Dear members of Diya,

A very serious action, which has been classified as a "hate-crime" by the Duke Police, occurred last Thursday near the East Campus bus stop around lam. Three Caucasian students verbally assaulted an Asian student with racial slurs as he attempted to walk home. This student, as well as Diya, feel that it is our responsibility to come together with all of the minority groups to help fight and prevent such acts of racism on the Duke Campus. There are many that feel that the recent discussion on race relations is unnecessary. However, this is an example that CLEARLY disproves that.

The course of action that Diya, Spectrum and the other minority groups, have united to take is to hold a General Body Meeting on Wednesday Night at 8:30 in the Mary Lou Williams Center. This general body meeting is intended for all minority student body members and interested others to hear this student's story and share similar events if they have occurred. On the CI Quad, this Friday (April 10th) is a scheduled "Speak Out" against discrimination.

As said by Dagmawi Woubshet (Spectrum President), "An attack on one of us is an attack on all." We as a minority-students group must show that such discrimination is unacceptable. Please come to the General Body Meeting on Wednesday night and the Speak-Out on Friday to show your support and intolerance for such racism.

Following is the report issued by Winston, the student victim of the hate crime. Please take the time to read this and remember that it could have happened to any of us. If there are any questions concerning this matter please feel free to contact Gnaneshwar Rao (gbr1).

Thank you very much,
Diya Executive Council 97-98, 98-99

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Winston
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For personal safety, please do not forward, quote, or use this information outside of your respective group.

To: minority groups at Duke
Subject: discrimination/hate crime incident

On the morning of Thursday, April 2, at 1:00 am I was victim to racist harassment. The Duke Police, who are now investigating, have termed this a "Hate Crime."

I am risking my name and personal safety in order to raise awareness to the extent of discrimination (in all its forms) at Duke. I only ask that this will compel others to share their stories and thoughts in hope that the Duke minority communities will unite in raising awareness.
A police statement similar to what follows has already been submitted. Tuesday's Chronicle should tell you how to report more information. As I left West Duke's main entrance an unblemished, clean, dark purple/maroon, new Jeep Cherokee (that may have also had a metallic luster, gray fenders, and a chrome grill), with tinted rear windows, slowed in front of me then circled, heading to the East Campus bus stop.

While walking, I heard members in the vehicle attempting to get my attention. As I walked I ignored their attempts. When I approached the bus stop benches on the Jarvis side of the bus stop circle, I heard someone in the car say something like "There's another one." As I got closer to the now stopped car, the front passenger asked, "Where is the railroad?" (for reasons unknown). A female witness warned me to not answer. I ignored them. Because they obstructed my path, I was forced to walk behind the Cherokee. When I did, the car shifted into reverse as the white reverse lights turned on. I was less than three feet from behind the Cherokee when this happened. I was not hit. As I left, a passenger behind the driver rolled down his window and yelled something like, "Do you speak English you Chinese f***?" I could not help but respond, "racist bastards," and walked on. I said no other words. Someone in the car yelled something like, "What the f***, what are you then, Korean?" Then I heard, "Where is your green card?" I walked on and continued to ignore their taunting. They did not pursue but drove off towards West Duke. When I got to my dorm I warned the Police.

I assume the three unfamiliar college-aged white males in the car go to Duke as this occurred in the middle of the week late in the evening/early morning. There may have been more, but the rear windows were tinted. At least one other witness in the Wilson Dormitory informed me that they heard abusive yelling at approximately 1:00 am - 1:30 am. No doubt there were many East campus residents who heard or saw something also. In trying to get away, I was unable to get a license plate number.

This is by no means an isolated incident. More blatant and subtler forms of discrimination (racism, sexism, homophobia/ heterosexism, classism) happen every day at Duke. The only way that anything effective will be done is if every minority group comes together to ask for change. Please, start a discussion now within your group and don't let it die. Share what you think at a campus minority general body meeting this Wednesday at 8:30 PM in the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture.

Winston Chi
w.chi@duke.edu

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= To unsubscribe, please mail 'unsubscribe diya' to
'majordomo@acpub.duke.edu' (without the quotation marks).
For help, contact the list-owner at <diya-owner@acpub.duke.edu>.
Police Investigate Student's Harassment Complaints

Duke Police are investigating charges by an Asian-American student that his dorm room was broken into and ransacked and that he was subjected to racial slurs. The student also told police that his chemistry test results were stolen.

Duke Police Chief Clarence Birkhead said in a memo to President Nannerl O. Keohane that the State Bureau of Investigation has been asked to assist in the investigation of the allegations.

"At this point, we have not yet been able to establish that a hate crime has, in fact, occurred," Birkhead said April 27. "Our investigation continues and we hope to conclude it within the next several days."

The case began when the student filed a police report April 1 saying that he had returned from an out-of-town trip and found his room unlocked and ransacked. He said $100 was missing and a note was left with a derogatory, racially biased message. He also told police he had received derogatory e-mails a few days earlier and that a chemistry test he took March 23 had been stolen.

The incident became public April 24 when three officers of the student Asian American Association said in an e-mail to Provost Peter Lange, and widely distributed to others, that the case and another case of alleged harassment that was not pursued by the alleged victim "have elicited both anger and fear in many members of the Duke community ...

The e-mail, signed by ASA President Patty Chen and two associates, also said, "equally appalling was the poor police response to the victim of the hate crime case and the lack of counseling and support made available to him."

The ASA officials also brought the matter to Keohane and she said in response April 27: "... we are taking this matter seriously and will respond appropriately when the investigation is complete."

The president also said staff members in the Office of Institutional Equity and in Student Affairs "are always available to talk with students who feel they are victims of discrimination or harassment, or who are concerned or upset about situations that involve their fellow students."

"As your e-mail message suggests, we will take steps to make sure that the services available in both OIE and CAPS are more visible on campus. We do have a university policy and protocols on hate crimes and bias incidents, but need to make sure that they are better known and understood; we will be reviewing these policies to make sure that they are up to date and serve our needs."

In an accompanying e-mail, Student Affairs interim vice president Jim Clack said he and other university leaders "have received more than 100 e-mails from students expressing concern about harassment and discrimination against Asian Americans on campus, with a special focus on an allegation of a serious violation of the university's prohibition against biased incidents
and hate crimes."

"Clearly, discrimination or the unfair treatment of an individual based solely or in part on race, gender, age, religion, disability, or sexual preference, or harassment because of the same, is unacceptable at Duke, and I want to assure you that this is the unambiguous position of the university's leaders. When any member of our university community is unfairly discriminated against, we are all harmed."

"As to the specific allegation that has prompted the recent concerns, I want to assure you that the university is taking this case extremely seriously," Clack said, enclosing an e-mail from Birkhead to Keohane in which the chief reinforces this point and indicates his own personal involvement in this investigation as well as the involvement of the State Bureau of Investigation. "In addition to a police investigation, a thorough review of aspects of the case is being conducted both by offices within the division of Student Affairs and by the Office of Institutional Equity."