

# The CAAV VOICE

Newsletter  
of the  
Committee  
Against  
Anti-Asian  
Violence

Vol. 3 No. 1

FALL 1991



9/18 Demonstration near Times Square, one month after Lin's death.

## Killing of Artist Lin Lin Sparks Protests by Asian Community

Over 100 people gathered at 8 Avenue near 45th Street on the evening of September 18, one month after Chinese artist Lin Lin was killed at this spot. Organized by CAAAV and the Village Portrait Artists' Alliance, the multi-purpose gathering was a candle-light vigil in remembrance of Lin Lin, as well as a demonstration to protest this most recent incident of a senseless murder of an Asian person and to call for an end to the police brutality that has plagued Lin Lin and other Asian artists working on the streets of New York City.

While drawing portraits on the sidewalk near the Milford Plaza Hotel at 2 a.m. on Sunday, August 18, Lin, his wife, Duan Hai Meng, and their colleagues were approached by four men who harassed and degraded the

Asian artists by hurling insults and throwing chicken bones at them. Lin stood up to yell back and defend himself and Duan Hai Meng, as did Duan by throwing soda at the harassing men. One of the men, James Skinner, produced a handgun and fatally shot Lin once in the chest.

Like close to 200 other Chinese artists who set up on the sidewalks of New York City to draw portraits for a few dollars, Lin Lin, as a celebrated, yet still struggling visual artist, relied on his street business to make ends meet. Since Lin's death, the Asian street artist community has raised some issues pertaining to the situation surrounding their colleague's death. 85% of New York City's street portrait artists are recent immigrants from mainland China

(Continued on page 6)

## NYCPD Changes Bias Classification

The New York City Police Department has finally moved to change its narrow definition of bias-motivated crimes, yielding to long-standing criticism by lesbian, gay and anti-racist activists. The revised definition of a bias incident is "Any offense or unlawful act that is motivated *in whole or in part* by a person's race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation (emphasis added)." In the past, written policy, as well as statements by Paul Sanderson, former commanding officer of the NYCPD Bias Incident Investigating Unit (BIIU), indicated that an incident must be solely motivated by bias in order to be classified as a bias crime. This change will help police to define bias and bias incident statistics to more closely reflect community perceptions and experiences.

The decision to change police policy came after an exchange of letters between Matt Foreman, executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, and Jeremy Travis, NYCPD Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters. In a letter dated May 2, Travis made a commitment not only to make written changes to the Patrol Guide and the BIUU's manual, but also to include the revisions in the recruit-level training program.

With this revision, the city's bias crime definition better conforms with the FBI's recent guidelines for implementing the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990.

(Continued on page 6)



## Asian Bashing on Campus

At the same time that educational institutions claim to embrace "multi-cultural" agendas for the 1990s, college campuses continue to serve as the stomping grounds for young racists and the settings for an increasing number of violent incidents against Asian students. Listed below, are incidents that have occurred over the past several years on campuses across the U.S.

**University of Connecticut**, December 3, 1987, several young men taunted and spat on nine Asian UConn students on a bus. Maria Ho, sister of a victim and coordinator of the Asian Student Alliance at UConn said, "It's not just the people who were doing it that was upsetting...the people who just sat and watched, and told them (the victims) to sit down and put up with it." In the five months between July and December 1988, twenty-seven bias incidents were recorded. In the fall of 1989, UConn officials made a statement about seven such reported incidents which occurred within a span of five weeks.

**University of Santa Barbara**, April 1990, a teaching assistant broke the nose of a Chinese student. Then a flyer was circulated bearing the message: "Down

with Chinks!"

**Teikyo University**, Loretto Heights, Denver, two incidents of violent bloodshed finally turned a few heads. On September 30, 1990, a group of Japanese students were kicked, hit and threatened with a knife by four skinheads allegedly tied to the KKK. Nothing was resolved and the offenders were free to attack again. On October 7, a group of nine Japanese students were attacked, six were robbed and beaten with baseball bats. They were made to stand in a line as they suffered blows to the head and legs while the perpetrators taunted, "Karate! Karate!"

Police were able to apprehend the four suspect involved in the second incident. It was discovered that the skinheads were also responsible for spray-painting and slashing the tires of approximately a dozen cars belonging to Asian American student attending the University of Colorado.

**University of Wisconsin**, La Crosse, Wisconsin, on April 22, 1990, two Japanese exchange students, mistaken for Hmong refugees, were accosted by white students. An altercation ensued

resulting in one of the students losing vision in one eye.

**SUNY Binghamton**, March 1991, was the host of the 13th Annual ECASU (East Coast Asian Student Union). The event, titled "Speak Up, Speak Out: End Marginalization of Our Communities," was marred and overshadowed by an incident where a white student lunged and threw punches at a conference participant who was involved in a picket line protesting a racist table decoration put out by the campus's food services. In April, a fraternity insulted the Asian student population by making their pledges obtain photos with "Oriental girls" for a scavenger hunt.

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, New York, May 27, 1991 a Chinese graduate student was approached by a car of white youth. Upon revealing that the student was Chinese the youth mocked Xiao and demanded him to say something in Chinese. When the student responded he again was ridiculed and was beaten to unconsciousness. He had multiple facial injuries (15 stitches in mouth and eye injuries). One hour prior to this incident a group of Nepali students were harassed by this same group. Δ

## Filipino Family Attacked by Notorious Jersey City Cop

*Editor's Note: On July 16, 1991, Maximo Citron, a Puerto Rican resident of Jersey City was fatally shot by Officer John Chiusolo for tearing up a traffic ticket. On October 25, 1991, a Hudson County Grand Jury concluded that there was no cause to indict Chiusolo for the killing of Citron. During the three years that he has worked for the police department, Officer Chiusolo has accumulated a personal file containing 17 charges of police brutality, almost all against people of color. The killing of Citron sparked protests from the Latino community and has brought to the surface an earlier assault against a Pilipino family, the Rodriguezes. The Youth for Philippine Action and other members of the Pilipino community have been actively supporting Mrs. and Mr. Rodriguez in their efforts to win justice.*

After hearing an explosion late at night outside their Jersey City home on October 23, 1988, Rudolfo and Minerva Rodriguez, a Pilipino couple, went downstairs to investigate. Mr. Rodriguez carried a machete for protection. When he looked out the front window, he saw a uniformed policeman. Relieved, Rodriguez opened the door to greet the officer, John Chiusolo.

To Rodriguez's surprise, Chiusolo questioned him about the machete, although he had already put it aside. Chiusolo then grabbed the machete and took it with him to his car. Alarmed that Chiusolo's car was unmarked, Rodriguez called to his wife to write

down the license plate number. On hearing this, Chiusolo turned around and ran with the machete toward Rodriguez.

Rodriguez rushed inside and told his wife to call the police. Chiusolo banged the door open. Once inside, he went directly to Mrs. Rodriguez, who was on the phone with the police. Chiusolo grabbed the phone from Mrs. Rodriguez and told the police telephone operator that there was already police on the scene.

After slamming down the phone, Chiusolo turned around and repeatedly hit Mr. Rodriguez with his nightstick. When Mrs. Rodriguez ran outside to call for help, Chiusolo chased after her.



When he could not stop her, he returned inside and further beat up Mr. Rodriguez. At this point, Rodriguez lost consciousness.

Chiusolo went back onto the street to stop Mrs. Rodriguez, who was telling passersby what had happened. Chiusolo then attacked Mrs. Rodriguez. A Black female corrections officer tried to intervene. At this time, more police arrived and arrested the corrections officer on charges of obstructing justice.

Chiusolo handcuffed the half-conscious Rodriguez behind his back and carried him to his car "like a suitcase." As a result of this treatment, Rodriguez's shoulders were separated, and the nerves in his wrist are permanently damaged. Rodriguez, a former artist and professional cartoonist can no longer draw.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez were taken to the police station where Chiusolo further beat up Mr. Rodriguez. Both stayed in jail overnight with no medical attention. Rodriguez was finally taken to the hospital the next day. Because the police labelled him as a "cop killer," his stay of ten days was filled with negligent treatment from the hospital staff, police threats, and further police brutality and harassment.

As is typical of these cases, the police charged the Rodriguezes with terroristic acts, obstruction of justice, and possession of a deadly weapon. The Rodriguezes, in turn, have filed a suit against Chiusolo, the city of Jersey City, and the Jersey City Police Department.

Although the prosecutor has tried to plea bargain, Rodriguez has staunchly refused to drop his suit. After three years of court battles, charges against the Rodriguezes were finally dismissed on August 28 in Weehawken Criminal Court. The civil suit proceedings began on August 29. Δ

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
**Part-time position with CAAHV**

If interested, send a written request for job description with a stamped & self-addressed envelope to:

CAAHV 191 E. 3 St., New York, NY 10009

## "Remember Pearl Harbor!"

December 7, 1991 marks the 50th year since the infamous Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor. The impending observances of the anniversary of the "sneak" attack and the patriotic fervor it will engender, all but guarantee a backlash of anti-Asian sentiment, exacerbating the rising trend in anti-Asian violence.

There is no question about the tragedy of the 3,681 American casualties and the horrors that engulfed the 19 exploding ships. But, was it a "sneak" attack as racistly proclaimed, conjuring all the stereotypes of "sly, two-faced, inhuman" Asians?

According to Michi Weglyn in her extraordinary and thoroughly documented book, *Year of Infamy*, and subsequently confirmed by a number of other writers on the subject of World War II and Pearl Harbor, Washington intelligence had already broken the secret Japanese code by the fall of '41, and thus was well aware of Japan's military intentions in the Pacific, specifically targeting navy installations and ships in and around Pearl Harbor. Although the Roosevelt government believed the U.S. entry into World War II would occur via the Pacific, it made no serious preparations for possible attack. Apparently, racism blinded it to the intelligence reports on hand, ignoring them in the belief that the Japanese were incapable of effectively utilizing the information they obviously possessed.

So the tragedy of Pearl Harbor was compounded, not only by the enormous fury of the successful air raid, but by Washington's failure to prepare for the eventuality of attack. How many lives and ships would have been spared had Washington regarded its Asian foe with the same seriousness accorded Germany and Italy? Racism was also explicit in the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as is so widely acknowledged.

But the media and government hype of the "Remember Pearl Harbor!" slogan will continue with a flurry of the "rabid kind of nationalism, purposeless and

very dangerous," in the words of Queens College professor Ofuately-Kodjoe, and accelerate "Japan-bashing," which endangers, not the Japanese industrialists who are creating the problems, but all those of us with Asian faces who live in this racist country.

Incidentally, there have already been reports that a few anti-Asian incidents have erupted in Hawaii this fall that were, no doubt, a direct result of the week of upcoming "celebrations." On November 7, precisely one month before the 50th anniversary, the Southeast Japanese Community Center in Norwalk, California was violently vandalized. Furniture was overturned and strewn among shattered glass and shredded documents. White paint was splashed over walls, windows and pictures and racist graffiti, such as "Nips!" "Go back to Asia!" and "Go home!" were written around the building and on the windows. Δ



## Racial and Police Violence Continues to Escalate

### NYC Students

Several incidents of Asian students being attacked after school, near school grounds have been documented.

On February 28, a fight between a young Vietnamese woman and a young Black woman, both junior high school students at I.S. 61 in Flatbush, Brooklyn, culminated in a violent chase. Several Black students who had gathered around the two women chased the Vietnamese student, her brother, and their two Asian friends. Racist slurs as well as bottles and garbage were hurled at the fleeing Asian students.

On April 16 at Seward Park High School, a Chinese student was chased by a group of young people and severely beaten up. During the course of the spring months, several Korean students of the Kennedy School in Manhattan have been followed, intimidated, and attacked by other students.

### O. K. Lee\*

#### New Rochelle

On August 21, a dispute broke out between a customer and O. K. Lee, a cashier at a small food store in New Rochelle. The customer accused Lee of cheating him. Because the owner of the store refused to get involved in the situation, the customer went outside and brought in a police officer. Without asking any questions, the officer accused Ms. Lee of ripping off the customer and proceeded to yell at, arrest, hand-cuff, and bruise her. At the police precinct, Kim was interrogated about personal details irrelevant to the case, including her immigration status. She was required to pay \$500 bail. CAAAV helped to facilitate the legal process in an attempt to get the charges dropped. Ms. Lee received an "Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal" at her arraignment.

\*Note: Some of the names in this article have been altered.

### K. Chun

#### Flushing

On May 10, K. Chun was about to enter a Korean Restaurant in Flushing, when a young Latino man threatened him with a cane, telling him to "Go home." Over a dozen young women were in the area laughing at the taunting. The man hit Chun with the cane on the left side of his head causing multiple bruises and lacerations.

### M. Rahaman

#### Manhattan

At 4 a.m. on May 18, Rahaman, who was driving a cab, was stopped at a traffic light on Second Avenue in lower Manhattan. A group of men in the next car threatened him with a baseball bat. When he looked at them, one of the men asked, "Whatcha lookin' at?" and continued to harass him with "the motherfucker is laughing" and "you fucking Indian." When the light changed, Rahaman was chased all around Manhattan by the group. His cab eventually broke down near the Queensborough Bridge, where two of the men pulled him out, beat him up, and broke his meter. A probational officer who got involved only because the two cars were obstructing the road, broke up the fight and let the perpetrators go. Fortunately, a fellow cab driver got the perpetrator's plate number.

The driver of the car was arrested and charged with assault. CAAAV has been pressuring the District Attorney's office not to plea bargain the case. This case has not yet gone to trial at the time of this writing.

### Wing T. Lau

#### Manhattan

On June 13, responding to a call from a building management in Chinatown, 8 to 10 police officers from

the 5th Precinct confronted Wing T. Lau, a 24-year-old licensed vendor who was selling herbs on Bowery Street. Without giving him time to collect his belongings, the police overturned his tables and assaulted him as well as his mother and aunt. They were charged with assaulting police officers, obstruction of justice and resisting arrest. All three were placed in police custody overnight with no medical attention. Lau sustained several broken ribs, and his mother continues to suffer severe nerve damage. They have retained an attorney and are fighting to have the charges dismissed.

### S. C. Yao

#### Flushing

When Mr. Yao, a Chinese artist, was setting up to draw portraits at the Queens Heritage Festival in Flushing Meadow Park on June 22, a woman grabbed his bag of supplies. When he attempted to get his bag back, the woman flashed her badge, indicating that she was a plainclothes police officer. Yao started to run away but was stopped by several uniformed officers who jumped on him and beat him. The police broke Yao's collarbone and five ribs. He was handcuffed and arrested, taken to a hospital where he was given minimal treatment, and then taken to the precinct where he was held overnight. Charges against him were dismissed the following day.

### The Singh Family

#### Staten Island

The Singhs, the only Indian family in their Staten Island neighborhood, have been the victims of constant harassment by their white neighbors. Over the past two years, graffiti was spray-painted on the sidewalk in front of their house, telling them to "go home." Rocks were hurled from a passing car, breaking windows in the house. Pellets of paint were thrown against the walls. On July



18, a window in Mrs. Singh's car was broken. Although the police are continuing to monitor the area, they have refused to investigate. Despite the police presence, partygoers from a neighboring residence threw apples at the Singh's house on the evening of August 3.

*Soo Yeon Kwon and Yang Ok Kim*

*The Bronx*

On July 27, Yang Ok Kim double parked her car near her store as she had done for the past seven years on street cleaning days. On this particular morning, a metermaid ticketed her car. Ms. Kim approach the metermaid to dispute the ticket. The metermaid refused to even acknowledge Ms. Kim's presence. Frustrated by her limited English, Ms. Kim tapped on the ticket book at which point, the metermaid cursed and grabbed Ms. Kim's arm, hitting and bruising her and scratching her hand. The metermaid then called the police. The police came and handcuffed and roughly treated Ms. Kim without asking any questions. Soo Yeon, Ms. Kim's 14 year old daughter, ran up to find out what was going on. She too was handcuffed and roughed up by the police. Both mother and daughter were taken to the precinct and arrested. Yang Ok Kim and Soo Yeon Kwon were both charged with third degree assault of the metermaid. Despite CAAHV's pressure to have the charges dropped, Yang Ok Kim was found guilty as charged and was required to pay a \$100 fine. Kwon's case is still pending.

**Updates**

*Sengupta Family*

*Old Bethpage, Long Island*

On December 23, 1989, the Sengupta's pick-up truck was bombed in the family's driveway at 2 a.m. The explosion completely destroyed the vehicle, sending the roof of the car to the other side of the street, shattering the windows and a brick wall of the Sengupta house and damaging their yard. This was the second bombing that occurred after a series of serious racially-

motivated incidents against the family. Prior to the bombings, the Senguptas, the only Asian family in the area, received several anonymous, racially hostile notes and phone calls, and have had their yard booby-trapped and destroyed on several occasions. Mr. Sengupta appealed to the local law enforcement agencies, but received little support. The police were able to identify and apprehend 24 year old Nicholas Palesty, the perpetrator of the second bombing incident only after Palesty's girlfriend turned him into the authorities. On May 21, 1991, 2 days before Palesty's trial, CAAHV and the National Association of Americans of Asian Indian Descent, staged a press conference in Old Bethpage. The following day, (over a year and a half after the incident, following local police and FBI investigations), the Nassau County D.A. finally classified the bombing as bias-motivated. On October 3, Palesty pleaded guilty to "criminal mischief with the intent to damage property," and has been sentenced to 2 to 6 years in jail.

*Guo Quing (Peter) Zhong*

*Williamsburg*

On January 31, 1990, Peter Zhong was brutally beaten by the police after being stopped for allegedly driving through a red light in the vicinity of the Williamsburg Bridge. Zhong filed a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board, charging that the police officers choked him with a nightstick, kicked, jumped on him, and pressed nightsticks against his temple. One and a half years later, the Board has concluded that there was "insufficient evidence to prove or disprove" Zhong's charges. However, the Board has substantiated that an unidentified officer did strike Zhong's face against a car.

In light of the fact that 96% of the complaints that are filed with the CCRB are deemed unsubstantiated, it is a victory that the CCRB actually investigated and then substantiated Zhong's complaint of being assaulted. In a July 26 letter to Zhong updating

him on his case, the CCRB announced that they have "recommended that disciplinary action be taken against the subject officer." As of yet, no action has taken place. However, the admission by the CCRB that an officer committed a punishable offense will work positively for Zhong's currently pending civil suit against the NYPD.

*Henry Lau*

*Brooklyn-bound N Train*

Henry Lau was murdered on a Brooklyn-bound N train in March 1990. His murderer, Pedro Hernandez, who was charged with second degree murder, was found guilty of first degree manslaughter (unintentional murder) - despite the fact that he stabbed Lau four times in the chest with a knife. According to Assistant District Attorney Cheryl Hirsch, the jury decided the murder was unintentional because Hernandez was intoxicated. He has been sentenced to 7 and 1/3 to 22 years, which means that he will be eligible for parole in 7 years and 4 months, having to spend a maximum time of 22 years in jail. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 8 and 1/3 to 25 years. Δ

**Community Outreach & Education**

Following CAAHV's training program in June (see article on page 7), CAAHV members of the Community Outreach and Education Committee have been developing strategies to provide education on anti-Asian violence and information on rights for the Asian communities. The Committee developed a pamphlet in English which will be printed in Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese. If you have ideas for distribution or would like to get involved with the Committee (bi lingual speakers, we need you!), please call CAAHV at (212) 473-6485.

**YOU  
COULD BE  
A VICTIM OF  
ANTI-ASIAN  
VIOLENCE.**



Committee  
Against  
Anti-Asian  
Violence

151 E. 37th STREET, N.Y., N.Y. 10005 212-473-6485





- 8/12 Demonstration in Waterbury, CT, days after Fai Yueng was killed.

*Lin Continued from page 1*

who came to the U.S. hoping to find an environment supportive of artistic freedom. Ironically, the experience of most of the young Chinese artists is harassment, if not outright, unmitigated brutality by New York City Police. Over 30 of the artists have come forward and documented their experiences of being assaulted, verbally harassed with racist language, interrogated, illegally searched, falsely arrested, unjustly detained and having their property destroyed or confiscated by the NYCPD. Because of this situation with the police, the artists attempt to avoid confrontation by working late at night and in remote areas where police presence is minimal. On the night of August 18, Lin and his friends were doing just that.

**Brutal Month of Murders**

The killing of Lin Lin occurred in the midst of a rash of brutal, fatal attacks waged against Asian people across the U.S. Within a period of less than a month, 21-year-old Fai Yueng was set up and shot to death by a group of teenagers in Waterbury, Connecticut; on August 10, eight Thai Buddhist monks and nun were found in their temple dead, lying with their faces to the ground and bullet holes through the back of their heads; and then, a week later, Lin was killed here in NYC. Aside from the obvious common racial background that these 12 victims shared, the incidents are similarly horrifying in their random nature, lacking any rational motivations. These cases are

blaring expressions of complete disregard for the lives of Asian people. Legally, "enough" evidence has yet to be produced to assert that these killings were racially-motivated. Through these incidents, however, enough empirical evidence of racism has been revealed to strike a raw nerve in the Asian community. Disturbed and outraged both by the nature of the incidents and the nonchalant attitude of local law enforcement agencies and their haphazard investigations, the Asian communities of the different areas responded to the killings with organized protests and commemorations for the victims.

**NYC Chinese Artists Organize**

In New York City, the Asian street artists, provoked by the killing of their colleague, organized the Village Portrait Artists' Alliance. The Artists' Alliance is currently negotiating with the City to create zones for artists to work freely and to make permits available for the artists. Two days following the August 18 demonstration, the artists, along with CAAAV and the New York Civil Liberties Union, met with the top brass of the New York City Police Department and the Civilian Complaint Review Board. After the three groups outlined their experiences with police brutality and made demands for changes, the NYCPD conceded to curb their violent reaction to street artists and to work with the groups to develop sensitivity trainings for police officers. Δ

*BIAS Continued from page 1*

Unfortunately, reporting of an incident to the BBias Incident Investigating Unit for further investigation and evaluation as to bias-motivation will still depend on the awareness and sensitivity of the officer on patrol and the precinct commander. Once an incident comes to the attention of the BIIU, the final classification still rests with the BIIU. However, the new policy provides community groups with a stronger basis to dispute BIIU classifications.

The NYCPD's narrow definition of hate crimes, coupled with particular insensitivity to anti-Asian violence, has contributed to the underreporting of bias-motivated crimes against Asians in this city. CAAAV and other Asian community groups have clashed with police over this issue in the past. For example:

- On October 31, 1989, Andy Woo was attacked by about 30 African American and Latino youth saying "fucking Chinese" and hitting him with bats and rocks. Woo was originally picked out from across the street because he was Asian. However, police refused to classify the incident as a hate crime because money and a beeper that Woo dropped during the scuffle were stolen.

- Five Korean and Chinese youth were attacked on December 26, 1989 by a gang of 30 white youth, members of "The Master Race" in the Bay Terrace Shopping Center in Queens. Police refused to classify this as a bias incident because no racial slurs were used and the gang is known to have one or two non-white members and several Asian girlfriends.

- On March 15, 1990 Henry Kwok Kin Lau was stabbed four times on a crowded N train in Bay Ridge. Although there was no robbery or other motive and the murderer yelled "hey eggroll" repeatedly before attacking Lau, police did not classify this as a bias incident.

Hopefully, with the new guidelines and continued community vigilance, NYCPD bias statistics will begin to more accurately document the degree of bias violence facing people of color and lesbians and gay men in New York City.

Δ



## CAAAV Training Draws New Members

CAAAV conducted its first training program in June in order to attract new organizers and familiarize them with relevant historical, political and legal issues. The participants, largely students or recent graduates, were of diverse ethnic backgrounds and belonged to a wide variety of Asian and social justice organizations.

The first session covered general information on Asian ethnic groups in New York City and the U.S. as a whole. After a round of introductions, CAAAV Coordinator Milyoung Cho spoke about recent incidents of anti-Asian violence in New York City. Milyoung and CAAAV co-founder Mini Liu then gave examples of how CAAAV had advocated for victims in the past.

CAAAV member Anu Advani then gave a presentation of Asian American history, focusing on the political, economic and social forces that have precipitated anti-Asian violence. A slide show of political cartoons and images of Asians in the written press forcefully revealed the racist hysteria and hatred historically directed against people of Asian descent.

The second session focused on acquainting the new organizers with

the law enforcement and criminal justice system as well as advocacy agencies, such as the New York City Commission on Human Rights and the New York State Division on Human Rights. Participants developed an appropriate plan of action for a sample case of a bias crime. Then attorney Chanwoo Lee outlined the basics of the legal system in a question and answer session. CAAAV co-founders Mini Liu and Monona Yin delineated the different local, state and federal agencies that can advocate for victims of bias crimes.

During the third session, the participants brainstormed to develop strategies for reaching and involving the different Asian communities. Several committees were formed from this discussion: Victim Advocacy and Services; College Outreach and Education; Community Outreach and Education; Documentation and Media; High School Project; Legal Services; and Video Project. These committees have already been hard at work this past summer and will continue to meet regularly this fall. We expect especially to see more active student membership this fall as the student participants in the training are able to involve their college organizations. Δ



*CAAAV is pleased to welcome its first Board of Directors as a newly incorporated organization. Members reflect the diverse Asian nationalities and communities that CAAAV seeks to serve. In addition, they bring experience in grassroots organizing, legal and policy advocacy, media and community education and fundraising and non-profit management.*

*The Board commenced its work at a meeting in mid-October and, over the next several months, will be putting its structure and responsibilities in place.*

*The members are:*

**Anu Advani** • Housing Coordinator at St. Christopher-Ottilie. Member of South Asian Alliance for Action.

**Veena Cabrerros-Sud** • Co-producer for the WBAI radio program, Philippines in Focus. Member of Youth for Philippine Action.

**Marjorie Fujiki** • Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the New York State Attorney General's Office. Board member of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

**Marla Kamiya** • Education Coordinator of the Center for Immigrants' Rights. Member of Asian American Union for Political Action.

**Michelle Lee** • Chairperson of Church and Society at the Korean Church and Institute. Active with Coalition for Korean American Voters and the Foreign Policy Association.

**Mini Liu** • Physician in family medicine at Gouveneur Hospital on the Lower East Side. Co-chair of Asian American Union for Political Action and a member of Organization of Asian Women.

**Xuan Thao Nguyen** • Social Reseacher in Population Studies at the Community Service Society. Education Coordinator of the Vietnamese Youth Organization and member of the Shinwa Support Committee.

**Tani Takagi** • Director of Grants at the Ms. Foundation for Women. Board member of New York Asian Women's Center and member of Organization of Asian Women.

**Monona Yin** • Rockefeller Fellow in the Humanities, Asian/American Center at Queens College. Former Associate Director, North Star Fund.

The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence was founded in 1986 to organize Asian communities in the New York City area to combat racist violence and police brutality. Through community education and organizing efforts, CAAAV strives to develop leadership within the Asian communities to speak out and effect change in public policies, the police department and the criminal justice system. CAAAV assists and advocates for victims of racist violence and police brutality.

CAA AV seeks to strengthen the understanding within the Asian communities of the economic and political roots of racism and racist violence and our commonalities with other people of color. CAAAV works in coalition with other community groups for racial and economic justice.

**NEW OFFICE: CAAAV moved into its new office at 191 East 3rd Street. You may call during office hours (10:30 - 7:00 M - F) or leave messages at (212) 473-6485.**

Name/Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

CAAAV Supporter (includes newsletter) - \$10/year.  
 Regular Newsletter subscription - \$7/year.  
 I am interested in becoming a member.

**CAA AV Newsletter Committee and Contributors**

- Anu Advani
- Veena Cabrerros-Sud
- Joannie Chang
- Tsuh Yang Chen
- Milyoung Cho
- Eiko Fukuda
- Maggie Ho
- Kazu Iijima
- Michelle Lin
- Mini Liu
- Wes Macawili
- Alvin Realuyo
- Michael Rivera
- Monona Yin

Special thanks to Steve Sahrer and John Eng for technical assistance.



Newsletter of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence  
191 East 3rd Street  
New York, NY 10009  
212-473-6485