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## **Eastern Wind: The Asian-American Community Newsletter of Washington, D.C. Vol. 4, No. 1**

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## NEWS

### NEW YORK DEMO FOLLOW-UP: CONCESSIONS THEN MORE REPRESSION

Over 15,000 New York residents and supporters protested against police brutality against the Chinese community and other minorities on May 12 and 19. A brutal beating of Peter Yew by New York police officers triggered this massive crowd. The charges against Yew were dropped. In addition, a grand jury handed down indictment against the officers who assaulted Yew.

While the outcome shows that people united in demonstration can win concessions, it is only an illusion of the victory yet to be won.

Continuing repression...

On June 30th, the night of the latest incident, police officers of the 5th precinct stopped and searched four Chinese youths in their car without explanation nor warrant. After a fruitless search, the officers attempted to take the youths to the precinct. Soon, a crowd of about 100 gathered and protested this latest violation of democratic rights. The crowd enabled the youths to resist their arrest.

A legal aid service lawyer and community people decided to protest this harassment to the new precinct captain, Ferriola. While the four youths, their lawyer and representatives of AAFEE were in the station house discussing the matter, two hundred supporters staged an impromptu demonstration outside of the precinct.

Around 11:30 p.m., a patrol car swung into the street and attempted to run through the crowd. Suddenly, 40 policemen from the station house charged into the street in an attempt to block off any escape routes. Protestors and bystanders were victims of racist insults and swinging clubs.

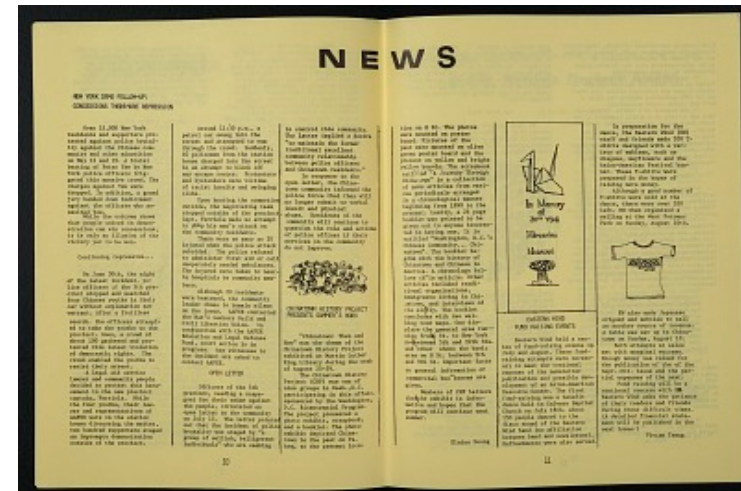
Upon hearing the commotion outside, the negotiating team stepped outside of the precinct, Capt. Ferriola made no attempt to stop his men's attack on the community residents.

There were as many as 20 injured when the police attack subsided. The police refused to administer first aid or call desperately needed ambulances. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals by community members.

Although 20 residents were beaten [[beaten]], the community leader chose to remain silent on the issue. AAFEE contacted the Nat'l Lawyers Guild and Civil Liberties union. In conjunction with the AAFEE Education and Legal Defense Fund, court action is in progress. Any witnesses to the incident are asked to contact AAFEE.

### OPEN LETTER

Officers of the 5th precinct, needing a scapegoat for their crime against the people, circulated an open letter to the community on July 13. The



letter pointed out that the incident of police brutality was staged by "a group of selfish, belligerent individuals" who are seeking to control this community. The letter implied a desire "to maintain the former traditional excellent community relationship between police officers and Chinatown residents."

In response to the open letter, the Chinatown community informed the police force that they will no longer submit to verbal insult and physical abuse. Residents of the community will continue to question the role and actions of police officer if their services in the community do not improve.

[[image - drawing of a group of people protesting. Chinese letters on center of drawing]]

#### CHINATOWN HISTORY PROJECT PRESENTS SUMMER'S WORK

"Chinatown: Then and Now" was the theme of the Chinatown History Project exhibited at Martin Luther King Library during the week of August 25-29.

The Chinatown History Project (CHP) was one of nine groups in Wash., D.C. participating in this affair, sponsored by the Washington, D. C. Bicentennial Program. The project presented a photo exhibit, scrapbook, and a booklet. The photo exhibit depicted Chinatown in the past on Pa. Ave. to the present location

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on H St. the photos were mounted on poster board. Pictures of the past were mounted on olive green poster board and the present on yellow and bright yellow boards. The scrapbook entitled "A Journey Through Chinatown" is a collection of news articles from various periodicals arranged in a chronological manner beginning from 1898 to the present. Lastly, a 24 page booklet was printed to be given out to anyone interested in having one. It is entitled "Washington, D.C.'s Chinese Community... Chinatown". The booklet begins with the history of Chinatown and Chinese in America. A chronology follows this article. Other articles included traditional organizations, immigrants living in Chinatown, and interviews of the elderly. the booklet concludes with two walking tour maps. One displays the general area running from G St. to New York Ave. between 5th and 12th Sts. and other shows the basic area on H St. between 5th and 9th St. Important facts or general information of commercial businesses are given.

Members of CHP believe that the exhibit is informative and hopes that the program will continue next summer.

Elaine Doong

[[image]]  
origami  
In Memory  
of  
30TH YEAR  
HIROSHIMA

NAGASAKI  
[[image]]

#### EASTERN WIND FUND RAISING EVENTS

Eastern Wind held a series of fund-raising events in July and August. These fund-raising attempts were necessary to meet the continual expense of the newsletter publication and possible development of an Asian-American Resource Center. The first fund-raising was a benefit dance held in Calvary Baptist Church on July 18th. About 150 people danced to the disco sound of the Eastern Wind band (no affiliation between band and newsletter). Refreshments were also served.

In preparation for the dance, the Eastern Wind (EW) staff and friends made 200 T-shirts designed with a variety of emblems, such as dragons, mayflowers and the Asian-American Festival banner. These T-shirts were prepared in the hopes of raising more money.

Although a good number of T-shirts were sold at the dance, there were over 100 left. EW then organized a selling at the West Potomac Park on Sunday, August 10th.

[[image - drawing of EASTERN WIND T-shirt]]

EW also made Japanese origami and mobiles to sell as another source of revenue. A table was set up in Chinatown on Sunday, August 10.

Both attempts at sales met with marginal success. Enough money was raised for the publication of the Sept.-Oct. issue and the partial expenses of the next.

Fund raising will be a continual concern with EW. Eastern Wind asks the patience of their readers and friends during these difficult times. (A detailed financial statement will be published in the next issue.)

Vivian Tseng



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