

# CAAUV VOICE

v12no1 . Spring 2003



## WAR ABROAD WAR AT HOME

## MOVEMENT EMERGENCY

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# EDITORS' NOTE

As Operation: Iraqi Freedom winds down, revealing its true intentions of full-scale occupation and colonization, the focus of U.S. aggression outside its borders will inevitably shift to the Korean peninsula, in addition to Syria, Indonesia, Iran, and the Philippines. In the meantime, the intensified attack on immigrant communities of color, the poor, and Muslims within the U.S. continues unabated. The world is aligned anew. And we're not just talking about the not-so-new world order that came into sharp focus with the unilateral slaughter of Iraqis. We're talking about the new alignment of world forces that now stand squarely against U.S. Empire. Never before in this age of globalization have so many said "NO" to U.S. bribes, corruption and coercion.

For Asian Americans, the need to struggle against the hostility and racism of U.S. foreign and domestic policy has never been clearer. In this issue of the CAAUV Voice we offer a few of the many ways in which Asian communities in the U.S. are resisting the wars waged on our communities; old assaults wearing new clothes. For instance, how different is the increased INS detention and deportation of Asian immigrants from xenophobic policies as old as the Chinese Exclusion Act? And while the profiling and required registration/detention of those from Muslim countries clearly echoes racial profiling of Black and Brown folks, it also finds precedent in the Japanese internment camps of WWII.

If there were any question about the parallels between old and new U.S. aggressions, an April Newsday article that examines U.S. soldiers' attitudes towards Iraqis dismisses any doubt. One corporal from Louisiana explains his perception this way: "They're all just ragheads to me, the same way they used to call the enemy 'gooks' in Vietnam." Another corporal from Kentucky explains who he considers a "raghead:" "Anybody who actively opposes the United States of America's way.. if a little kid actively opposes my way of life, I'd call him a raghead too."

This issue is dedicated to all of us — ragheads/gooks/freedom fighters — committed to struggle and resistance.

JEE KIM . AI-JEN POO . TSUYA YEE

# v12no1

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**MASTHEAD**

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# RACE AGAINST WAR

Over thirty years ago, the United States experienced unprecedented social and political domestic upheaval as Americans from all walks of life stood in opposition to the U.S. war in Vietnam (and the surrounding Southeast Asian nations of Laos and Cambodia).

By 1969, the vast majority of the country was opposed to the war. The core of this oppositional movement was a new generation of political activists concerned about bringing an end to colonization and imperialism in exchange for self-determination.

Today, as a U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq is upon us, it's hard to imagine that we can build an anti-war movement that resembles the one 30 years ago since terms such as colonization, imperialism, self-determination, or even "racism" seem to not apply to this war with Iraq. No doubt, part of this is due to the conservative media that is largely owned and operated by the pro-war right. Others may argue that it's because Saddam Hussein is an indefensible dictator who is living in a post-9/11 world. How can we talk about U.S. imperialism and self-determination in relation to Saddam?

And yet the grim facts of the on-going U.S. war against Iraq are clear. In 1991, the U.S. killed 100,000 Iraqis. Over the past twelve years, U.S.-led sanctions on Iraq

have killed one million people, over half of them children. The Iraqi death toll from this latest war and now occupation is uncertain, but is likely to result in the hundreds of thousands. Meanwhile, the U.S.-funded Israeli program to drive out all Palestinians from their homeland has intensified over the past two years, especially after September 11, 2001. The Israeli government has implemented a full siege of Palestinian communities, destroying what remains of Palestinian infrastructure, and imprisoning or killing with impunity those who dare resist — or those "suspected" of resisting — this onslaught.

Here too, many of those killed are children. If today we were to look for a flashpoint for blind military aggression against civilians, or for a full-scale program of apartheid and colonization, we need not look any further than the Israeli occupation of Palestine. In this context, how can we not speak of the on-going and impending "new" war against Iraq in terms of colonization, self-determination, and, yes, racism?

The role of the racial justice movement is to do just that — to elevate the racial dimensions of the war, and then make connections to other forms of oppression, particularly

CONTINUED • PG. 4



Only the People  
Can Stop the War!

RACE CHILDREN ASK  
WHAT HAVE  
WE DONE?

gender and sexual oppression. Elevating the race, gender, and sexual dimensions of the current war is no easy task. There are certainly forces within the broader anti-war movement who will view this as a "clouding" of the "real issue" of militarism. Others may simply disagree with our analysis that the war is racist. As such, we need to organize ourselves to be front and center in the broader anti-war movement, intervening in the movement's anti-war messaging, ensuring that speakers who are concerned with the racial, gender, and sexual dimensions of the war are taking up a good share of the airtime. This is a struggle within a struggle. But history is on our side.

When we look back at the movement to end the war in Vietnam, we find that the racial justice movement played a central role in shaping opposition to the war. Indeed, the Civil Rights Movement provided the moral backbone of the anti-war movement that emerged in the 1960s. In its struggle to end Jim Crow and the wave of racist violence that consumed the nation in the post World War II period, the Civil Rights movement taught the nation that the history of the U.S. was not so much about achieving democratic ideals as it was about denying democratic rights to people of color, indigenous peoples, women, immigrants. On the heels of the Civil Rights movement emerged several Third World people's movements within the United States, as well as Women of Color/ Third World women's movements and a movement among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Two-spirit peoples. All of this intersected with the movement to end the war in Vietnam. Moreover, these movements provided the moral conscience of the anti-war effort because they connected the denial of full democratic rights and the onslaught of racial violence at home to the denial of self-determination and the blind U.S. militarism abroad. This point was driven home by Muhammad Ali who, upon resisting the draft in 1967, proclaimed, "No Vietnamese ever called me nigger."

By 1968, the Civil Rights movement provided its biggest boost to the anti-war effort, as Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference took a clear stand against the U.S. invasion of Vietnam. King, who at the time was making deeper connections between racial violence and poverty, stated that there was no way he could — on a political or moral level — justify a war where poor Black people were sent abroad to kill poor Asians. King was assassinated shortly after making public his position against the war.

By the early 1970s, the Nixon administration was feeling the pressure of the anti-war movement. The overwhelming majority of Americans opposed its continuation. As

U.S. boys back home," rather it was to stop the racist killings of millions of Vietnamese and to assert the right to self-determination of the Vietnamese people. Here, again, the racial justice movement played a key role in elevating the moral stakes of the anti-war effort. Without the racial justice movement, the anti-war effort would not have succeeded.

When we look at today's anti-war movement, we are compelled to ask ourselves: where is its moral backbone? Where will its resolve come from? There are no clear answers yet. But if we take our cue from history, we can perhaps point to the emerging movement of Third World people and people of color who are resisting the damaging effects of globalization and free trade. Before the

## **WE NEED TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES TO BE FRONT AND CENTER IN THE BROADER ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT... ENSURING THAT SPEAKERS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE RACIAL, GENDER, AND SEXUAL DIMENSIONS OF THE WAR ARE TAKING UP A GOOD SHARE OF THE AIRTIME.**

a response, Nixon decided to fully implement a plan known as the "Vietnamization" of the war, withdrawing U.S. troops and replace them with Vietnamese soldiers. Nixon thought there would be less opposition to the war if the body bags were filled with Vietnamese soldiers instead of U.S. troops. Vietnamization caused rifts in the movement, as some anti-war forces did indeed let down their guard once news of a withdrawal of U.S. troops surfaced. But the Asian American movement stood up to Vietnamization, demanding that the broader anti-war movement consider the lives of the Vietnamese as equally valuable. The Asian American movement argued that Vietnamization was a racist program with one goal: to increase the death toll of the Vietnamese people. Asian Americans argued that the goal of the anti-war movement was not to "send

advent of the "New War on Terrorism," Third World people and people of color around the world were leading an international struggle to stop the destruction and loss of democratic rights brought on by globalization and free trade. Globalization has allowed multinational corporations to steal land, to exploit the local workforce, to collapse the social welfare state, to encourage militarism and repression by the elite classes, and to promote dictatorship. In Latin America, Asia, and Africa, new people's movements have emerged to resist the effects of globalization. In the United States and elsewhere in the western world, people of color and immigrants have also been building new struggles to resist the local impacts of globalization: anti-immigration laws, the expansion of the prison industrial complex, the expansion of the sweatshop economy.





The movement against globalization — and the new forms of racial, gender, sexual, and anti-immigrant oppression that it encourages — now intersects with the movement to stop the war against the Iraqi and Palestinian people. On February 15, 2003, millions of Third World people and people of color around the world marched against the war in Iraq. In some Third World cities, the protest was the largest public demonstration in its history. While it is too soon to tell where today's anti-war movement is headed, it is clear that we need not start from scratch. The anti-war movement can find its inspiration and vision for a new world among those who have been courageously defending their communities against neo-colonialism and Empire disguised as the global market. For these freedom fighters, global capitalism and militarism have long been viewed as a two-headed monster. The multinational corporations in the Third World that steal land, exploit workers, and destroy the environment are supported by militarism and state violence. So too, for the Third World immigrant in the United States, exploitative working conditions and impoverished immigrant enclaves are in part the product of state violence. Using indefinite detention and/or deportation as their weapons, state institutions such as the INS terrorize immigrant communities into staying silent, hoping to squash their resistance.

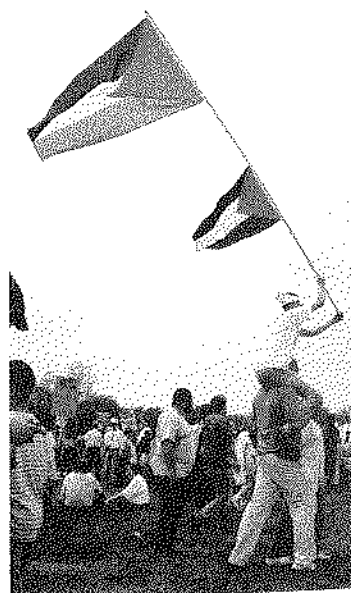
But the people's resistance remains steady and consistent. In the days leading up to the invasion of Iraq, hundreds of millions took to the streets in the U.S. and across the world. In the days following the invasion, hundreds of thousands shut down major cities such as San Francisco. As the war and occupation in Iraq continues to unfold, this resistance—the world's people rising up—will only grow stronger. There is no alternative. The movement against globalization is perhaps now a movement against global capitalism and war for Empire. And, our leaders can be found defending our communities as they have for some time now. ■■■■

**APRIL 20, 2002  
MARCH AGAINST THE WAR, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Third World Within (TWW) organized a delegation of 3 buses to participate in the April 20 March Against the War in Washington, D.C. Third World Within is a coalition of grassroots, people of color led organizations in New York City. CAAAV is a member of TWW.

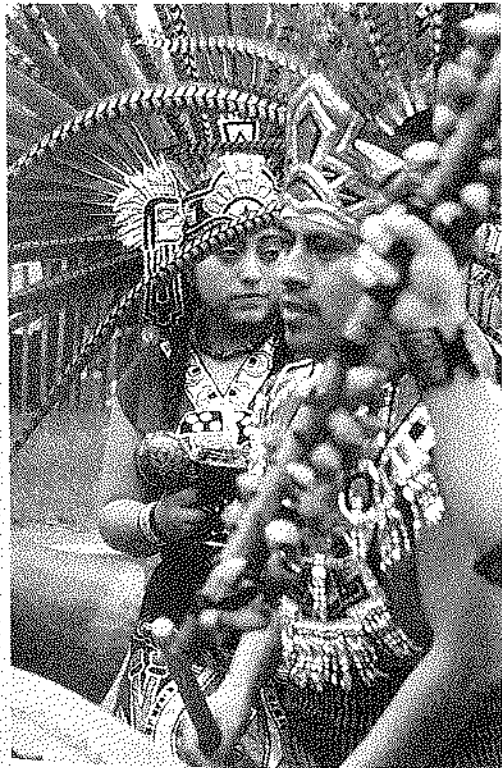


**THIRD WORLD  
WITHIN**





CAAAY VOICE WAVE ASHROAD WAR AT HOME  
MOVEMENT EMERGENCY





# THE U.S. WAR ABROAD AGAINST IRAQ AND THE WAR AT HOME AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR

## STATEMENT BY THE CHINATOWN JUSTICE PROJECT

As young people in Chinatown, we oppose the war on Iraq. War is not and will never be a solution to the problems we face. War brings violence to our communities; it destroys lives, families, and cultures. Once war starts, it never ends easily. It will only create more blood shed, more lives lost, and more suffering. In particular, women, children and the elderly suffer most as a result of war.

U.N. inspection reports claim that Iraq is unlikely to have a nuclear weapons program. People all over the world oppose a U.S. war on Iraq. Yet, Bush continues to push forward with his plans to invade Iraq. Everyday, it becomes clearer that the president of the United States is a dictator. We do not believe that this war is about creating security, freedom, and peace in the world. The true motives behind this war are to assert American control in the Middle East and to reap profits from its rich oil reserves.

We are already experiencing the impact of this war as billions of dollars are diverted from social services, such as education, health care and affordable housing, towards military spending. According to Bush's 2003 proposed budget:

- Military spending will grow 12% to \$396 billion,
- Job training for youth in poor communities will be cut 20%;
- Bush cancelled an increase of \$200 million to help abused children,
- Bush axed more than 20 job-training programs,
- Bush cut \$200 million from new public housing,
- Congress voted down \$1.9 billion in relief to laid-off workers;
- The U.S. military budget will be four times the education and health budgets combined.

To this day, Chinatown, which is only blocks away from Ground Zero, still has not recovered from the losses of 9-11. One-fourth of Chinatown's garment factories closed in

## THIRD WORLD WITHIN

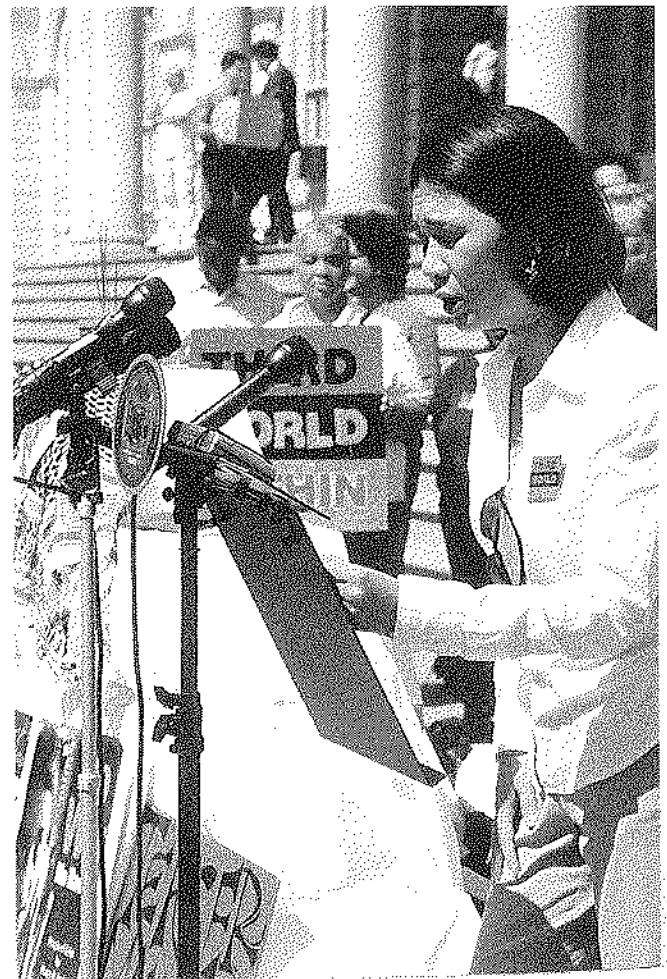
SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

PRESS CONFERENCE @ CITY HALL

TWW organized a press conference on the steps of City Hall to highlight experiences of immigrant communities since 9-11.

[BELOW] WIFE OF DETAINEE SPEAKS OUT ON THE UNJUST DEPORTATION OF HER HUSBAND AFTER 9-11

[RIGHT] JENNIFER MASIS, HUSBAND AND ORGANIZER WITH WOMEN WORKERS PARADEY OF GAAAY





1992. Chinatown business revenues declined 20 percent, and 8,000 Chinatown workers lost jobs.

Governor Pataki recently proposed drastic budget cuts and a \$1200 tuition hike for all CUNY and SUNY students. As students, we have the right to learn and study, yet the government thinks it's okay to cut its budget for education. Many students we know are already working full-time and part-time to put themselves through school, if we are required to pay higher tuition, some of us will be forced to drop out.

It is estimated that a war on Iraq will cost the United States \$1 billion a day. If a war can be avoided, the money we save can be used to provide jobs and trainings for displaced workers and affordable college education for all students.

Finally, the war on Iraq is a racist war, it is an imperialist war against the Third World and people of color. During the McCarthy era in the 1950's, the United States government took away the rights of Chinese Americans, because communist China was seen as a threat to Western capitalism.

Immigrants in New York Chinatown lived in fear, as thousands were rounded up, detained, interrogated, and deported by the INS. Ten years later, the U.S. invaded Vietnam because it saw Vietnam as a threat to its global power. We lost many people of color in the war as people of color are often placed in the frontlines of battles. Thousands of Vietnamese lost their lives, families, homes, and those who survived still struggle to heal their wounds thirty years later.

Today, the United States government has taken away the civil rights of Arabs and Muslims, who are illegally detained by the INS. Innocent people in the Middle East will lose their lives, families, and homes as a result of U.S. desire for global power.

We must not let history repeat itself. Too many people have suffered enough as a result of war. There are many alternatives the Bush administration can take if its goal is to ensure national security. But a war that kills innocent people should never be the solution.

Peace. No War.

## The Cost of the U.S. War on Iraq and Alternative Ways to Spend This Money

40 min. of war **\$30 million**

**ALTERNATIVE:**  
 Provide job training for all Chinatown workers who lost jobs after 9/11

2 hours **\$107 million**

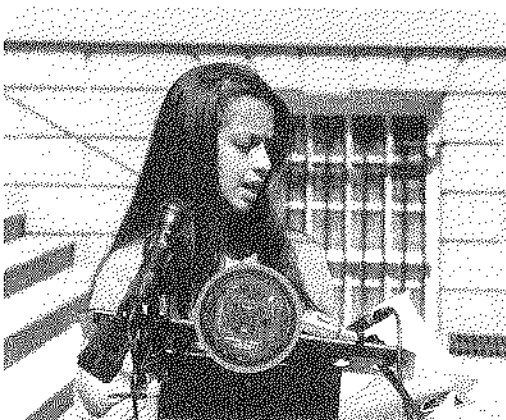
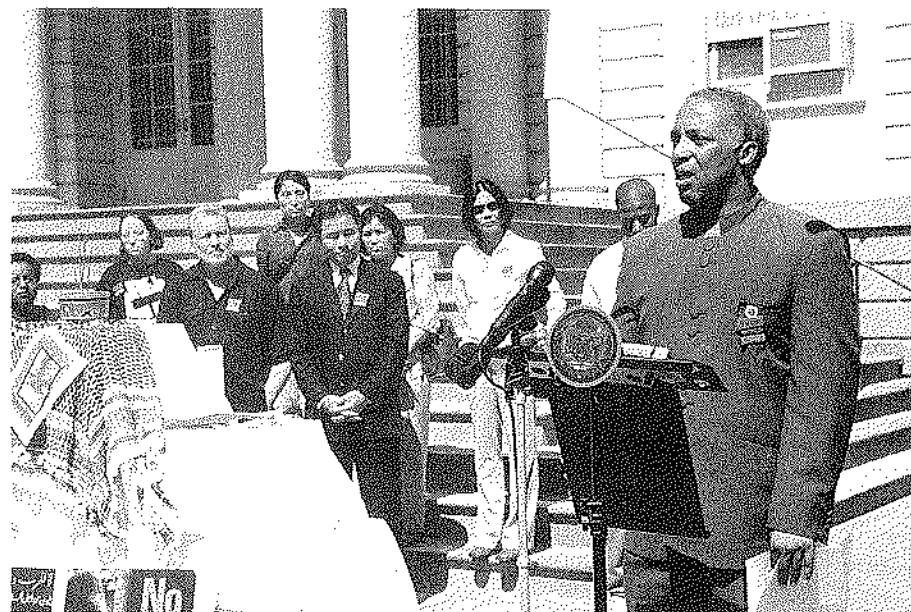
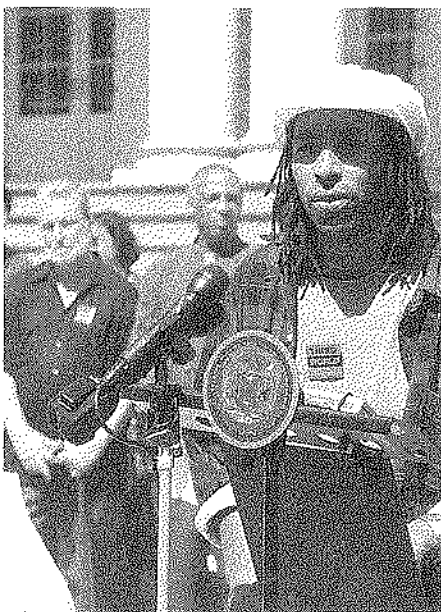
**ALTERNATIVE:**  
 Avoid Governor Pataki's proposal to cut financial aid for CUNY and SUNY students

1/2 day **\$485 million**

**ALTERNATIVE:**  
 Avoid Governor Pataki's proposal to cut the SUNY budget

1/2 day **\$500 million**

**ALTERNATIVE:**  
 Restore Chinatown's garment industry to pre-9/11 operations



**[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT]**

1. OSCAR PABERON OF LATIN AMERICAN WORKERS PROJECT
2. NYC COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES BROWN
3. COMMUNITY ALYAN COMMEMORATING IMMIGRANT LIVES LOST ON 9-11 AND AFTERWARDS
4. MEGHANA PABERON OF BUSH IS GIVING UP AND MOVING

# DEPORTATION

## DESTROYS

SECRET

REPATRIATION AGREEMENT

## FAMILIES

## DISAPPEARS CAMBODIAN REFUGEES

A 22 yr-old Cambodian immigrant living in Providence, R.I.,  
Piseth was not really born in Cambodia. He was born in a refugee camp  
on the border with Thailand, his parents fleeing the bloody persecutions of the Khmer Rouge.

When the militant communist group came to power in Cambodia at the end of the Vietnam War,  
Piseth and his family immigrated first to San Francisco, then South Providence.  
They took refuge in a Southeast Asian community itself struggling against poverty, isolation, and a war-torn history.

### PROVIDENCE YOUTH STUDENT MOVEMENT (PRYSM)

At 19, Piseth had graduated high school, fathered a child, and became caught up in the gang violence that flourished in his neighborhood. He served a 2 year sentence for aggravated assault and, like many incarcerated youth, learned from his mistakes inside prison walls. At the end of his 2 year sentence, he was promptly rearrested by Immigration and Naturalization Service officials on immigration charges and spent another year in an INS detention center. Now, because of an agreement between the U.S. and Cambodian governments signed in March 2002, he faces permanent deportation to Cambodia. "How can I go back?" he says. "I only speak a little Khmer."

Piseth is not alone. He is one of about 50 Cambodians in Providence and over 1400 across the country who have been convicted of what the INS calls "aggravated felonies," and are now awaiting deportation. Many are young men in their mid to late twenties, the main income earners for their families and fathers of American-born children. Though legal residents, they never became citizens and now find themselves facing a second round of federal punishment that extends beyond the statutory terms of their original sentences. Leng, for example, who served a total of 7 years at state prison and INS detention centers for robbing a drug dealer, feels the renewed punishment of deportation is unjust. "Since I got out, I go to school, go to work, stay out of trouble. I'm 28 now. I learned so much. I grew up in prison, my mind is clear. I came out good, I feel that I should be given a second chance."

In 1996, President Clinton approved the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act, which clamped down on the rights of immigrants, while granting the INS freer reign to police and detain them. It eliminated judicial discretion in the handling of immigration policy and INS procedure and lowered the bar for determining what crimes merit deportation. Before 1996, a non-citizen convicted of a crime bearing a sentence of 5 years or more was subject to deportation. Now, the bar has been lowered to one year, allowing shoplifting, minor drug possession, and drunk driving to be classified as "aggravated felonies." Karl Kruger, an immigration lawyer at the International Institute of Rhode Island says, "These one sentence they used to give out like water. Now, because Congress changed the rules, it's a huge problem. Every week we see people written up for relatively minor offenses." Furthermore, the deportation agreement between the U.S. and Cambodia was not reached without some arm-twisting. According to former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Kent Wiedemann, the U.S. State Department threatened to

withhold visas from Cambodians seeking to enter the United States if Cambodia would not accept deportees.

Previously, Cambodians convicted of aggravated felonies could be held in INS detention indefinitely, because Cambodia would not accept them. Narrak, who also grew up in South Providence and was convicted of weapons possession as a teenager, spent 4 years being shuttled to different INS detention centers, not knowing if he would be released. "They consider you a 'lifer,' cause you don't have no release date," he explains. For the past year he has been working at a textile factory in Fall River. He works the 11 pm to 7 am shift, then waits for an hour before taking his 5 year-old daughter Angela to preschool. He pays taxes and child support and takes Angela clothes shopping every 2 months. He dreads having to explain to her why he won't be able to pick her up for school anymore if and when he is deported.

While Cambodians are not the only immigrant community to have suffered under the '96 laws, the current political climate in Cambodia makes their fate particularly precarious. The country has taken steps towards democracy since the nightmarish dictatorship of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, but the current Prime Minister, Hun Sen, does not represent a clean break from Cambodia's violent past. Human rights organizations report that violence and physical repression are still commonplace means of ensuring electoral victory, and incidents of torture and other mistreatment have also been documented in Cambodian prisons. The deportees also face a hostile welcome from the general public. The Cambodian press has painted them as "dangerous felons," and many Cambodians harbor resentment towards those who fled to the U.S. during the bloody purges of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970's and '80s. Many people have already been deported to Cambodia and upon their arrival officials hid them at undisclosed locations for fear of mob violence, though no attacks have been reported.

The response of the Cambodian Community in Providence has been mixed. "You can't get the Cambodian community to do anything until it drops on their head" says Motty Soum. Soum recalls trying to get people to come to the State House during the welfare reform hearings of 1996, which directly affected the amount of aid Cambodian families would receive. "People say, 'if I go or if I don't go, nothing will change.' They don't believe in government change." There are also more conservative members in the Cambodian community, who feel deportation is just punishment for Americanized kids who stray from the values and traditions of their elders.

**BEFORE 1996, A NON-CITIZEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME BEARING A SENTENCE OF 5 YEARS OR MORE WAS SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION. NOW, THE BAR HAS BEEN LOWERED TO ONE YEAR, ALLOWING SHOPLIFTING, MINOR DRUG POSSESSION, AND DRUNK DRIVING TO BE CLASSIFIED AS "AGGRAVATED FELONIES."**

On the other hand, a year-old organization called the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM), has been working heavily on the deportation campaign since early July. PrYSM grew out of an alliance between Hope High School and Brown University students, who protested sub-standard education at the high school and the resulting low level of admissions for Latino students at Brown. The group is not specifically Cambodian-American but it has opened up a space for many youth of color in Providence to become more active in advocating for their communities. According to Anmala Douangsavanh, a PrYSM member, "The Laotian Association or the Cambodian Society is like the group of elders back in the home country. The youth organizers have more energy and are more creative about getting the message out."

In early August PrYSM brought over 100 people to the Providence INS office to protest the deportation agreement. They built a large cardboard heart filled with rice and burning incense and children of deportees offered letters to INS security guards, outlining reasons why the deportation procedure is unjust. A rally and BBQ organized by PrYSM this summer drew families from the Southeast Asian communities in Providence and Lowell, Massachusetts, student activists, philanthropist Alan Sean Feinstein, mayoral candidate David Cicilline, and other city council candidates eager to stand in solidarity with their constituents. Ut Doan, a Vietnamese Providence resident who attended the rally, said, "I'm here because my friends are Cambodians. My friend did seven years, he's been out for three. He's a good boy, he's done good, and now they send him a letter that he's being sent back to Cambodia." As Sarath Suong, a co-founder of PrYSM who was born in Thai refugee camps explains, "Cambodian refugees were deposited into pockets of poverty and the community has been struggling ever since its arrival. To deport them is going to increase poverty in their communities."

For many Cambodians, deportation means the tearing apart of families for the second time. Narrak cannot remember his father, who was taken away by the Khmer Rouge when he was 3 months old. He fears Angela will suffer the same loss once he is deported. "I always want to see his face, how he looks like. My daughter sees me all the time now. If I leave now, when she's 14 or 15 is she gonna remember my face? I want her to have the chance I never had." ■■■■

# Rally Against Special Registrations

## Statement by Carolyn de Leon Women Workers Project Director

My name is Carolyn, I'm an organizer of Women Workers Project a program area of CAAWV - Organizing Asian Communities. We organize Filipino, Indonesian, Malaysian and other Asian women low-wage workers, mostly domestic workers to build our power and improve our living and working conditions.

Today I'm speaking on behalf of our Indonesian members. When one morning we heard the news about Indonesia being added to the special registrations list, we were frightened because this was a sign that the current administration is not going to stop until all people of color communities live in fear. We can't just accept this racial war and all the racism that comes with it like the special registrations. The Indonesian community now fears for their lives. Some are picking up their lives and moving back to Indonesia, some are running with their families to the Canadian border. Our members risk being separated from their husbands and becoming the sole support for their growing children. Their children have adapted ways of living here, you can imagine if the entire family ended up being sent back to Indonesia what life will be like for those children who have no idea how to live abroad. The Indonesian community is not only fearful for their own lives but also afraid for the safety of all innocent people here and abroad especially for those living in the war zones.

Today we also raise our voices and extend our hands in solidarity with the thousands of Arab, Muslim, South Asian, Asian, African men and women and other immigrants who have been victims of racial violence and suffered detention, arrest and in many cases deportation at the hands of the INS, FBI, and other law enforcement agencies since the tragic September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The anti-terrorist scapegoating of immigrants and refugees is criminalizing entire people of color communities, shattering lives and impoverishing families after family members are detained or deported. Since September 11, our communities suffered enough. One thousand undocumented airport workers have been arrested and deported, hundreds lost their jobs. FOR WHAT?? FOR NOTHING!! Because the truth of the matter is that not one single terrorist was found.

Today we call for peace abroad, and an end to the war being waged here in the U.S. directed at immigrant communities. The Department of Justice Special Registration program and the growing domestic war against the rights of immigrant and refugees. Special Registration is the latest attack against the rights and freedom of immigrant and refugee communities in the U.S., singling out Muslim, Arab, South Asian and other Middle Eastern, Asian, and African men. The special registration and all other anti-terrorist programs and policies targeting immigrant and refugee communities must end. Our humanity is getting taken away—we must take it back! NOW!!! ■■■■



# COMMUNITY ORGANIZING



## CHINATOWN JUSTICE PROJECT

In the Spring of 2002, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (MTC), an umbrella agency of all city and state agencies related to transportation matters, announced its plans to conduct a traffic study on Canal Street, the heart of Chinatown, as part of its long-term plans to improve traffic in Lower Manhattan. While many Chinatown residents nod their heads in approval and say, "It's about time," skeptics are also raising their eyebrows and asking, "But why now?"

As the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, created to rebuild Lower Manhattan after the September 11 tragedy, pumps millions of dollars to boost the real estate and finance industries downtown, low-income residents in nearby Chinatown and the Lower East Side are left to wonder if major changes that lie ahead will turn their lives upside down once more, and who the rebuilding efforts, such as the "traffic study" are designed to benefit. Will Chinatown finally see neighborhood improvements that are long overdue, like more frequent garbage pick-up's and wider sidewalks? Or will the so-called improvements only raise property

values and further escalate the role of displacement of low-income tenants and local businesses?

### PROTECTING STREET VENDORS

When we heard complaints against "illegal peddlers" as part of the MTC's traffic study, the Chinatown Justice Project (CJP) of CAAAV wanted to make sure that displacement of Chinatown's street vendors will not be part of the City's long-term plans to redesign traffic in Lower Manhattan. In the Summer of 2002, youth organizers from Chinatown conducted a survey of community residents about their feelings towards street vendors. Of 100 people surveyed, 81% said they regularly buy things from street vendors, and 78% said vendors provide an indispensable service to the Chinatown community.

CJP members also spent a day with vendors on Canal Street to learn about the daily experience of vendors. "Vending is hard work; you have to stand outside all day, on the hottest day of the summer to the coldest day of the winter," said youth organizers KahEan Chang and Kelly Qu after a day on Canal Street. In August 2002, CJP and the Chinatown Street Vendors Association attended a public hearing organized by the Transportation Council, and met with Directors of the Traffic Study to make sure their plans will not jeopardize the livelihoods of Chinatown's vendors.



[TOP] RYAN AND JOE HOLD THE CHINATOWN-PALESTINE SOLIDARITY BANNER AT THE APRIL 20 MARCH IN WASHINGTON, DC, AGAINST THE WAR

[RIGHT] RALLY IN FRONT OF A NACIST SLUMBER'S FAMILY ANTIQUE BUSINESS

ORGANIZING OUTSIDE NEW YORK

The New York-Philly Chinatown connection gets stronger each year. For the third summer, youth organizers from CAAAV-CJP and the Chinatown Community Youth Leadership Project of Asian Americans United in Philadelphia got together to share stories about life in Chinatown and our struggles in organizing. As more immigrants travel between New York and Philly in search of work, the strong tie between the two organizations will be all the more important in the years ahead.

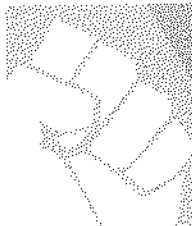
CJP also mobilized for the Second National People of Color Environmental Justice (EJ) Summit in October. A team of CJP members traveled to a pre-Summit youth gathering hosted by Alternatives for Community Empowerment in Boston to make alliances in the EJ movement and present why we believe the struggle against gentrification and displacement is a struggle for environmental justice. We welcomed the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by the hundreds of people of color EJ organizers from around the country at the Summit.



[CLOCK-WISE FROM TOP]

- 1. CJP MEMBERS IN THE PARK FOR THEIR SUMMER PICNIC FUNDRAISER
- 2. KATRY AND HELENA IN THE CHINATOWN OFFICE
- 3. RAYTO, RYAN, LIND AND JOE CELEBRATE GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL
- 4. METABONG AND LIND, MEMBERS OF THE VIDEO TEAM, INTERVIEW A TENANT AT A RALLY AGAINST A RACIST LANDLORD





## WOMEN WORKERS PROJECT

### ORGANIZING WOMEN WORKERS POST 9-11

A year after September 11, the workers involved in Women Workers Project [WWP] continue to struggle with a mounting sense of fear in the community over changes in the immigration laws and the impact of the economic downturn that has enabled many employers to cut wages and worsen conditions. Workers fear losing their jobs, and though the exploitation continues, the silence around it thickens. The hope for amnesty that many community members held quickly disappeared. Some workers have returned to Asia to be with family during this period of indefinite war.

Despite these conditions, the members of WWP have strengthened their resolve to organize and build the power of Asian women workers. The second Asian Women's Leadership Course was a huge success, due largely to the outreach efforts of the Organizing Committee members. The eighteen graduating participants, most of whom are now active members of WWP, are of diverse nationalities including women from Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. Their participation and leadership has helped WWP develop as a multi-lingual, Pan-Asian women's space. Some of the graduates also attended the first WWP leadership retreat, where they were oriented to the Organizing Committee, visited the beach on a warm, clear day, and ate lots of great food!

The increased participation and leadership of Indonesian women workers has led WWP to organizing in the Indonesian community to protect targeted community members from detentions and deportations following the announcement of the "Special Registrations" program. There are between 6-10,000 Indonesians in New York City, at least 5,000 of them men. These are the friends and family members of our members. Since the announcement, WWP members have been working with local community leaders and institutions to organize informational meetings and legal clinics, and hopes to organize people to work collectively to document what's happening, protect the safety of the community and connect with other communities to put an end to such racist law enforcement practices.

## BUILDING LEADERSHIP



THE SECOND ASIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE

[ABOVE: 3] PARTICIPANTS PERFORM SKITS ABOUT WORKING CONDITIONS AND RESISTANCE

[BELOW] SECOND ASIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE PARTICIPANTS





# ORGANIZING FOR JUSTICE



[LEFT] WWP MEMBERS MARCH IN THE 2002 PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

[ABOVE: 2] HEALTH ORGANIZED BY THE GRADUATES OF THE FIRST ASIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE

[BELOW] MILORO, CORA, AND RMY OF THE WWP ORGANIZING COMMITTEE WELCOME NEW ASIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE PARTICIPANTS

CAAAY VOICE  
PAGE 15  
MOVEMENT EMERGENCY

## ASIAN WOMEN'S HEALTH PROJECT

After the last Asian Women's Leadership Course, the participants decided to organize a health fair for Asian women workers. This was an opportunity for us to see if these type of events could help to meet workers needs, and whether it would be a good opportunity to gather women together to discuss how to organize around health issues. We provided check ups with doctors, an acupuncturist, and information on mammograms and occupational health and safety for domestic workers.

The women who attended the fair filled out an initial survey that WWP members prepared in order to document the main health concerns of the women who attended. The next step is to improve the survey, and collect more from women working in various service industries, as part of our research for the next industry organizing project.

## DOMESTIC WORKERS UNITED [DWU]

Women Workers Project continues to actively participate in Domestic Workers United, a multi-racial, City-wide domestic workers organizing project. DWU's campaign for a standard contract, "Dignity for Domestic Workers," entered the fall with the first march for domestic workers rights in New York City on October 5th. Approximately three hundred domestic workers and their supporters marched down Broadway from Washington Square Park to City Hall for a rally. Though rain was predicted, the sun stoyed with us the entire day as we march past thousands of Saturday shoppers in Soho demanding dignity and respect.

The march called for a standard contract for all domestic workers that includes notice, severance pay, sick days and paid vacation. In addition, the workers called for the passage of Intro. No. 96 and Resolution No. 135, also known as the "domestic workers bill and resolution." The bill and resolution was drafted by DWU members and the NYU Immigrant Rights Law Clinic and introduced on March 25, 2002 by Council Member Gate





A. Brewer. Since then, DWU organized a press conference on the steps of City Hall, a town hall Meeting on domestic workers issues, and participated in the first hearing on domestic worker exploitation at City Hall. DWU (which also includes Andotan Organizing South Asian Workers, Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, and Damayan Migrant Workers Center) continues to run the Nanny's Training Course twice per year, to provide job and leadership skills for nannies, as well as other programs such as legal clinics, and peer advocacy.

**JUSTICE CLINIC**

"Gloria" is a housekeeper who was working for the Ambassador to Egypt. She worked long hours for low wages and was never paid overtime. In addition to all her housekeeping responsibilities, her employer forced her to sew drapes, bedsheets, sofa covers and clothing until her hands became injured. When she asked to stop the sewing, her employers tired her and gave her ten minutes to pack her things and leave. They refused to return her passport for months, until WWP members began flyer-ing outside of the Mission to Egypt. They continue to refuse to pay her wages she is owed until Gloria and members of WWP apologize. Gloria and WWP members have decided to continue applying pressure on the employers and the Mission until they issue an apology and pay Gloria the wages owed.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT**



**[FROM LEFT TO RIGHT]**

1. SOUTHEAST ASIAN WOMEN'S SEWING COOPERATIVE SPONSORS A CRAFTS FAIR IN THE CAROL BROOKS OFFICE
2. YLP YOUTH ORGANIZERS IN THE BROOKS OFFICE
3. YLP ORGANIZERS IN LONG BEACH FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN FREEDOM NETWORK MEETING

**FOOD COOPERATIVE**

The second half of 2002 was an important time in the development of the Food Cooperative, a joint project of the youth organizers and the Southeast Asian women of the Community. The cooperative recruits women from the Welfare Rights campaign to work as part of the cooperative, catering for large meetings and events in the progressive community. Food co-op "gigs" include cultural events for groups such as Third World Within, foundation meetings, and retreats for a range of community groups. The youth organizers develop the outreach aspects of the cooperative while the women are in control of the production end; the business and operations pieces of the cooperative are collectively run.

**[TOP]** FOOD!

**[BELOW]** BEACHING ON THE BEACH AT THE FIRST WWP LEADERSHIP RETREAT



## BUILDING ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONS

The Youth Leadership Project has been working to advance several "alternative institutions" among the low-income residents of the Southeast Asian community of the Bronx. Having spent the past few years focusing on direct action organizing activities against those in power (welfare centers, local politicians, the school district, health care corporations), YLP decided to complement direct action "struggle" with the "development" of cooperatives and autonomous educational programs.



### SEWING/CRAFTS COOPERATIVE

Drawing on the Food Cooperative model, the youth organizers have also begun to explore the development of a second community cooperative that focuses on the production and sale of crafts and garments made by women in the community. The Crafts/Sewing cooperative idea emerged from YLP's research on the impact of home garment working among Southeast Asian community members of the Bronx. In order to supplement meager welfare benefits, many Southeast Asian residents had taken up garment work at home. They are paid far below the minimum wage and often rely on the labor of other family members, including children. The cooperative is an attempt at developing a social purpose economic project that promotes dignity and justice among women workers in the community.

Both the Food Cooperative and the Crafts/Sewing Cooperative are means of securing guaranteed income for women on welfare. Also, both cooperatives promote the joint political development of youth organizers and the women workers of the cooperatives.



### PUBLIC EDUCATION

For the past three years, the youth organizers have been challenging Community School District 10 of the Bronx to address the alarming rate — one of the highest in the district — of Southeast Asian children who fail and are left back in their grade. After a campaign that involved direct actions at the district, several accountability sessions with the district superintendent, and failed attempts at resolving the problem through the hiring of educational "experts," the youth organizers have now decided to take matters into their own hands. In the spring of 2002, YLP was able to secure funds from the district to start their own community achievement program for Southeast Asian elementary school children. The program is first step towards community self-determination in the area of education. The goal of the program is not only to have the children meet school standards, but to develop an alternative education and cultural space for children and families. The program will be a freedom school, emphasizing educational and cultural relevancy, collective work, and social justice. Although the achievement project focuses on Southeast Asian children, YLP sees its efforts as a broader push for autonomous education among a range of low-income income groups.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND INS DEPORTATION

The youth organizers of YLP have decided to work actively on the national campaign to end the deportation of Khmer community members, and all Third World people. They have created a video on deportation that is tailored to non-English speaking Cambodian community members, and through their participation in CAAAV's newly established Khmer Freedom Committee, have been conducting a community survey, organizing community events and helping to provide advocacy to individuals facing prosecution for crimes the INS deems deportable offenses.



## RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

Since 1986, CAAAV has been committed to criminal defense advocacy on behalf of Asian immigrants who have been wrongfully prosecuted. To date, we have been able to help acquit delendants, dismiss cases, or lessen the charges. Every case is a bitter-sweet victory however. Our work has made modest advances in raising consciousness about the inherent racism, sexism, and xenophobia of the criminal justice system, as well as the structural disadvantages for poor and working Asian immigrants. However, community members continue to endure numerous court dates, loss at work and wages, and the emotional and psychological costs. Significantly, the increased collusion between criminal justice and INS institutions (e.g. 2001 USA PATRIOT ACT) have raised the stakes and limited our advocacy strategies. And so the struggle continues.

## BITTERSWEET VICTORY IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE CASES

### SP: WRONGFUL PROSECUTION

Facing felony charges of a crime that he did not commit which occurred on a day when he was not even in town. SP, a Cambodian male from the Bronx, was acquitted at all charges of robbery against him in a year-long prosecution that began when he was 17. On each day at the week-long trial, community members packed the courtroom to show support for SP - contributing to the favorable verdict. It was a bittersweet victory, a rare outcome in a criminal justice system that targets youth of color on a daily basis. And although SP is a naturalized U.S. citizen, other young Cambodians who unjustly get caught up in the racist criminal justice system are put at risk of deportation with the recent passage of the U.S.-Cambodian repatriation agreement.

### GSL: WRONGFUL PROSECUTION

GSL, who was prosecuted for a year in New Jersey on a bogus charge after a white customer accused him of assault in a supermarket where he works, finally had the charges against him dismissed this month. Culminating a series of court appearances where the judge repeatedly refused to provide appropriate translation, the judge ruled that the case would be dismissed if GSL would "apologize" to the complainant, in his feeble attempt to pacify the racist and overzealous complainant while exculpating GSL of the frivolous charges. Although GSL understood that this was unfair, immigration concerns and a longer commute to the court necessitated by his recent move out-of-state forced GSL to accept the offer.

## KHMER FREEDOM COMMITTEE

6 KFC MEMBERS

Local 718-220-2882

National 877-572-2228

In April 2002, following the secret repatriation agreement signed by the U.S. and Cambodia, CAAAV established the Khmer Freedom Committee (KFC) as a project to specifically address the forced deportation of Cambodian refugee children who have criminal convictions. We issued a statement that received dozens of endorsers.

### COMMUNITY DEFENSE

During summer 2002, as part of our community defense strategy, KFC held community meetings to disseminate information and to strategize responses. We created a "Community Defense Tool Kit" which includes a bilingual "know your rights" brochure, a

bilingual "know your rights" video (since the majority of Khmer adults and elderly are non-English speaking and illiterate in Khmer), information on immigration laws and history, media tools, and other suggestions for local organizing. Based on the experiences of communities in the Mexico border region who are daily abused by INS agents, we have created photo identification cards. We also set-up a national 800 hotline number in order to facilitate information/resource-sharing regarding community organizing and legal assistance: local: 718-220-2882 / national: 877-572-2228. We have also been conducting a local community survey to assess the number of people who have final orders of deportation, are currently detained, have criminal convictions, and are currently in the criminal justice system.

In August 2002, KFC convened Freedom Training II (based on the one convened in summer 2000 which focused on organizing

for welfare rights and fighting INS detention of liters). The objectives of the training were to bring together Southeast Asian community-based organizers from around the country to (1) share information about the impact of the Cambodian repatriation agreement, (2) strategize a national coordinated response, and (3) to share tools and strategies for local organizing which will build the capacity for communities to protect themselves and exercise leadership. Many participants had little to no organizing experience but have already begun to take up the call to organize their communities around this issue. Participants included grassroots Southeast Asian organizers as well as individuals with final orders of deportation. One outcome of the gathering was to establish a national network, the Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN) and our first collaboration was a national day of action on November 7th or 8th which took place in the Bronx, NY; Lowell, MA; Providence, RI; Oakland, CA; Berkeley, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Philadelphia, PA; Madison, WI.

In January 2003, SEAFN convened a strategy meeting in Long Beach, CA and decided that our next collaboration would be another national day of action on March 22nd, marking the one-year anniversary of the secret signing of the repatriation agreement. Current members of SEAFN are: API Force (Oakland, CA); Asian Freedom

# REVIEWS

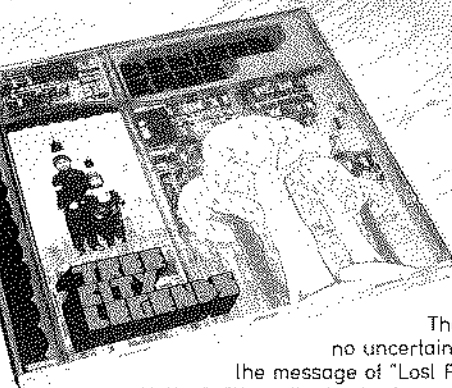
## DENIZEN KANE

TREE CITY LEGENDS  
Galapagos4

Best known as a member of the progressive pan-Asian spoken word group, Two Tongues, Dennis Kim has morphed into Denizen Kane, the MC. After a solid release with his Chicago Hip Hop crew, Typical Cats, Kane's solo Tree City Legends defies and exceeds all past expectations. Part Hip Hop, part spoken word, part acoustic, part ambient, Tree City Legends is a journey through forms made consistent by strong production and Kane's commitment to the transformative power of the word.

Almost every track is musically strong and completely different. The album opens with three jewels: the anthemic "Early Burn," followed by the Tribe Called Quest-like "Only Sleeping," and then "Calling Card," which boasts production as good as any Company Flow beat. The electric guitars, organs, and hand claps in "Micah 6:8" could be an early Lenny Kravitz interlude while "Lost Found Nation" is an acoustic gem.

Kane's lyrics and delivery are just as masterful and diverse. His power as a storyteller is on full display as choruses are minimized throughout. In "Early Burn," he's a griot that channels the voice of the ancestors. His meditative style slips into boastful tongue-twisting underground MC in "Calling Card" and then rides the organs in "Tree City Anthem" practically chanting, a prayer to the gods of change.



There's no uncertainty in the message of "Lost Found Nation": "Upon the back of a pen I read the love letter sent from the divine to the human into the divine again. My creation rumbles down until it collapses again. But from the rumble god arises with the pen once again. To write a bright future world into existence again (3x). I don't want to light an American war. Tell me what we need to light another war for? I don't want to die in an American war. Tell me what we need to fight another war for?"

Denizen Kane is not as politically explicit as Dennis Kim, but he remains a poet, a crafter of words committed to the spiritual exploration of the written word, the spoken word and how they affect change. As he says: Denizen Kane communicates for change like payphones.

Support good music, you can get the album from: [www.Galapagos4.com](http://www.Galapagos4.com).

—JEE KIM

## AWOL MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2002;  
MILITARY STATES  
OF AMERICA



The second issue of AWOL looks like a complete revision on the surface- glossy cover, full color and slick pages on the inside. But dive into it and you realize that not much has changed. Sharp criticism of U.S. imperialism and militarism remain primary themes. Post 9/11, these insights have more bite and accordingly, most of the magazine is dedicated to the attack on communities of color in Afghanistan and here in the U.S.

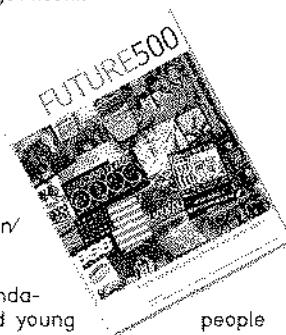
Following up on its commitment to reach the young people of color most affected by military recruitment, AWOL's graphics and design are significantly stronger, making it immediately more accessible. Some of the most compelling pieces include: Jell Palerson's (the first active-duty military resister in the U.S. attack on Iraq in 1990) declaration to would-be troops and other youth, Rob Los Ricos meditation on how being a political prisoner affects his daughter, an interview with Zachery Running Wolf (a Native American activist who ran across the country in support of Mumia), a guide to resisting the draft for youth of color, and a photo tribute to deceased graffiti artist DREAM.

Add a fierce compilation CD that includes dead prez, The Coup, La Bruja, and Yellow Rage's unforgettable "Listen Asshole" (a must hear for all Asians tired of Asiaphiles and their brethren), and you've got an uncompromising malch.

—JEE KIM

## THE FUTURE 500:

YOUNG ORGANIZATIONS  
AND ACTIVISM IN THE U.S.  
Active Element Foundation/  
Subway & Elevated Press



Created for activists, foundations, organizations, and young people unfamiliar with the movement, The Future 500 features interviews with 25 activists under 25 around the country, including CAAAV's Chhaya Chhoum and Sista II Sista's Isabel Gonzales. The meat (or tolu) of the book is its extensive directory of 500 youth-led organizations that lists contact info, racial makeup, issues, organizational budget, and descriptive profile. The 500 groups cover diverse issues, from police brutality, reproductive rights, welfare reform, environmental justice, LGBTTSQ, sweatshops, Palestine, and globalization. Scattered throughout the directory are illustrations and photos that give the book an activist scrapbook feel. The Future 500 ends with listings of foundations, national networks, and statistics on the groups featured.

Whether you're a foundation looking for a mapping of youth activism, an organization looking for allies in different states, or a young person looking to find a place to plug into and get involved, The Future 500 offers a comprehensive solution. Beyond its functional use, The Future 500 provides a rare opportunity to take a step back and see the youth movement's full diversity, strength, and promise.

Check out the directory online and order the book from: [www.Future500.com](http://www.Future500.com)

—TOMIO GERON

## SO: WRONGFUL PROSECUTION

Arrested at 17 years of age, SO, a Cambodian male, was wrongfully prosecuted for several counts of felony charges. Unable to pay the exceptionally high bail, SO had to endure imprisonment for over 7 months as his family struggled to mobilize community support and find a new lawyer to replace the inadequate pro bono attorney assigned by the court. Finally, Bronx Defenders, a local legal defense institution, took up the case and worked with us to secure youthful offender status and time served. Although SO was innocent of the charges, he and his family were forced to accept this plea in order to protect SO from deportation. In New York State, convictions for youthful offenders are immune from INS deportation. Had SO gone forward with a trial, the prosecution would have rescinded the youthful offender status and SO would be at risk of conviction and, subsequently, INS deportation.

Project (Madison, WI); CAAAV (NY); Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia (PA); Family Unity (Lowell, MA); Khmer Girls in Action (Long Beach, CA); PRYSM (Providence, RI) Asian Pacific Islanders for Advocacy and Leadership, Southeast Asian Student Coalition, and Cambodian American Consortium.

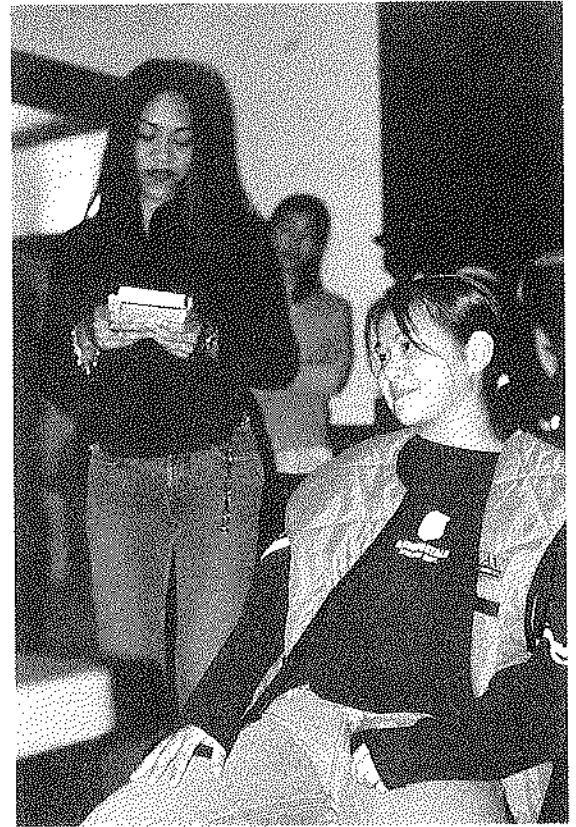
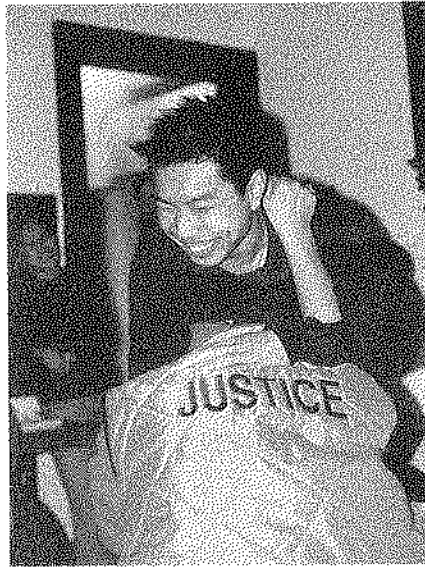
## KFC'S CURRENT GOALS

1. Raising the critical consciousness of broader society of the deportation of Cambodian refugees, and the overall injustice of U.S. immigration policies;
2. Building the capacity of the Bronx Southeast Asian community to fight deportation, and participate in broader immigrant rights and racial justice movements; and
3. Raising the critical consciousness on the deportation of Cambodians within Southeast Asian communities nationally, and the broader social justice movement (e.g. immigrant rights, anti-prison industrial complex, racial justice, INS and criminal justice reform groups).

# CAAAY FAMILY ALBUM

## WINTER VEST CEREMONY

After six months of membership, CAAAY members receive their CAAAY vest, a symbol of their commitment to organizing for justice in Asian communities. At the ceremony, members receive vests from other members, who explain to others in the organization, the contributions that each member makes to the program area organizing.



## ANNUAL CAAAY SUMMER PICNIC



[LEFT-TOP] HELENA OF CJP RECEIVES HER VEST FROM SEN THIN

[LEFT-BOTTOM] FLORENCE OF WWP RECEIVES HER VEST FROM CAROL



[MIDDLE] JANE OF WWP RECEIVES HER VEST FROM JUSTINA

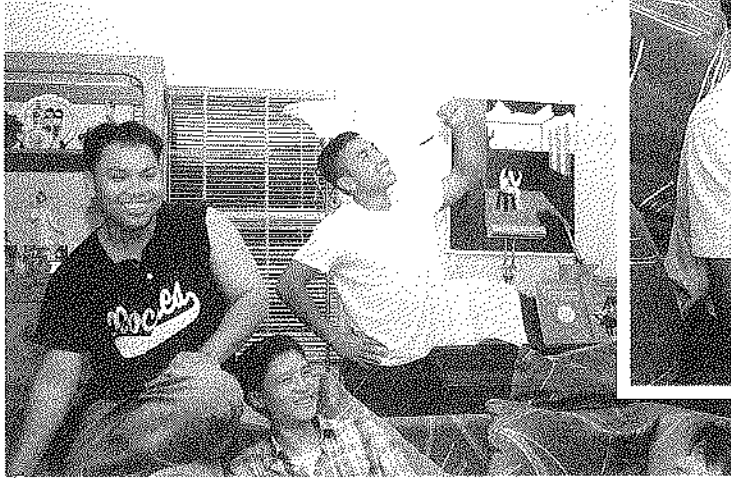
[RIGHT] NEWLY VESTED DO YOUNG & ANGELA OF RJP WITH GINA OF RJP & CAROL OF WWP





## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

On May 25, 2002, CAAV Organizing Committee members went on a weekend-long retreat to build unity and share strategies.



[ABOVE] L-R: EDRAHN & SARY OF YLP; RYAN & MEIRONS OF CJP  
[LEFT] L-R: TADOL, JOHNA, AND BOREV OF YLP



[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP-LEFT]

1. YLP MEMBERS
2. CJP MEMBERS
3. WWV MEMBERS
4. PREPARING FOR BKLAY RACES



# SA-I-GU

by Ishle Yi Park

4.29.02

"we are our first and last line of defense.  
me. you."  
--k.w. lee

fire. it l touch  
the screen my fingers  
will singe or sing.

raw hands rip nikes  
out of boxes, break glass  
into white cobwebs.

my mother presses her hand  
to her ruined lips.

koreans mark disaster  
with numbers - 4-29 - Sa-I-Gu.  
no police. no help.

we see grainy reels of a black  
fish flopping on concrete  
arched, kicked, nightsticked,

flopping not fish but black man -  
here i rub my own tender  
wrists, ask unanswerables -

why are the cops doing this?  
my mother will answer simply,  
wisely, because they are bad.

of the looters, because they are mad.  
and why hurt us - she chokes  
because we are close enough.

I moan, slip under the fold  
of her arm. she strokes my hair

and keeps me protected  
as I must one day protect her.

protection.

l.a.p.d. ring beverly hills like a moat,  
won't answer rings from south central  
furious and consistent as rain.

where did they hide, our women -  
under what oil-stained  
chevy did they breathe,

light, light, covering  
the biting mouths  
of wet-eyed children?

On April 29, 1992, twelve jurors in Sylmar, California, cleared of all charges

3 of the 4 white LAPD officers who assaulted and brutalized Rodney King.

The decision sparked days of unrest and rebellion in Los Angeles. Communities of color,  
like Los Angeles' sizeable Korean community, bore the brunt of the uprising.

The year 2002 was the ten-year anniversary of the uprising.

who pulled them  
by hair into riot  
for a crime

they did not commit

who watched and did nothing?

mile high cameras hover,  
zoom in, dub it:  
war of blacks & koreans

watch us ripped  
to red tendon for scraps  
in a district, abandoned

show latasha shot on 50 channels,  
not 200 shot korean grocers  
whose names & deaths are local

silence white as white silence

we have no jesse  
no martin no malcolm  
no al, no eloquent, rapid tongue

just tathers, thick-tongued  
and children, too young to carry more  
than straw broomstick and hefty bag.

all the women cry  
and hurt what is not already shattered.

with ashes, always grief  
carried in clay jars or scattered  
in wings over mapless territories -

south central - metal husks  
of burnt cadillacs. exxon, michelin  
factories bare as cotton pockets.

this grocer with knotted tongue  
stacks rows of bottles -  
shining liquid copper he

beats his son. no innocents here.  
his customer stops in, stirs over  
an Old E, no innocents here.

her hand huris bottle and brick  
for what is lost,  
for what it cannot attain,  
her open, laboring palm,  
and the emptiness that  
leans out to meet it.

his hand grips rifle on roof,  
yes, for what is lost,  
for what it, too, cannot attain,  
the open, laboring palm,  
his broken sign, burnt oranges.

god, it is a matter  
of food to mouth,  
of notions of home and house.

a son returns  
with straw broomstick.

daughter cooks rice  
it steams untouched on table

slips off her mother's  
devastated keds, slips her into bed.

two mornings after,  
they march over ashes

dust licking proud ankles  
30,000 koreans

sing in a language  
most will never master:

we shall overcome  
someday.

the biting mouths  
of wet-eyed children?

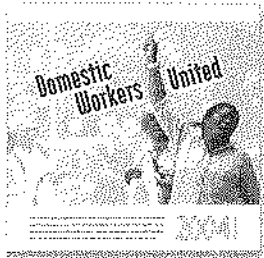
who pulled them  
by hair into riot  
for a crime

they did not commit

who watched and did nothing?

# CAAAY MEDIA

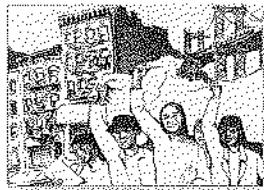
New CAAAV Media available NOW!



## DOMESTIC WORKERS UNITED 2004 WALL CALENDAR

This 12-month calendar features images from DWU campaign for respect and dignity for domestic workers. Images for the calendar include photos taken from the October 5, 2002 New York City March to City Hall to demand fair labor practices and rights for domestic workers and the demonstration outside the Botswana Embassy where DWU protested the treatment of domestic workers working for diplomats. The calendar also contains DWU meeting reminders, a 2003 overview calendar (one page), and other important information. Photos are in sepia tone.

\$10



## CHINATOWN IS NOT FOR SALE!!

VIDEO

2002, 43 minutes  
New documentary by the Chinatown Justice Project

A new video about Manhattan's Chinatown community struggle against gentrification and displacement. This video examines the impact of racist real estate practices in Chinatown and how low income Chinese tenants are displaced to "make room" for young white professionals. The film also includes footage of CJP's efforts to combat this displacement. Chinatown is Not For Sale!! was directed and produced by Youth Organizers of the Chinatown Justice Project of CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities.

\$150 Institutional  
\$50 Low Income



## EATING WELFARE

VIDEO

2000, 58 minutes

Documentary by the Youth Leadership Project

This film challenges the success of welfare programs by exposing the way in which more than 500,000 families in New York City were pushed off the welfare rolls in the 1990s. Eating Welfare traces the journey of Southeast Asian refugees from war-torn Vietnam and Cambodia to the Bronx and examines the impact of federal welfare reform measures on them after their arrival. The film shows the creative approaches taken by the refugee community, particularly young people, to stop the most damaging reform measures. Eating Welfare makes visible to viewers what may be an unknown community and connects it to poverty and the impact of welfare policies on communities of color throughout the U.S.

\$150 Institutional  
\$50 Low Income



## CAAAY 15TH ANNIVERSARY

T-SHIRT

S,M,L,XL, baby tees  
Design shown left

100% white cotton T-shirts with black design feature the image used for CAAAV's 15th Anniversary celebration in 2001.

\$10 Regular  
\$15 Baby Tee



## CAAAY WEBSITE

[www.caaav.org](http://www.caaav.org)

Check our website for regular updates on our program areas and upcoming events





## ORGANIZING ASIAN COMMUNITIES

(also known as committee Against Anti-Asian Violence) was founded by Asian women in 1986 as one of the first organizations in the United States to mobilize Asian communities to counter anti-Asian violence. CAAAY focuses on institutional violence that affects immigrant working-class communities such as worker exploitation, concentrated urban poverty, police brutality, Immigrant and Naturalization Service (INS) detention and deportation, and criminalization of workers and youth. By organizing across diverse, low-wage and poor Asian communities in New York City, CAAAY exposes and struggles against violence with the goal of building community capacity to exercise self-determination. Building coalitions enables CAAAY to contribute to a unified strategy for a broader, multi-racial and multi-issue movement for social change. CAAAY is a volunteer-drive organization led by members of low-income Asian immigrant communities.

### CAAAY'S PROGRAM AREAS INCLUDE:

#### CHINATOWN JUSTICE PROJECT

uniting low-income residents for decent and affordable housing and fighting displacement caused by gentrification.

#### WOMEN WORKERS PROJECT

organizes Asian workers in the informal service economy, particularly domestic workers who face long hours, low wages, no job security or health benefits.

#### SOUTHEAST ASIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROJECT

in the Bronx organizes around welfare, public education and INS detention issues.

#### COALITION AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY

CAAAY is a co-founder of the Coalition against Police Brutality and has advocated for over 250 police brutality survivors.



# THANK YOU!



Special thanks to all individuals and institutions whose contributions continue to make CAAAY's work possible. You are central to our survival and growth

# CAAAY VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF CAAAY:  
ORGANIZING ASIAN COMMUNITIES

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# WAR ABROAD WAR AT HOME

MOVEMENT EMERGENCY