

## bulletin

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

Vol. II, No. 7

July 1974

## Moving On...

The Center is looking for new quarters. After about 2 years at 43 West 28th Street, the Center staff feels that the Center has outgrown its present facilities. The staff has talked with various groups that use the Center and the consensus is that it would be a good idea to move.

In the past there have been many calendar conflicts because only one activity at a time can be carried out at the same time at the Center. The Center staff has had to turn away people and limit the Center programs due to space limitations. Even if you only come to Las Saturdays, you can check out the calendar and list of organizations using the Center in THE BULLETIN, and see how crowded the Center calendar is.

The staff has examined the problem of expanding Center programs and outreach work carefully, and the conclusion of the staff is that the major limitation at this time is one of space, not of peoplepower or lack of community support, participation or needs.

The Center has grown tremendously since its inception in September 1972. There have been serious problems and world-shaking events, but always the Center has risen to the occasion. The staff has made mistakes and tried to learn from them. In the past there have been shifts in staff membership and changes in programs. At present the Center staff is the largest it has ever been, and includes individuals from the Japanese, Chinese and Pilipino communities.

THE FOOD CO-OP would like to expand to include a wider variety of dried goods and begin to address the politics of food: who eats and who doesn't and why; who profits from the production and processing of food. The Food Co-op would also like to have more nutritional information available to the community. More space would be needed to store food.

THE PLAYGROUP would like to begin reaching out to parents. In order to do this, the Center needs a space where parents can meet and child-care can take place simultaneously in a separate part of the Center.

THE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS would like to meet in the evening during the week when working people are free, but there are meetings every evening at the Center of various organizations. If the Center had two big rooms or the potential of dividing a single large space in half, this could take place.

It is difficult to invite organizations the Center endorses and participates in such as Asian Americans for Equal Employment (AAFE) to meet at the Center because the Calendar is usually booked up.

The Center is dependent upon the income of monthly pledges and the income from the Last Saturday activities to cover Center operating expenses and to keep the Center financially stable. The following are basic overhead expenses:

\$275.00	rent
20.00	electricity
10.00	telephone
<u>\$305.00</u>	TOTAL (monthly)

Two special moving fund-raising Last Saturdays have been held in April and May of this year. Approximately \$600 from the fund-raisers has made it possible for the staff to save some money for the initial cost of moving. The staff thanks those who came out to support the Center.

The Center will need the continued financial support of Last Saturdays and monthly pledges, but will also have to broaden its base of financial support. A staff member will probably be contacting you over the summer months to ask you to make a



(The following is an excerpt from the June 1974 Special Bulletin on Asian Americans for Equal Employment)

## THE STRUGGLE AT CONFUCIUS PLAZA

Asian-Americans for Equal Employment (AAFEE) came into existence six months ago in order to fight discrimination in the construction industry and to fight for the rights of Asian-American workers. A \$40 million construction project in the heart of Chinatown with no Chinese or Asian-American worker is a slap in the face of the community. A construction project slated to employ hundreds of workers at high wages in a community where decent, good-paying jobs are few and far between is an open act of racism and a blatant insult to Asian-Americans. We had to organize to fight for our rights.

Understanding the historically racist nature of the construction industry, AAFEE began to meet with public and private industry representatives. At the same time, we sought the help and aid of other minority construction workers organizations such as Black Economic Survival, the Black and Puerto Rican Coalition, and Fight Back. Their knowledge, out of long experience with the struggle and militant support in demonstrations, has been one of the key points which has pushed our struggle forward. Organizing Asian-American workers who want jobs in the industry, many of whom have years of previous experience in Asia, goes on throughout the struggle, and through very sympathetic Chinatown newspaper coverage, leafletting, talking to workers in the garment shops, restaurants and stores, and sound truck broadcasting, AAFEE has received broad and wide-ranging support in the community, including the support of community social service agencies and members of the more traditional organizations. The people of the community have shown their support by "voting with their feet", turning out in the hundreds for our militant demonstrations.

The militant demonstrations called by AAFEE to support the demands of hiring Asian-American workers at Confucius Plaza site immediately, to appoint an Asian-American site supervisor to make sure that laws are complied with regards to minority hiring, and to hire forty Asian-American workers at the site, brought forth the full responses of the government and the construction industry. Hundreds of police have been involved with full back-up of horses, cars, communications trucks and scooters. While the real criminals still roam the streets, \*over fifty people have been arrested in the Confucius Plaza demonstrations, on the call of DeMatteis Corporation. Government officials and others have been trying to "cool off" AAFEE through token job offers. A big stick and a small carrot seems to be the government and industry position at this time.

But AAFEE has a potentially bigger stick -- the support of the masses in the community and the determination to struggle until we win, until all discrimination in the construction and other industries is completely abolished.

\* On June 27th, Judge Lander dismissed the criminal trespass charges in the interest of justice.

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SISTERS & BROTHERS, WE NEED YOUR  
SUPPORT: PICKET AGAINST MARTIAL  
LAW AND SEXISM IN THE  
PHILIPPINES

On Friday, July 19th, between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., the Union of Democratic Pilipinos (KDP) will sponsor a mass picket in front of the Miss Universe Inc. offices at 666 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan (53rd Street).

Many sympathetic organizations have been invited to attend this demonstration including feminists groups. They will all be on hand to participate in speeches, songs and a dramatic presentation which will show the disparity of President Marcos' "New Society" as it exists in the Philippines today.

JOIN US! We need a strong Asian presence to unite with other ethnic peoples to protest the dictatorship in the Philippines and Marcos' diversionary tactic of having the Miss Universe contest held in the Philippines ... a SEXIST event which reinforces the backward and suppressive attitudes towards women.

KDP

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## MOVING ON..(continued)

monthly pledge. A pledge can be as little as a dollar, but if you do make a pledge, please send the money in regularly, because the staff and the Center will be depending on you.

Please take the opportunity at this time to suggest improvements, to make criticisms of or discuss Center policies and programs with Center staff. The staff feels it is important to be aware of and struggle out all criticisms and suggestions so that the Center can continue to grow from a solid base of support and participation. Otherwise, the move will fail financially, and the Center will fail to continue as a viable United Asian Communities Center.

On a final note, we would like our readers to know that Center staff is a VOLUNTEER staff -- that is, they are not paid staff members. All time and energy is donated so that all who enjoy the Center functions and activities can continue to do so indefinitely (WE HOPE!).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 ASI	2 6:30 Center Mtg.	3	4	5 6:30 AAFM	6 11:30-1:30 English Class
7	8 7:00 ASI	9 6:30 Center Mtg.	10 5:30 Women's Group 8:00 Ad Hoc Committee	11 6:30 AAFM	12 7:30 AAA	13 11:30-1:30 English Class 2:00-5:00 Playgroup
14	15 7:00 ASI	16 6:30 Center Mtg.	17 5:30 Women's Group	18 6:30 AAFM	19 7:30 AAA	20 11:30-1:30 English Class
21 2:00 O Cha No Kai (AAA)	22 7:00 ASI	23 6:30 Center Mtg.	24 5:30 Women's Group 8:00 Ad Hoc Committee	25 6:30 AAFM	26 7:30 AAA	27 11:30-1:30 English Class
28	29 7:00 ASI	30 6:30 Center Mtg.	31 5:30 Women's Group			

Independent Groups Using the Center:  
(for meetings, functions, forums, mailing address, etc.)

Asian Americans for Action (AAA)  
Asian Americans for Fair Media (AAFM)  
Asians in the Spirit of the Indochinese (ASI)  
Asian Women's Group  
Group of Khmer Residents in America  
Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP)  
Worker's Viewpoint  
Japanese American Help For the Aging (JAHFA)  
Asian Ad Hoc Committee for Puerto Rican Solidarity

Inquiries concerning the monthly calendar should be directed to: Lillian Ling or Karen Asakawa at the Center, either by phone or letter. They are the program coordinators for the Center and any changes, additions, questions, etc. should be channelled through them.

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