Harvard Honors Bishop Desmond Tutu

Nobel Peace Laureate Desmond Tutu, LL.D. '79 brought the thanks of millions of black South Africans to the Memorial Church on Monday, December 3, 1984 and symbolically shared his prize with all who have taken up the cause of peace and justice.

"We are able to witness as we make witness in South Africa only because you are faithful in your witness here," Tutu said. "God gives up—all of us—the Nobel Peace Prize."

In a day of events sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, the bishop was the center of a press conference, the Memorial Church service in celebration of his life and work, and a luncheon for Harvard students and faculty following the service.

Tutu responded with candor and intensity to reporters at the press conference, touching on a broad range of issues including apartheid, investment, and the South African Government. In answer to a question on the validity of constitutional changes as the admittance of three Colored or Indian persons for every four whites on the South African Government benches, Tutu answered with characteristic vehemence. "Two plus one [Coloreds and Indians] equals three, and you don't have to be a mathematician to see that it will never equal four."

The service opened with words by Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes, Minister in the Memorial Church: "We have come together to celebrate the work of Bishop Desmond Tutu and to give God the thanks for sending us so wise and good a shepherd, a bishop whose diocese is now the world."

Tutu used the sermon to expand on (continued on page 2)
many of the issues that he had earlier discussed, but through humanity and faith.

"There aren't very many occasions when you can say, 'I know that I speak on behalf of millions' without sounding presumptuous. But I know that at least in this respect, I do speak on behalf of millions who would have wished to have it expressed to you their appreciation and thanks for your commitment in their struggle."

He also looked at the oppression in South Africa in the light of Christianity and humanity. Freedom is "our inalienable right that comes from the hand of God," not a gift for humans to bestow.

"All we want [white South Africans] to recognize is that in fact, we are human. When you pinch us, it hurts. When you scratch us, we bleed. When you tickle us, we laugh. When our children die, we cry. When we're in love, we embrace. We are all the same," he said tenderly.

South Africa is a big country, Tutu said, with room enough for everyone, black and white. He expressed hope that "Harvard would carry through its commitment to see change happen in South Africa relatively peacefully."

At the end of his emotional sermon he descended from the pulpit to receive the Harvard Foundation award—and a tumultuous ovation punctuated by traditional African cries of victory. —Marvin Highetower ’69

(Reprinted and expanded from the Harvard University Gazette.)

Dr. Ntsiea Bok, wife of President Derek Bok, welcomes 1984 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Bishop Tutu back to Harvard.
Harvard Foundation Welcomes New Students During Freshman Week

The Harvard Foundation sponsored two activities during Freshman Week this fall to introduce incoming students to the Foundation. The first event was a brunch held on Sunday, September 9th on the outdoor terrace of the Science Center Greenhouse. More than 700 freshmen and their parents attended, and Dr. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation, welcomed all present. He addressed the gathering with a short welcoming speech and encouraged the students to take advantage of their college years, as these years offered the opportunity to meet a variety of people and to develop lasting friendships.

The second event occurred on Friday, September 14th and gave freshmen the chance to speak more informally about the minority student experience. About 75 students attended. M. L. Carr, a member of the Boston Celtics basketball team, came to the college with his wife, Sylvia, to talk with the group about the importance of racial understanding. Mr. Carr was very charming and spoke frankly with the students. He drew from his own college experiences to illustrate the need for working well with others. He spoke about how this skill became increasingly more important in his work as a professional athlete on a multi-racial team. He answered students’ questions about his techniques for working well with others (on and off the court). The students were delighted by his visit.

Other speakers included Roberto Maldonado, ‘82, HLS ‘85, who conveyed his own experiences as a minority student at Harvard. Lisa Quirroz ‘83, who works in the Admissions Office, spoke about the admissions process and explained that while Harvard actively seeks minorities, candidates are selected neither because of nor in spite of their particular heritage. She explained it was a combination of the two, taking into consideration the fact that a person’s culture can have an influence on his or her interests and how he or she will contribute to a well-rounded Harvard community.

Each racial and ethnic cultural student group was represented at the talk by an upper classman and students exchanged ideas freely. It was mentioned that students should think of these groups as a way to maintain and express their own cultural identity while at Harvard. An analogy between the various ethnic groups and the family was made. Both are based on love and support which gives people the support needed to branch out and become involved in many different activities. But one student pointed out that these groups shouldn’t be thought of as family, because “there is no one at Harvard who will greet you with open arms. It is up to you to create the environment that works best for you.”

Dr. Counter spoke about the history of minority students at Harvard. He told students not to be intimidated by Harvard’s grand image, reassuring them that they were very much a part of it as they arrived at the University with proven records of their ability to perform well under Harvard’s tough academic standards. He added, “Each of your credentials can be matched measure for measure with at least seven other non-minority students, so if we made a mistake on any one of you, we’ve made at least seven other mistakes.”

At both orientation events Dr. Counter appealed to students of all races and backgrounds who were interested in improving race and cultural relations to come to the Foundation office and get involved in its activities.

—Phyllis Jordan

Asian/Pacific-American Theatre Company at Harvard

The Asian American Association (AAA), along with the Harvard Foundation, hosted a theatre company from Los Angeles, who performed at Harvard on Sunday, November 11. This two-man, one-woman company has been touring the U.S. in a well-received production which depicts the Asian/Pacific American experience through songs, short skits, and comedy. Entitled ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, the production was like a big express ride, stopping along the way to highlight particular events.

The play began on a dimly lit stage, (continued on page 4)
Alternatives to War

On Friday, November 2, 1984 the Harvard-Radcliffe International Development Forum along with Grassroots International and the Institute of Politics sponsored a forum titled "Alternatives to War." The purpose of the forum was to focus attention on the instability which plagues many developing countries today.

The forum centered on three troubled spots: The Horn of Africa, South Africa, and Lebanon. Four panels participated in the discussion: Dan Connell, Executive Director of Grassroots International (moderator); Dennis Brutus, an exiled South African poet and activist (spoke on South Africa); Nubor Hoveseyan, a scholar and author from the Middle East (spoke on Lebanon); and Benkte Habte Selassie, former Attorney General of Ethiopia (spoke on the Horn of Africa).

The panels, speaking before an audience of about two hundred people, elaborated on the instability in their respective areas and gave their opinion as to the causes of that instability. Both Mr. Brutus and Mr. Hoveseyan criticized the U.S. for the non-constructive role it has played in Lebanon and South Africa. Mr. Selassie, on the other hand, pointed an accusing finger at the U.S.S.R. for its role in the Horn of Africa. All panels agreed that the two superpowers advocate policies which support the existing social and economic inequalities in the three areas concerned. Furthermore, the panel felt that the two powers overlook the human need and suffering that characterizes these developing countries. That alternatives to war should be of concern to minorities was illustrated by one observation by Nubor Hoveseyan. He reminded the audience that there is a relation between war abroad and unemployment at home, and that groups with a disproportionately high unemployment rate will be among those who suffer the greatest fatalities in time of war. As a solution, the panels outlined social and economic reform as well as some policy changes on the part of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. as the only long-term solution to the present crisis.

Half of the time of the forum was devoted to a question-and-answer period between the audience and the panel, and a wine and cheese reception followed which allowed the members of the audience to further question the panelists on a more informal basis.

—Eugene Diugjartson '86

Pauline W. Chen '86, President of the Asian-American Association, welcomes On the Orient Express cast (left to right: Glenn Chin, Pauline, Sachiho Magaishi, Don Magaishi).
Foundation Celebrates 75th Anniversary of the NAACP

"Much Accomplished, More to be Done," Says Director Benjamin Hooks

On December 10, 1984 the Harvard Foundation sponsored a dinner in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the NAACP. The guests included students and faculty from Harvard, the Greater Boston community and New York, and the evening's events focussed on the eloquent and humorous speaking of the NAACP Executive Director, Dr. Benjamin Hooks. Dr. Hooks addressed a wide range of issues during a press conference before the dinner, and for the NAACP he had words of praise and of inspiration. He said that by attacking racial barriers to full citizenship, the NAACP has done more than any other group in U.S. history to change American society within the system. "What we've done makes life better for all of us," he said, and in the future the NAACP must work not only toward civil equality but also economic parity for blacks.

Foundation Director S. Allen Counter, who organized the evening, presented Dr. Hooks with a certificate honoring his work in civil rights. Responding to an invitation to say a few words, Hooks praised Harvard, saying "Don't drop the bag!" and noting that the U.S. Supreme Court had launched Harvard College admissions policies as a model for colleges everywhere during the Bakke ("reverse-discrimination") case.

The evening included a 15 minute clip from The Longest Struggle, a recent 90-minute docudrama by TV producer Tony Brown on the history of the NAACP. Mr. Brown, who also attended the dinner, was among those honored by the Foundation. Harvard students Erika Zuckerman and Phoebe Roaf presented awards to Mr. Brown and Frances Hooks (the wife of Benjamin Hooks) for their contributions to the cause, and Dr. Counter concluded the dinner with awards to Roger Enrico, President and CEO of the Pepsi-Cola Company, which underwrote the film; long-time NAACP activists Samuel Beer, the Eaton Professor of the Science of Government Emeritus, and his wife Roberta Beer; and H. Naylor Fitchhugh '30, MBA '33, a pioneer in black business in the U.S. and the Business School's first black graduate.

-Martin Hightower '69
(Reprinted and excerpted from the Harvard University Gazette.)
NAACP 75th Anniversary

The Radcliffe Pitches perform for the NAACP Diamond Jubilee Dinner.

Mrs. Frances Hooks, wife of Benjamin Hooks, congratulates Pauline San Ber (Government) who, with his wife Roberta, received Foundation awards for outstanding contributions to civil rights.

Carole Apodaca '88 meets Dr. Hooks.

Phoebe Prop '86 and Brenda Magee '86 meet Dr. Hooks.

Tony Brown receives Foundation award for STRUGGLE: HISTORY OF THE NAACP.
The Expressions Dance Group celebrates the evening.

Michael Minor '87 greets Michael Lawrence, Special Assistant to Dr. Hooks.

John B. Fox, Dean of Harvard College, welcomes Dr. Hooks.

Pauline W. Chen '87, Daniel Hirsch '85, and Flora Houser '87 chat with Roger Ebert.

Production of film THE LONGEST NAACP from Erika Zuckerma 86.
Dear Dr. Counter:

You did a splendid job of putting together a wonderful and historic program on December 10th. I deeply appreciate the honor accorded to me by Harvard. The certificate now hangs in my office. However, recognition by the foremost educational institution in the nation as a contributor to the advancement of the fundamental ideals embodied in the Constitution is an honor that will remain with me in my thoughts as long as God grants me such capacity.

Thank you, President Bok and the University.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Hooks
Executive Director

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Dear Dr. Counter:

Again, thanks for a most memorable evening and for the excellent news coverage in the historic Harvard University Gazette. I am placing it in my scrapbook for all to see. Hopefully, someday my grandsons will be able to show their children that their grandparents were honored by Harvard University for their contributions to the field of civil rights. This recognition was clearly a result of your efforts. You have our deepest admiration and respect for your splendid accomplishments as well as the important work you continue to do.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a prosperous new year, and I look forward to continuing our friendship in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Frances D. Hooks
Foundation Funds 16 Undergraduate Projects

Thirteen undergraduate organizations will receive funds from The Harvard Foundation this term for projects to promote racial and cultural understanding at the University.

At a meeting on October 19th, the Foundation’s Faculty Committee approved the distribution of $7,800 to support 16 projects, including a forum on the “Third World in Crisis,” a debate on U.S. bilingual education, and a “choro-historia” of the Afro-American experience.

The committee considered 22 proposals in all. Said committee Chair Peter Gomes, who headed the group that recommended the creation of the Foundation in 1981, “We’ve been impressed with the breadth of these applications.”

Reflecting on this, the Foundation’s “senior year,” the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals noted that the Foundation’s “very ambitious goals [for improving the quality of our common life] are being achieved” by student efforts. “This is where we hoped the initiative would come from in the first place.”

Nevertheless, added Currier House Master Dudley Herschbach, “We are less than impressed by the few hand-written applications.” Several committee members found them difficult to decipher.

Foundation Director S. Allen Counter indicated that he is considering leaving the Foundation at the end of the academic year. “I’ve spent four years now trying to get the organization developed,” the Associate Professor of Neuro-science reflected. “I think it’s on a solid footing. It may be time to return to science and have someone else take the Foundation on from here.”

Among the funded projects is an international poetry reading to be sponsored by Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA on November 3, featuring works in Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, and Yiddish—all with second readings in English translation. Foundation funds will also help resurrect Diaspora, the literary arts journal published by the Black Students Association. The BSA hopes to resume publication in January.


A “Third World Film Series” highlighting activities in America will be sponsored this fall by the Third World Students’ Alliance, featuring works such as El Norte, Rattige, and Zoot Suit.

Other funded projects come from the Asian-American Association, the Caribbean Club, the Dunster House Black Table, Expressions Dance Company, the H-R International Development Forum, the International Students Association, the Kuumba Singers, La Organizacion, and the Harvard Vietnamese Association.

—Marvin Highsower ’69

Bilingual Education Debate

About 30 undergraduates and graduate students heard the pros and cons of bilingual education programs in a heated debate sponsored by Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA and the Harvard Foundation for Race Relations.

Many went especially to hear former U.S. Senator S.I. Hayakawa, who took the position against elementary and secondary bilingual education programs. Hayakawa, known for his outspoken conservative views, stated that he was not against bilingual education in its original meaning, but that many programs have become monolingual—in Spanish.

Dr. Sara Melendez argued convincingly, however, that many bilingual programs had very good success rates for eventually bringing children to a knowledge of both English and his or her native language. Melendez, who is Director of Minority Affairs for the American Council on Education and President of the National Association of Bilingual Education, gave an historical overview of the treatment of non-English speakers in U.S. schools and a technical explanation of the various forms of bilingual programs and objectives.

Since he left Washington in 1982, Hayakawa has served as a State Department liaison on East Asian Affairs. He has also gained wide publicity for an organization he heads called U.S. English, whose goal is to pass a Constitutional Amendment settling that English is the official language of the United States.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Melendez decried U.S. English as xenophobic and racist. She said that the attack of bilingual education programs in recent years is largely a reaction to the influx of new immigrants—most of Southeast Asian, Haitian, and Central American origin.

Both Dr. Melendez and Sen. Hayakawa agreed that programs which encouraged the long-term dependence on the first language and not English were bad for the student. Melendez conceded that programs of this type might exist, but that they were a tiny fraction of the nationwide bilingual effort.

While the audience, made up mostly of Hispanic and Asian students, seemed to favor the maintenance of bilingual programs, many said it was good to hear both the pros and cons of an issue which promises to become even more controversial in the coming year.

Both guests readily fielded questions at the debate and, in a more relaxed setting, afterwards at a reception in their honor.

—Laura E. Gomez ’85
Winter Film Series Launched

On Friday November 9, the Third World Students Alliance (TWSA) film committee successfully kicked off its winter film series. That evening the film committee screened the popular reggae cult movie, THE HARDER THEY COME, to an estimated crowd of 200 in Emerson Hall. Shown free of charge to the Harvard community and the public, the movie was also screened Saturday night to a similarly sized crowd. Made in 1973, THE HARDER THEY COME dramatizes the fictional adventures of a Robin Hood-like Jamaican reggae singer played by reggae star Jimmy Cliff.

The TWSA film committee launched the series to educate the Harvard community on Third World cultures and issues. Committee co-chair Armando Contreras ’85 said, “The common thread uniting all of the films in the series is their unique minority perspectives. The films will be chosen largely on the basis of their relevance to current issues affecting minorities and their adaptation, assimilation, identity, and existence in America. As budgeted, the series will attempt to include at least one film about each of the recognized minority groups on campus (Native Americans, Chicanos, Blacks, Asians, and Puerto Ricans), and thus showcase the significant artistic contributions of all minorities to an industry that has too often offered stereotypical portrayals of non-white people.”

In October, the Harvard Foundation awarded a grant to the film committee, although the idea for the series originated last year when a group of minority students expressed to the Foundation an interest in showing rarely seen entertainment and documentary films. Said Contreras on how the series will work to improve the quality of Harvard’s common life and race relations, “By publicizing the project as a series, we hope to present the distinct perspectives not only between groups but within groups. By exposing the Harvard-Radcliffe community to a broad range of perspectives as presented through the films, we will increase awareness and sensitivity between all of the different groups on campus.”

The series will resume in January and February with two documentaries featuring Asian American and Chicanos experiences. THE MISSES-SIPPI TRIANGLE documents the history of a Chinese American community in the Mississippi delta and its relationship to the neighboring black and white communities. ZOOT SUIT is a fictional drama about the Chicano community in Los Angeles. The Third World Film Series will hopefully continue to attract mainstream interest to these enlightening films.

—Ronald Reach ’85

From the Director

The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations had a banner year in 1984. We started in January with a visit by the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. for a Memorial Church service to honor the life of his son, and after 25 additional Foundation-sponsored events, ended the year with a December 10th celebration of the Diamond Jubilee (75th anniversary) of the NAACP.

The fall of the 1984-85 academic year was especially productive. We hosted a Freshman Brunch for over 700 persons; a Memorial Church service for 900 persons to celebrate the life and work of South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient; and the NAACP dinner for over 100 persons, including...

(Continued on facing page)

Harvard-Radcliffe Asian Food Festival

On Saturday, December 1, the Harvard Asian groups presented the annual Asian Food Festival. With the support of the Harvard Foundation and the cooperation of North House, the five participating groups were able to organize a buffet-style dinner in North House’s Holmes dining hall.

The five undergraduate groups that participated—the Asian American Association, the Chinese Students Association, Koreans of Harvard-Radcliffe, the Japanese Cultural Society, and the Harvard Vietnamese Association—each served dishes that in some way represented the respective cultures. The students spent the entire afternoon, and some also worked the evening before, preparing the dishes.

Over 150 people from the Harvard community attended the event organized by Asian American Association vice-president Flora Houn ’87 and steering committee member John Yee ’86. Preparation for the food festival started early in the semester in order to successfully coordinate the members of the five groups. When asked about how this event contributed to improving the quality of Harvard’s common life, coordinator Yee replied, “This event brings together Asians and non-Asians in both the preparation and the actual festival. It allows Asian groups to learn more about each other and introduces Asian food and culture to non-Asians. Such an event will integrate the great diversity of the various Asian cultures and promote unity among the Asian student groups of Harvard-Radcliffe.”

—Pauline W. Chen ’86
ing the organization’s Executive Director, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, and his wife Frances Hooks. The Foundation is especially proud that all of these events were attended by stud- ents, faculty, and staff of all races, backgrounds, colors, and religions.

At the special Faculty Club luncheon for Bishop Tutu and over 60 diverse students, faculty members, and administrators, the Bishop spoke of the importance of racial harmony and praised the Foundation’s approach toward achieving this end. at his award acceptance remarks at the NAACP dinner and later in a letter to the Foundation, Dr. Hooks commended the multicultural gathering and thanked Harvard for remembering the 75th birthday of the organization.

After three years of development, the Foundation has moved from relative obscurity at Harvard to a position of prominence within the University community. Other colleges throughout the nation are studying the Foundation as a model for their own institutions. This success is due in no small measure to the efforts of a tiny but hardworking Foundation staff, a dedicated Faculty Advisory Committee, and many other committed individuals at Harvard.

The Foundation staff greatly appreciates the many letters and calls we received from students and faculty thanking us for the invitations to our events. We were particularly touched by a recent note from a Black freshman who attended the NAACP dinner. It read in part: “Thank you very much for inviting me to enjoy and help honor Benjamin Hooks and other contributors to the NAACP. I am very much interested in helping the Foundation.” This is the kind of participating spirit that the Foundation has endeavored to develop.

Unfortunately we have also received a few complaints from students who were not invited to the luncheon for Bishop Tutu, the NAACP dinner, and a recent dinner for the U.S. Ambassador to Kenya. We humbly apologize to those students who were not invited but were interested in attending these events. We would like to assure them that no student of any background was deliberately excluded from these activities.

In inviting members of the University community to attend these events, we use several approaches. First of all, we usually select faculty, staff and students who have been involved with the work of the Foundation, including some of its Faculty Advisory Committee members and the Harvard administration. Secondly, we ask the House Masters to recommend students, faculty, and staff who may be interested in or appropriate for the occasion and students who have demonstrated their commitment to improved race relations. Thirdly, leaders of most of the major student organizations (both minority and majority) are asked to recommend students and faculty for the Foundation’s event. If a student or faculty member’s interests are particularly relevant to the background and work of our guest, or if our guest recommends members of the Harvard community, those individuals are also invited if space and time permit. In this way, we receive input and participation from a large cross-section of the University community for each event.

The Harvard Foundation’s programs are designed to enhance racial understanding and cultural interaction among our students and staff. Our race relations programs include debates, panel discussions in the Houses and at the Kennedy School Forum, public presentations by guest lecturers from a variety of fields, special services at the Memorial Church, dinners and luncheons to honor special guests who have made significant contributions to race relations, and the like. In keeping with the guiding philosophy of the Foundation, we extend invitations for each of our events to faculty, students, and staff of all races, colors, backgrounds and religions. In an effort to spread our good will and information about the Foundation throughout the University, we try to invite different students, professors and staff to each event. We hope that at the end of each academic year, we will have involved a large percentage of the University community in the good works of the Foundation. We also invite a small number of local citizens (including alumni) to many of our activities in the interest of good community relations.

While the level, scope and quality of our programs would suggest an agency of much larger capacity, the Foundation is not a large university operation. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources or staff to canvass the University. Our student assistants, secretary, and I will generally contact invitees by telephone, especially when our honoree gives us short notice of an arrival date or changes the date of the visit altogether. No doubt we will miss some interested students and faculty members in our guest selection for certain events. But in due course, we hope to share our programs with a representative selection of faculty, staff, and students.

The Harvard Foundation has always welcomed input and support from students. Numerous students have demonstrated their interest in our work by contributing their time and by supporting our many projects. In fact, the Foundation and its students have sponsored some 90 public programs since its inception three-and-a-half years ago. We hope that many of you will join us in the future as we try to improve racial understanding at Harvard.

Dr. S. Allen Counter is Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Special thanks to: Marvin Hightower and the Harvard Gazette, Laura E. Gomez ’86, Eggert Dagbjartsson ’86, and Ronald Roach ’85 for contributing articles about Foundation events.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director Phyllis Jordan, Staff Assistant, Newsletter Editor Pauline W. Chen, Senior Student Assistant, Newsletter Editor Phoebe Roaf, Staff Assistant, Newsletter Editor Nicholas S. Potter, Newsletter Pro- ducer, Newsletter Editor
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and Harvard
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Director of the Bureau of Study Counsel
Professor Stephen Williams
Peabody Professor of American Archeology and
Ethnology

Dr. Benjamin Hooks receives Foundation award for his Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights.