

# Asians unite to fight

Coalition for Asian Advocacy seek to voice student concerns

Carla Crandall  
Staff Writer

The Coalition for Asian Advocacy (CAA), created "to promote the interests of the Asian American student community at De Anza and to serve as a vehicle for articulating the views and concerns of that community," is emerging from the woodwork this quarter as another organization dedicated to the protection of Asian students' rights.

Representing an independent advocacy caucus of Asian Pacific American Staff Association (APASA), CAA consists of representatives of such clubs as the Asian Cultural Association, the Chinese Student Union and the Indian Student Association. An important aspect of CAA's membership is the presence of not only students, but faculty members and community leaders.

"When CAA was being conceived last quarter, there was fear on the administration's part that involvement of faculty would somehow influence the club [negatively]," comments Brigitte Saria, member of CAA. "[However] for recognition as an official organization, voices ring hollow unless faculty is there...and CAA is very much lead by a student steering committee."

Saria is adamant that CAA not be referred to as a club, as

the founders recognized a void that the structure of a club could not fill. "Clubs are great...They provide an outlet for social needs, but there is a real need for political action. [The structure of a club] does not fit our intended purpose now."

Dedicated to "making sure that DASB does its job and that students don't get shafted in the grievance process," CAA members felt that there was no existing structure for the collecting and voicing of concerns of Asian students as a whole. "A lot of Asians new to DAC have very little proficiency in English...[and in addition] are not aware of the ways in which they can empower themselves," states Faria. "The CAA structure fills the need for this type of voice."

As well as investigating and pursuing alleged cases of cultural and sexual harassment and discrimination, it is an aim of CAA to disprove what it sees as a mistaken notion that absence at student government meetings indicates apathy. "[CAA and a great number of students] resent being called apathetic simply because they prioritize going to work or class above going to these meetings. [It seems that] all that is important is that students fill up bodily space, regardless of the opinion they hold...We want to emphasize the use of a spokesperson to represent the

multitude of students who do care, but are not able to attend."

Kevin Fong, a "concerned representative for students at large," is a CAA member also devoted to resolving sensitive issues involving grievances that arise. "We basically assist in telling DAC about instances involving violation of Asian Americans' rights and making sure they are not further violated."

Both Fong and Saria emphasize that CAA is not working only for Asian interests but is a promoter of educating the general campus about the preservation of all students' rights. States Fong, "What we do is about protecting the rights of all students everywhere...and showing DAC to have unity through diversity."

Fong is an advocate of teaching the campus about multiculturalism, something he feels that Asian American Week (May 17-21) has the potential to do successfully. "I really encourage students to go to the events...it is more than just selling food; it seeks to educate about culture."

Featured courtesy of several other multicultural clubs, there will be cultural performances and displays involving Asian speakers, dances and films.

Fong and Saria uphold CAA as an organization "open to anyone...who is interested in the protection of rights and fairness for all cultures on campus."

# De Anza wins TV cable awards

Sky Papaso  
Staff Writer

On May 14, 1993, the Bay Area Cable Excellence (BACE) awards for bay area cable TV producers were announced at the Newark Hilton hotel at BACE's fifth annual banquet. De Anza (Cupertino Cable) producer Linda Grodt had two winning entries in the children's show category for volunteers, one a first place. Cheryl Tuttle took a first in the category of entertainment by volunteers, with a hot, hot musical rock show called "Posti."

DeAnza telecast shows originating at Foothill's studio also fared well at BACE with five awards. Cindy Fink received a first in technical excellence. In the professional class Marilyn (Kline) Ackerman received her "FADE TO GOLD" certificate (top 3) as a co-producer of a documentary on last year's awards.

Ackerman, co-producer at this banquet, also gave a moving tribute to the late Ripp King, a pro-

lific and significant professional producer, announcing a new Ripp King award to be given annually. Foothill TV staff were also saddened this year by the loss of volunteer producer Roy Stransky.

The other three Foothill "Fade to Gold" winners were Joe Presti for the Visions Unlimited series show on Opera San Jose, Joe Papaso for the Visions Unlimited show on the Renaissance Faire and Al Noseworthy and Joe Papaso who co-produced Al's smash hit "Barney Oatbran" comedy show. Foothill TV's technical director Craig Gower, a former award winner, has in the past two years seen five of his proteges, students or former students win BACE awards.

Dennis Mangers, Senior V.P. of CCTA, the awards ceremony M.C., suggested we are seeing Community Access cable TV shows of a caliber that can compare well with many of the best of what we can watch on commercial television.



Dear Mr./Mrs. Advice,

I have just moved here from the Midwest and am having trouble making friends on campus. Back home I had plenty of girl-friends and no problems getting dates with guys. What can I do?

Signed, Stranger in a Strange Land

## He says...

Dear Stranger,

Your are very right about one thing. You are in a strange land. People are much more liberal in California, and you have to expect the unexpected. People here may seem unfriendly at first, but if you introduce yourself and get to know people, we are just as friendly as the rest of the country. If that doesn't work, try changing your appearance to look more Californian. Just because you come from a hayseed state, doesn't mean that you have to look like you do!

## She says...

Dear Stranger,

WAKE UP! This isn't Kansas anymore! How about trying some of the obvious things, like joining a club on campus, getting involved in a sport, or actually talking to people in your classes? If you don't make an effort to be visible and outgoing, how are people going to get to know you?

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