Synopsis of M.P.C. Fall Retreat
Saturday November 17, 1979
Pembroke Field House
9:00 - 3:00

1. Cultural Exchange Workshop

Introduction question: What is one thing that makes you different from the average white American?
Stipulation: No one can repeat a previous answer

Presentations by Sr. Ramona Pena, Dean Perry Ashley and Bob Lee on the three major ethnic groups within the Third World community:

Ramona Pena (Advisor to Hispanic students and graduate student in Hispanic Studies)—"Diversity among Hispanic students"

Puerto Ricans
de Puerto Rico
via Cuba
via Spain
New York
Chicago
Florida

divisions—class lines vs. nationalistic ties

A campus experience: Are you Latino?
Oh no! My parents raised me as a normal person.

Chicanos
Mexico
Southwestern U.S. (indigenous southwesterners)

divisions—suburban vs. urban class structure
Mexican American—a term that signifies conquered or an amalgamated people

political statements
Chicano—a destroyed state
Mexican—more positive than Chicano in terms of cultural preservation

Latino
Central Americans
South Americans
exiles from socialist or conservative regimes

Common bonds between Puerto Ricans, Chicanos and Latinos:
value structure—family, strong ties
religion, institutional or spiritual language

Numerical breakdown at Brown: September "78 52 Hispanic men
25 Hispanic women

September "79 21 new unidentified members classified as Chicano, Puerto Rican, Spanish surname and Other!
Perry Ashley-- On Afro-Americans

campus assumption- "blacks have got it together here at Brown"
old assumption- "if you're black stay back, if you're brown
stick around, and if you're tan you can get a helping hand."

Things such as L.A. (little Africa) give rise to such misconceptions as the above campus assumption

divisions- financial, color lines
statistic: less than 1% of the black students in college are
in Afro-American Studies programs

Bob Lee (Graduate student in History)-- Asian Americans

myth: Asians have lifted themselves up by the bootstraps

19th century- Japanese and Chinese migrated to U.S. and got
established in non-unionized trades (such as restaurants and
cleaners)
WW II-watershed years marked by concentration camps; Japanese
land owners lost their farms without any compensation and the
Japanese population was dispersed around the country (U.S.)

Since the 1960's, when immigration laws were relaxed, many
middle class Asians came to the U.S. This is why the previous
mentioned myth exists.

1st part of struggle-- To get the Admissions office to stop
recruiting from the pool of middle class Asian Americans

2nd part of struggle-- To break down this structure of Asian
students at Brown:  1. Asian students from suburban areas
who were not in touch with other Asians and thus assimilate
into the Brown mainstream

2. Asian students who come from areas
of large concentrations of Asians and who are usually bilingual
(they usually feel uneasy at Brown)

3. Asian students who might fit into
both 1 and 2 as a result of moving or whatever

*Marjie Montano, Cayetano Sanchez III, and Socorro Espina
assisted Ramona Pena in her presentation
2. Asian Counseling program

Representatives: Bob Lee
Anna Huang
Bill Loui
Martin Matsui
Chris Wong
Woodrow Wong
Chris Van

24 counselors for 65 Cunselees (includes Asian Americans and Asians from abroad)

3 of them are MPC's and 4 of them are RC's

Counseling orientation:
Counselors must read materials over the summer so that they can be discussed when school begins in the fall.
Geared to recognizing the differences between the various Asian ethnic groups so that they can deal better within this diversity.

Activities:
Pot Luck Dinner
Rap groups

One of the reasons for the establishment of the Asian Counseling program is that the highest percentage of Asian students at Brown is with us in this year 1979!

3. MPC Evaluations

Suggestions

Pixie Hawkins- All frosh should have a counselor of her/his ethnicity and one of another ethnic group

Brenda Bell- We should solicit our services to everyone (all Third World folks), such as Rites and Reasons does.

Dean Ashley- Remind counselees to take full advantage of the Student Support program

Cortland Waifer-- Let's have another retreat! I'll arrange it.

Michael Ward- The MPC's should plan all their functions with the Asian student counselors

Duane Smith- The MPC's should plan more social events