Homecoming
By: Daniel Liu

Looking back, one of my greatest joys at SMU was standing on the field of Ford Stadium and being awarded first-runner up for Homecoming King. By the time you read this article, homecoming will be just around the corner. As a student who may or may not be affiliated with a Greek or large organization that participates in the homecoming activities, why should you care about homecoming? How is this different from high school? What should you expect? As someone who has “been there, done that,” I think you deserve to know three things: What is the purpose of Homecoming? What happens? Why should you participate with the Asian American community?

Homecoming exists as one of the school’s most anticipated traditions. Alumni return to the school to celebrate their connections to SMU with fellow alumni and current students. Can you imagine coming back in 10 years? You can expect sophomore housing, the Bush Library, and probably a few other buildings as well.

As a current student, you have the unique opportunity of meeting alumni who have been in your shoes and experienced very similar things. Take this opportunity to meet some and share your current experiences with them. They would love that. As I mentioned earlier, Homecoming is a celebration. We celebrate it through many activities and competitions that bring student organizations together. These events culminate with the parade on the Boulevard and the football game.

So what exactly are these activities and events and who participates in them? Almost any organization that has enough willing members is able to participate in Homecoming. Each organization selects a king and queen candidate. These individuals should best represent your organization and should be fairly well known around campus. In order for these individuals to be crowned king or queen, they must score points in four categories. There is a personal resume and interview, a voting...

The Sisterhood of the Sigmas!
By: Mylinh Nguyen

Being Greek is a concept unique to Americans – and one that a majority of Asian American individuals are, honestly, unaware or uneducated about. I didn’t think or know much about fraternities and sororities until I arrived at SMU, where the members make their presence just a little obvious. We all have our typical stereotypes about them, but the fact is that our Greek organizations offer something that can’t be wholly translated through the television shows, parties, or paraphernalia that the members wear. It’s simply something that has to be experienced firsthand – and slowly but surely, Asian Americans like myself are coming to comprehend the benefits and appeal of going Greek.

I am a member of a sorority named Sigma Phi Omega, and we are known as the Sigmas. It is an Asian-interest sorority for which I had struggled for over a semester deciding on whether to join. Finally, I unregrettably pledged in Spring 2008. The last thing I would have thought of myself as would be a sorority girl, but alas, I am one – and proud of it.

Before I even thought of pledging, I found the Sigmas to be some of the most down-to-earth and strongest ladies I’ve ever known, and that is...continued on pg 5

Restaurant Review: Simon’s Sushi
By: Jessika Chi

In the Dallas Metroplex, there are numerous sushi restaurants to choose from, however each as original as the next. Sushi lovers are tired of the same predictable menu. For avid sushi connoisseurs, we are desperately looking for a restaurant that can give our taste buds something new and fresh - and alas! The sushi heaven that we thought only existed in our dreams, is actually tucked away in a corner off of North Central Expressway and Plano Parkway.

Simon’s Sushi is a family owned restaurant, small in size but big...Continued on pg 4
When it comes to stereotypes at SMU, Matthew Moore defies them all. His mix of eccentricities and adorable quirks has caught the attention of the GWSJ. Heading into his sophomore year, Matt sings, plays guitar, loves the minorities, and kicks butt at being the nicest guy ever. Does this sound normal on any level? Just wait to see what he has to say. GWSJ did not choose this fella for nothing.

GWSJ: What did you do this summer with your musical talents?

MM: This summer I spent writing the music and lyrics for a CD in Chinese and English.

GWSJ: What made you want to translate songs into Chinese?

MM: I wanted to try something different and I have been learning Chinese for a year so I just wanted to start writing songs in Chinese. I translated two songs, James Brown “If you leave I’ll go crazy” and Back Street Boys “Don’t leave me” into Chinese and wrote one called “Wo Ai Ni” which means “I love you.”

GWSJ: What is the story behind your songs?

MM: The whole CD has a story about a relationship that starts off really good and falls apart at the end. It ends really badly actually. You can follow along with each song. But the song “Wo Ai Ni” itself has a story about going to China and meeting a girl in an English Camp. The story reflects some of my own personal experiences.

GWSJ: Where can people get them [and the translation to the lyrics]?

MM: They can ask me for a CD and I can put together a CD of all the songs I’ve done so far.

GWSJ: What kind of instruments do you play and how do you record your music?

MM: I have been playing the guitar for 5-6 years and I write music for piano and all the melodies. I use GarageBand to put together different music and lay down all the instruments on one track and record vocals.

GWSJ: Is this just a fun thing you do on the side as a hobby? Or are you trying to go big?

MM: Well see what happens. I would like to do something with it but it is really hard to make it. It’s not really up to me because you have to be really good at it. If people like it then things might start looking good for me. I’m not planning on making a career out of it just yet so I’ll just be a normal person till then.

GWSJ: What kind of music are you interested in?

MM: All kinds. Hip-hop and rap. They have a lot of interesting rhythms. Reggaeton, I discovered recently. Not so much classical. Modern alternative, pop, top 40’s. I want to learn why people like to dance with these genres and I want to incorporate some elements of other music into mine. I like taking apart old songs and including some of their elements in my songs.

GWSJ: Why are you so interested and involved with the minority community?

MM: Because I feel like there is not enough involvement from the majority of SMU students and what’s going in the minority community. I feel like the white students on campus only stick to other white students. I want to experience more than just white SMU. It’s easier to stick with the people you know. I feel that there shouldn’t be a split between the different party of ethnicities.

GWSJ: If you were stuck on an island what would be the one thing you would bring with you?

MM: A way off.

GWSJ: What is your strangest quirk?

MM: I actually like the sound of nails on a chalk board.

GWSJ: What is your Chinese name and what does it mean?

MM: Meng Xiu Ping. It comes from a Confucian saying “Self-cultivation, regulating the house, serving the country, Rule the world.” So basically, if you do the first three, the last will follow.
In our last issue, we mentioned one of ISA’s biggest events, their celebration of Diwali. This month, EASA will be hosting their biggest event of the semester; Dance Festival. Execs this year have promised a very different program, aiming to make it bigger and better.

With traditional acts opening their big night, EASA has invited many dance groups to come and compete in a dance competition for a grand prize of $1,000 and to win the title of being “EASA’s Best Dance Crew.” It also includes a bento box style dinner for the 400 expected guests and final judging for the competitive acts.

It isn’t hard to notice that most organizations under Asian Council like to “do it big.”

This is EASA’s 16th year hosting the event and with an exec team dedicated to doing their best, new innovative and refreshing ideas have been thrown out there to add flair to dance festival. This event is free to for all students, faculty, and the Dallas community. The purpose of the event is not to make a profit but to provide their guests with entertainment, a taste of Asian culture, and most importantly free food!

Dance Festival will take place November 15th 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. in the Hughes-Trigg Theatre and dinner will be served in the Varsity on the first floor.

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If you’ve attended any of the Indian Student Association meetings or events this year, you will definitely notice a panorama of cultures, personalities, and talents mixed into the organization. So is it so surprising that there is some word going around about transforming ISA into a more encompassing South Asian Student Association? Of course not!

But many of us veteran ISA members, I’m sure, are thinking, “This is blasphemy!” Over the last few decades, SMU’s ISA has created an identity for itself--do we really want to lose it? But what if this new concept only seeks to add to the amazing organization that we already have and doesn’t require all our traditions as ISA to be broken down or become obsolete?

According to ISA President Nili Sangani, such a change would, by no means, result in a 180 degree turn around in the current organization; rather, it would be a means by which future executive committees and members can expand the horizon of our beloved organization.

Some food for thought: we live in an increasingly globalizing and diversifying world. This is one bandwagon I would recommend we get on as promoters of universal progress.

On November 9, 1989 East Germany declared that the Berlin Wall that separated East and West Germany was no more a restricted boundary. If twenty-eight years of conflict and separation didn’t keep them from lifting the “Iron Curtain” and reunifying, what’s stopping ISA from breaking down its invisible boundaries and uniting with its cultural and geographical neighbors of South Asia?
What is Bubble Tea?
By: Julianne Nguyen

“What is bubble tea? And what are those black things at the bottom?” Common questions asked by many SMU students and faculty once a month on Wednesdays during VSA’s Boba Tea Sale.

Bubble tea originated in Taiwan in the 1980s, and first became popular among elementary students. Some of the most popular flavors now are Thai Tea, Milk Tea, Black Tea, and Taro.

Before all the different mixtures of flavors, bubble tea used to be a simple Taiwanese black tea flavor; however, because of competitive businesses, owners began to invent new and creative flavors to lure customers. To create an “all around” good taste, makers would have to shake up the drink to mix it thoroughly. Because of the shaking, bubbles would form, hence, the name “bubble tea.”

Today, it is easy to recognize bubble tea drinks because of the weird black balls (tapioca pearls), the interesting cup with the plastic air-tight seal, and the colorful fat straws protruding from the cup.

By the 1990s, bubble tea began to make its way into American cities starting in the West Coast with the opening of Lollicup in San Gabriel, California. Over the past ten years, bubble tea or boba tea shops have begun to spring up in Chinatowns throughout all major cities across the United States.

Also known as pearl tea drink, bubble tea is a fad that will not be dying down anytime soon.
Asian History: China 101
By: Prerit Souda and Aparna Sinha

Have you ever wondered in figuring out those strange looking characters from the Chinese language? You ought to be a genius to learn those! Fourth graders are expected to know 2000 out of 40000 Chinese characters.

Have you ever thought about Chinese writing? Each character is learned by looking it and memorizing it. Unlike 26 letters of English alphabets, words cannot be sounded out letter by letter. I remember trying to memorizing 3600 words for my GRE and I know what it takes to do that. Hats off to Chinese students!!

Forget all this bookish stuff. It’s boring! Let’s talk about ice cream. Next time when you are enjoying that yummy scoop at Baskin Robbins, do thank the Chinese because if they did not invent it, I wonder what would Baskin Robbins be selling. The Chinese invented ice cream in 2000 B.C., by packing milk and rice mixture in snow.

China has moved a long way from being one of the oldest civilizations to being a 21st century potential superpower. Everything has a price but there is nothing for free in this world. Things are changing and sun seems to be shining bright on this land.

Great Wall of China

By the time they pass graduate from college they ought to know around 4000-5000 characters. Each character is learned by looking at it and memorizing it. Unlike 26 letters of English alphabets, words cannot be sounded out letter by letter. I remember trying to memorizing 3600 words for my GRE and I know what it takes to do that. Hats off to Chinese students!!

Additional Programming Space – “Hey guys, is there room for me to breathe??”
By: Winfred Ko

Here’s a little background -- There are three umbrella organizations in the Student-Activities Multi-Cultural Center: Asian Council, College Hispanic American Students, and Association of Black Students. Among the three umbrella organizations, they share a cubicle workspace in the Student-Activities Multicultural Center with an area of approximately 250 square feet.

With only a little programming space, many of the leaders feel the work area is, “small, cramped, and with the sign room limitations, there is no area to get work done,” said Ken Luong, Chair of American Leadership and Education Conference. With continual growth in attendance in the Asian community’s events, it may be at the threshold where the limit of programming area will be. The programs aren’t targeted to only our community; it’s for the greater SMU community. We need more room to execute these programs.”

A common question is “Why does Asian Council Need Space Now?” One thought could be the cyclical waves of student involvement. For many years, the students passion to enslave & build the community is strong. Maybe the Asian community is on the upswing of the cyclical wave where workspace appears to be necessary. Or maybe Asian Council, including all the other organizations in SAMSA, always needed programming area however; these future leaders sought space outside of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center.

Regardless of the answer to the former question, Jennifer Jones, Assistant director to Dean of Student Life, strongly believes that organizations should, “Never Stop! Never stop seeking more programming space to better the student involvement.”

In the end, most leaders recognize a need for more work area, especially in the multicultural community as a whole. However, with space being very scarce in the SAMSA, is there area to spare for the growing student population? Is there even enough for the Asian Community? Or is this an issue that can be addressed only with a new student center?

Growing and growing! Is there a limit?? Not in the near future.

These were the words that came to my mind when I was ordered by my Editor to write a short story on China. I asked her for a piece of traditional Chinese silk in return but sunk my face in sorrow when she told that my writing was not worth that price. Talking about silk, in ancient Chinese society, silk making was a closely guarded secret and disclosing it would have led to capital punishment.

When we talk about China, the first thing that comes to our mind is that big wall that can be seen from space (if we ever get to go there!!). The Great Wall of China is also known as the “Ten Thousand Li Wall” where Li means 500 meters. The Wall extends for about 6700 km from east to west. Its construction began in 7th Century B.C. as a series of independent walls which were later united to form the Great Wall.

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essentially what attracted me to them. They didn’t identify themselves by their sorority or seem like they were all made from the same mold; on the contrary, they each had their own larger than life personalities and sarcastic humor, interests, and talents. It was always comfortable to be around them because they were inclusive and open-minded, and their passion for life was infectious. My dynamic flowed with theirs, and it just felt right.

Sigma Phi Omega is an organization like any other, but the bond found within a sorority is unparalleled. Not only is it amazing how easily we click and work together, something we learn in an intensive eight week process to officially join, but we truly care and accept each other – as if we were flesh and blood. The sorority brings us a common purpose: commitment to upholding the traditions of this organization, which was founded in 1949, diligently serving our philanthropy (awareness of domestic violence), and staying true to our values of strength and character. And to convince my parents who were skeptical about my membership, I was sure to mention the academic encouragement and social networking opportunities that were offered. It is certainly a time commitment, but the organization is something I find myself wanting to be dedicated to and to see thrive.

Joining a fraternity or sorority might seem like “Oh, I want to be like them” or “I want to be accepted by them,” but really, it should be “I want to be a part of their family.” Sisterhood equals family.

I’ve come to find that the Asian community is generally uneasy toward accepting the concept of going Greek. I completely understand the hesitance to make what can be a lifetime commitment to an organization that isn’t academic or career based, but as a wise professor once told me: “If all you get out of college is a degree, then you’ve missed out.” With a little time management, being a part of a sorority or fraternity takes nothing away from your college career. Instead, it can enrich your experience with strong support and incredible memories, and build your character, something that lasts you a lifetime longer than the lessons you learn in class.

As sappy as it may seem, becoming a Sigma has made me a better person and taught me lessons that I do not think I could have gained anywhere else. I am not just a part of Sigma Phi Omega sorority at SMU, but I share the same kind of bond nationwide with any of the hundreds of Sigmas I might meet. Greek life is not for everyone, but sometimes it just takes a chance to realize what you could have and to go for it. What we all naturally and humanly seek is companionship, and I’m lucky to have found a match with Sigma Phi Omega.

... Sisterhood continued from pg 1