



Union (ECASU), since re-named ECAASU (East Coast Asian American Student Union), was dedicated to education, empowerment and collaborative action on APA issues. Its mission was to strengthen relations between Asian Pacific American organizations across campuses and build coalitions between APAs and people of all races.

Thirty years later, ECAASU held another conference at Yale on February 9 and 10, and the changes from the 1970s were readily apparent. An Asian Pacific American (Harold Koh) is now dean of the Yale Law School, Asian American studies courses are now taught at Yale and many other schools, and a network of APA organizations provided some of the speakers and attendees. Thirty years of ECAASU alumni who are APA entertainers, business executives, lawyers and others shared ideas with current students as they pulled together a multifaceted conference.

Over 100 universities and 1,000

Eric Byler's *Americanese*, and enjoy entertainers like Chinese American rapper Jin.

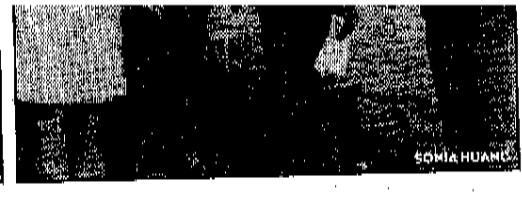
Workshop and panel topics showed both that a lot had changed in 30 years and not much had changed at all. The assaults on affirmative action still merited a workshop, as did the growth of Asian Pacific American studies. Newer topics that were not on the menu 30 years ago were interracial dating and how to get involved in the electoral arena.

One of the most positive developments over the past 30 years since the first ECASU conference was the development of other student networks to facilitate communication and cooperation among campuses. For example, the Midwest Asian American Students Union was started in 1990 by students from 20 universities in the Midwest that had formed APA organizations.

Alice Wang, one of the Yale student organizers of the confer-



Voodoo Soul performs at APA Rhythm for an ECAASU conference; ECASU members fighting for justice in Southern Africa on Nov. 19, 1977.



ence, explained how she used alumni contacts to make the conference happen: "Through a series of flukes and strokes of luck, I somehow ended up working with a fantastic group of people [classmates that I might not have otherwise met], and I was so excited about all of the wonderful speakers who agreed to participate in our conference. I myself have certainly become much more aware and conscious about the issues that we face as Asian Americans."

Toby Wu, of Swarthmore College, said: "A couple of student dance teams incorporated hip hop in their bhangra dance perfor-

mances. The concert was an exhilarating experience, because I got to see how some of my peers are almost reinventing their heritage and making it their own in these creative ways. I also thought about the different ways in which I could participate in the greater APA community through public policy [speakers Pauline Park and Khin Mai Aung] and entertainment [journalism [speakers Jeff Yang and Eric Byler]."

No one can predict where APA students will be in 30 years. But if this year's conference is any indicator, they will continue to be on the cutting edge, mixing arts, activism and good old-fashioned fun.

National Health Briefs

clinics, as well as to herbalists. South Asian immigrants throng to the free health clinics periodically sponsored by such organizations as the **India Community Center**, a multi-use facility in Milpitas, as well as to those sponsored by Hindu and Sikh temples and mosques. At these clinics, doctors volunteer their time to check the blood pressure of visitors, or measure their cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

Surveys show that free health care clinics are the only access to health care for scores of uninsured Indian American senior citizens.

— *New America Media*

if there was anything I could do to help." She was 14 at the time. "I guess the thought that a 14 year old can't really do much to help, didn't really occur to me," she says.

Gavini, who was born in India, spent a great deal of time watching her grandparents, who were practitioners of the traditional Indian healing techniques. "They've used it so much that I know it has some effect," she said. "So I decided to try that approach, and it worked." — *Voice of America*

Diabetes Ravages APA New Yorkers

A new study by the New York City Department of Health found diabetes in very high numbers among Asian American residents, especially those from South Asia. The study indicated that more than half of the New Yorkers whose families are from the Indian subcontinent have either diabetes or prediabetes.

Overall, 12.5% of adult New Yorkers have diabetes, significantly higher than the 10.3% national rate.

Asians have the highest rates in the city, 16% diabetic and 32% prediabetic. The report does not differentiate Asians by region, but officials said that the data in their study and others show that East Asians have below-average rates of diabetes, while South Asians have by far the highest of any large group.

— *The New York Times*

Why I Hate Blacks



• Blacks are easy to coerce. This is proven by the fact that so many of them, including Reverend Al Sharpton, tend to be Christians.

Here is a list of reasons why we should discriminate against blacks, starting from the most obvious down to the least obvious:

Yet, at the same time, they spend much of their time whining about how much they hate "the whites that oppressed them."

• Blacks hate us. Every Asian who has ever come across them knows that they take almost every opportunity to hurl racist remarks at us.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't Christianity the religion that the whites forced upon them?

In my experience, I would say about 90 percent of blacks I have met, regardless of age or environment, poke fun at the very sight of an Asian. Furthermore, their activity in the media proves their hatred: *Rush Hour*, *Exit Wounds*, *Hot 97*, etc.

• Blacks don't get it. I know it's a blunt and crass comment, but it's true. When I was in high school, I recall a class debate in which one half of the class was chosen to defend black slavery and the other half was chosen to defend liberation.

• Contrary to media depictions, I would argue that blacks are weak-willed. They are the only race that has been enslaved for 300 years. It's unbelievable that it took them that long to fight back.

Disturbingly, blacks on the pro side viciously defended slavery as well as Christianity. They say if you don't study history, you're condemned to repeat it.

On the other hand, we slaughtered the Russians in the Japanese-Russo War.

In high school, I only remember one black student ever attending any of my honors and AP courses. And that student was caught cheating.

It is rather troubling that they are treated as heroes, but then again, whites will do anything to defend them.

IndoAm Teen Achieves Medical Breakthrough



COLUMBUS, Miss. — What could be a life-saving breakthrough in the fight against cystic fibrosis, cancer and AIDS has been achieved by a 17-year-old Indian American boarding school student.

Madhavi Gavini was searching for a way to help a friend with cystic fibrosis. "I found out that most people who have CF die of pseudomonas infections," she recalls, "so I wanted to see