reason behind the protest was clear--the university's decision to celebrate the Gold Rush era and its manner of doing so. In the name of 'fun and relaxation', the university had adopted as its theme the Wild West of the Gold Rush period. Additionally, men dressed as Confederate soldiers shot cannons and displayed the Confederate flag (a symbol of the institutionalized racism in America), and the 'classic' film Birth of a Nation--with its distortion of the Reconstruction period and glorification of the racist Ku Klux Klan--was shown.

While the planners of Gold Rush Days emphatically stated that the purpose of the activities was to give the university a festive and informal atmosphere in which to display what it could offer to the community, prospective students, and the student body, in reality it had chosen to blatantly disregard any true historical representation of the Gold Rush era in a manner of ignorance and

insensitivity unworthy of an institution of higher learning--all under the mindless guise of 'fun and relaxation'.

Citing that the Gold Rush era was one of the peaks of the exploitation of Third World people, the Third World Coalition was formed to not only protest the celebration of Gold Rush Days, but to also educate the campus community--students and administrators alike--of the true meaning the Gold Rush era has to Third World people. Hiding behind the images of the gunslinging cowboy, the saloongirl, and the gold prospector is the reality of a prolonged and intensive history of racism, discrimination, and exploitation--the repercussions of which continue to affect the lives of people of color to this very day. The goal of the protest was not to end Open House at CSUS, but to eliminate the Gold Rush Days theme and its use for celebration and glorification. To the protesting Third World Coalition, Gold Rush Days was not only no reason for celebration, but a 'slap in the face'.

Such sentiments seemed to develop as the picket/rally progressed. From its beginning as a handful of picketers, the rally grew into a united band of some 200 people representing many nationalities and backgrounds. Marching two abreast and chanting "End the celebration of our exploitation" the group made a dramatic impact as it moved through the quad to the Administration Building, where it was to meet with the Dean of Students.

While the Dean found it appropriate to go out to lunch before the protesters arrived, a meeting with the student senate took place the following Monday. Hopefully, the protest opened the 'eyes' of the university to its own indiscretion and insensitivity towards its Third World student population--not only in regards to Gold Rush Days but also to proposed cuts in Ethnic Studies classes and faculty, EOP, Childcare Center, and, last but certainly not least, the gross underfunding of Third World cultural programs such as Cinco de Mayo, the Asian/Pacific Unity Festival, and Black History Week.

## SPP Art Collective serves A/P Community's needs

The Southside People's Programs Art Collective has begun a major effort to attain funding.

Several months ago the Collective requested a grant from the west coast governing body of the United Presbyterian Church. The grant was turned down, strangely enough, because the aims of the Collective did not seem to be political enough, according to the church. So members of the AC met to discuss and clarify what the purposes should be.

Far from being non-political--an organization dedicated to "art for art's sake"--the Collective has always worked towards providing needed services to the community. That is why AC members were very surprised when they were told they weren't being political enough.

In fact, the whole thing was a big switch. People who have done work in the community or on the campuses know that most established organizations don't want politics to enter into anything. It was surprising to hear an encouragement of political efforts by a large church group.

If the Collective was coming across as being non-activist, it is obvious that its purposes need to be defined and stated more accurately. Doing this is the most important task facing the AC at this time.

The Art Collective has proven its dedication to progressive activism throughout its existence. They have done projects for such groups as the Anti-

Bakke Decision Coalition, Tule Lake Committee, APSU, and the Japanese American Citizen's League. Some of the services provided have included the production of tee-shirts, posters, signs, leaflets and this newsletter.

If the Art Collective can receive a grant from the Presbyterian Church or some other organization it would be able to buy various machines and materials, and thereby greatly expand their activities. By doing this, the Collective hopes to involve many other artists, especially in the Asian/Pacific community. In addition, the AC strives to function as a training group for people who need to make use of artistic craftsmanship.

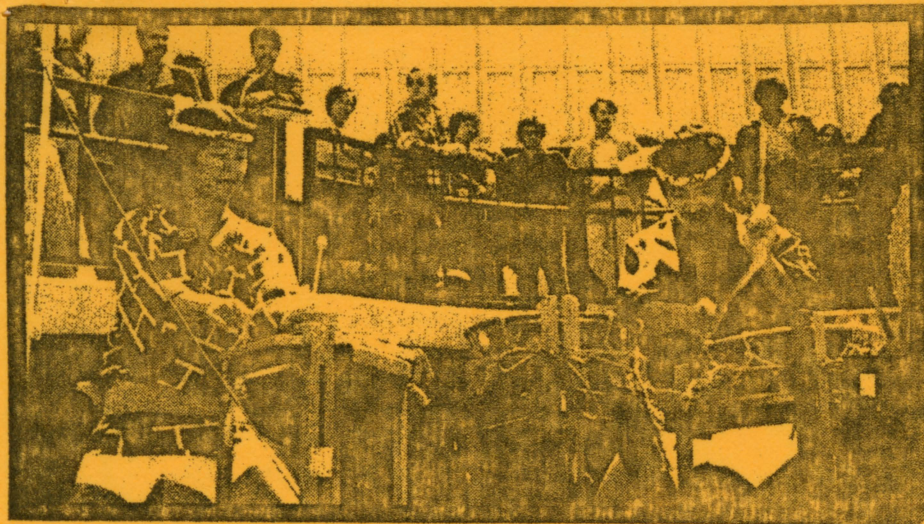
There is a great need for the Art Collective in Sacramento, not only for aesthetic reasons, but also because artists are vital for the activities of APSU and many other groups. Artists provide essential services and unique qualities to community work.



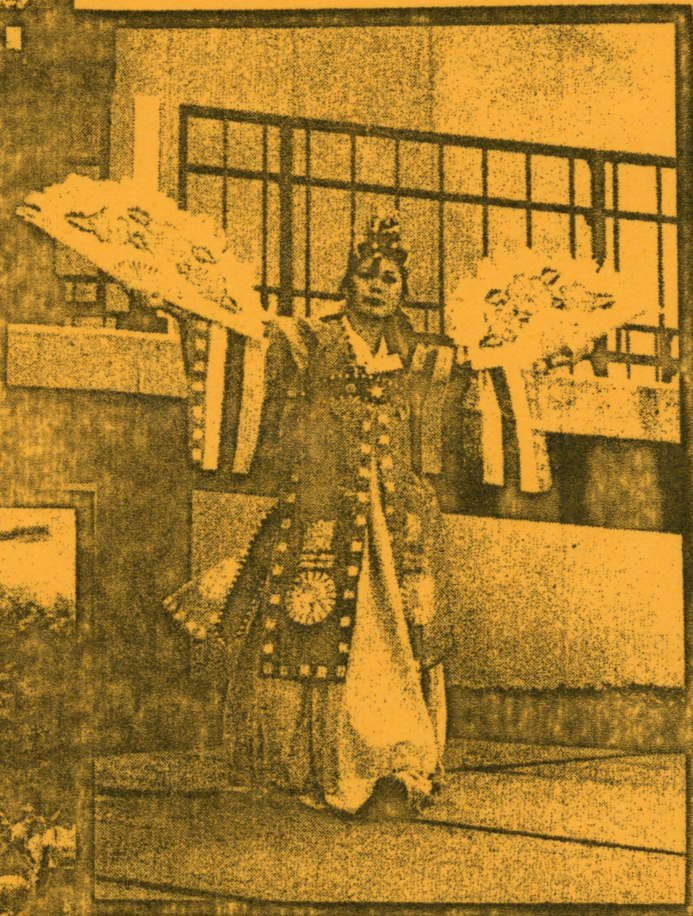
The Southside People's Program Committee will hold a program celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Sunday, September 30 at William Land School. The program, beginning at 1 pm, will include speakers, a skit, and a film on China.

Saturday, September 29th is the Sacramento Japanese community's talent show, "Maze-Gohan" (mixed rice). The 'mixed-up talent show' will be held at the Luther Burbank High School Auditorium at 7:30 pm. Donations will be accepted at the door; proceeds will benefit Jan Ken Po Gakko and the Asian Community Center. The program is being sponsored by the Sacramento chapter of the Japanese American Citizen's League.





Above is the San Francisco Taiko Dojo. At right is Korean classical dancer Sharon Ching. Both were featured at the Asian/Pacific Unity Festival April 17-20.



APSU joined with other Third World organizations to protest "gold rush days", an annual event designed as an open house. A united student front demonstrated against this glorification of a brutal era against Third World peoples. See p. 7.

