

Activist accentuates Asian-American attributes

■ KRISTINA WONG SPOKE AGAINST STEREOTYPING.

By **JEFF SIRMONS**
Alligator Writer

Kristina Wong, an Asian-American comedian and activist, stripped off her Asian-made clothes, including her shoes, pants and coat, leaving only a one-piece bathing suit featuring an American flag design.

She said she stripped to highlight American fears about contracting SARS, a deadly respiratory illness

that originated in Asia.

"All those Chinese people spitting in the street — you could have it already," she said, mocking her Chinese mother.

Wong, who performs her act around the country, used humor to challenge the mostly Asian-American audience at the Reitz Union on Tuesday night to become proud of who they are, regardless of race, gender or sexual preference.

During the performance, she ran a mock auction with the audience in which she sold keepsakes of her life she deemed memories of times

when she had no self confidence.

"She failed at forcing the 'Chineseness' on herself, and thus the Chinese backscratcher have collected dust in the closet," Wong said, speaking of herself as she sold the backscratcher for only one symbolic "chill-pill."

In her opening act, an overhead projector listed elements of her act that are necessary to be a proper Asian-American activist.

"Me not love you long time," she said as she checked off the bullet labeled "speak out against the dead-horse Asian-American stereotype"

"It helps us become aware of who we are and what we are about. Her works challenge the normal Asian-American perception."

Satish Kunisi
Asian Student Union spokesman

of sexual proclivity.

Satish Kunisi, spokesman for the Asian Student Union, which hosted this event as part of Asian-American Awareness Month, said Wong's hu-

mor portrays the problem with not being proud of heritage.

"It helps us become aware of who we are and what we are about," he said. "Her works challenge the normal Asian-American perception."

Dancer Shyamala Moorty displayed Indian poverty by posing as a peasant Indian woman who can foresee the future.

"I smell rancid fried food, urine and trouble," she said as she cleaned up a shopkeeper's stand.

Moorty's performance exemplified the complex relations between Indian Hindus and Muslims.

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