

telephone 725-2120

bulletin

united asian communities center, inc.
43 west 28th street, new york, new york 10001

VOL. 4

No. 22

??? SCALING DOWN ???

The staff of the Center is considering the closing of our upstairs "annex". The financial responsibility of maintaining the two spaces has taken much of the staff's energies over the past year and is an important factor which continues to plague our efforts to initiate new programs.

The upstairs space is currently being used to keep mail, various office equipment and an outgoing phone. It serves as a lounge area with TV and as a secondary meeting place. On occasion, it has been used as an overflow valve for Center events. For all the above reasons, we would like to keep the upstairs space, however we are forced to be realistic. Unless we are able to expand our base of pledgers and contributors, we will have no alternative but to give it up.

The staff has always felt that the amount of a monthly pledge is less important than the regularity of the support. No amount is too little to be welcomed and appreciated. Our ability to plan in advance is entirely dependent upon consistency of income. This, of course, is further dependent upon the interest of people in the activities at the Center, the participation of the staff in the communities' activities and in the belief that the Center must continue to exist. The staff continues to believe in the relevance of the Asian Center and we are certain that with increased financial support, that we will be able to begin new programs.

This appeal for financial support is to those of you who do support the Center by your continued attendance at our events but do not pledge and to those who receive the benefits of being able to meet here but do not pledge. Please discuss this among yourselves and with others and let us hear from you soon. Our Plans call for a final decision on the upstairs space by the end of June.

In case you were wondering. . .

The Anti-Bicentennial Program at the Center Saturday, April 17, was sponsored by the Asian American Ad Hoc Committee for July Fourth.

THANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOU

Thank you for your contribution to the Center -

Fay Chew
Steve and Taxie Wada
Chiye Watanabe

THANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOUTHANKYOU

UACC SPORTS

The annual NIKO NIKO Softball league began on April 11 at Van Cortland Park with the Center winding up 1-1 after the day's play. The playing conditions were terrible: cold, windy and frequent dust storms.

In the first game, the Center was defeated by Daiichi 14-12. Daiichi power gave them an early 14-2 lead but the Center never quit and came back, scoring 10 runs in the last 2 innings to almost pull it out. Although we lost, we were encouraged by our effort against one of the more powerful teams in the league.

In the second contest, the Center continued it's heavy hitting begun late in the first game and piled up runs in bunches. Niko Niko started slowly but eventually scored well in the late innings to only lose 17-13.

On the negative side, our defense was far below our standards of last year, however we expect to steadily improve. The positive aspects included our hitting and never say die attitude. On the day, the Center finished with 4 team homers and 7 regulars batting over .300. In addition, both games were enhanced by the usual good "friendshipfirst" sportsmanship on the part of Daiichi and Niko Niko.

Our next games are against the Hawks on May 2 at 2:00PM and Shiro on May 9 at 2:00PM. We invite all who are interested to come out and watch, and for information on the entire league's activities, please read the weekly column by Mary Kochiyama in the NY NICHIBEI.

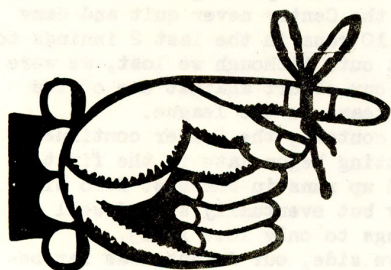
* SUPPORT THE CENTER *

MAY, 1976

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			DOWNSTAIRS ----- UPSTAIRS			1
2	6:00 3 TAI CHI	4	6-9 OAW 5	6:00 Center 6 Mtq.	6:30 BC 7 HOSPITAL	8
---	---	7:00 IN USE	---	7:00 IN USE	---	---
9	6:00 10 TAI CHI	11	MAY DAY 12	6:00 Center 13 Mtq.	6:30 BC 14 HOSPITAL	15
---	---	7:00 IN USE	---	7:00 IN USE	---	---
16	6:00 17 TAI CHI	18	6-9 OAW 19	6:00 Center 20 Mtq.	6:30 BC 21 HOSPITAL	22
---	---	7:00 IN USE	---	7:00 IN USE	---	---
23	6:00 24 TAI CHI	25	MAY 26	6:00 Center 27 Mtq.	6:30 BC 28 HOSPITAL	29
---	---	7:00 IN USE	---	7:00 IN USE	---	LAST SATURDAY
30	6:00 31 TAI CHI					

Independent groups using the Asian Center for meetings, activities, forums, mailing address, etc., are:

Asian Americans for Action (AAA)
Coalition Against Budget Cuts
Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP)
Organization of Asian Woman (OAW)
Worker's Viewpoint



remember..

- * Center Softball
Hawks, May 2, 2:00pm
Shiro, May 9, 2:00pm
at Van Cortlandt Park
- * Last Saturday, May 29, 8:00pm

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First Class

Statement by Asian Center on Mayday

One hundred years ago, the United States was in the midst of the depression of 1873-1877. Industry was at a standstill and millions of unemployed workers and their families were at the point of starvation. Those who were able to work did so for half pay and from thirty trade unions, there were only eight or nine left by 1877. The surviving unions had to develop all sorts of complicated methods, like secret handshakes, etc. to escape the witch hunts against organized labor initiated by the capitalists. The capitalists responded to the growing consciousness of workers by putting police and Pinkertons on their payroll to bear up and intimidate them. Through the newspaper editorials, workers were accused of being communists, whenever they struggled for better working conditions and better pay. Special invective was reserved for the calls to unite unions across trade lines into federations since these were indications of workers growing understanding of class consciousness. In spite of this, the National Labor Union, the Knights of Labor and later the American Federation of Labor were formed in this period.

When partial economic recovery came in 1879, workers were not content to just have jobs again but the experience of the depression years taught them that the necessity to organize was still urgent. The demand for an eight hour work day became a rallying call. It was not unusual for people to work 12-14 hours per day for about \$1.50 per day. So, focusing on the eight hour workday, the Knights of Labor increased their membership from 100,000 to 700,000 in 1885-1886. Another factor was the depression of 1883-1885 which wiped out much of the recovery from the previous depression. The Knights of Labor called for a nationwide strike and march on May 1, 1886 for the eight hour work day. This was supported by the AFL and thousands of immigrant workers.

On May 1, 1886, about 400,000 workers marched in all parts of the country. In Chicago, a center of organizing activity, about 80,000 marched in a climate of editorial hysteria and expectations of police violence. The capitalists were openly calling for mass hangings and inciting a police riot. However, the organizers of the demonstration were especially conscious of the need to avoid confrontation. The police were frustrated in their attempts to provoke the marchers and the event remained peaceful.

The strike spread the next day throughout the country and an incident occurred on May 3 in Chicago at the McCormick Harvester Works. Locked out workers were waiting to confront 300 scabs at the end of the day, when the police moved in, beating up and shooting at the workers. Some were killed and many were injured. The next day, a demonstration to protest the police violence was held in Haymarket Square. An unknown person, suspected by the workers to be an agent provocateur, threw a bomb and a policeman was killed. The police went berserk and began shooting in all directions, killing and wounding many demonstrators. The leaders of the demonstration were held responsible for the policeman's death and went on trial for murder. Around the country, a reign of terror against organized labor began using the Haymarket Square and the Red Scare as excuses. Eventually, four of the leaders on trial were hung.

In 1888, the AFL voted to continue the eight hour day movement, setting May 1, 1890 for the next mass action. In 1889, leaders of organized labor from many countries met in Paris to form the International Association of Working People. In recognition of the international significance of the eight hour workday movement, they voted to declare May 1 as International Workers' Day.

Since then until today, Mayday has symbolized the international unity of all working and oppressed people struggling against all forms of exploitation and is celebrated throughout the world. In short, struggles against worldwide imperialism. To many of us who participated in the anti-war movement, it is especially significant to mention that May 1 is also the anniversary of the total liberation of all of Vietnam. It was no accident, as victory drew near, that the Vietnamese chose May 1 as the date of liberation. They were conscious of the international significance of the date and made their liberation a recognition of the international support for their struggle. In particular, they always stressed their unity with the workers and oppressed people in the United States. They saw us as their allies. In the United States we should celebrate Mayday in the same spirit of supporting the international struggles of the working class and all oppressed peoples for liberation.

UNITED ASIAN COMMUNITIES CENTER (UACC)

The United Asian Communities Center firmly opposes the proposed S-1 bill. We see it as a means of establishing a legal justification for all repressive acts historically committed against Third World people and the progressive movement. We also recognize that the movement to defeat this bill is only one part of the struggle for change.

In particular, the S-1 bill is attempting to legislate a legal basis for a repetition of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Those of us on the UACC staff who have been subjected to the concentration camp experience never want to see it happen again to us or any people.

Even if some of the more outright repressive measures are deleted, a bill strengthening "law and order" will fall heavily on those most oppressed - Third World and working people. It is the responsibility of all of us to oppose attacks (like the S-1 bill) on oppressed people and to continually broaden the struggle.