

The CAAV VOICE

Newsletter
of the
Committee
Against
Anti-Asian
Violence

Vol. 2 No. 1

SPRING 1990

NYC Update— Anti-Asian Violence On The Rise

At CAAAV press time, the Asian American community was stunned by the news of the March 15th murder of Henry Kwok Kin Lau, who was stabbed four times on a crowded N train in Bay Ridge. This is the most tragic example of an already noted pattern of attacks against Asians in the Brooklyn subways, which has been a cause for alarm in our communities (see below). Thirty-one-year-old Lau, who immigrated from Hong Kong only last year, was repeatedly confronted by a man in his late 40's who yelled "what are you looking at" and "hey eggroll," before stabbing him in the chest. No one came to his aid, and the murderer calmly left the train at the next stop. Transit and NYC police are conducting a search for the attacker. Despite the racial epithets and the absence of other motives, they have not classified Lau's

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Jim Loo Murder— On The Road To Justice

On March 19, 1990, a Raleigh, North Carolina jury convicted Robert Piche of second degree murder for the July 29, 1989 racially motivated killing of Ming Hai "Jim" Loo, the 24-year-old Chinese American student. (See CAAAV Voice, Fall 1989). The murder verdict, in addition to verdicts for other related crimes, was returned in 55 minutes.

Ming Hai Loo and six other Asian friends had their evening of pool playing violently disrupted when Robert Piche and his brother Lloyd

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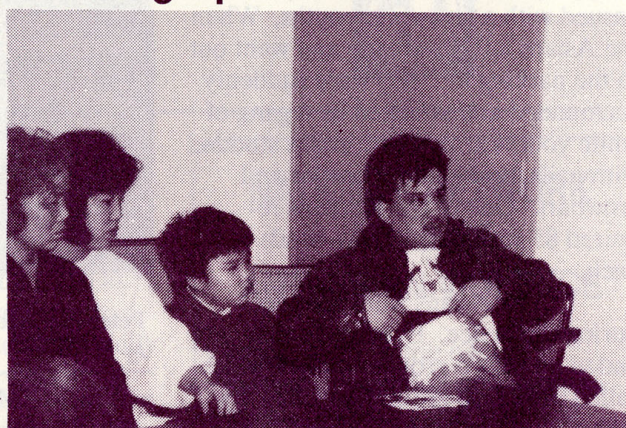
Brooklyn Police Gang Up On Asian Driver

After a routine day of work and school, a Chinese couple, their 8-year-old son and the wife's mother headed for home in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. After crossing over the Williamsburg Bridge, their lives were suddenly transformed, as the nightmare of police brutality unfolded.

On January 31, 1990, Zhong Guo Qing was stopped by two white police officers from the 90th Precinct, for allegedly going through a red light. Zhong denied the charges. In the exchange that followed, Zhong, whose English is limited, misunderstood that the police intended to tow his car. The family had gotten out of the car when the police officers asked Zhong to put his hands up. When he complied, the officers, for no apparent reason, slammed his head against the car window, began choking him with a nightstick, handcuffed him and called for back up.

In front of his terrified family, Zhong was choked, stomped and kicked by a crowd of police officers. One officer jumped up and down on his chest. When he lost consciousness, an officer falsely informed his wife that her husband was dead, at which point she fainted.

Zhong was carried, unconscious, to the police station. Later, he was advised not to request medical



Zhong with family, showing injuries to press—2/7/90

care or an attorney, supposedly to facilitate a speedy release. Unable to tolerate the pain in his chest, Zhong was treated at Jamaica Hospital 24 hours later. He was finally released after 40 hours, having spent two nights in jail. At arraignment, the police charges against Zhong were reduced to misdemeanor assault.

Zhong suffered severe hemorrhaging in both eyes, with lingering irritation and blurring of his vision. The pain in his chest persisted for several weeks. Two months after the assault, Zhong, a truck driver, has been unable to work. His son, deeply traumatized by the incident, was unable to go back to school for several days and has been suffering from nightmares.

CAAAV, notified while Zhong was still in police custody, helped the family to retain Eric Poulos, an attorney experienced in police brutality cases. We also referred him for medical care, called English media

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"The Master Race" Gang: Racist Violence Targets Asian Youth In Queens

On December 26, 1989, five Asian teenagers were viciously beaten in a Queens shopping mall by 30 to 40 white youths, members of a gang called "The Master Race." Police response was indifferent until community organizations came together to give support to the youth and their families, and to demand a thorough investigation by law enforcement agencies.

The two Korean and three Chinese teenagers had gone to a video arcade in suburban Bay Terrace Shopping Center, where an argument ensued with a few white youths. When the Asians left the arcade and went out to the parking lot, they were suddenly surrounded and attacked by a gang of white youths armed with sticks studded with nails, broken beer bottles and crowbars. One of the Koreans required 85 stitches for the wounds to his back.

The Asians were split up during the melee. Eventually they ended up in two groups, each of which called 911. One group was taken by ambulance to a hospital where they were treated for lacerations and contusions and released. The other group contends that the police allowed them to drive themselves to the hospital, even though the police knew that the severely injured Korean was the only licensed driver. This teenager was hospitalized for two days.

There was virtually no police

investigation of the incident until Flushing-based Chinese and Korean organizations, CAAAV and other citywide Asian American organizations organized to demand police action. The groups protested the negligence of the police, who allowed the youth to drive themselves to the hospital, questioning whether their indifference



Peter Pan Games, site of The Master Race attack. (Photo by S. Hom)

was racist. Many challenged police refusal to acknowledge that bias motivated the attack despite the obvious racial make-up of the groups, the name of the gang, The Master Race, and the references to "Bruce Lee" during the melee. The groups demanded a more thorough investigation.

CAAAV took an active role in the numerous community meetings

with the community board, police and District Attorney's office. We encouraged the uniting of Korean and Chinese organizations' efforts, when there was initially little communication between the two groups. CAAAV members and the Advisory Council sent letters to the police and District Attorney, adding a citywide dimension to the pressure.

Unfortunately, no arrests have been made in this case, but a more thorough, though belated, investigation was conducted, including a search for other witnesses, questioning of gang members, and some line-ups. Police have admitted no wrongdoing in their response to 911, but state that they are clarifying their procedures with regards to the handling of injured minors. The Queens District

Attorney has conducted a series of meetings with the Asian community. The police and D.A.'s office have been forced to take notice of the growing Asian community in Queens. It is our job to keep them accountable to our community's needs. □



Take A Stand Against Racial Violence

In the past year we have seen an increasing expression of anti-Asian sentiment, a result both of this country's growing antipathy to immigrants and Japan's continued economic strength. This is fueled by Japan-bashing, exemplified most recently by the media-led outrage expressed when a Japanese corporation gained a controlling interest in Rockefeller Center. Yet concern is never voiced when the British, the largest foreign owners of American real estate, purchase property. We are seeing how much of this hostility has been translated into anti-Asian violence, starting with the Stockton killings of seven

Southeast Asian children, more recently, the Jim Loo killing in Raleigh, North Carolina. (see Loo article, p. 1), and now Henry Lau, stabbed to death on a Brooklyn subway. (See NYC Update, p.1)

Mobilizing the Asian American Community

In the face of the rising anti-Asian violence, CAAAV's role in educating, organizing, and mobilizing the New York Asian American community against anti-Asian violence has become particularly crucial. Our role has focused on four areas: victim advo-

cacy; community education; documentation of anti-Asian violence; and coalition building with other communities. In advocating and mobilizing for individual victims, many of whom were abused by the police and then arrested for assault against a police officer and/or resisting arrest, CAAAV has called for the dismissal of criminal charges against Asian victims and for convictions of their assailants, uniformed or otherwise. We have brought our demands to D.A.s offices and the police, conducted investigations, held press conferences, letter writing campaigns and demonstrations to

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New York City Police: Guilty Of Racist Murders

Zhong (cont'd from page 1)

New York ranks among the highest on the list of cities whose police forces fatally shoot suspects. In 1989, 30 New Yorkers were killed by shots from police guns. Already, in the first three months of 1990, the number of citizens dead at the hands of NYCPD is 14. Overwhelmingly, the victims are men of color. Out of the 14, 7 were Latino, 5 were African American and only two were white.

The fact that 5 of the 14 were youths, aged 13 to 19, is most tragic and shameful. What is worse is that two of these youths were not armed at all. That a mere unexpected move-

ment of the limb can cause death reflects the racist knee-jerk assumption many police officers have that young people of color are all dangerous criminals.

Nationally, the number of citizens fatally shot by police is on the rise. In 1985, it was 159; in 1986, it was 164; in 1987, it was 169; in 1988 it was 174.

In New York, in 1985 the number of persons killed by police officers was 12; in 1986 it was 20; in 1987 it was 14; in 1988 it was 25; and in 1989 it was 30, a significant portion of the national total. □



Loo (cont'd from page 1)

subjected them to a continuing stream of racial epithets and threats, culminating in the murder of Loo. The Asian men were called "chinks," "gooks" and told "I don't like you because you're Vietnamese. Our brothers went over to Vietnam and they never came back." When the Piches were ejected from the pool hall, the Asian men were told "we're going to finish you tonight."

Outside Robert Piche swung at Lanh Tang with a shotgun while his brother held Tang's head down. Fortunately, Tang escaped, but was then chased by Robert Piche with a handgun, who aimed it in Tang's direction. When Piche could not keep up with Tang, he swung the gun at Jim Ta, who ducked. Piche then struck Loo on the back of the head. Loo suffered fatal injuries, dying two days later. After his arrest, Robert Piche told the arresting officer "I got enough of those gooks in Vietnam, and when I get out I'm going to kill them."

In sentencing Robert Piche to 35 years, the judge noted that although he had presided over many murder trials, this case was "outside the mold of normal cases," adding "because your behavior was motivated by hatred for people from Vietnam, this case takes a leap into hyperspace."

Robert Piche was given a 35 year sentence, making him eligible for

parole in 8 years. The assistant district attorney had asked for the maximum life sentence, characterizing Piche as "a cesspool of malice." Lloyd Piche had previously been allowed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor and served two of his six month sentence.

A national network of community and legal organizations [see box, this page] has been developed to coordinate activities on this case. The network will be meeting with the U.S. Department of Justice to demand a criminal civil rights prosecution. Although both Piches were involved in violating the rights of Loo as well as the other Asian men, they were not prosecuted for civil rights violations, and neither were given the maximum sentences possible for their crimes. □

CAAAV and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund will be co-sponsoring an educational forum on this case in the near future. Please contact CAAAV for details.

NATIONAL NETWORK AGAINST ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

In response to the need for national education and organizing work around the Ming Lai "Jim" Loo case, a national network comprised of 14 community and legal organizations, including CAAAV, has been formed. The network has the following goals:

- To develop support for the families of Jim Loo and Others involved in the Raleigh incident;
- To develop an information link between the Asian communities of the Raleigh area and from across the country;
- To create a network of organizations and individuals to educate and disseminate information;
- To develop national awareness on the local Raleigh organizing effort; and
- To generate national pressure on the U.S. Dept. of Justice to prosecute the civil rights violations in Raleigh.

Take A Stand (cont'd from page 2)

apply community pressure on particular government agencies. We have been holding public forums, doing public speaking, and publishing this newsletter to better educate the community.

Coalition Building with the African American and Latino Communities

CAAAV believes it is critical to coalition-build with the African American, Latino and other communities on various cases. But because of the diversity of the different communities and the complexity of the issues, it is a continual challenge. Of particular concern is the ongoing conflict with the Korean grocers in African American communities. The most recent unresolved incident on Church Avenue, where a Korean grocer accused a Haitian woman of shoplifting, and the woman counter-accused the grocer of assaulting her, has resulted in a two month long boycott of the store. This

incident reflects the need for anti-racism education among people of color. Although it is imperative that this particular incident be resolved, CAAAV recognizes that this situation will recur as long as economic development is prevented in the African American community. CAAAV is thus exploring ways to join with African American communities to challenge discriminatory practices of lending institutions.

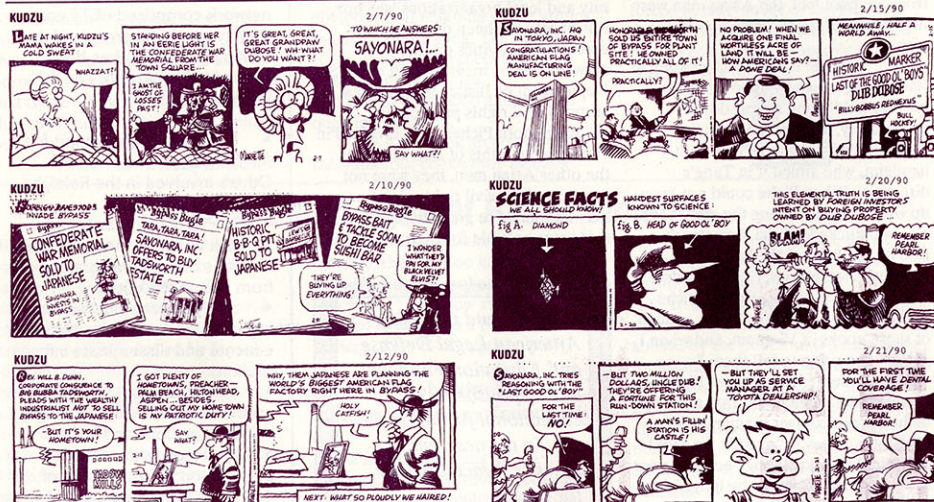
Your Efforts Make a Difference

In order to continue this important work more effectively, CAAAV is seeking to increase its membership and develop its resources. With the involvement of its members in the past, CAAAV has been able to successfully apply community pressure to achieve results. In the Wong/Woo case, a Chinese family was wrongfully arrested for assault and resisting arrest after being brutalized by police officers and subjected to racial slurs. These charges were finally dismissed after a petition signing campaign, demonstra-

tions, meetings and a letter writing campaign to D.A. Morganthau's office. CAAAV's meetings with D.A. Hynes' office (on the Zhong case), Brooklyn Transit Authority Chief Del Castillo (on the subway assaults) and D.A. Santucci's office (on The Master Race assault), were a result of members writing letters, and attending press conferences, demonstrations and court hearings. We would not have been successful without public officials seeing that the community was behind our demands and was watching their actions.

Enclosed in this issue is an insert for our readers. Take this opportunity to do something about anti-Asian violence. Show your support of CAAAV by becoming a member and part of our Response Network. As in individual, you can make a tremendous difference. Whatever part you play, your contribution will be part of a greater, coordinated effort.

Join us in building a movement capable of stopping racist violence and winning racial equality. □



This comic strip ran in N.Y. Newsday and nationwide from 2/7/90 to 3/1/90. This storyline (not the strip itself) was abruptly ended in Newsday after, according to sources, letters to the editor, objections by Asian American staff, and a particularly offensive strip on 2/28/90, which was not printed by Newsday.

NYC Update (cont'd from page 1)

murder as a bias crime. CAAAV is in contact with the police and is monitoring the investigation closely.

What follows are descriptions of some of the other attacks against Asians that have occurred in the New York area since the last CAAAV Voice. As we are all well aware, these incidents represent only the tip of the iceberg.

MID-MANHATTAN

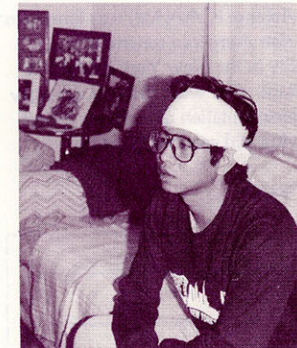
Beginning on February 27, 1990, at least six Chinese students were attacked in four separate incidents in and around Norman Thomas High School. Harassment of Asian students in the cafeteria, locker rooms and bathrooms fueled fears and caused many to stay out of school. Chinese parents met with the principal, demanding increased security and measures to combat bigotry and misunderstanding. CAAAV is applying community pressure on the school to implement programs to confront racial tensions in the schools.

SOUTH BROOKLYN

On January 3, 1990, three Asians in an N train subway car were harassed, threatened with a hammer and assaulted, one after another, by a group of eight teenagers. Earlier that day an Asian woman was threatened with a hammer in an attempted robbery on a D train in Brooklyn. A transit police officer, who asked not to be identified, reported that there was a developing pattern of attacks against Asian subway riders in Brooklyn. CAAAV initiated a meeting with Transit Police Chief Del Castillo to demand better security and increased resources for Asian riders.

LONG ISLAND

On December 23, 1989, at about 2 a.m., Shyamal Sengupta's pickup truck exploded in his driveway, sending metal debris as far as 50 feet across the street. Police stated the blast was caused by a pipe bomb wired to an ignition device around the corner. This



Andy Woo in Coney Island home

was the most violent in a series of escalating incidents of harassment against the family. The only Indian family in a predominantly white neighborhood, they have received anonymous notes and phone calls including racists, anti-Indian slurs. Police have yet to make any arrests. CAAAV has been in contact with the police to urge a vigorous investigation and increased patrols in the area.

CONEY ISLAND

On October 31, 1989, Andy Woo was attacked by about 30 African American and Latino youth saying "fucking

Chinese" and hitting him with bats and rocks. Woo's head laceration required 32 stitches. CAAAV joined with other Asian organizations to demand adequate police attention to the case and the bias motivation. CAAAV also facilitated the participation of Chinese residents in a multiracial neighborhood association and civilian patrol.

THE BRONX

During two weeks in October of last year, over a dozen Korean, Chinese and Southeast Asian students at Christopher Columbus High School were attacked by gangs of Latino youth. Fear kept the majority of Asian students out of school for several days. CAAAV and other community organizations put pressure on the school administration to address the racial tensions underlying the attacks.

NEW JERSEY

On September 29, 1989, Kun Chul Moon, after a verbal altercation with a white used car salesman, was called "Chink" while being hit, kneed and kicked into unconsciousness. He suffered head and neck injuries, requiring a nine-day hospitalization. The Korean community organized protests and weekly pickets. □

No Justice In Police Murder Of Hmong Youth

The fatal shooting of two Hmong teenagers last month by a policeman has led a coalition of groups in Minnesota to demand a reopening of the investigation.

Thia Young and Basee Lor, both 13, were shot in the back on November 15, 1989, as they fled from a stolen car they had abandoned. Police officer Ken Murphy justified the shootings because he believed Yang had a gun. The youth had been holding a screw driver.

Both Hmong families have been subjected to racial harassment and death threats, over the phone and in person, forcing both families to move.

The case had been prosecuted by Attorney General Hubert Humphrey's office at the request of the local District Attorney. However, the grand jury refused to indict the officer.

The Legal Rights Coalition, composed of Asian groups with the NAACP and the National Lawyers Guild, have asserted that the shooting was racially motivated, and called for a letter writing campaign to demand a reinvestigation. □

Send letters to: Attorney General Hubert Humphrey, III, State Capitol Bldg., Minneapolis, MN 55155.

The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAAV) was formed in the spring of 1986 to give a voice to Asian American concerns about racism, racist violence and police brutality in the New York area and to work with other communities under attack. Our work includes advocacy for victims, community mobilization, documentation of incidents of anti-Asian violence, public education, lobbying and coalition-building.

CAAAV can be reached at (718) 857-7419.

Name/Contact Person _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- ☐ CAAAV Supporter (includes newsletter)(\$10/year)
☐ Regular newsletter subscription (\$7/year)
☐ I am interested in becoming a member.

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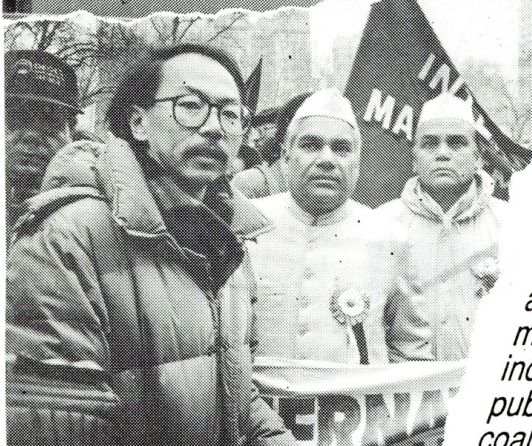
Marji Fujiki, Marla Kamiya, Taxie Kusunoki, Mini Liu,
 Penny Fujiko Willgerodt (coordinator). Special thanks
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CAA 4 YEARS OF ACTIVISM FOR RACIAL JUSTICE



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ADD YOUR VOICE - JOIN CAAAV

(1) JOIN!

- I would like to become a member of CAAAV as you enter your fourth year of monitoring incidents and advocating for victims of anti-Asian violence.
(Yearly dues of \$10 includes a subscription to *CAAAY Voice*.)
- Our organization would like to sign on as a member of CAAAV's Advisory Council.
(Yearly organizational dues of \$25 includes subscription to *CAAAY Voice*.)

(2) JOIN!

I am willing to join CAAAV's RESPONSE NETWORK and to
(check as many as are applicable) -

- a. Participate in letter-writing campaigns
- b. Show community support for victims by attending court hearings, demonstrations and press conferences
- c. Help by interpreting for victims or translating material
State language and/or dialect: _____
- d. Clip articles about anti-Asian violence from the ethnic press
- e. Other: _____

(3) SUPPORT!

- I don't wish to become a member at this time, but would like to continue to receive *CAAAY Voice*.
(Newsletter only, \$7.00 per year.)

Please make all checks payable to "CAAAY" and mail with name, address and phone number (optional) to:

CAAAY
Tompkins Square Station
P.O. Box 20756
NY NY 10009
718-857-7419

Name/Contact Person _____

Organization _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CAAAY WANTS YOU!