

# From the Editor



Tuoyang Mu

Last semester, if I was asked what East Wind was or the relevance of its composition for the Asian-American community, I'd be hard-pressed to give a proper answer. However, only a few months ago at an inaugural Asian Students Association meeting, I picked up my first copy and was finally able to understand the enormity and potential of East Wind as a mouthpiece for minority consciousness on campus. Given its rebirth under the editorship of ASA's cultural co-chair, Arman Tolentino, East Wind was able to assume most of its current identity. Articles

concerning current affairs, to Asian self-awareness, to a wide range of commentary were all incorporated in a thin, but extremely versatile issue.

Part of the focus of this issue is in maintaining that comprehensive approach taken since Spring and covering a topic that's both crucial and omnipresent in Asian-American life at home, in school and in the workplace.

This topic is what many sociologists call the "myth of the model minority," a quality first extended to Asian Americans in the 1950s. It rides the on the idea that Asian Americans, as an ethnic group, become socioeconomically successful with little help from the majority population and succeed on "merit" alone. As a result of this stereotype, there have been profound implications on the opportunities opened to the Asian-American population residing in the United States, as well as the perceptions projected by other groups.

The first thing that's important to discuss are the roots of the myth, in that perhaps it was borne through the prevalent, institutionalized racism of America's recent past. Was this myth simply an anomaly, created by an entrenched historical discrimination to try to show that racism wasn't the cause of socioeconomic disparity between ethnic groups? Or was this myth based on true progress, borne through sweat and ceaseless perseverance? The answer is most likely in between, and it's now an idea that's been relegated to modern society to consider.

In this issue, among other topics, we will discuss the "myth of the model minority" and what it means for not only Asian Americans, but all the American people. We'll gain perspectives from an array of this campus' diverse demography to understand this dualism that both benefits and troubles our consciousness as we progress further into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Tuoyang Mu  
Editor-in-Chief

## Join the East Wind Staff

Can't write? Not Asian? Doesn't matter. Got comments or suggestions? Great, we would love to hear from you.

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