

The Year 2009 (Brown Cow) is the 4706th Chinese Year!

Volume 5, Issue 3

Block 5, January 2009

An Asian Studies Publication

COLORADO COLLEGE

The Lotus

Obama Loves Obama!

By Sam Buchanan

The rest of the world paid close attention to the United States' Presidential election, but few places could rival the enthusiasm of Obama, Japan. Obama, Japan (Obama means small beach in Japanese) is usually a quiet small fishing town, but over the past year the town caught Barack Obama fever. The town has not been known for much except for being the home town of Japanese citizens that have been abducted by North Korea, until it became a festive Obama supporter. President elect Obama did have some competition with Senator Clinton supporters during the primaries, and with Senator McCain during the general election, however Obama was always the obvious favorite in Obama.

Colorful T-shirts and headbands with the logo "I Love Obama" became a staple for residents gathering and sing-

ing songs and shouting "Obama, Obama, Obama!" Around the town, businesses were selling everything from T-shirts, fish burgers, rice cakes, to chop-sticks; all with Obama's name or face.

Nearly 150 Obama supporters, including a number of Americans, were on hand to celebrate Barack Obama's victory as America's next President in a festive gathering complete with Hawaiian dancing, bands, American

supporters and lots of media coverage.

Many Japanese are still skeptical about Obama and question his ability to lead. President elect Obama has not discussed his view for the future of Japan-USA relations, but relations are not expected to change much because there is almost no friction between the nations. Obama has formally thanked the town for its support with a letter to its mayor.



Looking for a Block 6 Course?

PA250 6116 Topics in Asian Literature & Culture: Modernity & Sexuality in Chinese Literature and Film.

This course will investigate how two modern concepts of Modernity and Sexuality, joined in a cultural debate over two significant historical and literary periods (the May Fourth and the post-Mao periods), have informed the change in Chinese subjectivity and life style through reading representative literary works, personal accounts, films and scholarly studies.

Inside this issue:

CC's Got Talent	2
Chinese New Year	3
Riots in Thailand	3
CC Student in Cambodia	4
Mumbai Terrorist Attacks	5

LIVE! First Annual CC's Got Talent

By Lisa Ly

"I don't think there has been a talent show since I've been working here," states Latoya Noel, fulltime Residential Life Coordinator and part-time talent show judge. Asian-American Student Union (AASU) announced its preparations for the talent show two blocks ago. Since then, the members have been working hard to pull it off.



"We wanted to do it 7th block of last year, but just couldn't get everything together in time," said Lisa Ly, AASU co-chair. Members recruited three judges, two Residential Life coordinators, Mario Garibay and Latoya Noel, and the third judge is the infamous "chalk man", Corbin Hilliam.

The mission of the show was to unify the campus and appreciate student talent, and most importantly, to promote awareness of AASU. Students of any background, even if you are not Asian or even American, are always welcomed to join the student organization.

The show certainly achieved its mission, bringing out an array of musical performance to battle for \$300. It was winner takes all, second and third place were recognized. First year Joey Glick played the harmonica, guitar, sang, and flattered the crowd with his humorous lyrics winning him \$300. Weapons of Peace came in close, "It was very close, but we have figured out a tie breaker" announced Nguyen Nguyen, AASU co-chair, to the awaiting audience and anxious performers. Third place went to first year Saraiya Ruano, who played the Native American flute.

AASU, KASA, SASA, and MOSAIC Meeting Times:

Always welcoming new members...

Asian American Student Union (AASU)

Co-Chairs:
Lisa Ly & Nguyen Nguyen
1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 6PM
in Upstairs Worner
Website:
<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/Students/AASU>

Korean American Student Association (KASA)

Co-Chairs:
Susan Kim & Esther Lee
Thursdays @ 6PM in Upstairs Worner

Students for the Awareness of South Asia (SASA)

Co-Chairs:
Smriti Agarwal & Genai Odhner
Thursdays @ 7PM in Upstairs Worner

Multi-Cultural Organization of Students and International Community (MOSAIC)

Co-Chairs:
Somhrita Dutta & Suchi Smita
Wednesdays @ 6PM in Upstairs Worner

MOSAIC:

Pictures from Taste of the World



Celebrate the Chinese New Year

By Lisa Ly

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is celebrated during the months of January and February, depending on the year. The reason for the varying dates is because it follows the lunar year. You may hear different names of the holiday thrown around because many Asian ethnicities observe the lunar calendar, for instance, to the Vietnamese it is known as “tet”.

Traditions include visiting family, reunion dinners, and attending ceremonies at a temple. A common practice that children look forward to is receiving money in red envelopes from adults. Chinatowns across the globe ring with fireworks and drums beating loudly for Lion-dancing performances.

Don't miss the celebration on campus hosted by the Asian Studies department on January 27, 2009 in Gaylord Hall.

Join the Denver community for a larger celebration! Chinese schools, community and college organizations will host a variety of festivities open to the public during the

week-long holiday. One of the popular public shows is hosted in the Fareast Shopping Center located on the corner of Federal Blvd. and Alameda in Denver, CO 80238. The 2-3 hour long show occurs in the parking lot, and features community Lion-dancing groups. Be prepared for limited parking and long walking distances.



Riot police Confront Protestors at a Thai airport

By Sam Buchanan

Armored riot police gathered at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport in later November after talks with anti-government protesters failed to end a crippling blockade. Reportedly about one hundred police set up a perimeter at the airport headquarters building, about 300 meters from where the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters had besieged the main terminal. The PAD consists of middle and upper-class Bangkokians and Southerners, supported by the conservative elite factions of the Thai Army, some leaders of Democrat Party, and leaders of state-enterprise labor unions. Two days after a military junta's 2006 military coup overthrew Thaksin's elected government, the PAD voluntarily dissolved after announcing that its goals had been accomplished.

A reconvened convoy of hundreds of armed PAD members dressed in yellow blocked the two ends of the road in front of the terminal building of Suvarnabhumi International Airport and blockaded the main road to the airport. The airport is Bangkok's main airport and an important regional hub. PAD forces quickly overpowered hundreds of policemen armed with riot gear. PAD leaders mounted a mobile stage and proceeded to criticize the government. PAD members armed with

clubs, iron bars and knives, with some wearing black balaclavas, then entered the terminal, much to the surprise of the thousands of travelers inside. Armed PAD forces also forced their way into the control tower, demanding the flight plan for Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's return from the APEC summit in Peru. Somchai flew into Bangkok Don Muang airport on the evening of 25 November 2008 before flying on to Chiang Mai. All Suvarnabhumi flights were soon canceled, leaving thousands of travelers stranded in the airport.. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat is no longer in power. On 2 December 2008, the Constitutional Court of Thailand barred him from politics for a minimum of 5 years.



Create Your Own Service Trip to Cambodia



By Lisa Ly

If you have not made plans for this spring or summer break, it wouldn't be a bad idea to consider making a trip to Cambodia for community service and some sightseeing.

Kie Riedel, junior mathematic economics major, and another CC student decided to plan their own service trip abroad for winter break 2008. Riedel contacted a local Cambodian NGO, Star Kampuchea, that serves as a resource for many smaller NGOs around the country. She was placed with a local organization that provide microloans to Cambodians.

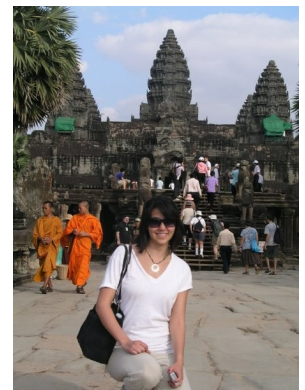
Riedel's main contribution was her English skills since funding for the NGO came from writing grants in English. Other responsibilities included "proof reading articles and grant proposals, helping with auditing recommendations, and writing a funding proposal to the World Bank regarding decentralization and community empowerment."

She found this valuable opportunity by accident while looking for study abroad options. This project, in particular, caught her interest because it was comparatively cheaper than oth-

er programs. She stated, "most volunteer programs charge outrageous program fees that are thousands of dollars. However, with this organization I think I paid about \$80 as a program fee for administrative costs. We lived with a host family and paid \$8 a day for food and housing."

Prior to the trip, Riedel's preparations included chatting with a friend from Cambodia and reading, "I didn't know anything about the country."

As a developing nation, Cambodia is not all too expensive, "Airfare [from Denver] is the most expensive. Once you're in Cambodia everything is very cheap. You can get a decent hotel room for \$5 without AC and about \$10 with AC. Meals and taxi cab rides are about \$1-\$2."



World News: Mumbai Attacks

By Weston Brownlee

On the night of November 26, 2008 Mumbai India was struck by terrorists in a large scale series of attacks which left the city in turmoil and gripped by fear for two days. Terrorists killed over 150 people and took numerous hostages at three central locations: The Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, The Oberoi Hotel, and the Nariman House.

Terrorists launched attacks all across the city on Wednesday night with shootings throughout the city. Retrospective investigation suggests that the terrorists had taken over the larger targets during the night, but the gravity of the situation did not come to light until the next day when terrorists revealed they had taken hostages. The crisis became a stand off, with Indian Military and National Security forces making small bounds in diffusing the situation and reclaiming Mumbai. While hostages were rescued from all three sites in the

sluggish attempts to break the terrorist's holed up in the buildings, the fighting remained intense until late Sunday night when Indian authorities announced that the last of the terrorists had been killed.

For a complete timeline of events visit http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/11/28/world/asia/20081129_mumbai_graphic.html



CC Reacts to Mumbai

By Keita Moore

On December 10th, some thirty people gathered in Gaylord Hall to listen to a panel discussion on India-Pakistan Relations in the Wake of Attacks in Mumbai. The panel was composed of a group of four experts, each of whom sought to enlighten the student body on the volatile relationship between India and Pakistan. The discussions included Rashna Singh's heartfelt personal descriptions of attack, Arshad Yousufi's petition to the non-radical Muslim community to stop terrorist action in the name of Islam, Jim Matson's belief that, although the terrorists did target a Jewish center, most of their targets were simply ill-placed ordinary people, and Christopher Hill's description of the fundamentalist Hindu politics in Mumbai and the party's friction with Islam. The panel was sponsored by the Asian Studies Program and International Program.



Keita Moore - Newest Lotus Intern

Keita Moore

Sophomore

Major: undeclared but thinking about Asian Studies

- Plans to go abroad to Japan for one year

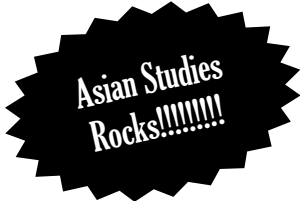
- Participated in the talent show, came in 2nd place

Colorado College

The Lotus is a publication of the Asian Studies Program

Brought to you by the AS Interns:

- Weston Brownlee
- Sam Buchanan
- Lisa Ly
- Parker Huang
- Keita Moore



Block V Events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
18	19 Language prize winner announced	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 China Body Art Exhibit to March 11 I.D.E.A. Space Cornerstone	28	29 Chinese New Year Celebration 5-8PM Gaylord Hall	30	31
1	2	3	4	5 CC Alumni: Abby Washburn performance 7PM Cornerstone	6 Asian Studies Language Prize submissions due to Sandy Papuga	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14