

Area refugees from Burma try to help those back home

By Jimmy Tomlin
High Point Enterprise

HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP) — Say this for the dozen or so refugee families from Burma now living in High Point: Their English may be difficult to understand at times, but not their hearts.

“In our country, we are like a hopeless people,” says Mun Ra Marip, who came to High Point in 2009 after fleeing the civil-war strife of her homeland. “That’s why we try to help our people there. We collect donation money for them. Our English is poor, but we try.”

Marip, who lives here with her husband and two daughters, is one of approximately 300 people from Burma’s Kachin ethnic group now living in North Carolina, most of whom came to the U.S. to escape the violence and oppression of their people. In addition to High Point, they live primarily in Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte, New Bern, and Mebane. They have come here for a better life, Marip says, but they have not forgotten the people they left behind in Burma — also known as Myanmar — which includes other family members and friends.

Last month, a few of the Kachin people gathered at Marip’s home in High Point to talk about what’s going on in their homeland. They spoke of the country’s long civil war and of blatant human-rights violations being carried out against their people, including such atrocities as the



GIVING BACK. Refugees from Myanmar who currently reside in High Point, North Carolina talk about their concerns about people in their home country in this July 2, 2018 file photo. Approximately 300 people from the country’s Kachin ethnic group now live in North Carolina; most of them came to this country to escape the violence and oppression of their people. In addition to High Point, they live primarily in Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte, New Bern, and Mebane. (Bryana Reichard/The High Point Enterprise via AP, File)

raping of women and children by soldiers in the Myanmar Army.

“They abuse villagers,” says Roiiji Kinraw, who came to High Point in 2010 and lives here with her husband and three children. “They rape women, and then they rape their children. Our people don’t like this. Why you do to our villagers the suffering and abuse? Why you do this? It’s not fair.”

Fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army has displaced more than 98,000 civilians, according to Amnesty International, a worldwide human-rights advocate. They are known as IDPs — internally displaced persons — and most of them live at an IDP camp in the Kachin state.

“Our people want peace — our people want fair — but the government not like that,” Kinraw says. “They ignore what our people want. The civil war is very long, long, long, and because of that case, more people are homeless, and they just stay at the camp area. They’ve lost their rights and their hope. Their children have lost their future. There is no education, there is no health. Everything is lost.”

According to Marip, Buddhism is the predominant religion in Burma, but most of the Kachin people identify as Christians, which exacerbates the persecution.

Zauhkawng Nmawn, who lives in Durham, says the suffering of the Kachin people has been tremendous.

“Their situation is very bad situation,” he says. “We Kachin people are very under the military group oppression all of our life — that’s why we very little educated. Because the government, they oppressive of our education system, of our religion right, of our human right — everything, they oppressive. We don’t have freedom to speak, no freedom to do anything.”

It’s those people that the Kachin people in North Carolina are trying to help with their donations.

“The first thing they need is food,” Marip says. “They don’t have food, and they don’t have clothes, because when they run away, they don’t have time to prepare — they just run. They left everything they have. So they need food and clothing, and medicine, too. And they need education to learn.”

So far away, there’s only so much the Burmese refugees can do to help their people, Marip says, but they’re doing what they can.

“We are here by the grace of god,” she says, “and there’s one thing we can do for our people. We collect what we can and send it back to help them.”

A play about straight white men on Broadway makes history

By John Carucci
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The play that just opened at the Helen Hayes Theatre on Broadway may have a cast dominated by white men, but history has been made behind the scenes.

Young Jean Lee became the first Asian-American woman playwright to have a play open on Broadway when *Straight White Men* made its official debut late last month.

Breaking the glass ceiling for Asian-American woman playwrights was a special honor for Lee. But that distinction comes with some pressure.

“It makes me really hope that this show does well because it puts a little additional pressure on you because you want that door to stay open,” Lee said.

Chinese leukemia patient livestreams to pay for treatment

Continued from page 5

Some have criticized *Dying to Survive* for vilifying the foreign pharmaceutical company behind the expensive drugs while absolving Chinese authorities of responsibility. But such a portrayal may be necessary to accomplish the unusual feat of at once being critical and assuaging censors, said prominent social commentator Shi Shushi.

Dying to Survive was able to “walk the thin tightrope of the regulators’ tolerance” because it addressed serious issues in an indirect, at times slapstick form, Shi said.

“Capitalists have held our moral values for ransom in modern Chinese society,” Shi said. “But this movie shows the desire of Chinese audiences for high-quality art.”

For Su, the leukemia patient in Harbin, the movie spelled out her experience with cancer when one character intoned, “There is only one disease in this world — the disease of being poor.”

On her livestreams, Su sometimes wears a surgical mask. Often, her broadcasts are interrupted by a nurse or doctor who has come to check her blood levels.

She thought at first that she was just stricken with the common cold. One night, she was walking home from a noodle

restaurant when she suddenly felt dizzy. By the time she reached her apartment just a few blocks away, she was so weak that her cousin had to carry her to their sixth-floor unit.

Then came the diagnosis, which her parents had at first attempted to hide. We were an “average family,” Su said, with a stable income from her father’s salary as a public servant.

Lee said she was inspired by the idea of white men feeling marginalized because they were now being labelled. But she wanted to show both sides of the issue, and

restaurant when she suddenly felt dizzy. By the time she reached her apartment just a few blocks away, she was so weak that her cousin had to carry her to their sixth-floor unit.

Then came the diagnosis, which her parents had at first attempted to hide. We were an “average family,” Su said, with a stable income from her father’s salary as a public servant.

But it’s not enough to cover her treatment for the next five years — the length of time her doctor estimates it will take for the cancer to be removed from her system — even when they had already sold their house and spent nearly 400,000 yuan (\$58,979) in the last four months.

So Su downloaded Inke, a popular Chinese livestreaming app, and started making videos about life with leukemia. After six weeks, she had nearly 800 fans — enough to make up to 400 yuan (\$60) at a time from the virtual gifts her viewers sent her.

The meager earnings are not yet enough to make a real dent in her medical bills, Su said, but livestreaming boosted her confidence and staved off the loneliness of being stuck in a hospital room.

let the audience draw its own conclusions.

“I just noticed that you know there was this sort of historical shift happening in my lifetime where all of a sudden, straight white men were suddenly experiencing what it’s like to get labelled,” she said. “So, I just got really interested in exploring that.”

Hammer, whose film roles include *Call Me by Your Name* and *The Social Network*, is making his Broadway debut in the play.

“This was an amazing chance to really look at the concept of white privilege and what it means, and how people in this situation communicate with each other and understand each other,” Hammer said.

Once sidelined, romantic comedies rise again

Continued from page 8

She compares it to how *Moonstruck*, which won three Oscars in 1988, helped get the genre out of the cynical *Annie Hall* phase and pave the way for *When Harry Met Sally* and all the classics that hit spawned.

“People have written the romantic comedy’s obituary over and over and over again,” Carlson said. “But the genre will always survive as long as it’s pushed forward in ways that reflect contemporary society. And it will also survive as long as love and relationships elude and fascinate us — that is, it will never go away.”

PARDON THE DELAYS.



ROLLING OUT A FRESH HIGHWAY TAKES TIME.

It's summer highway construction time. Find the best routes to avoid closures and backups.



Know before you go.
www.BigFixPDX.com



ควบคุมโรคเบาหวานเพื่อชีวิตของคุณ



Luôn Kiểm Soát Tiểu Đường. Để Suốt Đời Sống Khỏe.



Pamahaalan ang inyong diyabetis, upang manatiling malusog at masigla.



珍搭生命控制血糖