

4740.1
5.2

Asian Students' Association

19



95

↑
Jelle

Summer Newsletter

CONTENTS

Red Hot Peppers News.....	1
Rice Bowl.....	2
Soy Sauce, Curry and other Seasonings.....	3
Pressure Cooker.....	4
NO MSG.....	5
Asian Style.....	6
Contributors.....	8

RED HOT PEPPERS NEWS

Wonderful news to be shared with all those interested in ASA. Over the past two years, the ASA has submitted proposals to residential life for an ASA House. We are pleased to announce that the ASA house will be the former French House. Residents for fall quarter are: Madhu Gadam, Rich Utarnachitt, Brett Hunter, Rebeka Barber, Patrick Burlingham, Charmaine de la Rosa, Anil Mathew. If you're on, stop by in the fall and watch for an OPEN HOUSE.

In addition, we are trying to establish the house as a resource center so if anyone has any journals, magazines, or relevant materials we would appreciate your contributions.

MORE GOOD NEWS:

- Rich passed his comps! Congratulations on a job well done!
- Cheers to Charmaine de la Rosa and Rebeka for a wonderful performance in Crimes of the Heart.
- Kevin Sievert has a job in Singapore...bon voyage and good luck!
- Thanks to all who helped cook, eat, and put out their time for the international food festival! It was tiring but still a good time. We'll have to do it again!

While I was in South Carolina on my CD I wandered upon two Asian-American publications at a Barnes and Noble but I regret not being able to find these at the newly-opened Barnes and Noble in town. One is published in the East Coast and is called A, while the other is a publication from California called YOLK. It's amazing how each publication has a different perspective on Asian-American life due to their geographic market. We will be buying these subscriptions very soon, so if you'd like to take a peak please stop by the new ASA house in the fall!

Hope Nguyen

Taste of the World

Is it possible to travel to 7 countries in one day? The odds aren't in your favor, but on July 27, 1995 Saga patrons got a bite of the action. Through the cooperative efforts of the Asian Student Association, the International Student Organization, and Mary Dodd and the Marriott staff, cuisines from around the world found their way to a small town in the midwest called Kalamazoo. The countries featured were Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan, and Vietnam. Not bad! Sorry to those who showed up late, we regret that we ran out of food before dinner was over...but we're glad it was such a big success! It took a lot of effort and a lot of kitchen time but we had fun cooking and we hope that every appetite was satisfied. Without a doubt the most popular dish was Jose Velasquez's cheesy potato soup. Thanks to all those to came back for seconds!

The ASA and ISO are active groups here at 'K' and want to add something to the Kalamazoo community, so if anyone thinks this tradition should be continued please let us know. We welcome all comments and criticisms. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to ASA if you would like a specific recipe. I'm just kidding, we're not a talk show but here are the people to contact.

France: G etane or St ephanie or H elene, Ecuador: Jos e, Germany: Ingo, Melanie, or Anna, India: Hope or Madhu, Japan: Miho, Pakistan: Hamza or Sadaf, and Vi tnam: Hope.

AGAIN, THANKS FOR THOSE WHO CAME, ATE, AND GOT SECONDS!

*Your citizenship
may say where you
live, but your race
and ethnicity define
you.*

Hamza Suria K'97

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and do not reflect the views of the association as a whole.

We'd like to thank all those who submitted articles and welcome other students and faculty to share their opinions. If you'd like to contribute, please feel free to send responses to our mailbox in the basement of Hicks Center. We would also like to encourage interested individuals to our meetings in the Fall.

Why Should I Be Asian?

Hamza Suria

It has often been the case that Asian-American individuals refuse to identify or accept their heritage. These individuals intend to distance themselves as much as possible from other Asian-Americans and all their cultural specialities. Even though their roots are nested into a rich cultural background, such individuals do not understand the examples provided by their Asian traditions.

As is the case with most cultures, there are always pockets of individuals who wish to emigrate their identities into a broader, or more accepted category of people. Thus, these individuals have a much lower opinion of the culture they are historically bound in comparison to other lifestyles they may have encountered. Hence, they struggle to release themselves psychologically, instinctively and biologically from their true heritage.

In the case of Asian-Americans, this emigration has most often been aimed towards the "universal American identity". American society has been a harbor for countless Asian societies seeking safety, health and wealth. However, with the mix of other numerous types of individuals already present in America, it became very easy for Asians to expedite their "blending" into the American society by releasing whatever cultural ties they held. Thus, America offered a more liberalized, open-minded and forgiving atmosphere for many of the immigrants of culturally-specialized areas in Asia.

As the immigrating bore their own sons and daughters, there was an even lower value placed on the role of cultural identities. Soon Asian-American teenagers were to see themselves as potential "Americans", as long as they did not claim themselves to live by the cultural guidelines of China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Phillipines, Vietnam.....etc. Unfortunately,

more than just a few chose to flush out their ancestral heritage and adopt a less regulated lifestyle.

Although I cannot judge whether such a move is for the good or bad, there is definitely an element of loss felt by people once they have "released" their cultural grounding. Although cultural values restrict one's individual freedom, they also benefit the society as a whole in founding the rules and regulations needed for people to be able to live amongst each other. To be able to live within a society, all individuals need to recognize that they are an integral part of the community. Every action that a person within a community takes will undoubtedly affect the rest of the community. Hence, everyone needs to be conscious and aware of what kind of an effect they will place upon the rest of the community. The society can therefore regulate, in the form of cultural values and practices, in order to discourage actions that would harm the rest of the community.

Such a community-based lifestyle has been reduced in American society today. Society has been less rewarding for everyone within the last few decades since the cultural grounding of individuals within specific values and morals has been removed. Meanwhile, American society has adopted a much more individual style, where the person himself/herself is by far the most important determinant of one's actions. Hence, individuals undertake what they deem appropriate for themselves, without extensive caution as to their effect on the rest of the community.

Although the focus of individuals has changed, the needs of society have not. We all need to understand what and where our position is within the society, and how we can function best for it. Personally, I would suggest that cultural heritage is the best method of idealizing how a person should behave and interact with the rest of the society. However, once you have released your cultural values, both you and your community are at risk of disintegration.

Multiculturalism

Hope Nguyen

The recent announcement of budget cuts and its effects on faculty and administration has caused great concern for the college community. What I am most upset about is the elimination of Dr. Baraka-Love and other faculty whose positions support and uphold the college's goal to maintain a multicultural campus.

Other departments that will be affected are the women's history, Russian, Latin American Studies, and Education programs. These programs as well as others serve to bring diversity to this campus. I find it a shame that these courses and those that teach them must be removed.

What is most disturbing is seeing the position of Dean of Multicultural Affairs, which was created and grounded in Kalamazoo College's belief of bringing diversity, tolerance, and a greater sense of community to this campus, be relieved. If we are to promote diversity, we need to have a constant voice. Over the past several years, that voice has belonged to Dr. Jeanne Baraka-Love.

She has always been a strong supporter of the BSO, the ASA, and the WEC. She has brought us wonderful lectures, programs (including numerous L.A.C's) and countless activities. Without the help of Dr. Love over the years, the ASA would not be what it is today. She has helped the ASA make the new house in the fall materialize and we would like to thank her very much for all her support.

The ASA strongly supports the petition that is circulating regarding the re-instatement of Dr. Love and I hope that those of you who support the ASA will support this petition.

PEACE !

Separatism

Hope Nguyen

After two years of proposals and working with the housing coordinators, the ASA has finally obtained a house, also known as a "living/learning unit." We have always been a small group but are trying to recruit and grow. This new house will hopefully help us achieve this goal.

Our interest in the house has also prompted some controversy, and that is separatism. I have been approached by people who believe that our interests are purely selfish. That is, the Asian students have no intention of integrating in the college "community," rather, we are a threat and cannot serve to better the Kalamazoo College community.

First of all, we need to address what a community is, especially on this campus. Does Kalamazoo College give you a sense of community? Yes in some ways it may but I think most would agree that it needs a lot of help. With the K-plan as it was in past years, it has been difficult to establish consistency and unity among students, faculty and administration. It is not impossible but the question is where do we start?

A community starts with individuals. The ASA is a community, although not perfect. Not every Asian student on this campus is interested in the group but that is to be expected. Those that do, want to establish a community with other Asians as well as make a difference in the larger college "community." We, the ASA, have discussions, plan college events, and try to get to know one another. We are an Asian organi-

(Continued on page 7)

INTERRACIAL DATING:

Not Just a Groovy Topic for Melrose Place Scripts

by

**Charmaine Marisol “Strut-Pout-Put-It-Out” de la Rosa
with collaborative assistance by
Anjalee “Talk-To-The-Hand” Deshpande**

So Hamza harasses me every quarter to write something for the newsletter and I never know what to write about because you can only write so many articles about injustice and racism and perspectives on Asian-American culture, etc. Luckily, Anjalee had this brain spasm a while ago and she suggested we write a guide for all y’all about...INTERRACIAL DATING...a topic she and I know a wee bit about. Well....Anjalee graduated so I’m taking up the reins of this endeavor, but of course she is always with me in spirit.

Okay...so...interracial dating. Y’know, the first thing I want to say, is that this should not even BE a topic that entertains any amount of discussion, let alone a whole article in a newsletter...I mean, really....is it that big of a deal??? Well...apparently it is, because I have noticed that I get a lot of shit for not dating Filipino men. I get a lot of shit from family and random strangers and Asian friends....especially Asian men friends....especially HAMZA !! (NOTE: Hamza and I **DO NOT** get along very well)

WHY!?!?!? Okay...so I have been doing this dating thing for quite a few years now, and until recently, my love escapades have not been very successful, and...yeah...I have only dated white men (or boys depending on what age we’re thinking of). But I don’t consider this a manifestation of hatred to my culture or a form of rebellion or a calculated assimilation into white American culture. I really don’t think my choice to date outside my race has reasons that go all that deep. It’s exactly that...a choice. And I shouldn’t have to justify my choice to anybody, but every once in a while someone makes the observation that I have never dated a Filipino and I find myself going through the third degree all over again.

So, why all the flak? Why all the hoopla? Why should I feel shitty when people stare at me and my white boyfriend when we walk together? Why should I have to worry about what his parents think or what my dead ancestors would think or what my possibly Amerasian children might think someday? As I stated before, I have been through some failed relationships with white men, but the reason that these relationships failed is not because of the Asian-White thing...it’s because they were assholes or because the timing was wrong or a million other reasons that have nothing to do with race. And I am currently in an interracial relationship now and everything is just fine...it works. Sometimes, it doesn’t...Anjalee and I can both attest to that (NOTE: Anjalee is dating an Indian man...everything is fine...it works, too), but if both parties can recognize each others differences and appreciate them, then everyone else should, too.

And if y’all can’t, then **DEAL** and **GET OVER IT ALREADY! ! !**

In my experience, the interracial thang works...If you’re scared of what people might think if you pursue an interracial relationship then you worry too much about what other people think. That’s all the guidance I can give you...Peace out.

Popcorn and Rice**The Movie Reviews**

By Madhuri Gadam
Richard B. Utarnachitt

**Eat Drink Man
Woman**

Don't watch this movie if you are hungry! It's a movie about Mr. Chu (Sihung Lung), a retired master chef. He has three unmarried daughters, fin Ning (Yu Wen Wang) is the eldest daughter and is pegged as the "old maid" who is a very bitter for having to take care of her father. Jin Chien (Chien -Lien Wu) is the headstrong second daughter with dreams of one day being free from her restricted life at home, Jia fen (Mei Yang) is the youngest daughter she begins the catalysis for everyone in the house to leave home.

The movie centers on the relationship between Mr. Chu and his second oldest daughter Jia Chien. There exists a love hate relationship between the two. Not only is this a serious film about relationships and family but humorous and very entertaining on how they are able to overcome their disagreements.

Ang Lee the director also has done movies such as The Wedding Banquet. His portrayal of Asian life are unique and different than most Asian centered films. Ang Lee shows the other side of Asian life other than what we are familiar with. He steps away from tradition and gives a good look at contemporary family life that we are unaware of.

We give it ★★★★★

Scoring System

- ★ pretty bad
- ★★ some merit(probably has a few good lines)
- ★★★ pretty good
- ★★★★ great film

Scent of Green Papaya

This film is set in Vietnam during the 1950's directed by a Vietnamese director Tran-Anh-Hung. The is a poignant film about a young woman named Mui (age 10 Lu Mansan, age 20 Tran Nu Yen-Khe) and her coming of age. She is a servant that comes to live with a troubled family. This is not a plot oriented movie, but contains innovative cinematography by Venoit Delhomme. The original score composed by Ton-That-Tiet helped enhance the mood of the film. It's a pretty strange flick but we liked it.

We give it ★★★1/2

Critic's Critic - Hope Nguyen

I, too, saw this movie and I must admit the cinematography and sound effects greatly added to the nonexistent plot. I guess if you like metaphors and hidden themes, you would like this movie. The movie's dialogue was Vietnamese so I had no problem understanding it but there was very little of it. The movie is slow and pays very little attention to the plot which is the coming of age of the girl. What bothered me was that she never had much of a voice. She remained very obedient and passive which was expected. More or less I thought she was a static character. If you like abstractions and a movie which gives you time to think about the images, you should see it but if you hate slow movies that have little plot this is not the one for you. Maybe you should see it for yourself.

I gave it ★1/2

Black Rain

by Miho Aishima

On Sunday, August 6, 1995 Black Rain by Imamura Shohei was featured in the Recital Hall in the Light Fine Arts Building. This program was planned by Jennifer Hodgins and Michael Bäk with funding from the Center for International Programs. Black Rain depicts the horrific effects of the atomic bomb and tells the story of the survivors who lived through it. This movie is particularly powerful and disturbing because we live through the struggle of living with radiation sickness of the survivors and the prejudice that they faced.

In the movie, there is a radio broadcast announcing the United States' consideration of dropping another bomb in Korea to end the Korean War. One of the survivor asks, "Don't they ever learn? We died like guinea pigs." He further goes on to say, "Why did they drop the bomb on us when they were winning?" These are the questions that still haunt some Japanese today.

(Continued from page 4)

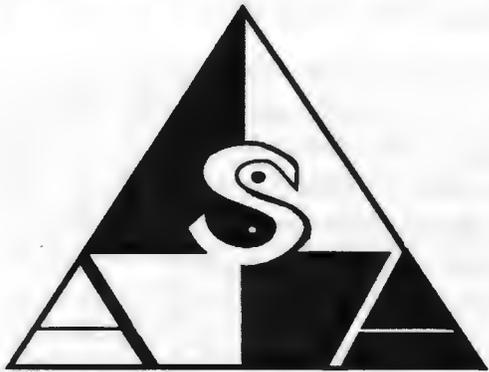
zation, not geared towards a specific Asian race, we strive to promote a general unity which we often times fall short of. We hope to serve other Asians, those interested in Asian life, etc. as a support group. With the presence of a house, we can provide a place that is always open to addressing issues that affect Asians such as identity, discrimination and family. As we become stronger, we can better assist in supporting and bringing multi-culturalism and diversity to the campus

Our "sub-community" no matter how small, wants to strengthen and educate the larger college "community" through events, such as the Eastern Parade in Winter '95, our quarterly potluck to share our culture and customs every quarter, as well as a Newsletter to inform people of Asian issues on a local and global level.

Under our proposal, the house is open to those of Asian descent but others are welcome as long as each member of the house agrees. The house members must be able to work well together in support of themselves and to create a comfortable and safe environment. There is a clause that states that in a ratio of Asians to non-Asians, the number of Asians must remain in the majority. The purpose of this is to keep the house as it was intended, as a cultural center. We are not a separatist

*"Asians are a minority in America,
but a majority in the rest of the world."*

Kevin Sievert '95



**Kalamazoo College
Asian Student Association**

Editor in Chief..... Hope Nguyen
Assistant Editor..... Hamza Suria
Featured Writers..... Miho Aishima
 Charmaine de la Rosa
 Madhu Gadam
 Hope Nguyen
 Hamza Suria
 Rich Utarnachitt



The last time you'll ever see these two together :)
Pictured: Hamza and Char

..... T H I S I S A S A



Left: Anil Mathew (K96), Rich Utarnachitt (K96), Hope Nguyen (K97), Madhu Gadam (K97), Marisol de la Rosa (K97), Miho Aishima (K96), Sadaf Khattak (K97) and Hamza Suria (K97).