Dr. David Ho: AIDS Researcher and 1996 Time Magazine Man of the Year

Dr. David Ho, director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, was honored for his contributions to AIDS research with a reception and banquet at Eliot House. The event was sponsored by the Asian American Association and the Harvard Foundation. Dr. Ho, a scientist at the forefront of AIDS research today, immigrated to the United States as a child from Taiwan and went on to attend Harvard Medical School. Since he began his work on the AIDS virus in the early stages of the virus’s discovery in the early 1980s, Dr. Ho has concentrated his research on preventing the spread of HIV. He was chosen to head the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City in 1990, and was honored as Time Magazine’s 1996 Man of the Year for his work on the ground-breaking AIDS “drug cocktail” treatment.

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Reception for Naresh Chandra, Indian Ambassador to the United States

An Evening Of Irish Storytelling, Humor & Music featuring Batt and Maura Burns

Batt and Maura Burns, Irish comedy duo, are often featured at events on campus. The event was co-sponsored by the Irish Cultural Society and the Harvard Foundation House. The performers were accompanied by Joe Curtin, a professional Irish fiddler, and Dan dawn, a Michigan-based Irish band.

(Continued on page 2)
Irish Storytelling
(Continued from page 1)

On December 3, 1997, Harvard was treated to an evening of Irish tales and music, thanks to the efforts of the Harvard Foundation and the Irish Cultural Society. The event was also sponsored by Adams House co-masters, Professor Robert and Dr. Jasia Kiegy, who attended the event. Batt Burns, a native of Ireland from County Kerry, and trained in the traditional but dying art of Irish story-telling, entertained both students and faculty in the Adams House Junior Common Room. He was accompanied by his wife, Maure, a native of Ireland's County Cork who is an accomplished singer and a master of the concertina, a small accordion that is popular in traditional Irish music. The combination of Mr. and Mrs. Burns provided an evening rich in the musical traditions of Ireland.

The couple's visit began with a dinner with students at Adams House. During the dinner, the discussion focused mainly on the preservation of the Gaelic language. The Burns's expressed great surprise and delight to learn that a number of the Harvard College students are Irish Cultural Society were fluent in Gaelic.

After dinner, both Mr. and Mrs. Burns performed in Adams House. Song and story intermingled throughout the program. Mr. Burns was kind enough to include some pieces in Gaelic for those in the audience studying the language.

The evening's performance was both entertaining and informative, as the performers integrated music and Irish history into the program. Much of their music, poetry, and storytelling focused on this year's 150th anniversary commemoration of the Irish Potato Famine. At the end of the program, the Burns's answered questions from the audience on a wide range of topics, from the state of Gaelic in Ireland to the conflict in Northern Ireland. At the end of the evening, Irish pastries and scones were served, giving the Burns's and students a chance to converse freely with one another and further discuss different points raised during the evening's festivities. —Megan Coffey '98

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Dr. David Ho is presented with the Harvard Foundation Award by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. Participating in the award presentation were Harvard College students Nina Coleman '98, and Santa James '98, co-chairs of the Harvard Foundation Students' Advisory Committee and Grace Lin '99, Sankofa Club '98, Alex Nguyen '98 (co-chair), and Grace Shih '98 (co-chair) of the Asian American Association (AAA).

Dr. David Ho
(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Ho first greeted students at a reception in the Eliot House Library, where over 100 students and Harvard College Dean, Harry Lewis, took the opportunity to meet him. Students chatted with Dr. Ho on a personal level; many requested advice for potential doctors while others posed questions regarding Dr. Ho's research. After enjoying freely made sushi and fruit platters provided by Eliot House, the students and Dr. Ho proceeded to the dinner banquet, where the Asian American Association co-presidents, Alex Nguyen and Grace Shih, and Eliot House co-masters, Professor Steve Mitchell and Ms. Katarina Forsgren, welcomed him to Eliot. There, Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Dr. Ho with a Harvard Foundation Award signed by Harvard's President, Neil Rudenstine, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to American science and intercultural relations.

After dinner, Dr. Ho gave a speech on his research studies in HIV. Dr. Ho began his speech by telling the audience that he particularly enjoyed speaking to students because he enjoys their enthusiasm and curiosity. He then proceeded to give a presentation and slide show which covered the origins and spread of the AIDS epidemic, advances in AIDS research, and the progress and problems in finding a cure for the disease. After his presentation, Dr. Ho took questions from students. Extremely modest about his achievements, Dr. Ho stressed that he was only one member of a team of scientists who had worked to achieve the recent breakthroughs. Dr. Ho emphasized that the battle against AIDS was far from over and warned against complacency. The renowned scientist also spoke of his own immigrant background, citing his Asian heritage and upbringing as one of the reasons for his perseverance and achievements in research. During the question and answer period, one student asked the question which had been on the minds of many students: "What advice would you give to pre-med students hoping to enter medical school?" Dr. Ho answered with a smile, "I hate to say this, but hard work." He went on to note that a true passion for the profession and dedication are essential qualities for those persons wishing to enter the medical profession.

After his presentation, Dr. Ho remained at Eliot House to informally answer questions and to offer personal advice on careers and research to a number of students who had not yet had the chance to speak with him. Dr. Ho was an inspiration to all those who attended.

Photo of Harvard College Professor Harry R. Lewis, joint recipient of the Asian American Association and the Harvard Foundation in welcoming Dr. David Ho.
On October 24, 1997, over two hundred and fifty Chicano/Latino students from four different east coast colleges converged on Harvard’s campus to participate in the Fall 1997 East Coast Chicano Student Festival Conference.

Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA hosted the conference on the theme, “We’re Here, Now What?”, which began a discussion on the role of the Chicano/Latino student at sometimes alienating east coast universities.

Students were welcomed with an engaging opening speech by Professor Edgardo de los Reyes of the Harvard Graduate School of Education that stressed the importance of shared narratives for a more comprehensive understanding of Chicano/Latino issues. Following de los Reyes’ speech, students were taken to Harvard Yard to attend workshops tailored to various facets of the Chicano/Latino experience at east coast universities.


The “Self-Defense” workshop tried to resolve the conflict between mainstream success and Latino culture.

Workshop leader, Richard Vasquez, fielded questions most concerned with the social responsibilities of Latinos in the business world. In the end, Vasquez showed that the antagonism could be resolved by illustrating the example of Luis Valdez, the director of such successful Hollywood films as “Zoot Suit” and “La Bamba,” who chose to keep close ties with the community despite his fame and success.

The workshops ended with a traditional Mexican dinner in the Gardner Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The dinner was promptly followed by a stellar performance by the Harvard-Radcliffe Ballet Folklorico which brought students to their feet.

The keynote speaker, former mayor of Baldwin Park, California, Mr. Felix Vargas ’91, presented an impassioned speech about leadership and the Chicano community. The conference ended with a dance social.

In addition to bringing together members of the east coast college Latino community, the conference successfully fostered meaningful dialogue which in some cases led to heated debate, but eventually concluded with Conference Committee Chair, Jennifer Alatorre, who expressed the essence of the conference by saying that “people are here because they share a common ethnic background, cultural ties, and political interests.”
Kuumba Celebrates Twenty-Five Years with Mr. Winfrey

On Thursday, October 23, the Kuumba Singers, Harvard's traditional gospel choir, honored a man who witnessed the inception of the group in 1971, Mr. Robert E. Winfrey, for guiding the Kuumba Singers of Harvard Radcliffe for twenty-five years. Earlier in the year, Winfrey announced his retirement, and the Kuumba board chose to honor him with a special dinner.

The dinner, held in Leverett House, was filled with music and memories. The program began with the singing of the dinner grace by soloist Ruth Hamilton. After dinner, the Kuumba Singers performed a few traditional pieces from their repertoire. Several past presidents paid tribute to Mr. Winfrey, exchanging stories from the collective Kuumba past. Others sang dedications to Mr. Winfrey for the many years he has spent cultivating the organization. At the end of the night, Kuumba members, new and old, gathered on the stage to sing songs that all participants had once performed. Even after the traditional Kuumba closing, the singing of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," members remained to celebrate the leadership of Mr. Winfrey.

Phillip Goff '99 summed up the evening saying, "At the surprise gala, I felt a familiarity and ease unlike anything I have ever felt before—such as a heart to hear others speak with fondness about their memories—memories that are being formed in my own mind at each meeting of this year's choir. That evening I began to understand my role in the life of our family, the rule of every president. And, it thrilled me to have this opportunity. Kuumba is my family because you saw fit to make this feeling into an institution. I am able to sing my music because of your legacy. His sentiments could be seen in the eyes of many who were saddened to see Mr. Winfrey step down after successfully guiding the Kuumba Singers from a group of less than twenty-five students to the nearly two-hundred-person choir of this academic year.

The evening was truly inspiring to all who attended—members and non-members. Mr. Winfrey will be greatly missed, and all in attendance were happy to take this opportunity to honor the man who guided the group for so many years. Looking forward to this final year under Mr. Winfrey's guidance, the Kuumba Singers have dedicated their spring concert on April 11 to Mr. Robert Winfrey.

— The Harvard Foundation

Dr. S. Abbe Comer, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presents Mr. Robert Winfrey, Director of the Harvard-Radcliffe Kuumba Singers, with a special Harvard Foundation Award from the President of Harvard University and the Dean of Harvard College, honoring his 25 years of dedicated service to Danvers during his tenure as a student. Joe Kemp '97, Chassers' Alumni '99, Shawn Hodge '90, Dana Dene '97 and Phillip Goff (president) '99.
The Harvard Foundation Honors Dr. Charlena Seymour

On November 59, 1997, the Harvard Foundation and the Association of Black Raddish Women (ABRW) hosted a reception, award ceremony, and dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club for Dr. Charlena Seymour, President of the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association. The evening celebrated her contributions to her profession as the second African-American president of the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association.

The reception opened with welcoming remarks by Quincy House Co-master Marjorie Lee North, a colleague of Dr. Seymour’s. Ms. North praised Dr. Seymour for her enthusiasm, commitment, and inspiration to all within and outside the field of health sciences. ABRW President Karyn Bell ’99 thanked Dr. Seymour for the positive and strong legacy she has established for aspiring African-American women in not only health sciences, but in all professions. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Dr. Seymour with a Harvard Foundation Award for her notable contributions and leadership in the field of communication disorders.

—Karyn Bell ’99

Dr. Charlena Seymour, president of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASLHA), is welcomed by Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee Associate, Sarah James ’98 and Nancy Colman ’98, at a reception in Dr. Seymour’s honor. Dr. Seymour is also a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Sandra Holly-Jones, former president of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASLHA), presents a gift to Dr. Charlena Seymour.
Harvard Foundation Welcomes First-Years with Race Relations Brunch

In an effort to introduce the class of 2001 to the diversity of ethnic and cultural groups on campus, the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations sponsored its annual race relations brunch on Sunday, September 7, 1997 at Leverett House. Amid the frenzy of the first-year's move-in weekend, almost one hundred first-years, parents, and relatives gathered for brunch, kicking-off the Foundation's activities for the year. The affair piqued interest in cultural affairs on campus and afforded representatives from a spectrum of cultural and ethnic groups the chance to introduce themselves to new students and describe the important role cultural groups play in Harvard life. In addition to courting new members for their respective organizations, upperclass students also answered general questions and allayed first-year anxieties about Harvard’s academic and social environment.

The speakers included Dr. Harry B. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College and Dr. Elizabeth Studeley Nathans, Dean of Freshmen. The afternoon culminated in a brief speech given by Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation. In describing the mission of the Harvard Foundation, he pointed out the need for students, regardless of ethnic identity, to dive into the wealth of diversity of opportunities offered by both classmates and professors. Dr. Counter also mentioned how first-year students can participate in and help create some of the many activities sponsored by the Foundation. In closing, he introduced the student leaders and representatives of the many religious, cultural, and ethnic groups represented in the affair.

—Milton V. Rieker '97

Naresh Chandra
(Continued from page 7)

India's Ambassador to the United States. In the spirit of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of India's independence from England, Mr. Chandra's visit reflected on India's journey through its first fifty years as well as its outlook for the future.

A lifetime member of the Indian Civil Service, Mr. Chandra has served in various posts within the Indian government, and has dealt with both domestic and foreign affairs. He has witnessed India's birth, growth, successes, and struggles. In his latest commission as Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Chandra now attempts to bridge the gap between East and West.

In a Leverett House reception that drew about fifty students and faculty members, Mr. Chandra shared with the audience some of his most memorable experiences since India emerged as an independent nation. During a luncheon of Indian food, students were given the unique opportunity to interact with a leading global political figure as they conversed informally with the Ambassador about his work and Indian government policy.

During his presentation, Ambassador Chandra discussed the progress and growth that India has achieved in the past fifty years and its ability to remain democratic in the face of staggering overpopulation. He also touched upon the problem of mass poverty and pollution in parts of India.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Chandra suggested that American-born Indians, particularly the younger generations, represent a vital link between the East and the West. With this link intact, he observed, India's future for the next fifty years holds great promise.

—Neil Lasnitzk '99

His Excellency: Naresh Chandra, Ambassador to the United States from India (2), is welcomed to Harvard and Leverett House by Professor John E. Donegan, Master of Leverett House (4), and Dr. S. Allen Counter (6).
Dominican College Presidents and Minister of Education at Harvard

On Thursday, October 2, 1997, the Harvard Foundation and LASPAU welcomed the Minister of Education from the Dominican Republic, Dr. Alejandro Germin, and several of the country’s university presidents with a reception in the Winthrop Junior Common Room. Dr. Germin and six university presidents had the opportunity to converse with Harvard College students of various ethnicities and backgrounds. Sarita James ’98, student co-chair of the Harvard Foundation, introduced Dr. Germin and spoke on the significance of higher education and strong leadership which tied in well with the statements of the Minister of Education. Dr. Germin briefly commented on the value of the opportunity to attend Harvard University and interact with students. Nana Coleman ’98, student co-chair of the Harvard Foundation Advisory Committee, described the minister and her entourage as “friendly and enthusiastic, outgoing.” Overall, the event provided students with the opportunity to hear about other educational systems and reflect on their post-secondary schooling.

—Harvard Foundation

Harvard
Foundation
Fall 1996
Student Grant
Activities

Songs We Can’t Sing

On January 9, 10, 11, and 30, 1996, the Black Community and Student Theatre (Black C.A.S.T.) produced a musical extravaganza, “Songs We Can’t Sing,” written and composed by Derrick Ashong ’97 and directed by Nacemah White ’97. The play was performed in Lowell Lecture Hall. “Songs” explores the cross-cultural issues of identity, revealing some of the most powerful existential issues faced by African-Americans in this country, including the conflicts that can arise between related peoples. Ultimately, this piece reflects a pan-African consciousness and captures the “soul” of a people. During the play, the audience confronts one of the key issues with which recent immigrants grapple: how to maintain the culture, traditions, and philosophies of one’s homeland, while adapting and assimilating to the traditions and culture of a new nation.

The story centers around a young Ghanaian man, Kwame, whose mother dies in Africa when he is a child. He and his father relocate to America, where his father marrys an African-American woman and has another son, Kwaku. The play follows Kwame and Kwaku through their interactions with American friends, racist white police officers, and their parents. The piece also explores what it means to be an African. In a dream-on-dream sequences, Kwame is visited by his mother.

Members of Forrte Quisqueyanas, a Dominican undergraduate organization, proudly display the Dominican flag at a reception for the minister of the Dominican National Council on Higher Education, Dr. Alejandro Germin, and six University Presidents from the Dominican Republic: Dr. Rafaela Castel, Roberto Benigni, Rafaeli Peralta, Antonio Ferrer, Dr. Franklin Holguin, and Rafael Toriba.
YISEI: Voices of Koreans at Harvard

During the fall semester of the 1997-1998 academic year, the YISEI staff worked together to publish an issue about dating and intercultural relationships. Our ultimate goal was to provide a forum that not only addressed the topic of Koreans dating non-Koreans, but also touched upon the broader issues of prejudices and stereotypes that often arise in intercultural relationships. In the forthcoming Winter 1997-1998 issue, we present creative works and essays from multiple points of view on this topic. We hope to stimulate impassioned discussion among the student readers.

Various departments of YISEI have joined together this semester to make this group special. Our layout and graphics design editors are superb in creating ad designs and layout instrumental to the success of the magazine. The editorial board brings together an interesting and well-written collection of works accomplished by meaningful photographs.

The business board successfully launched the plan to make YISEI well-read across the United States, starting primarily with Korean communities. We are very pleased with the success of the magazine.

—Hee Seung Jeon '99

Caribbean Club Fall Food Festival 1997

On November 8, 1997, members of the Harvard-Radcliffe community assembled to celebrate the cuisines of West Indian culture: food, music, and lively company. Though the weather was particularly bleak, the group of fifty students succeeded in bringing the islands to Harvard Yard. We were fortunate to be able to hold our event in Straus Common Room, a central location accessible to both freshmen and upperclassmen. The resulting diversity of interests and experiences added to the overall success of the food festival.

The centerpiece of the festival was, of course, the food. This year more students than ever, particularly among the freshman class, aided in the preparation of food. In response to our goal of providing students with a taste of home, the menu consisted primarily of traditional favorites such as jerk and curry chicken, chana, and fried plantain. Reflecting the growing diversity of our organization, students also dined on rice and peas and curried potatoes.

For entertainment, students listened and danced to a wide range of West Indian music and contemporary R&B, and discussed various topics of interest. One topic of note was the pending national election in Jamaica and the possible effects of policy changes on the lifestyles of the island's residents. The discussion was enthusiastic, as those present were well-informed and realized the election's potentially far-reaching consequences.

This was one of the most successful and enjoyable Caribbean Club Food Festivals in recent memory. At the event's conclusion, guests filed out into the rain, several students committed the Club on how much they had enjoyed them at home. It is through these endeavors that the H/R Caribbean Club knows that it is serving the interests of our members and the University community at large. The H/RCC is committed to repeating this year's success next year with the support of an even larger audience.

—Hee Phung Lavin Chor '00

—Danielle Remson '00
Central and Eastern European Movie Series

Outstretched tradition of the Central and Eastern European club, the annual movie series, debuted at the Carpenter Center this January with two masterpieces of Russian and Czech cinema, Andrei Tarkovsky's Nostalghia and Jiří Menzel's Closely Watched Trains. In collaboration with the Harvard Archives, the Central and Eastern European Club was able to offer a free screening of the movies on Friday, January 9, 1998 and on Saturday, January 19, 1998. Advertised through posters and e-mail lists as "a Russian poet's discovery of homeland in exile," Nostalghia drew an audience of about 70 people the first night. Closely Watched Trains, an incursion into Czech humor, following a young man's trajectory through love and war, enjoyed a similar success. By joining our e-mail list and contacting members of the club, a large number of those present showed their interest in the continuation of the series next semester with movies from Poland, Romania, Hungary and former Yugoslavia.

-Caroline Nguyen '98

Reggae Rampage 1997

It takes much of the beginning of the academic year for students, particularly first-years, to acclimate themselves to the return to school. Clubs play a part in the process by welcoming back old members and recruiting new ones. The Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club recognized the importance of an introductory event by hosting an evening of music and dance. Reggae Rampage introduced the student body to the Caribbean Club helping institutionalize the process of joining clubs and allowing students a time and place in which to socialize with each other.

Native Sound, a group of MIT graduates, provided a rich mix of reggae, soca, and hip-hop music for the evening's entertainment. Held in Loker Commons on September 27, 1997, from 10pm to 1am, the HRC welcomed more than 150 students from Harvard and neighboring Boston-Cambridge universities including MIT, BU, Northeastern, and Tufts.

The phenomenal popularity, achieved through posterizing, e-mail, and word-of-mouth, was responsible for the event's enormous success. For most of the night, people danced, socializing with fellow collegegoers when they needed to catch their breath. Unlike most dances where the crowd begins to thin after midnight, Reggae Rampage wrapped up at 1 am with a considerably full house lamenting the night's end.

In short, the HRCC Reggae Rampage was the jewel of the Harvard social scene on September 27. As an organization, we were happily surprised at the large number of non-West Indian students that attended the event to enjoy good company and great music. The HRCC is committed to bringing the culture and the issues of the Caribbean to a multi-cultural audience to foster awareness and relevance. If Reggae Rampage was a step in this direction, then we are well on our way.

-Danielle Romain '99

Expressions Dance Company Apollo Night

On Saturday, November 1, 1997, the Harvard-Radcliffe Black Students' Association sponsored Apollo Night, an upbeat talent show that showcased the talent of many Harvard students and offered contemporary music and lively audience participation. The event took place in Lowell Lecture Hall where a $5 admission fee was charged. Approximately 300 students filled the auditorium to see student performers grace the stage.

Expressions Dance Company performed two pieces. The first was a Cha-Cha RnB medley choreographed by Helen Skinner and performed by ten dancers. The audience responded extremely well to this jazz-based piece, which featured a twist of 70's disco flavor. The second dance, a dynamic company piece featuring fifteen dancers, was performed to a song by Blackstreet and Buss Rhymes and was choreographed by Celina Edwards. Many audience members were familiar with this hip hop song, and the dancers' precision and charm left the crowd cheering for more.

Apollo Night was a very successful opening performance for Expressions in the Fall 1997 season. We broadened the perspective of many people in the audience, particularly those who feel that technical dance and dancing at parties share no relationship. It is important that people realize that dance is a form of cultural expression. not just on the stage, but also in casual social arenas. This performance reached far beyond the scope of dance, entertaining and educating the Harvard community.

-Celina Edwards '99

Interethnic Forum: Cross-Cultural Study Break

In Boylston Auditorium on September 9, 1997, the Asian American Association sponsored a night of food, discussion, and fun for students of all ethnicities. Ethnic foods such as Vietnamese spring rolls, Japanese sushi, and Indian pakoras were served, and about 200 students of different races and nationalities — Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, South Asian — had the opportunity to meet and learn about the educational and cultural opportunities available to them at Harvard-Radcliffe College. Much of the discussion centered on identifying the specific needs of Asian American students on campus and addressing how those needs can best be met. Students left the event informed about opportunities available to them on campus.

-Carrie Henderson '98
The Philippine Dance Troupe

The Philippine Dance Troupe has performed at various functions this year and will participate in Cultural Rhythms and the Arts First Festival during the upcoming semester. During the Fall of 1997, the Troupe participated in “Celebration,” an event sponsored by AAA, and "Kamayan," an annual celebration of Filipino culture. In both performances, the malong, a traditional dance of Mindanao Island was performed. In the upcoming semester, the Philippine Dance Troupe looks forward to performing the tinikling, a well-known traditional Filipino batong dance, as well as a few new and exciting surprise dances! The Troupe is always seeking new members from all ethnic backgrounds to share in the Filipino culture and welcomes all to come and see us perform in Cultural Rhythms and Arts First!

—Bernadette Lito ’99

Islam Awareness Week

The week of November 17-21 marked the annual Islam Awareness Week, co-sponsored by the Harvard Islamic Society, the Harvard Foundation, and the Undergraduate Council. The theme, "Discover Islam," was highlighted by an exhibit set up in the Science Center walkway. Visited by an array of students, the exhibit displayed a variety of artistic posters aimed at replacing misconceptions with a more accurate view of the Islamic religion. The posters answered questions such as "What does Islam say about War?" and "What does Islam say about Women?"

For the first event of the week, Aminah Asilmi, the director of the International Union of Muslim Women, spoke in Sever Hall. Ms. Asilmi's speech, entitled "Islam: A Threat or a Gift to America," focused on the potential for harmony between Muslims and non-Muslims in the United States. She stressed Islam's non-belligerent nature in an effort to challenge popular misunderstandings of the religion. After delivering a nearly two and one half hour presentation, Ms. Asilmi answered questions from the audience. Ms. Asilmi also screened students from the Harvard community over lunch and dinner, advising them on how to build a stronger, more effective organization.

On Wednesday, November 19, Emerson Hall held the second event of the week: a panel discussion. The panelists included three Muslim women, two from the law school and one from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Professor Diana Eck attended, along with members from a variety of Harvard schools, including the Kennedy School and the Medical School. Each panelist described their feelings on the religion and their area of expertise on Islam. The floor was then given to the audience to ask questions.

The week concluded on Friday the 21st with the Islam Awareness Week dinner. It was held in conjunction with the Harvard Islamic Law Forum, an organization at Harvard Law School. The dinner was a catered affair, with many tickets sold beforehand. Dessert was donated by Toscanini's of Harvard Square. The speaker, Hosea al-Jabr, gave a riveting address entitled, "Jihad in America?" which taught the audience that the term jihad has been popularly misconstrued. The word jihad is not a holy war, but rather, a struggle which each Muslim faces internally. After the speech, questions were taken. The dinner continued in long as questions continued to pour in to Mr. al-Jabr. Pamphlets that attempted to counter common misconceptions about Islam were placed at each table and at the entrance of the dining hall. By providing the attendees with some basic knowledge of Islam, the pamphlets fueled a thought-provoking discussion of Islam among the attendees.

—Anu Doshi ’99

Harvard Radcliffe Kendo Club Demonstration

On November 14, the Harvard Radcliffe Kendo Club (HRKC) took part in the annual show, "Celebration," coordinated by the Asian American Association. "Celebration" consisted of a series of performances by various Asian groups on campus in an effort to increase general student awareness and introduce elements of Asian culture to the student body. HRKC's participation in "Celebration" was its third demonstration, and with the help of the Harvard
Committee on Deaf Awareness

Throughout the fall term, CODA has hosted events aimed at fostering communication between Harvard and the Deaf community. Our primary goal has been to educate Harvard students about the importance and use of sign language. In the fall, twenty-five students took part in our American Sign Language (ASL) classes. These classes were given on Monday and Wednesday nights at the introductory and intermediate levels. The introductory class was taught by Marina Fayanwanya, a native signer who is fluent in both American and Russian Sign Language, and also English and Russian. The intermediate class was taught by returning teacher Jason Hundick, who is also a native signer and is currently studying law. The classes have been very successful, with good attendance rates and positive feedback from the students involved. We hope that many of them will continue taking ASL classes with us next term.

The ASL classes were supplemented by a presentation on Deaf Art, given by graphic artist Brenda Schenz. Ms. Schenz is the child of Deaf parents and considers herself bicultural and bilingual. She spoke about the importance of Deaf history in works by Deaf artists, particularly the use of sign language symbols in painting. She also explained some of the problems which confront Deaf people in a hearing society, and their ways of responding to these problems through art and political action. The talk was interpreted into English for the hearing members of the audience. We hope to have Ms. Schetz speak at Harvard again in the future, possibly as part of Arts First or another artistic event.

Our talk by Clayton Valti, ASL poet, has been postponed because of difficulties in finding an interpreter able to deal with complex poetic and linguistic issues. We hope to hold it next February.

In short, we believe that our semester has been very successful. Next term, we hope to involve even more students in our activities by hosting more events and encouraging students to volunteer in the Deaf community.

—Debra Cooper '99

Woodbridge Society Hosts Jeffrey Sachs

On Thursday, December 4, 1997, the Woodbridge Society Speakers (WSS) series hosted Jeffrey Sachs, noted economist and scholar. He spoke at 4 pm at 2 Divinity Avenue to an audience of approximately 250 undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, and professors. His talk, "The Challenges of International Capitalism," was followed by a brief question and answer session, during which students asked him about his East Asian economic crisis and other timely concerns. Sachs was a lively speaker who contextualized economic issues within an international perspective, tracing the foundations of worldwide economic disparities over the past 200 years. He argued that these disparities were destabilizing and needed to be diminished without undue destruction to the environment. Sachs was extremely well-received, and the vast majority of stu-
South Asian Association Fall Retreat

The South Asian Association retreat took place on Friday, October 10, 1997. It successfully fostered relations between students of different South Asian nations and introduced first-years to other members of the organization through the Big Sib/Little Sib program. Allowing discussion of issues of common interest, the retreat brought all members of the association closer together through interaction and socialization in a relaxed and personal setting. We played ice-breaking games to get to know each other better and enjoyed a midnight pizza break. The retreat featured a movie, Kaite Jeebo Re, which explored interracial relationships and sexual orientation. We used the movie as a springboard for a discussion of issues ranging from interracial dating to intergenerational conflicts. In addition, we provided a forum for discussing other issues on which we will focus this year and in the future: Ethnic Studies, the formation of a South Asian chair at Harvard, immigration reform, intercultural relations, and the political apathy of South Asian Americans.

—Anil Doshi '99

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

The Taiwanese Cultural Society held its Mid Autumn Moon Festival on September 17, 1997. The Moon Festival is a popular holiday and festival in Chinese culture where family and friends gather to celebrate the full moon and its significance in the lunar calendar and in the harvest. The event is celebrated by enjoying the traditional mooncake dessert, which consists of a solid red bean interioraked in a sweetened breaded exterior.

More than 30 attendees had the opportunity to sample the moon cake and take part in a variety of games including Taiwanese historical and pop-phrase trivia, as well as a general question and answer session on the history and culture of Taiwan. The participants learned about the tradition behind the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival and its importance among Taiwanese families.

In addition, the evening provided an opportunity for the Taiwanese Cultural Society to present its goals and vision for the coming year. The event expanded the Harvard undergraduate community's awareness of Taiwanese cultural and historical values. The evening was a great success for all those able to participate in the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival traditions.

—Michael Lai '98

Meiji Workshop

The Taiwanese Cultural Society held the 2nd Annual Meiji Workshop on Friday, October 10, 1997. The workshop was an interactive experience in food-making. The more than twenty participants were able to make their own Meiji, a traditional Taiwanese dessert consisting of a glutinous starch base, enveloped in a variety of toppings including red bean paste and finely chopped peanuts.

Meiji is a favorite among Taiwanese youths in the popular night-markets. Participants were given the freedom to be creative in selecting the wide variety of toppings that were provided in making interesting combinations of Meiji and the many other foods offered. In addition to the Meiji, the workshop offered a variety of other delicacies including pck dumplings, scallion pancakes, and an authentic Taiwanese soup.

As part of the educational awareness goals of this workshop, we played contemporary Chinese music from Taiwan and discussed the history of Taiwanese desserts and food making and its importance to Taiwanese culture.

Those in attendance enjoyed an engaging evening that included creative aspects of Taiwanese dessert making, sampling of a variety of other Taiwanese foods, and learning about the history and music of Taiwanese culture.

—Michael Lai '98

Taiwanese Cultural Society First Annual Winter Food Festival

The success of the First Annual Winter Food Festival went far beyond the Taiwanese Cultural Society's (TCS) expectations. Attracted by the festival's legendary twenty course authentic Taiwanese meal, nearly 300 members of the Harvard community showed up at Quincy Dining Hall for the evening of Friday, February 20, 1998. Within the first hour, our greeted almost completely consumed all the delicious homemade scallion pancakes, fried dumplings, sushi, tea eggs, and sixteen other dishes served by individual TCS members. Amidst the pleasant sounds of traditional Taiwanese music, our guests lounged on the long rows of dining tables and visited the Night Market booths that lined the outside walls of the room. Pamphlets on Taiwanese culture were available at each table: TCS members instructed guests in games of Mah-Jong and Chinese Checkers at another booth. At other booths, guests made mua-ji, a gooey Taiwanese rice dessert, and shaw-bing, a Taiwanese shaved-ice dessert. Women from the Boston North American Taiwanese Women's Association sold tea-zhang, a Taiwanese rice dumpling stuffed with beef and demonstrated sachet-making. Other particularly popular booths taught our...
guests about Kung-Fu and alternative Taiwanese medicines, including acupuncture.
At the back of the dining hall, our guests could enjoy an art show replete with paintings by a Taiwanese artist and photos of Taiwan. Adding to the charm of the evening were the handmade red paper lanterns strung across white Christmas lights that hung above the booths, giving the festival the flavor of the traditional annual Taiwanese Lantern Festival held at the end of February. The evening proved to be an entertaining and educational one for the 300 guests and for the members of TCS whose work made it possible.
—Angela Wu ’97

KACC Study group

Korean Americans for Culture and Community (KACC) study group meetings were held Thursday nights at 5:30pm, usually in Loker 28. Meetings began in the third week of October and continued until mid-December. Anyone interested in the topic for discussion was welcome to participate. Approximately twelve people of diverse backgrounds participated regularly in small study group discussions. This semester, the study group explored issues such as The Kwangju Massacre, The North Korean Famine Crisis, The Rule of Ethnic Groups in Furthering Cross-Cultural Relations, and Korean vs. Korean-American Identity.

Each week, the study group focused on assigned readings. This semester, the study group was fortunate enough to have two guest speakers. Tae-hui Kim is a Harvard Law School student actively involved in fundraising for the famine victims of North Korea. She surprised many study group members with her frank revelation of the desperate situation in North Korea. Tae Yang Kwak, a graduate student in the Harvard RSEA program, gave a talk on the Kwangju massacre.

In conjunction with our own study group, KACC also co-sponsored a discussion with the Asian-American Association in an effort to reach the larger Harvard community. Both study group discussions were successful in increasing cross-cultural awareness and understanding. The Harvard Foundation was the KACC study group’s only source of funding.
—Axel Ronn ’99

ABRW Building Bridges

The fall semester of 1997 proved a valuable time for the Association of Black Radcliffe Women (ABRW) to renew and continue its mission of “Building Bridges.” With the support of the group’s advisor, Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and the Harvard Foundation, ABRW initiated the year with three meaningful projects that reached out to many new faces and restored previous ties with its members.

On October 25, 1997, ABRW sponsored a group of approximately fifteen women to attend the “Million Woman March” in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These women illustrated the importance of ABRW’s realizing its ties with other black females across the nation, in addition to reaching out to members of Harvard’s community. While in Philadelphia, these women heard from numerous important black women, including Winnie Mandela and Maxine Waters. Furthermore, ABRW’s members experienced the wonder of being in the company of hundreds of thousands of black women uniting to support, motivate, and be in fellowship with each other.

Following this invaluable experience, on October 27, 1997, ABRW held a viewing of Marion Riggs’s “Black Is, Black Ain’t...”. Professor Higginbotham’s introduction of the movie set a fast pace for the rest of the evening. Throughout the course of the showing, the viewers watched as the movie continually put forth provocative thoughts and questions. The showing of this movie provided a springboard for a discussion about notions of ethnicity and authenticity. ABRW closed the semester with a community service project. The organization’s members decided to reach out to those less fortunate members of the surrounding Cambridge area. Amidst final papers and preparations for Christmas Break, ABRW members made cookies for a local women’s shelter. President Karyn Bell and Vice-President Edidiong Ikpe presented the cookies and continued in ABRW’s tradition of sharing its fortune with others.

Although the first semester of 1997-98 is now complete, ABRW realizes that its mission is nowhere finished. With help from members, other individuals, and organizations, the Association of Black Radcliffe Women will continue in its tradition of “Building Bridges.”

—Kolbe Morow ’99

Night of Persian Pastries and Poetry

The “Night of Persian Pastries and Poetry,” held in Eliot House on Tuesday, October 14, 1997, was a tremendous success. We attracted a crowd of about 35-40 guests. Close to half of those in attendance were Harvard students from other cultures, and the other half were Persian students and members of the community—Holly Davidenko, a former Currier House Master and founder of the Persian Society, was present among the crowd.

The officers and members of the Persian Society assisted with setting a cultural tea table, displaying works of art, hardi-crabs, and a traditional tea kettle called the sameh. Freshly brewed tea was served with pastries baked earlier in the day at Tabrizi, a local bakery. These Persian delights made for a lovely introduction to the poetry segment of the evening.

A local poetry reader, Tal’at Malahi, enlightened us with poems by Hafiz, a famous Persian poet. English translations were offered by Mrs. Malahi and others. We continued with a graduate student who read original poetry written in English with a sharp Persian twist. An open microphone segment followed this, where several
members of the audience recited a favorite poem or two. The evening continued with a sentimental end with two Persian Society officers reciting a well-known Sadi poem.

—Mahmood Fozeshakhe '98

A Night of Film and Food

On September 29, 1997, the Persian Society hosted a “Night of Film and Food” in the Currier House Tischman Living Room. The event attracted about 30 people, half of whom were non-Persians. Wheeler M. Thackston, Professor of Persian and other Near Eastern languages, was present at the event. We served traditional Persian food purchased from a local restaurant. Those in attendance enjoyed healthy portions of saffron rice, chicken and beef kabob, grilled vegetables, salad, and Syrian bread before the movie began.

We featured a movie made by a classic Iranian comedian called Sadat Goshvarghese. This movie served as an ice-breaker and provoked comic relief. The crowd enjoyed it very much. Once we were done with dinner and the movie, we served tea and many remained for conversation. The evening was a pleasant start to Persian Society gatherings for the semester.

On October 28, 1997, the Persian Society hosted a second Film and Food event in the Currier House Tischman Living Room. The venue was quite similar to the movie night on Sept. 29, 1997. We featured a movie called White Balloon and served similar foods. The 25-30 Persians and non-Persians who attended enjoyed delicious food and a relaxing atmosphere.

—Mahmood Fozeshakhe '98

Music and Pastry

On November 11, 1997, the Persian Society hosted a “Night of Persian Music and Pastry” in the Currier House Fish Bowl. The event attracted a crowd of about 80 people, including students and professors from Harvard and local area colleges, as well as local community members. It was a spirited and culturally diverse group of people. Those attending were treated to a variety of Persian pastries and freshly brewed tea served by Persian Society officers.

Following pastries and conversation, the audience was delighted by a performance of classical Persian instruments. The performers played individually at first, sharing knowledge of the instruments and musical techniques during their performance. Mrs. Talat Mahbafi, a local poetical reader, recited classical Persian poetry to the sounds of the ney, a Reed flute, playing in the background. Two others read poetry in English and Persian. After the poetry reading, the performers played together; one playing the santur, a string percussion instrument, while the other played the saz, a hand held drum. In the tradition of classical Persian music, the two improvised many numbers throughout the night. The musicians were finished, they encouraged members of the audience to examine and learn about the different instruments.

The evening was a successful cultural gathering and very well-received by those in attendance. One of the older members of the audience commented, “this night brought back a piece of home.”

—Mahmood Fozeshakhe '98

Day of Arts and Cuisine

On December 6, 1997, the Persian Society sponsored a “Day of Arts and Cuisine.” This event was divided into two segments. First, we attended the Festival of Iran in Film at the Museum of Fine Arts where we viewed the movie Dastan Meen Gol. The movie is about a family struggling to find a cure for their comatose daughter. After modern medicine fails to cure her daughter, her father begins using mystical religious methods to rid her of her illness. After the movie, we all went to La La Roukh, a local Persian restaurant for a sit-down dinner which included a traditional yogurt drink, eggplant appetizers, saffron rice, and a chicken entree. This evening provided an opportunity for about 30 of our members and other Harvard students to view the modern Iranian artistic perspective, enjoy good food, and get closer to one another. The day was enjoyable and well-received.

—Mahmood Fozeshakhe '98

Culture Shack!

On December 5, 1997, the Persian Society and several other Harvard cultural organizations, hosted “Culture Shack” at Loker Commons. About 100 people attended this cultural party sponsored in part by the Asian American Association, Black Students Association, Chinese Students Association, Caribbean Club, Fuerza Quisqueyana, Hellenic Society, South Asian Association, and the Turkish Students Association. Four of these groups served foods from their respective cultures starting at 9 pm. Drinks were contributed by the Asian American Association.

The party segment of “Culture Shack” began around 10 pm with DJ playing hip-hop and reggae. DJs also played music from Arabic, Turkish, Latino, and various other cultures. Throughout the evening, patrons danced, mingled, and soaked on cultural delights. At about 11 pm, we presented our showcase of performers. The Expressions Dance Company performed a four person dance number. The Caribbean Dance Troupe followed with a ten person dance routine. Finally, in an improvisational manner, a group of freshmen steps performed the step routine they featured at the Harvard-Yale weekend. These three performances were artistically fantastic, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed them. “Culture Shack” provided a great opportunity for members of different cultural organizations to meet and build stronger ties.

—Mahmood Fozeshakhe '98
Cultural Cafe

The Hellenic and Arabic Societies organized a cultural cafe aimed at increasing awareness of our own and each other's cultures. Through participation in traditions of these cultures, the cafe brought members of the two societies in closer contact. We had a very strong turnout of approximately 50 students and hope to increase this number in January. We offered specialties of both nations, along with Greek and Arabic coffee.

The two groups provided traditional music, board and card games. We chatted endlessly about the common cultural features we were discovering; it seems that each participant now knows a couple of greetings in both Greek and Arabic. Additionally, we had live Oud music and singing to accompany it. We were very happy that many Americans attended the event. We hope to expand this event in January by introducing dancing lessons followed by a performance of simple dances.

—Karissa Law '99

Dance Party in Winthrop Junior Common Room

The evening of Friday December 5, 1997 Winthrop House's Junior Common Room rocked to the music of the world as members of the Woodbridge Society, CAUSA, and HOLA gathered with other Harvard-Radcliffe students to dance the night away.

This event, supported by a grant from the Harvard Foundation, is the first time that the Cushen-Keen and the Harvard Organization of Latin Americans have joined forces with the Woodbridge Society of International Students at Harvard-Radcliffe to celebrate and share their respective dance traditions. In the past CAUSA and HOLA have organized dance parties together with the salsa/merengue dance style at the forefront of their evening's agenda. This evening, advertised around campus as the Global Pachanga, allowed CAUSA and HOLA members to teach others their salsa/merengue skills as well as learn other dance styles from the international students of the Woodbridge Society. The evening drew a crowd of over 60 students. All three organizations promote social events, such as the Global Pachanga, as important vehicles for strengthening community ties within their organization and for introducing their native cultures to others. Although having fun was the primary goal of the evening, learning, sharing, and broadening one's horizons were all secondary goals central to the mission of each organization.

—Katherine Han '99

Korean Association and CSA Culture Night

On December 12, 1997, the soon-to-be-formed Korean Association (KA) and the Chinese Student Association (CSA) held the first annual KA/CSA Culture Night at Loker Commons. KA provided students in the Harvard community with an opportunity to experience Korean and other Asian cultures through food, performances, and games as they passed through the common area.

Beginning at 6:30 pm, students sampled a variety of traditional Korean and Chinese dishes, including fried dumplings, barbecue beef, buckwheat noodles, and beef chow fun. Initially most of the attendees were members of KA and CSA; however, as the evening progressed, students of other ethnicities joined in the festivities. Many of those present had never before tasted authentic Korean food outside of the dining hall and later became interested in how to make the dishes they sampled.

After an hour of eating and mingling, the Korean percussion drumming group gave a memorable and moving presentation. Before the start of the performance, Eric Cho, the leader of the performance group, thoroughly described each drum, including what it symbolized and represented to the Korean people. The performance itself was filled with emotion, as the audience of nearly fifty watched as performers drew rhythms and melodies from their drums.

Following the drum performance, the attenders played traditional Chinese and Korean games, including majong and yut-nori. After a brief description of the origin and history of each of the games, people split into small groups to play the games. Karaoke, a national pastime in Korea and China, commenced the evening. The karaoke machine was equipped with Korean, Chinese, and English songs, allowing people of different languages and ethnicities to partake in the activity. The KA/CSA Culture Night was immensely successful. The diverse group of students that attended the event shared in significant aspects of Korean and Chinese cultures.

—David Abe '99

Lieutenant Governor
S. B. Woo

On November 1, 1997, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association (HRCSA) held a discussion at Ticknor Lounge in Boylston Hall on Asian-American roles in the United States government with guest lecturer lieutenant governor, S. B. Woo from the University of Delaware.

Mr. Woo's focus was on the broader subject of Asian-Americans as the "invisible minority." He gave brief but numerous examples throughout American history of the consequences of the invisible minority phenomenon. Mr. Woo explained that a year ago, the media had largely written off Chinese-Americans as a politically impotent group. However, a short time later, the media portrayed the same ethnic group as being powerful enough to exercise substantial power over the outcome of a presidential election. Mr. Woo concluded his presentation with an appeal for greater Asian-American involvement in the government.
of the United States.

After further elaboration, Mr. Woo opened up the floor for questions. There was active participation from the audience of almost sixty people. The event lasted from 5pm to 8pm. The HRC/SA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation and especially Dr. S. Allen Counter for supporting our endeavors to provide the Harvard community with forums to discuss the latest issues in Chinese-American affairs.

Ethnic Organization Debate

On October 16, 1997, over 100 students packed Emerson Hall 305 to hear six student leaders debate the merits of ethnic clubs on campus. Derrick Azhong (BSA), Ravi Dixit (SAA), and Lamelle Rawlin (UC) argued on the side of ethnic organizations, while Andrew S. Chang (Crimson), Joshua Ganoon (Salient), and Steven J. Mithry (UC) argued against the merit of ethnic-based clubs. The Harvard Speech and Parliamentary Debate Society moderated the event.

Although the debate focused on the question, "Are ethnic clubs divisive and segregational?", the history and purpose of ethnic clubs was also heavily discussed. While arguing that ethnic clubs initially developed as a safe haven for oppressed and marginalized minorities on campus, the pro side stated that ethnic clubs were still necessary in a prejudiced world and promoted much needed diversity in a homogeneous environment. The con side argued that while some ethnic clubs may have arisen from racism, many of the clubs today serve only as an excuse for people of the same color to spend all of their time with each other, and in doing so, divide and isolate the rest of the school. The legacies of such organizations as the Asian American Christian Fellowship and the Taiwanese volleyball club were brought into question. After both sides of the panel had a chance to express their views, the floor was open to questions and statements from the audience.

While the invited speakers were all outstanding and could have been the focus of the debate by themselves, it was the audience participation which really made this event stand out. The debate, scheduled to run for only one hour, had to be lengthened to two hours to accommodate the enthusiastic members of the audience who wanted to express their views. Luckily, there was a fair and proper balance of opinions within the audience which prevented either side from dominating and kept the discourse intelligent and continuously refreshing.

While we arrived at no concrete answer to the controversial question, it was clear that the debate raised new awareness of ethnic clubs. Many students stayed afterward to discuss the issues amongst themselves, while other students stated that because of the debate, they were now going to make an effort to join ethnic clubs to see what they are really like.

—Jay Chen ’98

The Handbook to Asian American Life at Harvard

The Handbook to Asian American Life at Harvard 1997-98, a project of the Harvard-Willisville Asian American Association (AAA), is designed to help Asian Americans at Harvard locate Asian resources in Boston. Through reviews of restaurants, grocery stores, and acupuncture clinics, it is the AAA's hope that students will become more familiar with the resources and tastes of home available to them in Boston. This year the AAA has also included a map of Chinatown, which may be helpful to those unfamiliar with the area. There are also reviews of Asian language and core classes, information about student groups, and a newly added section: "Asians at Harvard and Beyond" which features essays by students and alumni reflecting on their experiences at Harvard from an Asian perspective. Through such sections, the AAA hopes to introduce Asian American students to resources available to them at Harvard and in Boston and enable them to learn more about their culture. At the same time, however, the group hopes that non-Asian students will take the time to look through the Handbook and, thereby, gain more insight into Asian culture.

—Carolyn Yang Nguyen ’00

Asian American Cultural Month Book Reading

To kick off the annual celebration of Asian American Cultural Month, the Asian American Association (AAA) held a book reading in Loker Commons Coffeehouse on November 3, 1997. Two up-and-coming Asian American writers read excerpts from their latest works. Catherine Liu, an assistant professor of French at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, read from her first novel, Oriental Girls Desire Romance, while R. Zamora Linmark shared passages from his hilarious novel, Rolling the R. Liu's novel describes the underworld of right-wave New York through the dead-pan alienation of a young Chinese American woman on the make, while Rolling the R. throws new light on gay identity and the trauma of assimilation in a small 1970s Hawaiian community. Both works, published by Kaya, are at once touching and funny, poignant and edgy. A brief question-and-answer session was held after the reading, and from the positive feedback, it was apparent that the audience of approximately 25 thoroughly enjoyed the reading. The event was co-sponsored by Holimau Hawaii Kai and the BGLTSA.

—Tim Chang ’99

Unpuzzling Asian America

The Fall '98 Discussion Group Series, "Unpuzzling Asian America," brought different segments of the Harvard Asian American community together for a study
of contemporary issues. Each week, an average of 20 students from Harvard's undergraduate and graduate schools gathered for an hour-long discussion led by the Asian American Association (AAA) and a co-sponsoring Asian American organization. Each discussion focused on an issue of particular relevance to the co-sponsoring group that held broad implications for the Asian American community at large. The partnerships, which shared basic issues, ensured a more focused study of individual issues of the various segments of the Asian American population represented at Harvard—Radcliffe. AAA discussion group leaders worked together with the co-sponsoring organizations to select topics, to compile readings for the sourcebook, and to plan and facilitate the discussions. Participation in the discussion groups was open to all members of Harvard University and the surrounding community. The topics for the semester were: "Preserving Chinese Culture in America" (Chinese Students Association), "An Alternative Look at Success for the Model Minority" (Asian American Christian Fellowship), "Refugee Experiences" (Harvard Vietnamese Association), "Who Am I: Discussion of Identity and Multi-Ethnicity" (Half-Asian People's Association), "Taiwan on a Tightrope" (Taiwanese Cultural Society), "Marginalization and Discrimination of the Model Minority" (Harvard Philippine Forum), "Feminism in Japan" (Japan Society), "South Asian Encounters with Race and Gender" (South Asian Association), and "Asian American vs. Asian Experiences" (Korean Association). —Ting-Min Hu '90 and Nancy Liu '99

The Asian American Cultural Month Newsletter

At the beginning of November 1997, the Cultural Month Committee of the Asian American Association designed, printed, and distributed the Asian American Cultural Month Newsletter to Harvard undergraduates. This newsletter was an informative source highlighting the events of the coming month in celebration of Asian American Cultural Month on campus. It included a schedule of the events planned for the month of November by all of the Asian and Asian-American undergraduate organizations at Harvard, as well as insightful articles on the meaning of ethnic identity and "culture," as it pertains to Asian-Americans. The newsletter was door-dropped to every freshman room, and copies were placed in the mailrooms or outside the dining halls of every upper-class house. It was a successful method of making undergraduates aware of the diversity of Asian-American groups on campus and of the many ways in which students can take advantage of learning about different Asian-American cultures.

—Clare Tong '98-'99

Celebration: A Pan-Asian Cultural Show

On November 14, 1997, the cultural co-chairs of the Asian American Association directed and produced the Second Annual "Celebration: A Pan-Asian Cultural Show" at the Agassiz Theatre. This event was one of the highlights of the Asian American Association's celebration of Asian American Cultural Month at Harvard. The two-hour show consisted of performances by over 60 students from the Melonmu o Hawaii, Harvard Philippine Forum, Kendo Club, Chun-Sa Dance Troupe, South Asian Association, Asian American Dance Troupe, Thai Dancers, and Half-Asian Peoples Association, and was complemented by a full technical crew of almost 20 students. The performances varied from dances to plays, and were an intriguing mix of the traditional and modern influences that define Asian-American culture. The show was very successful, and despite coinciding with the first snow blizzard of the winter, over 130 audience members still braved the elements to attend. This event provided a unique forum in which the performers, technical staff, and audience members could share with and learn from each other's experience of the beauty of Asian-American culture.

—Clare Tong '98-'99

Debate on Affirmative Action Brings Harvard's Diverse Population Together

Over one thousand Harvard undergraduate students, graduate students, and other affiliates crowded into Sanders Theater on Monday, November 3 to view a rousing debate between some of Harvard's most notable alumni and scholars. The panelists were Professor Cornell West, Professor Harvey Mansfield, Professor Ruth Wine, and Professor Michael sandel. Concerned with the positive and negative impacts of affirmative action, the Harvard Foundation co-sponsored this event with the Minority Student Alliance and numerous other student groups. Several last-minute room changes had to be made due to the unexpectedly high number in attendance. Students charged Emerson Hall to theScience Center and, finally, to Sanders Theater where the large crowd was at last accommodated. Many observers, still unable to find seats in Sanders Theater, eagerly stood in the back of all three floors.

Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, moderated the two-hour debate, in which each panelist made an opening statement revealing their stance either for or against the issue and fielded audience questions. Audience participants enthusiastically directed a seemingly unlimited supply of questions at the panelists, speaking from personal experience and in consideration of morality, fairness, and justice. After responding to each audience member's question, the panelists challenged and responded to one another.

One panelist, Afro-American Studies and Divinity School Professor and author Cornel West, argued that minority appli-
cants to Ivy League schools are overwhelmingly well-qualified, and that race and gender are only two of the many factors that schools like Harvard consider when selecting from a large, diverse, and talented pool of applicants. He and Michael Sandel, the popular course instructor for "Moral Reasoning 22: Justice," offered "legacy" considerations and athletic recruitment as examples of more widely-used practices that are akin to affirmative action.

Sandel pointed out that while the average SAT scores of Harvard "legacy" candidates and athletes are significantly lower than that of blacks and other minorities, no one objects to the selection of applicants on the basis of athletic ability or relation to alumni. Still, many claim that underrepresented minorities are "less qualified" to enter the University.

Author and professor Ruth Wine challenged Sandel's argument, advocating equal opportunity for all students. Professor Wine said she would oppose the selection of "legacy" candidates as "vindictively" as she opposed affirmative action. Government professor Harvey Mansfield accompanied Wine on the con side of the issue.

Students were compelled to contemplate the selection process through which they arrived at Harvard and the "hand-picked" flavor of the Harvard community itself. The pro-affirmative action panelists asserted that however strongly some Harvard students oppose affirmative action, it would be particularly difficult for them to argue that upon admission to Harvard, students of all ethnic backgrounds and genders did not prove equally capable of obtaining degrees in any chosen field. Panelist responses also informed audience members of the history of American racism and the role of race and gender-based legislation in society.

Dr. S. Allen Counter ended the debate by reminding everyone that, "A few years ago, such an event of this magnitude, could never have occurred here at Harvard." The Harvard Foundation extends warm thanks to all the panelists and challenges each person to strive to bring racial dialogue and understanding to Harvard's community and the world in which they live.

—Charles Smith '80

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