



The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

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Reverend Professor Peter Gomes, Martin Luther King, Sr., and Dr. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, arrive at Memorial Church on January 10.

Martin Luther King, Sr., Visits Harvard

"Dreams die when we die. Dreams live when we live."

The words came quietly but firmly from the Reverend Martin Luther King Sr., father of one of the nation's most eloquent dreamers, at the University's Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration in the Memorial Church on Tuesday.

The King family is "trying desperately to prove the worthwhileness of [Martin Jr.'s] dream" of racial harmony and justice, the 85-year-old retired Baptist preacher said.

His visit came on the heels of the creation last month of a national holiday, starting in 1986, to honor the slain civil rights leader's birthday (January 15).

Putting the service in perspective, the Reverend Peter Gomes, Minister in the Memorial Church, noted that Harvard has held a King commemoration annually since 1968, when King was assassinated, "not so much to remind ourselves of what once was, but of what must be and of what remains to be done.

"We remember Martin Luther King Jr. not because of his success but because of

our failures; not because of the work he has done, but because of the work we must do."

Gomes urged those present "to pray in thanksgiving for the witness of a great man" and to commit their "lives and works to the healing of the nations" in the spirit of King the Younger, who was a "prophet of peace and agent of human reconciliation."

The 1964 Nobel Peace Laureate was, he said, "one man who, in God's name and on our behalf, made and makes a difference."

As Harvard Foundation Director S. Allen Counter suggested in introducing King the Elder, "Daddy King" (as he is affectionately called) was making a difference two decades before Martin Jr. came to national prominence as leader of the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott of 1955-56.

Martin Sr. led voter-registration drives and fought for equal pay for Atlanta's black teachers during the 1930s, Counter said. He presented King with a citation

from the Foundation for his "notable contributions to American spiritual life."

"It is quite significant," the elder King observed, "that we turn aside to give credit to a black man on his birthday. Martin was taken from us too early.

"But he kept saying to all of us — particularly to the family — 'If giving my life would give a sense of freedom and stability to our people, to all of you, I know nothing more noble.' And that's exactly what he did."

King paralleled the plight of black people and that of the paralytic man in the biblical Book of John whose way to the healing pool of Bethesda was blocked time and time again by someone else stepping down before him. "Everytime we start up, somebody stands to put us down," he said.

Like the paralytic, who needed help to reach the pool, we all need a trusted friend to help us out. "That's what we need in these days, that precious love." For King, the friend is Jesus.

On a more ecumenical note, King said that regardless of what sabbath day one chooses to honor, "for God's sake, use it well. Celebrate it well," and that spirit "will show forth in your life." It is, he said, "a beautiful world in which we live — if we would make it."

Musing on the wonder of existence, King asked all to join in singing *Amazing Grace*, and the church resounded.

Earlier, King met with students and members of the faculty and administration, including Dean Henry Rosovsky. (President Derek Bok was out of town and unable to revise his schedule.)

At a Faculty Club luncheon after the service, King described his visit as "overwhelming in love and kindness. I've enjoyed this immensely today," he said.

○ Marvin Hightower '69
(Reprinted from the *Harvard Gazette*, January 13, 1984)

Harvard Foundation and Leverett House Sponsor "South Africa: A Day of Dialogue"

Five White and Black South Africans debated their homeland's racial dilemma on [December 4], finding nominal common ground in the need for change but diverging radically on the means of transformation.

The panel capped "South Africa: A Day of Dialogue," a two-part event sponsored at the Kennedy School and Leverett House by The Harvard Foundation and the House. The afternoon session examined South African history, U.S. policies toward South Africa [discussed by Randall Robinson JD '70, Executive Director of TransAfrica, a Black American lobbying group for Africa and the Caribbean], and the current situation.

During the Leverett House wrap-up — "A Search for Solutions" — speakers split into those who believe evolutionary change will bring greater rights to the Black majority versus those who see violent change as almost inevitable.

Speaking as comoderator (with Foundation Director S. Allen Counter), Leverett House Master John Dowling framed the discussion with three questions central to much of the afternoon debate:

- (1) Can peaceful change occur in South Africa, or is revolution the only answer?
- (2) Is capitalism the cause of the racial discrimination in South Africa, or can the

rapid economic development of the past few decades be used to give Blacks and other non-Whites equality? (3) What should Americans do — individually, institutionally, governmentally? Responses often ranged freely among and beyond these points.

"there may not be peaceful solutions, but the door to negotiations should never be closed"

Three of the five panelists held little hope for peaceful change. "There may not be peaceful solutions, but the door to negotiations should never be closed," said Shuping Coapoge of the 71-year-old African National Congress (ANC), which struggled for nonviolent change until the radicalizing experience of government ruthlessness in the 1960 Sharpsville Massacre.

"No one wants to see half of the population destroyed for freedom," he said. "If that can be avoided, fine and good."

But Coapoge doubted that the ANC is militarily strong enough to negotiate with the ruling White government, which might permit elections, "let us win," stage a military coup, set up "a few puppets,"

and make the whole situation "an internal matter."

This possibility must be avoided, he stressed, and a militarily strong ANC would force the White regime to take negotiations seriously.

Citing economic factors against peaceful change, Agrey Mbere, Professor of History at Roxbury Community College, turned the first question inside out. "We [the ANC] are not the violent organization," he contended.

"We are responding to a particular historical situation in which we have spent over 50 years trying to register [to vote], to change the White man's heart" about Black political participation.

The result? "More detentions, more arrests, the killing of our leaders." The only options? "To fight back or submit to apartheid."

"the apartheid state faces an 'organic crisis of enormous proportions'"

Today, Mbere said, the apartheid state faces an "organic crisis of enormous proportions." Among the indicators: a "zeroing" of economic growth rate after the 1976 Soweto uprising; high Black unemployment and the shortage of "skilled" (White) workers; last year's serious labor conflicts in the mines, "which provide the bulk of the foreign exchange"; and the "astonishing" growth of independent (illegal) Black trade unions.

Kenneth Carstens, Director of the International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa (which assists political prisoners and their families), said the White regime is becoming "more vicious, more brutal — towards children, for example."

In 1976, the government shot down thousands of defenseless Black children demonstrating in Soweto and elsewhere. "Just a few weeks ago, 300 schoolchildren were arrested, and because they would not stop their demonstration — they kept on sing-



Dr. Allen Counter, Prof. Leonard Thomson (Yale University), Prof. Agrey Mbere (Roxbury Community College), Eroll Louis ('84), answer questions at the December 4 Forum, "South Africa: A Day of Dialogue."

Historical Perspectives, U.S./South African Policy, and Possible Solutions Discussed



Carla Williams ('85) introduces speakers at the panel discussion at the Kennedy School of Government.

ing in their prison cells — they were tear-gassed in their prison cells,” Carstens said.

Militarily, South Africa is also acting more aggressively than before, he said. Besides illegally occupying Namibia and “large portions of southern Angola,” South Africa has sallied into Mozambique, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe.

The new South African constitution represents a third insidious change, Carstens said. In effect, it sets up three “phony parliaments” for Indians, Coloreds, and Whites — phony because the president can govern with or without them. Political opposition will simply vanish for lack of effect, he said.

Given the situation, Carstens argued, violence is a “painful and reluctant decision” — misperceived by some “as if due consideration had not been given the matter.” Peaceful change is not really the choice, he said — there is no peace to start with. The real issue is the international community’s sense of responsibility: will it try to control escalating violence in South Africa or simply let it run wild?

Carstens called for the withdrawal of international financial support and the imposition of sanctions. Universities like Harvard have a role in the former, he said, and possibly the latter. Carstens

would also like to see the realization of an ANC proposal, now three decades old, for a national convention for all classes of South Africans “to decide whether we want confederation, ‘constellation,’ or democracy.”

For Robert Conway, a member of South Africa’s Progressive Federal Party and a current Fellow at the Center for International Affairs, the South African question is not, as some maintain, a matter of changing the deck chairs on the *Titanic* but of “how do we change the ship?”

Conway urged “doing everything we [South Africans] can to accentuate [the] momentum” toward evolutionary change. The strategy of violence can raise “false expectations,” he said. It has “a very real risk of the actual sufferers being the Black people.”

He called on those who advocate violence to explain how it can be successful in face of the overwhelming military power of the White regime.

“As Black trade unions become increasingly powerful, they will be able to extract ‘more and more political rights’”

As Black trade unions become increasingly powerful, they will be able to extract “more and more political rights” from the system “because the whole of South Africa is dependent upon Black people for their economy,” he said.

While professing disagreement with the new constitution, Conway nonetheless conceded that its unprecedented provisions for non-White political inclusion made it a potential aid to Black political negotiations.

“The American people and Harvard, in particular, have a very positive role to play by remaining involved in the South African question,” he stressed. “America and American companies and American foreign policy should exert maximum influence within the country to force change as quickly as possible.”

Conway encouraged U.S. corporations to put American Black executives in South Africa “to give hope to young Blacks in South Africa,” to show what can be done.

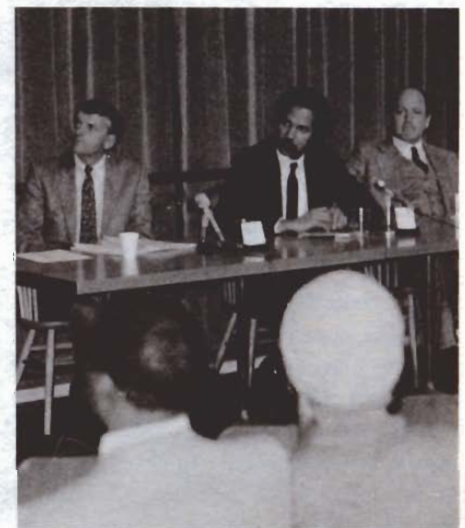
“‘business and capitalism are the greatest factors in breaking down apartheid’”

John Chettle of the South Africa Foundation took a similar approach, asserting that far from being the villains, “business and capitalism are the greatest factors in breaking down apartheid.” Like Carstens, he saw no peace in the existing situation. But for Chettle, the lack of peace points to evolutionary change.

Revolution is “very, very hard to conceive,” he said, because (following historian Crane Brinton’s three-part analysis of successful revolution) the most critical factor — disaffection among the military — is nowhere in sight.

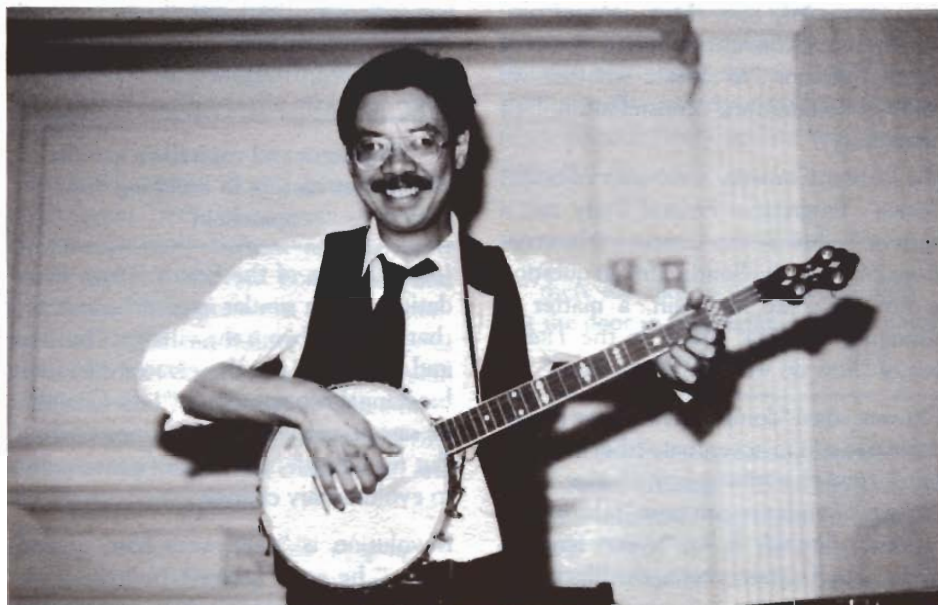
In the past 30 years, he said, Afrikaners have become vastly better educated, moving from a 90-percent farm-based to 90-percent urban-based society. “The same changes have been taking place among the Blacks,” he contended. Afrikaners no longer see themselves in master-servant relationships with Blacks, he said.

○ Marvin Hightower '69
(Reprinted and adapted from the *Harvard Gazette*, December 9, 1983)



Dowling, Robinson and Chettle participate in the December 4 Forum.

The Harvard Foundation Student Cultural



Charlie Chin plays banjo in his one-man act, *American Born Chinese*.



Margaret Chin and Florence Houn are present and past Presidents of the Asian American Association.

Charlie Chin Entertains and Educates Students with "American Born Chinese" performance

One of the highlights for Asian Americans at Harvard this fall was the performance of ABC (*American Born Chinese*) by Charlie Chin. ABC is a one-man cabaret show brought to Cambridge from New York by the Harvard Foundation, and presented by the Asian American Association with help from the Undergraduate Council.

Throughout the show, Chin displayed unique talent, shifting smoothly from one character to the next. He sang a funny tune about being the only Chinese man in Great Falls, Montana and then went into a verse imitating the speech of a West Indian woman.

Chin's professionalism, however, did not limit his appeal. He drew the audience into the play, allowing them to shed their observer's role and feel as if they were actual participants in the production. His portrayal was especially moving and memorable. Dr. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, commented that Chin, "gave a Broadway quality performance."

Many Asian Americans in the audience said that they identified with Chin during the play. They praised him for his excellent portrayal of Asian American culture.

Chin's performance was entertaining,

educational, and refreshing. He appealed to Asians and non-Asians alike. The Harvard Community needs to see more cultural performances like this one.

o Margaret Chin and
Harvard Foundation Staff



Charlie Chin sings for his December 9 Harvard audience.

Events: Charlie Chin and "Marine Tiger"

"Marine Tiger" Plays at Agassiz Theater

La Organizacion Estudiantil Boricua de Harvard-Radcliffe sponsored "An evening with the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater" on December 13 at the Agassiz Theater. The evening's events consisted of an introduction by the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, Miriam Colon, the performance of "Marine Tiger," and a small reception.

In her address, Colon mentioned that the play "Marine Tiger" has been performed all over New York, on stage as well as in parking lots. One goal of the theater is to reach as many people as possible with its Puerto Rican art. At Harvard, the group succeeded in drawing a large and diverse group. "Marine Tiger" was attended by approximately 100 students, three members of the faculty and a contingent of children from the Villa Victoria housing complex in Boston's South End.

"Marine Tiger" is written by Estralla Artau, a noted Puerto Rican playwright. The play is a short musical based on the interaction of a young Puerto Rican woman, her interpreter, and a non-Spanish speaking social worker in a New York City welfare office. The play addresses the

Puerto Rican's and social worker's inability to surmount the barriers of language and custom. The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater's production of the play was particularly successful because the players were able to convey the deep frustration felt by both the Puerto Rican and the social worker. Although the play's topic is serious, its mood is light. "Marine Tiger" is filled with Puerto Rican song and dance.

At the reception after the play, the audience was able to meet the actors of the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater. There, students and actors discussed the play's effectiveness in presenting Puerto Rican culture.

o David Delgado and
the Harvard Foundation Staff



Coordinators of "Marine Tiger's" Harvard Show celebrate after the play.



Community Children dance at "Marine Tiger" reception.



The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater performs at the Agassiz Theater.

Agnes Nixon, TV Writer and Harvard Foundation Trustee, Speaks to Students and Faculty about Writing for the Media

While Angie and Jessie of ABC-TV's "All My Children" finally found their baby yesterday after weeks of searching, their creator spoke about television and social change at Harvard.

Agnes Nixon, the guest of the Harvard Foundation, talked at the Expository Writing Center, and after watching "All My Children" during lunch at Quincy House, held a workshop on television writing in the Quincy Junior Common Room.

Foundation Director S. Allen Counter said he invited Nixon — a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees — as part of an ongoing program of inviting individuals who are putting forth positive images of American cultures.

"Her shows have been instrumental in getting minorities into TV," said Richard C. Marius, director of Expository Writing. There are more Blacks on daytime television than during prime time, he noted.

Social issues including incest, child abuse and the trauma of Vietnam veterans have been central themes on Nixon's shows.



Agnes Nixon attends the lunch reception in her honor.



Dr. Allen Counter presents Agnes Nixon her Harvard Foundation Award on December 1.

She said that with sensitive scripts her shows perform a "tasteful public service."

At the Writing Center, Nixon said the two main problems facing a soap opera writer are keeping the plot exciting but writing scripts simple enough for actors to memorize quickly.

At the afternoon seminar Nixon offered aspiring writers advice. New writers tend to overarticulate their characters rather than have them reveal themselves by action, she said. The old theater maxim "play it, don't say it," always applies, she added.

Many Harvard soap opera fans tore themselves away from their usual afternoon

viewing schedules to meet the creator of some of their favorite shows.

Jodi C. Smith '84 said she and her roommate plan their classes around "All My Children." "We leave each other AMC updates if one of us misses the show," she added.

"I feel bad scheduling Friday classes because that's the most important day on the soaps," Deborah T. Roth '84 said. She added that she and her seven roommates watch about three hours of soap every day. "I had a roommate who left a lecture in the middle to watch Laura's wedding."

○ Rachael Inker
reprinted and adapted from *The Crimson* December 2, 1983



Agnes Nixon laughs with Dr. Richard Marius, Director of Expository Writing.

AGNES NIXON'S DAY AT HARVARD



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"DADDY KING" AND STUDENTS



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