

SAMPLE ISSUE

The CAAV VOICE

Newsletter of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence

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(212) 473-6485

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CAA AV COMMUNITY-BASED STRUGGLES

A year ago CAAAV made a commitment to deepen our work in predominantly immigrant and working class Asian communities in New York City. Years of experience with individual cases of anti-Asian violence and police brutality have taught us that these communities – facing racist, anti-immigrant and class-based hostility – are the most vulnerable to physical attack. In order to develop an ongoing, rather than a case-by-case presence, we expanded the scope of our mission to include discrimination and economic injustice that affects not just one individual or family, but the larger community. We now have three active Organizing Committees that are reaching out and building ties among Chinese, Korean, and South Asian immigrants in NYC, with a Southeast Asian Committee in the works—a model that is both pan-Asian yet rooted in communities most at risk.

CHINESE COMMUNITY

This summer CAAAV established a Chinese Community Organizing Committee (CCOC) to bring us closer to Chinese immigrant communities and to improve our work fighting discrimination and violence. The CCOC has grown to over 30 members, mostly young and second generation. Several speak fluent Chinese and many live or work in Chinatown or other Chinese-populated areas.

The committee began its work by doing outreach to the Chinese immigrant communities in Chinatown, Flushing, and Avenue U, Brooklyn, to learn about the community's concerns and to let them know about our work. Over 500 "Know Your Rights"

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IMMIGRANT-BASHING ON THE RISE

"It is time to send these illegals and slave traders to where they come from. We will get rid of Chinese from the Garden State...." — The Ping Pong Exterminators
(flier distributed in East Brunswick, New Jersey, 6/93)

How quickly the dramatic images of the grounding of the Golden Venture near Queens have turned from the tragic tales of Chinese immigrants drowned in a panicked attempt to leave the floundering ship to stories of the gangs responsible for the smuggling rings. Distinctions between the "illegal aliens" (whose "crime" is the lack of documents) and their oppressors (extortionists, rapist, murderers) have become blurred, so that the entire Chinese community has become implicated. After a similar smuggling incident in San Francisco in May, INS District Director David Ilchert stated, "My belief is that these men are being brought in to assist in criminal activities . . . I'm troubled that the Chinese community knows nothing about this . . . There are no good guys in this."

Immigrants and "illegal aliens" have become fused in the public's mind. A June *New York Times/CBS News* poll showed that 68% of those interviewed (up from 49% in 1986) believed that most immigrants are illegal although

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"Rising Sun" Resurrects Yellow Peril

CAA AV member Jonathon Sung Bidol speaking out against the opening of the movie "Rising Sun" in Times Square. See page 3.



NEW YORK CITY INCIDENTS

POLICE BRUTALITY

As CAAAV Voice readers know, police brutality against Asian Americans, particularly recent immigrants, is an all too frequent but under-reported problem. Our past experience supporting the Wong/Woo family (1987), Yong Kook Ou (1988), and Peter Zhong (1990) shows that minor incidents often escalate into major cases of brutality when police officers and civilians cannot communicate in a common language. When an Asian person is slow to respond to police orders, he or she is presumed to be "insubordinate" as opposed to simply needing a translator. We also question what role racism plays in these assaults when the physical blows are often accompanied by verbal slurs.

Within the space of one month this summer, two first-generation Asian Americans were assaulted in public by police officers. CAAAV is assisting both victims in their efforts to seek exoneration and compensation.

UPPER WEST SIDE, MANHATTAN

On August 3, 1993, **Kum Nam Kim** was dragged from her van, handcuffed, and beaten by two police officers after protesting a parking ticket. Ms. Kim, who operates a licensed peddler stand on the Upper West Side, was repeatedly assaulted with a hand-held radio and a billy club before being brought to the precinct station and issued a summons for disorderly conduct.

The New York County Criminal Court dismissed the charges against Ms. Kim in early September. CAAAV members accompanied Ms. Kim to court and will coordinate community support for her case.

CHINATOWN, MANHATTAN

On July 22 **Xi Liu Zhang**, a Chinese American who immigrated to the U.S. over ten years ago and now lives with his family in Chinatown,

was verbally and physically assaulted by two police officers from the 7th Precinct.

Mr. Zhang had parked his car by a telephone booth on Orchard Street in Chinatown. Two officers, a male and female, pulled up in their police car. When Mr. Zhang approached the officers to explain why he had parked there, the male officer began screaming profanities and racist slurs such as "you f_king Chinese" at him. Thinking that it was futile to reason with the officers, Mr. Zhang walked back to his car, which infuriated the officers. They dragged, handcuffed, and shoved Mr. Zhang into the back-seat of the police car. Once inside the car, the male officer punched Mr. Zhang in the face three times. Mr. Zhang was finally released, but not before he was given three tickets: two for blocking the crosswalk and one for disorderly conduct.

CAAAV and the Asian American Bar Association of New York accompanied Mr. Zhang to his hearing on September 23, at which the disorderly conduct charge was dismissed because of "insufficient summons."

Both Mr. Zhang and Ms. Kim plan to bring a civil lawsuit against the City of New York for damages. CAAAV will continue to coordinate public education and community support for them.

ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

BOROUGH PARK, BROOKLYN

Subeer Welkar, 16, was assaulted near his home on May 4 in Borough Park, Brooklyn, by a Hasidic citizen patrol that told him they did not want his "kind" in the neighborhood. Subeer is Indian American and was with several friends at the time. CAAAV formed a coalition with YAR, a South Asian anti-racist group, and BARN, the Brooklyn Anti-bias Response Network. Our coalition members met with the family, the New

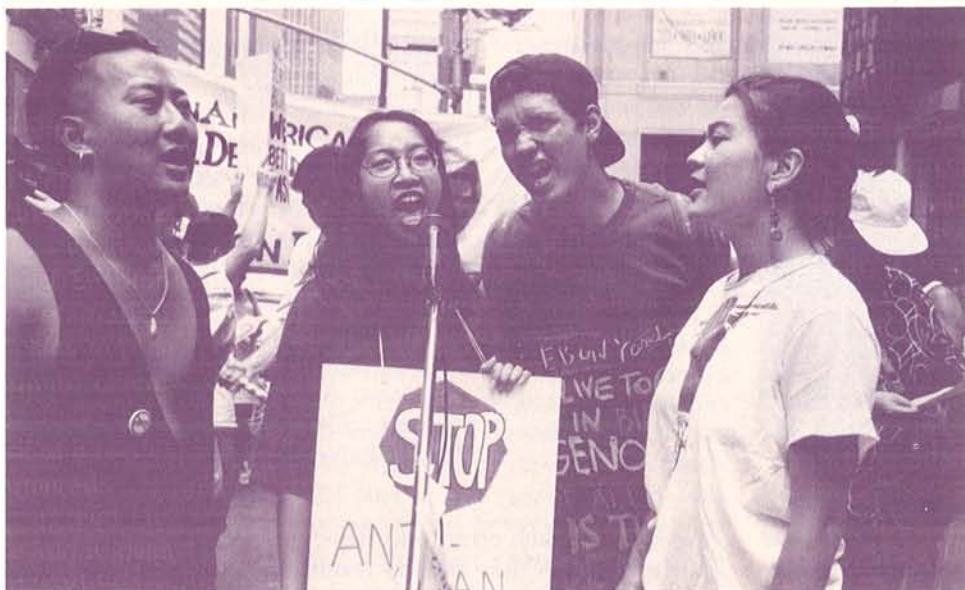
York Civil Liberties Union (which was representing the family), and tried to locate residents of Borough Park who were willing to address the larger question of accountability of the crime patrols. We also conducted research on similar incidents in the past. Unfortunately, the police made no arrest in the case, possibly due to the strong political influence of the Hasidic community.

BUSHWICK, BROOKLYN

Wendy Chan and family own a multiple family home and operate a small grocery store in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. For over six months, Ms. Chan's tenants had conducted an escalating campaign of harassment and assault against the entire family. The tenants began withholding rent soon after the Chans bought the building because they "didn't want a Chinese landlord." They terrorized Ms. Chan and her three small children repeatedly as they walked up or down the stairs to their apartment. Worse still, the local precinct had apparently taken the side of the tenants and refused to make an arrest.

CAAAV contacted the family after we learned that Ms. Chan's 72-year-old father had been severely beaten in late April with a baseball bat and that the offending tenant had not been charged by police. CAAAV quickly arranged a meeting between the family, a local precinct representative, and the borough commander's office. With CAAAV's presence assuring accountability, the police reassessed the situation and took dramatic steps to curb the violence and harassment. Within twenty-four hours, the precinct captain had made an apology to the family and ordered regular visits by patrols, including a Chinese-speaking officer. The tenants moved out soon thereafter for non-payment of rent and the Chan family has recovered a sense of security and peace of mind. Δ

M E D I A O F F E N S E S



Bert Wang, Ava Chin, Tamaraw, and Sonya Zabala lead over one hundred demonstrators in chants at the opening of the film "Rising Sun."

"Rising Sun! Raising Hate!"

The movie "Rising Sun" opened on July 30th at Time Square's Criterion Theater amid protests by Asian Pacific American New Yorkers. CAAAV joined with dozens of other organizations to demonstrate in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. These protests were staged to educate moviegoers about the film's insidious stereotyping and the potential for anti-Asian violence its xenophobic message promotes. Virtually all of the film's Japanese male characters are portrayed as venal and sexually deviant foreigners bent on taking over American institutions. Consistent with CAAAV's

longstanding focus on how selective economic scapegoating and racism are linked, critic Vincent Canby wrote in the *New York Times*, ["Rising Sun"] directs attention not to the internal reasons for America's economic problems, but to inscrutable, generalized, unknown others from abroad, whose yellow skins and strange manners announce their evil purposes as much as their unfair trade practices."

Summer interns Jonathon Sung Bidol, Ginny Moon, and Julia Wang coordinated CAAAV's participation in the "Rising Sun" demonstration. Δ

National Network Premieres Video

Over the weekend of June 26 -27, visitors to brash, commercial Times Square got a different kind of message: the National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence's (NNAAV) new public service announcement, which ran every few minutes on Sony's big screen. As the New York City members of NNAAV, CAAAV and the Asian American Legal Defense and Edu-

cation Fund jointly sponsored the local release of the PSA. It depicts a young Asian girl reciting the Pledge of Allegiance as a text reads, "Last year, Asian Americans were beaten because of the shape of their eyes. Stabbed because of the language they spoke. Murdered because of the color of their skin." The PSA climaxes with the sound of a gunshot and the caption, "The American Dream. It doesn't have to be a nightmare," and CAAAV and AALDEF's names as contacts. The spot

CAAAV Dumps Marky Mark Urges Calvin Klein To Follow Suit

After learning that rap singer Marky Mark Wahlberg had participated in another incident of bias violence, CAAAV and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD/NY) cancelled plans to produce a public service announcement with him and are calling for Calvin Klein to drop Marky Mark as a model in his high-profile underwear ads.

Marky Mark had agreed in February, 1993, to finance and appear in a spot denouncing bias violence after CAAAV and GLAAD protested his past involvement in racist violence and in promoting homophobia. Marky Mark had served jail time in 1988 for assaulting two Vietnamese men in Dorchester, Massachusetts, which violated a civil rights injunction imposed when he attacked a class of African American elementary school students two years earlier.

In August Wahlberg allegedly gay-baited, then assaulted record executive Guy Oseary at a Hollywood party. Although CAAAV and GLAAD had hoped that Marky Mark could discourage young people from engaging in bias violence, this latest incident makes it clear that he has yet to change and would make a poor role model for an anti-violence message. Δ

is available in English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese. Other members of the National Network participated in a simultaneous release of the PSA in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, DC. Δ

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CAAAV COMMUNITY-BASED STRUGGLES



KCOC member Jeannie Lee with youth members of the New York Korean United Methodist Church in Plainview, Long Island, after making a presentation on anti-Asian violence.

CHINESE COMMUNITY

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brochures in Chinese were distributed. Members talked to passersby about the problem of anti-Asian violence and what victims themselves and CAAAV can do to stop it.

This fall, in addition to continuing its informational tabling, the CCOC will be recruiting young immigrant and Asian American students from the various colleges in New York City so that we can expand our work.

KOREAN COMMUNITY

In recognition of the growing importance of Korean American communities and their critical role in Asian American relations with other ethnic groups, CAAAV developed a Korean Community Organizing Committee (KCOC) over the summer. Coordinated by staff member Eunja Lee and interns Jonathon Sung Bidol and Ginny Moon, the KCOC has been meeting every other Monday night and now includes twenty members.

KCOC members made intensive outreach efforts to over twenty existing Korean American organizations in Flushing, Brooklyn, and Manhattan in order to increase CAAAV's visibility and to develop a closer referral relationship with social service agencies who may come into contact with victims of anti-Asian violence. CAAAV's brochure is now available in Korean and will be distributed through this

ongoing outreach effort and direct informational tabling in Flushing. KCOC has already received a steady flow of cases involving police brutality, personal injury, and cultural misunderstandings.

The Committee also conducted workshops on racism and discrimination with youth members of three local Korean American church congregations at the end of the summer. These workshops included video presentations and exercises designed to draw forth the young people's own experiences.

Most recently, the KCOC has taken the lead in coordinating community support for Kum Nam Kim, a victim of police brutality on the Upper West Side (see page 2). New staff member Sunyoung Lee is continuing the work of coordinating the KCOC's work this fall. Δ

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY: Lease Drivers Launch Membership Drive

The Lease Drivers Coalition launched a membership drive this summer with new staff people, Mobashar Khalil and Henry Zeiger. For dues of only \$5 a month, cab drivers receive free representation for Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) tickets, a subscription to *In the Driver's Seat*, a weekly advice clinic, and assistance with recovering deposit money and obtaining Workers' Compensation.

Along with other CAAAV members, Khalil and Henry have been reaching out to drivers at garages, gas stations, and restaurants, and encouraging them to join in group action to demand safer working conditions. The City Council will schedule hearings this fall on cab safety, and the LDC will be there pushing for a one-way radio to connect drivers directly with the police.

LDC has taken on one case in which driver Anjum Dar had his license unfairly revoked for allegedly harassing TLC inspectors. In fact, it was the inspectors who had demanded a bribe of \$100 from Dar, who refused. LDC is organizing support for Mr. Dar and making a general demand that TLC corruption be curbed by the city. Dar's case illustrates the widespread abuse of drivers by TLC inspectors. Δ



NATIONAL INCIDENTS

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE – Sacramento, California

On October 2, 1993, the office of the Sacramento chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League was virtually destroyed by a firebomb. A group calling itself the Aryan Liberation Front claimed credit for the attack as well as for three similar attacks on a local NAACP office, a synagogue, and the home of Sacramento City Councilman Jimmie Yee, a Chinese American. Both local police and the F.B.I. are investigating the attacks as possible hate crimes.

MASAKAZU KURIYAMA – Concord, California

25-year-old Japanese exchange student Masakazu Kuriyama was fatally shot in the head around midnight on August 19, 1993. Kuriyama, who was returning home from work on the San Francisco Bay area commuter train, was found dead near the Concord station. What makes the incident particularly disturbing is that Kuriyama's wallet, credit cards, and radio were found intact. Although initially reluctant to consider a racial motivation, police have responded to community inquiries by reconsidering all possible motives.

SAM NANG NHEM – Fall River, Massachusetts

21-year-old Cambodian American Sam Nang Nhem died of a severe beating in Fall River, Massachusetts on August 16, 1993. Nhem had been at a family barbecue that moved inside after a group of young white men taunted the family as "gooks." Two hours later, as Nhem was bringing trash to a nearby dumpster, he and his friend Sophy Soeng were jumped by a group of up to seven men, some of whom had harassed the family earlier. According to witnesses, the attackers shouted racial slurs while kicking Nhem in the head. He died two days later of massive blood loss and brain damage. Only one suspect, 23-year-old Harold Robert Latour, has been arrested and charged in the case.

SRINIVAS CHIRUKURI – Las Vegas, Nevada

On July 26, Srinivas Chirukuri, a 23-year-old graduate student at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, died from second- and third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body. Before he died, Chirukuri told police he had been jumped in the lab by two men who said they did not want any more foreign students on campus. They then poured a flammable liquid on him and set him on fire. A physician who treated him at the medical center has stated that the burns were consistent with the victim's story. However, the county coroner declared his death an accident.

Campus police have suggested that Chirukuri may have been trying to cover up for an accident resulting from a violation in lab protocol, and have closed their investigation. Metro police have declined to investigate—an unusual move in a murder case. CAAAV is concerned that the university may be endangering the safety of Indian and other international students in their eagerness to close the investigation.

UPDATES

YOSHIHIRO HATTORI – Baton Rouge, LA

On May 23, Rodney Peairs was acquitted of manslaughter by a Baton Rouge jury for the October '92 killing of Japanese exchange student Yoshihiro Hattori. The trial, as well as public and media attention, virtually ignored obvious questions as to what role race played in the shooting and the decision, and focused instead on gun control and cultural differences between Japan and the United States.

DR. KAUSHAL SHARAN – Jersey City, NJ

In another disappointing legal decision, a Federal jury acquitted Thomas Kozak on May 28 of civil rights charges in the brutal beating of Dr. Kaushal Sharan almost five years earlier. The assault was one of the the most severe among the so-called "Dotbuster" attacks against Indians in the Jersey City area during 1987. Dr. Sharan, who was 31 at the time of the attack, suffered permanent neurological damage. The case was nevertheless the first ever prosecuted on behalf of a person of South Asian ancestry by the U.S. Department of Justice.

LOC MINH TRUONG – Laguna Beach, California

On January 9, 1993, a Vietnamese American, Loc Minh Truong, was brutally beaten beyond recognition by a gang of men who said "You . . . faggot . . . we're going to get you." On August 2 the two men charged with the bashing avoided a trial by entering guilty pleas. Jeff Michael Raines, who led the attack, pled guilty to attempted murder, felonious aggravated assault and committing a hate crime. Christopher Michael Cribbins pled guilty to felonious aggravated assault and committing a hate crime. Because of plea bargaining, Raines faces a maximum term of 11 (instead of 15) years and a fine of \$10,000. Cribbins now faces a maximum term of 1 (instead of 7) year(s), probation of 5 years, and a fine of \$10,000. Without public pressure, it is likely that Cribbins will not have to serve time in jail. Sentencing is scheduled for early January pending a psychological evaluation of the two assailants.

JIM MING HAI LOO – Raleigh, North Carolina

In a mixed decision, the U.S. District Court has resentenced Lloyd Piche for his role in the murder of Jim Loo in 1989. Piche's sentence for violating Loo's civil rights was increased from four years to 70 months, but the initial restitution amount of \$28,000 was reduced to \$4,750, based on his ability to pay. Asian American civil rights organizations had lobbied for the resentence because the original sentence did not fall within recommended federal sentencing guidelines.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

Summer Interns Sweat It Out

This summer was an exciting and intense one for CAAAV's four summer interns—Jonathon Sung Bidol, Ginny Moon, Audrey Tsui, and Julia Wang. Their internship reflected our commitment to train community organizers, and to bring new ideas and experiences into the organization. Each intern was given the opportunity to engage in both field work and to acquaint themselves with the bustle of CAAAV's office. The Internship is a significant aspect of CAAAV's development as the organization expands and redefines anti-Asian violence.

The addition of four new staff members significantly broadened CAAAV's capabilities. During the ten weeks, each brought their individual experiences to help develop the Lease Drivers' Coalition, the Chinese Community Organizing Committee,



(L to R) CAAAV summer interns and staff Audrey Tsui, Kwong Hui, Jonathon Sung Bidol, Ginny Moon, Julia Wang, and Monona Yin at their farewell breakfast in August.

and the Korean Community Organizing Committee. The interns were also instrumental in mounting the campaign against the movie "Rising Sun."

Summing up her experiences, Ginny reflected: "The internship was both a satisfying and frustrating experience

as it brought me in contact with strong impressive people who directly or indirectly forced me to rethink who I was and what my responsibilities are as a second generation bilingual college educated Asian/Korean American woman." Δ

Retreat Draws New & Old Members

CAAAV held its annual summer retreat this year from July 16-18 on a farm in the Catskills Mountains. Nineteen CAAAV members, board and staff loaded into a van for a weekend of work and fun! The purpose of the getaway was to discuss CAAAV's progress over the past year and directions for the future. Some of the issues that were discussed at length include plans for the three organizing committees, structural changes between the different bodies in the organization, and membership development. The spirit of comraderie, good food, and relaxation made this retreat very memorable. Special thanks to Don Kao of Project Reach for the use of his farm and to all the hardworking participants.



CAAAV in the Catskills: Summer retreat participants take a break from the city.

Lecture Series Heats Up Summer

To supplement the Summer Internship Program, CAAAV sponsored a series of weekly lectures which drew large and appreciative audiences to 191 East 3rd, despite the heat. Speakers included Roger Sanjek on the relationships between various communities in Queens, Rev. Jim Kim and Rita McCoy on organizing in Harlem, Peter Kwong and Kazu Iijima on lessons from the Asian American movement of the 1970's, Eunju Lee and Leti Volpp on making the links between gender and racial violence, Pavin Gonzalez on Southeast Asian community issues, Dave Walker and Sam Ciccone on police brutality and accountability, and Steve Fahrer on community organizing versus advocacy. The series culminated with a Friday night dinner party and discussion with members of Sakhi, South Asian Women for Action.

Thank you to everyone who participated, particularly our presenters. Stay tuned for upcoming lectures in the fall and winter. Δ

NEW STAFF AT CAAAV:

Over the past half year, CAAAV has been strengthened by the contributions of two committed and energetic community organizers.

During the spring and summer, Eunja Lee developed the Korean Community Organizing Committee and the Summer Lecture Series, working closely with summer interns Jonathan Sung Bidol and Ginny Moon. She is a second generation Korean who was born and raised in Osaka, Japan. Because she experienced the severe racism against Koreans in Japan, Eunja naturally gravitated toward issues of racial justice in the United States, where she has lived since 1985. She has been surprised by the vitality of the Asian American community in New York: "This is such a center of international politics and economics. It's a great challenge to do community organizing here. But I have found the Korean community to be quite receptive to social justice issues, perhaps because they are struggling as immigrants too." Although Eunja will leave the staff to study social ethics at Union Theological Seminary this year she will continue to be an active member of the KCOC.



Eunja Lee



Tony Nguyen and Sunyoung Lee

Since he began staffing the Lease Drivers' Coalition in May, Mobashar Khalil has been a fixture at area garages and late night restaurants frequented by cab drivers. A native of Punjab province in Pakistan, "Khalil,"



Mobashar Khalil

as he is known, has been a driver himself. He says he is "proud of what I'm doing. Day or night, I go out looking for drivers who want to join LDC. They are being abused by the Taxi and Limousine Commission and the traffic police because they don't speak English well. I enjoy using all my languages, Urdu, Punjabi, and English, to talk to drivers. This is a new world that I'm starting to explore." Khalil is also studying to become a pharmacist at Kingsborough Community College.

This fall, CAAAV welcomes two new staff members:

Sunyoung Lee will be working with the Korean Community Organizing Committee beginning this fall. A recent graduate of Yale University, she has served as a production assistant for Radio Bandung, and has written for *A Magazine*. She became involved with the committee in June.

Tony Nguyen is relocating to New York City from Philadelphia, where he has been a key member of Asian Americans United for the past two years. Tony helped coordinate support and advocacy efforts in the McCreech playground case in which six Vietnamese American teenagers were imprisoned for stabbing a white teenager in self-defense. He was also one of the principal organizers of the East Coast Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence's conference, held in Philadelphia last November. Most recently, Tony has been active in the campaign to save the Greenwich Library, a South Philadelphia facility used primarily by Southeast Asian children. He brings video and library skills to his new position at CAAAV. We look forward to working with him. Δ

**Please make a year-end
contribution to support
CAA AV's work.
Thank you!**

CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE

SILVER PALACE WORKERS FIGHT UNION-BUSTING

Forty workers were locked out of the Silver Palace restaurant for refusing to sign a contract, drafted by management, which would nullify their union contract and reinstate oppressive working conditions.

In 1980, following a protracted struggle as members of the 318 Restaurant Workers' Union, workers at the Silver Palace succeeded in negotiating the first and only union contract for restaurant workers in Chinatown. Now the Silver Palace's proposed elimination of the workers' hard-won benefits, such as medical coverage, full tips without deductions, worker control over work schedules, paid sick leaves, holidays, and vacation, and job security, means a return to the exploitative conditions which led to the organizing of a union in the first place.

Nine good-faith attempts to negotiate a fair contract ended with management storming out of the meetings. In violation of federal labor law, the managers threatened to fire members of the bargaining committee if the contract was not signed by August 20th. That day, management locked out more than 40 workers and called the police to arrest those who were demanding payment of withheld wages and vacation pay. One of the



Angry workers resist the Silver Palace restaurant's attempt to lock them out and cut their benefits.

two arrested workers was a woman who had worked pushing a *dim sum* car for 16 years.

The workers are fighting back with renewed militancy. They urge a boycott of the Silver Palace in support of their fight to defend the rights they have fought so hard to gain. They demand that the Silver Palace manage-

ment stop its illegal practices, rehire all the workers who were fired, and negotiate a new, fair contract in good faith.

Picket lines in front of the Silver Palace restaurant, Canal Street and Bowery, are held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on weekends. Δ

BOYCOTT SILVER PALACE AND JOIN THE PICKET LINES!

Racist Shinwa Restaurant Shuts Down

Shinwa closed its doors on June 4—three years after a bitter struggle with its exploited Asian and Latino workers over discriminatory labor practices. The restaurant's managers routinely deducted 17% to 45% of its immigrant workers' tips, but permitted white bartenders to retain 100% of theirs. When the workers attempted to organize a union, they were harassed physically and psychologically.

Shinwa is now embroiled in two cases filed by the workers, one with the New York State Labor Department and the other with the National Labor Relations Board, which appear promising for the workers. The state case, now in deposition, concerns unpaid back wages, including overtime and tips of \$200,000; and the NLRB case (set for an October hearing) concerns Shinwa's failure to reinstate the work-

ers and to compensate their loss of wages. These cases plus the picket lines and demonstrations contributed to Shinwa's shut-down. About 70% of the restaurant's clientele was lost due to the agitation created by the workers and their supporters. Since Shinwa had refused to rehire the workers involved in the struggle when they closed temporarily as a ploy, the workers are not affected by Shinwa's final closing. Δ

Workers Call For East River Restaurant Boycott

The intense media blitz surrounding the shipwreck of the Golden Venture exposed an underground economy where employers use both documented and undocumented immigrant workers as a source of cheap labor in restaurants, garment factories, and other industries. The East River Chinese Restaurant in Flushing, owned by Alfred Lui, pays some waiters as little as 70 cents an hour, steals as much as one-third of the waiters' tips, and fails to forward taxes deducted from the wages of some waiters to the IRS.

When the workers started to organize to protest these practices, management attempted to crush their efforts by using retaliatory firings, immigration laws, and the Ghost Shadows gang to intimidate the workers.

The East River offered \$120,000 to the workers to drop their suit for violations of labor law, but they were rebuffed by the workers, who knew that, without a union, they could be fired after the pay-off and that the same conditions would continue.

Join the campaign against East River! Boycott the restaurant. Write to the management demanding they rehire the workers. For further information, contact Peter Lin at the Chinese Staff and Workers Association 619-7979. Δ

The L.A. Uprising: Broadening Perspectives

On April 29th, 1993, the first anniversary of the L.A. uprising, CAAAV co-sponsored an educational forum to discuss the event's significance for New York's multiethnic communities. Speakers included Kwong Hui, CAAAV community organizer, Guillermo Glenn of the Lower East Side Workers' Center, Jim Haughton of Harlem Fightback, and Miliann Kang of the Korea Working Group.

The program focussed on the aftermath of the uprising, such as continued lack of economic development and increased police harassment in South Central L.A., and mass deportations of Latino people. The speakers also addressed areas of real cooperation among communities of color, particularly in the area of workers' struggles. In addition, the forum featured a selection of video documentaries made by community filmmakers in L.A. and a performance by the Center for Korean American Culture. The audience, numbering about one hundred, was mostly Korean American. Δ

Young Workers Organize

On July 9, two classroom instructors at a Chinatown summer youth program were summarily fired by their employer, Immigrant Social Services, Inc. (ISS). The two workers, both young women about to enter college, had taught at the program for six successive summers and were very concerned about the welfare of their students. Their only "offense" was being part of a group of fifteen instructors who had requested a meeting with management about low wages and poor working conditions at the program. Soon thereafter, another teacher was fired and one resigned in protest.

The unwarranted firings became a focal point of community attention for the remainder of the summer and into the fall. Rather than be intimidated, the fired workers began seeking reinstatement and talking to parents about the reasons for their dismissals. ISS attempted to intimidate both the teachers and their supporters, including CAAAV and the Chinese Staff and Workers' Association with a six-million dollar lawsuit.

On August 29, nearly two dozen parents held a press conference to announce their support for the teachers' demands: reinstatement, an end to the lawsuit, an apology from ISS, parent and teacher input into how the program is run and how trustees are chosen, and public scrutiny of the ISS budget.

The young workers' future plans may include establishing a youth leadership group that will continue to address the many concerns of young people in Chinatown. Δ



GARMENT WORKERS SOUND OFF

About 200 garment workers challenged a panel of state and federal government officials at a town hall meeting on garment workers' rights that was held on June 29 at the P.S. 124 auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Chinese Staff and Workers Association, enabled documented and undocumented workers, who flocked to the open mike, to cite the sweatshop abuses of their employers and to question the inadequate official response to these slave labor conditions. Their remarks and those of the officials were translated into Mandarin, Cantonese and English.

Workers and officials alike hailed the town hall meeting as a ground-breaking step towards improving the intolerable working conditions of garment workers. Δ

Immigration

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Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) figures show that only 23% of immigrants during the 1980's were undocumented—1.25% of the total U.S. population. The stereotype of the “illegal alien” in the past has been Mexican, now it is Chinese. However, this fall's New York City Planning Department estimates, based on INS figures, show that the largest groups of undocumented immigrants in New York State are Ecuadorian, Italian, and Polish. New York State has more undocumented Italians and Israelis than undocumented Chinese.

“KILL ALL THE FUCKING GOOKS — “... the Asians, the slanty-eyed motherfuckers trying to take away our money and our jobs ... NUKE THE ORIENT AGAIN!

(flier taped in hallway of a midtown Manhattan apartment building, 7/31/93)

More sensational than the image of the illegal, criminal immigrant is the specter of the immigrant as terrorist. A recent *Newsweek* poll showed that 75% of all Americans believe that immigration contributes to terrorism—undoubtedly a reaction to the World Trade Center bombing. Despite the fact that the group charged with the bombing seems to be limited in size and lacks widespread community involvement or support, the bombing has been used to indict the Muslim community as a whole. As we witnessed during the Gulf War, this hysteria leads to bias attacks against the Arab and South Asian communities. Apparently because the media has reported that some of the suspects were, or have lived in buildings with, cab drivers, South Asian cab drivers have reported incidents of harassment and farebeating by riders who blamed them for the bombing.

Economic scapegoating underlies this anti-immigrant hysteria. Recurrent in this country's history is the theme that immigrants are an economic strain and take jobs from “real” Americans. But if we could close the borders today, would we be able to solve the economic problems of this country?

A June *New York Time/CBS News* poll confirmed a trend of increasing hostility to immigration from 1965 to today. Those in favor of maintaining the same level of immigration dropped from 39% in 1965, to 35% in 1986, to 27% in 1993. Those in favor of further limiting the numbers of immigrants rose from 33% in 1965 to 61% in 1993. Many cited economic conditions as the reason. In 1986, when times were better, 43% said that immigrants should be welcomed, whereas 45% said it was not practical to allow more immigration because of hard conditions. In the new poll, the responses were 32% and 60%, respectively.

Many feel that the U.S. has become inundated with refugees who then

require already-tight government funds. Actually, the U.S. ranks fourth in terms of proportion of refugees to total population. Much smaller and poorer countries, such as Malawi and Iran, shelter millions of refugees. Meanwhile, in the U.S. immigrants, as a group, contribute much more to the economy than they take. *Business Week* (7/13/92) reported that immigrants annually paid \$90 billion in taxes and received \$5 billion in welfare.

One source of anti-immigrant hostility is the common perception that they take jobs from the U.S.-born, which has been shown not to be generally true. “Numerous studies suggest that the long-run benefits of immigration greatly exceed any short-run costs. The unskilled jobs taken by immigrants in years past often complemented the skilled jobs typically filled by the native born population, increasing employment and income for the population as a whole.” (U.S. Council of Economic Affairs, 1990 report to the President) It is true that some workers in unskilled jobs have been displaced by immigrants. Given the racism of the labor market, a disproportionate number of these workers have been African American. In addition, economic competition is especially fierce between

recent and more settled immigrants and documented and undocumented immigrants. This tension is evident in the Chinese immigrant community. The solution does not lie in attacking immigration, but in demanding increased enforcement of labor laws, which should be expanded to cover all workers, whatever their status. If all workers have equal protection, employers will be prevented from exploiting the most vulnerable sector of the work force and lowering wages and working conditions for everyone.

Who Are Our Allies?

As our history has shown repeatedly, anti-immigrant sentiment has often been a cover for racism against immigrants of color. In a recent CNN/USA Today Gallop poll, 60% of respondents felt that too many immigrants were coming from Asian, Latin American and Arab countries; 44% thought too many were coming from Africa; whereas only 33% said too many were coming from Europe. Although European immigrants have faced discrimination in the past, their offspring and even the more recent immigrants (e.g. the undocumented Italian and Polish immigrants) are no longer singled out for attack. On the other hand, Asians, Latinos and other immigrants of color, including their U.S.-born descendants, have seen over a hundred years of discrimination, violence, exclusionary immigration laws, racism in the labor market, and wholesale incarcerations (e.g. the Japanese American internment, the prolonged detention of Cuban and Haitian refugees, and the “contingency plan” for detention of Arab Americans).

As Asian Americans, we cannot ignore the danger that anti-immigrant hysteria presents to our entire community. We should not be lulled into a false sense of security because we are U.S.-born or have papers making us “legal.” In recent months, we have seen how incidents involving specific nationalities have led to broad attacks against all immigrants of color and their communities. Our experiences show that we need to unite and identify with these communities, as well as with other communities of color, if we are to reverse these dangerous trends. Δ

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Special thanks to Karen Asakawa

SPEAK YOUR MIND – GIVE US A SHOUT OUT

In order to make our newsletter the best it can be, we invite feedback from the members and supporters of CAAAV.

1. What do you like or dislike about the newsletter? You may comment on the layout, the content, the writing styles, political viewpoints or whatever you like.
2. Are the articles interesting or boring, too long or too short?
3. What kind of articles would you like to see in the newsletter?
4. What can we do to improve the newsletter?
5. When you receive the newsletter, how much of it do you really read?
6. Would you like to join the newsletter committee or contribute an article, poem, cartoon drawing or photo?

We would appreciate any of your comments. Feel free to answer any or all of the questions. Or just drop us a line and tell us what's on your mind. Send your comments to: CAAAV Voice Comments, 191 East 3rd St., New York, NY 10009.

Board of Directors Expands

As part of an ongoing process to increase accountability and communication among CAAAV's many active committees, the Board and membership voted this summer to expand the organization's Board of Directors to include representatives elected by each committee. We welcome the following new Board members:

Kazu Iijima, Newsletter Committee
 Sarita Khurana, Lease Drivers' Coalition
 Ben Lee, Korean Community Organizing Committee
 Frances Lee, Outreach and Education Committee
 Graham Wong, Chinese Community Organizing Committee

In Memory of Bill Kochiyama

May 10, 1921 – October 25, 1993

On October 25th, the Asian American community lost a much loved source of inspiration and support in Bill Kochiyama. Bill was an exceptionally caring, generous, and committed fighter for justice whose lifelong work made that of many others possible.

Along with his family, Bill participated in historic civil rights, anti-war, Asian American, and Third World struggles. He was a veteran of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a founder and director of the Asian Community Center in the 1970's, and a key member of the redress movement that successfully won compensation from the American government for its wartime imprisonment of 120,000 Japanese Americans. Most recently, Bill was active with the David Wong Support Committee.

We will miss Bill Kochiyama's strong but unassuming presence at community events, protests, and, most of all, in the Kochiyama home, where so many of us learned how to battle injustice with love. Thank you for sharing your life and legacy with us, Bill.

CAA AV extends its heartfelt condolences to Yuri, Eddie, Zulu, Akemi, and the rest of the Kochiyama family.

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 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.

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

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- CAAAV Supporter (Includes Voice)—\$25/year.
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- I would like to make a contribution of ____ to support CAAAV's work.

We would like to thank our many individual contributors and the following institutional supporters for making CAAAV's work possible:

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