To: Dean Maclntosh  
From: Angie Fa  

The Asian American student at Brown is faced with a unique set of problems, which among other things has resulted in a higher than average dropout rate, particularly among students from Hawaii and the West Coast. Third World Transition Week should be a time to address the unique problems of Asian Americans.

Unique problems which an Asian American student may face are family problems, a tendency towards strong parental authority, and extraordinarily strong pressures from home to succeed in college; academic problems which stem from massive family pressure, inadequate pre-college preparation, and cultural stereotypes which may keep the Asian American student from actively participating in class, or from venturing outside of a particular academic field such as Math-Science; other cultural changes may result in further transitional problems, learning to eat the American food in the Ratty instead of the Japanese Chinese food one is used to, speaking English all the time; social problems may result, when the male-female relationships of Asian Americans are influenced by the outside stereotypes of inferiority and weakness sometimes placed on the Asian American male, which may result in his need to reassert himself through macho behaviour, and the outside stereotypes of acquiescence and timidity sometimes placed on the Asian American female which may result in her inability to assert herself; the economic background of Asian Americans might result in other transitional problems, becoming accustomed to the comparative affluence of most Brown students, becoming accustomed to dealing with the financial aid office; for those Asian Americans from the West Coast the geographical distance from home and
Friends sometimes becomes difficult to face; another problem faced by some Asian Americans is that of Asian American identity, and the initial pressure on some to identify solely with the white majority.

These problems should be addressed during TWTW if Asian Americans are to be attracted to TWTW, if the goals of TWTW are to be met with regards to Asian Americans. For Asian American students there should be additional sessions on Family, Academics, Cultural Transition, Social Relationships, Geographical Distances, and Asian American Identity. Work needs to be done to organize these sessions to organize the resource people, films and supplemental material for these sessions. Work also needs to be done to acquaint Asian American Freshmen with the new sessions of TWTW, and to encourage them to attend TWTW. I would estimate that about ten hours of work a week would be needed to carry out these tasks.

10 hr./wk. starting beginning of July
July 3 to 5 : 4 hrs. in July
5 hrs. in August

$3-4

$250 - 350