

AARCC connections

October 2006

AARCCconnections

Why So Angry, Lela Lee?

"Hello. My name is Sue Lee and I'm new in the neighborhood," she said.

"Oh my, you speak English so well. Where did you learn to speak so well?" the teacher asked.

The little Asian girl was quite offended and mad...

"I was born here you stupid dipshit! Don't you know anything about immigration? Read some real history you stupid ignoramus!!!"



Most Asian Americans have probably encountered the situation whereby they are asked, "What are you?" or "Where are you from?" but none of us have probably dealt with the questions in such a sharp and acidly funny way. For Lela Lee, her biting words are her therapy. She deals with the issues of race and gender through her comic, "Angry Little Asian Girl," which eventually branched out into "Angry Little Girls."

"Angry Little Asian Girl" began when Lee attended a comic convention where racist and sexist undertones in cartoons were thrown at her from every direction. She was so angered by what she saw that she decided to create "Angry Little Asian Girl" as a way to change the face of Asian stereotypes.

Eventually, Lee branched out and created "Angry Little Girls" because "so many other girls that were non-Asian loved Asian Little Asian Girl but felt they could not partake in her world because they felt it was politically incorrect for them to be a part of it." Each of the girls deals with their anger in different ways, "One is disenchanted, one is gloomy, one is fresh and positive, and another is philosophical."

However, while most embraced the comic's wicked, simply-drawn little girls, not all were quick to accept the cartoon. It was a "mixture of extreme love and some extreme reprimands from conservative Koreans who were ashamed of me speaking out. They thought it wasn't proper Asian female behavior."

Yet Lee has not been deterred by negative responses. Lee also has a project in development on the Oxygen Network where her comic strip will be turned into a television show. As "Angry Little Girls" continues to grow in popularity, Lee has also found time for an acting career. She has been cast in two Asian American films: "Yellow," and "Shopping for Fangs, and appeared on shows like "Scrubs."

Lela Lee has managed to find a way to channel her rage into a therapeutic outlet with "Angry Little Girls." And in doing so, she has reached not only Asian Americans, but women everywhere. For those who have to deal with sexism and racism on a day-to-day basis, and consequently, have a whole lot of pent up anger, Lee suggests that one "Find a healthy outlet. If you don't, you'll go crazy."

For more information, visit <http://www.angrylittlegirls.com>.

Join us for her speech:

"Growing up in America, I thought I was the Only Asian Around"

with a reception and book signing afterwards on

Wednesday, November 1st

@ 4:00pm

Illinois Room, SCE (formerly CCC)



Kenji Yoshino: Uncovered



Kenji Yoshino is a second-generation Japanese American who attended Harvard University as an undergraduate and received his law degree from Yale Law School, where he was editor of *Yale Law Journal*. As a professor and dean of intellectual life at Yale Law School, Yoshino teaches Constitutional and anti-discrimination law, civil rights, and Japanese Law and society. Yoshino will be coming to UIC to discuss his book, *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*. A panel of respondents includes:

- Sumi Cho, Professor of Law and Asian American Studies, DePaul University
- Maria de los Angeles Torres, Professor and Director of Latin American and Latino Studies, UIC
- Kevin Kumashiro, Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies, UIC

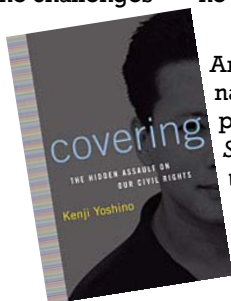
Please join us for this first Cultural Center Directors' Forum Lecture:

Thursday, October 26th at 3:30pm

Illinois Room in Student Center East!

Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights

"Life is not that simple." These words of Kenji Yoshino's mother eloquently resonate throughout his book *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*. In this provocative work, Yoshino successfully unifies the historical achievements, struggles, and stagnations experienced by racial minorities, gays and lesbians, women, those with disabilities, and religious groups with the challenges he encounters as a gay Asian American man.



Yoshino explores how many individuals experience the pressure to "normalize" within mainstream America. He exposes how our laws, which prohibit discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, and disability, in fact do not bar discrimination aimed at behaviors associated with a particular group identity. He shares numerous legal cases in which people's rights have not been protected. *Shouldn't an openly gay parent have the right to child visitation? Shouldn't an African American woman who wears cornrows be able to keep her job? Shouldn't mothers be able to work without penalty?* Yoshino believes they should, but demonstrates that U.S. courts consistently rule against what they see as "chosen" behaviors. Because the legitimacy of the demands to cover "differences" have not been questioned, Yoshino contends that the law actually perpetuates assimilation.

In *Covering*, Yoshino alludes to famous luminaries such as actor Ramón Estévez who "covered" his Latino heritage by becoming "Martin Sheen" and President Franklin D. Roosevelt who "covered" his disability by making sure his wheelchair stayed hidden. Rather than affirming different cultural attributes and expressive behaviors, our society stigmatizes them and compels groups to choose assimilation and homogeneity over diversity and individuality. While honoring the goal of the civil rights movement to create a society that lets all individuals "pursue their human flourishing without limitations based on bias," Yoshino advocates for a new paradigm that shifts from group rights to human rights, from equality to "liberty." Ultimately, Yoshino points out that the law is limited in its ability to achieve social change and he calls on all of us to build the social conditions that will allow all identities to be uncovered.

Person on the Street: What is your favorite Asian restaurant?



**Aaditi Dubale, Senior,
Sociology**

Gaylord India Restaurant—"...very accommodating, willing to answer questions, and great food. Try the Bengan Bhartha!"



**Ruti Patel, Sophomore,
Biology**

Joy Yee's—"Good food for a reasonable price! The ginger fried rice, vegetarian noodles, and dumplings are my favorite!"



**Alefiyah Shikari, Sophomore,
French and Education**

Hot Wok Village—"It's a fusion of Indian and Chinese food. It's unique and different. I recommend the spring rolls!"



**Van Tran, Freshman,
Psychology**

Tom Yum—"It's a fusion of Thai and Japanese food. Try the shrimp pad thai and unagi maki roll!"



**Vuong Van, Junior,
Biology**

House of Sushi—"I love the sushi buffet there. Try everything!"

October 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Growing up American with Asian...[workshop]	4	5	6	7
8	9 KAUSE General Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 aKDPHI Making Strive Against Breast Cancer	17 UIC Career Services: Graduate and Professional School	18 AASIA Karaoke Night	19 VSA General Meeting	20 SAMSAs Diwali Celebration	21 CST and aKDPHI Dream Halloween
22	23 AASIA Bake Sale LiNK Seoul Train	24 LiNK Seoul Train Screening	25 aKDPHI Bingo Night	26 Kenji Yoshino FIA's 1st Performance	27 FACT	28 FACT AACC Community Outreach
29	30 FACT	31 Happy Halloween!				

- **Oct. 9: Korean Americans United Serving Equality General Meeting.** For more info contact hchoi1@uic.edu.
- **Oct. 15: alpha Kappa Delta Phi** will be raising money and walking for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. For more info, contact lkim20@uic.edu.
- **Oct 16: Liberty in North Korea** will be holding Educational Workshops about North Korea this October and November. For more info, contact link.uic@gmail.com.
- **Oct 17: UIC Career Services** will be holding a Graduate and Professional School Fair. Come check out over 200 Graduate Schools and learn about their admission process, applications, etc. For more info, go to chicagogradfair.ocs.uic.edu
- **Oct. 18: Vietnamese Student Association's 3rd General Meeting.** For more info, contact rle2@uic.edu.
- **Oct. 20: South Asian Medical Students Association Traditional Dance Event** with free food and admission. There will also be free lessons on Garba, Raas, Bhangra. For more info, contact rchoval@uic.edu.
- **Oct 21: Chi Sigma Tau and aKDPHI** Dream Halloween for Chicago Children Affected by Aids Foundation volunteer opportunity. Windy City Field House 1:30 to 9:00 pm. For more info, contact jcarre1@uic.edu.
- **Oct. 25: aKDPHI** Bingo Night to support Breast Cancer. SCE Room 302 from 6 to 8pm. For more info, contact lkim20@uic.edu.
- **Oct. 23 and 24: Liberty in North Korea** Seoul Train is the gripping documentary about the life and death of North Koreans as they try to escape their homeland. For more info, contact link.uic@gmail.com.
- **Oct. 26: Kenji Yoshino** lecture. Yoshino examines "covering" on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, and other identities. Illinois Room @ 3:30. Find more info in this newsletter!
- **Oct. 26: Filipinos in Alliance** first Performance for Cultural and Modern will be at Cultural Showcase in the Montgomery Ward Lounge at 5pm. Come to watch FIA and other UIC Cultural Groups Room @ 3:30. Find more info in this newsletter!
- **Oct. 27-29: FACT Conference** more info on reverse side.
- **Oct. 28: Asian American Coalition Committee** will be having a Community Outreach Event by helping various Chicago community Centers. For more info, contact bjohns3@uic.edu.

November 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lela Lee: Growing up in America....	2 AAIV Cocoa House	3 AASIA Imperial Ball NAASCON	4 NAASCON
5 NAASCON	6	7 AARCC Stress Management Workshop	8	9	10 MAASU	11 MAASU
12 MAASU	13 LiNK Workshop	14	15 AASIA Potluck	16 AACC GABNet Talk	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Break	24	25
26	27	28	29 LiNK Bake Sale	30		

Fall Student Conferences

FACT: Filipino Americans Coming Together
When? October 27th to 29th
Where? UIUC Champaign-Urbana
Web? www.psuuiuc.org/FACT

NAASCON: National Asian American Student Conference
When? November 3rd to 5th
Where? Northwestern University in Evanston
Web? www.naascon2006.org

MAASU: Midwest Asian American Student Union
When? November 10th to 12th
Where? Eastern Illinois University
Web? www.maasu.org

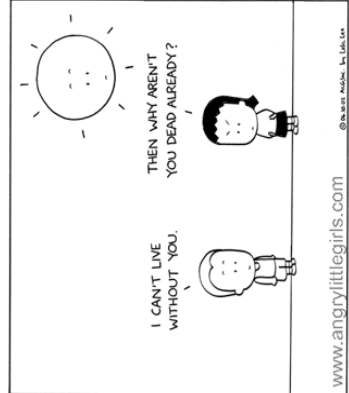
Nov. 2: Asian American InterVarsity hosts their annual variety show, Cocoa House. This year's theme is "Priceless Love." Come watch and get free food. Illinois Room at 5pm. For more info, contact atsa2@uic.edu.

Nov. 3: Asian American Studies in Alliance Imperial Ball is a formal dance held every year that celebrates the diversity and unity we have at UIC through singing and lots and lots of dancing. For more info, contact jmerca4@uic.edu.

Nov. 7: AARCC Stress Management Workshop at 4pm room TBA. Stressed out? Then come to our workshop!

Nov 16: AACC will be hosting a GABNet (Gabriela Network) event who will be bringing in speakers, Dorotea Mendoza (Secretary General of GABNet USA) and Ligaya McCovern (Filipina activist and politician from the Philippines). Visit their site: www.gabnet.org. For more info, contact bjohms3@uic.edu.

- Nov. 1: Lela Lee**, author of *Angry Little Asian Girl* is coming to UIC! She will be giving a speech titled, "Growing up in America, I thought I was the only Asian Around." Illinois Room at 4pm. Be sure to join us for a reception and book signing afterwards!



What is Asian American Studies?

What can I take in spring?

Starting in spring of 2007, look for Asian American Studies courses to be identified by the new **ASAM** rubric (the letters that go in front of the course numbers). The rubric will make it easier to find these courses in Timetable.

ASAM 125 Introduction to Asian American Studies (same as ENGL 125 and SOC 125)

Cultural Diversity and Humanities course

Lec: Mon/Wed 3-3:50

K. Su

Dis: Fri 2-2:50 or 3-3:50

S. Malik, W. Chan

ASAM 228 Sociology of Asia and Asian Americans (same as ASST 228 and SOC 228)

Cultural Diversity course

Tues/Thurs 9:30 - 10:45 am

R. Barrett

ASAM 441 Topics in Asian American Literature and Culture (same as ENGL 441)

Tues/Thurs 2 - 3:15pm

M. Chiang

PS 453 Asian American Youth and Education (note: not cross-listed with ASAM)

Thurs 2 - 4:50

K. Kumashiro

Asian American Studies highlights the cultural presence, contributions and struggles of Asian Americans. It is an interdisciplinary field of study, meaning that it draws from History, English, Sociology, Education, Political Science, Anthropology, Psychology and many other fields as they relate to the histories and experiences of Asians in the U.S.

Is Asian American Studies only for Asian Americans?

The answer is emphatically, "No!" Asian American Studies is important for anyone living in today's multicultural society. It expands everyone's understanding of the immigration policies, race relations, and socio-cultural histories that affect all of us who live and work together in this country. It is vital to correct misconceptions about Asian Americans, who are one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S.



One of the biggest misconceptions about Asians in the U.S. is that they are a very recent arrival and therefore have no history in this country. Even many recent Asian immigrants may believe this is true. However, there is a long and important history. For example,

- Were you aware the Chinese workers were excluded from the photograph commemorating the completion of the transcontinental railroad?
- Did you know Dalip Singh Saund was the first Asian American to be elected to U.S. Congress in 1956?

How did Asian American Studies get started?

Student activism played a significant role in starting many of the Asian American Studies programs around the country. At UIC, student efforts have likewise been at the forefront of lobbying efforts. Though a program has yet to be started, the student movement has brought significant attention to the need for Asian American Studies at UIC.



Asian American Studies News Flash!

UIC is conducting a long awaited search to fill a faculty position of Asian American Studies in a Social Science field or History. AARCC's Asian American Studies Advisory Council, a group of students, staff, and faculty committed to the development of Asian American Studies at UIC, is involved and your opinions play an essential role as well. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact AARCC: 312-413-9569. For more information, see the Asian American Studies pages on the AARCC web site: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/AARCC/aasnews.html>

What's new with courses?

The "Introduction to Asian American Studies" first offered last spring, will be offered again this spring 2007. It has expanded its enrollment to 100 to accommodate the interest of students. The course will cover a wide range of topics that might include: education, political participation, work and labor, family, identity, cultural practices, religion, literature and arts, media and journalism, gender, activism, anti-Asian violence, and racial discrimination. The professor is Dr. Karen Su, AARCC Director and the teaching assistants are Winnie Chan from the Department of Psychology and Surbhi Malik from the Department of English.

Prof. Kevin Kumashiro, a new Education professor, is offering an upper level topics course in Policy Studies: "Asian American Youth and Education." The focus of this course is a cross-disciplinary examination of issues affecting Asian American youth with critical attention to educational policy and practice.

**Asian American Resource
and Cultural Center**

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LEARN ABOUT
AARCC EVENTS
THROUGH OUR
EMAIL LIST, JOIN BY
CONTACTING
AARCC@UIC.EDU

Frequently Asked Questions about:

The Asian American Resource and Cultural Center

What is AARCC? Is it a student organization?

AARCC (Asian American Resource & Cultural Center) is not a student organization though we work very closely with many of them. We are a UIC office that works to meet the needs of Asian American students. Our goals are to:

- ✦ Raise awareness of Asian American issues through educational programs
- ✦ Strengthen the Asian American campus community
- ✦ Support the growth of Asian American studies at UIC
- ✦ Guide Asian American students in reaching their academic, personal, and professional potential

What can AARCC do for me? How can I get involved?

AARCC can:

- ✦ connect you with campus and or community organizations
- ✦ help you deal with any issues, concerns, struggles you're having related to being Asian American
- ✦ provide a safe and fun space to hang out between classes
- ✦ give you resources and ideas for class assignments on Asian American topics

You can get involved by attending our events, joining our committees like Asian American Awareness Month or Asian American Studies Council, or joining our Advisory Board.