



“Drink your tea slowly and reverently, as if it is the axis on which the world revolves, - slowly, evenly, without rushing toward the future. Live the actual moment. Only this moment is life..”

-Thich Nhat Hanh (Vietnamese Buddhist monk)

Imperialistic Domination: Relations between the Philippines and the US

By Raquel Sáenz

The United States has maintained a rather tumultuous relation with the Republic of the Philippines throughout history. Through the imperialistic history of the US, many Filipinos were subjugated by the American government. The Philippines, now an independent nation located in Southeast Asia, was under both Spanish and American control throughout the past 500 years. From 1565 until 1898 Spain controlled the Philippines. In 1899, the First Philippine Republic in Malolos was created, but was later dissolved by the United States. According to both Spain and the United States, the Philippines had been ceded to the US by Spain. However, obviously many Filipino nationalists risked their lives to continue the struggle for independence. From 1899 until 1913,

a struggle ensued between the United States and the Philippines, which resulted in the deaths of one million Filipinos. After this battle, the Philippines remained under US control until 1946. During this period of time, Filipinos were forced to serve with the US military in World War II. To this day, English remains one of the official languages of the Philippines, along with Tagalog. Nonetheless, about 180 different languages and dialects are spoken throughout the islands. The influences of Spain can still be seen through the periodic use of Spanish, the predominance of Catholicism, and certain Spanish influenced aspects of music and dance.

As far as policies and politics are concerned, the Republic of the Philip-

ines has continued to be a close ally with the United States.

Continued on Page 3...



Map of the republic of the Philippines

The Peranakan Culture in Singapore

By Guest Writer Genevieve Lim-Roth

In the Malay language, the term Peranakan means “local born” and refers to persons of mixed ethnicity. It is most commonly applied to the mixed Chinese-indigenous communities that developed in the trading ports of Melaka, Singapore, and Penang. Drawn by the lively commerce that passed through the Malacca Straits, Chinese traders began

migrating into the area as far back as the 15th century. Here they intermarried with indigenous women and formed settled communities

Peranakans in Singapore have developed a language called Baba Malay, essentially a Malay vernacular. Male Peranakans are known as Baba and the females Nyonya. The latter has been affectionately used in describing

Inside this issue:

News Around Asia	2
Bulletin Board	4
Senior Majors & Minors	5
Summer Movie Guide	6
Peranakan Culture..	3

Continued on Page 3...

~NEWS AROUND ASIA~

Japan Mourns Death of Giant Rare Panda

TOKYO, Japan (AP) -- Japan's oldest giant panda, Ling Ling, a longtime star at Tokyo's largest zoo and a symbol of friendship with China, died Wednesday of heart failure, zookeepers said. Ling Ling was 22 years and seven months old, equivalent to about 70 human years, the Ueno Zoo said. It said he was the fifth-oldest known male panda in the world.

Ling Ling began losing his appetite and strength last August because of his old age, and recently suffered from heart and kidney problems, zoo official Motoyasu Ida said. Keepers and visitors mourned the panda, the zoo's most popular attraction for more than 15 years. Public broadcaster NHK showed many visitors writing condolence messages, with some brushing away tears. An autopsy found he died of heart failure, Ida said.

Fukuji Sugimoto, chief panda keeper at the zoo, said he felt something was wrong as soon as he entered Ling Ling's cage early Wednesday. "He always turned around when I called 'Ling Ling.' This morning he didn't. I rushed to him and touched his head, and he was already cold. That broke my heart," Sugimoto said. "He was such a darling." Ling Ling died just one day after the zoo withdrew him from public view because of his worsening health.

Born at China's Beijing Zoo in 1985, Ling Ling came to Tokyo in 1992. He had traveled to Mexico three times in recent years for unsuccessful mating. Ling Ling was the only giant panda owned by Japan, with eight other pandas elsewhere in the country all loaned by China, according to media reports. Giant pandas are one of the world's rarest animals, with about 1,600 living in the wild in China, mostly in Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces.

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/04/30/japan.panda.ap/index.html>

Beijing Is To Impose Smoking Ban

The Chinese authorities are due to ban smoking in most public buildings in the capital Beijing, starting on Thursday. They say they are organising 100,000 existing employees to act as an enforcement team.

The move is an attempt to discourage some of China's 350 million smokers and also part of wider efforts to clean up the city in the run up to the Olympics. For every three cigarettes lit worldwide, one is smoked in China. Almost 25% of the Chinese smoke. Smoking is also contributing to a rapid rise of cancer and heart disease in the world's most populous country.

The imminent Olympic Games have strengthened motivation. China wants to promote Beijing as a progressive, modern and clean city. Less smoke and fewer cigarette butts could really help.

Smoking is deep-rooted in Chinese culture and there is still a general lack of awareness about the impact on health. The WHO is discussing further measures with the government, like an increase in taxes on cigarettes. But smoking is big business, and some officials are worried about damaging that. However, financial loss now could be more than off-set by savings on health care in the future.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/asia-pacific/7376560.stm>



Imperialistic Domination Continued from page 1...

Meanwhile, the brutal history of racism in the United States affected these relations both during and after the American control over the Republic of the Philippines. During the first half of the 20th century, theories of eugenics dominated US immigration policy. This particular genetic theory, dominated by scientific racism, sought to improve the American gene pool by excluding groups that were thought to be difficult to assimilate. Obviously, in the minds of many racist politicians, this included a great deal of the world's population, including Filipinos. However, US relations with the Philippines have "evolved from a lessor-lessee relationship to equal partnership because [they] no longer have the [military] bases" (Republic of the Philippine's Secretary of Foreign Affairs Domingo Siazon).

Another important bond between the two countries exists through the 2 million Filipino-Americans living in the US, many of whom send remittances back to the Philippines. These emigrants provide an important chunk of foreign exchange earnings. Furthermore, trade talks between the US and the Philippines continue to generate positive results for both countries. Although a good deal of animosity continues to exist against the US in some parts of the Philippines, the relations between the two countries continue to grow stronger. Nonetheless, animosity against the US represents a perfectly natural reaction to the American history in the Philippines, which included a great deal of human and resource exploitation.

The Peranakan Culture *Continued from page 1.*

Peranakan cuisines and fashion. Peranakan dress and cuisine are influenced by the community's Malayan history. The dress for women is adapted from the Malay baju kurong and the sarong kebaya.

Kebayas and Sarongs are the popular costumes of Nyonyas and Babas. Though of Malay origins, these are often embroidered with Chinese motifs to distinguish from their Malay counterparts. The Peranakans also created a whole new repertoire of exquisite ornaments and jewelry. However, the most popular costume pieces among Nyonyas and others alike, are the colorful beaded shoes and handbags.

The food - Nyonya cuisine - is well-known for its spices and flavors characteristic of Malay and Thai cooking. This is evident, as dozens of Peranakan restaurants have sprouted all over the island city. Singapore, being a food paradise, does help in more ways than one to preserve this colorful aspect of Peranakan culture. Laksa, a special dish of rice-noodles cooked in prawn and chicken curry gravy is perhaps the commonest among Nyonya cooking. It can be found in almost every eatery in Singapore and is quite inexpensive. Though spicy to the unwary, connoisseurs often eat this and many other Nyonya dishes with generous helping of *belacan* or chili paste. Coconut, an important ingredient in Nyonya cooking, can be found in many of the dishes. Nyonya *kuehs* or sweets are another specialty. These are usually colorful rice cakes with grated coconut toppings.

As mentioned previously, Peranakans spoke (and still do, although in diminishing numbers) Baba Malay, which shows heavy borrowing from Hokkien, a Chinese dialect. Most Peranakan are of Hokkien ances-

try, although fair denominations of them are of the Teochew or Cantonese descent. In its rites and rituals, however, the Peranakans follow old Chinese traditions.

Hoping that the younger generation of Peranakans would imbibe some of the rich culture and for the rest of the population to appreciate a homegrown culture, the Singapore government has taken every possible preservation effort since the 80's.

Houses bearing unique Peranakan characteristics were restored and conserved. Relentless efforts were spent in re-enacting the Peranakan experience in the Singapore History Museum as part of their permanent exhibitions. Another exhibition called *The Peranakan Legacy* is being held in conjunction at the Asian Civilizations Museum, with some of the exhibits on loan from prominent Peranakan families in Singapore.



Peranakan Spices

~BULLETIN BOARD~

A Quick and Random Look at Some of Asia's Exotic Fruits



Mangosteen. It has a purple skin and 1/2 inch thick rind encasing a segmented, pearly white luminous center resembling a peeled tangerine. Its flavor is sweet and tart, and the pulp melts onto your tongue.

Carambola or "Star Fruit."

It can be very sour, bland or mildly sweet according to ripeness and variety. In most markets, dark yellow fruits will be sweet and pleasant for eating fresh. Green ones are sour and are used for cooking and making pickles. Extremely sour varieties are high in oxalic acid and have been used to clean the tarnish from brass-ware.



Lychee. This fruit is covered with a thin red, rough, brittle and leathery skin that encases a sphere of translucent white pulp with the texture of a peeled grape and a succulent sweet flesh. A single large brown seed easily slips from within the fruit pulp.



Longan. It has light brown skin and is smoother and sweeter than lychee. It has a translucent gray pulp surrounding a round seed which is easy to spit out. It is eaten fresh and dried and is among China's most beloved fruits.



Rambutan. (a Malay word meaning hairy lychee) It is very much like lychee but its rind is covered with long flexible prickles. Unlike the lychee, its pulp often clings to the seed and makes eating more diffi-



Durian. Fruits can weigh up to ten pounds. The rind is covered with very sharp spines. Inside each durian are five sections with one to several seeds encased within a cream or yellow-colored aromatic, custard-like pulp. Flavor is intriguing and difficult to describe. The fragrance of Durian is another matter—so strong is the smell of this exquisite fruit that it is forbidden in hotels, restaurants and taxis even in communities most favoring it.



AASU, KASA, SASA, and MOSAIC Meeting Times:

If interested, please contact the new leaders for the 2008-09 academic year

AASU

Asian American Student Union
Co-chairs: Lisa Ly & Nguyen Nguyen

KASA

Korean Student Association
Co-Chairs: Esther Lee and Susan Kim

SASA

Students for the Awareness
of South Asia

Co-Chairs: Smriti Agarwal & Genai Odhner

MOSAIC

International Student
Association

Co-Chairs: Somhrita Dutta and
Suchi Mahato

Asian Studies interns **Ian Asbjornsen** and **Raquel Sáenz**, along with **Chris Hamp-Lyons** ('06) were the first editors of *The Lotus* when it began in 2004. **Julie Vo** joined as an intern the following year and this team has since included **Weston Brownlee** and **Sam Buchanan**, who will take the reins next year. We would like to take a moment to thank **Ian, Raquel, and Julie** for their hard work and dedication for *The Lotus*! Congratulations on graduating and good luck with your plans for the future!

Congratulations to Asian Studies major **David Pinto-Carpenter** and minors **Paul Vickory** and **Drew Foster**. David and Paul were accepted into the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program as a Coordinator for International Relations and an Assistant Language Teacher, respectively. Drew received a Fulbright scholarship to conduct sociological research on the development of institutional identity within Japanese higher education.

**Congratulations Senior Asian Studies Majors
and Minors! Best of Luck!!!!!!**



Ian Asbjornsen
Metal Subcultures in Nepal and Southeast Asia



Justin Davis
Narco-terrorists or Ethnic Nationalist Parties? Investigations Into Ethnic Insurgency in Burma's Golden Triangle



Ryan Haynes
The Implications of Homosexuality in Modern Day China



Emily Ziolkowski
Educational Reforms in Response to a Globalized and Internationalized Youth in Japan



David Pinto-Carpenter
Reforming Japan: The Evolution of Economic and Social practices in the Haisei Era



Amanda Robb
Someday My Prince Will Come: The Confucian Scholar in the Chinese Cinderella Story



Stewart Motta
China's Hydroelectric Dam Development on the Lancang River

Let's not forget the Asian Studies Minors: Lavinia Bala, Drew Foster, David Goldstone, Andrew Lewis, Tien Nguyen, Warren Pettine, Ian Ross, Raquel Sáenz, Laura Sherman, Ryan Shuken, Ted Summers, Frank Vickory, Julie Vo, Ian Wolf

Summer Movie Guide

The end of the year is in sight, and pretty soon we should all have a lot more free time. So why not spend some of that time watching great movies from or about Asia? The following details a variety of movies with something for everyone. (The first two are really gory, but they lighten up after that, I swear!)



The Unknown Horror of WWII is Told in *NANKING*

If you are interested in WWII, the movie *Nanking* just came out on DVD on 4/29. *Nanking* tells the story of the Japanese invasion of Nanking, China, in the beginning of World War II. As part of a campaign to conquer all of China, the Japanese bombarded the city of Nanking for months, and when the city fell, the Japanese army unleashed horrifying rampage of murder and rape. In the midst of the carnage, a small

group of Westerners established a Safety Zone where over 200,000 Chinese found refuge. This eclectic unarmed group (including a Nazi) witnessed the events, while risking their own lives to protect civilians from slaughter. The story is told through deeply moving interviews with Chinese survivors, disturbing archival footage and photos of the events, and testimonies of former Japanese soldiers. The heart of the movie is the filmed stage readings of the Westerners' letters and diaries, featuring Woody Harrelson, Mariel Hemingway and Jurgen Prochnow.

Secretly Filmed *The Rising* Exposes Dolphin Slaughter to the World.

The Rising is another gruesome, but true movie about Japan, but the crime in this one is happening right now. *The Rising* was secretly made in Taiji, Japan and exposes the tragedy of the dolphin hunts. The film has a horror

vibe to it and the previews indicate it will be similar to *The Blair Witch* or a Stephen King novel. Captured dolphins were filmed writhing in pain as Taiji whalers speared them repeatedly or cracked their spines with spiked weapons. Stricken dolphins are also



shown thrashing about wildly, with blood

Spoiled Americans Find "The Way" in a Journey through India

The Darjeeling Limited is directed by Wes Anderson, who is well known for his hit movie *The Life Aquatic*. *The Darjeeling Limited* is a similar style of movie that is about three spoiled, selfish, rich American brothers (Owen Wilson, Jason Schwartzman, and Adrian Brody...Natalie Portman is in it

too!) who go to India to "catch up, bond, and get some spiritual healing". The brothers transform from ugly Americans to selfless heroes in their sublime journey. They learn to love each other and strangers though some life threatening circumstances. This subtly fun-





The Next Karate Kid?

Got a hankering for some kicking Kung Fu action? *Kung Fu Kun* follows a *Karate Kid* like plot (kids v adults), but with much better martial arts and special effects action. The movie is about a young Chinese martial arts master who must go to Japan to face his final opponent. This pint-sized kid knows his stuff and does not need special effects to impress you, but they always help. The movie effectively

Another Chinese Epic Movie Fails to Impress

Do you like big, lavish, period epic movies? *Curse of the Golden Flower* takes place in during the Tang dynasty. It is a similar style to *Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers*, and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden*

Dragon. While the movie is visually pleasing, it seems to have more over the top action sequences than plot substance or character development.



Top Ten Ranked Anime DVDs by Animenetwork.com

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. <i>Evangelion: 1.0 You Are [Not] Alone Special Equipment</i> | 5. <i>Meet the Robinsons</i> | Championship Chapter Final #0 |
| 2. <i>Mobile Suit Gundam 00 #4</i> | 6. <i>Gintama Season 2 #10</i> | 9. <i>Hakaba Kitarō 1</i> |
| 3. <i>Lucky Star #11 Limited First Edition</i> | 7. <i>Aria the Origination Navigation.1</i> | 10. <i>Spice and Wolf (Limited Pack)</i> |
| 4. <i>Naruto Shippūden the Movie</i> | 8. <i>The Prince of Tennis Original Video Animation: National</i> | |

Colorado College

The Lotus is a publication of the Asian Studies Program

Brought to you by the AS Interns:

Raquel Sáenz

Julie Vo

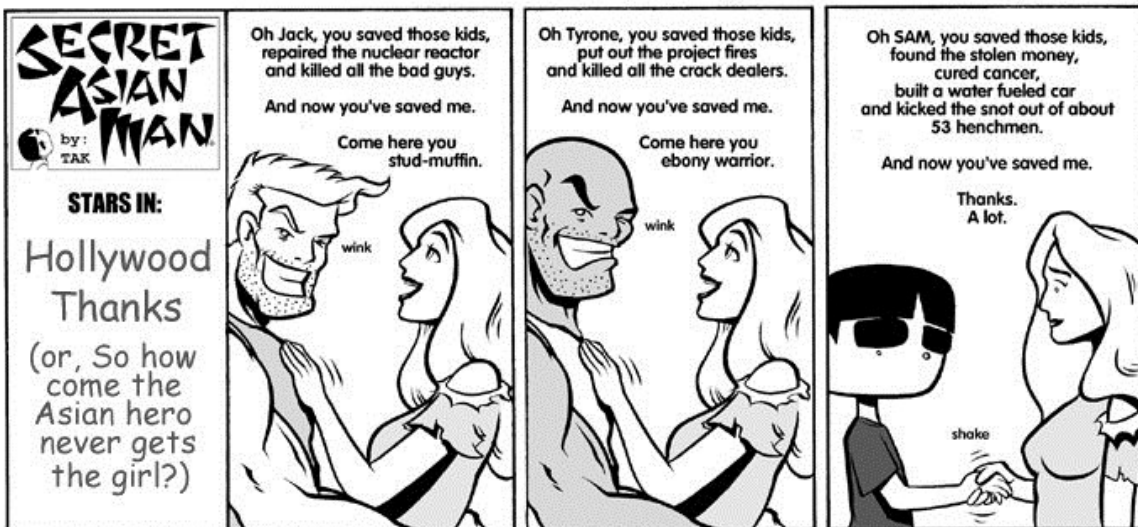
Jan Asbjornsen

Weston Brownlee

Sam Buchanan



Have a Great Summer!



Cartoon by Tak Toyoshima, art director of Boston's *Weekly Dig* and author of this comic strip, *Secret Asian Man*