

This year, we decided to try a different fundraising idea: cleaning the Dean Dome after basketball games. On three separate occasions, members of ASA and other Asian organizations on campus picked up trash and swept the rows and aisles of our university's basketball stadium. For the sake of people who have to clean up stadiums for a living, I would like to request that the next time you go to a sporting event, please do not spill your Coke on the ground and mix it with your leftover popcorn. The not-so glamorous job was unpopular with ASA members, so this is a fundraising idea that will not likely become a tradition.

A tradition that I hope will continue, though, is the ASA student body president forum that was held in February. While I would have liked ASA to become even more politically involved on campus, the forum was a good start. At the forum, a majority of the student body president candidates, including eventual winner Matt Calabria, participated in an informal question and answer session. After the forum, ASA members decided to endorse Lily West. While she did not win the election, it was still a positive sign that many ASA members supported her campaign. The event was an overall success, with two candidates mentioning that out of the dozen or so forums that they had attended, the ASA forum had been the one that they had enjoyed the most.

By the time this article is printed, ASA will have completed three more important events. The first event is Asian American Heritage Week, a celebration of the Asian American culture. Each day from March 22-26, a different aspect of our culture will be put on display for UNC students in the Pit. Among the subjects presented are

Asian/Asian-American art, literature, cinema, and, of course, food. The week will end in the ASA Spring Semi-Formal, co-hosted by Duke and NC State. Vietnamese author Linh Dinh will speak at the Bull's Head Bookshop on April 8, although he had originally planned on speaking during Asian American Heritage Week. On April 2-3, ASA will participate in Relay for Life, a 24-hour walkathon to raise money for the American Cancer Society. We hope to have even more success than last year when we first put together a team for the event. Finally, on April 17, ASA will host its annual Baby Blue basketball tournament, bringing in teams from all along the east coast to compete in a day of non-stop basketball.

Although in many respects I am proud of what ASA has accomplished this year, there are a few issues that we failed to resolve. There are over half a dozen Asian organizations on campus, yet each one tends to stay aloof of the others. One of ASA's goals this past year was to try and establish a network to improve communication among the different organizations. The benefits would be tremendous: easier advertisement for an organization's events, shared resources, and the possibility for everyone to gain a better understanding of other Asian cultures, to name a few. Due to various circumstances, we were not able to organize such a network. Hopefully, though, next year's group will be able to get the ball rolling again.

There is no doubt in my

mind that ASA will continue to improve in the years to come. Already, the reigns of ASA has been passed down to next year's executive board, led by two capable and motivated co-presidents, Yoon Hie Kim and Diana Suryakusuma. Also, the freshmen were the most represented group at general body meetings this year, showing their enthusiasm and commitment to ASA that will hopefully last for the next three years. The task for future ASA members will be to build upon old traditions while creating new ones at the same time. It is up to them to become more active in campus politics, hire more prominent speakers and performers, and provide a greater service to the community. Finally, their most important undertaking will be to make sure they create more wonderful memories. ~EW

