



The Internee's Story

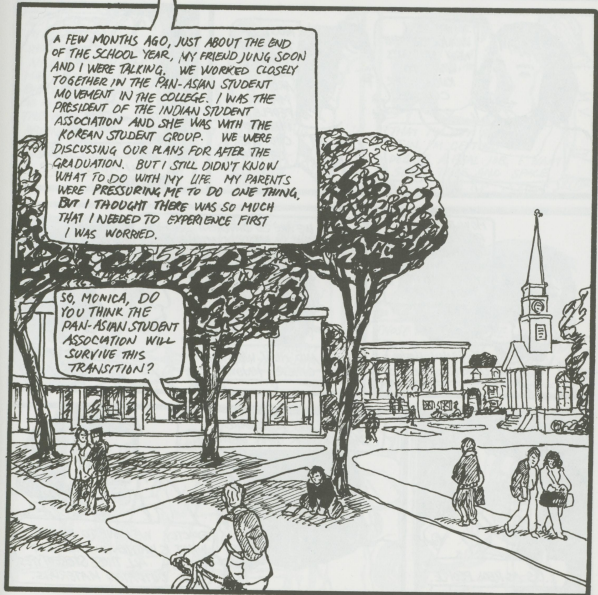
I REMEMBER 1941, I WAS 15. MY FAMILY WORKED A LITTLE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARM IN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, BY CALIFORNIA. LAW DAD COULDN'T OWN ANYLAND. WE WERE TENANT FARMERS, WORKED HARD AND SCRAPED ENOUGH TO GET BY.



The Student's Story

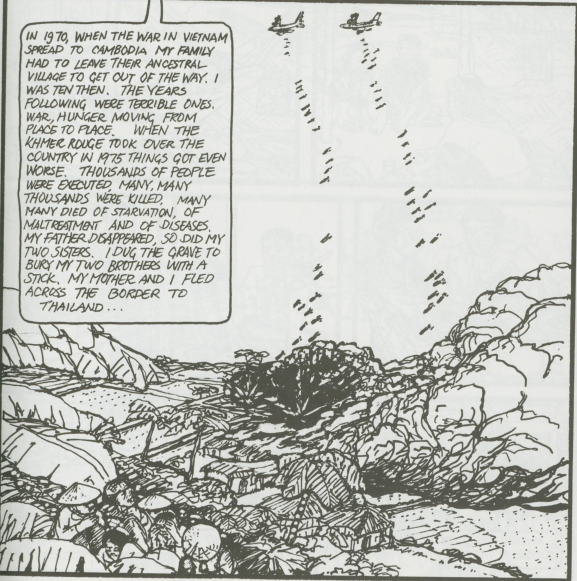
A FEW MONTHS AGO, JUST ABOUT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, MY FRIEND JUNG, SOON AND I WERE TALKING. WE WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE PAN-ASIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT IN THE COLLEGE. I WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION AND SHE WAS WITH THE KOREAN STUDENT GROUP. WE WERE DISCUSSING OUR PLANS FOR AFTER THE GRADUATION. BUT I STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE. MY PARENTS WERE PRESSURING ME TO DO ONE THING, BUT I THOUGHT THERE WAS SO MUCH THAT I NEEDED TO EXPERIENCE FIRST I WAS WORRIED.

SO, MONICA, DO YOU THINK THE PAN-ASIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION WILL SURVIVE THIS TRANSITION?



The Refugee's Story

IN 1970, WHEN THE WAR IN VIETNAM SPREAD TO CAMBODIA MY FAMILY HAD TO LEAVE THEIR ANCESTRAL VILLAGE TO GET OUT OF THE WAY. I WAS TEN THEN. THE YEARS FOLLOWING WERE TERRIBLE ONES. WAR, HUNGER, MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE. WHEN THE KHMER ROUGE TOOK OVER THE COUNTRY IN 1975 THINGS GOT EVEN WORSE. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED, MANY, MANY THOUSANDS WERE KILLED. MANY MANY DIED OF STARVATION, OF MALTREATMENT AND OF DISEASES. MY FATHER DISAPPEARED. SO DID MY TWO SISTERS. I DUG THE GRAVE TO BURY MY TWO BROTHERS WITH A STICK. MY MOTHER AND I FLED ACROSS THE BORDER TO THAILAND....



The Garment Worker's Story

LIKE MANY CHINESE WORKING FAMILIES IN THE CITY, BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I HAD TO WORK TO EARN ENOUGH TO LIVE. MY HUSBAND HAS A JOB WITH A RESTAURANT IN A SUBURBAN TOWN. HE GETS PICKED UP BY VAN DURING THE DAY AND DOES NOT RETURN HOME UNTIL THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING. THE DAYS ARE LONG AND THE WORK IS HARD. AND LIKE MANY OTHER CHINESE RESTAURANT WORKERS HE DOESN'T GET ANY JOB BENEFITS. AND LIKE MANY CHINESE WOMEN, I WORKED IN A GARMENT FACTORY IN THE CITY. ALTHOUGH THE WORK PLACE IS NOISY AND THERE IS CONSTANT PRESSURE TO PRODUCE, THE PIECEWORK WAGE IS NOT BAD. THERE IS ALSO THE COMPANIONSHIP OF OTHER WOMEN. I BELONG TO THE GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, SO MY HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN PROTECTED THE WHOLE FAMILY. WHEN THINGS WERE GOOD, WE MANAGED A LIVING.

