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Puerto Rico Governor Honored by Foundation

A two-day visit by Puerto Rico Governor Rafael Hernández-Colón highlighted this week's *Semana Puertorriqueña* (Puerto Rican Week) at Harvard. The week-long series of events was designed to focus the University's attention on the Commonwealth in the Caribbean.

Speaking to an overflow audience in the Carpenter Center Wednesday night, Hernández-Colón called for political leadership in the Western Hemisphere with "a field of vision beyond the next headline, the next poll, the next campaign, indeed beyond the borders of the country one seeks to lead."

"If we truly believe in the perfectability of man, we cannot assent to the mediocrity of political leadership," he said.

Hernández-Colón received a citation from the Harvard Foundation for Interracial and Intercultural Relations

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Governor Colón of Puerto Rico accepts Harvard Foundation Award for Outstanding Leadership from President Rosovsky. Looking on is his wife Lila Colón and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation.



Governor Colón shares insights with Harvard students (l-r): Baltazar Cruz '87, Jay Sanchez '89, Jaime Capella '88, Michelle Davila '88, Fernando Lopez '88, Mariana Ortiz-Blanes '89.

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for his "outstanding contributions to governmental leadership and international cooperation."

The citation was presented by L. Fred Jewett, Dean of Harvard College. Other University officials who met with the Governor during his visit included Henry Rosovsky, Acting President; John Shattuck, Vice President for Government, Community, and Public Affairs; Richard Hunt, University Marshal; and A. Michael Spence, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The Governor also met with members of the Organización de Estudiantes Puertorriqueños de Harvard (Organization of Puerto Rican Students at Harvard) who, along with the Harvard Foundation, organized the week's events.

In addition to the Governor's visit, the events included two panel discussions, one on Puerto Rican political participation in the United States and the other on U.S. policy and economic development in the Caribbean Basin.

A lecture on Friday, March 6th, in

Boylston Hall by novelist Luis Rafael Sanchez capped the week's schedule. The talk, on Puerto Rican literature, was sponsored by Harvard's Committee on Latin American and Iberian Studies and the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

In addition, a series of portraits by Francisco Rodón were displayed at the Carpenter Center through March 11. Art by Lorenzo Homar and Antonio Martorell was also shown at Leverett House Dining Hall.

Hernández-Colón, in his speech Wednesday night, concentrated his



University Marshal Richard Hunt presents an etching of the old Harvard Yard to Governor Colón and his wife.



Governor Colón talks with Admissions Officer David Evans and Dean Thomas Crooks.



Judy and John Dowling, Co-Masters of Leverett House, warmly welcome Governor Colón and his wife.



Mariana Ortiz Blanes '89 and Jaime Martin Capella '89 escort Governor Colón to the Leverett House Banquet which was given in his honor.

remarks on a discussion of the nature of political leadership in a democracy.

"Too often we lose sight of the moral dimensions of leadership, the basic values a candidate or president would impart to this country," he said.

As an example of a leader with the ability to "transform the life of his people," Hernández-Colón cited Luis Muñoz Marín. Muñoz Marín, who received an honorary LL.D. from Harvard in 1955, was, the Governor said, troubled at the end of his long and outwardly successful career.

While his administration had brought economic growth and political stability to Puerto Rico, Muñoz Marín "knew that materialism could deprive his people — the simple people of the mountains and fields of Puerto Rico — of their finest qualities, of the generosity of spirit that gives eloquent testimony to a moral life," he said.

Hernández-Colón has not found the same qualities in recent American presidents.

"For almost two decades," he said, "the most predictable factor in the

United States has been the failure of national leaders." Referring to the recent Tower Commission report, he added, "We seem to have sunk below the minimum standards of governance."

"Lacking objectives with moral import that are framed into a strong national purpose and give coherence to our policies, we fail to provide the leadership to strengthen democracy and development in this hemisphere," Hernández-Colón concluded.

—*Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette*



The Puerto Rican flag, in front of University Hall, is admired by Governor Colón and Harvard students.



Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis receives Governor Colón and his wife at the State House.



Dean L. Fred Jewett meets Governor Colón at a reception.

Remarks By The Governor of Puerto Rico Honorable Rafael Hernández Colón

Leverett House, March 5, 1987

It has been a very exciting experience receiving an award from the Harvard Foundation and hospitality from the Harvard Community. But intimate realization that this recognition comes more from the generosity of Harvard rather than my own merits has kept my feet on the ground. Other factors have contributed to this sobering effect. I was told during my visit that the best candidate for the President is a sitting Governor who served one term, then was defeated and was reelected; who has a law degree; who comes from a place where the Kennedys are highly popular; and who speaks Spanish. As I waited for more details pointing in my direction the cruel words came: not you — Mike Dukakis.

I have been very pleased to take part in *La Semana Puertorriquena*, the week of exhibitions and lectures organized by Puerto Rican students at Harvard. For some of you, this week may have marked an introduction to Puerto Rican culture from the magnificent portraits of Rodón to the artisan's work that grace these walls. I hope it will encourage all of you to learn about the Puerto Rican people on the island and on the mainland — and to understand us, our heritage, our struggles, our character, our dreams, our aspirations. We seek to shatter the stereotypes that blind many Americans to what we are. We in Puerto Rico are an ethnically and socioeconomically integrated society with profound respect for the dignity of our fellow men and women. Chauvinism is not our trade but neither is servility. The story of Puerto Rico is not the mythology of *West Side Story*.

It is the unique story of a people who not by its doing — found itself immersed in a challenging and sometimes hostile cultural setting, who have been able to cope within this

environment with difficulty but with increased success and still have maintained their sense of identity with their culture and collective destiny. It is the true tale of a people lifting themselves from utter poverty to attain the highest standard of living in Latin America. It is the story of a people dedicated to education — where more than half of the workers have at least twelve years of schooling. It is the home of a lively and enthusiastic democracy that manages to sort out very deep differences on the crucial question of political status and allows our people to go forward together.

It is the account of an island now working to safeguard and strengthen democracy throughout the Caribbean. It is the story of highly talented individuals — artists, athletes, statesmen, scholars, surgeons, jurists, and others — who have made a memorable contribution in Puerto Rico and the world. Proud of Hispanic heritage and U.S. citizenship, Puerto Ricans are in good part, fluent in Spanish and English. The writer John Naisbit has said that the three languages the world must know by the end of the century are English, Spanish, and computer.

Yet the United States clings to an insular tradition on monolingualism. The Hispanic population is increasing substantially in many states. Tragically, many Americans have seen this trend not as enriching the nation's culture but rather as threatening America's identity. They have taken to the electoral barricades to block the use of Spanish. Rather than bridge the linguistic gap between Latin America and Hispanic communities here, they would widen that divide by declaring English the official language of the United States. As the renowned Spanish writer and philosopher Miguel DeUnamuno has said, "The person

who understands two is worth two persons." The people of the United States must eventually embrace that proposition, if not out of intellectual curiosity or communal spirit, then certainly out of self-interest. We must understand that the most important political, economic, and security connection for the United States is the North-South axis that runs from the Arctic Ocean to Argentina. Geographically, linguistically, historically, it is our destiny in Puerto Rico to be a pivot on which that Axis turns.

An often unheralded strength of universities like this one is the degree to which they bring together students of diverse backgrounds and beliefs. The many cultures and countries represented on this campus give Harvard the opportunity to educate some of the best young minds in America in ways that reach far beyond the classroom. The theory, practice, and perpetuation of moral values must be an indispensable part of the college experience. Universities must create not just an intellectual foundation, but an ethical framework for their students. That framework must help to instill sensitivity and respect across racial and cultural lines. I would particularly like to recognize Harvard's leadership through the Harvard Foundation and the inspired guidance of Dr. Counter in advancing the goals that unite us all.

Universities play an important role for society when their sociologists try to untangle the pathology of prejudice. But analysis performed on the campus must be complemented by participation in the wider community. Sincere and skillful student activism at Harvard and other colleges helped to transform America's policy toward Apartheid. I would urge you to stay involved in the South Bronx

and South End Boston as well. It would be a shame if in trying to build democracy abroad we failed to perfect democracy at home. Here at home, the filter of fear and prejudice distorts our democratic goals. It keeps black people from living in Forsyth County, Georgia, for the last three quarters of a century. It sparks a terrifying racial murder in Howard Beach, Queens.

It comes, too, in unspoken and insidious forms that avoid the headlines yet deprive countless individuals of a fair chance for economic advancement. It damages self-esteem and helps to destroy family structure in parts of minority group neighborhoods across the United States. It demands that those who would gain acceptance forfeit their cultural iden-

tity. The scourge of prejudice knows no vaccine or permanent cure. But we can work to confine this disease which deflates the American dream and diminishes us all.

The unfinished business of human rights in America calls out for our attention. So, too, does the broader agenda of Government and private assistance to the most vulnerable citizens in our society. Harvard recently announced it would forgive Law School loans for those students who take relatively low-paying jobs. Not every student will leave here to enter direct combat against poverty and discrimination, but all of us have a responsibility to resist the typecasting of our fellow citizens that tarnishes the pluralist ideal. "America," said

Alexis de Tocqueville, "is a land of wonders in which everything is in constant motion and every change an improvement. No natural boundary seems to be set to the effort of man: and in his eyes what is not yet done is only what he has not yet attempted to do." We place no ceilings on achievement in America, yet often we place groups of people in convenient categories and keep them powerless to escape. We establish no natural boundary, but often devise artificial barriers, not always visible, that prevent many Americans from fulfilling their potential. I leave Harvard tonight with a democratic vision which encompasses all cultures and encourages the fullest development of all of our people.



Carmen Pola (far left) discusses Puerto Rican issues with Harvard students (l-r): Elisa Fernandez '88, Jose Sanchez '89, and Victoria Rivera '87.



Mr. and Mrs. Oronz and another guest pose for a photograph at the reception to honor Governor Colón.

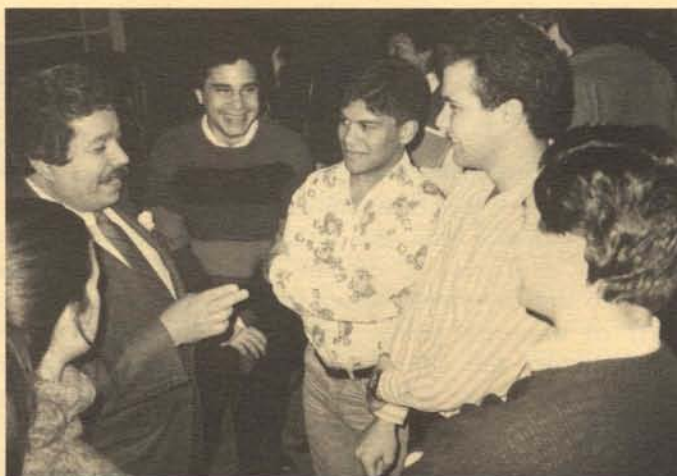
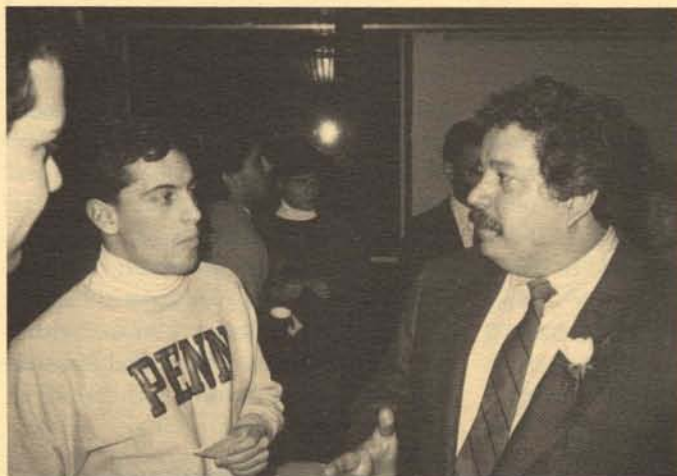


Shanna Braxton '88 meets the Governor of Puerto Rico. She is flanked by Sylvia Torres '88 (far left), Eva DeLuna '88 and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation.



Harvard College students attend the reception for Governor Colón. From left to right are Diana Davila '88, Yaritza Colón '89, Margaret Pinkham '88, Sylvia Torres '88.

PUERTO RICAN AWARENESS WEEK



Left to right, top to bottom:

Robert Carneiz '89 speaks with Philadelphia Councilman Angel Ortiz.

City Councilman of Philadelphia, Angel Ortiz, imparts his political philosophies with (l-r) Fernando Lopez '88, Jay Sanchez '89, Jaime Capella '88 and Francisco Gonzalez '88.

Fernando Lopez '88 (far left) and Robyn Roman '88 (far right) present gifts of appreciation to Carmen Pola and Councilman Ortiz following their talks.

Distinguished Puerto Rican economists discuss the past and present economy of Puerto Rico during a well attended symposium at Harvard's Boylston Hall.

Francisco Rodón speaks with Harvard College students.



RECEPTION FOR PUERTO RICAN PAINTER FRANCISCO RODÓN



Left to right, top to bottom:

Painter Rodón, standing in front of one of his portraits, and Governor Colón, listen as Michelle Davilla '88 comments on his painting style.

(l-r): Governor Colón of Puerto Rico, Francisco Rodón, Mayor Flynn of Boston.

(l-r): Yaritza Colón, Alejandra Ramos, Baltazar Cruz, Francisco Rodón, Myra Mayman, Master of Cabot House, unidentified guest, Luis Giron, Wendell Ocasio.

Francisco Rodón describes his painting technique to a group of students.

Colleges Seek to Ease Racial Tension

The racial unrest that surfaced last October on the University of Massachusetts at Amherst campus could have happened at any school, and the climate that led to the incident is the same at most colleges, representatives from six New England colleges said last night.

"What happened at Amherst could happen anywhere," said James Langley of UMass-Amherst. "And it's something that if we don't address, we will see happen again."

Speaking at a symposium at Harvard University on the growing racial tension on college campuses, Langley and administrators from Brown University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology discussed the problems and some possible solutions to racial tension. The symposium was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation.

Racial incidents have occurred on other campuses and continue to occur in varying degrees, said Gregory Ricks, a dean at Dartmouth.

Last year, students tore down shanties built on the campus green by other students to protest apartheid in South Africa. After the shanties were torn down, Ricks said, black and white students confronted the racial tensions on campus and tried to make changes.

"In looking back at it, most of the alumni and administration say it was one of the worst years in the history of the school," said Ricks. "I look at it, and many students saw it, and believe the green never looked nicer than it was with the shanties."

The shanties and the protests after they were torn down were important because "many people were looking to Dartmouth as a symbol," Ricks said. "It was a symbol of white

power, and how Dartmouth handled the problem was very important," he said.

"What is going on, on our campuses, mirrors society," said Rita Neversol, director of student affairs for the UMass system. "Racism and other-isms are more acceptable than they have been in a long time."

The college representatives said the problems can be solved through admissions policies that include recruitment of minorities, improved support systems for minority students and integration of the history and culture of minority groups into the curriculum of all students.

"This is not happening in a vacuum," said Neversol, "and it is not a problem any one institution can solve."

—*Courtesy of the Boston Globe*

Seeking Honor for an Explorer

Matthew A. Henson died a bitter man, convinced that his countrymen would never recognize the role he played in the discovery of the North Pole.

It was Henson who guided Cmdr. Robert E. Peary, crippled by frostbite, to a mound of ice and snow on top of the world and planted the American flag in 1909, according to Dr. S. Allen Counter, an associate professor of neurophysiology at Harvard University.

"But when they returned to the United States, Henson became very bitter at the treatment he received from Peary and the American people," said Counter. "Peary received numerous accolades and awards. Henson was ignored. He died penniless and bitter in 1955."

Peary attained the rank of admiral, died a respected and accomplished man and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Henson received

a check for \$98 from Peary as payment for a year of work, Counter said. Then, in 1913, Henson's achievement was met with grudging acceptance: He was appointed a "messenger boy" in the U.S. Customs House in New York following an appeal by black leaders.

Counter, who is also director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, is hoping that Henson will finally obtain the recognition he deserved. He has written a letter to President Reagan, requesting that Henson's body be removed from an obscure plot in New York City's Woodlawn Cemetery and interred at Arlington National Cemetery alongside other heroes.

So far, one technicality stands in the way. Federal regulations stipulate that only registered servicemen are permitted burial in the Virginia cemetery.

"There have been only four non-

veterans approved for burial there since the rules changed in 1967 and all were granted by presidents," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Dunn, military assistant to Robert K. Kawson, assistant secretary of the US Army. "Three of the nonveterans were foreign service officers assassinated abroad and the fourth was a former congressman and chief judge of the Court of Military Appeals."

Dunn said the president and the assistant secretary of the army must determine whether a nonveteran should be interred in the cemetery. He said the interment rate increased so rapidly between 1962 and 1966 — from 2,000 burials a year to 6,000 — that more restrictive criteria for burial were established and only those who were on active duty and had received the highest military decorations could be approved for burial in the national cemetery.

Served as valet

Technically, Henson did not serve in the US Navy, but Counter said recently that historical records indicate that Henson was on the naval payroll from 1888 to 1893 for serving as Peary's valet and assistant. Those jobs were among the highest paid navy positions available to a black man around the turn of the century.

Asked whether the racial segregation that prevented Henson from officially serving as a serviceman would be taken into consideration, Dunn said: "I imagine the White House will take everything into consideration. Dr. Counter's letter is being reviewed at the White House and a decision should be made soon."

Counter spent eight years researching Henson's life and the bond he shared with Peary. Their friendship, he said, puzzled Americans who criticized Peary for allowing a black man to share in making a discovery as important as the North Pole.

Research and a journey to the northwest reaches of Greenland last year helped Counter find a key to the relationship between the two men.

"Both men had fathered children by Eskimo women in 1906," he said in an interview. "Both sons are 80 years old and both want to meet their American relatives and see their fathers' birth and resting places."

Reached at her home in Roxbury last night, Olive Henson, 60, the explorer's great niece, said she is elated about Counter's efforts to get

Henson the proper recognition for his achievement.

"We knew the story," she said. "We knew my uncle had made the trip, but there was nothing ever written about it. Even in school I had problems convincing people that my uncle had been instrumental in finding the North Pole."

Harvard University is planning a reunion between Ahnahkaq Henson and Karree Peary, and their American relatives in Boston, New York, Washington and Maryland.

"How do you explain?"

"It would be hard to explain to the son of Matthew Henson and the son of Robert Peary that one man's father is buried in a beautiful mausoleum in Arlington National Cemetery and the other man's father is buried in a shallow grave in New York City," said Counter. "How do you explain that to two men who will not understand that although their fathers were together in life, they were separated in death due to race?"

According to Counter, the bond between Henson and Peary developed over a period of years characterized by eight perilous journeys across the Arctic Ocean that eventually led to a discovery as significant as the first moon walk would become more than a half-century later.

On their final expedition, the crew reached 133 miles of their destination when Peary asked Henson to continue on with him and told his white

crewmen to turn back.

"He turned to them and said, 'Henson must stay with me. I cannot make it without him,'" Counter said. Peary "had lost several toes in previous expeditions. Henson, assisted by Eskimos, carried Peary to the pole," Counter said.

Counter described Henson as a brilliant man who left his home in Maryland when he was twelve to work in a store and attend school in Washington. Henson later moved to Baltimore, where he worked as a cabin boy on a ship, the *Katie Hines*.

The captain of the ship taught Henson navigation, mathematics, the classics and the Bible. Henson traveled to China, Russia and South America during his ten years aboard ship and became fluent in the Mandarin dialect. Later, he learned the language and skills of the Eskimos whom he and Peary met during their travels north, according to Counter, who has filmed a documentary and written a book, "Peary-Henson and the North Pole Secret," based on his findings.

"Matthew Henson went to the North Pole because he was qualified, because he understood the language and could communicate with the Eskimos they met along the way, and yet he got nothing — absolutely nothing — in return," said Counter. "But every year after Peary's death Henson would go to Washington to place a wreath on Peary's grave."

— *Courtesy of the Boston Globe*

Uganayan Pilipino Harvard/Radcliffe Philippine Forum

(formerly the Harvard/Radcliffe Philippine Study Group)

Our organization was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Harvard Foundation that enabled us to present two films to the Harvard Community in commemoration of the 1986 Philippine Revolution. The two films, "People Power", and "Death

of a Patriot", were offered to an audience of approximately 100 persons free of charge on March 1, 1987, in Science Center C. Because the objective of our organization is to educate the community at large and to encourage participation by any and

all interested individuals in our programs, we were happy to note that the event was attended by a large number of non-Filipinos.

Even so, that afternoon provided a chance for many of the members of

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Harvard's Filipino community to come together and relive some of the events of 1986, which have so deeply affected those personally involved in the Revolution. Due to the fact that Harvard attracts such a wide variety of persons involved in important events worldwide, we were privileged to have with

us in the audience some persons who played key roles in 1986 (a year which deeply affected people in the Cambridge and Boston communities where the Aquinos used to live, as well as people in Manila) and we felt our film presentation offered some way to think again about those events which continue to affect the world today.

Thanks to the generosity of the Harvard Foundation, we were indeed able to complete this very successful endeavor. We wish to offer our heartfelt thanks to the Harvard Foundation for providing us with this opportunity.

— Glenn Orenstein '88

1987 Asian Cultural Festival

“**S**ervant, come here,” and with the brush of his sleeves, a young man dressed as a courtesan of old China approached the woman in the red and gold gown. So began the 1987 Asian Cultural Festival. The hosts for the show were dressed as the Empress Dowager and her servant and the show revolved around her constant need for different and exciting types of entertainment. She got her full share at the Cultural Festival, which was held on Saturday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. in Paine Hall.

It opened with the lotus dance, a traditional Chinese dance depicting lotus floating on a pond. Despite the grace and beauty of the women, the Empress wanted more. Kung-fu demonstrations, performance on the Kayagum, a Korean instrument, a

modern song sung in Mandarin by three Chinese rappers, a sword dance, music by the Vietnamese, poetry reading on Asian American reflections, and a parody of the above mentioned acts in a skit by the Harvard Asian Men “HAM and Eggs” followed in an attempt to please the Empress. All these groups succeeded in not only entertaining the audience (as well as the Empress) but also demonstrated the richness and diverseness of the various Asian cultures.

After intermission, the Empress and her servant became undergraduates once again but the quality of the acts didn't change. The splendor of traditional Chinese culture was expressed in the ribbon dance followed by violin music from Sharon Chen '89, a cup dance depicting the

celebration of joyous occasions with the drinking of wine, and the finale, a 30 minute play, a modern Chinese Romeo and Juliet.

All the Asian groups on campus took part in this extravaganza production, including the Harvard Vietnamese Association, the Tiger Crane Kung-fu Club, Koreans of Harvard/Radcliffe and the Asian American Association/Chinese Student Association Dance Troupe, as well as picture exhibits by the Philippine Study Group and the Chinatown Committee of Phillips Brooks House. Special thanks must be extended to the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council, whose generous support made this event possible.

— Silchen Ng '88

Poetry and Politics: Afro-American Poetry Today

The conference held between March sixth and March eighth of 1987 on “Poetry and Politics” was an effort to combine the expertise and insight of scholars in the field of Afro-American history, of Afro-American poets who came into the public eye during the 1960s, and of interested members of the greater Boston area. As Carolivia Herron, the Project Director, writes, by combining these insights the hope was to develop “new critical approaches for analyzing the historical developments in Afro-American poetry by providing a forum for discussing such perennially disturbing concerns as the aesthetic effects of politics in the creation

of Afro-American art and the problem of building a tradition following such a period of artistic efflorescence.”

The conference occurred over a period of three days, and drew audiences of between eighty and two hundred people. The first two panels, at the Massachusetts College of Art in Roxbury on March sixth, consisted of presentations by panelist speakers June Jordan, Ishmael Reed, Etheridge Knight, Lorna Goodison, and Angela Davis. The second session, at the Boston Public Library on March seventh, consisted of panelist speakers Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (H. Rap Brown), Michael Harper, and Rita Dove, and the last session, on March

eighth at the Harvard University Science Center, consisted of panelist speakers Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, Ishmael Reed, and Rita Dove.

The conference, which was presented by the Afro-American Studies Department of Harvard University and the Center for Literary Studies in collaboration with Roxbury Community College gratefully acknowledges receiving funding from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Harvard Foundation.

— Gillian Caldwell '88

Cultural Rhythms

Once again, The Harvard Foundation's second Annual Cultural Festival was a tremendous success, bringing together the rich and diverse forms of cultural expressions that exist within the Harvard community. This year over twenty-eight student organizations participated in the event, such as the African Students Association, Afro-American Cultural Center, American Indians at Harvard, Arab Students Association, Asian American Association, Association of Black Radcliffe Women, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán, Black Community and Student Theater, Black Students Association, Caribbean Club, Chinese Students Association, Circo Italiano, Citystep, Din & Tonics, Expressions Dance Company, Hellenic Organization, Hillel, Japanese Cultural Society, Koreans of Harvard-Radcliffe, The Kuumba Singers, Netherlands-American Academic Circle, La Organización Estudiantil Boricua, La Raza, On Thin Ice, The Radcliffe Pitches, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Southeast Asian Club, Vietnamese Association and South Asian Students Association. It is an event that builds awareness not only on the day of the Festival itself, but allows students of various backgrounds to work together for weeks in putting such an occasion

together. Such a working relationship fosters understanding, empathy and cooperation between a large number of the student body which would otherwise have no reason to interact. The Festival was attended by over fif-

teen hundred people, giving reaffirmation of the need for such an event. The Harvard Foundation's honorary host for the Festival was Marilyn McCoo, star of television's 'Solid Gold'.



Professor Loeb (fifth from left) and members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society perform in Sanders Theatre.



Lynn Marchetti '87 (left, with Dr. S. Allen Counter, left, and Dean L. Fred Jewett, right) and Judith Jackson '87 (right, with Dr. Counter) are 1986-1987 recipients of the Director's Award for outstanding contributions to the intercultural life of the University.



The Harvard community sampled international cuisine and enjoyed performances by student groups participating in the 1987 Cultural Rhythms celebration held in Memorial Hall.



Cultural Rhythm's honorary host, Marilyn McCoo, accepts an award for her "Outstanding Contributions to the Performing Arts" from Dean L. Fred Jewett and Dr. S. Allen Counter.

GLIMPSES OF THE 1987 CULTURAL RHYTHMS CELEBRATION





Trading Places

***THEM*, Written and Directed by David A. Lee**

"I wouldn't want to be in his shoes." That sort of self-satisfied statement hits home hardest when you are the oppressor and he is the oppressed.

THEM, written and directed by senior David A. Lee, speculates on what would happen if you did put on his shoes. Set in an alternate-reality South of the mid-1950's, the play shows blacks as the oppressors and whites as the oppressed. Africans are the ruling elite; "Euro-Americans" are maligned and impoverished. The War of Independence was fought against Nigeria rather than England. Accordingly, the play's characters are two low-class whites and a powerful black executive and his wife and daughter.

THEM consists mainly of familiar stereotypes uttered in unfamiliar contexts. To Lee's credit, however, the humor and surprise of the role reversal makes us think more carefully about just what we expect to hear. This may be the first time you've heard the phrase "black and respectable." Lee ironically and skillfully invents turnabout phrases: the racial slur in this play is "ghost." It's momentarily embarrassing to see poor white men crudely ogle a rich black girl from afar, and to hear the wealthy family discussing their white servants with distaste.

But pretty soon we get caught up in the stories of the individuals — the poor men trying to find an opportunity, the rich parents forcing their daughter into a life she doesn't want — and we almost ignore what race they actually are. The mere novelty of it isn't quite enough to keep the point in the front of our minds.

It may not tell you as much as it hopes to about racism, but *THEM* is much more involving than most plays on campus. Perhaps the spare production is dictated by budget, but in the end it works. The sparse set, consisting entirely of an old, hard bench marked "Non-Blacks" and a new cushy one for the privileged, is both intimate and unobtrusive. The lights that focus alternately on one of the two groups emphasize the ruthlessness of prejudice. Dave Cheng's blues guitar as the only background music evokes richly the time and emotional feeling of the play.

Lee clearly admits that his characters are sharply drawn — "these people were made to be stereotypes." But the actors in *THEM* go beyond stereotypes to create entertaining and believable individuals. Steve Barr and Scott Chavez, the "Euro-Americans", maintain energy in their slowpoke speech. The audience sees the futility of their situation even as they're tossing off the play's jokes.

Unfortunately, it's hard to identify with these characters. It's not the South of the fifties; people are aware



Author David A. Lee

that many events of that time were wrong. *THEM* might possibly shock an audience in Forsyth County, Georgia, but not one in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Lee's play might have had more impact had he set it in the present, when racial identities are more mixed, and the differences and prejudices even more insidious.

But he does succeed in creating a no-nonsense production that is daring and intriguing and fully worth seeing just for its lack of furbelow, flourish and conspicuous experimentalism. It's too bad the play itself isn't daring enough to make us really step into the other man's shoes.

— Rebecca Nedostup '88
Courtesy of the Independent

Committee on Race Relations/Harassment

In March 1987, Dean L. Fred Jewett, in collaboration with the Harvard Foundation, formed the University's first Race Relations/Harassment Committee. The initial objectives of this committee were:

I. To develop an agenda of issues which will help to:

- A. Establish procedures to address racial complaints
- B. Define area of pursuit
- C. Possible Race Relations survey
- II. To review:
 - A. The Epps Survey
 - B. The Gomes Report
 - C. The Fox Report

III. To develop procedures by which racial harassment complaints by students can be effectively dealt with:

- A. Examine University Police relations with Black and Puerto Rican students
- B. Inform majority students about the importance of racial

understanding

IV. To deliver a strong message from the Administration regarding codes of conduct for students and staff regarding Race Relations.

V. To see that information be sent to pre-Harvard matriculants on racial understanding and the importance Harvard attaches to good race relations. Both the Freshman Dean's Office and the Office of the Dean of Admissions will be involved in this process. Possible Freshman Week Orientation Programs on Race Relations. Presentation of suggestions and input regarding Freshman Proctor Orientation to the Dean of Freshman.

VI. To update the survey on Race Relations and racial attitudes at Harvard conducted by an intra-university or extra-university agency.

The Student-Faculty Advisory Committee on Race Relations/Harassment consists of the following members:

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Harvard University
17 University Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

