



For My Reward
I want HER!

— EDGAR FOG
YOUNG
says before he's killed



THE
SLIMY ASIAN MAN MUSTN'T
TOUCH PRETTY WHITE LADY SYNDROME

THE H-R ASIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
is involved in removing this racist stereotype
from the Hasty Pudding's A Little Knife Music.
We need everyone's support.

COME TO THE NEXT GENERAL MTG.
TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE + MORE!

WED. MARCH 12, 7PM.
MEMORIAL HALL BASEMT #101

Spread the
WORD!

Spread the
WORD!

THE MAIL

Edgar Foo Yung

To the Editors of The Crimson:

In this year's Hasty Pudding Show, "A Little Knife Music," one of the actors is cast in the role of a Chinese character named Edgar Foo Yung. The character portrayed is so pitifully predictable, it is everything one would expect of a racist caricature. Complete with the requisite trailing pigtail, pidgin English, and tiny stature, he bows and clasps his hands together, preeminently laughable in all his jerky, awkward mannerisms. He is presented as a slimy little man who evilly lusts after the blond heroine.

A few years ago, when the Lampoon featured a black man polishing John Harvard's boots on one of its covers, black students, and white as well, were outraged and promptly took action, demonstrating that this sort of ugly racial caricature would not be condoned by the Harvard community as an acceptable form of humor.

Chinese students should follow suit. Chinese are not "fair game" for racial jokes just because other racial groups have protested; racist humor is unacceptable on all fronts. The objection that all this is in good fun is as vapid here as it was in the case of the Lampoon. Where racism is present, nothing is ever in "good fun." A theatrical production should not stoop to such a low level just to elicit a nervous laugh or two.

—Elizabeth T. Partridge '80

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1980

Asian Students Protest Characterization Of Hasty Pudding's 'Ed Foo Young'

Members of the Asian American Association (AAA) will meet with producers of the Hasty Pudding Club (HPC) musical, "A Little Knife Music," on Wednesday to discuss what the AAA has called a "racist, humiliating and dangerous portrayal" of an Asian character, Michael T. Hsieh, '80, an AAA member, said yesterday.

Hsieh said his group may distribute leaflets protesting the character of "Edgar Foo Young" at future performances. M. Florence Houn '80, president of the AAA, said yesterday she had spoken to leaders of the Black Student Association, La Organizacion and Raza, about a cooperative protest.

Representatives of the AAA and the Hasty Pudding have met twice since the AAA sent a letter to the Pudding on March 7, requesting the revision or removal of the Foo Young character.

"The Pudding suggested that they would print an apology and the letter we wrote them in the (show's) program," Houn said, but she added that the AAA will insist that the producers "de-ethnicize the character."

Charles A. Milot '80, co-producer of the show, and David Levi '80, president of the HPC, declined to comment yesterday on the AAA protest.

Bad Humor

But Milot did say, "We gave every character in the play a great deal of consideration." Neither the play nor the character were intended to create a bad humor in the audience."

Andrew W. Sellon '81, the show's script

writer, said yesterday that he "had not expected," any problems with the character, adding that the part "was making fun of the stereotype at the expense of the people who make stereotypes."

Good Humor

A revision or omission of the controversial character "would improve the

humor of the play," Houn said.

"To shuffle racial ridicule in the category of innocuous humor is not only a show of disrespect to another ethnic culture but it also demonstrates a real insensitivity to the problem of racial tension in this society," Hsieh said.

"Knife Music" will continue to play at the HPC through March 19.



Asian-American Association members protested a character in "A Little Knife Music," the current production of the Hasty Pudding Club. Both groups will meet Wednesday. The show is playing at the HPC building, pictured above.

Crimson/Jon Serbin

AAA Protests Pudding Play Character

Members of the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association (AAA), supported by the Black Students' Association, La Raza and La Organization, demonstrated yesterday at the Hasty Pudding Club to protest the character Edgar Foo Yung in the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' play, "A Little Knife Music."

As patrons arrived for the 8 p.m. performance, more than 50 protesters gathered outside the Pudding building displaying posters, distributing leaflets and chanting, "Racism isn't funny," and "Don't support this racist play."

The demonstrators plan to protest tonight's performance of the play as well, Michael Hsieh '80, an AAA member, said yesterday.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals agreed to distribute a letter from the AAA dated March 12 expressing the group's disapproval with the characterization in "Knife Music."

In return the AAA agreed not to prevent people from entering the building to see the play and to demonstrate peacefully only on March 14 and 15.

The groups did not agree on the AAA's demand that the character be removed from the play or that his identity be made non-racial, Hsieh said.

Charles A. Milot '80, one of the play's producers, said yesterday he is concerned about the protests, but "technical

(continued on page 4)



Members of the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association [AAA] and other groups last night protested the characterization of Edgar Foo Yung in the Hasty Pudding production "A Little

Knife Music." The group plans to protest again tonight, AAA members said yesterday.

Protest

(continued from page 1)

problems" prevented the alteration or removal of the character Edgar Foo Yung. Milot said he did not anticipate such a large turnout for the demonstration and added that the play was intended as a satiric portrayal of a 19th-century Englishman's views and not intended as offensive to any group.

The AAA's letter to the "Knife Music" audience attacked the Pudding's defense of the characterization because stereotyping for humorous effect "isolates and divides human beings." The letter said the character in the play serves as a type of "racial humiliation."

CORRECTIONS

Wednesday's Crimson incorrectly spelled the name of Florence Houn '80, president of the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association (AAA). Also, Michael T. Hsieh '80, an AAA member, said stereotypes "exacerbate racial tensions" not "exasperate racial tensions" as The Crimson reported. The Crimson regrets the errors.

I BELTEVE IN STEREOTYPES,

especially racial and ethnic stereotypes.
It's the natural function of the normal, healthy,
red-blooded organism. It gives people something
to laugh about, sets up convenient objects of
hatred and ridicule, keeps the Jews neurotic,
the Niggers narcotic, and the Chinks
psychotic!



If you are bothered by this attitude, please join us in our efforts to eliminate racial stereotypes such as HASTY PUDDING'S ED FOO YUNG character. Our statement of objection shall be distributed inside. We encourage further dialogue about this racist portrayal of Asians after the show.



HASTY PUDDING THEATRICALS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
12 HOLYOKE STREET · CAMBRIDGE · MASSACHUSETTS 02138

617/495-5205

To the Members of Our Audience:

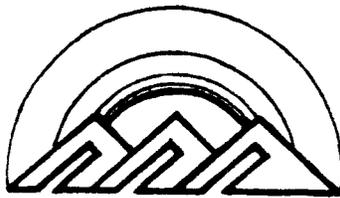
The Hasty Pudding Theatricals has recently been made aware that some members of our audience have been offended by characterizations in A Little Knife Music. The Hasty Pudding Show is intended to be purely funny and enjoyable for the audience. If any member of the audience leaves the show with a bad feeling, we view that as a failure on our part.

Pudding characters are designed to be completely unbelievable. In no way can any character in the show be likened to any individual living or dead. The humor of the show derives from ludicrous characterizations at which the audience can laugh without feeling insulted.

We welcome whatever comments and opinions you may have about this issue.

Enjoy the show!

THE MANAGEMENT



The Harvard/Radcliffe
Asian American Association
101 Memorial Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
(617) 495-7964

To the Members of the Audience:

Tonight you shall see on stage a character called Ed Foo Yung. The script describes him as "one of them chinamen... with the scrawny little mustaches." He is "slimy" and "disgusting." As he enters, Ed is hunched over, pigtailed and inhuman. He mumbles in Pidgin English, and leers at the blond Mae. Too weak to defend himself, he is thrown around the stage by his pigtail and must die for proclaiming his desires for "the pretty white lady."

This type of racial humiliation should not be condoned in our society. It isolates and divides human beings in a sensitive time when people are attempting to alleviate racial tensions. The Hasty Pudding Theatricals rationalizes the use of such humor on the grounds that racial stereotyping is harmless and no different than poking fun at "spinsters, prostitutes, or fat people." Throughout history, human beings have consistently killed, enslaved, and oppressed each other because of racial differences. Our identities are marked above all by race. To callously ridicule racial cultures and classify it as typical humor demonstrates a lack of understanding to the cause of racial problems in our society.

It is also untrue that a ludicrous characterization of Ed Foo Yung makes him innocuous. Gross depictions of Asians as evil and subhuman have contributed to the condoning of Japanese internment during WWII, atrocities of the massacre at MyLai, and recent creation of the Gook Klux Klan in the United States.

On March 7th, the Harvard/Radcliffe Asian American Association asked the Hasty Pudding Theatricals to alter the character of Ed Foo Yung. After several discussions, the cast and staff of the production acknowledged the destructiveness of their distorted ethnic depictions. They are nevertheless reluctant to change the lines or image of Ed Foo Yung. A mere recognition of the problem without subsequent termination of the practice is a sterile intellectual exercise; it does not repair the inherent social damages of the play.

During the performances on March 14th and 15th, members of the Asian American Association and other students at Harvard/Radcliffe shall be outside protesting the continued parading of racial stereotypes in the play. We hope you will seriously consider the causes and implications behind laughter directed at Ed Foo Yung, and join us in our attempt to eliminate such unnecessary racial humor. Please feel free to talk to us after the show, or contact us at our office.

We look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,
The Harvard/Radcliffe
Asian American Association