

of young

Hmong college students and emerging leaders in Sacramento, California. I

glean five basic facts from these occasions:

1) There are about 120,000 Hmong in this country.

2) Of the Hmong youths, about 10% of them (Yang Dao's figure) are in

serious trouble with delinquency, drugs, and issues of cultural identity.

3) Nevertheless, a higher percentage of Hmong as an ethnic group enter

college than Americans as a whole. In other words, even though the Hmong

have difficulties adjusting to the U.S., a lot of them are upward strivers.

4) for some reason, almost all of the emerging Hmong leaders are women.

Like the D.C. conference organizers, all the organizers of the Sacramento

conference were women. They tend to be extremely articulate and have

mastered the art of being forceful without seeming pushy. They are

collaborative in their operating style and tend not to compete with each

other or be prone to feuds and schisms, unlike the Hmong male leaders of

the older generation. Two of the brightest young female stars (in my

opinion) are Kaying Hang, who is getting a master's in public health at

Boston University, and Nouzong Ly, who is in college in the San Francisco

area. However, if I read the trend right, they were avoid becoming solo

leaders (ie., targets for criticism) and will tend to ally themselves with

like-minded Hmong women when they want to get something done.

5) In my opinion, the Hmong in this country are on the brink of entering a

new era. Hmong who were infants during the war and young children in the

refugee camp are now getting college and postgraduate educations and

setting a new agenda for themselves in the U.S. They have problems and

challenges, particularly of cultural identity, but they are not re

fugees
any more.

Another e-mail message follows in a day or two about a visual history of the Laos war I put together with Lue Vang and Judy Lewis of the Southeast Asia Community Resource Center of Rancho Cordova, California. Meanwhile, please pass this message on to anyone who might be interested.

Best regards, Roger Warner

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To: MacAlan Thompson [redacted]
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