

*Continued on
other side*

Recruiting Students For a Health Project

Project AHEAD, a health careers program of the Chinatown Health Clinic, each year recruits 20 undergraduate students to work on a ten-hours-per-week schedule in one of three hospitals, Beekman Downtown, Bellevue, or Gouverneur.

The recruits can also work with community centers such as the Floating Hospital and the Chinatown Health Clinic. They also spend two hours a week at seminars, receiving City College credit for all of their activities.

Project AHEAD hopes, through its work-study programs, to instill in Asian Americans who are interested in health careers a community awareness and to help them acquire an academic and cul-

Announce Closing Of Asian Center

Differing views among staff members on its future direction and the difficulty of maintaining the facility with a shrunk staff and diminished revenues were given as the major reasons for the planned closing of the United Asian Communities Center at 43 W. 28 St.

The Center had opened late in 1971 after a series of meetings by a number of individuals in the Asian American community who had perceived a need for a permanent location where not only meetings but social, cultural, and other community events could be held.

Funded entirely by voluntary group and individual contributions and staffed by volunteers, the Asian Center, as it came to be known, has in its nearly five years' existence provided meeting space for a number of organizations, including Asian Americans for Action, Asian Americans for a Fair Media, Asians in the Spirit of the Indochinese, Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino, Organization of Asian Women, and Coalition Against Budget Cuts. It has also been the site of forums, a pre-schoolers' day care center, film showings, and fund-raising events, including those for anti-Vietnam-war efforts and for Native American activists.

"Last Last Saturday"

One of the Center's most popular fund-raising events has been the monthly "Last Saturdays" which have also been a principal source of operating funds. The last of these, "The Last Last Saturday," will be held July 24, from 8 p.m. Admission remains the minimal 50 cents per person. Refreshments and a variety of activities, not to mention the inevitable nods to nostalgia, are among the scheduled fare. It is open to the entire community, and all proceeds will go to the Kazu Obayashi Fund to help the former active member of Asian Americans for a Fair Media cover accumulated and continuing doctor and hospital fees. (See issue of July 1.)

* * *

The Center's formal statement of its dissolution follows:

UACC Statement

After months of deliberation, the Center staff has decided to close the United Asian Communities Center.

This action was determined by the divergent ideas and opinions among staff members concerning the direction and future of the Center; compounded by the small size of the Center staff; and the staff's on-going struggle to raise funds required to operate the Center, and the dwindling support of individuals and groups that have either dissolved, consolidated, or vacated the premises.

Beginning in the fall of 1971, the Center concept was based upon the need for Asian-American identity, Asian unity, and Third World unity. The staff was orig-

Asian Center -

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inally composed of people from the anti-Vietnam war movement and those interested in working in the Asian-American community. One aspect of the staff's work was

that of taking on the responsibility for offering and providing space for various Asian groups (movement and non-movement) to gather and hold events.

An equally important task for the staff was outreach to Asian-Americans. In the early years of its existence, the Center sponsored manifold cultural, educational, social, recreational and service-oriented programs to meet the needs of the Asian-American community and to increase their awareness and encourage their involvement. Through these activities the UA-CC was able to establish a wide spectrum of contacts and gain supporters. Significantly, too, a few of these programs had a catalytic effect on some traditionally conservative Asian American organizations.

In addition, communications were made by the staff with other Asian-American organizations in New York and throughout the country. The Center was often the first stop for out-of-town visitors who wanted to meet with local Asians to establish new friendships and share experiences.

Although the United Asian Communities Center is closing, the staff individually will continue as part of the progressive movement, hoping that each will develop further to carry on the struggle for human betterment.

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