



# The HARVARD FOUNDATION Newsletter

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## Leadership Workshop Highlight of the Semester!

**H**ow often are leaders of diverse student groups brought together in one room and encouraged to communicate with each other? A workshop on leadership and assertiveness training took place on the 19th of March in Boylston Hall. The workshop focused on issues concerning minority students. Participants came from many student groups, including AAA (Asian-American Association), AIH (American Indians at Harvard), BSA (Black Students Association), ISA (International Students Association), RAZA (Mexican Students Association), RUS (Radcliffe Union of Students), SAA (South-Asian Association), and UC (Undergraduate Council).

Two workshop leaders, Ms. Rita Nethersole and Ms. Elizabeth Young, were selected for their intercultural experience and expertise. Ms. Nethersole, a Radcliffe graduate, is the Director of Student Affairs at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The workshop that she has designed on assertiveness training focuses on awareness and discrimination, definition and clarification of personal rights and responsibilities, and also addresses emotional blocks and anxiety. Ms. Young is a representative from Inter-Change Consultants, a company based in New York City. The company was established as a multicultural resource for personal, professional and organizational change. Ms. Young's area of



*Workshop leaders Elizabeth Young (left) and Rita Nethersole engage the participants in dialogue to promote cultural understanding.*

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*Mark Kuo '90, Co-President of the Asian American Association at Harvard addresses the workshop participants.*



expertise includes individual and group perceptions, interpersonal and leadership skills, and organizational effectiveness.

The two workshop leaders integrated their expertise into a customized full-day workshop in order to provide students with enlightenment and insight. In more specific terms, the workshop was designed to improve understanding and communications between different cultural groups. The participating student groups were invited to submit a list of problems that they felt were the most pressing and needing resolution. In this way the workshop was tailored to the needs of the participants.

The workshop consisted of several segments. Initially, Ms. Young asked the participants to introduce themselves by saying who they were, what they considered the most important part of their upbringing, and what they considered the most severe obstacle to interracial and cultural understanding. The responses varied. Most participants considered their family, their community, or religion the most important part of their upbringing. The participants agreed that there were many obstacles to interracial and cultural understanding. These obstacles ranged from ignorance and unwillingness to learn about other cultures, fear of foreign races and cultures, voluntary segregation, to language barriers.

Ms. Young then explained, in simple anthropological terms, how cultures differ. In short, she suggested that cultures range from low context to high context. These descriptive terms do not imply a value judgment but reflect how people within a culture communicate with each other. For example, in a low context culture, meaning is mostly transmitted through interpretation of words. In a high context culture, more is transmitted than the literal meaning of words. Gestures, location, dress, and hidden meanings of words are all important. Different cultures view space and time very differently. Thus, alternative perspectives can be grounds for serious misunderstanding. Ms. Young pointed out



*Robert Henry '90 and Rita Nethersole demonstrate aggressive and passive behavior with role playing.*



*Jean Fox Tree '88 (AIH), Manuel Lopez '89 (RAZA), and Sylvia Garcia '90 (RAZA) share their similar experiences as minorities at Harvard.*



*Mitzi Meriwether '90 (RUS/BSA), Eva Lum '89 (AAA), Camille Holmes '89 (BSA), and Arlene Mayeda '91 (AAA) discuss their myths and perceptions of each other's ethnic group.*



the importance of understanding and accommodating cultures different from one's own.

After this segment, Ms. Nethersole explained how poor most people really are at listening. Through a simple exercise where people had to restate what another person said before expressing their own thoughts, participants discovered that a great deal of effort is required to listen and pay close attention in a conversation.

After lunch, Ms. Nethersole continued her part of the workshop. She first probed the participants' perceptions about assertive behavior and then corrected these misperceptions. Assertive behavior is somewhere between passive and aggressive behavior. It also

accomplishes something else; it makes one feel better about one's own behavior.

There are many basic assertive rights: the right to be treated with respect, the right to have and express one's own feelings and opinions, the right to be listened to and be taken seriously, the right to change one's mind, the right to feel good about oneself, and the right to choose not to be assertive. By recognizing and using these rights it is possible to come out of every difficult encounter feeling good.

The exploration of assertive rights was enhanced by role-playing. Generally, where assertive behavior was displayed, there was the least amount of bad feelings, intentions were the clearest, and there was no misunderstanding. The lesson was clear: assertive behavior is positive for an individual.

For the last segment, Ms. Young wanted to explore and correct racial and cultural stereotypes. First, she asked the participants, except for those of the particular group being discussed, to submit stereotypes associated with that group. Ms. Young then asked the same participants to write down what they knew of that particular group's history. It was apparent that a great many more stereotypes existed than

were warranted by the sparse and unsure knowledge of each of the minority group's history.

To correct some of the stereotypes and to learn more about the history of the various groups, the members of each group were asked to make a short presentation describing the most important aspects of their history and the most important personae. This also proved to be a difficult task; the expectations one has of how much one should know about one's own culture or race far outweigh actual knowledge.

This last segment was very enlightening. There are many stereotypes of different racial and cultural groups that act consciously and unconsciously. These stereotypes can only be fought by education, by learning about the situation and history of other groups. One salient example was the demolition of the stereotype of Asian-Americans as a "model minority." This stereotype came about with the "second wave" of immigrants from Asia. In the late 1960's and during the 70's, immigrants from Asian countries were accepted to the U.S. based on passing a test for professional skills. Only by getting high scores on this test could scientists, lawyers, doctors, and other professionals be allowed to immigrate. The influx of this small, but highly visible, portion of educated Asians has distorted the perception of Americans who view Asian-Americans as a "model minority." We see that the application even of a potentially positive stereotype is a disservice to the members of the group concerned.

In light of all that was learned by the participants in the workshop during this one day, it would not be an exaggeration to call this workshop a tremendous success! The students, Ms. Nethersole and Ms. Young all agreed that a lot had been achieved and that this workshop on leadership and assertiveness training should become an annual event.

—Harald Ruda '88  
with assistance from Robert Henry '90  
and Eva Lum '89



Todd Flynn '89 (UC) and Harald Ruda '88 challenge cultural myths with historical facts about their respective cultural histories.



Maria Cortez '91 (RAZA), Raul Perez '90 (RAZA), Mark Kuo '90 (AAA), Assistant Dean Hilda Hernandez-Gravelle, David Chiu '91 (AAA), Robert Henry '90 (BSA), and Todd Flynn '89 (UC) exercise listening techniques presented by Rita Nethersole.



## Cultural Rhythms: From Bagpipes to Baba Ghanouj

Seldom does Harvard's diversity shine more brightly than during the Harvard Foundation's Cultural Rhythms festival.

Last Saturday, the show took center stage at Sanders Theatre and rocked the venerable venue to its Gothic rafters.

Before an enthusiastic crowd that included President Derek Bok, College Dean Fred Jewett, and Student Dean Archie Epps, more than twenty student performing groups sang and strummed and strutted their stuff during the show's third annual appearance.

Grammy Award-winning composer Rubén Blades, LLM '85, emceed the show, scoring a big hit with the audience. After intermission, Blades—impressed by the talent he had seen—proposed closing down Widener and putting on daily festivals. The crowd roared with delight.

In a more serious vein, before the opening number, Blades looked back on his boyhood in Panama and recalled how exposure to cultural diversity had powerfully shaped his social consciousness. Blades has become well

known for the social message of his music.

Midway through the program, Bok presented Blades with a Foundation certificate honoring his "outstanding contributions" to the performing arts. Bok added a few personal compliments to Blades in Spanish.

Toward the end of the program, Blades received a surprise proclamation from José Masso, a representative of Governor Michael Dukakis, who had declared Saturday "Rubén Blades Day" in the Commonwealth.



Harvard students prepare to greet Rubén Blades at Logan Airport. (Left to right: Denise Padin '90, Diana Davila '88, Eva Lum '89, Robert Henry '90, Michele Davila '88).



Rubén Blades LLM '85, accompanied by Mrs. Blades, animatedly talks with students about his career as a lawyer, singer and actor at a Cabot House dinner, co-sponsored by Master Myra Mayman, held in his honor.



Over fifty students enjoyed a luncheon at Kirkland House, co-sponsored by Masters Donald and Cathleen Pfister, and listened to Rubén Blades LLM '85 underline the importance of a Harvard education in preparation for a career in community service.



Honorary Cultural Rhythms Host Rubén Blades LLM '85 with President Derek Bok and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation.



### Around the World

The show itself was quiet as an Albeniz guitar etude, thunderous as syncopated Nigerian drumming, pungent as Scottish bagpipe. Dancing feet leapt across international boundaries landing in China, East Africa, India, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Scotland.

Los Pleneros del Batey, a Philadelphia-based singing and instrumental group, made a special appearance at the festival to accompany dancers from Harvard's La Organización, which staged a Puerto Rican dance that eventually swept up recruits from the audience, including Bok.

"This year's cultural festival was everything I hoped it would be when the idea first occurred to me several

years ago," Foundation Director S. Allen Counter said this week. "It reminds us of what rich cultural and racial diversity we have in the community, and teaches us to appreciate and respect that diversity.

"Interest in this yearly event is growing," he said, noting the size of the crowd, "and the choice of Mr. Blades as our host proved to be an excellent one. We feel very upbeat about the whole thing."

### Food From All Over

After the show, the crowd moved over to the Great Hall of Memorial Hall, which had been decked out in balloons, crape, and travel posters for an international food festival. Students

served up cuisine from the Arab world, Armenia, Black America, China, Greece, India, Jamaica, Korea, Mexico, Scotland, Vietnam, and elsewhere.

"All the groups involved did a terrific job," said Foundation Staff Assistant Adrienne Dingee. "I was really impressed."

Student coordinators for the event were Palisa Rose Kelley '88 and Mary Caragh Noone '88. Foundation Project Coordinator Claudia Hill oversaw the entire operation.

Proceeds from both parts of the festival will go to a local shelter for the homeless and a shelter for battered women.

—Marvin Hightower



*José Masso, Hispanic liaison to Massachusetts Governor Dukakis, speaks with Harvard College students at the Cabot House dinner.*



*Rubén Blades LLM '85 discusses the political situation in his native Panama with interested students at Kirkland House.*



*Christina Díaz '91 sweeps President Bok onto the stage to the rhythms of Los Pleneros del Batey.*



*President Derek Bok in full swing during a Puerto Rican dance at the Third Annual Cultural Rhythms festival.*



## Cultural Rhythms: From Bagpipes to Baba Ghanouj







## Israel's Fortieth Anniversary Celebrated at Harvard University

The members of Safam bounded onstage to the loud cheers of over five hundred listeners at Paine Hall last Thursday evening. The concert was the main event in a night of festivities celebrating Israel's fortieth anniversary. The recent violence in the occupied territories was not forgotten amidst the jubilation, and Safam's inspiring opening number, "Shalom Shalom" ("Peace Peace") seemed to reflect the group's awareness of the additional resonance in both music and lyrics, with lines such as "We can't take this madness any longer/eye for eye, bomb for bomb; How can prayers for peace be answered/while the battle rages on?" and its refrain "For the sake of the ones we love, Shalom, Shalom." The energy and reflectiveness continued in a succession of Safam favorites, including "Just Another Foreigner," "Welcome One and All," "Home to Jerusalem," "Amnesty," and the evocative "Leaving Mother Russia," written in honor of Natan Scharansky, a Soviet refugee who now lives in Israel.

Safam, which bills itself as "The New Jewish-American Sound," is an internationally famous group composed of six members. Strong vocals

and rich harmonies are the hallmark of their distinctive blend of resolutely modern American with traditional Jewish themes and some Hebrew lyrics. During the rest of this year, the group will be touring the United States.

The second half of the concert brought the audience dancing to their feet, with the Safam version of Israeli rock and roll. "Peace by Piece," with echoes of the opening number, was particularly memorable, as well as "Judah Maccabee," which brought the group's former percussionist onstage to sing with them. Safam concluded with a spirited version of "Adon Olam," (a Jewish prayer) to the rhythmic oldies melody, "Blue Moon."

The dancing in the aisles which began at Paine Hall continued in a post-concert party at Memorial Hall. Approximately seven hundred and fifty people attended the party, which included booths from the Israel Book Shop and Oomanoot Art Show, a slide show of Israel, Middle Eastern refreshments (pita, hummous, moussaka and baba-ghanouj), an Israeli band, "Aviv," and Israeli folk-dancing. Early in the evening, the Israeli Consul, Yitschak

Oren, gave a short speech of welcome and appreciation to those who had come to celebrate forty years of Israel's existence.

In a strong gesture of mutual understanding, some Palestinian students attended the festivities. Trig Tarrazzi ('89), president of Harvard's Society of Arab Students, commented, "My gut reaction, when I walked through the door, was . . . they celebrate while we mourn. Then friends I know came over and hugged me. They want the party to be for everyone." Still, for some, the music drew the most immediate attention. Dina Abu-Ghaida ('91), a Palestinian who is an Austrian citizen, noticed that "the music and dancing remind me of a Palestinian party. I am sad that I really can't dance at a party like this. Right now, I can't partake in the happiness." Then she added, "I've gained a lot by coming here [tonight]. The girl who was showing the slide show gave me a hug and said she would love to be my neighbor. I've gained a lot."

The concert and party were made possible in part by a grant from the Harvard Foundation.

—Ester Morgo '88

## Honors for a Trailblazer Polar Explorer Matthew Henson Buried Here

"Welcome home, Matt Henson," said Allen Counter, as the flags of Greenland and the United States fluttered on a windy bluff at Arlington National Cemetery.

Matthew Alexander Henson, the black explorer who literally led Robert E. Peary to the North Pole but is only now getting full and final credit for it, was buried with his wife Lucy at Arlington yesterday, the bodies moved

from unnoted graves in New York.

The dignitaries were here, the first black American astronaut, Guion Bluford, and the owner of *Ebony* magazine, John H. Johnson, and the naval officers and the crisp honor guard, and the minister from Harvard, (Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes) but it was the Henson relatives from Greenland who sat in front.

Two years ago Counter, a professor

of neuroscience and director of the Harvard Foundation, met the Eskimo son of Henson and the Eskimo son of Peary in a village on the northern reaches of Greenland. Counter, while researching Henson's life, had heard from Scandinavian colleagues of some dark-skinned Eskimos there and had gone looking for them.

The two men, Anaukaq Henson and Kali Peary, both 80, came to Washing-



ton just over a year ago to visit Peary's grave. Anaukaq is dead now, but his children and grandchildren were here yesterday to see the explorer's body placed next to Peary's under a memorial stone.

The Peary family has not been uniformly enthusiastic about the discovery of the Eskimo relatives, for Peary was married at the time he and Henson spent four years among the Eskimos. For the Hensons it was a different story.

Three grandsons and two great-grandsons came to town for the ceremony, leaving their village by dogsled last Friday to get here in time. The youngest, 10-year-old Magssanguaq Henson, helped Counter unveil the stone and solemnly shook hands with him afterward.

And the oldest, Avataq Henson, received the folded flag in the tradition of military funerals. He and his brother Qitdlaq, who spoke briefly in Inuit through an interpreter, are short men, stocky, unsmiling, with high cheekbones and the weathered skin of lifelong hunters.

Later the great-grandsons placed small wreaths on the explorer's grave. The Greenlanders are staying with friends here. A niece, Olive Henson Fulton, spoke of waiting "for this day for over 30 years." When she wrote about Henson's exploits years ago for her eighth-grade class, she said, the teacher refused to believe the story.

It's been like that in America through most of the century. Peary's family insisted the Charles County, Maryland, native was "only a servant," though Peary himself had told colleagues, "He must go with me; I cannot make it alone."

But gradually, through the unrelenting efforts of writer Herbert Frisby and others, it became generally accepted that for the last 133-mile trek to the Pole, the 53-year-old Peary rode in a dogsled because his toes had frozen, while Henson, 42, pushed on, breaking the trail.

He reached the spot 45 minutes before Peary arrived to announce, "89



Harvard participants attending the Matthew A. Henson Reinterment Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Left to right: Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes who conducted the reinterment service, Curtis Chang '89, Marianna Ortiz-Blanes '89, Carlos Watson '91, Camille Holmes '88, Manuel Lopez '89, Harald Ruda '88, Denise Padin '90, Glen Orenstein '88, Adrienne Dingee, Harvard Foundation Staff Assistant, Robert Henry '90, (not shown) Hans-Peter Biemann, Sean Brady '89 and Ruby Ruiz '89.

degrees 57 minutes! The Pole at last!" It was April 6, 1909.

Henson said he reached out his hand to congratulate Peary but was refused. The friendship of the two men, which had begun back in 1888, ended right there. Peary received the honors, retired as a rear admiral, was buried at Arlington. Henson got nothing for 35 years, except for a medal from some Chicago geographers.

Finally in 1945 he was awarded a Navy medal by Congress. . . a Defense Department citation in 1949. . . a visit with President Eisenhower at the White House in 1954.

A year later Henson died, aged 89. The plaque in the Maryland State House went up in 1961, and further honors followed. But always he seemed to be an afterthought, an asterisk after Peary's name.

Now he lies beside his estranged friend. "An American hero," Counter

said, "a quiet man who kept his bitterness to himself, who every year tried to visit Peary's grave and leave a wreath."

"Long overdue recognition. . .," Counter said, "We are here to correct a shameful record. . ."

The blossoming leaves of a young elm overhead twirled in the soft breeze. "Welcome to the company of your friend Robert Peary," Counter said. "Welcome to a place always yours by right but denied you."

The Hampton University band and choir stirred in their brilliant blue uniforms. The Greenlanders in their black suits, some in white parkas, gazed across the green valley.

"Welcome to the hearts of black Americans," Counter said. "Welcome home, brother Matthew, welcome home."

—Courtesy of Michael Kernan  
The Washington Post



# North Pole Co-Discoverer Honored at Arlington National Cemetery

## Harvard contingent joins in reinterment ceremony honoring black American explorer Matthew Henson

A group of Harvard students, faculty and administrators will travel to Arlington National Cemetery next week for an historic ceremony honoring a black American explorer.

On April 6—the 79th anniversary of the discovery of the North Pole—co-discoverer Matthew Alexander Henson (1866–1955) will be reinterred in the Cemetery, near the grave of North Pole co-discoverer Robert E. Peary. The remains of Lucy Ross Henson, the explorer's wife, will be reinterred during the same ceremony.

Matthew Henson, who explored the Arctic with Peary between 1891 and 1909, reached the North Pole with Peary and four Polar Eskimos on April 6, 1909. As the first member of the team to arrive at the Pole, Henson planted the American flag there.

The reinterment has come about through the efforts of S. Allen Counter, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Director of The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Early last year, Counter asked President Ronald Reagan to give special permission for Henson's remains to be moved to Arlington National Cemetery (just outside the nation's capital) as a gesture of national recognition. (Henson was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, New York, in 1955. His wife was buried there in 1968.) Last October, the President granted Counter's request.

The Reverend Peter J. Gomes, Minister in the Memorial Church, will officiate at the recommitment service. Guest speakers for the ensuing memorial service will include Colonel Guion S. Bluford, America's first black



*New monument for Matthew A. Henson, Co-Discoverer of the North Pole, unveiled during a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on April 6, 1988, the 79th Anniversary of the day he and Robert Peary reached the Pole. (From left to right: Avataq Henson, grandson of Matthew A. Henson; Dr. S. Allen Counter, who designed the monument; and Mr. John H. Johnson, Chairman and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company whose contributions made the monument possible.)*

astronaut in space; and John H. Johnson, Chairman and CEO of the Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., of Chicago. A memorial monument to Henson will also be unveiled.

### An Unsung Hero

"I am proud to have been instrumental in bringing about this long-overdue recognition for one of America's great unsung heroes," Counter said this week. "Matthew Henson dedicated his life to the service of the nation. And yet, because of the racial climate of his era, few recognized his real contribution to the exploration of one of the major uncharted regions of the world."

Peary and other members of his team

such as Donald B. MacMillan openly acknowledged Henson's indispensability to the success of the Arctic expeditions, Counter said. Generally, however, Henson's importance was ignored or only belatedly accepted. In 1937, for example—nearly 30 years after reaching the Pole—Henson was elected the first black member of the celebrated Explorers Club in New York City. (He remains the only black on the Club's membership rolls, Counter said.) Peary had been a member long before he died in 1920.

Henson, the only American member of Peary's expedition who could speak the difficult Inuit language of the Polar Eskimos, remains legendary



among the Eskimos for his compassion and for his skill as a dogsled driver and hunter, Counter said.

After Peary died, "Henson traveled annually to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at his friend's grave," Counter said. "Henson confided to friends that he hoped to be buried, with honors, near Peary.

"We have arranged for a full military honor guard and a formal military ceremony of reinterment for Henson and his wife. I think he would have wanted it this way."

### From the Far North

Last spring, Counter brought to international attention the existence of the 80-year-old Amer-Eskimo sons of Henson and Peary, who were living in an isolated area of Northwest Greenland, the northernmost inhabited region of the globe.

Counter brought the sons—Anaukaq Henson and Kali (Karree) Peary—and several of their children to the United States for the first time to

meet their American relatives in a series of events called the North Pole Family Reunion.

Harvard was the first major stop for the Greenland Hensons and Pearys on an itinerary that included Washington, D.C.; Charles County, Maryland (Henson's birthplace); New York City; and other East Coast sites significant in the lives of their explorer-ancestors.

On May 31, the Memorial Church held a special service of welcome at which Gomes preached. A family-reunion banquet, hosted by President Derek Bok, took place in Memorial Hall on the following evening.

### A Warm Welcome

"I shall be eternally grateful for the way the Harvard Community opened its heart to these forgotten sons of American pioneers," Counter said. "Students and faculty helped make their visit unforgettable."

Several of the Greenland Hensons will return to the U.S. for the interment ceremony. (Anaukaq Henson died of

prostate cancer last summer.) Members of the American Henson family will also participate in the event.

Student participants include graduate student Hans-Peter Biemann, Sean Brady '89, Curtis Chang '89, Robert Henson '90, Camille Holmes '89, Manuel Lopez '89, Evan Mandery '88, Glen Orenstein '88, Mariana Ortiz-Blanes '89, Denise Padin '90, Harald Ruda '88, Rodolfo Ruiz '90, and Carlos Watson '91.

An international committee has helped Counter to organize the reinterment ceremony. In addition to Bok, Counter, and Gomes, Harvard members of the committee include College Dean L. Fred Jewett; Dr. Chester Pierce, Professor of Education and Psychiatry; Senior H-R Admissions officer David L. Evans; Mary Melissa ("Mimi") Aloian, Manager of the Harvard Information Center; and Marvin Hightower (Committee Secretary), Senior Writer, Office of News & Public Affairs.

—Courtesy of Harvard Gazette

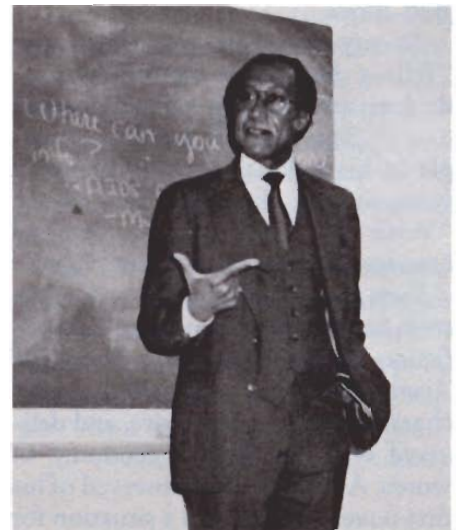
## Jackson and Avila Discuss the Impact of AIDS in the Minority Community

AIDS is easily the most serious health problem to hit our country in the last century. As of February first, over fifty thousand cases of AIDS have been reported to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and over eight hundred of these cases occurred in Boston. Furthermore, although Blacks and Hispanics compose 20% of the general population, 40% of all AIDS victims are Black or Hispanic. More dramatically, Black and Hispanic women make up more than 80% of all female AIDS victims.

Not only do these statistics refute the myth that AIDS is a homosexual disease, but it brings an important question to the forefront of the AIDS discussion; namely, how do we effectively spread information about AIDS



Mr. José Perez Avila from Boston University and a member of the AIDS Action Committee.



Dr. Rudolph Jackson from Morehouse Medical School and the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.



and provide adequate medical care to the minority community? In an attempt to bring attention to these issues, The Harvard Foundation, La Organización Estudiantil Boriqua de H/R, and the Percy Julian Society Science Organization co-sponsored a panel discussion entitled "AIDS in the Minority Community." Dr. Rudolf Jackson (Professor and Acting Chairperson of the Department of Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine), and Mr. José Perez Avila (a research fellow at Boston University School of Health), led the discussion by first presenting relevant information on

AIDS Related Complex (ARC), as well as the symptoms and prognosis of this fatal disease. Both emphasized the fact that although certain minority groups are disproportionately affected by AIDS, the disease should not be associated with any particular group, but rather with a certain set of behaviors. In particular, the sharing of needles by I.V. drug users, and unsafe sexual practices (i.e. the exchange of body fluids) are activities which facilitate the transmission of the virus.

Until now societal biases have hindered the dissemination of information throughout all social strata, and con-

sequently most of those who have benefited from the campaign against AIDS have been the socio-economically privileged. Therefore, Dr. Jackson and Mr. Avila stressed the importance of working together with the leaders of the minority community in order to spread information throughout the Black and Hispanic communities. Since no cure or vaccine is in sight, the only means of combatting the disease thus far is prevention through education.

—Collin Stultz '88  
Ursula Guidry '88

## Famous West African Author Lectures at Harvard

Chinua Achebe, author of *Things Fall Apart*, lectured to a standing room only crowd in Boylston Auditorium on March 10th. The text of his talk was "Impediments to Dialogue." The lecture was co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation and the Committee on African Studies. Achebe also read selections from *Anthills of the Savanna*, his first major novel in twenty years. The following profile on Achebe was written by Ad'Obé Obe. It was originally published in its entirety in *West Africa*.

Twenty-five years ago Achebe said: "Telling the truth is the only way, in the long run [that you will be]· listened to . . ." This was his guiding principle in his task as the only Nigerian voice among the team that started "Voice of America," the external broadcasting service of Radio Nigeria.

Even if paradoxically, the way of the truth has been the leitmotif of Achebe's fiction. Since the inimitable *Things Fall Apart*, readers have enjoyed his style, characterized by objectivity, and delivered with an incisive economy of words. As a critic once observed of his first novel: "It presents a situation for the reader to make up his own mind: neither the old ways nor the new are seen as predominantly bad."



Chinua Achebe talks to students about his new book *Anthills of the Savanna*.

One meaning given to his *A Man of The People* was that it provided inspiration for the Igbo who led Nigeria's first military coup in January 1966. Achebe, himself an Igbo, narrowly escaped with his life to what was to become Biafra. Critics will no doubt be looking for clues of his Biafran experience in *Anthills of the Savanna*. If the novel is based on his experience of the civil war then the idea has had over two decades to gestate and mature. Could it be that the experience was so

traumatic that it took Achebe this long to digest, internalize and then express?

There is the distinct impression that Achebe has nurtured his belief in truth long enough and he may be eagerly looking beyond fiction for the fulcrum with which he can move the world as a whole and his compatriots in particular. At the ripe age of his mid-fifties, he has every reason to believe that there is still enough time to get people to listen.



# Report Faults Faculty Hiring

## Students Say Minority Recruiting Nonexistent at Harvard

The Harvard Minority Student Alliance (MSA) sharply criticized the University Saturday for failing to devise an effective minority recruitment policy for faculty, as the number of Black and Hispanic professors has shown no signs of increasing.

This report, issued at a conference on the subject, called Harvard's need for minority faculty "unmistakable" and proposed a strict timetable for the design and implementation of a University-wide policy to address the issue. The six-page report went on to charge that the University inflates its minority faculty figures by counting foreign scholars as minorities.

According to the report, Harvard's claim of having 6.5 percent minority faculty is probably double the actual number, because of the University's method of counting. There are fifty-two minority professors in the eight hundred member Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), according to Harvard statistics.

But the body of the report faulted Harvard for having no systematic policy on minority faculty recruitment and concluded that the situation has actually worsened since the last University inquiry about the issue in 1980.

MSA investigators found that since that time, "FAS statistics show declines or no improvements in representation for Blacks and Hispanics and only miniscule gains for Asian Americans."

The MSA report specifically recommends that the FAS establish a summer committee to determine the need for a comprehensive minority faculty recruitment program by next fall. In the report, the MSA asks Dean of the Faculty A. Michael Spence for a commitment to these preliminary steps by this April. Spence was invited to attend

Saturday's conference and panel discussion but could not attend.

"[Spence] could not make it for personal reasons. We all understand that," said Rudy F. Ruiz '89. "We asked him to send a representative from his office... but [Spence] said in a letter that he was 'uncomfortable with having other people express my views.'"

"I think that is unfortunate, because if only one man can represent the views of Harvard University, that probably implies that no [minority faculty recruitment] policy exists," Ruiz said.

Spence could not be reached for comment yesterday. The panelists in the conference were undeterred by the absence of any top University Hall administrators on Saturday, and went on to call for the establishment of a Harvard-wide minority recruitment plan.

"Without a comprehensive, systematic, University-wide plan for active minority faculty recruitment... we have complacency and confusion reigning, and as a result, minority faculty suffering," said MSA member Curtis Chang '90, who helped to write the report, which will be delivered to administrators and the press.

Seton Hall professor David Abalos, who participated in Saturday's panel discussion, said during the panel discussion that the MSA report was "too kind" in characterizing Harvard's situation as one of complacency and confusion. Abalos, who has taught at Yale and Princeton, said "I don't think people who are interested in power very often get complacent and they don't very often get confused—they know what they want."

Abalos then noted that Princeton and Yale have recently instituted affirmative action programs in minority

faculty recruitment. "There are very clear, concrete, specific ways by which people can create a systematic approach to not only hire faculty, but also help them to get tenure while they are there."

Assistant Professor of Sociology Roderick Harrison agreed with Abalos, saying Spence "needs to do on minority hiring what he did on junior faculty." Two years ago, Spence issued a report saying Harvard would try to give tenure to more of its own junior faculty.

Harrison said that in terms of percentages of minority and women faculty, Harvard falls among the lowest in comparison with institutions such as Yale, Brown, Michigan, and Stanford. "I think that if Harvard felt that it fell in the bottom three in a list of such institutions in anything else—faculty polls, faculty salaries, reputation polls of what is the best college, there would be shock waves," he said.

Harrison expressed frustration at the dearth of minority faculty at Harvard because it forces him to take time away from his students and research to serve on panels, like Saturday's, to draw attention to the problem. "I think by the year 2000 Harvard should be a place where minority faculty do not need to be investigating this type of thing," he said.

The MSA report was presented as part of the East Coast Chicano Forum Spring Conference, held at Harvard for the first time and hosted by the Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA with support from the Harvard Foundation.

—Courtesy of the Harvard Crimson



## Immigration Reform and Control Act Debated

In conjunction with the Harvard Foundation, Harvard-Racliffe RAZA sponsored an immigration policy forum on February 11, 1988, at Boylston Auditorium. The distinguished guest panelists included Fred Dow of the Asian American Resources Workshop, Steve Farquharson of the INS, Martha Jimenez from the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Ken Morrissey, a special agent for the INS. Professor Mary Walters from the sociology department at Harvard College served as the moderator.

From the outset, the panelists engaged in an intense debate over the fairness and efficiency of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1987. Dow and Jimenez alleged that the reform act was not adequately explained nor publicized to the large number of undocumented citizens in the United States.

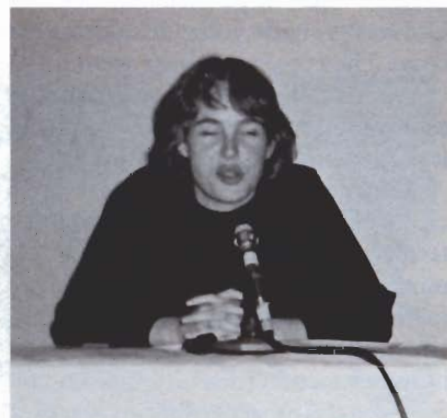
Farquharson and Morrissey, however, drew attention to the many immigrants that have received permission to permanently stay in the United States as a result of the amnesty provisions under IRCA. In addition, both claimed

that the INS has become more humane in making a sincere effort to minimize discrimination and the separation of immigrant families.

Because many Harvard students have a vested interest in the immigration policies of the USA, the forum was well attended by the larger mainstream community. Approximately one hundred and thirty students, professors, community activists, and administrators were in attendance. By the number of penetrating questions asked of the panelists, the audience was obviously well-versed in the provisions



*Fred Dow of the Asian American Resources Workshop describes his experiences with the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). Mary Walters, Professor of Sociology (left) and Martha Jimenez of MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund) prepare to add their comments.*



*The speakers on the panel are introduced by Moderator Mary Walters, Professor of Sociology.*



*Left to Right: Martha Jiménez of MALDEF, Elisa Fernandez, and an unidentified student engage in discussion at the reception after the panel discussion.*



*Martha Jimenez of MALDEF cites cases of discrimination against Latino and Asian immigrant employees.*



of IRCA. After the debate, the panelists joined the audience for a reception, where a lively discourse ensued.

Due to the support and enthusiasm of the Harvard Foundation, the Immigration Forum sponsored by RAZA was a grand success. Many students particularly praised the expertise and poise of Martha Jiminez. We thank Dr. Alan Counter, the Student Advisory Committee, Chairman William Bossert (Faculty Committee), the Asian-American Association, and the Harvard Foundation staff. We look forward to sponsoring more forums in conjunction with the Foundation that are of special interest to the minority community at Harvard College.

—Raul Perez '90  
RAZA Steering Committee



Steven Farquharson, Assistant District Director of Examination, INS, responds to a question from the audience concerning the immigrant legalization process.



Kevin Morrissey, Supervisor Special Agent Investigation Branch, INS, speaks to the audience about work sanctions prescribed by the Immigration Reform and Control Act.

## Wacker Address to Harvard Community at Daily Prayers, Appleton Chapel

Dr. Warren E.C. Wacker delivered the following address at morning prayers in Memorial Church on Thursday, March 24th. Dr. Wacker eloquently voiced his concern about the resurgence of racial prejudice against Black Americans. He condemns the racial bias the press has exhibited towards Mr. Jesse Jackson. Dr. Wacker sees racial bias as symptomatic of a deeper national problem. He believes that until racial discrimination is a thing of the past, America will find itself unable to move forward in any other area.

Currently the head of University Health Services, Dr. Wacker has had an illustrious career as a decorated WWII Airforce Commander, a researcher, and an administrator. He has been a member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences since 1971. Dr. Wacker has also served as Master to Mather House, Kirkland House, and Cabot House.

"Our country faces many serious troubles and challenges. These include, among others: nuclear weapons and power; contamination of the environment; the AIDS epidemic; housing, hunger and poverty; the growing needs of the sick and elderly; the wars in Central America, Afghanistan and the Middle East; and even the divestment of South African-related securities. Yet, there is one overwhelming problem that takes precedent over all others and if we do not solve it, none of our other troubles and challenges will be resolved. The most serious problem we face is the persistence of prejudice against black people in the United States. While bigotry may appear to have diminished, it remains among us albeit in a more subtle form. I believe that it was one of the young black activists of the 60's who said that

bigotry is as American as apple pie.

"Now, it is fair to challenge my conclusion and to insist that I provide evidence for such a sweeping indictment. The best evidence I have to offer comes from the liberal media and liberal friends who say that Jesse Jackson should not be running for president because the American people are not ready for a black person to be president. They don't say he is the toady of the president and a wimp like Bush; that he is an angry, ambitious person like Dole; that he is also a member of the clergy like Pat Robertson; that he is to the right of Ghengis Khan like Jack Kemp; that he is aloof and arrogant like Michael Dukakis; that he flip-flops like Gephardt; that he is running on his father's name with the backing of a Harvard mentor and national magazine like Al Gore, or that he is a lackluster senator who wears a bow tie like Paul Simon or that he is a philanderer like Gary Hart. Only that America is not ready to have a black person be our president.

A hundred and thirteen years after thousands of young Americans, black and white, died to assure racial equality, and twenty years after the martyrdom of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, we still have not dealt with the cancer of racism which still threatens to consume us. None of the issues and problems which I listed before can be solved until we deal with this one major, overriding problem—until we are truly one people, where stereotypical thinking and actions related to skin color have vanished from the land. As Milton said about England in a time of great trouble, 'Look homeward angel.'

"God help us and may the Lord have mercy on us!"

Warren E.C. Wacker, M.D.



## Chinese New Year Celebration

New Year's Day came to Memorial Hall a few days earlier this year—that is, if one goes by the Chinese calendar. This February, the Harvard Foundation joined the Harvard/Radcliffe Chinese Student Association in ushering in the Year of the Dragon with a night of traditional food and entertainment.

For the nearly three hundred students, performers, and guests in attendance, the night was filled with the familiar and the not-so-familiar activities. The Chinese new year celebration began with the traditional lion dance, performed by the students of the Yao Li Kung Fu Academy (an honorable mention goes out to the five-year-old "tail" of the lion).

Following the spectacular demonstration, volunteers from the Chinese Student Association began to serve the seven-course banquet catered by Chinatown's Tsui King Lau. Despite fears to the contrary, the food did manage to hold out, and all present had their fill of chicken with snow peas, beef lo mein, gum pau chicken, beef with broccoli, sweet and sour pork, tofu with vegetables, and fried rice.

As guests were opening their fortune cookies, the rest of the cultural show continued. Balancing the well-known sights of martial arts and tastes of Chinese cuisine were an urhu performance (and impromptu monologue) by Wei-Jing Zhu '90, an undergraduate at Harvard, and three traditional dances performed by the AAA/CSA Dance Troupe. In addition, both the Hong Club Singers and the Taiwanese Cultural Society Choir filled Memorial Hall with the sounds of Mandarin, Cantonese, and Taiwanese songs.

In all, the evening was a great success, bringing a night of Chinese culture to the Harvard community as it celebrated the last Year of the Dragon of this century.

—Bobby Woo '89



*Lion dancer ushers in the New Year amidst drums and gongs during the Chinese Students Association's New Year's Banquet.*





*Silchen Ng '89, Vicky Chu '90, and Eva Lum '89, three dancers of the Asian American Association and Chinese Students Association's Dance Troupe, perform the traditional ribbon dance.*



*The Taiwanese Cultural Society Chorus celebrated the new year with a popular song.*



## Lakota Indian Activist Urges Return to Reservations

**H**ow will our people survive?" Asked Dr. Beatrice Medicine, Associate Professor of Anthropology, California State University and an active Lakota (Sioux) Indian at a luncheon on February 11 for students and faculty. She answered the question by stating that the responsibility lies with students of American Indian descent who study at universities. "At some point in your careers, you must return to the American Indian community and give back something that you have learned," she stated.

"There is a great need for American Indian doctors, lawyers, businesspersons and educators," Dr. Medicine said.

"But, there is a greater need for those professionals on the reservation," she added. She urged students to carefully select thesis topics related to life on the reservations. "Your papers must be relevant to the needs on the reservation and not esoteric in content," she stated. The topic for Dr. Medicine's doctorate was "Ethnography of Drinking and Sobriety Among the Lakota Indians."

Dr. Medicine described her own difficult experiences as an undergraduate and graduate student. Separation from her family and isolation were two of the most trying problems she faced as an undergraduate at South Dakota State University. A number of the students agreed that they too, missed the warmth of their respective communities.

Dr. Medicine received a masters degree in Sociology and Anthropology and her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Teaching and coordinating the Interdisciplinary Program in American Indian Studies at California State University, Northridge, keep Dr. Medicine very busy. Yet, she finds time to actively participate on the National Advisory Board of Ethnic Heritage Programs and is a member of the National Indian Education Association.



*Dr. Medicine is greeted by members of the American Indians at Harvard and guests. (Left to right: Jeff Hanley, graduate student '88; Deacon Turner '91; April Osborg '92; Jean Fox Tree '88; Mary Moreland '88; Sky Houser, Research Manager at the Kennedy School of Government; Dr. Betty Haskins, Director of the American Indian Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education; Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation).*



*Dr. Medicine emphasizes the need for lawyers, doctors and educators on the reservations. Listening intently is graduate student Jeff Hanley.*





### The Staff of the Harvard Foundation

Clockwise from upper left: Harald Ruda '88, Student Assistant; Claudia Hill, Project Coordinator; Grant Habata '89, Student Volunteer; Denise Padin '90, Student Assistant; Rudy Ruiz '89, Student Assistant; Adrienne Dingee, Staff Assistant; Eva Lum '89, Student Assistant; Robert Henry '90, Staff Assistant.

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