



“Hajimete no
Yuki yami ni furi
Yami ni yamu ”

(First snow --begins in the darkness- ends in the darkness)
NATSUME Sōseki

An Asian Studies Publication

COLORADO COLLEGE

The Lotus

Halloween in Asia: Celebrations of Western and Eastern Traditions By Sam Buchanan

Halloween is gaining popularity in different countries all over the world, but especially in Asian countries that have experienced a growth in income of the middle class.

In most western countries like US and Canada, carved pumpkins and corn stalks sprawled all over the suburbs, trick-or-treating, and costumes depicting scary creatures are staple practices during the festival. Traditional American customs like costumes and candy are gaining in popularity with the younger generations in Asia. And since it has nothing to do with Christianity, the older generations at least tolerate it. Business opportunists are jumping to exploit a burst in spending on things like simple decorations to \$128 pumpkins in Hong Kong. Yet, Asians have their own traditional

celebrations similar to Halloween and an understanding of celebrations will help explain why Halloween had become so popular.

China

Teng Chieh is the name of one Halloween like festival in China. At *Teng Chieh* families celebrate the lives of their relatives who have passed away before them. In their honor, relatives place food and water in front of their photographs. They also light the way for these souls to return to earth through the lighting of bonfires and lanterns.

During the Halloween season, Chinese citizens also have a festival called The Feast of the Hungry Ghosts. These ghosts are referred to as "hungry" because they were not given a proper



Jack-O-Lanterns in China

burial when they passed away. The belief is these souls come from people who have passed away due to unnatural causes and those that were not given a proper burial by their family members. The story goes that these souls feel they have been abandoned and look to take it out on the living.

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Looking for a Block 4 Course?

Take RE 200 (4124), Topics in Religion: Bhagavad-Gita with Professor Penumala. This course will examine the use of Gita as a Pan-Hindu text by locating it within the epic story of Mahabharata and Vedanta philosophies. You will look at the significance of the text for Vaishnava Hindus in particular, as well as its appropriation by neo-Hindu organizations, its use in Indian nationalism, and its role in current Indian cultural consciousness in India and the West.

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Meet the Student Organizations (Part 2 of 2) By Lisa Ly

You have seen their meeting information listed in the Lotus issue after issue. If you are lucky, you might have even run into a student associated with the organization. You might be wondering why you have never been interested in dropping in on a meeting, and then to realize that it is probably because you are not sure what these clubs are about. Well, read on and learn about **AASU** and **SASA**!

1. What is your organization's mission?

AASU: To promote the Asian culture to Colorado College and enthusiastic participants from the surrounding communities.

SASA: To explore South Asian culture and issues; SASA strives to promote education of South Asian countries and support South Asian students at CC.

2. Main events of the year (please describe).

AASU: Since we believe that food and drink can be very pertinent to any type of culture, we hold various food workshops throughout the year to introduce new foods to the CC community. The past workshops have involved egg rolls, spring rolls, wontons and other Vietnamese food.

SASA: Some of SASA's past events include but are not limited to hosting a Diwali celebration (a Hindu festival), Eid ul-Fitr celebration (a Muslim festival), raising social issues in Myanmar for discussion, watching Bollywood films, henna fundraisers, and hosting a Rain Dance festival.



AASU celebrated Chinese New Year at a Denver Vietnamese restaurant

3. Why do you think your org. is important to the community and campus?

AASU: Because the surround Colorado Springs community sometimes lacks the Asian culture, it would be hard for CC students to learn about or even know about the Asian culture. Thus AASU would like to create events that the campus is welcome to partake in.

SASA: It is our mission to educate the Colorado College and Colorado Springs community about South Asian cultures, religions and lifestyles. We at SASA want to welcome you to a global world and hope that we can help you gain a better understanding of different cultures.



4. What are some challenges young (Asian-American and South-Asian students) face today?

AASU: As a minority group, sometimes Asian Americans can feel self-conscious of embracing their traditional cultures while adapting to the college culture. This is the same for many students, regardless of being Asian or not.

SASA: Young South-Asian Americans are often not able to identify the culture of their ancestors if they have not been brought up in South Asia; they do not identify themselves as South Asians. SASA helps these young adults become aware of their ancestral traditions and celebrate it!



SASA takes their members out for dinner at Mirch Masala

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

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 in Upstairs Worner

5. How does your organization address these challenges?

AASU: We don't only promote Asian culture, we also promote networking, friendship, and peace between the different groups across campus. We try to support our members by either giving them advice or referring them to someone who can.

SASA: It is essential to understand the differences between South Asia and America in terms of the people, socio-economic conditions and cultural barriers. This would help natives from the two countries understand each other better and communicate productively.

If you are interested in joining any of these organizations, they are always welcoming new members of all backgrounds!

Halloween in the East Continued



“Halloween is usually spent to honor and commemorate the spirits of deceased relatives and loved ones.”

There is also a Festival of the Hungry Ghosts. This is an attempt to make the angry spirits feel welcome and to subdue their antagonistic feelings. To do this the citizens of China offer the spirits joss sticks (religious incense), food, and gifts. These gifts are designed to remind the spirits of items they might have had when they were living on the planet before they passed away. The hope is that this display will subdue the ill feelings of the spirits and ease their desire for revenge. To welcome the ghosts, there are fires lit in China in celebration of Halloween and the festivals it inspired.

Japan

Japanese celebrate their own version of Halloween which they call *Obon Festival* or the Feast of Lanterns. The festival of *Obon* lasts for three days during July or August; however

its starting date varies within different regions of Japan. Special dishes are prepared, bright red lanterns are hung in every house and lanterns are placed afloat on rivers and boats. Lights are lit to show the spirits where their families might be found. Japanese families clean memorial stones for they believe that their deceased ancestors will go back to their birthplaces.

Korea

Koreans commemorate the *Chusok* during the month of August. Families visit the tombs and mausoleums and offer food, drink and flowers to show respect to their dead ancestors.

Halloween: Practices and Asian Values

In all these practices, we see that Halloween is usually spent to honor and commemorate the spirits of deceased relatives and loved ones. These spirits are not commonly depicted as scary creatures or creatures of the night out to harm the living. Instead, these souls are portrayed as spirits who long to be with their families. Asians definitely put more emphasis on piety and honoring ancestors than Westerners.

Communities are enriched by practices and holidays like Halloween because cultures are connected with their past. No matter from which vantage point you look at it, whether it's from a European or an Asian perspective, Halloween will always be one holiday to look forward to anywhere around the world.

LiNK Benefit Concert in an Empty Packard Hall

A benefit concert sponsored by LiNK passed through an empty Packard Hall to raise awareness and funds to help North Korean refugees escape from suppression.

The show consisted of musical performances by Miss Vintage, Andy Grammar, and Denver's Daniel Craig. In between transitions were presentations on the LiNK organization and conditions in North Korea.

At the time of passing through Colorado, LiNK had already raised \$11,000 of its \$15,000 goal, playing multiple sold-out

shows of about 250+ attendees on east coast college campuses.

Unfortunately, at CC the turnout was a bit small, due to the presidential debate; about 10-20 students and community members were scattered in the auditorium for the three-hour long show.

In an interview with Daniel Craig, he stated before this event he had not known that people were suffering in North Korea, that the government was starving their people. In any event, Craig decided that this has “created a better sense of

awareness in world events.”

Not all hope was lost, within the crowd someone had known about the suffering. Miss Vintage's front man, Jason Min '06 graduate of U. Penn, had been involved with LiNK since graduating. Dedicated to Miss Vintage as his full-time job, Min said, “We heard that LiNK was doing a tour and we got involved. We have a song in our first album dedicated to North Korea.”

To find out more about LiNK visit <http://www.linkglobal.org>

The 2008 Asian Studies Program Opening Reception

The 2008 Asian Studies Opening Reception was held on October 1, at Gaylord Hall. Students and faculty of the Asian Studies Program attended in support and to learn about 10 students' experiences abroad.



Austin Smith discusses a district of Tokyo.

Kansai Gaidai University in Japan: Tyler Ruggles and Sirina Milsap

This group of students went to Nara, Japan last fall semester. They took courses ranging from international business to Japanese ceramics along with a required course in Japanese language. While they were studying in Japan, they also had the opportunity to travel around the country.

CC Summer Program in China: Anais Gude

This group of students studied 3 weeks of Chinese at Fudan University, in Shanghai, China with 400 students from other parts of the world. There was also a two-week-travel to other places such as Xi'an, Luoyang, Beijing and Hangzhou.

Beijing Program of Asian Studies in China: Matt Melloy

Matt studied Chinese in Peking University, in Beijing, China. After his studies, Matt was also employed by the U.S. Olympics Committee. Matt's job was to contact the local drivers to transport the athletes from their residence to the Olympic stadiums.

"It wasn't just studying abroad, it was my life."

—CC student
Austin Smith

Waseda University (through Japan Study) in Japan: Austin Smith

They take a course in Japanese language as well as other academic courses. Austin studied Asian religions and architecture, but was more interested in Japanese gardens. Studying in Japan, Austin reflects that, "It wasn't just studying abroad, it was my life."

ACM Pune Program in India: Tabitha Hrynick and Peter Schumacher

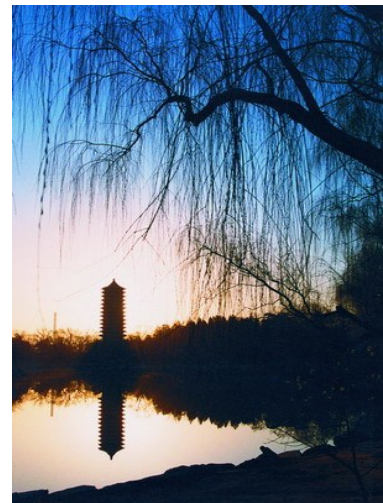
Courses that range from political science to Indian philosophy are available in this program. In addition to a language class requirement, Tabitha did an independent study on the increasing rate of farmers' suicide. The only complaint was that there is "No such thing as privacy."

Pitzer College Program in Nepal: Nicki Dunnivant

This program is not affiliated to CC, and this is a language intensive course with an independent study. Nicki and six other American students initially started off at the college studying Nepali language for two weeks. Afterwards, she stayed with two families—one rural and one urban. Her independent study was focused on witch folklore.

Independent Study with Made Lasmawan in Indonesia: Larsson Burch and Spencer Williams

This is a summer-CC-independent study associated with the CC Gamelan group. The students spent 28 days in Indonesia, performing with the local Gamelan musicians. The students reported satisfying 3-5 meals a day. This program will be also offered next summer.



Colorado College

The Lotus is a publication of the Asian Studies Program

Brought to you by the AS Interns:
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Block III Events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		28	29	30	31	1 Japanese Cultural Bazaar 10am-3pm 515 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs ALSO S. Asian Film
AASU: CC's Got Talent: register NOW at the Worner Desk!						
2 Professor Nila's Traveling Film South Asia Festival: Screening Room Edith Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Nov, 1-3, 2008 See the Nov. Calendar of Events on the CC Website for a complete schedule.	3	4	5	6 Sarod Performance by Rajeev Taranath CANCELLED	7 Color, Harmony, and Traditional in Japanese Print-making w/ Keiji Shinohara Coburn Gallery 4:30PM	8
9 Taste of the World Celebration Bemis Great Hall 5:30 PM Sponsored by MOSAIC	AASU: CC's Got Talent Auditions Gaylord Hall					15
16	17	18	19			