

For CCNY Asian Studies Rally, May 9, 1974
To Fellow-Asians and Students at City College:

First, thank you for inviting AAA to participate in this rally. Some of you know that we are an older group; age-wise, a parent group. Thus, to be accepted into the circumference of a student community means a great deal to us...for we want to close the age gap through mutual concern and interest.

Also, as a political group, we have watched the past several year's development of the Asian Studies at City College with keen interest. For the kind of progressive ideas you began with, we felt you would run into trouble.

^{for} Ironically, and not-so-strangely, self-determination and self-reliance is something that those in power historically tries to keep limited and suppressed as a means of control.

Ethnic Studies is an important vehicle. It can become a creative, ^{action-}relevant, ^{oriented} dynamic apparatus for the community, or a stilted, ivory towered institution. We, of Triple A, are impressed by what you Asian student-activists are doing on this campus. For, too often, a group who pioneers by opening doors, becomes satisfied when they have had some successess; and then 'lay back' to bask in the few milestones. It is easy to become vulnerable to overtures and hand-outs. But, you, here at City College, have always kept in mind the original concept of Ethnic Studies--to provide a more relevant ethnic program to suit the needs of minorities on this campus. That's what Third World students--the Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Asians first waged struggle for. You never forgot! You knew what your objectives were! You also know the pitfalls. You struggled as obstacles were placed in your path; as opposition rose; as your rights were questioned and curtailed.

About a week and a half ago, we received a letter from Robert Carrol,

, and a statement from an Ad Hoc Faculty Committee who no-

tified us that they felt that 'the truth was obscured by a few students who created issues that did not exist; who did not tolerate the views of others who differed; who rifled files, who bodily threatened faculty members; who coerced students. We know this is not true.

We are just one of many organizations who received this letter and were outraged by the slanderous campaign that is being used to discredit student participation in Asian Studies. The insinuations and innuendos without specific back-ups, and the fact that the letter or statement was unsigned, revealed their own frailty by not allowing room for rebuttal or dialogue.

We are here to say "right on" to what you are doing. We support your 8 principles and 5 demands. As students—fight for your right to the kind of education meaningful to you; not just for academics and scholarly pursuits; but to provide a broad and proper perspective in a fast-moving world; to participate in the school's policy-making decisions for one day you must continue in the policy-making of this city, this state and this nation; become involved with Asian-American communities, not just to hang on to your roots, but because the Asian American communities need you; and also but not lastly, to promote understanding of the common struggle of the Third World and all oppressed peoples here and anywhere—.

Collectively and individually, become a moving force for change that this society can change from greed and competitiveness to a more equitable and cooperative way of life. Ethnic Studies does not mean narrowed, provincial nationalism, but the knowledge of one's heritage as a foundation to develop into a full and whole international world citizen.