

AHANA Hotline

Fall 2004, Issue 2

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AHANA HOTLINE *Staff 2004-2005*

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Letter from the Editors

Greetings!!

We hope that everybody is rested from Thanksgiving break. Now it's time to gear up for finals! We at the Office of AHANA Student Programs have been very busy, and so we (Romeo and Biba) are glad to be able to share the work of editing this Hotline together for the first time.

With this issue, we hope to provide more of a political voice for the students of AHANA descent at Boston College. In the past two years, and most recently in the past month, there have been many AHANA students who have felt as though their issues were not being properly addressed by other publi-

cations on campus. We are hoping to provide an outlet for both objective and subjective discussions because we at the Office know the value of looking at issues of racism and oppression with *both* the heart and the mind; in conjunction with both of these – our souls. Too often, the voices of those who have stood up for their rights, who have stood up for their own story, have been quieted and have been left in society with neither legitimacy or consideration. Like those who have come before us at Boston College, in the United States, and in our larger global society, we are fighting for the African value of *kugichagulia* – the right to self-

determination. Our wonderful alumna, Valerie Lewis, said it best when she said, "You will not name us." With that, we hope that this renewed political voice on campus will bring about positive discussion leading to change and growth, both individually and collectively.

The co-editors, Biba and Romeo, eating...as usual.



What Does the Term AHANA Mean to You? Let Us Know!

OASP Essay Contest

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the AHANA concept, the Office of AHANA Student Programs is hosting an essay contest.

Tell us **What the AHANA Concept means to you.**

Respond to this statement in 2-3 pages (double-spaced) by February 4, 2005 to oasp@bc.edu.

The winner will be announced during the AHANA Scholars Reception on March 17, 2005, and will receive \$300 as an award.



The Question of Categorizing South Asians and Middle Easterners

Megha Jain, A&S 2005

When one looks at a map, South Asia is seen as a subcontinent of Asia. Though we are a part of Asia, I as a young South Asian adult have never truly felt accepted in the greater Asian community for various reasons. Our marginalization in the Boston College Asian community is just a small representation of what has been happening in the United States for years and will continue to happen. I do not see this as a problem, but rather as something that has been ingrained in our society because of different customs and traditions and most importantly, physical differences.

The South Asian population, which includes students from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, has always been a tight knit community at Boston College. Our presence has always been known to others, especially post 9-11. We have fought for our representation in the community, especially in the Asian community and the AHANA community. However, I feel that we have not gained much ground since I have been attending Boston College. When discussing this issue with my South Asian peers, many have agreed with me that they do not see themselves as clearly Asian, but rather as South Asian. Our plight in the United

States has differed from many of the other Asian groups, yet this distinct difference is not known by many. Our experience has been generalized into the experience of other Asian groups and this has upset many of the South Asian students at Boston College, including myself. Many students do not know that South Asians were seen as Caucasians when they first immigrated to the United States. As such, many did not receive the same treatment as the Chinese or the Japanese, for example.

This lack of knowledge has also led to a disappearance of South Asian history in textbooks and classes. I am currently taking the Asian American Experience class offered by the Psychology department. When researching at O'Neil library, I was hurt when I noticed that many textbooks researching the Asian American experience in the United States did not include the South Asian experience. Flipping through book after book, I was shocked when I did not find any information about the South Asian immigrants that came here in the 1920's. Why is my experience not included in the Asian experience? Why is it that when one discusses Asian Americans, one does not include me? These are questions that continue to plague my mind. I have often tried to find a solution or answer to them. However, when I look at the Asian community and greater Boston College community, I see how South

Asians are marginalized. We are not seen as Asian, yet we are not white. So what exactly are we? Where do South Asian and Middle Eastern students fit in?

The second-wave of South Asian immigrants came to the United States already highly educated and somewhat better off economically than the other Asian immigrants during this time period. Many were educated at IIT, one of the most prestigious institutes in India for computers, technology and engineering. IIT is the MIT of India. These second-wave immigrants flocked to California and this resulted in the formation of Silicon Valley, a hot-spot for South Asian venture capitalists and entrepreneurs. As mentioned before, because many of the South Asians were considered Caucasian, it was easier for them to move up in various industries and many did not see the effects of a glass ceiling.

Another reason for this marginalization is that South Asians are a younger community as compared to the Chinese or the Koreans for example. Our numbers during the 1920's were far lower as compared to other Asians. Therefore, we are a newer community in this country and are just beginning to become involved in main-stream culture, whether politics, media, and business.

A Fresh Perspective

Malcolm Joseph, A&S 2008

Being a freshman is not all it is cracked up to be. It is not always a wondrous time. It can be a hazardous road filled with pot holes, winding and split roads (sometimes more than one split), traffic jams, and the occasional pit stop. My freshman year so far has been nothing but rude awakenings and eye opening experiences.

One of the major issues that I had to deal with, once on campus, was diversity. Of course, I knew that diversity was an issue in any college, but I thought I would be able to handle it

here. Oh, how wrong was I! When asked how I was handling the diversity (or lack thereof), I would reply, "Charts and graphs mean nothing compared to the real thing." I felt alone, and oftentimes still do. Coming from a school where everyone looked like me and from the same background, I was surprised to see how much people differed from each other. Thank God for The Sister Thea Bowman AHANA Center! I don't know where I would go for that boost of

"There is no Mountain too great, bear these words and have faith"
-Lyrics from 'He Lives In You'



Continues on page 4

Hello again from AHANA Outreach Program at the Center for International Partnerships and Programs (CIPP)!

I hope all of you are having a successful and enjoyable year at Boston College. The AHANA Outreach Program has had a busy semester, visiting different intercultural groups and organizations to promote study abroad and scholarships, helping with the hosting of information sessions, and meeting with individual students about their questions and concerns regarding study abroad and scholarships.

There are still selected opportunities available for those students who are interested in studying abroad this summer or next year.

The deadline to meet with a study abroad advisor is early February, but appointments do fill up quickly, so if you are interested, please either come to the CIPP office or call the office's main number at 617-552-3827.

There are also scholarship opportunities available for students to use for their studies abroad. Depending on when you want to go abroad, the deadlines vary but are still fast approaching. There are many different types of scholarships that are available, e.g., scholarships based on the country where the student is visiting and need-based scholarships. So if interested,

you can call the office's main number and ask for Carl.

For further information on study abroad, please visit our website at www.bc.edu/international. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to set up a meeting with me about study abroad and scholarships, please email me at cippahan@bc.edu.

Sincerely,
Carl Oliveri
AHANA Outreach/
Scholarships Graduate Assistant
CIPP
Boston College

What Do You Know About Kwanzaa?

(Info taken from The Official Kwanzaa Website, <http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/origins1.html>)

NGUZU SABA

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

- Umoja (Unity)
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
- Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.
- Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.
- Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- Nia (Purpose)
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- Kuumba (Creativity)
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- Imani (Faith)
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT KWANZAA

- Kwanzaa is a Pan-African holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture.
- The word Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili.
- Kwanzaa is celebrated between December 26 and January 1.
- Dr. Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa in 1966 during the Black Freedom Movement.

FUN FACTS

Colors of Kwanzaa

- Black
- Red
- Green

Symbols of Kwanzaa

- Mazao (The Crops)
- Mkeka (The Mat)
- Kinara (The Candle Holder)
- Muhindi (The Corn)
- Mishumaa Saba (The Seven Candles)
- Kikombe cha Umoja (The Unity Cup)
- Zawadi (The Gifts)
- Bendera (The Flag)
- Nguzo Saba Poster (Poster of the Seven Principles)



Continued from page 2

cultural ethnicity that I need every now and then if they weren't constantly there reassuring me that they are here for me.

Another issue that I had to deal with was being away from home. It stinks! You miss so much when you're gone, but quick to want to leave when you're back. I hate the fact that I am missing all the milestones and disappointments in my family's life. And what makes it sting so much is that they don't seem to miss me. Life goes on as usual for them, but there is a benefit of being away from home: I am forced to mature. Since I no

longer have anyone fighting for me or speaking up for me and to be my advocate, I have to be my own parent. I have to work to get money; no more allowances. I have to do laundry and make sure that my work is done. And on top of that, I have to schedule everything! Without my planner, I'm pretty much blind. Scheduling things are completely new to me. Planning things out wasn't usually habitual for me, but now, I have trained myself to whip out my planner for almost everything. If it is not in my planner, it is pretty much nonexistent.

I can list all the bumps that I have

encountered being a freshman, like troubles with choosing a major, with teachers, with tests, homework, and studying, but I shall spare you that list. My freshman experience may not have been the best or full of exciting moments, but it is certainly something I will never forget. I have grown so much and I foresee much more growth to come. Being a freshman is all a delicate balancing act, especially for me. With every step I take, I think I'm going to plummet, but I sometimes forget that I have a great group of friends there waiting at the bottom to push me back up. And with every successful step, there are bounties of rewards.

University Course Update

Course Additions

AFRICAN AMERICANS TURNS: The Impact of Black Culture on Mainstream American Entertainment.

Course: CT 371, BK 371, M,W,F 12:00-1:00pm

This course will investigate African American performance and its impact on the content, form and direction of theatre in the United States from mid-nineteenth century until the present day. It will use a multidisciplinary approach that explores theatrical forms, related dramatic literature, film, music and visual art. Members of the class will also attend relevant theatre productions in Boston and have the opportunity to dialogue with African American theatre artists. "African American Turns" will be taught by author and historian, John H. Houchin, Associate Professor of Theatre at Boston College. This course fulfills the ethnic diversity CORE requirement and may be counted toward the Black Studies minor.

LOCATING BLACK PHILOSOPHY

Course: BK 185, T, Th 12:00-1:15pm

New as of Fall 2004. This course will examine the question of Blackness from the perspective of Black Philosophy. In so doing, we will develop a working definition of Black Philosophy as we explore Black Philosophy's foundational theories and their relevance in ongoing efforts to articulate an African diasporic world-view. Philosophical, historical, and cultural texts will provide a framework for investigating questions that have become central in the articulation of Africana perspectives. Race, as a central foundation for Black Philosophy will be one of the recurring, thematic questions in this course. As writer Jean Genet comments, "What is a Black. First of all what's its color?" Course Texts: *African American Philosophy*, ed. Lott, *African-American Perspectives and Philosophical Traditions*, ed., John Pittman, *Race: Critical Theories*, ed. Essed and Goldberg, *Signifyin', Santifyin' and Slam Dunking*, ed., Gena Dagal Caponi, *Society Must be Defended*, Michel Foucault.

Recently Revived

INTRODUCTION TO BLACK AESTHETICS, MUSIC, AND EMPOWERMENT

Course: BK 200, W 6:00-8:30pm

The Black Aesthetic is a critical concept in understanding the various political, social, economic and cultural struggles waged by African descent people and their struggles in the Americas. We will focus on Black music as one of the principal vehicles Africans in Diaspora used to empower and galvanize their people to embrace an ancestral racial memory that was not erased by slavery, colonialism, institutional racism and European hegemony.

Service Opportunities

Christian Soldiers

Established in 1994, the aim of Christian Soldiers Inc. is to introduce participants to a variety of people, places, and possibilities they would not otherwise be exposed to. It is hoped that participants will be viewed as serious young men and women who exude confidence and discipline. It is also our hope that these young men and women will acquire an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a desire to serve their community and, most especially, an unswerving belief in God. The program is for youths between the ages of seven and fifteen. They meet on Saturdays from 9:30AM to 2:00PM at the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church (146 Hampshire St. in Cambridge). For more information, please contact Dr. Donald Brown at (617)-552-3359 or Donald.brown.1@bc.edu.

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's Oak Street Youth Center is looking for volunteers to serve as academic tutors for inner-city middle or high school students, and mentors for middle school students. Requirements include: experience in working with youth, effective leadership skills, passion for community service. For more information, please call Fu Mei Cheng or Jenny Dang at (617) 635-5087 or (617) 635-5088. To learn about the agency, please visit their web site: www.bcnc.net.

Check out your local churches, community centers, hospitals, and United Way offices for other service opportunities through winter break.

Scholarship & Other Opportunities

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship

Boston College established the Amanda V. Houston Fellowship, named in honor of the University's first Black Studies Program Director, on June 10, 1993. The purpose of this award is to further prepare Boston College Undergraduates of African descent for leadership in the United States and the world at large by enriching their personal and educational development through travel. Consistent with its namesake's lifelong role as a universal educator, community leader, and mentor, the Houston Fellowship underwrites travel-study experiences that contribute to the personal and intellectual growth of its recipients. The Fellowship provides a maximum of \$3,500 toward domestic or international travel including transportation, lodging, meals, and research related expenses. The award must be used between June 1 and January 20 of the fellowship year. Completed applications are due on February 4, 2005 to the Bourneuf House, College Road.

To print the application, please visit http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/meta-elements/pdf/amanda_houston_award_2004.pdf.

Glamour's 2005 Top 10 College Women Competition

The Top 10 College Women Competition is a competition that recognizes the exceptional achievements and academic excellence of female college juniors from across the country. Students can obtain an application by contacting *Glamour* directly, either by email: ttcw@glamour.com, fax: (212)286-6922, or by logging on to www.glamour.com. Applications must be received by February 10, 2005.

Archbishop Oscar A. Romero Scholarship

This prestigious scholarship honors a Boston College junior-year student, selected on the basis of academic accomplishments, financial need, service to the Latino community, and dedication to values and ideals that best exemplify the values inherent in Archbishop Romero's life. Application can be found on the website: www.bc.edu/romero. Completed applications must be returned to Dr. Dennis Sardella, Director of the Presidential Scholars Program, 36 College Road, Chestnut Hill, MA, 02467-3860, no later than Monday, January 31, 2005.

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department seeks qualified and motivated men and women interested in joining a professional law enforcement agency as Correction Officers. We provide excellent benefits and competitive salary of up to \$45K the first year. Please download our application at www.scsdma.org/apply or apply in person to the Human Resource office at the address below: Richard Tranfaglia, Personnel Director, 20 Bradston Street, Boston, MA 02118, (617) 635-1000 x6525.

The Office of AHANA Student Programs

Boston College

Sister Thea Bowman AHANA Center
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Email: oasp@bc.edu
Website: www.bc.edu/oasp

**Happy
Holidays!!!**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of AHANA Student Programs is to model servant leadership to students of AHANA descent and to provide a broad array of services that nurture their academic, social, cultural and spiritual development. While the traditional target group of the office is students who enter Boston College through the office's six week summer Options Through Education Program, the office's vision is to reach out and embrace all AHANA students in attempt to help them actualize their dreams, fulfill their potential and become servant-leaders. The Office of AHANA Student Programs provides quality programs and services aimed at responding to the continuum of needs of AHANA students.

Programs and Services

- Comprehensive Academic Advisement Program
 - Performance Monitoring
- Options Through Education—
Transitional Summer Program
- Benjamin Elijah Mays Mentoring
- Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program
- Father Ellacuría AHANA Resource Center
- Ladies Let's Talk
- AHANA Hotline
- Sister Thea Bowman AHANA Scholars Program
- Gospel Caravan

How Do You Think We're Doing?

1. When you receive the AHANA Hotline, do you read the whole publication, cover to cover?
a. Yes b. No
If no, about how much of the publication do you read? _____
2. Are the articles in the AHANA Hotline well written?
a. Yes b. No c. Somewhat
3. Are the subjects of discussion within the AHANA Hotline of interest to you?
a. Yes b. No c. Somewhat

4. What other types of articles would you like to see in the AHANA Hotline?

5. Do you have additional comments/recommendations about the AHANA Hotline?

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return to the Office of AHANA Student Programs at 72 College Road. Alternatively, you can access this survey online at www.bc.edu/oasp.