Bridges

Asian American Studies Program Newsletter, University of Wisconsin-Madison Issue no. 6. December, 1996

Well-Known Asian American Writers Visit U.W. Classes

Author of Bone *Visits*



Fae Myenne Ng

On September 19, Fae Myenne Ng visited Amy Ling's Survey of Asian American Literature class to discuss the genesis of her award-winning novel *Bone* and to answer questions from students who had just finished reading her book. Ng said that her initial purpose in writing this novel was to honor the older generations of Chinese Americans whose hard work made easier the lives of succeeding generations. The immigrant practice of sending bones back to China for burial emphasized the transitory connection of these old timers to the United States. For them, America was a place of work, while China was "home." *Bone* is the story of two generations of Chinese Americans in San Francisco responding in various ways to a family tragedy. Written in a spare style, "pared down to the bone," it captures the first generation's struggles to survive and the second generation's efforts to thrive.

Ms. Ng was brought to the Madison area by a special program, "Writers Live at the Library," supported by the Lila Wallace Foundation and awarded to Middleton Library. On September 11, a week prior to Ng's visit, Professor Ling lead a book discussion on Bone at the Middleton Library, and on September 19, she introduced Ms. Ng to the Middleton Library audience.

Chitra Divakaruni Reads

On Friday, October 18th, at 7 p.m., the AASP sponsored a reading by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in room 7191 Helen C. White. To the accompaniment of classical Indian music, Ms. Divakaruni read a selection of poems from her collection *Black Calyx* and then parts of "The Affair," one of the stories from her collection *Arranged*



Chitra Divakaruni

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Course on Southeast Asians in America Set for Summer

Responding to student demand, a course entitled "Refugees of the 'Cold' War: Southeast Asians in America" will be sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Asian American Studies Program (AASP) as part of the "Windows on the World" summer program. This course was designed by Michael Cullinane, Associate Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, in collaboration with AASP Director Amy Ling. It will be taught and coordinated by Cullinane in conjunction with the newly hired Coordinator of Southeast Asian American Student Academic Services (see related article in this issue).

The course is being offered in part to provide a better awareness of the large Southeast Asian American community residing in Wisconsin (the second largest in the country) and to call attention to the strong Southeast Asian Studies program at U.W.-Madison. It is hoped that this course can be a model for a more permanent course on the American experience of Southeast Asians to be established in the future within the Asian American Studies Program.

The course will be divided into two parts. Part I will concentrate on the modern history and changing societies of Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos). Organized around lectures, readings, and video documentaries, this part of the course will introduce students to the cultural background of the peoples of Indochina and to the major social, political, and geopolitical developments of this region, especially during the 20th century.

Part 2 will be devoted to the refugees of these conflicts, in particular to those who have escaped from Indochina and

[Continued on page 2]

New Advising Office for Southeast Asian Americans To Open Next Year

The Southeast Asian American Student Services Office is expected to open its doors at the start of the next year. The Office was created at the request of Southeast Asian American students for assistance in their academic and personal lives. The new program will be housed under the College of Letters and Science Student Academic Affairs Office.

Approached in December, 1995 by a group of Southeast Asian American students who felt their particular needs were not being met at the university, newly-appointed Assistant Dean and MAPS Coordinator Consuelo Lopez-Springfield assembled a committee comprised of students, faculty, academic staff and community leaders to study the issue. Calling themselves the Southeast Asian American Student Concerns Committee, this group met regularly over the next eight months. Group members included: Phala Ros-Kong, Kayoua Vang, Moua Yang and Nou Yang of the Asian American Student Union, Kevin Kumashiro of the Students for the Expansion of Asian American Studies, Ken Hsu of the Counseling Center, Lopao Vang of the Madison Metropolitan School District, Jan Miyasaki of the Wisconsin Organization for Asian Americans, and Amy Ling of the Asian American Studies Program.

The Committee examined how other U.W. campuses have responded to the needs of Southeast Asian American students. Over the past five years, at all campuses, the U.W. system has recorded significant increases in Southeast Asian American undergraduate student enrollment: U.W.-Platteville increased 500%, U.W.-River Falls increased 258%, U.W.-Green Bay increased 200%, U.W.-Milwaukee increased 168%, U.W.-Parkside increased 150%, U.W.-Madison increased 143%, U.W.-Eau Claire increased 125%, and U.W.-La Crosse increased 27%. Except for U.W. Madison, all of these campuses have specialized student support services for Southeast Asian American students.

In August, the Committee submitted a proposal to University of Wisconsin Provost John Wiley and Phillip Certain, Dean of the College of Letters and Science. The committee proposed that an Adviser position in the Letters and Science Student Academic Affairs Office and/or a Lecturer/Adviser/Outreach position within the Asian American Studies Program be created. In response, the Coordinator for Southeast Asian American Student Services position was established. The search for the new coordinator began in September. The search and screening committee completed initial telephone interviews in November. Committee members include: Phala Ros-Kong, Jan Miyasaki, and Nou Yang. On-campus interviews are expected to be completed by mid-December.

Although the flagship campus of the U.W. system will finally begin offering specialized academic services for its growing Southeast Asian American student population next year, the work of the Study Group continues. A course on the Southeast Asian experience in the U.S. is being planned. Students, faculty and community members continue to pursue this issue.

[SOUTHEAST ASIANS, Continued from page 1]

settled in the United States since 1975: Hmong, Lao, Khmer, Vietnamese, and "Amerasians." The focus here will be on a range of issues: a) migration histories (sacrifices of escape, life in the camps,); b) resettlement problems (surviving in America, cultural adjustments,); and c) current situations. In addition to lectures, readings, and video documentaries, this part of the course will involve the direct participation of members of the Southeast Asian communities and will attempt to establish direct links between both U.W. students and representatives of the larger community, in the classroom and through visits to community and religious centers.

In conjunction with the course, a film series will be presented, featuring documentaries on Southeast Asians in the United States, and, with time and funds permitting, performing arts groups from Wisconsin (or elsewhere in the upper Midwest) will present concerts, dances, or plays relevant to the subject matter of the course. All of these events will be open to the general public and advertised as widely as possible.

Sun-Mu Zen Dance Workshop

On Saturday, September 28, Peggy Choy conducted a zen meditation dance/movement workshop in Lathrop Hall. The Asian American Studies Program was one of the sponsors of this highly successful event in which more than one hundred people (students, faculty and community members) participated. Ms. Choy began the session by giving a short demonstration of the dance, a graceful, controlled sequence of movements. She then led the group in deep breathing exercises to stimulate the ki (or chi/life energy), stretching exercises on the floor to limber up the body, and then had participants, one half of the group at a time, cross the room with a deliberate, meditative, floating walk step. At the end of the workshop, feeling both invigorated and relaxed, everyone enjoyed tea and several varieties of Korean sweets in celebration of the Autumn Moon Festival.



Peggy Choy

Bridges

Issue no. 6. December, 1996

Bridges is the newsletter of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Asian American Studies Program. Correspondence should be directed to: ***Bridges***, UW-Madison Asian American Studies Program, Room 303W Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706.

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Panel Discussion on "Growing Up Asian American"

by Yer Vang

On a snowy Wednesday, November 20, seven UW Madison Asian American students of diverse backgrounds discussed the topic "Growing Up Asian American." The event, moderated by Professor Stacey Lee of Educational Policy Studies, drew a large crowd. Topics ranged from issues of identity to interpersonal relationships. Although all seven panel members share a common race, their experiences and perspectives often differed. One such discussion was about identity. An interesting response from one member was a reference to the term "Asian American." He believed in using the term when addressing a large public group or when working with political implications. On the other hand, he commented that on a personal level, he thinks of himself as a Filipino-American. Another perspective of identity came from a different member who saw himself strictly as either a Korean or American, depending on the context in which he found himself. Clearly these two viewpoints demonstrate that even within the Asian race/culture, there are many lines of distinction and identification processes.

Another topic that surfaced was the issue of inter-racial and inter-ethnic relationships. Panel members were greatly influenced by their family values, both positive and negative. For example, some families permit platonic inter-racial relationships but frown on inter-racial courtship and marriage. One example of the dilemmas many Asian Americans face is balancing family expectations with creating a space for themselves as individuals within the larger society. Ultimately, all members agreed that they face similar issues of racism, discrimination, family expectations, and identity roles. Most importantly, the panel members and audience had an illuminating dialogue about issues relevant to all individuals and not just Asian Americans.

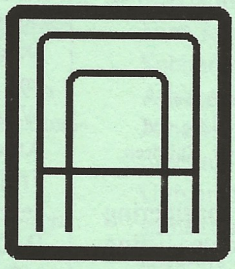
For those interested, a videotape of the panel discussion will be available at the Asian American Student Union Office in the IMCC after January, 1997.

What Ever Happened With the Proposal to Expand Asian American Studies?

by Kevin Kumashiro and Joy Lei

Hi folks! As you may remember, last semester a coalition of students submitted to Chancellor Ward a Proposal for the Expansion of Asian American Studies on the UW-Madison campus. Supported by over 1,500 students and faculty members from across the country, the Proposal presented four recommendations: (1) Actively recruit and retain Asian American faculty, as well as scholars both concerned about and knowledgeable of Asian American issues and students; (2) Increase the number and diversity of courses offered in the Asian American Studies Program; (3) Incorporate Asian American issues into existing courses throughout the University; and (4) Offer a Certificate in Asian American Studies to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Throughout the summer and into this semester, students have been meeting with various administrators and faculty members (including Provost John Wiley, Dean Phil Certain, Dean Charles Read, and Dean Paul Barrows) to discuss strategies to meet these goals. Already, progress is being made: a search for a third faculty position was approved and a joint search is now being conducted with the Sociology Department; a visiting faculty position was approved and will be filled next semester by historian and UW-Madison alumnus Prof. Victor Jew (of Michigan State University); Departments in the School of Education are being encouraged to take advantage of various funding sources for the hiring of faculty of color; and a proposal is being put together for a Certificate in Asian American Studies. Despite this progress, however, much more remains to be done.



New Asian American Graduate Student Organization

by Kevin Kumashiro and Joy Lei

A group of graduate students recently formed a student organization called the Association of Asian American Graduate Students (AAAGS). As members of a brand new organization, we are currently grappling with issues of purpose, direction, focus, and identity. While current members all agree that AAAGS is a social, academic, and activist organization, our specific activities will be as dynamic and diverse interests as the membership.

Currently, AAAGS is active in pursuing the goals of the Proposal for the Expansion of Asian American Studies. We are working on increasing the visibility of Asian American scholars and scholarship on campus, such as by hosting an Asian American Studies symposium next year. Other activities include working with faculty to expand Asian American Studies and student support services on campus; building coalitions with other Asian American and students of color groups; and networking with Asian Americanists at other Midwestern universities through the Committee on Institutional Cooperation. While AAAGS will focus on Asian American graduate student concerns, it also works in partnership with the Asian American Studies Program and the Asian American Student Union (and other student organizations) on shared goals and activities.

AAAGS is seeking new members, and encourages all interested Asian American graduate students to contact AAAGS members or come to our meetings and get involved. We will be sending out a newsletter with more details about the organization. Look for it in your mailbox! For more information on any of the above, please contact Joy Lei (jllei@students.wisc.edu) or Kevin Kumashiro (kkkumash@students.wisc.edu) in the Department of Educational Policy Studies.

Send AASP e-mail:

Amy Ling: aling@facstaff.wisc.edu
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AASP's Spring Visiting Professor

Victor Jew, Ph.D. History, UW-Madison, will be a visiting professor teaching in the Asian American Studies program this spring. Currently an associate professor at Michigan State University, Dr. Jew will teach two Asian American Studies classes:

The History of Asian America
AAS 184: 260 Lecture 1.

An examination of the creation of Asian American communities in the United States as well as the formation of a pan-ethnic identity. Also how Asian American history can throw light on some persistent themes and issues in American history, such as the development and influence of racial ideologies, the formation of ethnic communities, and the representation of the "Other." (*No prerequisite.*)

Exploring Ethnic and Racial Formations: A Seminar in Asian American Historiography
AAS 184: 560

What ideologies operated to create "the Oriental" in the United States? What resources did Asian/Pacific Americans use to challenge stereotypes and create social identities? A survey of trends in Asian American historiography, this course will explore how Asian American subjectivities were interpellated, contested, and created. It will also examine the prospect for writing the heretofore unwritten narratives of Asian American community formations in the "Midwest." (*Designed for advanced undergraduates and graduates.*)

AASP Certificate Update

To qualify as a certificate program, AASP must offer at least five classes taught by full-time faculty. Over the summer the program conducted a survey of programs and departments that could possibly offer courses devoting 25-30% of the semester to Asian American issues. Of the 57 programs surveyed, 22 did not respond, 22 replied negatively, one gave an ambiguous response, and 12 departments replied positively. Seven sent course syllabi:

Religious Studies/S. Asian Studies 368: Ethnic & Minority Religions In America;
Political Science 230: Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies;
Political Science 462: The Political Economy of Race;
Journalism 562: Mass Media & Minorities;
Geography 345: Ethnicity in North America: A Regional Perspective;
Child and Family Studies 474: Ethnic Minority Families in the U.S.; and
Counseling Psych. 954: Development of Ethnic/Racial Minority Children.

AASP's Faculty Advisory Committee is now considering which of these courses contribute significantly to merit cross-listing with the Program and inclusion in the certificate.

AASP Spring Offerings

184: 101 Introduction to Asian American Studies
Jan Miyasaki

184: 260 Topics in Asian American Culture
Lec 1. Asian American History (meets with History 200)
Victor Jew

Lec 2. Asian American Movement
Peggy Choy

184: 342 Asian American Personality and Mental Health
(crosslisted with Psychology)
Sumie Okazaki

184: 560 Topics in Asian American Culture: Seminar in Asian American Historiography
Victor Jew

184: 595 Asian American Women Writers (crosslisted with English and Women Studies)
Amy Ling

Second Annual Asian American Studies Contests

This year's Asian American Studies Contest includes more categories than last year. Prizes of $25, $50, or $100 will be awarded depending on the quality of submissions and the evaluation of the judges.

I. WRITING CATEGORIES
- A. Poetry
- B. Short Story
- C. Personal Narrative or Oral History
- D. Research or Academic Paper

II. VISUAL CATEGORIES
- A. Film or Video
- B. Painting, Drawing, Prints, Photography
- C. Multimedia installation or sculpture
- D. Dance or Performance Art piece

Submissions must focus on an aspect of the Asian American experience. The contests are open to all students (graduates and undergraduates) currently enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. All submissions must be in the Asian American Studies Office, 303 Ingraham Hall by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4th. All participants are invited to an awards ceremony and reception on Thursday, May 1, at 5 p.m. in the IMCC, where winning works will be read and shown. For more information, please contact the AASP office.

Updates On AASP Advisory Committee Members

Professor Narayan Joins Committee



Kirin Narayan, Associate Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies, joined our Advisory Committee this semester. Born in Bombay, India to an American mother and an Indian father, Kirin Narayan attended schools in India, and then received a scholarship to Sarah Lawrence College. Her graduate work in Cultural Anthropology was completed at the University of California at Berkeley. She has done fieldwork in Western India, and the Himalayan foothills and is beginning a project involving second-generation South Asian Americans. She is the author of *Storytellers, Saints and Scoundrels: Folk Narrative in Hindu Religious Teaching* (U of PA Press 1988), which won the 1990 Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing, and was co-winner of the Elsie Clews Prize for Folklore. She is a co-editor of *Creativity/Anthropology*. Another ethnography, *Mondays on the Dark Night of the Moon: Himalayan Foothill Folktales* written with the collaboration of Urmila Devi Sood, will be published next year. In addition to being an anthropologist and folklorist, Kirin Narayan writes fiction in which she turns to lively narrative as a vehicle for materials and insights from her academic work. She is author of *Love, Stars and All That* (Pocket Books, 1994), a comic novel which follows the adventures of a young Indian woman starting graduate school in America. She is currently working on another novel which features two anthroplogists: an Indian-American who grew up in Madison, and an American who grew up in India. *Love, Stars and All That* was one of the most popular texts in Amy Ling's Survey of Asian American Literature this semester and her visit to this class on November 18th was greatly enjoyed by all.

Stewart David Ikeda has returned to teaching Topics in Asian American Cultures after a nationwide tour promoting his new novel, *What the Scarecrow Said,* which was selected by Barnes & Noble for its Discover Great New Writers series and nominated by Harper Collins for the Pulitzer Prize. In addition to some 30 readings and signings across the country, Ikeda has spoken to schools, colleges, church and civic groups on topics ranging from the novelist's craft to Japanese American history. In Philadelphia, he joined a Holocaust scholar to introduce the Annenberg Center's play, "The Gate of Heaven," about a WWII Japanese American soldier who helped to liberate Dachau, and was a featured speaker at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. On November 14, Ikeda gave a lively reading to Ling's Asian American Literature class.

Stacey Lee's book, *Unraveling the Model Minority Stereotype: Listening to Asian American Youth* (1996), won the 1996 Multicultural Book Award from the National Association of Multicultural Education.

Ella Mae Matsumura has been appointed chair of the American Accounting Association's Notable Contributions to Management Accounting Literature Award. Her paper, "Second-Partner Review: An Experimental Economics Investigation," (with Robert R. Tucker) has been accepted for publication in *Auditing: A J Practice & Theory*, Spring 1997 issue. Ella Mae will be on sabbatical during the Spring 1997 semester.

Jan Miyasaki has been awarded the Madison Community Foundation's Individual Excellence Award for her work in the community as part of Respect Project, a women's center doing advocacy work for women in the criminal justice system. On November 26, Miyasaki was further honored at a special breakfast hosted by the Madison Community Foundation in the Terrace Room of the Madison Club.

Director Ling's Activities

On October 1-2, Amy Ling was invited to the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, to deliver a slide lecture on her Madame Butterfly research and to attend several meetings of faculty, administrators, graduate and undergraduate students interested in establishing an Asian American Studies Program on that campus. The invitation came from Professor John Lie, co-author of *Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots* (Harvard University Press, 1995) and chair of the Sociology Department, who is chairing the committee to establish Asian American Studies at Illinois. Enthusiasm for such a program at the University of Illinois seems high. The committee is investigating existing programs at other institutions, and weighing the pros and cons of an autonomous department as opposed to an interdisciplinary program of joint appointments with established departments.

The talk Ling delivered at a conference in Arizona State University in March, 1996, entitled "Creating Asian America: The Ongoing Revolution" was published recently in the proceedings of the conference, *Asian Americans: The Year 2000 and Beyond*, edited by Jenn-Yun Tein and Thomas K. Nakayama (Tempe: Arizona State University, 1996). A copy of this book is now available in the AASP library. Another copy was presented to the Ethnic Studies Reading Room of the College Library.

At the national annual convention of the American Studies Association in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 1, Ling again spoke about her Butterfly research as a member of a panel entitled, "Debating/Affirming Ex-Tensions in American Studies." Chaired by Nina Morgan, other panel members were Emory Elliot, Sivagami Subbaraman, and Sharon Holland. As a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *American Quarterly*, the publication of the American Studies Association, Ling attended the luncheon board meeting conducted by AQ editor, Lucy Maddox of Georgetown University (and missed a reading by N. Scott Momaday, held at the same time). She did manage, however, to catch most of "W. E. B. Du Bois—A Biography in Four Voices," a superb documentary film that two of her good friends worked on (authors Wesley Brown and Toni Cade Bambara, who succumbed to cancer in December 1995).

1996-1997
Asian American Film Festival

By popular demand, the Asian American Studies Program will be sponsoring another Asian American Film Festival this spring. Three programs have been culled from the array of programs prepared by Asian Cinevision in New York. This year's selections, primarily shorts, with several mid-length features, highlight the work of women directors and has been funded by the Humanistic Foundation.

Program I: *Spirits Rising* and *Eat Drink and Sex*

Thursday, March 6, 7 p.m.
4070 Vilas Hall

Spirits Rising (documentary)
USA, 1995, 58 min.
Produced and directed by Ramona Diaz.
A Student Academy Award Winner, *Spirits Rising* is an evocative story of recent and distant history and myths from Filipina perspective. A patriarchal European and American colonial past layered onto a matriarchal Malay traditional has resulted in tensions and ofttimes irreconcilable contradictions in the lives and spirits of women in the Philippines.

By the Thinnest Root (short film)
USA, 1995, 7 min.
Produced and directed by Richard Kim.
A humorous look at a young Korean boy who seeks to gain acceptance from his father through his proper use of chopsticks and his negotiation of his Korean American experience.

Cola Lover (short film)
USA, 1995, 9 min.
Directed by Fow Pyng Hu.
A stylish fantasy set against the backdrop of New York's Greenwich Village where a young Asian man with a bag filled with soda cans encounters a woman on a rooftop. They exchange glances and at the end the woman collapses and the man contemplates the significance of this experience.

A Family Business (short film)
USA, 1994, 10 min.
Directed by Avie Luthra.
A humorous mock documentary of an Asian businessman is Glasgow, who sets up the first ever Asian arranged marriage video-dating agency. The film presents the wealth of types he has to mix and match in his daily work.

The Search for Peking Dog (short film)
USA, 1995, 8 min.
Produced, written, and directed by John Choi.
The wish for a good Chinese meal is the basis of misunderstanding in this humorous probe into the notions of food and culture for a Chinese man and his German wife. The film gleefully questions how we look at ourselves and those around us.

The Mission (short film)
USA, 1995, 18 min.
Directed by Michelle Chen.
A funny film about a dying grandmother who is suddenly cured when her grandson accidentally hits her with a baseball. She begins to remember everyone who owes her money, especially George, the local bakery owner, who also took away her bottle of Chinese liquor--the only thing she had to link her with her motherland. What follows is a hilarious plan to retrieve what rightfully belongs to her.

Chik'in To-nite (short film)
USA, 1995, 14 min.
Directed and written by Rodney Nakamura.
A comedy based around a boy's strange love for his cat. It is a story of food, folks, and freakiness. A plethora of poultry and suspense.

Normal Deviate Behavior (short film)
USA, 1994, 30 min.
Produced, written, and directed by Adam Chin and John Voltz.
Sex is more complicated than sexual fantasy. When Arthur Wu, played by Dennis Dun, asks his new girlfriend is she would go to bed with him and another woman, his fantasy crashes head-on into real life. After she reluctantly consents to this sexual experiment, Arthur advertises to find a second woman. When the naive couple meet face-to-face with their new found partner, their hidden expectations, prejudices and desires are all exposed.

Program II:
It's a She Thing: Women in the Director's Chair

Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.
4070 Vilas Hall

Kill Kimono (short film)
USA, 1995, 19 min.
Produced, written, and directed by Lisette Marie Flanary.
Kill Kimono is the story of three Japanese women in search of identity amidst the structure of tradition and dictates of culture. One woman, Sachi, swims all the way from Tokyo to New York in one night to meet her new American husband. Koho, unhappy with her Asian eyes, seeks cosmetic surgery to give herself Western eyelids. In their struggles between East and West, they discover that women in truth are authentic, and above all, human.

Soy Milk (short film)
USA, 1995, 2.5 min.
Produced, written and directed by Ava Wang.
A short film of stifled expression with images of simple action set against a background of stagnation. The face of one woman becomes the face of many as oppression and repression unravel in details of gesture, movement and pose.

Junky Punky Girlz (short film)
USA, 1995, 12 min.
Written and directed by Nisha Ganatra.
Caught between American pop culture and her traditional Indian

Film Festival, Continued

heritage, a young woman discovers that the act of having her nose pierced is not as simple as she thought.

Morning (short film)
USA, 1996, 12 min.
Produced by Timothy Chin. Directed and written by Dung Nguyen.
A powerful and somber look at a young Vietnamese woman who has a disturbing encounter early one morning on her way to school. Unable to tell anyone about the experience, she does her best to behave as if it were just another day.

Cyclo (short film)
USA, 1995, 19 min.
Directed by M. Trinh Nguyen.
A Vietnamese American woman rides a pedicab through the heart of Ho Chi Minh City in preparation for a significant reunion with her relatives who remained in Vietnam. In her process of returning to what was once her home and sole point of reference, she discovers a private perspective of the Vietnam civil war.

The Test (short film)
USA, 1994, 11 min.
Written and directed by Tanuja D. Desai.
After a semester of amorous adventuring, Nutan arrives home, pregnancy test in book bag--only to find that today is the day her overly zealous and very traditional South Asian mother has chosen to invite a prospective Indian suitor over for tea. What develops is a funny negotiation between Nutan, her mother and the suitor.

Bo Soot (short film)
USA, 1995, 24 min.
Directed by S. Yin You.
This is a story about Bo Lee, a talented actor working in an industry where Clark Gable and Gary Cooper were the ideal matinee idols. His efforts barely created public attention until the war, when he played a brutal and sadistic Japanese soldier in a film which created much commotion in the Hollywood film industry.

Program III: *Bontoc Eulogy* and *Reel Short Tales*

Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.
4070 Vilas Hall

Bontoc Eulogy (documentary)
USA, 1995, 57 min.
Produced, written, directed, and edited by Marlon E. Fuentes.
Bontoc Eulogy is a documentary about the Filipino experience at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. A personal and poignant docudrama about the filmmaker's grandfather, one of the eleven hundred tribal natives displayed as anthropological "specimens" in the notorious Philippine village exhibit. A unique fusion of rare archival images, cinema verité, and carefully orchestrated visual sequences shot in the present, this film is an original and innovative investigation of history, memory, and the spectacle of the "Other" in turn-of-the-century America.

American Fish (short film)
USA, 1995, 10 min.
Produced and directed by Jesse Wine.
A short humorous film about two women who begin a conversation out of politeness, neither sure who the other is. To figure out who the other is, they go through places and people they've met, including the time of the Japanese American internment camps during World War II. From a short story by Ruth Sasaki.

Drinking Tea (short film)
USA, 1996, 26 min.
Produced by Pamela Wu. Written and directed by Philip Kan Gotanda.
A poignant and bittersweet story of loss and aging as Kan and Mary Ogawa confront the death of their son ten years earlier, which Kan still blames on Mary. The relationship is further strained by Kan's unexplained visits to an older, dying woman. It's a story about the imperfection of life, and the acceptance of its accidental nature.

These Shoes Weren't Made for Walking (short film)
Canada and Hong Kong, 1995, 27 min.
Produced, written, and directed by Paul Lee.
This documentary film explores the roles and aspirations of four generations of women in a Chinese family. Using their shoes as a common reference, and as a springboard for thoughtful and provocative contemplations about their experiences, these four women recount and discuss the cultural and socio-economic forces that have shaped their lives.

[DIVAKARUNI, Continued from page 1]
Marriage, which won the 1995 Bay Area Book Critics Award and the Oakland Pen Award. After the reading, the audience, numbering about 30, were refreshed with cider and homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Ms. Divakaruni's visit was timed to coincide with the 25th annual South Asian Conference organized by the Center for South Asian Studies, which brought several prominent South Asian American writers and scholars to Madison. Among these were Dr. Roshni Rustomji-Kerns, editor of *Crossing the Dark Waters* and *Living in America*, anthologies of South Asian writings; Dr. Neila Sesharchari, editor of *Weber Studies* published in Ogden, Utah; and Meena Alexander, poet, memoirist, and novelist, whose most recent book is *The Shock of Arrival: Reflections on Postcolonial Experience*.



Left to right: Sunaina Maira, Amy Ling, Chitra Divakaruni, Neila Sesharchari, and a visiting acholar from India.

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Bridges BULLETIN BOARD

- **From The Rim**, the Asian Pacific American Publication of the Asian American Student Union is now accepting original poems, short stories, photographs, art works, and essays regarding Asian American issues. Submissions should be sent to From The Rim-AASU, 2nd Floor, Memorial Union, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706 (or by email: lyang5@students.wisc.edu). The deadline is in January, 1996.

- The **Asian American Popular Culture Anthology** is looking for submissions on transformations of Asian American popular culture. For more information, please contact the AASP office, 263-2976.

- The **Asian Pacific American Journal**, a bi-annual publication of the Asian American Writers' Workshop, is sponsoring an Indian American Fiction Contest. First prize is $100, second prize is $75. The deadline is December 31, 1996. For more information, call them at (212) 228-6718 or email at aaww@panix.com or check out the notice at the AASP office.

- **Tom Robertson**, a first year graduate student studying U.S. cultural history, is our new Program Assistant. During the fall semester, he works mornings from Tuesday to Friday. (*email: tbrobert@students.wisc.edu*)

- **Georgette Yang**, a graduate student in Chinese Literature and Language, has been working in the office since the summer as acting secretary. During the fall semester, she works in the afternoons, Monday to Friday. (*email: ghyang@students.wisc.edu*)