

CURRENTS

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

WINTER QUARTER, 1980

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

READING ROOM

of the Asian American Studies Center

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER
3222 CAMPBELL HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90024

Cross Currents, the newsletter of the Asian American Studies Center, is printed to keep readers abreast of current developments in Center programs as well as to announce new ones. Articles concerning (1) programs not sponsored by the Center but in the province of Asian American Studies, (2) UCLA student programs, and (3) University issues of relevance to Asian Americans will also be featured. All editorials represent the opinions of the writers and do not reflect the consolidated view of the Center staff, unless otherwise noted. Articles and letters from our readers will be considered, subject to editing. The staff welcomes suggestions and criticisms. Please submit written materials, inquiries, criticisms, and requests to be placed on the mailing list (at no charge, but donations accepted) to: Cross Currents, Asian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. 90024

Individuals and organizations interested in receiving future issues should provide mailing addresses, including zip code. The staff may be reached by telephone at (213) 825-1006. Editor: Roy Nakano; Assistant Editors: Keiko Sasaki, Gary Chiang, and Kimchele Lim.

Contributors: Ron Hirano, Russell Leong, John Liu, and Michael Ning.

THE CHAUVINIST

and Other Stories by

TOSHIO MORI

"... Once again, through the power of his words, he has given us our lives."
—Lawson Inada

"Publication of *The Chauvinist* and *Other Stories* must be regarded as an important event in West Coast Cultural history..."
—Carey McWilliams

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Visions of California

Asian American Writers in Venice

On a rainy day in Venice, Italy, the Asian American Writers in Venice Center, a branch of the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles, held a panel discussion on the topic of "Asian American Writers in Venice." The panelists were: (1) Toshi Mori, (2) Keiko Sasaki, (3) Gary Chiang, and (4) Roy Nakano.

The discussion was moderated by Toshi Mori and the four panelists. Mori, who is the author of *The Four Seasons*, a collection of short stories, and *The Japanese American Experience*, a book of essays, spoke first. He discussed his experience of living in Venice and his views on the role of the Asian American Writers in Venice Center.

Next spoke Sasaki, who is the author of *The Japanese American Experience*, a book of essays, and *The Japanese American Experience*, a book of essays. She discussed her experience of living in Venice and her views on the role of the Asian American Writers in Venice Center.

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By 4:30 p.m., the large child-day-care room dominated by a Celko wall clock and colored crayon drawings was filled. The brown metal seats taken. The audience, all colors and ages, ranged from off-white through all the Asian and Latin hues, to deeper shades of brown; from sparkling young women to older, graying men.

In front of the large room, the panelists behind long formica tables faced the audience, and off to the side, sat two moderators, an Asian and a Black, providing an ad hoc perspective of people of color.

After the opening remarks, a slender woman in a black knit dress with sparkling stones set onto the bodice, heavy mascaraed lashes, hair in flowing tresses down one side was introduced as an "Asian American literary activist". Janice Mirikitani began her piece, "Fumi". The audience hushed,

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VISIONS (continued from page 3)

finger stopped twiddling, as her voice and emotion surged through the audience: "Huh, Fumi, Huh". The lines were impassioned and stark, as was the dramatic Japanese American woman poet reading about other women, about the Japanese concentration camps, about the danger of surviving.

-Applause and more applause.

Introduced as a writer whose characters spoke a mile a minute in Cantonese and English, shot rabbits, and knew how to fight, the author of "Jackrabbit" and a co-editor of Aiiiee! Asian American Authors arose. Mild, short, bespectacled, in a black polyester shirt, sleeves rolled up to elbows, and a cigarette dangling from his fingers - Jeffery Chan, short story writer, in low-keyed tones read passages from his short story "Jackrabbit", a seminal work on the Chinese bachelor society. (The story truly reflected Louis Chu's Eat a Bowl of Tea, the classic novel on Chinatown life.)

-Applause.

Then, Hisaye Yamamoto. Composed, with salt and pepper hair and glasses, she barely looked at the audience as she began. If you did not know her, you would not realize she was a multi-lingual journalist, having worked for the black weekly The Los Angeles Tribune after WWII. The disturbing ironies of her pen flowed smoothly out as she read her story, "Wiiishire Bus", about the racism and conflict among passengers traveling on a city bus, plunging through the urban chaos of Los Angeles and through the recesses of peoples' deepest minds. Yamamoto's clear, almost deadpan voice counterpointed the suppressed intensity in her piece.

-Applause.

A bearded, read woolen-caped man with a strong face who could have been Indian, Hispanic, or Asian stood and faced the audience. He was Al Robles, founding member of the Asian American writers workshop in San Francisco, who has worked closely with the Manongs, or Filipino old-timers, in San Francisco's Manilatown/Chinatown. George Leong, another poet and musician, accompanied Robles. Tentative, bossa nova notes came out of George's guitar as Robles chanted an ode to the Filipino old-timers, the "1000 Visions of Wandering Carabao", mixing Tagalog and English. The audience swayed to the music and to the lift of the words, and even if they did not understand the literal meaning, they sensed the journey.

-Applause.

Soft-waved hair framing her face, Wakako Yamauchi, short story writer and playwright of "And the Soul Shall Dance", began her short story, "That Was All". It is a story set in the arid dust bowl of the Imperial Valley in the 1920s, about the meeting of a young adolescent woman and a Japanese bachelor. Reading softly, so that a few of her words were probably missed by some, tenderness, humor, and sensuousity were poignantly rendered. The audience dared not breathe as these intimate moments tumbled forth. And that was all.

-Applause.

Lanky, with thick black hair and long arms and legs, Shawn Wong stood up, faced the audience straight in the eyes and spent five minutes explaining why his novel, Homebase, was not autobiographical, and then proceeded to read an evocative description of the protagonist's grandfather working on the Si-

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fall / winter issue of Amerasia Journal New Findings on 1931-42 Surveillance of NIKKEI

LOS ANGELES - New research on the surveillance of the Japanese American community by American intelligence prior to the outbreak of World War II highlights the Fall/Winter 1979 issue of the Amerasia Journal, published by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center.

Utilizing military intelligence, Department of State, and FBI internal documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, author Bob Kumamoto reveals how these governmental units had joined in covert surveillance of the Japanese American community beginning in the early 1930s until Executive Order 9066 and evacuation. These documents indicate that despite a decade of investigation, American intelligence was unsuccessful in finding and proving any instance of Issei or Nisei subversive activity. Nonetheless, in 1941 over 2000 members of the Japanese community were arrested without any concrete evidence. Among those detained were fishermen, produce distributors, Shinto and Buddhist priests, businessmen, and newspaper editors. In essence, Kumamoto believes that the whole surveillance of Japanese Americans was a gross example of government paranoia run rampant, magnified by public anxieties of impending war. As Kumamoto states:

"By providing for the incarceration of Japanese suspects without substantiated proof of guilt, the State Department Counter-intelligence planned, with one full swoop, to unjustly rob the Japanese community of its financial hierarchy, religious leaders, social promoters, and enlightenment advocates."

Another aspect of earlier Japanese American history is uncovered by Yuji Ichioke in an article on Asian immigrant coal miners and the United Mine Workers in Rock Springs, Wyoming, 1907. Ichioke examines the interaction between race and class in the United Mine Workers' division to accept Asian miners at a time when other unions were refusing Asian laborers as members.

Other articles in this issue of Amerasia Journal include a discussion of Afro-American reactions to Chinese Immigration and the Anti-Chinese movement between 1850 and 1910, by David Hellwig, and a provocative commentary by Guamanian Senator, Katherine Aguon, on developing a Pacific Island education perspective.

In addition, this Amerasia issue provides reviews of current books on Asian Americans as well as our annual bibliography with over two hundred listings on Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and Asian Indians.

Copies of this issue of Amerasia Journal 6:2 1979 are available from the Asian American Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles, California, 90024. The price is \$3.00 per issue plus 50¢ handling charge. A year's subscription to Amerasia is \$6.00.

feb 29 - mar 2, 1980

Asian / Pacific Women's Conference

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center will be co-sponsoring the first Asian/Pacific Women's conference on the West coast, February 29 - March 2, 1980 at the University of Southern California. The Conference will be one of three regional conferences, culminating with the national conference in Washington D.C.. These conferences are being funded through a grant from the Women's Educational Equity Act Program of the U.S. Office of Education. Other co-sponsors of this conference include the Office of Education, Women's Educational Equity Act Program, Washington, D.C., the California Commission on the Status of Women, University of Southern California, the Asian/Pacific American Women's Caucus, and the Asian State Employees Association.

The goals of the Conference are as follows:

- * To bring together Asian/Pacific women on a regional and national basis to discuss the possibility of forming a national network.
- * To develop local, state and national plans for impacting the educational system.
- * To provide training for developing expertise in bringing about change.
- * To become a visible and recognized group whose needs and issues require attention.

The Conference will be a three day conference starting with an opening reception and program on Friday evening, 7:30 p.m., February 29, 1980. On Saturday and Sunday, there will be several workshops scheduled and conducted by women. The workshops will cover three areas: Training and skills building (how to write proposals, how to use the media, how to be more effective in organizing, as examples); Issues and Recommendations (educational issues, employment, government, as examples); and Information on Educational and Employment Opportunities (vocational and employment programs, educational programs, as examples). The workshops will be aimed at meeting the needs of Asian/Pacific women of different ethnic backgrounds, ages, educational and employment levels, and interests.

How Can You Participate?

1. Join one of the Planning Committees and/or the Coordinating Committee in Los Angeles.
2. Assist in conducting a workshop at the Conference. Workshop facilitators and workshop topics are currently being compiled by the Program Committee.
3. Assist in outreach to your organization or friends.
4. Obtain endorsements and co-sponsorship from organizations that you are affiliated with.
5. Assist in Fund-Raising efforts to send additional women to the Washington D.C. Conference.
6. Suggest ideas for the Conference to the L.A. Coordinating Committee.

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WOMEN (continued from page 6)

The Coordinating Committee needs participation and assistance by Asian/Pacific women throughout the State. If you can suggest other women who might be interested, please let us know.

We hope you will join with us in making the first Asian/Pacific Women's Conference in California and on a national level successful. It is an exciting project and we hope to visibly demonstrate Asian/Pacific Women on the Move!

For further information, please feel free to contact:

- * Pat Blinde (213) 741-8463 (USC)
- * Irene Hirano (213) 295-6571 (work) or (213) 939-3547 (home)
- * Keiko Sasaki (213) 825-1006 (UCLA)

New Educational Research Project on Asians / Pacific Islanders

The National Association for Asian American and Pacific Education (NAAAPE) has received a grant from the National Institute of Education to stimulate educational research, nationwide, on Asian and Pacific Island Americans (APA). The grant money will be utilized to establish a project known as the Asian American Research Seminars (NAAAPE/RS). The project will be headquartered at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and coordinated by Dr. Keyou S. Chen, assistant professor with the UCLA Graduate School of Education.

The goal of NAAAPE/RS is to develop the quality and quantity of educational research on Asian and Pacific Americans. NAAAPE/RS will accomplish this by: providing a communications network among researchers interested in the educational development of Asian and Pacific American children; encouraging and assisting minority researchers, particularly those from APA backgrounds, to publish articles, present papers and participate in educational policy decision-making; and organizing seminars on relevant critical issues in educational research. NAAAPE/RS will work to increase the number of skilled researchers in the field of Asian American education by bringing potential researchers in contact with those who are already established in the field.

Educational research is broadly defined by NAAAPE/RS. Participation from the widest spectrum of research scientists interested in educational problems is encouraged.

For further information, to be placed on the mailing list, or to offer suggestions, write to:

Dr. Keyou S. Chen or Judith Takata
NAAAPE Research Seminars
UCLA Asian American Studies Center
Los Angeles, CA 90024

or call: (213) 825-0315.

Asian Coalition Activities

The Fall Quarter has passed by sooner than we expected and Winter break has ended just as fast. Looking back, the Asian Coalition has successfully completed its annual Fall Orientation with an attendance of over 300 students - both new and continuing. The purposes of the Orientation - to introduce and recruit students to Asian Coalition groups and activities through speakers, slide show, information tables, and entertainment was successfully accomplished. We also opened up opportunities for students to sign up as volunteers for the Asian Coalition itself. The Open House program (conducted two weeks after the Fall Orientation) was an effort to orientate these volunteers toward the operational aspects of the Asian Coalition. The end result was a team to aid the Asian Coalition in its many programs and responsibilities. Along with Ann Kao, Assistant Director, and Sam Law, Assistant Administrator, we have welcomed Frances Ma as Publicity Coordinator, Chuck Park as Community Service Liaison Coordinator, Becky Ng as Community Service Program Coordinator, Sandy Lew and Ha Le as Internal Affairs Co-Coordinators, Arleen Furukawa of External Affairs, Susan Ohye as our Board of Representatives Secretary, as well as many others who are helping in numerous ways.

This past Fall Quarter, we also helped establish the Third World Students Alliance with the Black Students Alliance, MEChA, and the American Indian Students Association, and then left for Stanford University to attend the two-day Asian/Pacific Student Union conference. The UCLA Asian Coalition was represented at this conference for the first time this year. Alex Lindo, representing Samahang Pilipino also attended. In addition, the Asian Coalition has also established another office in Kerkhoff Hall 409, along with the office in Campbell.

The Winter quarter promises to be another busy quarter. We are scheduling another annual event, the Alien Registration Drive, on the weekend of January 19th and 20th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Alien Registration Drive is our community service activity to remind and help register newly arrived immigrants as well as other community people who need to register themselves with the Immigration and Naturalization Service office. Volunteer students, many bilingual, from the UCLA Asian Coalition, in coordination with the Korean Youth Center (KYC) and the Chinatown Service Center, will be setting up registration booths within many of the recent immigrant Asian/Pacific communities.

Other tentatively planned programs for Winter quarter include a concert by Hiroshima in coordination with the Cultural Affairs Commission, the presentation of an Asian Rock Opera entitled Chop Suey, and a community service fund-raising activity, the sports day. For more information regarding either the Asian Coalition or our activities, please contact us at 825-7184 or just drop by Campbell Hall 2240. We're always looking for interested students.

- Michael Ning, Director
UCLA Asian Coalition

Winter and Spring Classes, 1980

The following courses will be offered as a part of the Asian American Studies Program for the 1979-80 academic year. The syllabus for each class is posted on the "Curriculum" board at the Asian American Studies Center. The 100 series classes are upper division courses, the 200-series are graduate level.

WINTER QUARTER

16552 AAS 100B lect 1 Introduction to Asian American Studies
G. Nomura TuTh 11-12:15
GSM 2250

16553 disc 1a Tu 10 Rolfe 2106
16554 disc 1b Tu 1 Rolfe 3131
16555 disc 1c Th 10 Rolfe 2106
16556 disc 1d Th 1 Rolfe 3131

As a survey of Asians in contemporary America, this course examines the impact of American institutions on Asians in such areas as identity, media-presentation, education, and problems of the aged.

16565 AAS 197 lect 1 Topics in Asian American Studies: Asian American Literature M. Hom
TuTh 3:30-4:45

As a survey of the major interpretations of the Asian American experience as expressed in literature, this course consists of the reading and analysis of important works and criticism.

16570 AAS 200B sem 1 Critical Issues in Asian American Studies
D. Nakanishi Tu 2-5
Rolfe 3131

As an introductory course for the graduate program in Asian American Studies, this course provides a thorough, critical review of research methods, strategies, and philosophies in Asian American Studies.

64610 OL 3A lect 1 Basic Cantonese M. Hom M-F 1
GSM 1343

As an introduction to spoken Cantonese, this course is the first part of a two-quarter sequence.

43540 Hist 198T lect 1 Japanese Experience in America
Y. Ichioke MMF 1 Bunche 3157

As an undergraduate survey, this course focusses on the history of Japanese immigrants and their descendants from the 19th century through World War II.

43497 Hist 197D lect 1 History of Overseas Chinese Migration
M. Chan W 1-4 Camp-
/201L bell 3232

SPRING QUARTER

Asian Americans and the Law
Basic Cantonese (second half)

Asian American Literature-graduate course
Minorities in the Media

Education and Ethnicity: Asian Americans-graduate course
Ethnic Bibliography: Asian Americans
Asian American Personality and Identity-graduate course



VISIONS (continued from page 4)

erras, which, even if it were not autobiographical in terms of reality, was autobiographical in terms of the imagination, in terms of feeling and sympathy. Shawn did not succeed in fooling us; his sympathies were too real for that. His Sierra winter flowed past and through us, cold and arduous, and then it was gone.

-Applause.

Two hours had passed. It was 7 p.m. and the sky outside the windows had darkened, but the audience was still with us, and the doors and outside hallway were jammed with people who could not get in. Time for a break before we came together again for a panel discussion.

People stood up, stretched, clambered over the seats to get a better view of the writers or to greet them personally. Jeff took out another cigarette, and so did Janice, and Hisaye and Wakako were immediately surrounded by eager faces, women and men. Meanwhile, the moderators scrambled out the door for a drink, and the rest of the people, it seemed, were very hungry. Five and six cookies stuffed into napkins, the rich smell of cheese, wine, salami and cigarette smoke and sweat - the perfume of a successful reading.

The audience stayed and assembled again. Co-moderator Ishmael Reed, premier writer and editor, attired in his six foot frame and brown corduroy suit, stood up, and bluntly asked the panel about the relationship of using English, a Christian white man's language, to ethnic literature, specifically Asian American writing. From this point on, the panel discussion blazed for an hour until it was time to call it quits.

"Visions of California" was truly a wondrous marriage by the sea: a compatible union of circumstances, of visions, of sympathies, and excitement.

-Russell Leong

(Look for a special "Asian American Literature" section featuring original works read at the conference in a forthcoming Amerasia Journal.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS