

ASIAN EXPRESSIONS !

SF State ASU

Fall 1980

Vol 1 No 1

Building Unity Pride & Action In the 80s !



APSU Conference

The San Francisco State ASU has the distinct privilege of hosting the 3rd annual Asian Pacific Student Union Conference on the weekend of November 1 & 2. A large turnout from throughout the west coast is expected to attend this year's conference, which promises to be the best ever!

Each year since it's formation in 1978, APSU has campaigned around a single issue in an effort to unite Asian Pacific Student Organizations and encourage them to work together in a coordinated way. At this year's conference the West Coast Coordinating Committee of APSU will propose to the general body that the APSU adopt the issue of Redress & Reparations for Japanese Americans who were interned in concentration camps as its 1980-81 campaign!

The campaign proposal stresses the ways in which students can take up the issue of Redress & Reparations and in addition, the campaign will help to mobilize students for the National Coalition for Redress & Reparations Conference to be held in Los Angeles on the weekend of November 15 & 16.

Other issues and concerns will be addressed in workshops on both days and will also include Asian Pacific art and culture, ethnic studies and special programs, Asian Pacific women, the draft, Chol Soo Lee, Asian Pacific communities, and Pilipino student organizing.

Saturday evening will include a cultural program featuring student talent or as we see it an APSU Gong Show! After the cultural program there will be a dance at the United Japanese Community Services' building (UJCS) 2012 Pine St. con'td on page 6

Redress / Reparations

A Case for Justice



Although this was proven to be false, the desire of the government and agribusiness to hold Japanese in the position of exploitable laborers led to one of the most unfortunate chapters in U.S. history.

In Dec. of 1941 Japanese community leaders were rounded up by the F.B.I. and herded into special prison camps. Then on Feb. 19, 1942, congress approved executive order 9066 evacuating all Japanese from the west coast.

Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes with little notice. They were stripped of all rights. They were dispersed from their communities and banished from their livelihoods, to be herded into concentration camps.

In the camps people were crowded into horse stall like compartments, surrounded by barbed wire fences and guarded by armed soldiers. Health facilities were inadequate and the food was extremely poor in quality as well as quantity.

The social and economic effect on the Japanese was irreversible-losing everything because of their race. Japanese communities never regained their former strength, size, or activity. The awareness and identity of 3rd and 4th generation Japanese also suffered.

During World War II over 120,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned in ten U.S. concentration camps. Their properties were seized and they were forced to live for nearly 4 years in desolated areas under armed guard with barbed wires in tar-paper barracks. They were treated as enemy aliens, despite the fact that many were U.S. citizens by birth.

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the government, the mass media, and trade union bureaucrats implied that Japanese Americans were spies and enemy agents working for the Japanese government.

Despite this experience Japanese Americans have always fought to defend their pride, heritage and rights as a people. The seeking of redress and reparations for the loses suffered during the camps is the latest attempt at regaining our history and rectifying some of these past injustices. cont'd on page 5

What is the ASU?

Are you bored with school? Do you find that life as a student at SFSU is dull and that there is nothing exciting to do around here? Well then maybe you haven't heard about the ASU yet!

The Asian Student Union (ASU) was formed to promote unity and friendship among Asian and Pacific Islander students on campus through meeting our social, cultural, political, and educational needs.

Some of our past activities have included picnics, dances, field trips to Angel Island and Tule Lake; sponsoring Asian Heritage Week and sports tournaments; tutoring in English in Chinatown and Japantown; taking up issues such as racism in the media, the draft, and Redress/Reparations. As you can see we have a wide range of activities, so whatever interests you the ASU has it and more!

We meet every Wednesday at 12pm in the Student Union room B114. There you will discover our members, probably zaniest, most colorful and exciting group of people that you will ever meet--anywhere!

However, if you are unable to attend the meetings, I encourage you to drop by our office; we're located in the Student Union in mezzanine 100. Check out our activities! Join a committee! Meet a new friend!

Whatever the ASU wants: your ideas, your input and your support, but most of all we want you!



PACE Plans

PACE is the Pilipino American Collegiate Endeavor. We offer a broad spectrum of services and activities to Pilipino and other interested students. We serve as a vehicle for an easier transition into the SFSU campus.

Our objectives are to fulfill the academic, social, and recreational needs of Pilipino students to establish an appreciation of Pilipino culture, and to create an atmosphere of unity and friendship among students throughout the campus.

This semester we are planning many exciting events including the production of a play "Philippine Epic," written by Pilipino playwright Melvin Danguilinan Escueta. We are now looking for people to volunteer as actors, actresses, singers, dancers, stage hands and technicians for the production.

PACE will be having its first dance "Turkey Trot" on November 21st. We also formed a dance troupe which will be performing at the APSU Conference on November 1st & 2nd.

If you are interested in our activities or would like to join any of our committees then stop by the PACE office. We're located in Mezzanine 100C.

Activities Fair

October 1st and 2nd marked another successful activities fair booth for the Asian Student Union! This year's work on the San Francisco State's fair brought together veteran members as well as new recruits to help out in the selling of YAKITORI (chicken skewers). Both the work nights (to cut chicken and skewer) and the fair itself was definitely filled with a strong sense of camaraderie (...and fun!).

We wish to thank all the hard working ASU members, especially Dave Chooy for the use of his home for the worknights. See you at the next Activities Fair.

Stereotypes in the

Mass Media

Do stereotypes exist in the media? Without a doubt, yes. The most current that come to mind are the movies "The Fiendish Plot of Fu Manchu" and "Charlie Chan and the Curse of the Dragon Queen". However, these are just the latest of a long history of racial stereotypes in the media.

Before we can go into the subject of racial stereotypes, we must first understand the media. The most obvious forms of the media are radio, television, and newspapers. Although each of these represents the media, they are actually just a small part of a large network. The media actually involves any kind of mass communications you can think of. When you put it all together you begin to realize how large the media really is and how much influence it actually carries. With this realization, coupled with psychologist's studies that prove that many children and adults believe almost everything they see on television, it becomes frightening to know that any scriptwriter could easily misinform, either intentionally or unintentionally, an audience numbering in the millions. Now with this understanding, media being a widespread and powerfully influential force, we see why it is necessary to be on the lookout for any racial stereotype, Asian or otherwise.

The history of Asian stereotypes goes back to the 1800's when Asian immigrants settled in the United States. In times of depression, Asians, particularly the Chinese, were used as scapegoats by the media. Newspaper editorials and cartoons depicted the Chinese as the cause of the white population's economic woes. The U.S. government used the power of the media to justify the many anti-Asian exclusion acts and promoted anti-Asian sentiment among the American public. Most of these acts were still in effect up to the late 1940's.

(Stereotypes, cont. ...)

With the emergence of Hollywood films, came the sinister Fu Manchu and the inscrutable Charlie Chan. Fu Manchu was a satanic figure who terrorized the world. Actually, this is rather unusual since the media had labeled Asians as passive, complacent people. This part was always played by white actors. The same went for Charlie Chan. Always played by a white actor, he too failed to fit the original stereotype the media labeled Asians. However, his fortune cookie English and his coolie mannerism did little to endear him to the Asian population nor did he in any way improve an already demeaning Asian image.

During World War II, it was the Japanese who were the unfortunate victims of the media. The media painted all Japanese as ruthless, bespectacled, buck-toothed men who would do anything to promote Japanese militarism. The media also spread fear and paranoia upon the general public and attempted to justify the government's actions of putting over 110,000 Japanese Americans into concentration camps.

The latest in media stereotypes is the revival of Fu Manchu and Charlie Chan. Again played by whites, these two characters reinforce the stereotype Asians have fought for years to eliminate. However, movies are not the only ones to label Asians. In the October '80 issue of Gentleman's Quarterly, an ad by B.P. Britches made a blatantly racist advertisement aimed towards Asian clothiers.

Even in the 1980's, Asian stereotypes still exist, in both subtle and blatant forms. Asians, in order to end these stereotypes, must recognize and speak out against them. Only in this way can Asians be seen as people and human beings instead of stereotypes.

SUMMER

ACTIVITIES

One of the best things about the ASU is that even when school ends our activities don't end!

This summer the ASU participated in a number of community activities including the Nihonmachi Street Fair in Japantown and the Hop Jok Fair in Chinatown. The Nihonmachi Street Fair was held on August 2 & 3. Each year different community groups participate by selling food and displaying their art and crafts, and literature. The ASU has always participated in the fair and this summer different ASU members from SF State, UC Berkeley, and City College of SF got together to sell chicken yakitori - hmmm good!

The Hop Jok Fair, like the Nihonmachi Fair, also has different community groups come together to sell food, display arts and crafts, and provide information about their groups. Being the only street fair in Chinatown, the Hop Jok Fair is held annually in Portsmouth Square. The fair features free health screening, a valuable service to the Chinatown elderly. Taking advantage of the nice weather at this year's fair, APSU sold ice cream cones - what a treat!!!

Just before the semester started many ASU members drove down to Los Angeles to take part in the 10th annual Chicano Moratorium. Originally held on Aug. 29, 1970, the moratorium was an organized protest of the Vietnam war and the struggle for Chicano liberation.

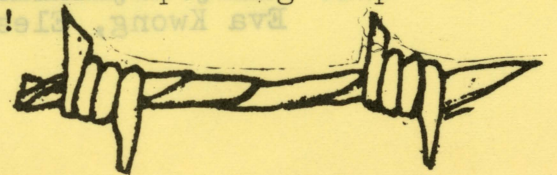
We in the ASU feel that it is very important to express our solidarity with other Third World people by participating in events like the Chicano Moratorium.

The ASU has always tried to have a number of ongoing activities during the summer months, especially regional activities with other campuses. These activities have helped us to strengthen and build our clubs. So next summer if you find that you have nothing to do, then I encourage you to check out the ASU!!!

Redress/Reparations cont.*

Although monetary compensation cannot completely make up for past or present oppression. Japanese Americans have the right to collect damages for the losses of land, business, livelihoods and other personal losses caused by the government's racist policies. A conservative estimate by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco placed the losses at \$400 million dollars. The struggle for redress and reparations is gaining increasing support. Organizations such as the Japanese Community Progressive Alliance, the Little Tokyo Peoples Rights Organization chapters of the JACL, and the National Council for Japanese American Redress and other concerned Japanese Americans have united to form the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations.

As students, we can play an important role in contributing to this movement. We can do this by helping to sponsor educational programs and by building support on our campuses for redress and reparations. Come and join us in this upcoming campaign!



CALENDAR

SUMMER

ACTIVITIES

- Oct. 31: Halloween work nite UJCS 2012 Pine St.
- Nov. 1&2: Asian Pacific Student Union Conference @ SF State
- Nov. 6: C.A. N. Charlie Chan mtg. 7:30 P.M. at the CPA office 727A Grant Ave. The coalition meets every other Thurs. For info. contact Forrest Gok 776-4087 or Mark Jue 992-9548.
- Nov. 8: JCPA program on Redress/Reparations Buchanan YWCA 1530 Geary Blvd. SF.
- Nov. 15-16: National Coalition on Redress/Reparations Conference Los Angeles.
- Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec. 6: Film showing "Hito Hata: Raise the Banner!" Palace of Fine Arts SF. 7:00 P.M.

(cont) APSU Conf. article

The conference concludes Sunday with a general discussion around the campaign proposal, voting and summations of the workshops.

The conference will be an exciting experience for all participants. Hope to see you there!!!

For more information, call the ASU, ext. 1958 or come to the office at the Student Union room 100 on the mezzanine.

For more info:
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