

CAAAY

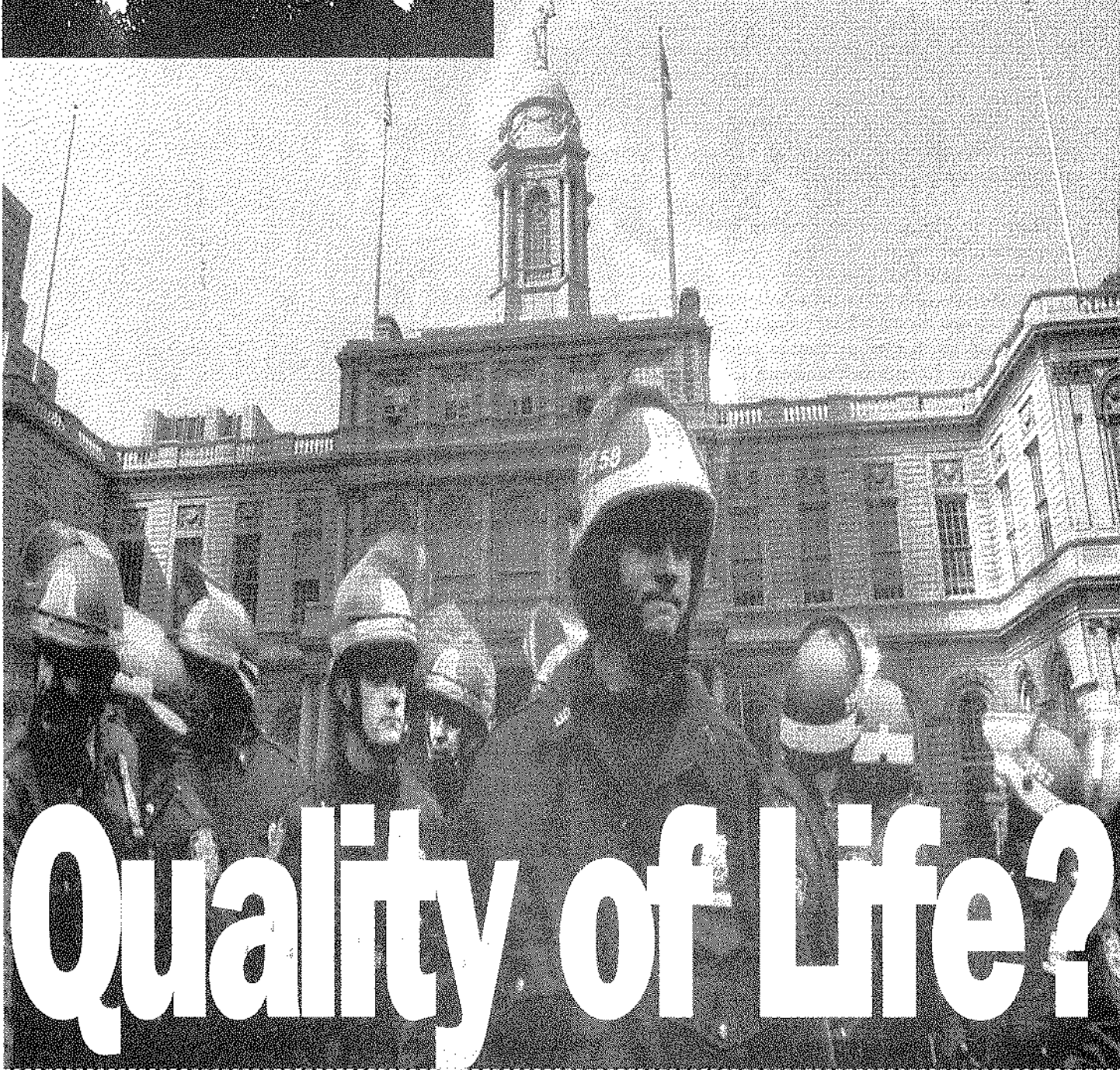
ORGANIZING ASIAN COMMUNITIES

VOICE

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CONTENTS

Editors' Note	2
Quality of Life	3
Community Organizing	6
Local Incidents	8
Struggles for Justice	9
Organizational News	10



Quality of Life?

Editors' Note:

Dear CAAAV Voice Readers,

First, we are pleased to announce that we have changed our name! The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence is now CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities to reflect twelve years of growth and struggle.

In this issue we respond to New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's "Quality of Life" Campaign—which has brought him to national prominence—to expose its anti-immigrant, racist, homophobic, pro-corporate foundations. While promoted as a universally beneficial campaign, it must be understood as a broader right wing move in U.S. politics which despises labor, attacks welfare, public services, the poor, and people of color and increases the polarization between rich and poor.

From our work in different program areas—the Racial Justice Committee, the Women Workers Project, and the Youth Leadership Project—we draw examples of ways that particular Asian immigrant communities are affected by these policies and attacks from the right in general. We discuss the NYPD's attacks on working class Asian youth, the city agencies that act as "border patrol" protecting white "native" Little Italy and Soho from Chinatown merchants, the collusion of the police and a city legal team to harass and abuse Asian sex workers while profiting on the side, the cuts in and privatization of public services that are devastating poor communities.

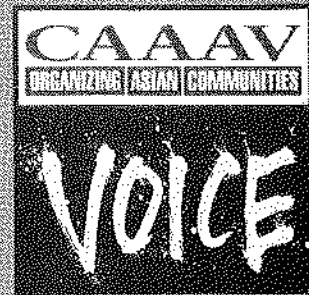
In addition, it's been a busy summer for CAAAV organizing: catch up on the YLP's Summer Institute and its campaign for equal access to health care at Montefiore Family Health Clinic in the Bronx; RJC's work with Chinese youth, and WWP's outreach to Filipina and Korean women workers. CAAAV's projects show how Asian immigrant communities are resisting Giuliani's repressive policies and making ways for change.

As always, stay in touch and send us your feedback.

In Struggle,

The Editorial Collective
October 1998

Founded in 1986, CAAAV organizes New York City Asian immigrant and working class communities to fight for systemic change.



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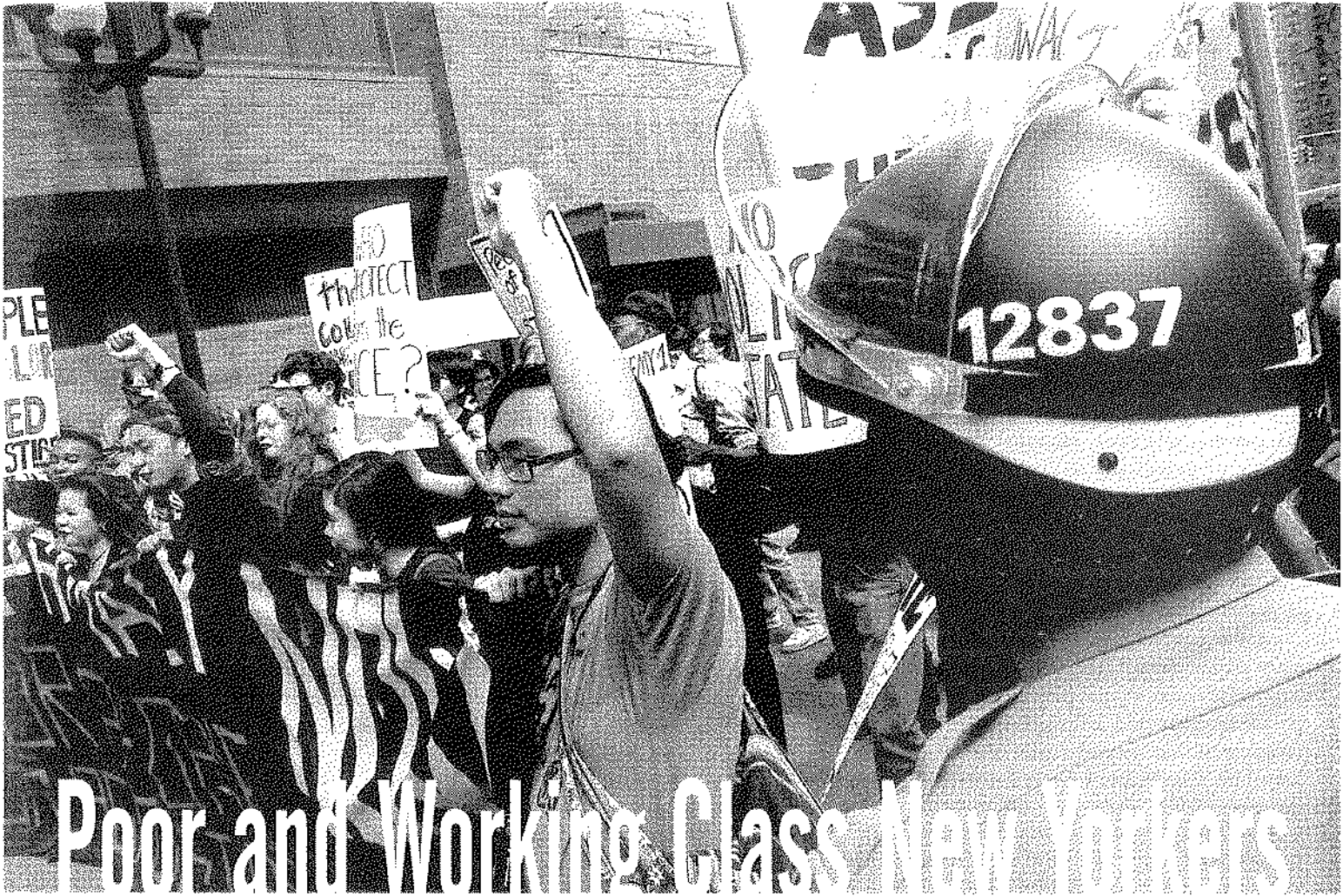
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Poor and Working Class New Yorkers Pay for Giuliani's "Quality of Life"

Reduced crime, safer streets, higher educational standards, more jobs, and polite New Yorkers. Sounds good. All we need is . . .

Public parks under 24-hour covert surveillance. Police shooting youth of color in the back. Street vendors unjustly ticketed and harassed by law enforcement officers. Illegal searches and arrests of youth of color. Armed police in our schools. Low-income neighborhoods contained by police barricades and officers who ask residents for their green cards. Criminalization of social spaces for lesbians, gays, and transgendered people. The elimination of open admissions to public higher education. Welfare recipients forced into hazardous workfare assignments which replace education or job training opportunities and lead to absolutely no jobs.

Framing the "Broken Window" Theory

These are all components of Mayor Giuliani's "Quality of Life" campaign, which ostensibly is geared towards improving the lives of all New Yorkers. The "Quality of Life" campaign is based on sociologist James Q. Wilson's "broken window" theory: if a window is broken, passersby will think no one cares and in time a few will begin throwing rocks to break more windows. The mayor argues that cracking down on minor offenses will prevent bigger crimes. However, his campaign's programs and their consequences are much more far-reaching than revealed in this deceptively simple explanation.

Giuliani is trying to convince New Yorkers that improving our "quality of life" is worth curbing our civil rights and relinquishing government responsibilities to state social control and private business. The consequences have been increased police brutality and killings of people of color and the removal of a safety net for the homeless and the unemployed, the abandonment of free quality education for all, and the continued pervasiveness of institutional racism.

CPR for the Police

Steeped in rhetoric stressing civility and respect—the New York Police Department's slogan is "CPR: Courtesy, Professionalism, and Respect"—Giuliani's Quality of Life campaign promotes businesses and tourism by creating a heavily policed environment which selectively criminalizes communities which are poor, immigrant, and of color. Equated with the national "war on crime", Giuliani's campaign is a product of the rightward trend in U.S. politics: imposing greater social control to meet the needs of big business, while withdrawing government support for the poor.

During Giuliani's two mayoral terms, police presence has increased overall in the city. In the last four years New York City has received over \$400 million in funding under the 1994 Federal Crime Bill. This money is being used to increase the New York Police Department to a record 40,000 officers. Furthermore, as part of the mayor's Quality of Life strategy, Giuliani has consolidated police power and implemented "zero tolerance policing" which

directs street patrol officers to be more vigilant about enforcing minor violations and urges detectives to question suspects in custody about a wide array of unrelated crimes. While community members want drugs and crime out of their neighborhoods, they are then subject to illegal searches, seizures, and brutality by the police. The NYPD plots out their assaults like a military campaign with COMPSTAT, which uses computer mapping to track crime statistics, pinpoint "unusual" activity, and deploy officers.

Giuliani justifies his heavy-handed policing tactics by taking credit for a 40% decrease in overall crime. However, New York City crime rates have been decreasing since Mayor Dinkins' tenure, and, coinciding with the end of a national recession, crime rates also have been falling in other major U.S. cities. In fact, Giuliani's Quality of Life campaign began just as Wall Street rallied, leading to improvements in business and tourism, and private Business Improvement Districts were having their greatest impact in cleaning up the city's most visited commercial areas.

While private businesses profit and Giuliani's policing strategy is embraced nationwide, most New Yorkers bear the cost without the benefits. Accompanying the 8% drop in crime during the first three months of 1998, there was a 24% increase in complaints against NYPD officers filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (i.e. 264 more complaints) as compared to the same period last year. According to the city comptroller's office, brutality claims tripled over this decade. Payments for claims against NYPD officers have also risen from \$19.5 million in 1996 to \$27.3 million in 1997.

Quality of Whose Life?

While targeting the poor and working class of the city with his Quality of Life campaign, Giuliani has done little to address the increasing poverty rate—now at 27%, twice the national average—and rising unemployment. Decent job opportunities are few since, as in many U.S. urban centers, there has been a shift in New York City from an industrial economy to that of a polarized low-paying service and high-paying technology and finance economy. Poor education, the result of a failing public education system, and pervasive discrimination have

made "high skill" jobs unattainable for most people of color.

Meanwhile, following the national trend, Giuliani reduced the number of people on welfare by 320,000, to 780,000, but made little effort for people to find real work. Those receiving Family Assistance, often mothers with young children, are forced into the Work Experience Program ("workfare") to do hazardous, dead-end jobs. Recent studies show that welfare recipients had a better chance of securing liveable-wage jobs prior to the implementation of workfare. Workfare prevents recipients from participating in educational and job skills programs that enable them to enter the job market. Clearly, workfare has been a right-wing tactic for punishing the poor and driving them off of welfare rolls.

The Youth Leadership Project (YLP) has been working closely with Southeast Asian workfare workers. YLP has found that not one of them has found work since the program began, while many have had their benefits stopped for having resisted unreasonable work assignments.

Despite the need for improved, accessible public education to enable people to get decent jobs, the mayor's response has been to cut \$1.6 billion from the NYC public schools' budget, while granting \$1.5 billion in tax breaks to corporations, real estate, and private businesses. Per pupil spending is at an all-time low. (Ironically, Giuliani proposed conducting civility classes in public schools.) The number of 16- to 19-yr-olds who have dropped out of school and are now unemployed in New York City is twice the national average. And Giuliani supported abolishing open admissions at CUNY, making it even harder for working class youth of color to obtain a college education. While the budget of the Youth Services Department was cut by \$15 million in 1996, the NYPD spent an estimated \$10 million on policing youth. Giuliani placed armed police officers in 128 public schools and recently succeeded in getting the Board of Education to relinquish its school safety program to the NYPD. [see "Youth Assaulted by Officers outside his High School" in "Local Incidents"] It is no coincidence that 1 in 14 youths are arrested annually by the NYPD. [see "Working Class Youth Targeted," page 5]

Another aspect of Giuliani's response to the pressing socioeconomic problems facing the city is an attempt to dismantle,

by privatization or cuts in funding, of institutions that often comprise part of the safety net for the poor. Public clinics and hospitals suffered severe cutbacks in funding. Meanwhile, Giuliani pushed for privatization of public hospitals, putting the most financially sound hospitals up for sale. In the face of rising arrests, he slashed by 30% the budget of the Legal Aid Society, a strike not only at quality legal defense of the poor, but also at unionized public service workers. Meanwhile, Giuliani generously funded

several other nonunionized groups, who are not strong advocates of the legal rights of the poor, but are eager to compete for public dollars. Maneuvers such as these not only hurt the most vulnerable in New York City, but also are a windfall for private interests who get city and other public funding for fulfilling these functions without being accountable to the public.

The criminalization and oppression of people of color, especially immigrants, is systemic—from being told to show their

"green card" on their own block to being trapped in low-wage, dangerous jobs and substandard housing. High profile "quality of life" campaigns use law-and-order to attack the most vulnerable targets while covering over underlying socioeconomic problems. The quality of life for people of color is deteriorating as a privileged few reap the benefits of such oppression and exploitation. Only through organized multiracial efforts can we begin to take control over our streets, our labor, our sexuality, our schools, and our lives.

Working Class Youth Targeted

CAAAY's Racial Justice Committee (RJC) and Youth Leadership Project have seen an alarming increase in the number of police brutality cases involving working class Asian youth in Manhattan's Chinatown, Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and in the Bronx. In a survey by RJC, working class youth in Chinatown described having experienced many acts of police abuse: ID checks as a harassment tactic, illegal searches, illegal detainment, collection of illegal mugshots and unwarranted arrests.

The rise in police brutality against Asian youth reflects a city-wide trend in which youth of color face increased brutality, criminalization, and incarceration as a result of Giuliani's racist, anti-youth policies enforced under the banner of improving the "quality of life" in New York City. With little attention given to working-class immigrant youth in the public school system, slashing of government funding for community youth services, and Giuliani's racist police criminalizing youth to drive them out of public spaces, working class youth are increasingly vulnerable to becoming fodder for the prison-industrial complex or tracked as the next generation of a cheap, exploitable labor pool in sweatshops and other low-wage jobs in the informal labor market.

For all of CAAAY's constituencies, Mayor Giuliani's "Quality of Life" campaign has been a common force behind the daily assault waged against low-income immigrant communities which are barely surviving record unemployment, substandard education, inadequate housing, and inferior health care. By using civil law, as well as the police, to regulate, repress, and contain poor people of color, Giuliani has unleashed an unprecedented, all-

out war against poor/low-income communities of color.

Asian Sex Workers Driven Further Underground

As part of Giuliani's "Quality of Life" campaign, the police have been targeting women working in massage parlors and brothels. The women are predominately Asian and Latina immigrants who are excluded from other labor markets and social programs due to race, gender, immigration status, language barriers and isolation from mainstream society. The NYPD has established special prostitution and "public morals" task forces in areas with high concentrations of immigrants, such as Jackson Heights, and Elmhurst. As "easy targets," Asian immigrant sex workers are repeatedly arrested, harassed, solicited for bribes, robbed and assaulted by police officers looking to boost their "crime-fighting" statistics and profit on the side.

In addition, Giuliani's "Quality of Life" 600-member legal team has reopened city codes and ordinances which have been dormant for over 10 years to shut down these businesses every few months. Each time one closes, the city profits from the collection of large fines and the landlords profit off the remaining rent and security deposit (a few thousand dollars), while the women often lose all their possessions because the parlors also serve as their homes. Each time women are arrested, they risk being reported to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and having criminal records which render them deportable under recent federal immigration legislation even if they have legal resident alien status. Giuliani's racist assault has driven most workers further underground into more dangerous and isolated working conditions, such as outcall service. Meanwhile, predominantly white escort agencies for business elites have remained untouched. And, as is

characteristic of "quality of life" initiatives, while certain practices, such as sex work, are criminalized, the conditions which cause these practices are never addressed.

City Agencies Support Efforts to Contain Chinatown

Giuliani's police and enforcement agencies are playing the role of border patrol between Chinatown and SoHo/Little Italy, trying to curb the geographic expansion of Chinatown for local white residents, who disguise their racist agenda behind the banner of improving their "quality of life." On Broome Street, a group of SoHo real estate developers and Little Italy merchants, have tried to close down Chinese and Vietnamese wholesale vegetable merchants by enlisting the police, other agencies, and the civil courts to address their complaints that the Asian merchants are "dirty," "noisy," and threaten "the cultural character of Little Italy," a landmark district. A few blocks away on Mott Street, fish merchants are the targets of unrelenting harassment spearheaded by white residents, whose repeated complaints to the local police, Department of Agriculture and Markets, Sanitation, and other enforcement agencies have resulted in excessive scrutiny and heavy fines for the merchants. [see CAAAY Voice, Spring '98, p.5]

Chinatown, the home, workplace, and marketplace for thousands of immigrants needs to expand to accommodate the steady influx of new immigrants. A decade ago, Chinese small entrepreneurs opened up businesses on the outskirts of Chinatown and built up areas that were once abandoned and dilapidated into safe, populated neighborhoods. A merchant complained, "We were here even before these fancy retailers started entering SoHo. Back then, gunshots went off in broad daylight. We improved the quality of life here, and now they blame us to drive us out."

Community Organizing



This section provides news from CAAAV's three organizing programs:

- Racial Justice Committee (RJC)
- Youth Leadership Project (YLP)
- Women Workers Project (WWP)

RJC Focuses on Police Brutality against Chinese Youth

The Racial Justice Committee (RJC) devoted much of its summer to outreach to Chinatown youth around the issue of police brutality and criminalization. Youth services have been cut drastically and employment opportunities for young people have gone down while funding for the police and prison system have increased.



At RJC's September 10 rally in front of D.A. Hynes' office, family members of people killed by the police, members of community groups, Asian American activists and YLP organizers demonstrated for justice.



On August 21, Southeast Asian community members took over Montefiore Family Health Clinic.

While public areas, such as parks, have always been contested terrain for young people, they are increasingly the sites for rampant police harassment.

RJC organizers outreached to youth in parks and youth programs in Chinatown to build support for Nick Szeto, a 24-year-old Chinese man who was beaten by police officers in Brooklyn [see "Local Incidents"]. They gathered one thousand signatures on petitions and also encouraged youth to come out to a September 10th rally in front of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes' new office to demand that Hynes drop the false charges against Nick and prosecute the officers who brutalized him. As a result of the campaign, Hynes has agreed to delay prosecution of Szeto while his office investigates Szeto's claim of police brutality.

Although the end of summer means that some youth will be heading back to school, RJC will continue outreaching to youth about Szeto's case. Through police brutality workshops this summer, RJC met many young people who are concerned with the issue of police violence. For the rest of the year, RJC will continue to advocate for survivors of police brutality and to organize youth to fight racist law enforcement in Chinatown.

YLP Youth

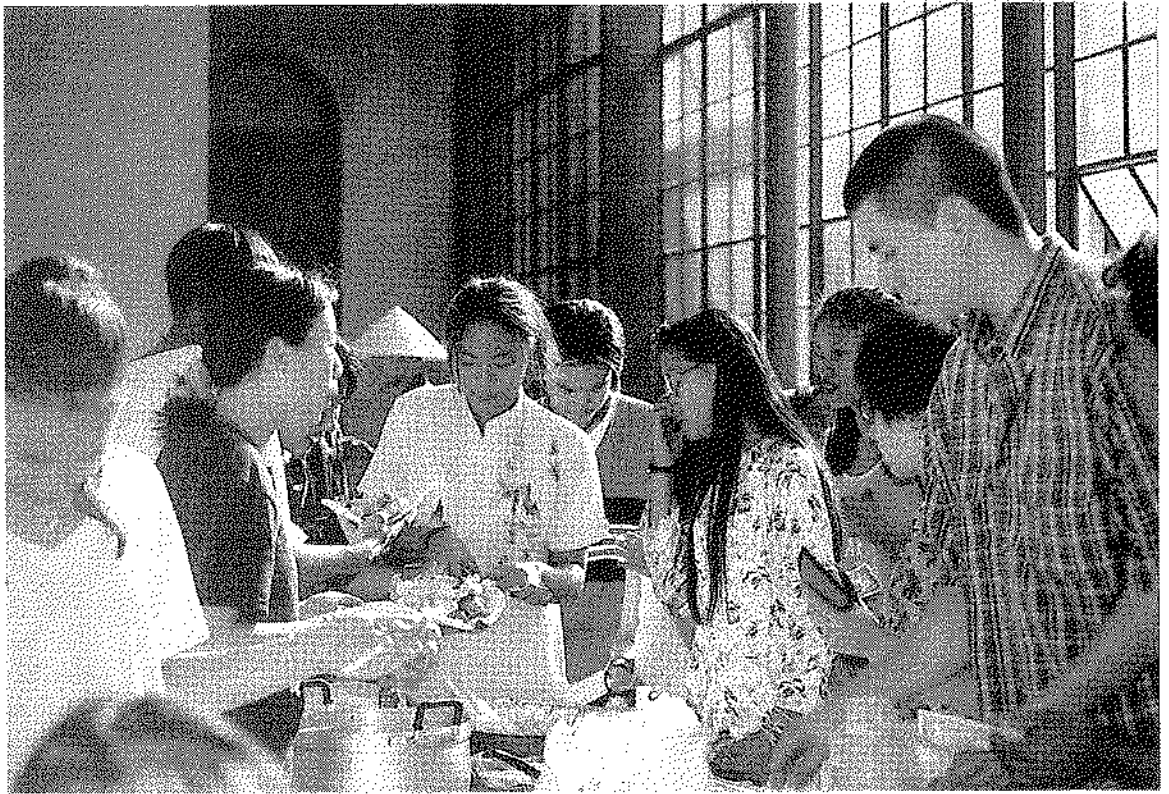
The Youth Leadership Project (YLP) had an extremely busy and challenging

summer. Along with the 1998 Summer Institute training for new organizers and its annual day camp for children in the community, YLP also sustained an active community organizing campaign throughout the summer.

YLP continued its campaign for Vietnamese and Cambodian translators—to increase accountability at the Montefiore Family Health Clinic in the Bronx and to resist the corporatization of health care for poor, inner-city residents. [see *CAA AV Voice*, Spring '98, p.4] In August, YLP and Southeast Asian community members marched into the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to protest a meeting that it was having with Montefiore that excluded community members. The protesters succeeded in getting a meeting with OCR director Michael Carter. Reversing an earlier stance, Carter promised to discuss their findings and recommendations with the community.

Later that month, YLP engaged in a civil disobedience (sit-in) action at the Montefiore clinic. Demanding a meeting with the president, patients, children, concerned community members, and YLP youth organizers, trainees, and volunteers occupied the clinic for four hours. When Montefiore brought in the police (and a paddy wagon) to make arrests, the protesters waited until the first warning and then stormed out together to join the cheering demonstrators outside. The action increased com-

At the third annual community event on August 29, YLP's organizers, trainees, and volunteers serve food during the intermission.



munity and external support and put Montefiore "on notice"—resulting in a noticeably quicker response to Southeast Asian patients' needs at the clinic. While the Office of Civil Rights continues to investigate Montefiore for Title IV civil rights violations, YLP is working with the community to step up pressure.

Meanwhile, the youth organizers and trainees organized the 3rd annual Southeast Asian community event, "Voices heard: our struggle of the past, present, and future," also held in August. Preparations included developing a slide show documenting the histories of struggles and resistance of the Southeast Asian community based on interviews conducted and translated into Vietnamese / Cambodian / English, practicing Vietnamese and Cambodian dance performances, completing community surveys on poverty, employment, and welfare, and organizing the information with graphic presentations, doing outreach and getting donations, coordinating volunteers, cooking food to sell, and preparing information booths for the event. All the hard work and dedication paid off. The community event filled the hall—and the event was highly praised by all who attended.

YLP is also beginning a campaign to organize Southeast Asian workfare moth-

ers. Under the Giuliani regime, many of the women in the community have been forced to work for their welfare checks. They are usually assigned to jobs which don't allow for adequate child care, violate the city's own occupational health and safety regulations, and offer no job skills training. Some of the youth organizers have been advocating for workfare workers throughout the year. Along with linking up with existing organized efforts, YLP will be launching an organizing project this winter.

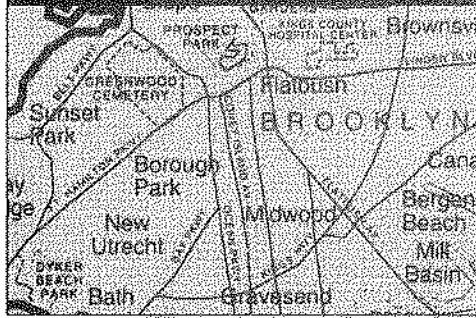
WWP Outreaches to Asian Women Workers in the Informal Service Sector

In the current global economy, Asian women's labor is a commodity in high demand. Manufacturing runs off to set up shop in nations where cheaper labor may be found. Meanwhile, Asian women migrate to the U.S. in search of a means to support families in their home countries where local economies have been decimated by debts to international lending corporations and decades of U.S. military aggression. The Women Workers Project (WWP) has been focusing on Asian immigrant women workers in New York City

who work in the informal service sector and are particularly vulnerable to employers because of immigration status, criminalization, sexual harassment and assault, isolation and poverty, as well as violence by the INS, police, and other law enforcement institutions.

WWP has focused its outreach and organizing efforts on Korean massage parlor workers and, more recently, Filipina domestic workers. In addition to providing some legal advocacy for massage parlor workers, WWP has been conducting English classes in a Korean massage parlor in Manhattan. The classes serve to both provide practical information and English language skills, and bring out issues of violence and other working conditions. Many of the challenges facing women working in massage parlors stem from both their criminalized status as workers (and often as undocumented immigrants), because of racist law enforcement and immigration policy, and stigmatization from the Korean community at large. Filipina domestic workers are also primarily undocumented and isolated, due to their restrictive, live-in situations. WWP has recently launched a project where workers gather monthly to discuss and strategize around issues which they have identified as most pressing.

Local Incidents



This year, CAAAV has seen an alarming increase in the number of police brutality cases involving working class Asian youth, a result of the criminalization of youth of color by police enforcing Giuliani's racist, anti-youth "quality of life" policies. Below are some examples.

Chinese Driver Assaulted by Officers

In May 1998, Nick Szeto, a 24-year-old Chinese man, was stopped for minor infractions and then severely beaten by police officers in the Coney Island area of Brooklyn. Nick was driving with his Chinese girlfriend when Police Officer Gleason and two or three other officers pulled the car over and noted that Szeto was not using his seat belt and the car's license plate was in the rear window rather

than attached to the rear bumper. The officer took Szeto's license and registration and went back to his patrol car for a long time. When Szeto's girlfriend went to ask how much longer they would have to wait, Officer Gleason yelled out racist and sexist epithets. Szeto then got out of the car, offered an apology to the officer and asked him not to yell at his girlfriend. When Szeto turned to return to his car, Officer Gleason came up from behind and pushed Szeto to the ground. The other officers joined in, hitting and kicking Szeto, mostly in the back of the head, to unconsciousness. After being hospitalized, Szeto was wrongfully charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. His case is still pending. CAAAV is organizing community support for his case [see "Community Organizing"].

Youth Assaulted by Officers outside his High School

KC was assaulted by the 107th Precinct youth officers outside of his school, John Bowne High School, in Fresh Meadows, Queens on April 22, 1998. As he was entering the school, the officers stopped KC for his identification card, which he had left at home. The officers then threw KC against their patrol car and arrested him. KC was falsely charged for crimes he did not commit. In response to this incident the school administration expelled

KC rather than investigating the facts and holding the officers accountable. KC was forced to take GED classes for his high school diploma.

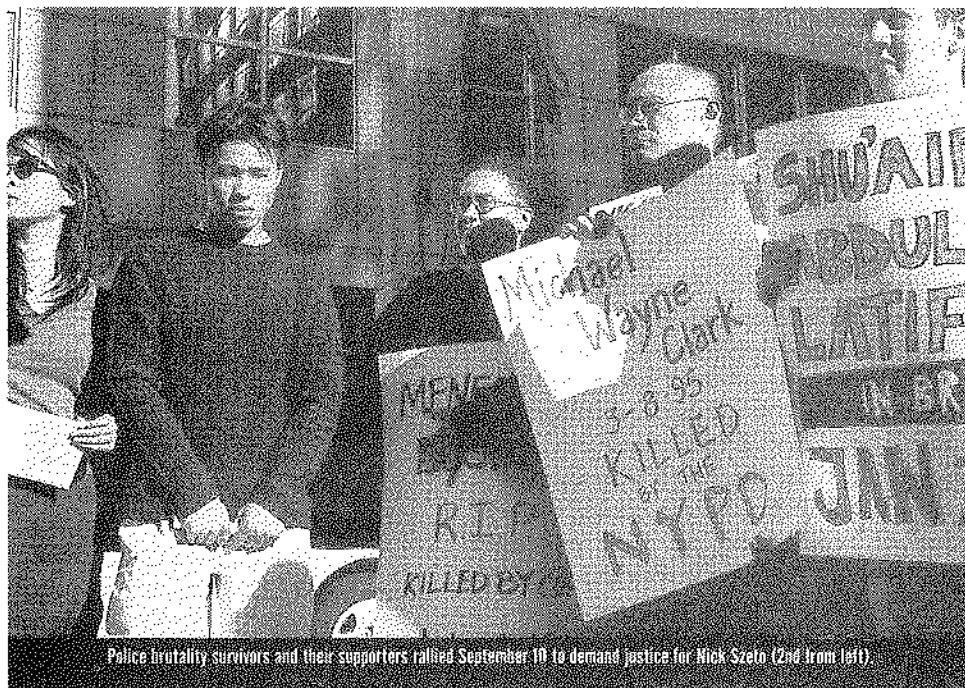
Manhattan Chinatown Family Harassed by Police

In April 1998, 5th Precinct police, looking for RC, a young Chinese man who was accused of being involved in an argument with another youth, repeatedly harassed and threatened his family. The police barged into RC's family home without knocking or presenting a search warrant. One officer threatened RC's older brother, who had applied to join the police force, saying he would make sure the brother was not admitted to the NYPD. A week later, the same officer spoke with RC's sister, disclosing personal information he had unearthed about her. RC's brother called the Civilian Complaint Review Board to file a complaint, but his call was never returned.

On June 14, the same officers arrested and detained RC's younger brother at the 5th Precinct for no apparent reason. The police took polaroid photos of the brother and his friends and then took him to the precinct. After spending the evening there, RC's brother was released with no explanation for his arrest and without being charged with a crime.

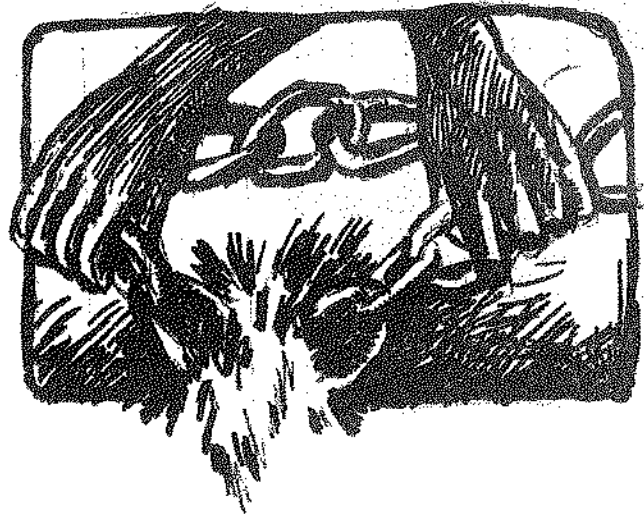
Victim of Assault Wrongfully Arrested, Friends Harassed

RZ, a young Chinese man, was assaulted in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn on March 21, 1998 by a white man and then wrongfully arrested by 62nd Precinct officers. RZ and his friend were fixing a car while it was parked on the street. The owner of a motorcycle parked next to the car inexplicably attacked RZ, trying to choke him. (RZ believes his attacker mistakenly thought he was trying to steal his motorcycle.) Although RZ fought back only in self defense, his attacker reported him to the police. The police, without hearing RZ's side of the story, refused to arrest RZ's attacker and instead told RZ to round up his friends for a line-up. The police took mugshots of RZ and all his friends, then wrongfully arrested and charged RZ for crimes related to the incident.



Police brutality survivors and their supporters rallied September 10 to demand justice for Nick Szeto (2nd from left).

Struggles For Justice



Mrs. O's Rapist Convicted

As we go to press, Joon Ho Chin was convicted of rape in the first degree by a Queens County jury.

On October 15, 1997, a Korean woman, known publicly as "Mrs. O" was raped in Queens, New York, by her employer and immigration sponsor. The Justice for Mrs. O Coalition, led by members of CAAAV, formed to ensure that the Queens District Attorney's office prosecute the case to the fullest extent of the law. [see CAAAV Voice, Spring '98, p.4]

After months of pressure from the Coalition and community members, the case against Mrs. O's rapist was heard by a grand jury. The perpetrator, Joon Ho Chin, was indicted for rape and assault in April 1998. Since then the Coalition has reorganized under the leadership of other community organizations—Rainbow Center, Korean American Family Service Center, Korean Exposure and Education Program, and Korean American Women's Association—to form the Ad Hoc Coalition for Korean Rape Survivors along with CAAAV. The Ad Hoc Coalition, with the sup-

port of other groups, continued to monitor the D.A.'s handling of the legal case and conducts community education around issues of rape and sexual assault in the Korean community.

The courage of the survivor and the work of the community organizations, have been instrumental in beginning a public discourse on rape and sexual assault in the Korean community locally and nationally.

City-Wide Coalition Expands Work Against Police Brutality

Established in late 1996, the NYC Coalition Against Police Brutality

(CAPB) joins the forces of grassroots, community-based groups who are fighting police brutality. The founding organizations – Audre Lorde Project, CAAAV, Forever in Struggle Together, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, and Malcolm X Grassroots Movement – serve African diaspora, Asian, Latino, lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited, and transgendered people of color communities. CAPB just issued its first newsletter "All Points Bulletin," is working on Racial Justice Day 1999, and is planning a city-wide conference on alternatives to police in the schools.

Contact CAAAV for more information.

CAAAV members and staff, including YLP organizers, showed their support on July 25, 1998 for a rally and march protesting 100 years of U.S. colonialism and demanding independence for Puerto Rico. CAAAV marched with other Asian activists to demonstrate Asian solidarity.



Readers Take a Stand

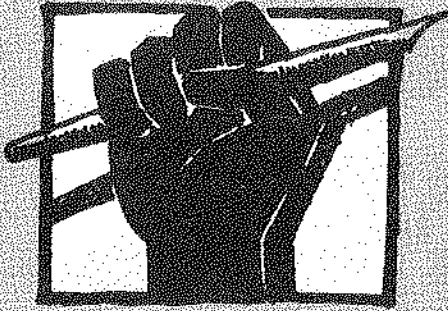


Illustration: Joe Mee Kim

The Philippine Centennial Celebration

100 years of Self-Delusion: No Flag Waving Where I'm From

by Minette Hinonangan

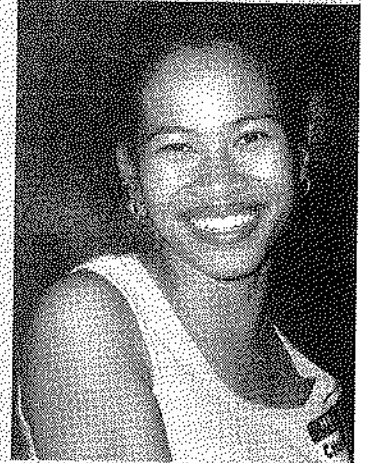
An inevitable by-product of colonialism, oppression is a given reality. When the capacity for self-determination—to decide and choose for oneself and one's people—is made by another country, then without a doubt, the celebration of 100 years of freedom for the Philippines is an empty nationalist fervor, devoid of true self and national meaning. When the Philippine government denied a renewal of the land lease for American bases in 1992, Filipino nationalists rejoiced because for once their people had stood up against power. But of course reality set back in, as now the United States is again involved in an undertaking to repossess these lands for financial development. With monetary and military backing it is no debate what will happen next, as parcels of the archipelago will continually be outside the Filipino people's control and jurisdiction.

The destiny of the Philippines, this imagined space, rests on the strength of its leaders. They must have the courage to stand up not only for what is politically and economically best for the country, but also for what is inherently right—where self-determination for their people is never compromised by any means. Until then they can keep convincing themselves for another one hundred years that they are free.

Organizational News

Fall Intern

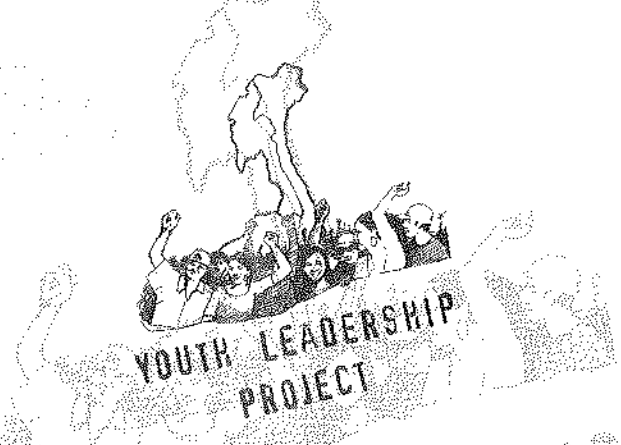
Chhaya Chhoun is one of CAAAV's first youth organizers, completing the Youth Leadership Project's pilot summer program in 1995. Since 1996, Chhaya has become a central leader in virtually every YLP campaign and organizing project. In addition to providing leadership for the Southeast Asian community in the Bronx, Chhaya has demonstrated strong support for other community struggles for justice. Her compassion, dedication, and unwavering strength in the face of adversity inspires and instructs us all. We are very lucky to have her join staff as a part-time intern for YLP.



Summer Interns

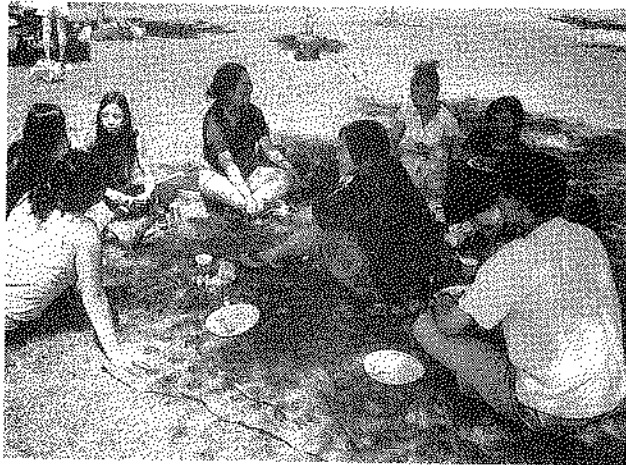
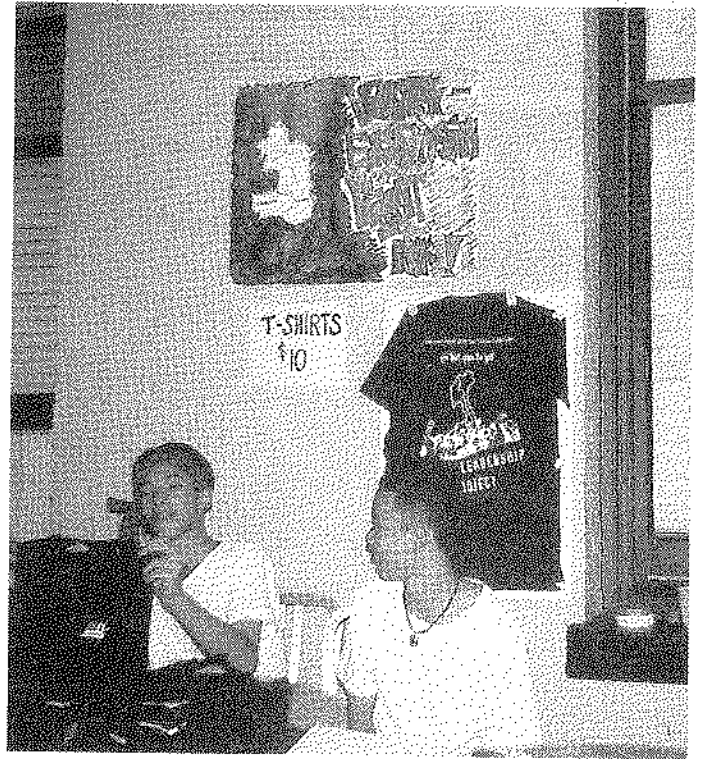
This year's summer interns had a full two months, combining program area work with political education sessions organized by CAAAV staff. Pictured here, left to right, are Veasna Pot, Chun Xia Wang, Thoul Tong, Chhaya Chhoun, and Jessica Liem.

SUPPORT CAAAV AND ITS YOUTH ORGANIZERS!



Designed by the Southeast Asian youth organizers of CAAAV's Youth Leadership Project, this T-shirt is part of the organizers' grassroots fundraising efforts. The image was created by CAAAV member, Joe Mee Kim. The 100% cotton T-shirts are dark blue with CAAAV's new logo in the front left corner. The back displays the image above and "Youth Leadership Project" in Vietnamese and Khmer.

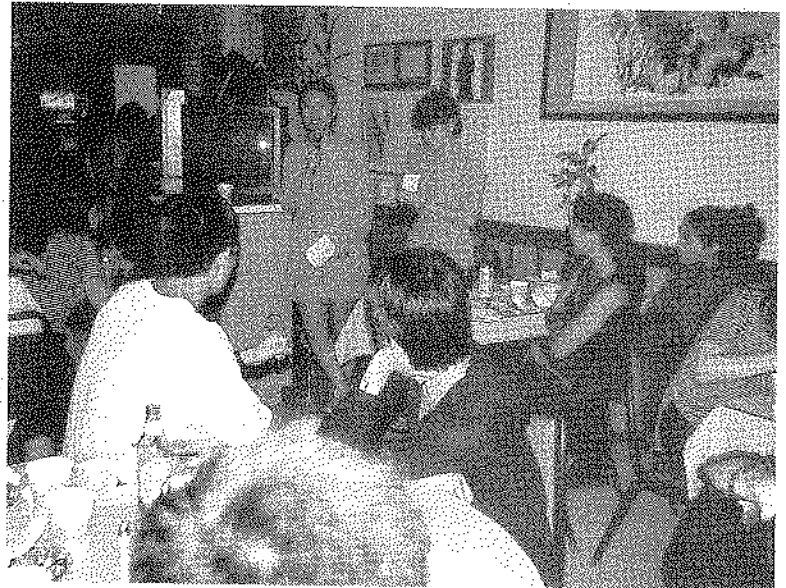
The price is \$12 plus shipping/handling (\$3.50 for 1st shirt, \$1.50 for each additional). Send note specifying size (S/M/L/XL), quantities, and your mailing address, along with a check payable to CAAAV.



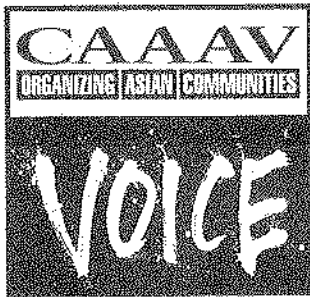
On Sunday, July 26th, we held our first annual picnic for CAAAV organizers and friends at Riverbank State Park to celebrate the work we accomplished in the past year. Folks from all program areas had a blast playing handball, football, hanging out and eating.



Women Workers Project members catch their breath at the WWP Dance Party Fundraiser on September 19 at CAAAV member Christine Lee's house in Brooklyn.



The Racial Justice Committee organized a film screening and dinner at CAAAV member Xia Wang's father's restaurant on August 21st to raise funds for CAAAV and awareness for RJC's work in Chinatown. Catherine Tang and Amy Lee were great emcees and Ai-jen Poo, CAAAV staff, read a moving poem in memory of Yong Xin Huang.



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*Donations may be acknowledged in future issues of the CAAAV Voice unless otherwise specified.

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