

The CAAV VOICE

Newsletter
of the
Committee
Against
Anti-Asian
Violence

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Victory For Police Brutality Victim



Trumped up charges against Guo Xing Zhong (fourth from left) were dropped 10/1/90. At press conference were attorney Eric Poulos (to Zhong's right), family, supporters, and CAAAV members. See article on page 2.

NYC Update—

Where's The Justice?...

Continued Rise In Anti-Asian Violence

Kwok Kin (Henry) Lau

If all goes as scheduled, on February 26, Pedro Hernandez, the murderer of Kwok Kin Lau, will go to trial. According to Brooklyn A.D.A. Cheryl Hirsch, Hernandez will be charged with second degree murder for stabbing and killing Mr. Lau on a crowded Brooklyn bound N train on March 15, 1990. Before Hernandez fatally stabbing the 31-year-old immigrant from Hong Kong four times, he taunted him with an egg roll and repeatedly called him "Hey egg roll." The murder was not classified as a bias crime.

The Tung Family

The Tungs, a Chinese family who live in a predominantly Italian neighborhood in Staten Island, have been subject to harassment by their neighbors over the two years since they moved

into their home. They have had dog feces thrown at their door, their property egged, and their mailbox vandalized repeatedly. The State has taken custody over one of the children because of his psychological condition. Ms. Tung believes that her son's mental state is a direct result of the trauma he has faced being harassed, spit on, called racial epithets, and physically assaulted several times by the neighborhood children.

Zu Jiang Shi

On the afternoon of July 25th, Zu Jiang Shi, a mentally disabled man who had been sitting quietly in the park area of Confucius Plaza, resisted the attempts of two white police officers to remove him. A scuffle ensued, at which point the police called for back-up. In front of a crowd of

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CAAAV Expansion— Preparing For The Challenges To Come

Although you haven't seen a newsletter for a while, CAAAV has been hard at work, settling in for the long haul. Last October, we hired Milyoung Cho, our first full-time organizer and coordinator. Milyoung came to CAAAV extremely well prepared for the challenge. After training at the Center for Third World Organizing in Oakland, she came to New York and co-founded Action for Community Empowerment (formerly the Hotel Tenants' Rights Project), which organizes homeless and tenants of city-owned buildings in Central Harlem. Milyoung's contacts in the Korean community and experience with multi-racial organizing have been valuable assets to CAAAV's work.

In January, we moved into our first office. This was made possible by the Fund for the City of New York, which granted us rent-free space in their office, including use of their equipment and supplies. In addition, a \$10,000 contribution from one couple plus over \$4,000 from a direct mail appeal, have given us a running start in raising the funds for CAAAV's expansion.

The move to reorganize and institutionalize comes none too soon. The NYC Police Department Bias Unit statistics, generally a gross undercount, showed that bias crimes against Asians have more than doubled from 1989 to 1990. In fact, by their count, there has been approximately a 680% of anti-Asian bias crimes over the last five years. Last August, the Transit Police revealed that robberies against Asian subway riders had risen 204% since 1987, over three times the increase for all subway robberies.

History and our recent experience tell us that racial tensions will certainly worsen as we sink deeper into the fiscal crisis. As Asians, we are viewed as the perpetual foreigners in this country. Our outsider status, combined with the much touted Pacific Rim threat to U.S. economic clout, makes us vulnerable to the all-too-familiar scapegoating for the economic ills of this country.

(Continued on page 3)

Racist Harassment In Wartime— WW II Internment Of East Coast Japanese-Americans

The recent wholesale use of FBI interrogations to intimidate the Arab American community recalls the Japanese American experience in World War II. The process had a chilling effect on the community and paved the way for the incarceration of the Japanese Americans.

Visitors to the newly refurbished Museum of Immigration located on Ellis Island can view a videotaped history of the Island. A passing reference is made to the unprecedented use of the Island's facilities during World War II, when the fabled "gateway to the new world" was transformed into a prison for suspected enemy agents or sympathizers.

While the U.S. Government was engaged in the well-documented wholesale uprooting and incarceration of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans (citizens as well as non-citizens) on the West Coast, FBI and immigration agents on the East Coast were as assiduously, if more selectively, detaining "enemy aliens" in the German, Italian and Japanese communities in a less well-revealed round-up.

Swept up for immediate detention on Ellis Island on December 7, 1941, and for days afterward, were leaders of community organizations, local clergymen, Japanese Embassy personnel and members of firms doing business with Axis nations. Subsequent detainees included students

whose visas had expired, domestics and restaurant workers who, as undocumented immigrants, were automatically "enemy aliens."

The detainees were housed in a large room which was furnished with little more than double-decker cots, chairs and tables. On all trips outside the main room, the men were required to be accompanied by guards, even to the mess hall or to attend religious services.

One man who had been arrested at the restaurant where he worked was taken to the Island immediately after being interrogated. When he later requested permission to return to his apartment to pick up some clothing, he was only allowed to do so in the company of a guard. Like most internees, he was treated like a high security risk, even though he was never to know the reason for his detention.

Arrests continued to be made for the duration of the war, but in no discernible pattern. In all, about 300 East Coast Japanese were interned on Ellis Island between 1941 and 1945, where they were detained for several months to a year. Hearings were held periodically, and any internee seeking to be released was required to be accompanied to his hearing by a U.S. citizen who would vouch for his character. Most did not win an unconditional release and were either transferred to other internment camps or repatriated to Japan on exchange ships. □

Anti-Asian Violence Nationwide

Two convicted in Vietnamese youth's death

On August 9, 1990, Hung Truong, a 15-year-old Vietnamese American, died in Houston, Texas from injuries he received in a savage attack by two "skinheads", 18-year-old Derik Hilla and Kevin Allison.

Truong and three friends were leaving a convenience store when they were approached by two cars. Without provocation, five teenagers with clubs jumped out and attacked Truong, the only Asian. "It can't be anything but a racial crime," said homicide detective Waymon Allen.

Although an ambulance came to Truong's aid, he was allowed to go home with a friend. When his condition worsened a few hours later, an ambulance took him to the hospital, where he died shortly after his arrival.

Local Asian American organizations and the National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence protested the tragic murder and called for aggressive prosecution of the assailants.

A jury verdict was reached on January 23, 1991 after 6 1/2 hours of deliberation. Hilla was found guilty of first degree murder, Allison was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter. The jury also found that Hilla had used his feet as a deadly weapon, which means he mandatorily must serve one-fourth of his prison term before being eligible for parole. Hilla was sentenced to 45 years and a \$10,000 fine, and Allison received 10 years and a \$10,000 fine.

Other incidents

• On April 9, 1990, Tom Tieu, a student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was attacked by a teaching assistant, who broke Tieu's nose and bruised his face. He and several Asian eyewitnesses received fliers which read, "We are powerful and strong. We get our way. We have forced Chinks out of UCSB. We can bring physical pain. We can create troubles for you. We hate you. Go back to your country. You are not wanted here. The white race is superior. Better watch your actions or else face our tribulations. Down with the Chinks!"

• On April 22, 1990, two Japanese students attending the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse were attacked and beaten by white students who mistook them for Hmong farmers. One student suffered a detached retina.

• In May, 1990, a Hmong youth, Xan Thad "Tom" Ly, was driving two white co-workers home from work in Yuba City, California, when they were attacked by two men yelling "Chink," "gook" and "China lovers" while trying to drive them off the road. When they pulled over after a three-mile chase, one of the men beat Ly with a hammer while the other smashed the truck windshield.

The district attorney characterized the at-

Zhong Cleared— To Sue Police

After enduring a ten month wait, Guo Qing Zhong, a victim of police brutality, had all criminal charges against him dismissed in Brooklyn Criminal Court on October 1, 1990. Zhong's vindication was in large part the result of Asian American community and legal pressure to bring the true facts of his case to light.

Zhong was stopped on January 31, 1990 for an alleged traffic violation (of which he was also cleared in an earlier appearance in traffic court) while driving home to Bushwick with his wife, mother-in-law, and 8-year-old son. When Zhong apparently failed to understand the police officers' instructions in English, they began beating, choking, and stomping him in front of his terrified family, until Zhong lost consciousness.

Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes' office delayed the case for a highly unusual eight court appearances before concluding that there was a lack of evidence to support charges of assault, resisting arrest, and obstructing governmental administration against Zhong.

Eric Poulos, Zhong's attorney, said that it was "remarkable that the charges were dismissed," given the D.A.'s awareness that Zhong is suing the city. Only in cases of extreme community outrage, such as in response to the police beating of the Wong & Woo family in Chinatown in January 1987, are the courts willing to drop charges against the victim. The Wongs and Woos subsequently settled for \$90,000 in damages in their civil suit against the City and Manhattan Cable T.V.

(Continued on page 5)

tack as "a stupid traffic incident" and refused to acknowledge the racial motivation. On January 17, Ralph Chester Miller, 19, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, three years probation and \$400 in restitution. He was ordered to stay away from the three victims.

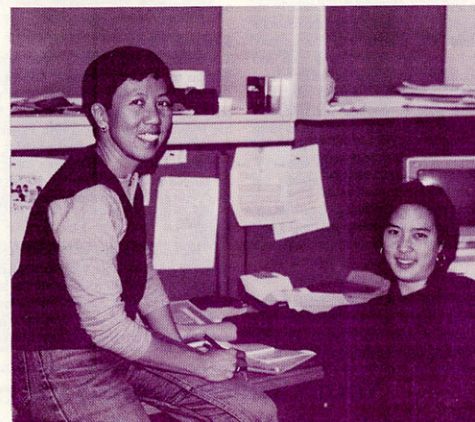
• On September 12, 1990, the Greater Phoenix Chinese Christian Church in Chandler, Arizona was riddled with bullets and spray-painted with slogans such as "No Chinks. Go Home to China. KKK." A month later, a swastika and the words "White Supreme" were painted on the side of the JACL's headquarters in Glendale, Arizona.

• On October 7, 1990, four white males who are linked to the Ku Klux Klan seriously beat six Japanese students in Denver, Colorado.

• Late last year, ten white high school seniors attacked two Korean American and two Chinese American merchants in Castro Valley, California. After hurling racial slurs and taunting the merchants with "Are you Chinese or Japanese or what?," the youths threw one of the Korean merchants into a trash dumpster and broke the ribs of one of the Chinese merchants. Because of the incident, the Toy family was forced to close down their meat market after 15 years of business. □

CAAAV (Cont'd from page 1)

There is little relief in sight. New York City faces a \$1.6 billion deficit. New York State, also in a crunch, is proposing to cut aid to the city by \$400 million, including \$159 million from the public schools. Meanwhile, the peace dividend evaporated along with hopes for peace—a predicted \$270 billion for a six-month war, plus a costly reconstruction of the war-devastated region afterwards. Ultimately, it is the poor and working class, especially people of color, who will carry the burden. The fight over the crumbs will become increasingly fierce.



CAAAV coordinator Milyoung Cho (right) with member Mini Liu in CAAAV office.

The war is affecting racial politics in other ways. The hysteria of World War II, focusing on an imagined threat of sabotage by Japanese Americans (and not white German and Italian Americans), is being repeated—framing another people of color. This time it is the Arab Americans who are the supposed terrorists. Once again, we are seeing racist attacks, unjustified government interrogations and plans for mass detainment camps.

Even in this war, Asians living in the U.S. have not been immune. Harassment and attacks against South Asians, mistaken for Arabs, have occurred around the country. Sikhs in the San Francisco Bay area were verbally harassed when they were mistaken for Arabs. In Florida an Indian family received a phone call telling them to go back to Iraq or face "something like a missile attack." Shortly thereafter, a pipe bomb was thrown at their house.

In this time of fervent nationalism, who are seen as the "real" Americans? It is people of color who are fighting on the frontline (one quarter of all military personnel in the Gulf and 30% of the ground troops are African American). Yet during war time, especially against a Third World country, it is the "all-American" blond hair and blue eyes image that is projected. For instance, at that patriotic spectacle, half-time at the Super Bowl, only one African American and one Asian

American were among the 50 children on stage representing the families of the "Desert Storm" forces.

In the face of these alarming trends, CAAAV is expanding and diversifying its work. Milyoung has involved several new members in CAAAV work. Under her energetic leadership, we expect the membership to continue its rapid growth.

• On March 6th, CAAAV is holding a forum on the war in the Middle East with the Palestine Solidarity Committee and the Union of Palestinian Women's Association - "Deja vu: What did

primarily by U.S. desire to control the region and its oil.

• In the spring, we will be working with some of our new members, especially college students, to design and present workshops on an Asian American perspective on war, racism and repression; anti-Asian violence; the model minority myth; Japan-bashing and stereotyping of Asians in the media; and other relevant topics. Initially these workshops will probably be for Asian student groups, and eventually the outreach can expand to non-Asian students. We see this as a way to begin dialogue on the campuses and address racial tensions there.

• We are focusing our outreach efforts to the different immigrant Asian communities, strengthening our work in the Chinese and Korean communities, and initiating new programs in the Vietnamese, Indian and Filipino communities. We hope to translate a know-your-rights pamphlet, put an informational series in the ethnic press, and make contact with community agencies and organizations. As we get new members from other communities, we will add new components to our outreach.

• We have been documenting incidents of anti-Asian violence in the New York City area for four and a half years now. We will be organizing this information into a five-year report, putting it into an analytical framework. Certain policy recommendations will arise out of the report, especially concerning the NYC Police Department Bias Crimes Unit and their classification "system," the "Civilian" Complaint Review Board for police abuse, and the Board of Education.

All this work has been made possible by having Milyoung on board. She is continuing our victim advocacy work while coordinating these other projects. But none of this work is possible without an increasingly active CAAAV membership. Our new office is at 121 Sixth Avenue, 6th floor, just a few blocks north of Canal. You can call during business hours at 212-925-6675, ext. 236, or leave a message at 718-857-7419. □



CAAAV Outreach Committee meeting

NYC UPDATE (Cont'd from page 1)

horrified onlookers, over ten police officers chased Shi and beat him with fists, feet and nightsticks. According to a witness, the beating continued after Shi was pinned to the ground and was motionless.*

Police responded to the public outcry with insinuations of gang connections. They asserted that Shi's medical reports showed a cocaine overdose and no evidence of internal or external injuries. The police cover-up was exposed when CAAAV investigations revealed that Shi's tests were negative for any drug abuse, and that Shi had sustained multiple contusions and a head injury requiring sutures and a CAT scan. In the words of the admitting physician, Shi was "pretty beaten up".

CAAAV joined with several community groups in holding a press conference to protest the police abuse and to urge other witnesses to come forward. The Fukien American Association helped reunite Shi with his concerned family, who had been unable to find him for several days and were unaware of his arrest. Although the abusive officers were never penalized, the family felt less isolated during the ordeal and was grateful for the community support.

*These actions were in clear violation of police guideline for the handling of emotionally disturbed persons.

Jim Lee

On September 15, Jim Lee was harassed and roughed up by the police in his Mott Street apartment building and was then arrested on false charges. Lee, a Chinese taxi driver, was stepping out of his apartment into the hallway when two officers from the 5th Precinct were arresting another tenant in the building. Officer Brower asked Lee pushed Lee against the wall and banged him around the hallway.

The police left and returned about twenty minutes later. They arrested Lee, handcuffed him, and dragged him through the hall. They stepped all over his slipped feet, and then threatened him, "If you don't know how to walk, we'll throw you down (the stairs)." He was charged with resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration—typical charges when the police want to justify abusive and violent police actions. After being held for a few hours, Lee was released with a Desk Appearance Ticket.

At his first court appearance, Lee, intent on seeing that justice be served, refused to plead guilty, even to reduced charges. After the intervention of a lawyer working with CAAAV, a discussion with the prosecutor, and three court appearances, Jim was offered an ACD (Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal). Rather than face a trial, where it would be his word against the police, Lee decided to accept the ACD. This means his case will be dismissed and all records sealed if he does not get arrested in the next six months. Disgusted with the legal "justice" system, Lee commented, "This just goes to show that with this system, even if you're right, you're wrong."

Mike Lai

On October 10, 1990, Mike Lai, a recent immigrant from Taiwan and a eighth grader at IS 237

in Flushing, was attacked by a group of about 10 other students. The attack occurred directly in front of school property and in full view of the Dean of Students and two school security guards. After a teacher broke up the initial attack, Mike was left on his own. He was pursued around the block by the same group of students, where he was attacked with fists, feet and golf clubs a second time.

The police who picked up Mike did not file a report and dropped off the visibly bleeding student at his house, where he was left alone for four hours. Mike required emergency treatment and hospitalization for three days.

Mike and his parents are particularly infuriated at the police's misconduct and the school's lack of concern. Discussions with Community School Board members Han Young Lee and Pauline Chupoint to growing concerns that school staff, when dealing with the frequent attacks of Asian students, tend to dismiss the incidents because they have stereotypes of Asians as gang members. In general, there has been an alarming tendency for the schools to refuse to acknowledge the existence of racial tension among the students.

Mike was left to transfer to another school. For the principal of IS 237, "The case (of Mike Lai) is closed."

Pong Son Chol

Pong Son Choi, a recent immigrant from Korea has now been in a coma for over three months. There is little hope that he will recover. On Oct. 31, 1990, Choi who was outside the coffee shop

where he had been working, was bludgeoned on the back of his head by a plank-wielding drug addict. The police have been dragging their feet and no arrests have been made. They even released the suspect after they arrested him for another assault.

In February, CAAAV, the Korean Americans for Social Concern, representatives from two branches of the Korean Association of New York and reporters from two Korean newspapers caucused with Betsy Barros, chief of the Civil Rights Bureau of the Brooklyn D.A.'s office. The D.A.'s office has sent its own investigator and is urging the 71st Precinct to pursue the case more aggressively.

Khawaja Pasha

Travelling on the D train from the West 4th Station to Atlantic Avenue, Khawaja Pasha, a Pakistani man, was assaulted first with racial slurs and then with punches by a U.S. Marine and his friend on Nov. 24, 1990. Private William Lauer and Christopher McLoughlin, who were accompanied by at least three other men, first demanded to see Pasha's green card saying: "Why don't you go back to where you belong," and "I'm going to show you what a Marine can do to a Pakistani."

McLoughlin spat in Pasha's face, punched him in the eye, and then went through his pockets. The men were arrested soon after the incident and were charged with assault, aggravated harassment and attempted grand larceny. This incident was classified as being bias-motivated. □

Youth Speak Out— Racial Tensions In The Schools

On January 17, CAAAV conducted a workshop for a group of Korean students participating in the Korean YWCA after-school program in Flushing. The thirty-plus junior high and high school students were mostly non-English speakers who have been in the U.S. for less than 2 years. Gene Chang, a NYU student volunteer, and I, an Oberlin College intern, facilitated. Milyoung Cho and Helen Look, another intern from Oberlin, participated in the discussion.

The students had much to contribute in the hour-long discussion which focused on the racism that they experience at school. Most of the ones who spoke talked of the unjust ways they have been dealt with by their peers, teachers and school administrator who tell them that they should not make issues of "small" racial incidents. It became evident that these students experience tensions with other students of colors, such as the Blacks and Latinos. Comments such as "White students are less likely to be racist than Blacks or Hispanics," and "The teachers seem to favor Black and Hispanic students over us," reflect the conflicts that exist among the different people of color groups in New York City's schools - conflicts which school administrators fail to recognize or refuse to admit exist. The students also mentioned that the Korean community lacks the unity needed to fight the

racist attacks.

It was agreed that in order to empower ourselves, it is necessary to communicate and talk about what's been happening to us and that this is the key to reduce racial conflicts. But, as we were leaving, I felt this great sense of incompleteness. There were so many questions that none of us could answer. How could we give clear solutions to all of these problems the students are facing on a daily basis? It was discouraging that CAAAV could not provide answers to every question the students had, and that the road to eliminating the racist attacks and racial injustice that the students experience everyday is difficult and long. However, having been encouraged to speak out on these issues, I think all of us made a first step in the commitment to educating ourselves.

It also became apparent that more follow-up workshops are critical in the long-run. They will provide positive and productive results for the community, not just in raising the awareness of young people, but also in equipping them with the resources to work with each other and to come together to build networks among themselves.

Kyung Hyung Kim, student intern from Oberlin College.

White Supremacist Groups—Asians Not Exempt

Here's a riddle: *What's worse—to be the target of (a) pervasive, random acts of bigotry, or (b) systematic, organized attacks by far right neo-Nazi groups?*

There are more than 67 known radical right groups, with membership totalling about 20,000 and a following of up to 200,000. Also, some 100 Christian Identity "churches" use the Bible to justify race hatred and violence.

All these groups believe in the superiority of the white race, aggressively seek "white power," consider race-mixing (i.e., intermarriage) to be a crime punishable by death, and seek the ultimate separation and/or extermination of all Jews and non-aryans.

Asians are not exempt from the poison of these white male supremacist groups, who commonly refer to us as "Asiaties," "Mongoloids," and "Yellow Peril." Here's a sample of their discourse, excerpted from the White Aryan Resistance (WAR) newsletter:

"Japan is a homogeneous nation in which 20% of the land mass is usable for homes and agriculture. Any national ecological disaster could drive massive numbers of Japanese toward our west coast to claim land and businesses they already own. Under normal conditions, Japanese immigration is a very minor problem compared to the Chinese and Southeast Asian threat along with the Filipino problem. At present, Japan seems content to buy up and control but not to

initiate wholesale colonization."

WAR's message isn't empty rhetoric. Many incidents of violent attacks and intimidation have taken place against Asians (as well as African Americans, Latinos, Jews, lesbians and gay men, and others who do not fit into the aryan vision).

In San Francisco, telephone hotline messages have consistently inveighed against the "Asian invasion," in addition to spewing a constant stream of racist slurs and innuendo. It's the same in the Northwest, only they include an environmental angle—Asians are not only sub-human, but we kill trees because of all the chopsticks we use.

Racist youth and skinheads have been particularly susceptible to this violent message. Recently an Asian American in Portland, Oregon narrowly escaped injury from skinhead thugs, only because of his martial arts skills. It's also possible that the paramilitary far-right may have influenced Patrick Purdy to fire upon the schoolyard on January 17, 1989 in Stockton, CA, killing five Southeast Asian children. His effects revealed his interest in Nazi memorabilia and other hallmarks of these hate mongers.

The message can be somewhat sophisticated: WAR and its followers have been fighting the San Francisco Chinatown freeway. WAR wants to cut off and isolate Chinatown — "This freeway is the Chinese yellow brick road to S.F.

proper," they write. Their scare tactics have included defamation and threats against Chinatown activists.

The relationship of such extremist views to the general level of racism in society is profound. On the surface, the more "ordinary" bigotry and racism may seem almost mundane, and wrongly appear to be less dangerous than the radical race theories of avowed white supremacists.

In fact, the "avowed racist" analysis of the "Yellow Peril" is almost identical to the more "generic" racist view. A letter to the national KKK newsletter, *The Klansman*, discussed the "flood of Asiatics pouring into the United States." It mentioned Japanese investment, the growing population of Asian Americans, and the rise of Asian gang activity.

The letter concluded with "White Man, won't you please wake up and take a stand to save your race and country?" Except for this last line, this letter could have appeared in almost any newspaper in the country. Even with the plea, it could have been written by any number of "respected" columnists.

For Asian Americans, the fact that the broad U.S. public and the far right share virtually the same racist view of Asians is more sobering than the growth of terrorist fringe groups like WAR. It is a reminder to us all that we need to take on these pernicious attitudes and to organize harder for racial justice and harmony. □

Not In My Backyard! Asians Face Organized Opposition From Neighbors

What do Leonia, New Jersey, Helene Circle, Staten Island and Flushing, Queens have in common?

- During the winter holidays, the Korean Community Church of New Jersey held its annual dinner for the local firepeople and police of Leonia, New Jersey. Following the dinner event, which was held at the United Methodist Church in Leonia, the predominantly non-Korean guests found fliers on their cars saying:

"Selling our town again? Or do you just like Asians? Your all a bunch of hypocrites. You will hear more from us! You gook sympathizers. The Sons of Liberty."

- During the past seven years that Sandra Rubin, a Chinese American, and her family have been living in a predominantly Italian, Staten Island neighborhood, they have been repeatedly harassed by their neighbors. The neighbors, who have formed a block association, have called the police and the Buildings Department on several occasions to point out "violations"—the family's basement apartment, the basketball net, the car parked in the street... One neighbor commonly refers to Rubin as the "Chink Bitch" and the kids on the block have designated her house as the "Chink House." A tenant had his car egged and

received a note that read: "Leave by the end of the month or we'll destroy your car." Last December, on a night when the Rubins had two African American visitors, a tree was uprooted from their yard.

- The Broadway Flushing Homeowners' Association, a group that represents the interests of an upper middle class, old, white neighborhood in Flushing and its concerns about "preserving the neighborhood," has been putting heat on the Korean churches in the area. A Korean Presbyterian church and a Lutheran church each bought a two-family house in this exclusive Flushing neighborhood a few years ago. The purchase of these buildings by the churches stirred up the racist sentiment and ill-will of their neighbors to the point where the Homeowners' Association were moved to confront the Council of Korean Churches of Greater New York. The Homeowners' Association made it clear that they would not tolerate any more purchases. Although there are individual members of the Homeowners' Association who have been pushing to prevent the two churches from carrying out their plans to renovate the buildings and move in, it appears that a settlement has been reached. The Homeowners' Association is officially permitting the two churches to move in and the Council of Korean Churches has agreed to set up

workshops for their members on how to become more involved with neighborhood affairs.

Block associations and other neighborhood groups may represent constructive efforts to organize as a community. However, in some cases they have been used to camouflage opposition to the presence of Asians and other minorities in predominantly white neighborhoods. Fortunately, in Leonia, Staten Island, and Flushing, there have been no reports of violent attacks...yet. But the harassment, vandalism and intimidation is frightening for families isolated in these areas. □

Zhong Cleared (Cont'd from page 2)

Perhaps more important than any monetary compensation that the Zhong family might win, is their regained sense of justice. After the dismissal of charges against her brother, Marie Soohoo remarked, "Before, when these things happened to other people, we didn't think that we could help or that it had anything to do with us. Now I understand that when people get together they are strong and they can win justice." Of CAAAV's role, she concluded, "This was not your problem, but you came and gave us so much support. That made us feel a lot more hopeful. People sometimes say that there is no compassion in the United States, but we think there is a lot."

□

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's new office is at 121 6th Ave., 6th floor. During office hours, our phone number is (212) 925-6675, or you may leave a message at (718) 857-7419.

Name/Contact Person _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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