



The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

SPRING 1984

VOL. III, NO. 2

Billy Mills and 'Running Brave' come to Harvard



Billy Mills autographs 'Running Brave' poster.

On April 23, American Indian Billy Mills, who 20 years ago became the first American to win an Olympic gold in the 10,000 meter run, told a crowd of 450 at the Science Center how he was able to triumph in the face of prejudice and opposition.

Mills was at Harvard for the New England premiere of a movie based on his life, "Running Brave," which stars Robby Benson as the long-distance runner.

"All my life I was told I could contribute nothing because I was Indian," Mills said in an interview. When he won the race in 1964, he told the audience, he asked a race official, "Did I miscount the laps?"

Mill grew up in Pineridge, a Sioux Indian reservation in South Dakota, and was orphaned when he was 12.

He then went to state-supported Indian boarding schools until he won an

athletic scholarship to the University of Kansas.

His first exposure to white society was the "most difficult time of my life," Mills said.

"We were taught in the boarding school to be gentle, kind, to treat people as equals; I was so naive when I went to the university," he added.

The \$6.5 million movie is the "first to be truly representative of what Indian life is like," the film's producer, Ira Englander, said last night.

A group of Indians in Canada provided financial backing, and Walt Disney Productions is distributing the movie.

Foundation Grant

American Indians at Harvard sponsored the appearance with a \$1250 grant from the Harvard Foundation, which includes events for Native Americans among its projects each year.

The group sponsored the event "to give outside people a view of our own group's experience," Joseph D. Bowen '84, a member of the group, said.

Although the student group has sponsored speakers before, Mills' appearance is the first project intended for a wider audience, Bowen said.

S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Mills with an award for his work with Indian youth.

Mills and Englander co-founded the National Leadership Program for American Indian Youth in the seventies.

° Catherine R. Heer

(reprinted from *The Crimson*, April 24, 1984)

Minority writers speak at the Kennedy School



Mr. James Baldwin

In an April 15 Harvard appearance, three prominent minority writers expressed fears that young minority writers are abandoning their cultural backgrounds.

"As soon as a minority writer fails to give a different perspective, he makes himself irrelevant," said the prominent Black author James Baldwin in a forum discussion on minority images in American literature. The discussion was held at the Kennedy School of Government Forum.

The panel discussion—attended by about 100 people—was the latest in a series of events sponsored by the Harvard Foundation this year to explore the roles and images of minorities in American media.

"Images of non-whites as seen by whites are forced on the public," said Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the foundation designed to foster improved race relations on campus. "We hope to challenge those images and present viewpoints by the people themselves," he said.



Professor Rolando Hinojosa

"White editors always complain that white characters in your writing are not sympathetic enough," said Lim, whose critically acclaimed play "Paper Angels" is being adapted for television by American Playhouse.

"Little by little you find yourself tailoring your work to the expectations of others," she added.

Baldwin went even further and called the censorship a "conspiracy designed to make non-whites feel inferior."

"White editors often think that they know more about being Black than you do," said Baldwin.

"It's really demoralizing for a white publisher to tell you your work is wrong," he added.

Both Hinojosa and Lim publish strictly



Ms. Genny Lim

through small minority houses to avoid such censorship.

Another concern of the writers was the growing number of minority writers who disinherit their cultural background.

"A lot of young Asian American writers that I see today denigrate the idea of Asian American literature," said Lim. "They want to see themselves first as individuals and feel being an Asian American writer is inferior."

"Many middle-class Chicanos have asked me why I don't write about Chicano lawyers, doctors, and dentists," said Hinojosa. "I tell them because they're dull; they want to be white."

Each writer said that it was the responsibility of minority writers to represent their people.

"The image of Asians in the media is 25 to 50 years behind the times in interpreting what Asian Americans are," Lim said. "I feel the need to pass on something positive about my people."

Hinojosa added that a writer has to believe that he can help change negative images of minorities.

"The fact that there are now minority publishing houses is proof that a change is slowly taking place," said Lim.

Lim and Hinojosa held workshops earlier Saturday with members of the Harvard Asian American Association and La Raza, the Hispanic organization.

Baldwin, currently working on a book about the Atlanta child murders, is a highly regarded Black author whose books include *Go Tell it on the Mountain*.

Besides her play "Paper Angels," Lim gained recognition by winning the 1980 American Book Award for her compilation of poems from *Angel Island*.

Hinojosa, a self-described "Texas-Mexican," has written many books including "Klail City."

° Frank Tse

(reprinted from *The Crimson*, April 16, 1984)



Mr. Baldwin with students

Conference on 'Images of Minorities and Women in Television'

Guest speakers included Mr. Carlos Aguilar, CBS, Ms. Gloria Chun, PBS, Mr. Ken Kashiwahara, ABC, and Ms. Liz Walker, WBZ-NBC



Moderator Jodie Smith '84



Carlos Aguilar, Ken Kashiwahara, and Gloria Chun



Liz Walker addresses audience



Student panelists



David Kau and David Evans meet Ken Kashiwahara



Carlos Aguilar speaks with students

Forum on Affirmative Action

Although interest in affirmative action had died down somewhat in recent years, this year has seen heightened awareness about the controversial topic. At the national level a Reagan overhaul of the Civil Rights Commission spurred heated debate. Here at Harvard, things weren't quite so dramatic, but there has been a dialogue on the efficacy of affirmative action, particularly in faculty selection.

Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA held a forum sponsored by the Harvard Foundation on the topic on April 3. The forum sought to bring the controversy to light and, in particular, to include the Chicano and Hispanic element in the debate. About 50 people attended the heated debate between Jose Trevino, legislative director for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and Fernando C de Baca, who chairs the Reagan-Bush effort to get Hispanic votes.

Trevino, a San Antonio, Texas native, began by giving an historical overview of affirmative action. He emphasized the legislative struggle to force public contractors to hire minorities, an effort which he was involved in. Trevino listed statistics showing discrepancies between White, Black and Hispanic income and representation in professional fields and schools as evidence that affirmative action



Mr. Joe Trevino speaks with students.

remains a necessary tool to fight discrimination today.

C de Baca, in contrast, said that things had improved greatly for many minorities and challenged the effectiveness of affirmative action to help the remainder. C de Baca, originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, defended Reagan's role in reshaping the Civil Rights Commission, while pointing to Reagan's appointment of Hispanics to government posts as evidence of his commitment to minorities.

But Trevino refuted his argument by showing that most of the Hispanic appointments were to half-time, non-salaried positions and, often, disproportionately favored Cubans rather than Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans.

After Trevino's and C de Baca's emotional speeches, members of the audience revealed their pro-affirmative action stance by posing tough questions to the speakers. Both gentlemen were asked to identify more effective alternatives to affirmative action,

especially those which could reach minorities in the lowest rungs.

Many people commented on the value of hearing both sides of such a controversial issue. Trevino and C de Baca met informally with the audience after the debate, providing ample time to exchange addresses and more questions.

° Laura Gomez



Moderator Juan Sepulveda addresses audience.



Mr. Fernando C. De Baca speaks with students.

Panel Discusss: 'Racism and the Christian Church'

On Thursday, May 3 students gathered at Boylston Hall to listen to and discuss ideas about "White Racism and the Moral Credibility of the Christian Church." The goal of this symposium, sponsored by the Harvard-Radcliffe Christian Fellowship, the William J. Seymour Society, and the Harvard Foundation for Race Relations, was to generate serious discussion among students on the topic of racism.

Bill Over, a second year student at the Harvard Divinity School, delivered the opening remarks, presenting examples of racism in American society and within the church.

The keynote speaker was Dan Collum, associate editor of *Sojourners Magazine*. Among other things, he talked about going to Sunday school in Mississippi and learning the chorus "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world," and yet not finding any evidence that people believed this simple chorus.

Following Collum's address three panelists shared their unique



(Left to Right) Ken Johnson, Debbie Alvarez, Sally Fagerson, Bill Over, Dan Collum, Rev. David Bliss, Cynthia Silva.

perspectives. Debbie Alvarez '84 gave a definition of racism, after which Cynthia Silva '84 spoke on racism and the failure of the evangelical witness. The final panelist was the Reverend David Bliss of African Enterprise who shared some of his experiences in working towards

racial reconciliation among Christians in South Africa.

After answering questions from the audience for fifty minutes, the panel members continued discussion with the audience at a reception.

° Sally Fagerson



Ms. Margaret McCane, 27.



Expressionas Dance Co. performs at Association of Black Radcliffe Women's event.

Asian Student Organizations Join In Third Annual Cultural Show

Harvard's six Asian student organizations presented their third annual cultural show, which included Asian folk dances, songs and poetry, on March 10 in the Leverett House dining hall.

"We see this as an excellent way to share Asian culture with the Harvard community," show coordinator Albert C. Lin '85 said. The show, which Lin calls "purely a cultural event," was partially funded by the Harvard

Foundation and the Undergraduate Council.

The show included everything from an exhibit of art and photography and demonstrations on Chinese calligraphy, Japanese origami and woodblock printing to a martial arts exhibition, and a fashion show of Indian and Pakistani clothing.

The \$4 admission for the 8 p.m. show included a free party following the performances.

The council funded a videotaping of the event.

Besides the Chinese Student Association, other groups involved in the production were the Asian-American Association, Japanese Cultural Society, Koreans of Harvard-Radcliffe, Radcliffe Asian Women's Group, and the South Asian Organization.

° Frank Tse

(reprinted from *The Crimson*, March 5, 1984)



RAZA's Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Chicano Students and Foundation Host Speaker and Cultural Events for Annual "Fifth of May" Celebration



Sara Cazares, Laura Gomez, and Patricia Corrales



Hector Barreto, Pres., U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



Ballet Folklórico



Susan Gonzales, director, dances

HIDF seeks 'Realistic Approaches to World Hunger'

On April 17, a large audience at student organized symposium, "Realistic Approaches to World Hunger," which took place at the Kennedy School of Government Forum, kicked off a weekend of intensive activities designed to encourage student involvement and awareness.

The Harvard-Radcliffe International Development Forum (HIDF) sponsored the two hour presentation last night, which featured speeches from experts on the problem of world hunger. Two hundred and fifty people

crowded the hall on what K-School authorities described as "an unusually busy Friday night."

Today's events include twenty-one seminars on various related topics about poverty and hunger, and a reception at 6 p.m. in the K-School penthouse for all those interested in joining the HIDF.

"It's pretty amazing the way things have worked out," said Eggert T. Dagbjartsson '86, one of the four co-founders of HIDF, and a resident of

Currier House. "We just started last December as a chapter of the national, umbrella organization, the Overseas Development Network (ODN)," Dagbjartsson added.

"I must say it's an encouraging sign to see so many interested people," said the moderator, Donald F. Horning, Whitehead Professor of Chemistry and Director of Interdisciplinary Programs at the Harvard School of Public Health.

° Ari Z. Posner

(reprinted from *The Crimson*, March 24, 1984)

**THE HARVARD FOUNDATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

PROFESSOR WILLIAM BOSSERT
Gordon McKay Professor of Applied
Mathematics, Master of Lowell House.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN CORNELL
Assistant Professor of Sociology.

PROFESSOR JOHN DOWLING
Professor of Biology, Master of Leverett
House.

MR. DAVID EVANS—Senior Admissions
Officer for Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges.

DEAN JOHN FOX—Dean of Harvard
College.

REV. PROFESSOR PETER GOMES
Plummer Professor of Christian Morals
Minister in the Memorial Church.

PROFESSOR DUDLEY HERSCHEBACH
Frank B. Baird Jr. Professor of Science,
Master of Currier House.

MR. MARVIN HIGHTOWER—Public
Information Officer in the Harvard News
Office.

PROFESSOR RICHARD MARIUS
Director of the Expository Writing
Program.

MS. MYRA MAYMAN—Director of the
Office of the Arts at Radcliffe and Harvard.

MR. KIYO MORIMOTO—Director of the
Bureau of Study Counsel.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN WILLIAMS
Peabody Professor of American
Archaeology and Ethnology.



Former Harvard Basketball coach Thomas Satch Sanders was honored by the Foundation for outstanding contributions to athletics. Mr. Sanders receives a certificate from the President and Fellows of Harvard presented by Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter.

HARVARD FOUNDATION STAFF:

S. Allen Counter, Director

Marily Wu, Staff Assistant

Sharon I. Meers, Newsletter Editor

Neil Brady, Staff Writer

Margaret Chin, Staff Writer



THE HARVARD FOUNDATION

Harvard University
17 University Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138



Billy Mills (seated at left), and 'Running Brave' producer Ira Englander (standing) meet with Dean John Fox (seated at right) and students (standing left to right) Myra Winckler, Rohana Fines, and Brian Wescott. Right: Mills with Joe Bowen.

