

Thank you Gloria -

take a few moments to tell
I would like to ~~tell~~

you about the Future ^{Plans} of New England Friends of

Visual Communications. We hope that as you watch

this film you will view it as more than entertain-

ment. We hope that this film will serve as

the beginning for your thinking or rethinking about

the history of Asian-Americans in this country. In a

sense Oda's experience speaks of our collective

experience as Asian-Americans whether Chinese,

Japanese, Phillipino, or Korean Americans. This film

speaks of the struggles of our grandparents and

parents to gain acceptance in this country and

to make this land their own. This struggle

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despite difficult and even hostile conditions. These were strong people who demonstrated great courage by overcoming many obstacles.

So in one sense, it is this struggle that began over one-hundred years ago that we wish to call attention to, and to educate the public regarding present day issues that impact upon ASIAN Americans.

Let me mention a few of these issues:
on a national level there is ongoing a
(1) ~~movement~~ ^{campaign} for redress and reparations campaign on behalf of the 110,000 1st generation Japanese and Japanese-Americans incarcerated ^{during} in WWII. ~~largely~~ ^{largely} ~~through~~ ~~the~~

because of the ⁽³⁾ ~~efforts~~ ~~that~~ great outpouring of support ^{from} ~~the~~ community-based organizations, along with the diligent work of the Asian-American Congressional Delegation and their friends, A successful campaign has been waged for the passage of a bill to establish a Presidential Commission to study the War Time Incarceration of Civilians. In particular, they will study the events that led up to the incarceration and its impact on the Japanese-American community. To do this, the Commission will hold hearings this summer throughout the country, ^{(I should mention that there is} ~~with~~ the possibility that hearings will be held in Boston. We will seek a just and equitable settlement for the economic

losses and for the emotional pain and suffering endured by victims of this dark chapter in American history.

(2) We are concerned with the effects of urban renewal on the Asian and other Third World communities here in Boston. We need to gather support for the peoples affected by the gentrification of the inner city as in the case of the Warren Street tenants and their efforts to resist eviction in Chinatown.

We of
 (3) The Friends of Visual Communications
 plan ~~to~~ to serve as a clearinghouse for Asian American Resource Material made

available for educators, civic organizations and others in the community. - Making Available information regarding Asian-Americans ^{written} from an Asian-American point of view.

Finally we will continue to speak out against the portrayal of Asian-Americans in a stereotypical manner. It seems that oftentimes when this country is in the midst of a national crisis, the minority groups in the country are picked as scapegoats and portrayed in caricature by the media. For example, during both the depression and WW II, there was a resurgence of Fu Manchu

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and Charlie Chan movies. So it's not surprising that this year has seen the the first new Charlie Chan movie in over 30 years. We must support the production of films and other media material that present a clear picture of the Asian-American experience.

- In closing, we are asking you to join with us in this venture. After the showing of the film there will be a short question and answer period. Following you are welcomed to look over the information tables set up outside the lecture hall and read & forget to enjoy the refreshments prepared for you.
- I am sure you will learn something tonight - something about ^{the} Asian American experience in this country and more importantly something about yourself.