



AHANA HOTLINE

Boston College

Fall 2008, | Issue II

OASP Offers...

- ◆ Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program
- ◆ Academic Advising
- ◆ Benjamin Elijah Mays Mentoring
- ◆ Resource Center
- ◆ Gospel Caravan
- ◆ Sr. Thea Bowman Scholars Program
- ◆ Leadership & CareerTrak Programs
- ◆ Community Research Program
- ...and much more!!

Asians in the Media

Jane Park '10

Throughout the history of modern entertainment, the media has offered a limited image of Asians in our society. Despite any good intentions involved in the production, stereotypical and narrow portrayals of Asians have been the norm in the entertainment industry. An Asian face or accent has become the symbol of foreignness and the unknown. Too often, Asian culture is portrayed as adversative to Western culture. Furthermore, the media has created gender-divided perceptions of Asians, objectifying Asian women and marginalizing Asian men. With the damaging consequences that the media's influence could bring about, it is important to recognize and emphasize the positive contributions that Asians have made to the entertainment field.

Recently on our own campus, the Asian Caucus (with the help of the Asian American Studies Program, UGBC, Nights on the Heights, GLC, and JCBC) held their 4th Annual "From Mind to Mic" concert in the Cabaret Room. Every year, Asian Caucus brings up-and-coming Asian-American performers to our campus to help spread awareness about Asian entertainment in America. This year, the group hosted the Far East Movement, a nationally recognized hip-hop group from Los Angeles. Their impressive resume includes two world tours, features on MTV, CSI, HBO's Entourage, and Fast & Furious: Tokyo Drift.

The Far East Movement performed in a tightly packed Cabaret Room on November 20th, performing their new hits such as "Dance Like Michael Jackson" and "Fetish." This three-man group proved to be as entertaining and talented as their resume claims. With groups like The Far East Movement making their way to the mainstream media, we can only hope that all the negative imagery surrounding Asians will soon begin to deteriorate and vanish from our society.



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Letter from the Editor



Jane Park '10

Hello readers! I hope this newsletter finds you well. Taking over for Sha-Kayla, I would like to formally introduce myself as the new editor of the AHANA hotline. We miss Sha-Kayla being a regular presence in our office, but I promise to do my best to fill in!

With the first semester coming to a close, I can't believe we're onto our second semester already! As a junior about to start her second semester of the year, I feel as though my years here at BC are flying by so fast! So for those freshmen and sophomores, make sure to take advantage of your time here at BC— it's going to pass by you faster than you think. With the time disappearing without us even noticing, make sure you take the time to reflect on the fall semester that is now coming to an end. Just know that our office is open for you students, so if you need guidance, advice, or just some candy—stop by! We would love to see you!

Good luck with finals everyone and I hope everyone gets through the weeks with minimal stress. Winter break is just around the corner!!

Stressed?

Here are 7 easy steps to relieve your stress during finals week!

- ◆ **Time management.** Plan, plan, plan! Get out your calendar and planners and make a studying schedule!
- ◆ **Take study breaks!** Don't plan on studying non-stop for the whole week. Include short study breaks in your schedule to re-charge.
- ◆ **Sleep.** Some people may be able to function on 3 hours of sleep, but most people cannot. Sleep is essential for a clear mental state!
- ◆ **Exercise.** There's no better way to relieve stress than exercising. Take some time out to do some short, stress-relieving exercises during your study breaks.
- ◆ **Prioritize.** You have a limited amount of time to study, so make sure you prioritize your studying.
- ◆ **Study Groups.** Form effective study groups. If you study well with others, this method will work for you! Just make sure you form the group with the right people.
- ◆ **Ask your professor for help.** If you're confused about a reading or your notes, don't wait until the last minute! Go find your professor during office hours and ask for help.





SEASA's "unSEAn"

SEASA's Freshmen Representatives '12

**BC Southeast Asian Student Association Presents unSEAn:
Lost in the Numbers**

On November 24 2008, BC's Southeast Asian Student Association presented unSEAn, an open panel and discussion surrounding the topic of the Asian-American model minority myth and how the existence of the model minority myth specifically affects Southeast Asians and Southeast Asian Americans. The panel, led by SEASA's Lucia Austria '09 and Christine Choi '10, presented facts and figures that demonstrated a clear distinction between various ethnicities among the Asian American community. While Asian-Americans are believed to be the "model minority", a term used to label the ability of one ethnic minority to achieve a higher level of success (economically, academically, etc) than other ethnic minorities, society fails to understand the negative aspects of categorizing "Asians" as the model minority. In addition, the model minority myth is often not applicable to Southeast Asians because the myth is based largely on the statistics of East Asian. Therefore, Southeast Asians are often not represented in Asian/ Asian-American statistics and thus, are often left misrepresented and "invisible". There may be several reasons for the lack of representation for Southeast Asians, such as immigration history to the United States and the history of war in their native countries.



In preparation for unSEAn, SEASA led a research project here at Boston College that surveyed Boston College students. The survey consisted of questions topics such as: what students perceive to be the acceptable appearance of a famous Asian, the various ethnicities that fit under the term "Asian", and Asian stereotypes. Through their research project, they revealed that when students think of "Asian," more students commonly think of East Asians rather than Southeast Asians. The research project also touched upon the different stereotypes faced by the APIA (Asian/Pacific Islander American) community and the perception of these stereotypes in the media. During this interactive discussion, many of the students who attended unSEAn shared their opinions and reactions to the presented data and information. Undoubtedly, unSEAn was a success, leaving students surprised, informed, and thirsty to learn more about Southeast Asians.

What physical features makes a Chinese person "more Asian" than a Cambodian person? What is Hmong? Is Indian considered Asian too? Why do Filipinos, who are Southeast Asian, better fit the model minority than other Southeast Asian ethnicities? If you are asking yourself any of these questions, then you must have missed unSEAn but have no fear, SEASA is here! If you were not able to attend unSEAn and are curious to learn more, shoot one of the E-board members an email or any of the newly informed Boston College students. Be sure to keep updated with Southeast Asian Student Association news and events!

Want more information about SEASA and their events?
Check out: bc.edu/clubs/seasa or <http://bcseasa.blogspot.com>





Student Submission: *Reflections on Friendship and Intimacy*

Soomin Byun '12

Empty streets, cigarettes, chill music, and the cool night air. There was a clean earthy fragrance of dying leaves and the pending frost lent a slight edge to the air. We were driving back from downtown Washington and just enjoying each other's company, reveling in the last free days we had to spend together. We were traveling alone through a long dark winding road, laces of hair fluttering in our faces. The music was loud and it was dark, so I could barely see their faces and we spent most of the ride immersed in music, occasionally thinking out loud but mostly enjoying our own reflections.

"Whooooo! Turn that shit up", Suzy, my crazy twin sister screamed. Divine remixes of Deep Dish and Imogen Heap were blasting on repeat via surround sound. She started to dance around in the passenger seat, lit Marlboro Red precariously in hand. Like a gypsy, she had on a scarf wrapped around the crown of her head with a vintage earring dangling from one ear. Squeezing my cheeks, she said, "Jade, I am sooooo proud of you for joining the marching band. It shows that you don't care what anyone thinks, you're not afraid to commit, and you're going to be fabulous!" We were two very different twin sisters, but the friendship we had was special. Where I was apathetic and reserved, she stirred me to action, encouraging me to go for the ideas that perhaps were not safe or mainstream enough to occur to me otherwise. In her, I could find all the things that one finds among the stars: she was audacious, full of energy, positive, and inspirational. Even now she was contagious; I started swinging my head insanely and moving my shoulders to the music. The car swerved a little, but it was fun and liberating and ridiculous at the same time. We all started bouncing in our seats, and Hanna, my best friend sitting in the backseat, laughed at our recklessness and at how much stupid fun we were having.

"I really hope you are happy in Boston, Jade" Hanna yelled from the backseat. Like a brilliant thought struggling to be heard in the back of my head, her voice emerged out of the throbbing music and the deafening wind surging against the car's inner surfaces. Even through her usual monotone way of speaking, I felt the sincerity of her voice tinged with the brightness of optimism. *She believed in me.* She saw the best in me; the quiet qualities that made me special to her but were difficult to know. We would have these little illuminating talks, her large teacup eyes growing even larger with the significance of her words. Though not eloquent, she was perceptive. Like a jaded comedian-therapist, she always showed me new amusing angles and then expressed to me in plain language, with gravitas, what I had felt was so vague and evasive. Though she was serious, together we could concoct the lamest jokes and it would leave us in pieces, and her hearty laughter would warm me from head to toe. I felt like I could do anything, because she saw me so realistically, yet sympathetically of me. To her, I was more real than I was in the flesh, and still she loved me

the more for it.

Though I had known my time was limited because I was going away to college, I had wasted my summer with so many people who I never really got to know. Hanna and I have been close friends since the beginning of high school and my sister, of course, had always been there waiting for me to get home at night so we could fall asleep together, but I had never made them a priority. Instead, I had pencil-squeezed in time for them when it was convenient and satiated the rest of my free days socializing and partying until I was spread so thin that there was barely any substance to the interactions. It had really just been a method of passing time. Sure, having a whirlwind of phone calls, coffee dates, parties, text messages, late night trysts, lunch meetings, and dinner plans lined up for all my days and nights made the time fly. And yeah, it was glamorous as hell to know the right people and be escorted right through the velvet ropes at the hottest night clubs to be wooed all night with free drinks by strangers and friends alike ~ but to whose satisfaction? It had been as if my companionship were cheaply priced and made available for everyone's use.

During that summer, I had just been looking for constant stimulation because I didn't know how else to derive satisfaction from human relationships. So I searched for intimacy, that feeling of belonging that most of us spend our whole lives searching for, in all the wrong places, I always had to be doing something or getting somewhere, eating something delicious, or discussing something entertaining and profound. It had all been in the empty, empty pursuit of pleasure. Sitting in that car, I realized that the answer had been in front of me all along, that I should have spent more time with these two amazing people that were so important to me. It occurred to me that I loved Suzy and Hanna, in the fullest sense of the word, because they didn't have to *do* anything to make me happy. Contemplating their thoughts and sensations, observing their amusing actions, noting and listening to their views, realizing that we were sharing an enjoyment of sights and smells and sounds delighted me in the purest way. And so without contributing to the daily ruckus, their mere existence commanded my appreciation and gave me joy. It was like enjoying good artwork, or a pleasing autumn day. That night driving back from Washington DC with Hanna and Suzy, though it was a night like any other, I realized a genuine satisfaction that was unparalleled by what I derived from all those faceless summer nights of reveling *combined*.

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A Letter from The Heights

Hello from your classmates and friends at The Heights! As Boston College's independent student newspaper, we are actively looking for students interested in writing, reporting, editing, designing, and managing the paper. Although Student Activities Day has come and gone, it's never too late to get involved.

The Heights strives to give thorough coverage to campus events, issues, performances, sports, and other topics of interest to students at BC. We rely on our editors, managers, and staff to bring a variety of viewpoints that represents and reflects the community as a whole. As a staff member or editor, your ideas, your insights, and your concerns give our newspaper depth and help to shape it into the best campus paper it can be. We want The Heights to be the first place students turn to for information relevant to them.

Our success in achieving this goal depends on how well our editors relate to the campus and how they see themselves within BC. It is important that editors have diverse backgrounds, affiliations, and experiences so that students from all areas of BC can find something of interest to read. One major critique of The Heights in the past has been that AHANA student interests are underrepresented or inaccurately portrayed. This is an issue that I have worked over my tenure on the board to confront head-on, and I believe that diverse coverage depends strongly on The Heights having a diverse board of editors. An editor's awareness of key issues and concerns comes largely from his or her personal experiences on campus; this is why having an editorial board diverse in everything from ethnicity and gender, to religion and political views is so important.

We welcome new writers, as well as student input, at all times. Please contact editor@bcheights.com with comments or for more information.



Pilar Landon '09 — editor in chief for The Heights

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Karen Campbell Severin Book Award application extended to December 17th!

- Each Fall and Spring semester, the Karen Campbell Severin Book Award of \$250 will be given to two undergraduate students who best exemplify Karen's legacy of giving unselfishly to the community. Applications will be reviewed by a committee overseen by the Office of AHANA Student Programs. Application due on December 17, 2008. For more info, go to the website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ahana/book.html>

Student Leadership Award nomination due by February 16th!

- Each year the Student Programs Office presents awards to outstanding undergraduate student leaders at Boston College. Please submit all nominations to www.bc.edu/studentawards by Monday, February 16, 2009. For more information please contact Karl V. Bell at bellkh@bc.edu.





Reflection on 48 Hours!



Sha-Kayla Crockett '09

48 Hours...deeply moving and holistically gratifying, my experience on the 48 Hours freshmen retreat was unexpectedly impacting. Placed together at random on the outer banks of Northern Massachusetts, I, along with nine other senior leaders embarked on a weekend experience intent on being both pleasing and rewarding, and was exactly that.

Snapshots of my 48 Hours experience recreate initial emotions of nervousness and curiosity that were soon replaced by a sense of camaraderie fostered by the freshmen's willingness to be openly vulnerable. Eye-opening for me was the ability for individuals' to open themselves up to peers they had little to no connection with, compelling me to allow myself to be open as well. Sharing in my freshmen year experiences regarding unexpected social pressures, I found that those things I encountered freshman year were not isolated incidents, rather other people had in fact gone through the same, if not very similar experiences. This newfound connection that I found myself suddenly sharing with freshmen I had never before encountered showed me that experiences have a way of binding individuals to one another whether they realize it or not, resulting in a myriad of experiences linked to form the undeniably uncanny bond that all BC students forge throughout their time spent here.

Reminiscing on the 48 Hours spent with strangers turned friends, I could not have asked for a more eye-opening venture to conclude my four years spent here at BC. As overwhelming as I anticipated this experience being, the newly gained perspective I emerged with was much more valuable, and for that I am grateful.



What is 48 Hours? 48HOURS is a weekend experience open to all first-year students who are interested in finding ways to take advantage of BC's intellectual, social, and spiritual resources. Interaction with professional staff and senior student leaders will help all students gain a fuller understanding of the possibilities and challenges of a Jesuit education.

2008-2009 48HOURS Weekends—February 6 - 8, 2009 and February 20 - 22, 2009

For more information about 48 Hours, please go to <http://www.bc.edu/offices/fye/48hours.html>



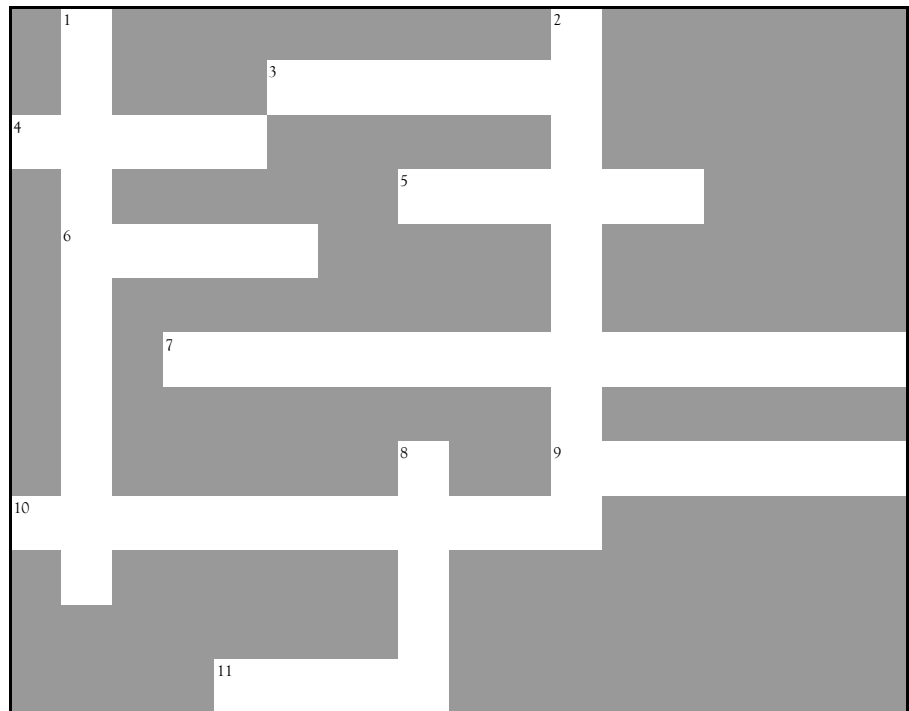


Need a break from studying?

	3						4	
		7				5		
6	8		5	2	7		9	3
	5		4		6		8	
9								4
	4		3		1		7	
7	1		6	4	5		3	9
		3					8	
	2							6

- ACROSS**
- 3. first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday (7 letters)
 - 4. Hanukkah is celebrated for how many days and nights? (5 letters)
 - 5. real name of reindeer Donner (6 letters)
 - 6. famous Christmas movie quote—you'll [blank] your eyes out! (5 letters)
 - 7. famous Christmas story (15 letters)
 - 9. country where first Christmas card was made (7 letters)
 - 10. person responsible for using electric Christmas lights (12 letters)
 - 11. Kwanzaa has how many basic symbols? (5 letters)

- DOWN**
- 1. most popular Christmas plant (11 letters)
 - 2. popular Christmas candy (10 letters)
 - 8. colors of Kwanzaa are red, black and... (5 letters)
- **All answers can be searched for online! Good luck!*





Student Submission (continued)

And herein was the satisfaction that I had so desperately been seeking all summer, throughout the blur of memories of xyz people and I having a glorious ~ but forgettable ~ time. It was not about what you do with someone, but who each of you are and the intimate connection that ensues. It was just as Aristotle said, “True virtuous friendship is that which is mutually pleasing and beneficial and exists between two good men”. It takes a very special pair of souls to create the sort of camaraderie I felt, and I realized that it was something I should hold on to forever no matter where life took me. Eventually, I knew that I would make friends and meet fabulous people when I went away to college, but it was special that one night. As Hanna, Suzy, and I smoked our last cigarette of the night and watched the burning butt die out on the asphalt of the parking lot outside of the house, it was the end of an era and the beginning of an era, and I was ready, because I knew these amazing people had me in their hearts, and they in mine. I could just feel the smiles on their faces emitting smiling photons into the air, and I couldn’t help but smile too.

Intimacy occurs in the simplest moments. You don't have to be peering over the edge of the tallest skyscraper while holding hands with your companion feeling like small dots on the map together. You don't have to be sitting face to face having a soul-rending discussion of your respective fears regarding the afterlife and its meaning.

You could just be riding in a car with your favorite people. Windows rolled down, midnight cruising, good music playing...

AHANA Hotline—what did you think?

- ◆ We want to hear from you! If you want to write for the AHANA hotline, all you have to do is send an email to oasp@bc.edu
- ◆ Don't forget to look out for the AHANA mini-feed, a bi-weekly email that gives announcements about important scholarship, internship, career, research, and various event information. If you don't get this email, contact oasp@bc.edu

