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Actor Denzel Washington Revels in *Cultural Rhythms*



Holly Foster '97 welcomes Denzel Washington to Harvard with a bouquet of flowers. She is joined at a reception in Mr. Washington's honor by Kirkland House Master and host, Professor Donald H. Pfister. Looking on are participants of the Denzel Washington "look-alike" skit (l-r: Derrick Ashong '97, Nester Clarke '98, Kenneth Polite '97, Frank Zhou '97 and Benjamin Lewis '99).

The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations presented actor Denzel Washington with the "1996 Cultural Artist of the Year" award on Saturday, February 24, before a packed house at Sanders Theatre.

The award, given to an artist who has contributed to a deeper understanding of his or her culture, is the centerpiece of *Cultural Rhythms*, a day-long event celebrating the different ethnicities that make up Harvard. Mr. Washington was honored not only for his performances in *Malcolm X*, but for his philanthropy in South Africa and his work with the Boys' and Girls'

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Chinese Dissident Harry Wu Visits Harvard



Harry Wu, who has devoted his life to exposing the brutality of China's forced labor camps, visited Harvard on Friday, February 16, for a series of special events sponsored by the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association (AAA) Intercollegiate Conference, Quincy House and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Mr. Wu initially met members of the
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Harry Wu, political activist and distinguished guest of the Asian American Association's first annual Intercollegiate Conference.



Foundation Director Visits President Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, welcomes Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, to his home in Johannesburg. Dr. Counter traveled to South Africa under the auspices of the Office of the University President as part of a delegation celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the visit of Robert F. Kennedy '48 to that country to speak out against the injustices of apartheid. Dr. Counter accompanied Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, widow of Robert F. Kennedy and Director of the R.F.K. Memorial. See second photo on page 3.

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Students Noted for Work in Intercultural and Race Relations

Twenty-six students received recognition for their work in intercultural and race relations at the Harvard Foundation's annual David Aloian Dinner on May 1. Foundation awards went to Natasha Dinker Bir '96, Leslie Ann Castelo '97, Kristen Clarke '97, Holly Ann-Elizabeth Foster '97, Veronica Seungwon Jung '97, Julie Chun Kim '97, Carmen Mary O'Shea '97, Andrew Pitcher '97, Faustino Gustavo Ramos '96, Amy Howell Saxton '97, Sarah Seong-Sim Song '96, and Rami A. Thabet '97. Evelyn Linda Maxwell '96 received the special Director's Award medallion for her exceptional work with the Foundation.

Honorable mention went to Kurtis Ian Auguste Jr. '96, Michelle Marie Baildon '97, Sewell Chan '98, Nana Ekua Coleman '98, Uche N. Ezekwueche '98, Babak Fardin '96, Kristal Cherrie O'Bryant '98, Steven Jason Turner '98, Kaniaru Wacieni '98 and Lee Ching Wu '97.

Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette



Harvard Foundation Student Award winners display their honors (l-r, first row: Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Sewell Chan '98, Leslie Castelo '97, Holly Foster '97, Julie Kim '97, Veronica Jung '97, Natasha Bir '96, Kristen Clarke '97, Kaniaru Wacieni '98; second row: Dean Michael Shinagel, Master of Quincy House, Linda Maxwell '96 (Director's Award), Rami Thabet '97, Sara Song '96, Amy Saxton '97, Faustino Ramos '96, Andrew Pitcher '97, Kurtis Auguste '96, Carmen O'Shea '97, Stephen Turner '98, the Reverend Peter Gomes, Lee Ching Wu '97, Mark Price '98, Uche Ezekwueche '98, Nana Coleman '98, Michelle Baildon '97, Babak Fardin '96 and Bashir Salahuddin '98).

Harvard Undergraduates and Dr. Richard M. Hunt, University Marshal, Honored at Aloian Dinner

University Marshal Richard M. Hunt knows how to keep a secret. Discretion and tact are his middle name. As a central organizer and official emcee of Harvard's greatest show, the morning Commencement Exercises, he annually harbors one of the University's most closely guarded secrets: the names of the latest honorary-degree candidates.

May 1 in Quincy House, however, found Dr. Hunt facetiously forthcoming

about this year's lineup. Was it the perfect spring evening? Or the surprise of hearing himself named guest of honor at the Harvard Foundation's annual David Aloian Dinner?

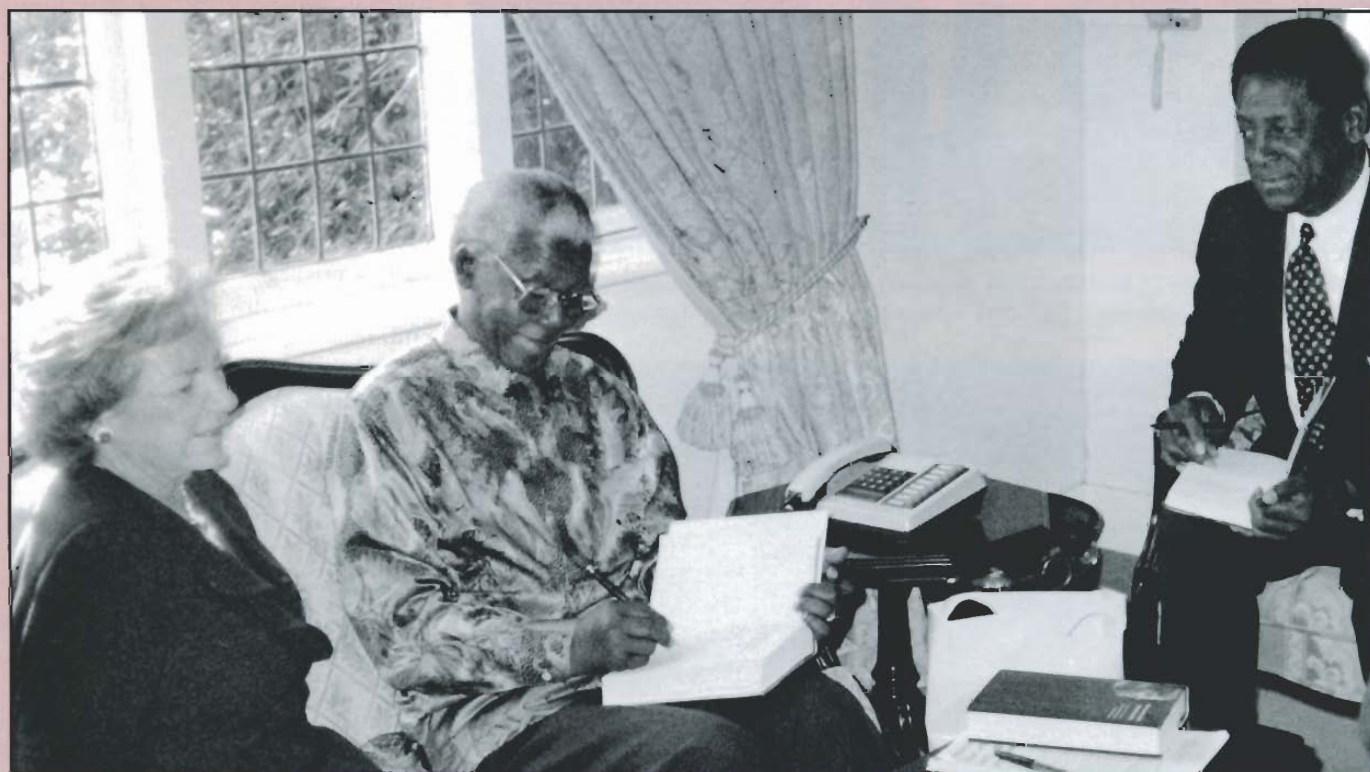
Whatever the cause, Dr. Hunt named names that in the name of discretion must go nameless here. The list boasted the likes of _____, the magazine publisher from the politically prominent Bay State family; and _____, the actor who bulks large on the silver screen and married into the same

family some years back. Dinner guests downed the inside dope with gusto, and Dr. Hunt's wife, Priscilla, was on hand to enjoy the fun.

Dr. Hunt's long-standing support for the Foundation's work in intercultural and race relations earned him this year's Harvard Foundation Faculty Award, a handsome plaque bearing the signatures of President Neil L. Rudenstine, College Dean Harry

(Continued on page 4)

Visit to South Africa



Mrs. Ethel Kennedy greets President Nelson Mandela on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the first visit of Robert F. Kennedy '48 to South Africa to speak out against racial injustice. During the 1966 trip, Robert and Ethel Kennedy visited several universities throughout South Africa, where they challenged the apartheid system and minority rule before academic audiences. For the 1996 memorial tour, the children of Robert and Ethel Kennedy, including Michael Kennedy '80 and Maxwell Kennedy '88, visited the same universities and delivered speeches in honor of their father. A special memorial Mass was held in honor of the R.F.K. anniversary celebration at the Cape Town Cathedral, at which Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former member of the Harvard Board of Overseers, spoke eloquently and movingly of the occasion. The thirtieth anniversary celebration of the historic R.F.K. visit was well received by President Mandela and the new multicultural South African society.



University Marshal Richard M. Hunt displays his plaque with (l-r: Harvard Foundation Secretary Rami Thabet '97, Co-Chair Taziona Chaponda '97, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director, and Co-Chair Diana Patuel).



Linda Maxwell '96 receives the Harvard Foundation Director's Award as Dr. S. Allen Counter, the Reverend Peter J. Gomes and other award recipients look on.

Aloian Dinner

(Continued from page 3)

R. Lewis, and Foundation Director Dr. S. Allen Counter.

"Rick Hunt has contributed immeasurably to the work of the Harvard Foundation," Dr. Counter said. "He has joined us in welcoming Foundation guests from as far away as Greenland and Buganda. Through his example of courtesy and hospitality, he has demonstrated to our students that persons of all races, cultures and backgrounds have a place at Harvard."

During his dinner remarks, Dr. Hunt, who is also a Senior Lecturer in Social Studies, shared complementary sentiments that he recently discovered in a comment from a ninth-grader at Cambridge's Shady Hill School. "I love to be friends with people who are different than I am," the student wrote. "'It's sometimes harder that way, but I learn much more from them.' I think this epitomizes some of the work that the Harvard Foundation has been doing all these years since 1981," Dr. Hunt said.

As Harvard's official host, Dr. Hunt has welcomed hundreds of visitors since he became University Marshal in 1982. "It's really a privilege for me to do the honors and represent this University," Dr. Hunt said, recalling meetings with Foundation visitor's such as the late Arthur Ashe, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., singer-actress Diana Ross, sports legends Sugar Ray Leonard and Hank Aaron, and Wilma Mankiller, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation (1985-1987).

Earlier in the ceremony, Veronica Jung '97 and Julie Kim '97, co-chairs of the Foundation's Academic Affairs Committee, described recent student efforts to expand comparative race and ethnic studies at Harvard.

The Aloian Dinner commemorates the Harvard Alumni Association Executive Director and Quincy House Master who died in 1986. With his wife Mimi, David Aloian enthusiastically supported the Foundation's programs and hosted many of its earliest events at Quincy House. In concluding his remarks, Dr. Hunt raised a toast in Aloian's memory that set the hall ringing with sustained applause.

—Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette

Harry Wu

(Continued from page 1)

Harvard community at a reception in the Quincy House Junior Common Room. Later, he addressed invited dinner guests and accepted a Harvard Foundation Award for his courageous efforts to focus world attention on China's human rights abuses. On February 17 Mr. Wu gave a free public talk at the ARCO Forum of the Kennedy School of Government during the AAA's seventh annual conference.

Mr. Wu was studying at Beijing Geology College in his native China when he spoke out against the 1956 Soviet invasion of Hungary and criticized the Chinese Communist Party—actions that led to his first arrest. In 1960, charged with being a "counterrevolutionary rightist," Mr. Wu was sent to China's *Laogai* ("reform through labor") system, the largest network of forced labor/thought-reform camps in the world.

While confined to twelve different camps over the next nineteen years, Mr. Wu was forced to make chemicals, mine coal, build roads, clear land and plant harvest crops. He watched, helpless, as fellow prisoners died of disease, starvation, brutality and suicide.

Released in 1979, Mr. Wu arrived in the U.S. six years later as a visiting geology



Dr. Albert Carnesale, University Provost, welcomes Mr. Wu and his assistant to Harvard at a reception in Wadsworth House.

professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He later began writing about his experiences, determined to expose the inhumanity of the system.

Between 1991 and 1994, Mr. Wu visited China to document continuing abuses. Posing as a businessman, he videotaped prison conditions, made his footage available to the television news magazine "60 Minutes," and described his findings for *Newsweek* magazine. In 1994 he worked

with the BBC to document the alleged sale of human organs taken from executed Chinese prisoners.

While trying to enter China legally last June, Mr. Wu was arrested. During a four-hour trial in July, he was convicted of "stealing state secrets" and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. Widespread international pressure led to his expulsion on August 24, when he returned to the U.S.

Mr. Wu has testified before congress-



Mr. Wu poses with members of the Asian American Association board and Dr. Counter at a luncheon reception.



Members of the Asian American Association speak with Mr. Wu after the banquet in his honor.

Harry Wu

(Continued from page 5)

sional committees, the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the governmental bodies of Australia, England, France and Germany. Now in his late 50s, Mr. Wu serves as Executive Director of the Laogai Research Foundation, a non-profit group that continues to document conditions in China's work-camp system. He is also a research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution. Mr. Wu's efforts have earned him the 1991 Hungarian Freedom Fighters Award and the 1996 Geuzen Medal of Honor of the Dutch Foundation for the Geuzen Resistance Movement.

Mr. Wu has described his personal ordeal in *Bitter Winds: A Memoir of My Years in China's Gulag* (1994). In *Laogai: The Chinese Gulag* (1992), he takes a theoretical look at the system. He became a U.S. citizen in 1994.

—Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette

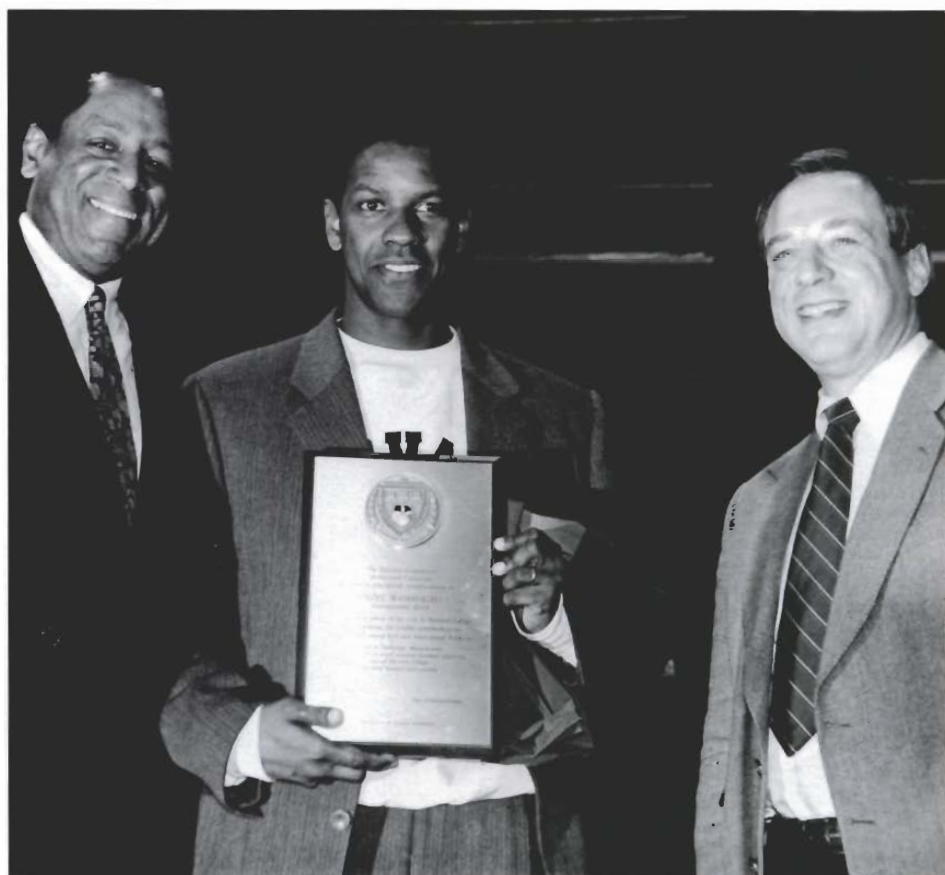
Denzel Washington

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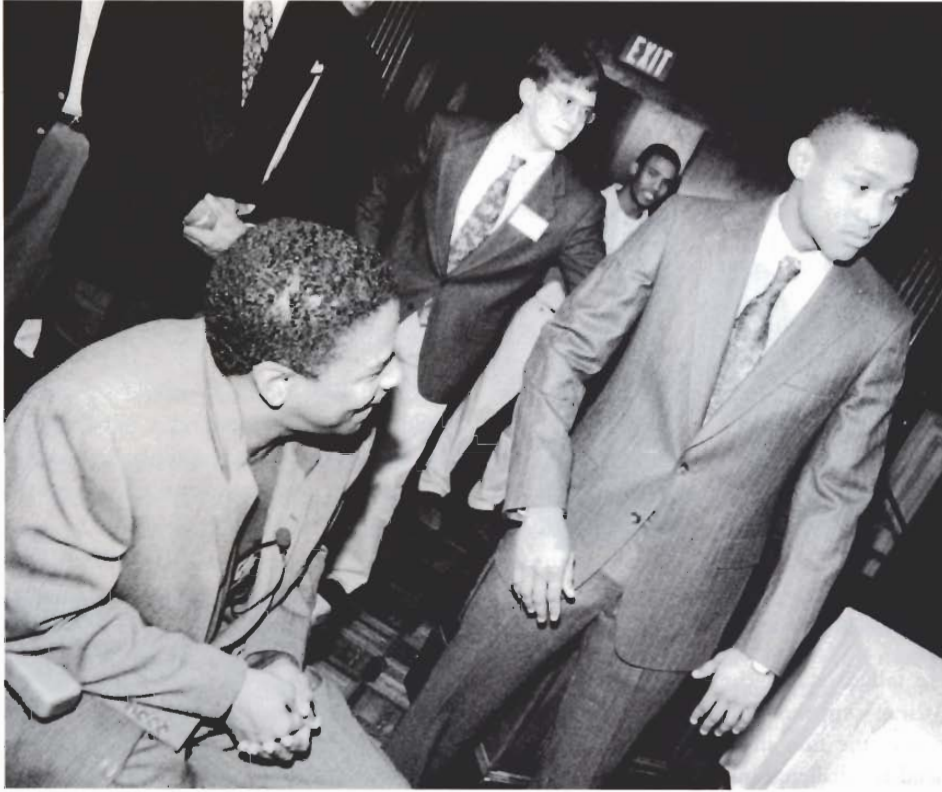
Clubs of America.

Mr. Washington was feted at a reception at Kirkland House, where students presented him with a "look-alike" contest in which they recreated parts of his movie roles. Of note was the hilarious performance by Frank Zhou, an Asian student, acting a scene as Malcolm X. The winner, Derrick Ashong, did a credible reading of Denzel Washington in *Crimson Tide*. Mr. Washington was also presented with a Crimson tie in honor of his visit.

The celebration moved on to Sanders Theatre, where Mr. Washington hosted more than twenty performances representing different cultures. While time did not permit Mr. Washington to speak on his view of his own culture, he did speak about his need for spirituality. "If there's anything I can leave with you...the reason that I'm up here is that God's in my life," he said after a performance of gospel songs by the Kuumba Singers. "You don't hear that at the Academy Awards." Throughout the performances, Mr. Washington revealed that he, too, was learning about other cultures.



Distinguished actor Denzel Washington receives the Harvard Foundation Award for his contributions to American performing arts and intercultural relations from Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College.



*Denzel Washington gets a new angle on his acting as Nester Clarke '98 reenacts a scene from *The Pelican Brief*. "Look-alike" skit participant Kenneth Polite '97 and skit writer/producer Andrew Pitcher '97 look on.*

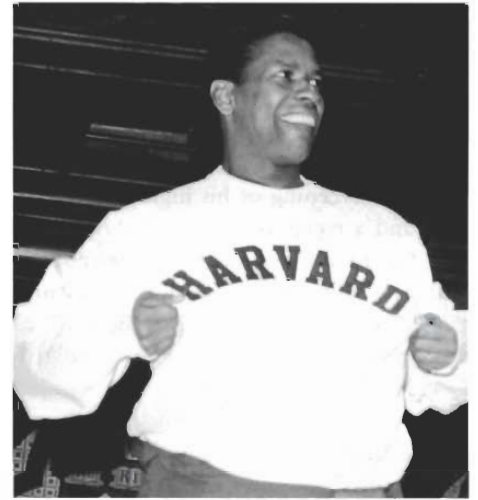
"It's cool," said Lee Dalope, a dancer with the Philippine Forum. "It's the coolest thing I've done since I got to Harvard." Dalope is one of the dancers who per-

formed a ritual dance in which a princess dances through bamboo poles that quickly open and close. An attendant shadows her through the maze, followed by a courting

prince. Though everyone in the audience thought the poles would close on a dancer's feet (causing serious injury), the prince ended up out of the maze behind the princess and escorted her off stage. "That was serious, wasn't it," a stunned Washington said afterward. He also reflected that "you can see a lot of yourself in other cultures."

Other performances included a hula dance from Hawaii, a fan dance from Korea, poems from the Caribbean Club, and a wedding dance performed by members of the Hellenic Society that one member of the audience referred to as a "Greek hoe-down."

"It's this connection that audiences make to their own culture that the



Denzel Washington proudly displays his Harvard sweatshirt to a packed house of admirers during the Cultural Rhythms Festival at Sanders Theatre on February 24.



Denzel Washington congratulates Derrick Ashong '97, winner of the "look-alike" contest.

Foundation hopes to provide. It's more than a celebratory kind of activity," said Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Foundation. "It is meaningful and positive interaction between cultures."

This is why they perform, the students said. "Mexican folk dancing is not seen much in New England," said Faustino Ramos of Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán. "It's a responsibility to show what we do." "It's an opportunity to get exposure and to reach people who don't get to go to our performances," said Cecilia LaFleur, a dancer with the twenty-five-year-old troupe.

—*Courtesy of the Cambridge Chronicle/Kathleen Powers*

Celebrated Filmmaker Haile Gerima Receives a Harvard Foundation Award



Members of the Harvard African Students Association and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, pause for a moment with international filmmaker Haile Gerima (l-r: Taziona Chaponda '97, Dr. Counter, Bethany Outeye '97, Salem Fisseha '97 and Maame Ewusi-Mensah '97).

Ethiopian-born filmmaker Haile Gerima, writer, producer and director of the award-winning film *Sankofa*, was honored with a luncheon at Pforzheimer House, a screening of his highly acclaimed film, and a reception on Sunday, April 14. Mr. Gerima's visit, which opened the Harvard Foundation's first Intercultural Film Festival, was organized by the Harvard African Students Association and the Harvard Foundation as part of an ongoing effort to explore the dynamics of African, Caribbean and African-American relations. Mr. Gerima was presented with a Harvard Foundation Medal to recognize his contributions to African and African-American film and culture.

Sankofa, which was released in 1994, documents the rarely portrayed resistance efforts of enslaved Africans and West Indians and African Americans born into slavery. The story is told through the eyes of a contemporary African American fashion model transported back in time, from the dungeons of a slave trade holding area on the coast of West Africa to a plantation in the West Indies. *Sankofa* is an Akan word that means "We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we can understand why and how we came to be who we are today."

After the film screening, Mr. Gerima spoke poignantly about the need for Africans and African Americans to be knowledgeable about each other's history.

He talked about the lack of support for African-centered filmmaking in film schools and in the film industry. He discussed the need to challenge racist images of Africans and African Americans in film. He also commented on the creation and distribution of *Sankofa*, which was critically acclaimed at international film festivals but rejected by every major American film studio. Mr.

Gerima eventually released *Sankofa* through private showings sponsored and supported by Black churches, organizations and universities across the United States. He credits these grassroots efforts for the popularity of the film.

Mr. Gerima received his M.F.A. from UCLA in 1976, and is currently a professor of film at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He is considered a torchbearer for the burgeoning independent African and African-American film movement.

—Bethany Outeye '97



Haile Gerima fields questions from students after the screening of his film, *Sankofa*.

Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Sponsors an Intercultural Film Festival

During the week of April 14-19, the Student Advisory Committee of the Harvard Foundation presented its first Intercultural Film Festival in cooperation with seven Harvard-Radcliffe student organizations: RAZA, Forum on Hispanic Affairs, Chinese Students' Association, Society of Arab Students, Japan Society, South Asian Association and the Harvard African Students Association. Films were shown at the Science Center, the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts and the Hilles Library Theatre.

The objective of the festival was to promote intercultural understanding through film. The festival consisted of six films, each of which was chosen for its ability to convey various aspects of the respective cultures. The themes of conflict and change within the communities that were portrayed are recurrent ones, and formed the basis for discussion following the viewing of each film. The following films were included: *Sankofa*, Haile Gerima 1994; *Mi Familia (My Family)*, Gregory Nova, 1995; *To Live*, Zhang Yimou, 1994; *Tale of the Three Jewels*, Michel Khlefi, 1994; *Kagemusha*, Akira Kurosawa, 1988 and *Salaam Bombay*, Mira Nair '78, 1988.

The festival very successfully promoted dialogue about sensitive cultural and racial issues through an engaging medium. The festival will hopefully become an annual Harvard Foundation event.

Harvard Remembers the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 15, approximately two hundred members of the Harvard community joined together in Memorial Church to celebrate the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The service emphasized the importance of praising Dr. King's life and efforts to further acceptance and harmony in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society, as well as a recommitment to these ideals.

The service featured a series of readings, prayers and reflections from different religious traditions, including a reading from the Jewish tradition by Ethan Tucker '96, Chair of the Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel Coordinating Council, a prayer offered by Andrew Douglas Kirk '96 of the Harvard-Radcliffe Christian Fellowship, and an

earnest, moving reflection on the importance of Martin Luther King, Jr., by Natosha Reid, Harvard Law School '97, among others. The Kuumba Singers also contributed to the service, filling Memorial Church with their exuberant performances of two gospel songs "I've Been 'Buked" and "Come Out the Wilderness."

Dr. Deborah B. Prothrow-Stith, Assistant Dean for Governmental and Community Programs at the Harvard School of Public Health, gave the principal address, entitled "Rambo Hearts, Terminator Heads, and Violence in the United States." In her speech, Dr. Prothrow-Stith called out resolutely for an end to the violence in America being perpetuated by ever-younger criminals, citing the need for

stronger family guidance of children in order to put an end to the cycle of violence breeding violence. Dr. Prothrow-Stith's impassioned words were received with enthusiastic applause.

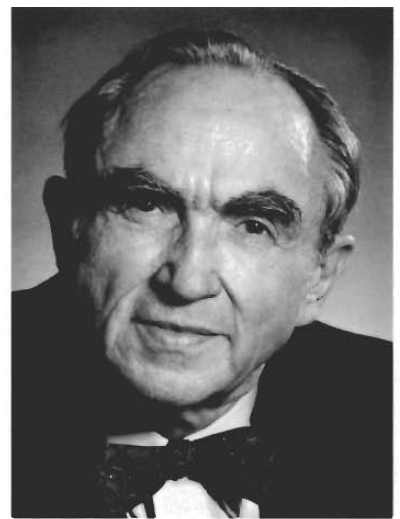
The service concluded with a hymn sung by the congregation, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (the Negro national anthem), and a benediction by the Reverend Janet Hatfield Legro. As the congregation filed out to the sounds of an organ fugue, the powerful entreaty of the unison prayer led by Dr. Thomas Mikelson still echoed in the empty church: "*Let us run now and not be weary. Let us be strong in the face of evil. Let us be outraged by injustice.... Take our hands now, lead us home.*"

—Monica Eav '99

In Memoriam

Professor A. Clifford Barger (1917-1996)

The Harvard Foundation wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. A. Clifford Barger, Robert Henry Pfeiffer Professor of Physiology, *Emeritus*, at the Harvard Medical School, who died on March 13, 1996. Dr. Barger was well known for his excellence in teaching and scientific research in the field of physiology. But perhaps he was not as widely recognized for his many commendable efforts on behalf of minority medical and doctoral students over the past forty years. Dr. Barger deserves special recognition and praise for his kind support of Black and other minority students. He made a personal and an affirmative effort to recruit and support African American doctors and scientists through the Harvard Medical School. Many of today's Black and other minority physicians and scientists are indebted to his genuine commitment to minority education and his outreach and concern for our academic development. It is important for young scholars and academics to know, appreciate and remember this very decent, fair and caring professor who made significant contributions to the inclusion of African Americans and other minorities in medical education.



Professor A. Clifford Barger

Campus Forum on Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies



Harvard faculty, students and administrators share ideas about comparative race and ethnic studies.

In November 1995 the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the Harvard Foundation sponsored a conference, "Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies in the United States," with the hope of increasing campus dialogue on this crucial

academic concern. The conference attracted more than one hundred sixty members of the Harvard community, and the interest sparked by the conference has continued. Approximately the same number of people attended a campus forum on

comparative race and ethnic studies sponsored by the AAC on April 10 in the Sackler Museum Lecture Hall.

Co-sponsored by a broad coalition of student groups, including RAZA, Native American Program, Minority Student



Moderator Veronica Jung '97, Co-Chair of the Harvard Foundation Academic Affairs Committee, poses a question to panelists during the Ethnic Studies Forum.

Alliance, Ethnic Studies Action Committee (ESAC), Black Students' Association, Black Men's Forum, Asian American Association, and Education for Action, the forum featured a panel discussion among several key faculty, administrators and students: Professor Lawrence Buell, Dean of Undergraduate Education; Professor Jorge I. Domínguez, Chair of the Dean's Ad Hoc Committee on Ethnic Studies; Dr. Barbara E. Johnson, Professor of English and Comparative Literature; Professor Jeremy R. Knowles, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College; Dr. David Henry P. Maybury-Lewis, Professor of Anthropology; Dr. Kay Kaufman Shelemay, Professor of Music; Dr. Doris Sommer, Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures; Ms. Jinhua Emma Teng, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations; Dr. Stephan A. Thernstrom, Winthrop Professor of History; Dr. Tu Wei-Ming, Professor of Chinese History and Philosophy; Dr. Cornel West, Professor of Afro-American Studies (FAS) and Professor of the Philosophy of Religion (Divinity School); Alex H. Cho '96, member of ESAC; and Alejandro Sepúlveda '98, member of ESAC and RAZA. The speakers were introduced by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and the forum was moderated by Veronica S. Jung '97, Co-Chair of AAC.

The evening's discussion, which lasted two hours, addressed both theoretical and practical concerns related to the development of a comparative race and ethnic studies program at Harvard. The forum ended with a question-and-answer session, during which audience members questioned panelists about the University's academic and financial commitment to comparative race and ethnic studies. In order to make the proceedings of this forum widely known to students, faculty and administrators, the AAC prepared a transcript of the forum and distributed copies to department chairs and key faculty and administrators. The transcript can be viewed at the AAC web site (<http://hcs.harvard.edu>), and soft-cover copies are also available at the Harvard Foundation office.

—Veronica S. Jung '97

—Julie C. Kim '97



Dr. Lawrence Buell, Dean of Undergraduate Education, and Professors Cornel West and Kay Shelemay field students' questions during the Ethnic Studies Forum.



Students listen attentively as a panel of faculty, students and administrators discuss the merits of a comparative race and ethnic studies program at Harvard-Radcliffe.



Reactions of faculty and administrators vary as forum participants discuss theoretical and practical concerns relating to comparative race and ethnic studies.

Cultural Rhythms Festival 1996

Once again, the eleventh annual *Cultural Rhythms Festival* energized Harvard on February 24, featuring a cultural performance extravaganza in Sanders Theatre, followed by a food festival in the Science Center. The ever-popular *Cultural Rhythms Festival* brought together several hundred members of the Harvard-Radcliffe community in a day of acceptance and a celebration of diversity. The enthusiastic display of various cultural heritages was the culmination of months of hard work and dedication of hundreds of students from various ethnic and cultural groups on campus. Organized, produced

and dynamic form.

The celebration kicked off with a special reception to honor the celebrity named "1996 Cultural Artist of the Year" by the Foundation. Every year the Foundation invites a celebrity guest to host the show at Sanders, commending this artist for his or her "outstanding contributions to American Performing Arts and Intercultural Relations." This year, award-winning actor Denzel Washington was honored at a reception in Kirkland House. He was welcomed with a performance by the Kuumba Singers' all-female cappella group, Sisters. Then Washington was treated

natured laughter, even coaching one contestant on the proper "Denzel stance." Derrick Ashong '97 swept the contest, however, drawing enthusiastic cheers from the audience of students, faculty and friends of the Foundation for his charismatic reenactment of Washington's role in *Crimson Tide*. The skit was interspersed with a medley of popular songs adapted to specially honor Washington, performed by Kelli English '97, Laurie Sheflin '97 and Shar VanBoskirk '97. One particularly memorable rendition was their version of Madonna's "Like a Virgin," adapted to the lyrics: "Like a pelican / Briefed for the



and performed solely by students, the event added a different sort of social demonstration to this year's heated debates about the respective values of "our commonalities and our differences," in the words of Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. If only for a moment, the festival bestowed the gift of rich, joyful, unified diversity to the Harvard community, showing cultural exchange in an exciting

to a student skit written by Andrew Pitcher '97 and performed by several talented students. Pitcher hosted "The Denzel Washington Look-Alike-Act-Alike Contest," calling forth several student "contestants" who reenacted scenes from popular films featuring Denzel Washington, such as *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Malcolm X* and *Mo' Better Blues*. Washington greeted the series of imitations of himself with good-

very first time / Like a pelican / Denzel and Julia solving the crime." After the student performances were over, Washington was rushed to Sanders Theatre to begin his guest appearance in the *Cultural Rhythms* show.

As always, the show enthralled its audience of over 1000 members of the Harvard community. The rich and varied program included perennially popular acts, including

the Harvard African Students Association's stirring "gum boots" dance, done in the tradition of South African miner protesters; the quiet, elegant traditional ribbon dance performed by the Asian American Dance Troupe; the Hawai'i Club's graceful, swaying hula dance; and the rhythmic, dangerously intricate bamboo pole dance, *Sinkil*, performed by the Harvard Philippine Forum. In addition, some acts new to *Cultural Rhythms* this year made striking contributions: the Black Men's Forum featured a moving performance of a song written by Derrick Ashong '97; the Haitian Alliance performed a spirited "feminist reinterpretation" of a traditional Haitian folk dance; the Vietnamese Association reenacted a Vietnamese fable about a green turtle who saves a princess from the clutches of an evil king and reunites her with her prince; and Kurtis Auguste '96 of the Caribbean Club brought down the

house with his hilarious performance of "Wukhand," a poem in which he portrayed an elderly man pleading for work to a man waiting for a taxi. Many more acts contributed to the dazzling display of ethnic and cultural heritages. In fact, Washington was so impressed by the great spirit and diversity of acts that he declared, "When I go to other schools, I'm going to let them know what's going on at Harvard!"

After the performance in Sanders concluded, *Cultural Rhythms* moved to the food festival in the Science Center. Hundreds of people filled the lobby, moving from booth to booth to sample the variety of delicious foods. Groups such as the Hellenic Society, the Persian Society, the Chinese Students' Association, and many more joined to offer culinary treats from their cultures. In the midst of the food festival, Hillel and the Brazilian Student Organization performed their

acts on a smaller stage, providing entertainment to supplement the enjoyment of the food.

Once again, *Cultural Rhythms* drew the Harvard-Radcliffe community together successfully in a day dedicated to celebrating and sharing the ethnic and cultural heritages of this campus. The participants and the students, faculty and staff who attended the festival left with a true appreciation for the rich diversity of Harvard. Dr. Counter summed up the value and importance of *Cultural Rhythms* in a letter to the members of the Harvard community: "*Cultural Rhythms* permits us to come together as a University family; to be entertained, to laugh, to learn...and to improve racial and cultural understanding. Let us continue this fine tradition as we seek to live together harmoniously in our shared community of scholars."

—Monica Eav '99

Reading by South African Poet Stephen Gray

The Harvard Foundation and the Harvard African Students Association (HASA) had the great pleasure of hosting a poetry reading by South African poet Stephen Gray. Mr. Gray was brought to the attention of the Foundation by the Harvard Divinity School's Dean Constance Buchanan. The poetry reading was held on Thursday, April 4, in the Lamont Library Forum Room.

Stephen Gray is a well-traveled novelist, poet, dramatist and essayist. He was born in Cape Town, South Africa, where he studied before proceeding to Cambridge University to pursue his post-graduate studies. While at Cambridge, Mr. Gray edited *Granta* magazine and directed the touring Cambridge Shakespeare Group. In this latter capacity, he visited Aix-en-Provence in France, where he lectured in English for two years. Mr. Gray has also lectured or stayed in residence as a visiting writer at universities in Iowa, Johannesburg and Queensland, Australia. Mr. Gray was influential in developing poetry in South Africa through various "militant" teaching activities, giving courses on creative writing to budding black dramatists, poets and novelists.

Mr. Gray is best known as a poet whose *Selected*

Poems was published last year by David Phillip in Cape Town. He has also published several novels, including *Time of Darkness* (1988), and his autobiography, *Accident of Birth* (1993). His *Southern African Literature: An Introduction* (1979) is a major work, with cross-cultural references to writing produced in and about southern Africa. Gray's writings deal with both the everyday life of South Africa and the myths of the making of South Africa.

Approximately twenty-five students and faculty members attended the poetry discussion. Mr. Gray read little that focused directly on South Africa, preferring to read his recent poems that explore themes found in European art and fairy tales. Mr. Gray explained that there is a growing trend in South African for artists to write about non-South African issues. This, he said, reflects the new-found freedom that many in South Africa are now enjoying. The poetry reading was very light-hearted and was followed by lively discussion. Both HASA and the Foundation would like to thank Dean Buchanan for helping make possible a thoroughly enjoyable evening of poetry.

—Taziona Chaponda '97

Cultural Rhythms



ns Festival 1996



Harvard Foundation Spring 1996 Student Grant Activities

Latinas/Latinos in the 1996 Elections

With the presidential race underway and the current legislative attacks on minorities and immigrants in this country, it is comforting to meet the people who are putting on a fight in defense of ethnic minorities and immigrants. Georgina Verdugo, regional counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) in Washington, D.C., is such a person. Harvard was privileged by Ms. Verdugo's presence at a special "Pizza and Politics" meeting. Ms. Verdugo demonstrated her enthusiasm and dedication as she gathered afterward with members of Latinas Unidas and other students of color in the Lyman Common Room to discuss Latina/Latino concerns on a more personal level.

An audience of about thirty-five people gathered at Ticknor Lounge to hear Ms. Verdugo speak about her organization's efforts to fight the legislative measures which are greatly affecting the Latina/Latino community. She spoke of battling conservative educational and welfare reforms aimed at reducing the benefits of Hispanic minorities, particularly women and children. She also spoke of the latest developments regarding Proposition 187 and of the efforts of MALDEF to lobby Congress and the White House in recent months.

When she met undergraduates at the Lyman Common Room, Ms. Verdugo spoke on a more personal level. She inspired the students with her story of giving up a career as a prominent tax lawyer to join MALDEF and fight for the rights of Mexican-American citizens. More importantly, Ms. Verdugo encouraged the students to become activist on our own campus. As a result, Latinas Unidas started a voter registration campaign targeting Hispanic communities in Boston. Ms. Verdugo clearly left an imprint on the Harvard campus by challenging the motivations of students of color.

—Monica Alvarez '96

Latinas Unidas Discussion on Latina Health

On February 27, Latinas Unidas hosted a discussion on issues pertaining to Latina health. The discussion took place among a small, intimate group of medical students, Latina undergraduates, and our guest, Wanda Ortiz Alvarez. Ms. Alvarez joined us on behalf of the Latino Health Institute located in Boston. She led the discussion on pertinent issues such as health risks specific to Latinas, problems with access to health care within the Latina/o community, and AIDS within the Latina population.

Ms. Alvarez made a wonderful presentation. Along with her presentation, she distributed several colorful pamphlets in both Spanish and English. In addition, everyone received a folder full of material on personal health care and information on different organizations which cater to the Latina/o population. The discussion began at 8:00 p.m. but proved so energetic that the group left reluctantly at 10:00 p.m. The group was not only impressed with Ms. Alvarez's personal presentation, but with the amazing services offered by the Latino Health Institute to the Boston area, as well. All in all, the presentation was informative, compelling and a great success.

—Ana-Maurine Lara '97

Latina/Latino Heritage Month

Latina/Latino Heritage Month, observed over the month of April 1996, was incredibly exciting for Latinas Unidas. We sponsored and co-sponsored a series of events which aimed to bring a higher awareness of Latina/o culture to the Harvard-Radcliffe campus.

There were three main features of Latina/o Heritage Month:

First, we sponsored a poster campaign with two components. We distributed posters throughout the campus with quotes and images depicting symbols of Latina/o

culture. We had a total of eight images and quotes posted around the campus. The second component of the poster campaign was held in Lamont Library. In special library cases, we displayed large printed posters with photographs of prominent Latinas, along with brief biographical sketches in Spanish and English. Included in the display were Julia Alvarez, Dolores Huerta and others.

Secondly, on April 18, Latinas Unidas sponsored and hosted a poetry reading. Three Dominican poets—Alexis Gomez, Norberto James and Kelve Perez—read their works to an audience of approximately thirty people. The reading, performed in Spanish, was followed by a brief discussion period and then a wonderful reception put on in conjunction with Fuerza Quisqueyana. We had mailed invitations in March both to faculty and to student groups; thus, a wonderful balance of students and professors were present at the reading.

Finally, on April 29, we co-sponsored a visit by Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farmworkers. She spoke to an audience of approximately eighty people about the current situation of farmworkers and immigrants in Southern California. Ms. Huerta's visit helped bring a close to our celebration of Latina/o Heritage Month.

Latina/o Heritage Month featured many other events, including a discussion about Latinas and our heritage, politics and cultural representation. Our program offered a good blend of cultural events and speakers from the East and West coasts, the Caribbean Islands, and Southern California.

—Ana Lara '97

Asian American Association Players Present Gotanda Play

Philip Kan Gotanda's *Yankee Dawg You Die*, the fourth production of the Asian American Association Players, was presented in Agassiz Theatre on March 8-10, 15 and 16. Directed by Ong Ker Shing '97 and produced by Jennifer Tye '97 and

Jonathan Stein '97, the two-person play featured actors Young Lee '99 and Allen Soong '96. Gotanda's play revolves around two Asian American actors who meet at a cocktail party in L.A. and become friends. Through the dual perspectives of a veteran actor and a novice, this play presents the moral conflicts and obstacles faced by Asian Americans in the entertainment industry. With a deceptively simple set design, the running crew of this production was crucial—crew members included Keith Baldwin '99, Audrey Hong '99, Alex Wong '99 and Rosylyn Rhee '99.

The Asian American Association Players aim to deliver one production per semester. This semester's production of *Yankee Dawg You Die* was also performed during the annual *ArtsFirst* weekend in April. The AAA Players, an organization founded in 1994, strives to maintain an Asian American voice in an arena where Asian Americans have not historically been prominent. At the same time, AAA Players aim to offer opportunities to anyone and everyone who is interested in theatre, regardless of past experience. Each production of AAA Players is organized solely by student members. Furthermore, each show not only represents the culmination of months of planning, rehearsing, and constructing, but each one is also a forum of discussion for the greater community.

—Jennifer Tye '97

Poetry Reading by R. Zamora Linmark

A reading by Asian American novelist and poet R. Zamora Linmark was held in the Adams House Senior Common Room on Friday, February 23. Mr. Linmark read poetry and prose selections from his new publication, *Rolling the R's*. After the reading, he answered questions about his creative work and his experiences as a gay Asian American. Approximately forty students, mostly undergraduates, attended the reading.

The reading was jointly sponsored by the Asian American Association, the Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Students Association, and the Harvard Philippine Forum. It represented a wonderful oppor-

tunity for three organizations sharing similar goals, as well as similar struggles against discrimination, to work together to educate interested members of the Harvard community.

—Susan A. Chen '98

Woodbridge Society: Mentor Program

This spring, besides continuing the activities of the Mentor Program for the Class of 1999, major efforts were launched for the Class of 2000. The Woodbridge Society received the list of international students in the Class of 2000 from the Admissions Office in April. We then started arranging mentor matches. It was apparent that mentors could best help the first-years in their transition to life at Harvard if they were from the same country/region of the world. We conducted a survey for all the mentors and mentees and used the results to make the best possible matches.

After matching all incoming freshmen, we prepared letters for them and mailed them in May. These letters included warm welcomes to Harvard from the Woodbridge Society and especially from the Mentor Program. Those mentors who have not already been in touch with their mentees will contact them over the summer, providing a resource for answering doubts and queries. There will be a reception for the mentor and mentees on the first day of classes, Monday, September 16, in the Straus Common Room at 8:00 p.m.

The Woodbridge Society also plans to provide mentors for visiting and transfer students. In many ways, the "mentor" program has been a misnomer since we are aiming at partnerships which not only provide guidance and advice, but hopefully build meaningful friendships.

—Maanjari Mahajan '98

Woodbridge Society: Peer Mentor Program

The Woodbridge Society is working to develop a Peer Mentor Program with

Harvard Abroad. We seek to match Harvard students who are interested in spending time abroad with international students from that region of the world.

The Peer Mentor Program would acquaint the mentee with the language, traditions and philosophy of the country of interest before she or he arrives there. Moreover, the program would prove to be fruitful for mentors and mentees as they exchange stories of their lands and lives.

—Maanjari Mahajan '98

Woodbridge Society: Student Contacts Program

The Woodbridge Society Student Contacts Program involves compiling a comprehensive list of international students at Harvard who have volunteered to be resources for potential applicants. These contacts have offered to help interested applicants by answering questions about Harvard, life in the U.S. and the application process. This project seeks to broaden the applicant pool to Harvard and tap talented international students from outside the traditional "feeder" schools, students who may not ordinarily have had adequate information about Harvard.

We are collaborating with the Admissions Office in preparing and mailing this list to prospective applicants. We are also in the process of compiling and editing a collection of essays which narrate the experiences of international students at Harvard. This booklet will be mailed to all new international students during the summer.

—Maanjari Mahajan '98

Lana Lin's *Stranger Baby*

A provocative, independent experimental film—*Stranger Baby*—and its creator, Lana Lin, drew an audience of approximately sixty members of the Harvard community to Emerson Hall on April 24. The event was sponsored by the Asian American Association.

The fascinating and often shocking images and narration of *Stranger Baby* mes-

merized the audience. The film questions how the ways of the world are dangerous and how vulnerable we really are, as the main character explores curious faces that flicker on the television and an androgynous apparition that haunts her.

The film also delves into some of the more specific social issues of identity, helplessness and alienation regarding biracial children. The narrator obsessively explains and repeats her belief that her brother is a "stranger baby" because he is biracial, that everything he does, plays with or says is in effect evidence that he is from outer space. The film shocks its audience into contemplating issues to which society is often indifferent or desensitized.

After the screening, the audience asked questions and exchanged ideas with Ms. Lin, a Taiwanese American filmmaker whose films have been screened at the American Museum of the Moving Image, Anthology Film Archives, the London Film Festival, the 18th Annual Asian American Film Festival and the International Women's Festival of France. The dialogues between Ms. Lin and the audience ranged from aesthetics, budgeting, casting and filming technicalities to racism and the perils of technology.

—Tony Wong '99

Minority Students' Alliance/ South Asian Association Cultural Dance Workshop

"*Baile el merengue!*" "Dance the Indian *Bras!*" "Step with the African Gumboot Troupe!" These were some of the calls heard at the cultural dance workshop presented by the Minority Students' Alliance (MSA) and the South Asian Association (SAA). On Sunday, April 7, a diverse group of approximately forty students came to the Kirkland Junior Common Room to learn three dances from three different continents.

Members of the African Students Association Gumboot Dance Troupe taught the audience gumboots, a dance originating from the Black miners of South Africa. "Gumboots" refers to the shoes worn by these miners. Members of the SAA pre-

sented the *ras*, a folk dance that is often performed by the Indian community. The *ras* is a lively dance that represents Krishna, a Hindu god, flirting with his female worshippers. Finally, members of the Harvard-Radcliffe Ballroom Club taught the audience the *merengue*, a popular dance of Latin America. It was crucial for the audience to learn how to "move those hips!" In addition, audience members listened to music from places such as Ghana, Turkey, and the Philippines while they ate Indian appetizers.

The Minority Students' Alliance and the South Asian Association would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for helping make this event possible. All who attended agreed it was a fun way to learn an important facet of other people's cultures.

—Albert Khine '97

Harvard Vietnamese Dance Troupe

For the *Cultural Rhythms Festival* on February 24, the Harvard Vietnamese Dance Troupe reenacted a traditional folktale using modern interpretive dance. Choreographed by Phuonglien Nguyen and Thong Le, the dance tells the story of a hero and a beautiful maiden who fall deeply in love with each other. The evil king, however, arrests the maiden, then falls for her beauty himself. The hero, determined to win her back, seeks the help of the mystical turtle god and fights past the king's guards to reclaim his love.

A critical part of the performance was the costumes, for which the dance troupe owes great thanks to the Harvard Foundation. With their support, we were able to buy the necessary props and costumes to vividly complement our dance. The dance troupe has received very positive feedback about the performance, and a great deal of this credit must be given to the Harvard Foundation.

The Harvard Vietnamese Dance Troupe plans to perform the dance at future intercollegiate Vietnamese Student Association events and will offer an even more ambitious *Cultural Rhythms* performance next year.

—Hansel Pham '98

Affirmative Action and Asian Americans: A Panel Discussion

On Thursday, April 11, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association hosted a panel discussion, "Affirmative Action and Asian Americans." The event, co-sponsored by the Chinese Students' Association, Korean Americans for Culture and Community, Philippine Forum, South Asian Association and Japan Society, aimed to open dialogue on affirmative action as it pertains to Asian Americans. Panelists included Daniel Choi, doctoral candidate in government at Harvard and Rudy Hermosa, Regional Safety and Health Manager for the U.S. Department of Labor, speaking against affirmative action; and K. Terrence Denson, general attorney in Legal/Business Affairs Reporting at Capital Cities/ABC and Andrew Leong, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Massachusetts, speaking in favor of affirmative action; Natasha Bir '96 moderated. More than forty students attended the discussion.

The event began with panelists expressing their positions on and/or experiences with affirmative action. Though there were only four speakers, each brought to the discussion very distinct experiences and ideas. When panelists finished presenting individual points of view, they were given time to respond to each other's statements. Finally, audience members were given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

—Laura Kang '99

Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán: Noche Mexicana

Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán held its Annual Spring Concert: *Noche Mexicana*, on April 27 and 28 in the Adams House Pool Theatre. The concert was a unique contribution to the *ArtsFirst* festivities, transporting a piece of Mexico to the Harvard community. Over one hundred students, faculty and members of the community attended the two performances, which featured lively dances from the northern region of Mexico and from the

states of Veracruz and Jalisco. *Jesuita en Chihuahua* (seen in the film *Like Water for Chocolate*) capped off the dances from Northern Mexico. *La Bruja*, in which women representing witches balance candles on their heads, and the fast-paced *La Bamba* were favorites from Veracruz. The colorful region of Jalisco was represented in dances Ballet Folkórico learned just this year: *La Botella*, in which the dancers must try not to knock over a bottle as they dance over and around it; and *Las Alazanas*, in which the men show off their skillful footwork as they represent a herd of stampeding horses. The songs of love and of comedic tragedy sung by Caprice Corona '96 and Faustino Ramos '96 added immeasurably to the concert. Many people commented on the festive decorations, especially the spectacular Mexican flag made by Collin Tomb '96. Collin also sewed five new dresses and made innumerable repairs to Ballet Folkórico's older costumes.

Special thanks go to the event's sponsors, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, the Office for the Arts, and the Harvard-Radcliffe Undergraduate Council. Special thanks also belong to Adams House for their wonderful year-round support of Ballet Folklorico. Congratulations to directors Faustino Ramos, Cecilia LaFleur, costume mistress Collin Tomb, and dancers Marco Perez and Andres Molina, all of whom will be graduating this year.

—Cecilia LaFleur '96

Kuumba Singers Hold Twenty-Sixth Annual Midwinter Concert

Approximately three hundred people braved a major snowstorm to hear the Kuumba Singers' Twenty-Sixth Annual Midwinter Concert at Paine Hall on March 8. The crowd was not disappointed as Kuumba put on another exciting show with some new and exciting twists.

The spring semester is a period when members of Kuumba have an additional opportunity to express their creativity. The concert featured standard Kuumba perfor-

mances of phenomenal poetry and the musical talents of the male a capella group, Brothers, who thrilled the crowd with Take 6's "Something Within Me," and their female counterparts, Sisters, who equally shone with "Is My Living in Vain?" In addition, various Kuumba members performed new acts. There was a greater emphasis this year on Kuumba's instrumental talent. The Kuumba band opened the concert with two pieces. Alicia Hogges '98 delighted the audience with a Rachmaninoff prelude. The full choir performed Derrick Ashong's '97 arrangement of "When We Call Him Savior," featuring a string quintet with instrumentalists Meredith Bell '97, Oni Blackstock '99, Kelli English '97, Holly Foster '97 and Dan Freeman '97. Kuumba also introduced an original piece, "God Loves Me," which was written by David Stephens, a member of the band.

The Midwinter Concert was the last major Kuumba concert of the year. The choir would like to acknowledge departing seniors and thank them for their tireless contributions to Kuumba. Kuumba members of the class of 1996 are Melanie Allen, Sabine Balzora, Gilbert Collins, Tony Cregler, Andrea Douglass, Nadeige Genece, Joy Gorham, Ed.M., and Ngozi Mba.

—Jante Santos '99

South Asian Association Ghungroo

On February 29 through March 2, the Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association (SAA) hosted its annual cultural show in Agassiz Theatre. Each of the three programs was a mix of music, dance, comedy and culture that showcased the talents of Harvard undergraduate and graduate students.

The tremendous diversity of acts brought a taste of South Asian culture to hundreds of attendees from within and beyond the Harvard campus. A hilarious spoof of the film *Forrest Gump* reenacted major events in South Asian history, while several traditional dances like the *dandia raas*, *bangra* and *bharatnatyam* captivated audiences with their grace and energy. Several musical performances, including a duel between the *sarod*, a classical South Asian instrument, and

the violin, displayed the capabilities of these instruments and the talents of the performers.

All in all, *Ghungroo* was a success, and two of the shows sold out. The string of shows concluded with a tribute to seniors who have contributed to the SAA and to *Ghungroo*, including directors Trin Mitra and Guarav Shah. Special thanks were also given to the technical crew and supporters of the show.

—Sharon Sudarshan '97

Mango Madness

On March 15, the Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association hosted a very successful dance party in Loker Commons. The South Asian Association's own Nishat Mehta served as disc jockey. Mango ice cream from the Cafe of India Restaurant in Cambridge was served—the mango is a popular fruit throughout South Asia.

Since the event was held the weekend after *Ghungroo*, the annual cultural show, it drew a large audience. *Mango Madness* was a fun and informal event that served to celebrate the success of *Ghungroo* as well as the success of the South Asian Association throughout the year. Many students feel the "post-*Ghungroo* blues" after all the excitement of the show comes and goes. This event brought students together once again. *Ghungroo* elicited much enthusiasm from performers, technical crew members, and observers of the South Asian Association—*Mango Madness* served as an outlet for that enthusiasm.

We are very thankful to the Harvard Foundation for helping us put on this and other events. The post-*Ghungroo* dance will most likely become a new tradition.

—Sharon Sudarshan '97

Irish Cultural Society Entertains Harvard with a Ceili

Although the weather was rainy and cold on the evening of Saturday, April 13, the mood was festive in the Winthrop House Junior Common Room. The Harvard Irish Cultural Society (ICS) hosted

a *ceill* (*ceilidh*) featuring traditional (and not-so-traditional) Irish music and dancing. Every semester the *ceills* have drawn bigger crowds to participate in the fun; over the course of the evening at least eighty students and members of the Harvard community participated in the *ceill*. The group also seemed quite diverse—students from many cultural backgrounds enjoyed a taste of Irish culture.

ICS credits the four-person band Oomph! with much of the success of the event. This lively band entertained the group with Celtic music using instruments such as the fiddle, mandolin, bodhran drum and bagpipes. Jerry Bell, one of the band's members, provided energetic and enthusiastic dance instruction, drawing in everyone to participate in the set dances. The *ceill* also featured Irish baked goods and other refreshments. The three-hour event was free and open to the Harvard community.

ICS organizes a *ceill* every semester. In addition, the group participates in the Harvard Foundation's *Cultural Rhythms Festival* and engages speakers to address the Harvard community on Irish cultural and political issues. The *ceill* was made possible through the generosity of the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard-Radcliffe Undergraduate Council. Both organizations have consistently supported our efforts with funding, publicity and enthusiasm.

—Sarah Handeyside '97

KACC's Spring Performance: Bewildered

"The days are not full enough—the nights are not full enough—for these dreams. We each dream alone...." With these words ended *Bewildered*, a multimedia drama performed on April 20 by Korean Americans for Culture and Community (KACC). The performance included drumming, song and dance.

Attended by more than two hundred fifty students and community members, *Bewildered* sought to cast the desire for a unified culture as inevitable yet futile: we each dream of unity, of simplicity (perhaps one that can be extracted from the historical past of a foreign country), but this simplicity, in many cases, does not exist. Every

individual has his or her own history; although we may share images, beliefs and thoughts, in the end we each dream alone, and our vision flickers as we try to discern others and ourselves.

Bewildered addressed parts of the North Korean political situation, and donation boxes were passed around Lowell Lecture Hall for those interested in aiding North Koreans in need. All proceeds from the show benefited the Red Cross's effort to relieve flood victims in North Korea.

—Julie C. Kim '97

Kathleen Cleaver Discussion

On April 11, the Association of Black Radcliffe Women hosted an evening of discussion with Kathleen Cleaver, formerly Communications Secretary for the Black Panther Party, and currently Assistant Professor at Emory Law School and Du Bois Fellow at Harvard. The program began with a video screening of "The Group," a PBS roundtable discussion featuring Ms. Cleaver; Harvey Mansfield, professor of government at Harvard University; Glenn Cartman Loury, professor of economics at Boston University; and several other scholars. The video raised several issues facing the Black community, such as victimization in the Black community and the Black community's role in American society. The issues raised in the video stimulated a lively discussion, which Ms. Cleaver guided to address worldwide instances of injustice and the problems facing the Black community in the 1990s. The energy was high as the students began to discuss the issue of racism in America, especially on college campuses. The discussion was so powerful, in fact, a group of participants decided to organize weekly discussion sessions.

—Jovanni Neblett '98

An Evening of Arabic Culture

On March 15, the Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students (SAS) pre-

sented their bi-annual "Evening of Arabic Culture" in the Eliot House Junior Common Room. The event was complete with a selection of authentic Arabic foods that provided students with a flavor of the many different Arabic cultures present on this campus. Students also gained the opportunity to hear many sounds of traditional music from different parts of the Arab world, and many students learned how to dance to these songs.

Over the course of the evening, about one hundred twenty students attended the event. One of the most popular activities was the *dabkeh*, a traditional group dance. The evening was a success and presented the Harvard community with an accurate depiction of the variety of distinct cultures within the Arab world, their foods and music.

—Rami Thabet '97

Society of Arab Students Spring Series: Contemporary Issues in the Middle East

This spring the Society of Arab Students (SAS) sponsored a series of events to explore current issues in the Middle East. On February 28, SAS presented a lecture by Professor Peter Pellett, team leader for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to Iraq and head of the Department of Nutrition at the University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences, and Dr. Mary Smith-Fawzi, UN/FAO mission member and Research Associate for the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. The lecture was entitled "The War Is Not Over for the Children of Iraq."

Professor Pellett and Dr. Smith-Fawzi were part of an FAO team that visited Iraq during the summer of 1995 to investigate the results of sanctions placed against the civilian population; their mission reported back to the General Assembly of the United Nations. The speakers, illustrating their findings with a slide presentation, revealed the devastating effects the sanctions have had on the Iraqi population in general and the children in particular. It is estimated that more than a half million

Iraqi children have died since the Gulf War, due directly or indirectly to UN sanctions.

On March 21, two prominent Jerusalemites, Albert Aghazarian and Dan Leon, participated in a panel discussion entitled, "Whose Jerusalem." Aghazarian is Director of Public Relations at Beir Zeit University in the West Bank and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Conference. Leon is Co-managing Editor of the *Palestine/Israel Journal*. The lecture/discussion outlined the major points of contention between the Israelis and Palestinians over the city of Jerusalem and presented ideas that could contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The panel was preceded by a screening of the documentary *Jerusalem: An Occupation Set in Stone?* The film's director/editor, Marty Rosenbluth, introduced the film.

—Ramzy Tados '97

Fifth Annual ECJAL Conference

The fifth annual East Coast Japan America League Conference (ECJAL), sponsored by the Harvard-Radcliffe Japan Society, was held on the weekend of April 19-21, at Harvard. For this intercollegiate conference, almost eighty non-Harvard students from as far away as New York and about the same number of Harvard students gathered for a weekend filled with Japan-related events.

H.E. Hisashi Owada, the permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations, spoke on the role Japan has played since World War II and commented on Japan's movement toward a more active role in global affairs. A panel discussion by Professor Merry White, Ms. Yoshiko Hayakawa, and Ms. Asako Toyoda focused on the woman's role in the Japanese workplace based on experiences in their respective professions: academia, media and bureaucracy. Professor Ezra Vogel, the foremost expert on Japan, and Mr. Kaoruhiko Suzuki, a managing partner of an international law firm, talked about the banking crisis and its implications for the future.

In addition to the lectures, a cultural show featured the Japanese imperial court dance by the Jo Ha Kyu Performance

Group and a *taiko* (drumming) performance by Odaiko New England, both of which are professional groups. Other cultural events included a screening of the film *Laputa* by the Harvard Anime Society and a tea ceremony demonstration by the Harvard Chado Society. Also, with the aid of the Harvard Foundation, a dinner was prepared which consisted of such Japanese delicacies as sushi, soumen, misoshiru and korokke.

—Riki Yamakawa '98

Persian New Year Festival

The Persian Society held *Now Rouz*, the Persian New Year Festival, in Eliot House's Junior Common Room and Library on Thursday, March 21. The concert consisted of a violin and piano performance by Melinda Haydari '97, followed by a Persian poetry reading by Naghmeh, and a classical *santour* performance by Manucher Madanipour of the Saba Group. The *santour* is a musical instrument similar to the hammered dulcimer.

Approximately eighty people—undergraduate and graduate students, Harvard faculty and members of the Cambridge community—were in enthusiastic attendance for the delicious food and the cultural program. The mother of Manmood Firouzbakht '98, generously provided the *haftsin* decoration, a traditional table setting, and homemade Persian pastries, which serve as the centerpiece of the entire New Year tradition. This festival, the Persian Society's main cultural event of the year, has continued to grow in attendance and quality from its informal origins of only four years ago.

—Cyrus Boquin '96

Revival

Revival: A Journal of Expository Discourse Relating to the Black Diaspora is in its third year of publication. The journal fosters race relations by providing a forum for open and honest discussion of race-related issues. This year *Revival* explores *Ujamaa As Survival: Economics in the Black Community*. Topics range from post-apartheid develop-

ment in South Africa, to the economic situation of African Americans after emancipation, to contemporary actions against discrimination in the workplace. For the second year in a row, submissions were received outside Harvard's campus to include other universities and to foster community organization. *Revival* also offered a \$100 prize for the issue's best submission. *Revival* focused its attention on spreading the word of our publication through e-mail and mailings to places of interest. We greatly appreciate the support of the Harvard Foundation.

—Monica Watkins '96

—Jalila Jefferson '97

Chinese New Year Banquet

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students' Association held its annual Lunar New Year Banquet on Friday, February 9, in the Lowell House Dining Hall. Over two hundred fifty Harvard students, professors, and members of the Cambridge community attended this festive event.

The room was beautifully decorated for our guests' enjoyment with Chinese calligraphic characters written on red banners, featuring *gongxi facai* (wishing you many fortunes in the coming year) and *wanshi ruyi* (may everything go as you wish). In the back of the room was delicious food, specially



Local youth perform a traditional Chinese dance in celebration of the Chinese New Year.



Albert Khine '97 serves food to eager guests at the Chinese New Year Banquet.

catered by Peach Farm, deemed the 1995 Best of Chinatown by *Boston Magazine*.

The highlight of the evening was the cultural show. Among the many spectacular performances, ten local grade school children performed traditional dances and music on Chinese instruments. The Asian American Dance Troupe performed their Ribbon Dance. Christine Lay '97 played a song on the zither. Finally, a group of MIT students performed the traditional Lion's Head Dance, an integral part of the Chinese New Year celebration.

Chinese New Year is the biggest and most important holiday for the Chinese. Traditionally, everyone is expected to go home to celebrate the New Year with the

family. Old debts are supposed to be paid, and the Chinese usually do not go to work or school for a week.

—Alex Chou '97

CSA Showcases Traditional Lion's Head Dance at Lunar New Year Celebration

On February 9 the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students' Association (CSA) welcomed the Year of the Rat during the annual Lunar New Year Banquet and Dance. The finale to this evening celebration of

Chinese cuisine, holiday customs and performing arts was the Lion's Head Dance.

The Lion's Head Dance is a beloved favorite at many major holidays. Lively and nimble performers make the lion dance about in a sometimes sinuous, sometimes predatory prow, to the beat of large drums and crashing cymbals. Often, the loud crackle of fireworks accompanies the festivities. The noise is meant to frighten away evil spirits so that the people can usher in a new year filled with good luck and prosperity.

With the generous help of the Harvard Foundation, CSA has been able to purchase a lion's head of its own, making possible performances at future New Year celebrations. We hope to bring the Lion's Head Dance and many other aspects of Chinese culture to campus.

—Shouyee Yung '98

Chinese Students' Association Dumpling Festival

About twenty-five people attended the Chinese Students' Association (CSA) Dumpling Festival at DeWolfe Hall on Saturday, February 24, to learn how to make dumplings and to get a taste of this well-known delicacy. With funding from the Harvard Foundation, CSA officers went to Boston's Chinatown early that day to purchase the main ingredients: meat, lettuce and dumpling covers.

One CSA member, who had learned the art of dumpling making at home, was pleased to show participants the steps. First, we added to minced meat various sauces, including soy sauce, and added vegetables such as Chinese cabbage and scallions. After giving the combination a good mix, we wrapped the dumplings with the dumpling covers. We learned the traditional way of wrapping and experimented with newer, more creative wrapping styles which were fun but not as successful in keeping the dumplings wrapped. Finally, we cooked the dumplings and had quite a feast, socializing and eating.

This inexpensive event offered many people a "cool" and fun learning experience. CSA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for its support.

—Wing Chan '99



Christine Lay '97 dazzles the audience with a skillful performance on the Chinese zither.

Mah-jong Karaoke Night

Mah-jong Karaoke Night was a great success for the Chinese Students' Association (CSA). As a joint venture with MIT's Chinese Student Club (CSC), we welcomed both Harvard and MIT guests to Currier House's Tuchman Lounge on February 23. About fifty people participated in singing Karaoke (in English and Mandarin) and playing mah-jong.

Many people learned for the first time to play mah-jong, a Chinese game as popular in the West as it is in the East. Although originally a gambling game, mah-jong was played by CSA and CSC members strictly for fun. However, the laughter was also accompanied by more serious debate. The cultural celebration of traditionally Chinese activities in a uniquely American atmosphere stimulated intense discussion of the Asian-American experience. Overall, the exchange of perspectives and sharing of experiences created a warm sense of community and camaraderie among all those who attended.

—Jennifer H. Wu '99

CSA's Dim Sum

On Saturday, April 20, seventy-five to one hundred Harvard students enjoyed a delicious traditional Chinese Dim Sum served in Lowell House Junior Common Room. The event was sponsored by the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students' Association.

The food served was representative of what would be eaten at a traditional Chinese Dim Sum, such as dumplings and spring rolls. In addition to the more common Chinese food, there were less well-known foods, such as a mixture of shrimp and vegetables wrapped in dumpling "skin," but not folded in the shape of the traditional dumpling. By trying new foods such as these, participants could perhaps broaden their perception of traditional Chinese food beyond that of spring rolls, dumplings and noodles.

In addition to eating, participants had the opportunity to learn about Chinese and Chinese-American culture as they talked to other members of the Harvard community. An event such as Dim Sum encourages diversity through the sharing of food.

Traditional Chinese food, which is a main focus of any family or social gathering in Chinese culture, allows students of all ethnicities and backgrounds to participate in an important aspect of Chinese culture and identity.

Also present at the event were the officers of CSA, who answered questions and distributed the latest CSA newsletter for students who were interested in future CSA events, which are open to the entire Harvard community.

CSA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation and the Undergraduate Council for their generous funding, without which this event would not have been possible.

—Shirling Tsai '99

RAZA and AAA Cultural Exchange

On March 20, RAZA and the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association (AAA) hosted a joint study break that was very successful by all accounts. Approximately seventy-five people participated in making quesadillas and sushi, two foods very familiar to Mexican-American and Asian-American cultures, respectively. Although the popular television show "Friends" was playing in the background, most participants ignored it to talk to each other or huddle around the delicious food. The study break was a great opportunity to share food as well as ideas. Both organizations were extremely pleased with the success of this event.

We are already planning for the next cultural exchange, in which we might feature a game or another interactive event. We hope to have more of these exchanges with other groups on campus, as well.

—Karen Montoya '98

Chicano

On April 19, Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA sponsored a viewing of the documentary, *Chicano* at the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government. The documentary follows the Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the late 1960s and 1970s in

the United States. The screening of *Chicano*, held as a part of a series of events to commemorate April as Latino Heritage Month, was an opportunity for the Latino community, especially the Chicano community here at Harvard, to learn about the movement that took place in order to achieve equality in American society.

The four hour viewing, authorized by the producers, was followed by discussion. The viewing has a large appeal, not only to undergraduate students, but to students from Harvard's graduate schools as well as Chicano and Latino students from neighboring institutions. Due to the large diversity that existed in the audience, the discussion proved to be an effective forum in which students were able not only to learn about their heritage as Chicanos, but also to learn to identify and establish connections with other Latino and Chicano students in the Boston area.

The scheduling of the screening made it possible for visiting prospective students to attend, giving them a feel for the programs sponsored by Latino student groups and by the Harvard Foundation. This served to dispel the myth that the Latino community at Harvard is inactive. We were able to show prospective students that the Latino community here is not only active, but also serious about promoting intercultural events.

The event was a great success. The discussion carried over into the night, until the Kennedy School facilities needed to be emptied. A graduate student's room served as the next venue for the discussion that went late into the night. This event allowed students to learn about themselves and to interact with others with similar backgrounds. Again, thanks to the Harvard Foundation's support, Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA was able to provide a quality event for the advancement of cultural education.

—Gustavo A. Torres '99

Asian American Intercollegiate Conference Cultural Workshops

*A*nimé? Halo-halo? Sushi? Chinese yo-yo? Kratong crafting? Ras dancing? Coffeehouse? Zen? Kendo? Poongmul?

With so many different cultural workshops being offered, how could the Harvard community and the attendants of the Asian American Intercollegiate Conference choose? Somehow they managed on Sunday, February 18.

More than four hundred people were treated to a series of Asian and Asian American cultural workshops supported by the Harvard Foundation. The workshops were far from being limited to Harvard conference affiliates; campus visitors also joined in, including visiting high school debate teams and church-going Cambridge families.

The literaries among us indulged in the Coffeehouse, located in Ticknor Lounge, listening to South Asian American poetry and fiction and eating South Asian appetizers, provided courtesy of the Tandoor House Restaurant in Cambridge. The more athletic participated in *ras* dancing, a lively South Asian dance performed with sticks, in a workshop taught by the South Asian Dance Organization. Those with a sweet tooth joined the Philippine Forum in making *halo-halo*, a Filipino dessert featuring shaved ice mixed with a variety of sweet flavorings. The more spiritual, however, engaged in a Zen meditation workshop, while the agile participated in the Chinese yo-yo workshop. Those who just wanted to relax watched *animé* in Boylston Auditorium, courtesy of the Animé Society. The most popular workshop was the seminar on sushi making, led by members of the Japan Society. Over one hundred people tucked scrumptious goodies into their rice and seaweed, then rolled, rolled, rolled! In addition, the Korean Americans for Culture and Community taught a workshop on Korean drumming. Several Chinese cultural workshops were led by the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association, including lessons on paper cutting and brush painting. Participants even learned to gamble Chinese-style with mah-jong lessons—not using real money, of course!

Revue, a pan-Asian intercollegiate cultural show, was the big treat on Saturday night. The show was hosted by Miss Massachusetts 1995, Sharon Lee. Performers included the Williams College Asian American Theatre Project and a Brown University a capella group among many other stunning performances that

night. The event was an amazing first attempt at incorporating culture into the annual intercollegiate conference, and we feel positive it can only grow from here.

—Jennifer Lee '98

A Black-Asian Dialogue

The Harvard Asian American Intercollegiate Black-Asian Relations Panel took place on Saturday, February 17, at the Kennedy School of Government. The dynamic panel of speakers included Fred Wei-han Ho '80, founder of the Afro-Asian Jazz Ensemble; Kenneth Wade, housing rights activist; Yuri Kochiyama, civil rights activist and former Black Panther; and Chandra Llewellyn, Intercultural Director for the Korea Society of New York. The panel was moderated by Du Bois Fellow Kathleen N. Cleaver, former Communications Secretary of the Black Panther Party.

The panel drew more than two hundred people to Weiner Auditorium. A diverse audience of conference attendants, including Harvard undergraduates and students from HLS, GSE and GSAS overflowed into the aisles. Preceding the panel discussion, Yuri Kochiyama gave an hour-long presentation on the history of Black-Asian relations in the United States. The panel opened with a discussion of the alliances and the divisions between African-Americans and Asian-Americans, and shared ideas about the future relations between the two populations. They also

analyzed tensions resulting from the Red Apple grocery boycott in Brooklyn, New York, and the Los Angeles riots, where many Korean-owned retail stores in Black communities were looted and destroyed. The panel's insightful commentary was incredibly well received. Fred Ho in particular drew an enthusiastic response from the audience with his provocative analysis of white American society. The panel discussion concluded with a question-and-answer session with the audience.

The program offered an unusual opportunity for the Harvard community to examine race issues beyond the black-white dichotomy. The atmosphere in the room was warm and receptive; the speakers were focused on sharing their experiences, rather than lecturing, and listeners were focused solely on broadening their own perspectives on the matter. This event was a compelling and enlightening experience for all who participated.

—Jennifer Lee '98

Race as a Tool: Exploring the Intersection of Politics and Culture

The 1996 Spring Conference of the W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Society was co-sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, Dudley House, the Graduate Student Council, GSAS and the Women's Law Association of Harvard Law School. The



Black-Asian relations panelists address alliances and divisions between African- and Asian-Americans. Panelists included (l-r): Yuri Kochiyama, civil rights activist, Chandra Llewellyn, Intercultural Director of the Korea Society of New York, Kenneth Wade, housing rights activist, and Fred Wei-han Ho '80, founder of the Afro-Asian Jazz Ensemble).

event was a great success, inspiring all in attendance. "Race as a Tool: Exploring the Intersection of Politics and Culture" was held Saturday, April 13, in Lehman Hall at Dudley House. Approximately seventy attendants were treated to fascinating opening and closing addresses by Christopher Edley, former Special Counsel to President Clinton for Affirmative Action and Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and by Bhikhu Parekh, Professor of Political Theory at the University of Hull, United Kingdom. Six graduate students in English, Anthropology, Law, History of Science and Political Science gave cogent presentations of their work. Two practitioners, one from an affirmative action institute at the University of Massachusetts and the other from a non-profit environmental justice organization enlightened conference participants on policy issues related to the use of race and other identifiers as tools to achieve various social, political and educational goals.

The W.E.B. Du Bois Society is a graduate organization dedicated to providing an intellectual and cultural home for historically under-represented minorities.

—Lawrence Hamlet,

Ph.D. Candidate, Government Department

Carnival '96

Sunny skies, a warm breeze, lots of music and Caribbean food—Quincy House courtyard was ablaze with a taste of the Caribbean on Saturday, April 20. The Caribbean Club held its seventh annual *Carnival*. The Quincy House courtyard was filled with food from the Boston community, dance performances, authentic Caribbean jewelry and other specialties, including a steel band. The Caribbean Club was fortunate to secure the services of Branches Pan Groove Steelband. This organization thrives in the Boston area, performing and giving classes. Professional performers were also highlighted by Harvard's own talented student organizations. Expressions Dance Company and the Haitian Alliance each danced for an attentive audience. Thanks to the curious crowd of prospective students and Harvard students, *Carnival '96* was a festive event

attended by more than two hundred people.

—Sonia Persaud '97

The King of Buganda Visits Harvard

On Tuesday, February 6, the Harvard African Students Association (HASA), with the support of the Harvard Foundation, hosted a visit by His Majesty Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, the King of Buganda, traditionally known as the Kabaka. Buganda is one of the ancient Kingdoms of East Africa; it is located on the shores of Lake Victoria in present-day Uganda. King Mutebi himself descends directly from a line of ancient kings stretching back more than five hundred years. Considering its well-documented origins in the thirteenth century, Buganda is one of the oldest kingdoms in the world that still exists.

The King's visit began at the Harvard University Marshal's Office in Wadsworth House, where he was welcomed by Dr. Richard Hunt, the University Marshal, Dr. S. Allen Counter, and members of HASA. A remarkable coincidence became apparent in the discussion—it turned out that Dr. Counter had studied with the uncle of one of the King's assistants! From the Marshal's office, the group proceeded to Taubman Hall in the Kennedy School of Government, where the King was scheduled to present a public lecture entitled "Democratization in Africa and the Role of Traditional Leaders." The lecture was presented to an audience of about one hundred eighty people, including students, faculty, and members of the public.

The King's lecture centered on three main themes. First, the traditional leader should not be allied with particular political interests, but should instead act as a unifying factor; the leader should rise above controversial political issues which have the potential to divide a nation and should focus on creating a stable political environment in which all voices may be heard. Second, King Mutebi identified development and poverty alleviation as priority areas that require the attention of traditional leaders. Third, he targeted environmental degradation as a problem that could be addressed by traditional leaders, who

have great influence on the actions of the rural population. In this context, the King mentioned his own efforts to encourage voter registration and to promote tree planting in Uganda.

After the lecture, the King proceeded to Bell Hall, where a reception was hosted in his honor by the Committee on African Studies. The reception was a smaller, more relaxed affair that allowed the King to interact with students on an individual basis. King Mutebi expressed his gratitude to the various sponsors and indicated that he had enjoyed his visit to Harvard. HASA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation, the Committee on African Studies, the Undergraduate Council, and Dr. Harriet Masembe for their generous support.

—Taziona Chaponda '97

Minority Bone Marrow Donor Registry Drive

To help increase the number of minority volunteer donors on the National Marrow Donor Registry, the Harvard-Radcliffe Cancer Society organized a Minority Bone Marrow Donor Registry Drive at Ticknor Lounge, Boylston Hall, on April 10. The drive added sixty-five new volunteers to the National Registry and spread information about the need for more marrow donors to many others on campus.

Every year, more than 16,000 children and adults in the United States are diagnosed with fatal blood diseases such as leukemia. For many of these patients, a bone marrow transplant is the only cure. However, such a transplant is possible only when the patient can find a donor with a matching marrow type. Nearly thirty percent of these patients will find a matching donor within their family. For the other seventy percent, the only hope for a cure is to turn to the National Registry of volunteer marrow donors. At any given time, about 2,000 patients are searching for a matching donor.

Unfortunately, finding unrelated matching donors is particularly difficult for African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans. Since marrow types are inherited in the same way as skin, eye and hair traits, a match is most likely found within the racial or eth-

nic group of the patient. Currently, minorities are greatly underrepresented on the National Marrow Donor Programs (NMDP) Registry. The diversity of the Harvard-Radcliffe community made it the perfect place to recruit new volunteers. A number of Caucasian donors also joined the National Registry at the drive.

Anyone between the ages of 18 and 55, in good general health and not excessively overweight, can join the National Registry. The cost of marrow-typing potential donors is normally \$45 per person; however, a federal grant made it possible to test minority volunteer donors for free. Other volunteers were covered by a matching federal fund of \$22.40 per person.

The drive was organized and staffed by a dedicated group of Harvard-Radcliffe Cancer Society members and other students who volunteered to help with the drive. The Cancer Society is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping individuals and families who are coping with cancer and to raising greater awareness of the personal, social, cultural and political issues surrounding cancer.

If you would like more information about the marrow donation process or future marrow donor drives, please contact the NMDP at 1-800-MARROW-2.

—Yen-lin Chen '97

The Future of Black Leadership in America

The Harvard Black Students' Association's (BSA) first intercollegiate conference, "The Future of Black Leadership in America," held at Harvard University on April 12 and 13, was an overwhelming success. The purpose of the conference was to bring together Black college students with diverse interests to gain insight and information from prominent leaders in a variety of fields, including politics, journalism, education, business, science and medicine. It was a weekend for Black students to reflect on our commitment to both self and collective improvement and to strengthen our roles as "The Future of Black Leadership."

Students from twenty-five different universities in the New England area were invited to attend the conference. More than two hundred fifty students registered; most

were from outside of the Harvard community. Our list of distinguished guest speakers included: Les Brown, author and syndicated talk show host; Myrlie Evers-Williams, Chair of the NAACP Board of Directors; Dr. Benjamin Chavis, civil rights activist; Harvard Professor Cornel West; Keith Clinkscales, CEO of *Vibe* magazine; Frank D. Brown, Editor-in-Chief of *Young Sisters and Brothers* (YSB) magazine; and Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. Topics ranged from the current trend toward "historicizing" civil disobedience to the importance of Black professionals in journalism and medicine.

Though the lecture series was both comprehensive and provocative, we realized that the weekend would seem incomplete without entertainment. With that in mind, we put together a comedy show on the night of April 12 sponsored by Comedy Central, featuring the witty and highly political humor of Leighann Lord. On Saturday we featured an intercollegiate talent showcase with a Greek Step Show. Though most of the events were held in the Harvard Science Center, the step show was held at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School Auditorium. This was the only available venue large enough to seat our audience of more than five hundred.

Obviously, organizing an event of this magnitude requires a great deal of planning and preparation, and certainly a great deal of money. Most of the costs were covered through the generous donations of sponsors, including: Black Entertainment Television, The Heritage Collection, The W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, the Department of Afro-American Studies, The Black Faculty and Alumni Association, the Dean of Students Office, the Institute of Politics, and many, many others. With the continued support of groups like these, we feel we can make the BSA Intercollegiate Conference an annual event.

—Joshua D. Powe '98

BSA Valentine's Day Semi-Formal

The Black Students' Association (BSA) hosted its Valentine's Day Semi-Formal

on February 10 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. The goal of the semi-formal was to bring together Harvard student groups in a comfortable and exciting social environment; a semi-formal seemed to be an appropriate way to achieve this goal. The Riverfront Room in Cambridge's Royal Sonesta Hotel added elegance to the evening.

By all accounts, the event was a fantastic success. This was largely due to the generosity of our sponsors, including the Harvard Foundation. The event was initially conceived as a fundraiser, but the hotel rental cost absorbed the income from ticket sales. The Harvard-Radcliffe Kuumba Singers, Black Men's Forum, and The Harvard African Students Association each contributed three hundred dollars to help defray our costs. About one hundred thirty people representing various student groups within the Harvard community attended.

—Joshua D. Powe '98

Islam: Bridging the Gap

Two *Bridging the Gap* events served as a means for both strengthening the diverse Muslim community and presenting Islam to the campus at large, so that all might benefit through sharing.

As the blessed month of Ramadan came to an end and Muslims on campus and around the world celebrated the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Harvard Islamic Society held an evening of commemoration called *Eid Sweets Night* in the Canaday Hall prayer room. Celebrants gathered on February 20 to feast on desserts from different cultural traditions reflecting the diversity within the Islamic world. Many were dressed in traditional cultural attire, as Eid is a time for new and favorite clothes. Open to all members of the Harvard community and attended by some guests from the local area as well, *Eid Sweets Night* proved to be an enjoyable event in the spirit of the holiday.

The visit of Muhammad Khan, movie producer and president of Eclipse Media International on April 22 was an opportunity for the University community to reflect on the injustice and harm of stereotyping in general and stereotyping Muslims in particular. Speaking on "The Portrayal of

Muslims in Popular American Culture," Khan related some of his personal experiences with religious bias and turned his focus to some of the truths about Islam, its teachings, and Muslims. Referring to the anti-Islamic imagery in the recent film *Executive Decision*, the guest urged the audience to seek accurate information about the religion. Those present were reminded of the deep and negative effects of unfair stereotyping of minority groups—stereotyping perpetuated by the news and entertainment media.

—Aamir Rehman '97

Singapore and Malaysian Association Spring Food Festival

It is often said (not entirely in jest) that eating is the national pastime in Singapore and Malaysia. These are, after all, two countries where mass culture involves buying the latest Mariah Carey album, shopping for that absolutely necessary pair of Calvin Klein jeans and collectively sweating over an exciting new curry dish. And that was the spirit behind the spring food festival organized by the Singapore and Malaysian Association (SAMA), held on April 29, at the lawns outside Cabot House.

The festival was a delightful opportunity for everyone to sit out in the sun, savor some authentic Asian food and gripe about the weather in Boston. There was an elaborate lamb curry, a spicy vegetable stir-fry and some suspicious-looking potato pancakes (which this Singaporean has never seen in his entire parochial existence). Some brave souls even attempted a mini-barbecue with sausages and vegetarian burger-substitutes, which are decidedly not under the label of ethnic cuisine. Everyone invited brought along a friend: there were pre-frosh participants, graduate students, even a Canadian from Yale. In the end, there were about forty menacing individuals eyeing that last bit of mutton gravy.

It was all a good bit of fun; many thanks go to the Harvard Foundation for its support. Kudos also to the lovely staff from the Cabot dining hall: their steamed rice and elegant cheese platters even inspired some bad poetry on that assuredly rare, sunny spring day.

—Chuanfei Chin '99

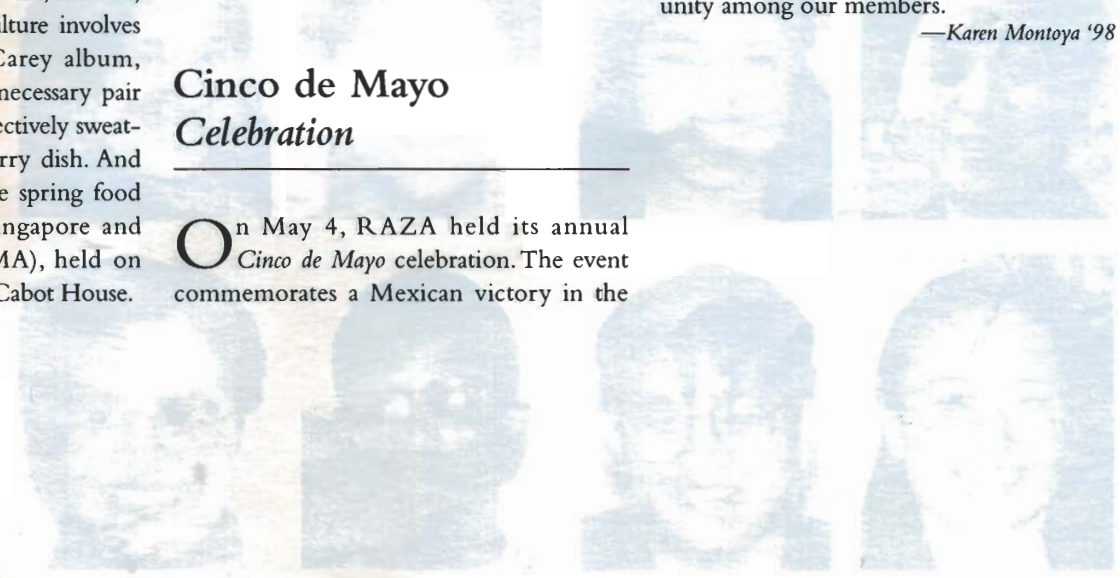
Cinco de Mayo Celebration

On May 4, RAZA held its annual *Cinco de Mayo* celebration. The event commemorates a Mexican victory in the

Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, in which Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza, outnumbered three-to-one, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III. This holiday, oddly enough, is more celebrated by Mexicans in the United States than by Mexico itself, and therefore it represents a very Mexican-American celebration.

The Harvard-Radcliffe Ballet Folklórico de Atzlán opened the gathering, and their splendid movements dazzled the audience. Among approximately fifty guests were many members of other student organizations, including the leaders of Fuerza Quisqueyana and Latinas Unidas. The attendees enjoyed catered food and traditional Mexican meals. After the dinner, several seniors spoke of their experiences at Harvard. For many, being involved in RAZA provided significant opportunities for growth, learning and friendship. We thank the Foundation for being so supportive of our events, which have fostered unity among our members.

—Karen Montoya '98





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