

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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Defending APAAM

To the Editor:

I am writing to correct inaccuracies in your article on Asian/Pacific American Awareness Month (APPAM) ["APPAM leaders want more funding," Feb. 27]. I never told your reporter that funding by student councils and administrators was unfair. On the contrary, I stated that the APAAM committee understood the councils' budgeting limitations in funding an unanticipated event. What I did call unfair was the comparison to Hong Kong Week--a commendable program which we have neither the intentions nor the resources to duplicate.

Though APAAM has not received much council funding, Spectator neglected to report that other campus organizations have made generous contributions. Several groups deserve commendation for co-sponsorship of the month's events (including a jazz concert, lectures, films, plays, poetry readings, and a dance performance). These groups include the Board of Managers, Polity, the Lesbian Bisexual and Gay Coalition, WKCR, the Intercultural Resource Center, Take Back the Night, Columbia College Women's Center, Columbiafest, the Whitney M. Young Foundation, the Barnard Center for Research on Women, and the Center for American Cultural Studies. Your flawed reporting overlooks and insults their much appreciated participation.

Your coverage distorts the activities of Asian/Pacific Americans on this campus. APAAM is not in competition with other groups' "history months;" in fact, we owe much to their examples. The real issue is the Columbia community's general disregard of all people of color. Why have we not seen an article about the significance of this first awa-

renewal month? Why don't we have an article on the broad-based support APAAM is working toward developing among student groups on this campus? Where are our positive statements?

APAAM will not only celebrate "the culture and heritage" of Asian-Pacific Americans, but will also address the serious implications of racism in our society and on this campus. Among the issues which demand our attention are the 120 percent increase in anti-Asian violence, the increase of AIDS in our communities, coalition building within Asian-Pacific American communities, as well as among people of color, lesbian, and gay visibility, and our participation in the arts and music. I suggest that you educate yourselves before you "report" on something about which you are more than colorblind.

**Serena Satyasai, CC '91,
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