

THE SPECTRUM

ASIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE

DECEMBER 2007 - VOLUME 5. ISSUE 1.



GIVING BACK TO CHINATOWN

By Jenny Lau

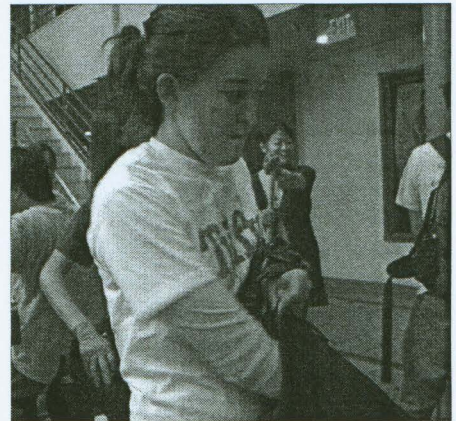
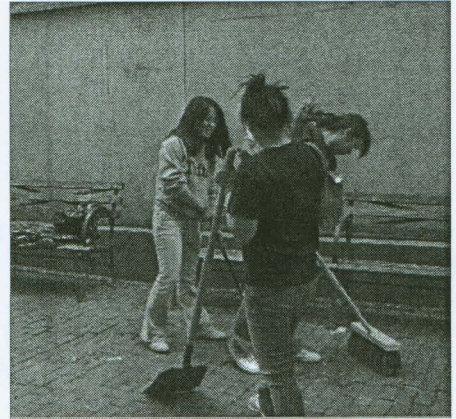
On Saturday, October 20, 2007, numerous Boston universities were represented at the Asian Community at Tufts' first annual Intercollegiate Chinatown Cleanup, including Tufts University, MIT, Wellesley, UMass Boston, Bunker Hill Community College, and Suffolk University. A fellow Tufts student even brought along her visitor, who joined us from the Browning School in New York. The cleanup was the first of many community service projects that ACT held this semester. The goal of the cleanup was to promote awareness for the Chinatown community and its needs as a residential community, in addition to forming collaborative teamwork between students in nearby Boston universities.

Boston's Chinatown has been established since 1870, home to many first and second-generation Asian American families. It is currently the most densely populated residential community in Boston, owing to over 28,000 people per square mile. The median household income ranges from \$14,000 to \$16,000, compared to \$53,000, which is the approximate median household income for the state of Massachusetts. As one can probably note, the community of Chinatown has been one of the more disadvantaged ones in the Boston area, due to the lack of resources in the neighborhood. For instance, the residents of Chinatown do not have a public library. Fortunately, there is a campaign, Friends of the Chinatown Library, that is working on restoring a public library. Although there are many tourists who frequently visit the Chinatown community for Sunday dim sum or inexpensive souvenirs, many are unaware of the issues that it faces, much like issues that other older

neighborhoods in Boston do as well, such as gentrification and sustaining local businesses. As a result, ACT was hoping to shed some light onto Chinatown as a residential community by initiating an annual cleanup that would increase awareness amongst college students in the area.

This year, I worked closely with Courtney Ho, director of Chinatown Main Street, a non-profit organization created by the city of Boston to promote the resources and the events in Boston's Chinatown. Chinatown Main Street was able to provide volunteers for the Chinatown Cleanup with the supplies and directions to successfully navigate and clean up the streets of Chinatown. For the volunteers of the event, many were skeptical about the weather, as the forecast had predicted showers in the early hours of the day, but fortunately, the day cleared up just in time for a productive workday.

The event was planned for 10 AM until 3 PM, but with the efficiency of the group, and the number of volunteers, the planned routes for cleanup were finished an hour early. The cleanup routes consisted of the main streets of Chinatown, including Beach Street, Washington Street, and Oak Street. The volunteers from the different universities were split up into three groups with different routes. By the end of the day, the volunteers snacked over Chinese pastries and drinks and met colleagues from different universities. Overall, it was a very successful event, as volunteers' awareness for Chinatown and its needs as a growing community were heightened and different university student groups were able to get to know one another and establish connections.



TOP - Jennifer Kim, Yin Lin, and Linda Yung sweeping in one of Chinatown's few parks. BOTTOM - AAA President Elise von Dohlen getting ready to take out the trash

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THE SPECTRUM

EDITOR

Lily Zhang

CONTRIBUTORS

Angela Lam

Jenny Lau

Yilun Li

Yin Lin

Allistair Mallillin

Amy Ni

Kara Takasaki

Addy Tang

Elise von Dohlen

Jessica Xia

Lily Zhang

ABOUT AAA

Asian Community at Tufts (ACT) is now Asian American Alliance (AAA)! We have changed our name to better reflect the goals and purpose of our organization. As ACT we were often confused as an umbrella organization of all of the Asian culture groups at Tufts. Our new name AAA represents our mission to create coalitions that advance the experience of Asian Americans within our community by holding events that focus on education, community service, and activism.

WANT MORE?

Want to learn more about AAA or The Spectrum? Find us online at <http://ase.tufts.edu/act> or send us an e-mail at spectrum.act@gmail.com

EVENTS



by Elise von Dohlen

This year, ACT was given an opportunity to work with a new organization, the Asian Culture Society of Cape Cod. On the weekend of September 28th, four ACT members boarded a deluxe limo van and voyaged to Sandwich, Massachusetts to volunteer at Asian Culture Camp. The mission of Asian Culture Camp is: to “bring families with children adopted from Asia and other Asian American families together in an outdoor vacation setting to have fun, make friends, build community, connect with Asian culture and develop pride in our Asian-American identity”¹.

Asian adoption has risen within the past few decades². As a result the adoption of Asian children into non-Asian families has become increasingly controversial. An article on Asian Nation states, “As these adopted Asian children grow up in predominantly White families, they frequently encounter adjustment and ethnic identities issues and conflicts about their “place” in American society”¹. The Asian Culture Camp attempts to provide a safe place where the children can talk about what it means to be an Asian adoptee and meet other children that share similar experiences.

The camp had children ranging from two to fourteen years old. The activities planned for the younger children were

focused on cultural activities. The older children however were able to talk about their fears, anger, and confusion that revolved around their adoption. One of the most powerful moments during that weekend was when one Asian adoptee recounted how a girl at her school was calling her, “Chink”. She understood this word to mean a combination of the words Chinese and chick. The word “Chink” has a long history of being used to discriminate and subordinate Chinese Americans. Although the girl didn’t fully understand the history of the word she was very uncomfortable with its usage. The facilitator of the discussion helped the girl to work through her emotions and brainstorm ways in which to deal with the situation.

Through my experiences I learned that Asian Culture Camp gives these families an opportunity to partake in Asian culture events that they are often unable to experience within their mostly white communities. However I also saw the ways in which the camp tried to deal with identity issues and what it means to be Asian American.

Sources:

1. <http://www.asiancamp.org/>
2. <http://www.asian-nation.org/adopted.shtml>

breaking down



asian stereotypes IN THE MEDIA

by Angela Lam and Addy Tang

Finishing the Game is a new movie directed by Justin Lin, who is also the director of "Better Luck Tomorrow" and "Annapolis." On Tuesday, October 2nd, we traveled to Boston University's Law Auditorium to hear the actors of this movie speak about this upcoming film. After we stopped drooling and got over our star-struckdom, we sat down to learn about a problem that all Asian Americans today should focus on, or at least know about.

"Finishing the Game" is about how Bruce Lee died at the zenith of his career and left behind a twelve minute clip of his last movie project. As a result, Hollywood studios began to desperately seek and cast someone to replace Bruce Lee so that they could finish the movie and make themselves millions of dollars. This movie

reflects the fact that many Asian-American actors are cast only for roles that are specifically Asian, as they are too often typecast in stereotypical roles such as the delivery boy, the kung fu master, or the seductive dragon lady. This satirical movie not only talks about how Asians constantly have to fulfill roles of stereotypes, it also brings about a powerful message of how Asians should be able to take on bigger and more important roles that do not necessarily factor in their ethnicity, such as that of the protagonist, the top dog, or the superhero who saves the day.

As Sung Kang ("The Fast and Furious: Tokyo Drift," "Better Luck Tomorrow" and "War") and Roger Fan ("Annapolis" & "Better Luck Tomorrow") told us during this meeting, Hollywood executives do not think that Asian Americans want to go to see movies about themselves. In fact, when doing market surveys, they place Asian Americans under the same consumption sector as the Caucasian population simply due to the fact that Asians tend to have the same buying trends as the whites with similarly high education and income levels. Because Hollywood's sole purpose is to make

money, they would only pay attention to the films which they think would have a profitable market. As a result, due the lack of market for Asian-American movies, very few Hollywood executives would provide the funding and support for Asian-American movies with an all-Asian cast. Therefore, those working on this film believe that it is important for this movie and its actors to gain recognition in the film industry because it would provide great moral encouragement not just for the aspiring Asian-American actors who want to make it big in this industry, but for all Asian Americans.

Fan also relates the lack of Asian Americans in media to an even bigger problem- the lackluster participation of Asian-Americans in politics. Although the Asian American population is one of the fastest-growing in the United States, it demonstrates the lowest voting turnout rate of any major ethnic or racial groups. One of the reasons why Asian Americans have the lowest voter turnouts is due to the fact that many Asian Americans are not aware of the many issues at stake regarding racial and ethnic minorities and what tremendous political impacts

they can make as a community if they are willing to simply voice their opinions openly.

Similarly, Asian Americans do not realize how they can greatly open up the film, music and television industries for many Asian-American artists if they would just go out there and support Asian-American arts and culture. If "Finishing the Game" and the messages that it conveys are truly able to get to the people, it can possibly create a huge ripple effect in the entire Asian-American community that would allow more Asian-American faces to be seen on TV and in movies. Latinos, African Americans and Caucasians are always in our favorite TV shows, stand-up shows and movies, but very few Asian-American actors have

taken the lead in their own shows. If Asian Americans wish to see changes being made in their lives, they must take on more proactive measures toward achieving these changes, starting with taking the initiative to vote for their political rights and being aware of the many issues that impact the Asian-American community.

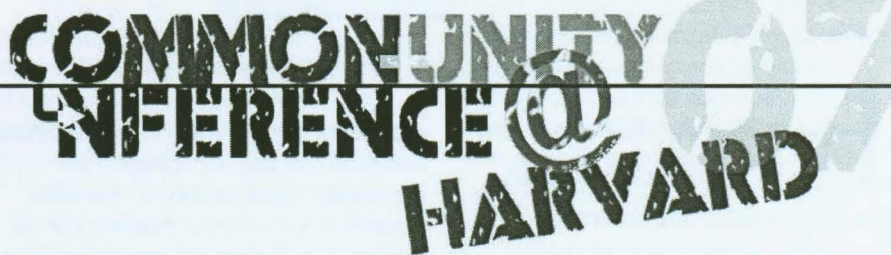
Many stereotypes that have unfortunately been thrust upon Asian Americans need to be broken, and "Finishing the Game" has already begun to pave the path for this breakdown of Asian stereotypes in media. As Roger Fan has said, "The day a white boy wants to be an Asian...our work is done!" Asian-American movies and projects need the support of the entire community because only then can they overcome barriers and

extend their influences to other racial and ethnic groups. Asian Americans need to prove to Hollywood that they do want to see their fellow Asian Americans in movies, which not only includes Asians such as Jackie Chan or Jet Li, but Americans who are Asians, who look, act and share similar experiences just like them.

For more information on the movie, Finishing the Game, directed by Justin Lin, please visit the official movie website at www.youoffendmeyouoffendmyfamily.com

JUST THE BASICS

by Yilun Li



Every year, hundreds of Asian Pacific American students of the Greater Boston area and nearby New England colleges come together to participate in the Boston Asian Students Intercollegiate Conference (BASIC). In the past, BASIC had been hosted by Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Tufts University. Participating schools included Babson College, Bentley College, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brown University, Lesley University, Olin College Simmons College, University of Massachusetts, Wellesley College, and many more. This year, BASIC returned to Harvard University with a specific aim to unite Boston Asian-American students in political activism and to empower them "with the knowledge of both a collective existence and an individual experience," thus forming this year's theme Common Unity.

Three keynote speakers were present this year at the conference. Becky Lee is an important advocate in the prevention of domestic violence. Her mission is to create awareness, to encourage advocacy, to support victims of domestic violence and to provide financial assistance. She was on the Survivor show in the summer of 2006, and used her earnings from the show to create her own non-profit organization, Becky's Fund. Another keynote speaker was Sam Yoon, the first Asian American to run for elected office in Boston. He is active in bringing together minority groups in the greater Boston area and is a founding member of The New Majority, a coalition of African Americans, Latinos, and Asians. The last keynote speaker was Rajini Srikanth, the president of the Association for Asian American Studies, a national organization that tries to bring Asian American Studies programs into curriculums of various colleges.

Aside from the keynote speakers, a variety of important figures involved in the advancement of API held workshops that discussed issues from political activism and social justice movements to the power of pop culture and Facebook. The workshops were followed by a variety of student performers, including Jinah Kim, a senior at Tufts University, who performed at Tufts's annual Voices Concert, sponsored by Asian Community at Tufts (ACT).

Over 300 students showed up at the conference this year, from surrounding colleges and universities, and even from as far as New York. Feedbacks were quite positive regarding the conference. Common Unity was a successful forum this year, and it's looking forward to planning a great conference again next year. It welcomes students from all API background to get involved in uniting the community of Greater Boston.

ASIAN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

by Jessica Xia

Asian American participation in politics has traditionally been low. Culturally, most Asians in our generation are taught to not cause trouble partially because, coming from our parents' generation, politics can end up in riots, chaos, or even death. But political advocacy organizations are actively trying to dispel that notion and encourage young Asian Americans to participate in politics.

In recent years, several Asian Americans have risen to prominent political positions, such as U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. In California, for example, several Asians have been elected to state legislative office, including Sen. Leland Yee and Assemblywoman Fiona Ma. Despite increasing leadership in the community, however, Asian Americans still make up less than 10 percent of the California legislature even though they are 13 percent of the population.

The political participation of young Asian Americans is becoming increasingly

important, because current political issues like immigration, healthcare and language access will impact them and their families. Yet many young people aren't taking part in public policy and government issues. A study conducted by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center showed that, overall, 53 percent of registered voters went to the voting booth in the 2006 primary elections, while only 43 percent of registered Asian and Pacific Islanders voted.

Many believe that family viewpoints and obligations are the reasons for the lack of political involvement in Asian-American youth. When there is a lack of



political discussion within Asian-American households, political activity may seem less relevant for Asian Americans, in turn contributing to a lack of diversity in the state legislature. Yet more and more families are becoming involved with politics as they realize the importance of discussing issues that affect the community. Many understand how important it is that more young people realize the benefits of becoming involved with public policy and understand that the government can be a vehicle for positive change, especially since the Asian-American population nationwide is projected to increase from 10 million to 30 million by 2050. According to Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Chair Alberto Torrico, "They have a tremendous responsibility to make sure everyone's voices are being heard as the demographics keep changing".

Source: Maynard Journal of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education



FRIENDS OF THE
華埠圖書館重回華埠之友
CHINATOWN LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY by Lily Zhang

Chinatown is one of the few neighborhoods in Boston without its own public library branch. On January 6th, 1896, the Boston Public Library opened the Tyler Street Branch Library in the municipal building where Tai Tung Village stands now. Forty seven years later, in the winter of 1936, the library was closed. It was reopened for only five years from 1951 to 1956, despite fierce protests from area residents to keep the library. This was followed by an insufficient bookmobile service that disappeared within a few years, eventually leaving Chinatown without library resources.

Today, the closest Boston Public Library is in Copley. Chinatown is in need of a library to provide public resources such as books, computers with internet access, educational programs, and tutoring services without having to travel to neighboring towns, but also a quiet space for people to escape the bustling streets of Chinatown. In addition, a Chinatown library can host cultural activities and services specific to Asian American communities in the greater Boston and beyond.

asian american crossword

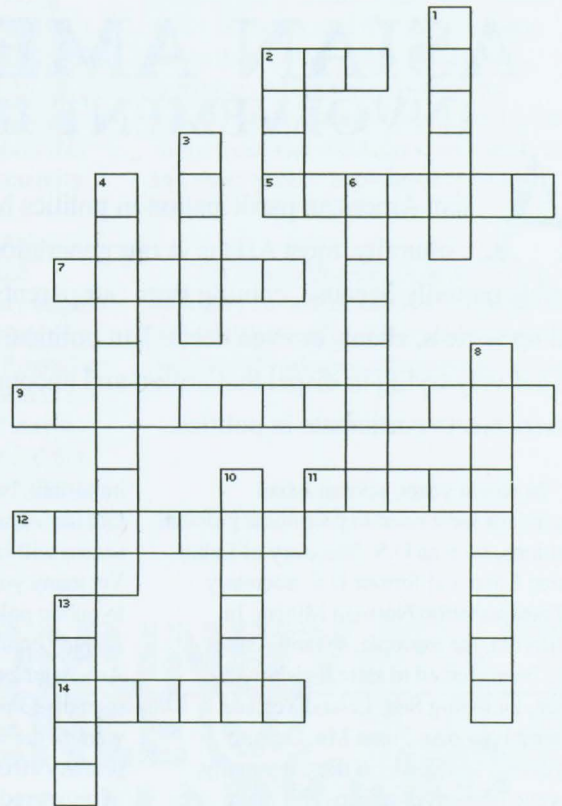
WINNER GETS A COOKIE

ACROSS

- 2. Popularized in the arcades of Japan, many call this beat-driven dancing game the "karaoke for the feet"
- 5. This was taken away from Chinatown in order to build Tai Tung Village, a subsidized and affordable housing complex that houses low income families displaced during the building of I-90.
- 7. This fruit popular in Vietnam, has a hard, prickly rind and a soft pulp with an offensive odor, but a pleasant taste.
- 9. It's origins are American and not from China, and it is believed to have been invented in 1918 in Los Angeles by David Jung, founder of the Hong Kong Noodle Company.
- 11. Nisei Japanese Americans who returned to Japan for their education
- 12. Americans call this country Burma, but Burmese refer to their country as this.
- 14. If you want to do the traditional Filipino dance, tinikling, you'll need a couple of poles made of this.

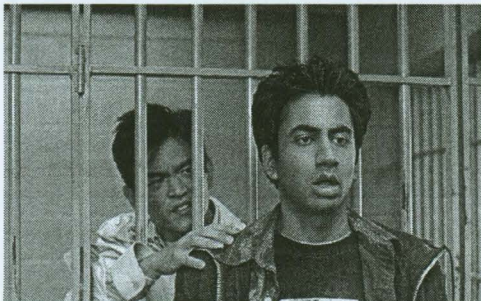
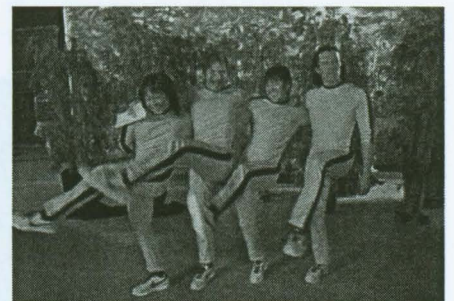
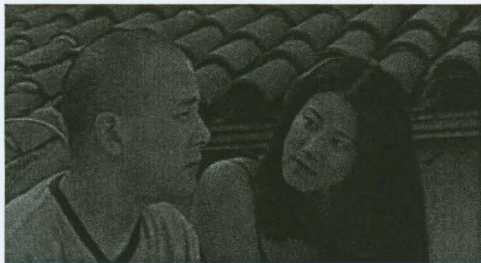
DOWN

- 1. The 6800 or so Indians who came to the western US between 1899 and 1914 were chiefly peasants from this Indian province.
- 2. Large, two-sided drum used in Indian music and dance.
- 3. An intercollegiate conference for Asian students in Boston.
- 4. The stereotype of this early Chinese worker was an American phenomenon, as this trade was not learned in China.
- 6. A popular Korean dish of marinated, broiled, thinly sliced beef.
- 8. The 1974 Lau v. Nichols case, which involved Chinese students and their parents in San Francisco, has had a far-reaching impact on this kind of education.
- 10. Japanese worldwide designer and distributor of character-branded products, which include Pochacco, Pekkle, and Little Star Twins.
- 13. "Sol" is the Korean Lunar New Year, "Tet Nguyen Dan" is the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, and "Losar" is this country's New Year, taking place at the first spring thaw in the high plains.

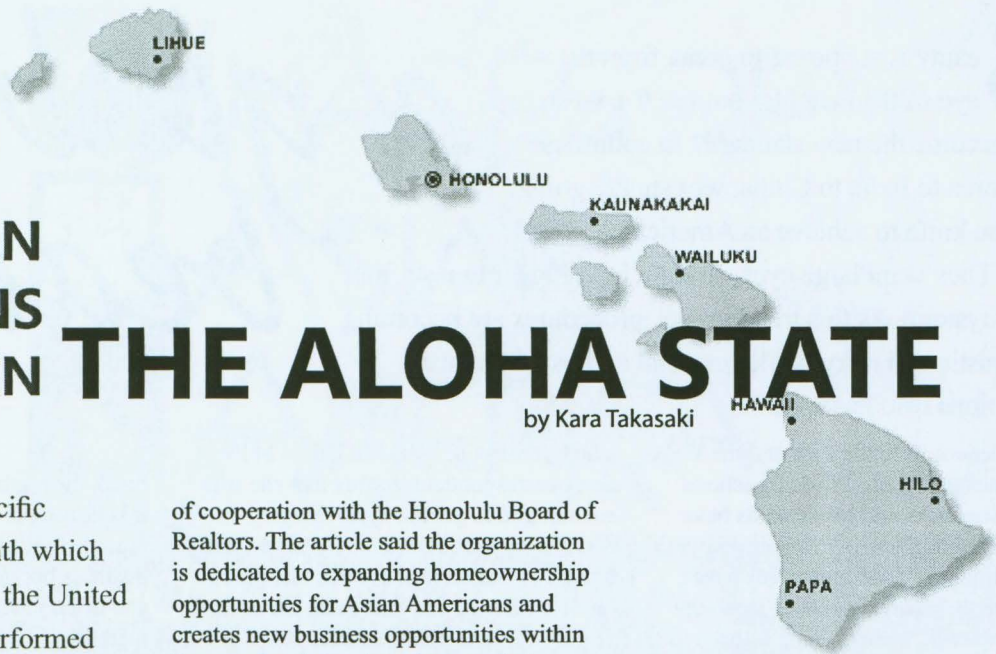


scene it? ASIAN AMERICAN EDITION!

CAN YOU NAME THE MOVIES THESE SCENES WERE TAKEN FROM?



All answers can be found on page 8.



ASIAN AMERICANS IN THE ALOHA STATE

by Kara Takasaki

During Asian Pacific American Month which took place in May 2004, the United States Census Bureau performed a census surveying Asian Pacific American populations around the nation. At the state level it was found that 58 percent of Hawaii's state population was of Asian Pacific American descent and Hawaii contained the highest percentage of Asian Pacific Americans in the nation. On the county level the census also showed that 62 percent of the population residing in Honolulu County, Hawaii were of Asian Pacific American descent. It was noted that Honolulu is the only county in the nation where Asian Americans comprise a majority of the total population.

On Saturday May 5, 2007 an article about the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) came out in the Honolulu Star Bulletin. The organization has 30,000 members across 36 states and came to Hawaii in hopes of forming a Hawaii chapter and reaching an agreement

of cooperation with the Honolulu Board of Realtors. The article said the organization is dedicated to expanding homeownership opportunities for Asian Americans and creates new business opportunities within the growing Asian American market.

The high percentage of Asian Americans situated in Hawaii seems to negate a need for AREAA in the State. This concern was brought up when AREAA went into discussion with the Board in hopes of obtaining a business partnership. Berton Hamamoto, the President of the Honolulu Board of Realtors said, "Asian Americans play a very different role in Hawaii real estate than they do on the mainland and I believe that they have far fewer challenges here... When we go to real estate seminars on the mainland and they discuss these issues, often times it's 'Been there, done that' for us."

At the same time it is interesting to note that the census numbers and general belief that Asian Americans have a stronghold in Hawaii is not completely true. Asian Pacific Americans may be the majority in the islands, but there are minorities within the Asian constituency and disparities between them. For example there is significant homeownership in the Japanese American population, but immigrant groups from Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam are still in the transitional phase of gaining language, culture, and knowledge. Addressing this issue, Allen Okamoto, the chair of the AREAA said, "People might ask why do

they need us here in Hawaii where Asians are not a minority. However, there are Asian minority groups that are experiencing difficulty."

According to Okamoto, AREAA is very effective in dealing with legislative initiatives and developing real estate training in the Asian market. The organization has developed courses to teach real estate professionals on how to address real estate needs for Asian Americans and is working on developing a real estate certification program for the market. Instituting these programs in Hawaii would help the entire Asian American community and in turn Hawaii's real estate market. "The real estate market is turning sour, but the Asian market is very strong," Okamoto said.

However Hamamoto stated that Hawaii real estate professionals already share some of their best practices with AREAA, and expressed the sentiment of the Honolulu Board of Directors as being unsure about whether the organization would benefit Hawaii real estate professionals since they, like the population are ethnically diverse and already experienced in working with a variety of cultures.

Beauty is supposed to come from the eye of the beholder but has the Western image become the new standard? In countries from Korea to India to China, women are going under the knife to achieve an American iconic beauty. They want large eyes, straight hair, bigger breasts, and a thin physique. As this trend grows, procedures are becoming more drastic and risky while financial and psychological implications result as well.

Influences from the East and the West spread back and forth. While franchises such as Starbucks and McDonalds have been sprinkled in nearly every city in the East, technology, food and trends have also made their way from the East to the West. However, Western images through movies and entertainment have played a large role in the pop culture of nations in the East. People all over the world watch movies from the hills of Hollywood and they listen to sounds of Kelly Clarkson and Britney Spears. As the practice of cosmetic plastic surgery became more widely available, more people are electing to undergo surgery to imitate a Western image and achieve the global image of beauty¹.

It is now very common for Asian women to have eyelid surgery. Many Asian women have crease lines on their eyelids that fall below those of Caucasian women. In order to have more prominent eyelids that make the eyes seem bigger and more open, women are getting a procedure to have a double-eyelid. In this operation, an incision is made along the top of the eyelid and the two sides are sutured together to form

a new crease line². Suchin Pak, a MTV news correspondent, recalls that she was encouraged to get the eyelid surgery so that she would be more likely to succeed in a global culture. She states that her family believed that “the more Western you look, the more successful you’ll be.” However, she refused to believe that changing her eyelids should affect her career and came to appreciate her appearance¹. Still, procedures to look more westernized persist in the Asian community.

After the United States, Asia is now the “world’s second largest plastic-surgery hub.”² Plastic surgery was once banned in China but now it is a multi billion-dollar industry. The popularity of plastic surgery also continues to grow in nations such as India and Japan. Besides nose jobs and breast augmentations, some women are opting for more extreme makeovers such as calf reduction and leg lengthening. In general, Asian women have thicker calves and shorter legs than Caucasian women. To shrink the circumference of the calves, an endoscope can be inserted to cut away the muscle but can result in shapeless legs. Procedures have even been performed to

break the leg bone and stretch the leg as it is healing in order for people to achieve more height¹. As the cosmetic surgery business booms, the variety of procedures and often times the number of risks only increases.

Some scientists say that plastic surgery and influences from the media have changed the way people perceive beauty. In the past, people have found mates based on figures that are best suited for survival. Females would seek men who are strong and fit while men would desire women who healthy and wide-hipped to be suited for child bearing. Now, our brain is determining beauty based on the faces that we are exposed to. As a result, many people around the world want to achieve the Western image of beauty that the media flaunts. As more individuals are opting to use plastic to obtain a standard for beauty, people are losing characteristic signs of beauty from their heritage.

Sources: Erasing Ethnicity. Marie Claire. October 2007.
The Global Makeover. Newsweek. 10 November 2003.

a global beauty

by Amy Ni

ANSWERS TO GAMES ON PAGE 6

Crossword Puzzle!

ACROSS 2. DDR 5. Library 7. Durian 9. Fortune Cookie 11. Kibi 12. Myanmar 14. Bamboo
DOWN 1. Punjab 2. Dhol 3. BASIC 4. Laundryman 6. Bulogoli 8. Bilingual 10. Sanrio 13. Tibet

Scene It? Asian American Edition

Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Charlotte Sometimes, Harold and Kumar, The Namesake, Finishing the Game, Undoing



IMAGES OF



ASIAN



AMERICA

Interested in painting, drawing,
writing, or photography?

Then display your talents for all of Tufts to see!

AAA needs your submissions for their:

Art Gallery and *Voices* Literary Magazine

This year's topic:

Anything inspired by the term "Asian America".

Please send all submissions to
Start House, 17 Latin Way or voices.act@gmail.com

Deadline
January 28th

Questions? E-mail us at voices.act@gmail.com for any information!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE 'O' WORD?

by Yin Lin

As I am sitting in a crowded cafeteria at Vineland High School chatting rambunctiously with my best friend who is Asian, a tall beefy guy passes us and shouts out, "Shut up, Orientals!" My friend was so offended by this term that she reported this incident to the principal. I, however, was unaware of the offensive nature of the term "Oriental". I thought to myself, why am I not offended by this term? This is the question that many Asian Americans ask themselves. Many people are ignorant about the connotations behind this term and many are not insulted by its use.



According to Edward Said's book "Orientalism," "it wasn't until relatively recently that the word sparked controversy in the United States." State Senator Paul Shinn spearheaded a bill to strike the use of the word "oriental" from all state legislatures and to replace it with "Asians". Washington State passed this bill. "The legislature finds that the use of the term 'Oriental' when used to refer to persons of Asian descent is outdated and pejorative," states Senate Bill 5954, which was signed by Gov. Gary Locke on April 2 2007 and went into effect on July 1 2007. "There is a need to make clear that the term 'Asian' is preferred terminology, and that this more modern and non-pejorative term must be used to replace outdated terminology."

This term was created by European colonial powers as a way to categorize people from the Asian continent. It was meant to convey "exotic, foreign, and sub-human." The use of such a word clearly places Asians in an inferior position to Caucasians. "One of the major problems", said Shin, "is that the terminology was created and used by imperialists to purposefully degrade the cultures and people of Asia. When they established colonies, they talked down to (Asians).... (The idea of Orientalism) started with colonialism," This word also encouraged discrimination by justifying that Asians were sub-humans.

According to the Asian Weekly Magazine, It is a "term that illuminates "exotic and foreign" characteristics of Asians, the term 'Oriental kitten', 'Oriental beauty' and other such

derogatory terms have presented Asian American women as being submissive, exotic, and purely sexual rather than as individuals. At the same time, terms such as "Oriental house-boy", have also been connected with images of Asian men as being asexual and non-masculine, thus not desirable."

"I feel the term oriental is very demeaning because it describes Asians with a term that is used to describe inanimate objects", said Linda Yung, freshman at Tufts. Oriental is often used to describe objects such as rugs or practices from Asia such as acupuncture. People often use Oriental to describe people because of the ignorance of the negative connotations it elicits.

Unlike the well known African American equality movement, Asian American equality struggles are not as well known. The term "Asian American" is one that was fought for and established during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Therefore, this term is reflective of what people of Asian decent want to be called unlike 'Oriental' which was imposed upon them by British Imperialists.

For those who have studied Asian history, this term is considered as offensive as the term "Negro" to African Americans. This movement to describe people of Asian decent Asian Americans parallels the movement to describe of African decent as African Americans.

Sources:

1. <http://www.nwasianweekly.com/>
2. http://journalism.nyu.edu/pubzone/livewire/archived/oriental_rugs_or_people/

HTTP://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/ASHUTOSH0000/PHOTOGALLERY/BOSTONCHARLES.JPG

what can BOSTON PROGRESS do for you?

by Allistair Mallillin

It is said that power comes in numbers. With an ever-growing population, Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) seem on the verge of starting a pop culture revolution. At the center of the revolution in Boston is the Boston Progress Arts Collective, which supports the mass movements of social justice and change. No matter what interests you, Boston Progress provides numerous outlets and venues in which APAs can express themselves, realize their strengths, and build a strong sense of community, from parties to art exhibitions to bookstores to music.

Boston Progress tries to build a strong sense of an Asian American community, but equally important to the mission of the Collective is that Asian Americans have an opportunity to speak their voice and be allowed to tell their own story, using art as a tool for activism and expression. As the APA community makes consistent progress in breaking down barriers and in fighting against oppression, art plays an important role in recording history. Boston Progress tries to serve as a resource for all Asian American writers, visual artists, and performers, providing a place for artists to support one another and continue to bring new and progressive ideas back to the APA community.

The most notable progress by Boston Progress has come in the form of the

volunteer-run, independent Asian American bookstore East Meets West, located a short walk from Harvard University. The bookstore holds the largest stock of independently-published Asian American products on the East Coast, allowing APAs a friendly venue in which to express themselves. The bookstore also hosts an open mic night on the first Friday of every month, appropriately named "East Meets Words". It is usually packed to capacity with people waiting to hear the stories of APA artists. In the December open mic night, Tufts University's very own Jinah Kim was the featured performer.

However, the open mic night is not the only way that people are able to hear APA artists, as Boston Progress has established its own radio station, constantly providing

a resource for streaming Asian American artists from around the country.

The APA community is exponentially growing and needs an ever-expanding venue to provide resources for Asian American artists. Boston Progress provides a friendly, warm, and embracing place for the APA community to express themselves and share their stories. They provide a resource for APAs to come together and form a community through all forms of art. However, there is only so much that one group can do by themselves. Since the Collective is all volunteer-run, they are always in need of volunteers that want to help unite the Asian American community. More can be learned about the Boston Progress Arts Collective on their website at www.bostonprogress.org.

CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR AWESOME **SPRING EVENTS!**

- 01.08 | JOIN US FOR THE DEBUT OF ASIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE!
- 02.11.08 | AAA SERVICE AUCTION, IN SOPHIA GORDON
- 03.08 | AAA PRESENTS IMAGES OF ASIAN AMERICA, IN THE SLATER CONCOURSE GALLERY
- 04.11.08 | FUSION, A SPOKEN WORD, HIP-HOP EVENT IN DEWICK

BOSTON AREA

asian american alliance is a
student organization at tufts
check us out at ase.tufts.edu/act