

The

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Harvard College students welcome Dr. David Ho, noted AIDS researcher and *Time Magazine's* 1996 Man of the Year, as keynote speaker and guest of honor of the Harvard Foundation/Asian American Association dinner.

## 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 in 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, emigrated 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.

(Continued on page 3)

## Reception for Naresh Chandra, Indian Ambassador to the United States



Harvard College students, Neil Lavande '99 and Sharmil Modi '99, present His Excellency Naresh Chandra, Ambassador to the United States from India, with a commemorative Harvard sweatshirt following his lecture.

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



Renowned Irish storyteller, Batt Burns, and wife, Irish folk music singer, Maura Burns, are congratulated after their wonderful performance at Adams House by House Masters, Professor Robert Kiely and Dr. Jana Kiely, and Harvard College students, Sarita James '98, student co-chair of the Harvard Foundation Advisory Committee, and Eileen Harrity '99, and Caoilinn O'Connell '00 of the Irish Cultural Society.

(Continued on page 2)

On December 13, 1997, the Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association and the Harvard Foundation provided students with the unique opportunity to meet with His Excellency, Mr. Naresh Chandra,

(Continued on page 7)



## 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. Jana Kiely, who attended the event. Batt Burns, a native of Ireland from County Kerry, and trained in the traditional but dying art of Irish storytelling, entertained both students and faculty in the Adams House Junior Common Room. He was accompanied by his wife, Maura, 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 focussed mainly on the preservation of the Gaelic language. The Burnses expressed great surprise and delight to learn that a number of the Harvard College students in the 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 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 Burnses 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 Burnses and students a chance to converse freely with one another and further discuss different points raised during the evening's festivities.

—Megan Coffee '98

## In this issue:

Dr. David Ho: AIDS Researcher and 1996 Time Magazine Man of the Year/ 1; An Evening of Irish Storytelling, Humor & Music with Batt and Maura Burns/ 1; Reception for Naresh Chandra, Indian Ambassador to the United States/ 1; Fall 1997 ECCSF Conference at Harvard University/ 4; The Harvard Foundation Honors Dr. Charlena Seymour/ 6; Kuumba Celebrates Twenty-five Years with "Mr. Winfrey"/ 5; Harvard Foundation Welcomes First-Years with Race Relations Brunch/ 7; Dominican Leaders in Higher Education Visit Harvard/ 8; "Song's We Can't Sing"/ 8; Yisei Magazine/ 9; Singapore and Malaysian Society Dinner/ 9; Central and Eastern European Club Film Festival/ 10; Caribbean Club Food Festival/ 9; Reggae Rampage/ 10; Cross Cultural Study Break/ 10; Expressions Dance Co./ 10; Philippine Forum Dance Troupe/ 10; Islam Awareness Week/ 10; South Asian Society Fall Forum/ 11; Kendo Club/ 11; Arabs Cultural Evening/ 11; Committee on Deaf Awareness/ 12; Woodbridge Speakers Series/ 12; South Asian Society Fall Retreat/ 12; Mid-Autumn Moon Festival/ 12; Moiji Workshop/ 13; KACC Study Group/ 13; Building Bridges/ 14; Persian Society Pastry & Poetry/ 14; Persian Society Film & Food/ 14; Persian Society Music & Pastry/ 14; Persian Society Arts & Cuisine/ 15; Culture Shack/ 15; Hellenic Society/ 15; CAUSA Dance Party/ 15; KSA Culture Night/ 16; S. B. Woo/ 16; AAA Ethnic Clubs Debate/ 16; The Guide to Asian American Life at Harvard/ 17; AAA Book Reading/ 17; Unpuzzling Asian America/ 17; Cultural Month Newsletter/ 18; Interethnic Service Day/ 18; AAA Pan-Asian Culture Show/ 18; MSA Affirmative Action Debate/ 18.



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 Nana Coleman '98, and Sarita James '98, co-chairs of the Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee and Grace Liu '00, Saukok Chiu '98, Alex Nguyen '98 (co-chair), and Grace Shieh '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 freshly 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 Shieh, and Eliot House co-masters, Professor Steve Mitchell and Ms. Kristine Forsgard, 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 Rudensine, 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 ques-

tion which had been on the minds of many students at the banquet — "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 state 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.

—Saukok Chiu '98 and Grace Liu '00



Dean of Harvard College, Professor Harry R. Lewis, joins students of the Asian American Association and the Harvard Foundation in welcoming Dr. David Ho.



## Fall 1997 ECCSF Conference at Harvard University



*Students from universities throughout the east coast gather for a dinner with keynote speaker, Fidel Vargas, former Mayor of Baldwin Park, CA, at the end of the conference.*

On October 24, 1997, over two hundred and fifty Chicano/Latino students from 18 different east coast colleges converged on Harvard's campus to participate in the Fall 1997 East Coast Chicano Student Forum 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 Eileen 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 moved to Harvard Hall to attend workshops tailored to various facets of the Chicano/Latino experience at east coast universities. Workshop topics included: "Selling Out," a discussion of the obligations of successful Latinos; "Machismo," an exploration of traditional Latino gender roles; "Religion and Cultural Catholicism," a discussion of how Catholicism affects Latino students; "Politicanismo," a discussion on the history of the Chicano movement; "Stranger in a Strange Land," a workshop that dealt with freshman year experiences at east coast universities; and "Teaching for a Critical Consciousness," a

discussion on the role of education in the Latino community.

The "Sell-Out" workshop tried to resolve the conflict between mainstream success and

Latino culture. Workshop leader, Richard Vasquez, fielded questions mostly 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 Gutman Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The dinner was promptly followed by a stellar performance by the Harvard-Radcliffe Ballet Folklórico which brought students to their feet.

The keynote speaker, former mayor of Baldwin Park, California, Mr. Fidel Vargas '91, presented an inspirational 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 heartfelt conclusions. Conference Committee Chair Anna-Lizbeth Alatorre best expressed the essence of the conference by saying that "people are here because they share a common ethnic background, cultural ties, and political interests."



*Fidel Vargas '91, former Mayor of Baldwin Park, CA, and presently an MBA student at the Harvard Business School, delivers the keynote address at the East Coast Chicano Students Conference.*

## 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 F. Winfrey, has guided 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 under the auspices of co-masters, John and Judith Dowling, was filled with music and memoirs. 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 evening we held for our figurative father, Mr. Winfrey, I felt a familiarity and ease unlike anything I have ever felt before—with strangers. It warmed my heart to hear others speak with fondness about their



*The distinguished Kuumba Director, Mr. Robert Winfrey proudly displays his Harvard Foundation Award, honoring his 25 years of service.*

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 role of every president. And, it thrilled me to have this opportunity. Kuumba is my family because you saw fit to make this feeling 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. Allen Counter, 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 as Director. Joining Mr. Winfrey are students: Joel Kemp '97, Chimweze Ahaghotu '99, Shannon Hodge '00, Dana Dore '97 and Phillip Goff (president) '99.*

## The Harvard Foundation Honors Dr. Charlena Seymour



*Ms. Marjorie Lee North, co-master of Quincy House and member of ASHA, welcomes Dr. Charlena Seymour.*

On November 19, 1997, the Harvard Foundation and the Association of Black Radcliffe 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. Sandra Holly, former president of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASHA), presents a gift to Dr. Charlena Seymour.*



*Dr. Charlena Seymour, president of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association (ASHA), is welcomed by Harvard Foundation Student Advisory Committee co-chairs, Sarita James '98 and Nana Coleman '98, at a reception in Dr. Seymour's honor. Dr. Seymour is also a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.*



## 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 in Dudley 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, upper-class students also answered general questions and allayed first year anxieties about Harvard's academic and social environment.

The speakers included Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College and Dr. Elizabeth Studley 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 at the affair.

—Melvin V. Priester '01

### Naresh Chandra

(Continued from page 1)

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 problems 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 Lawande '99



His Excellency Naresh Chandra, Ambassador to the United States from India (l), is welcomed to Harvard and Leverett House by Professor John E. Dowling, Master of Leverett House (r), and Dr. S. Allen Counter (c).

## 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. Alejandrina Germán, and several of the country's university presidents with a reception in the Winthrop Junior Common Room. Dr. Germán 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. Germán and spoke on the significance of higher education and strong

leadership which tied in well with the statements of the Minister of Education. Dr. Germán 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, 1998, 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 Naemah 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 marries an African-American woman and has another son, Kweku. The play follows Kwame and Kweku 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 stream-of-consciousness dream sequences, Kwame is visited by his mother



Members of Fuerza Quisqueyana, a Dominican undergraduate organization, proudly display the Dominican flag at a reception for the minister of the Dominican National Council on Higher Education, Dr. Alejandrina Germán, and six University Presidents from the Dominican Republic: Dr. Edylberto Cabral, Roberto Bergés, Radhamés Mejía, Abraham Hazoury, Dr. Franklin Holguín and Rafael Toribio.



and the elders of Africa, who impart to him the pride-filled responsibility of being an African and upholding the traditions which this entails.

"Songs" incorporates song, dance, drama, and music to weave together an immaculate coming-of-age story that imparts not only a particular African culture, but also the inner turmoil of human existence. The play features a medley of original musical compositions, from traditional Asante drum solos and upbeat R&B tunes to smooth jazz sounds. Tightly choreographed dance pieces of various genres are performed to the music including an African dance, a melancholy modern piece, and a jamming hip-hop number. The wide range of creative outlets involved and the importance of its message truly make "Songs We Can't Sing" a remarkable work of art.

—Felicia Bell '00

## *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 interracial 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 interracial 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 layouts instrumental to the success of the magazine. The editorial board brings together an interesting and well-written collection of works accompanied 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.

—Ka-Hyeong Lee '99

## *A Southeast Asian Christmas Dinner*

The Singapore and Malaysia Association has been organizing annual Christmas Dinners since its formation in 1993. For many students who come from far-away countries, this is a rare opportunity for us to partake in traditional home-cooked Malay food. This year's event was also a great excuse for all of us to put our school work down and invite friends from on and off campus to join in a delightful meal and jolly conversation.

The dinner was held on Saturday, January 6, in the cozy surroundings of the Mather House Junior Common Room. The food for the night was specially catered from a local restaurant. It included: nasi tomato (rice cooked with tomatoes), spring rolls (vegetables wrapped in thin rolls and stir fried to crispness), curry chicken, and delectable cream puffs.

Almost 50 people from the undergraduate and graduate schools, as well as from neighboring colleges such as MIT and Tufts, attended the event. Students in attendance were of various ethnicities and were all anxious to taste the cuisine. The delicious food was finished within two rounds. Amidst the chatter and pleasant interaction, everyone forgot the cold of winter outside to enjoy the warmth of Southeast Asian hospitality.

The Singapore and Malaysia Association would like to extend its thanks to the Harvard Foundation for providing a financial grant for the event. Charges of \$5 and \$3 respectively were levied for non-members and dues-paying members, both well below catering cost of \$8 per person. Such a successful event would not have been possible without the assistance of the Harvard Foundation.

—Han Ping Davin Chor '00

## *Caribbean Club Fall Food Festival 1997*

On November 8, 1997, members of the Harvard-Radcliffe community assembled to celebrate the essences 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, as guests filed out into the rain, several students commended the Club on how much the food reminded them of home. It is through these endorsements that the H/R Caribbean Club knows that it is serving the interests of our members and the University community at large. The HRCC is committed to repeating this year's success next year with the support of an even larger audience.

—Danielle Romain '00



## Central and Eastern European Movie Series

Our discovered 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 Tarkovski's *Nostalgia* and Jiri 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," *Nostalgia* 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.

—Cristina Vatulescu '98

## Interethnic Forum: Cross-Cultural Study Break

In Boylston Auditorium on September 19, 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 pekoras 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.

—Caroline Nguyen '00

## 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 informalize 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 HRCC welcomed more than 150 students from Harvard and neighboring Boston-Cambridge universities including MIT, BU, Northeastern, and Tufts.

The phenomenal publicity, achieved through postering, e-mail, and word-of-mouth, was responsible for the event's enormous success. For most of the night, people danced, socializing with fellow collegiates 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 tolerance. If Reggae Rampage was a step in this direction, then we are well on our way.

—Danielle Romain '00

## 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 Chaka Khan 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 Busta Rhymes and was choreographed by Celia Edwards. Many audience members were familiar with this hip hop song, and the dancers' pizzazz 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.

—Celia Edwards '99



## *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 barrio 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!

—Bernardine Iletto '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 Assilmi, the director of the International Union of Muslim Women, spoke in Sever Hall. Ms. Assilmi'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-belligere nature in an effort to challenge popular misunderstandings of the religion. After delivering a nearly two and one half hour presentation, Ms. Assilmi answered questions from the audience. Ms. Assilmi also addressed 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, Hossam al-Jabri, 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 as long as questions continued to pour in to Mr. al-Jabri. 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 attendants.

The week was largely a success and reached out beyond the undergraduate populace to the entire Harvard community.

—Sameera Fazili '99

## *The Meaning of Independence for the South Asian Diaspora*

The South Asian Association's Fall Forum on November 18, 1997, invited six speakers to address often overlooked issues related to South Asian Independence. The invitation to six speakers was an unprecedented event for our association. Our programs represented not just India, but all of South Asia. Our panel included Vijay Prashad, a professor at Trinity College, Dr. Siddiq Abdullah, President of the Pakistani Association of the Greater Boston Area, and Imtiyaz, the Founder of MASALA (a South Asian Gay and Lesbian group in Boston).

All three speakers raised questions about how and why we celebrate South Asian Independence in America. The panel was followed by discussion groups. The groups discussed such topics as the role of women in the Independence struggle, the story of Bangladesh since Independence, and India's social development in the last 50 years. These three workshops looked at segments of the South Asian community that are often forgotten. Everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed it. The event initiated dialogue and interest in the topic.

—Amit 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

Foundation and AAA, it reached its largest audience thus far. Among the many students in the audience was Masaru Mori, a 5th dan (black belt) kendoist from Japan who had previously practiced with club members.

The demonstration consisted of a mixture of the basic elements of a standard Kendo practice. Techniques used in striking, positioning, and focusing spirit drew their inspiration from traditions of the samurai in feudal Japan. Limited space and time made the choreography quite challenging. However, the club managed to compact a majority of Kendo techniques and present the essence of Kendo to the audience, most of which had no prior knowledge of the martial art. The reactions of audience members varied. Some sat quietly in stunned silence while others found the display comical.

All came away with a better understanding of a sport whose exposure had hitherto been primarily limited to posters. Club members stayed around during and after the show to answer the questions of curious onlookers and fellow performers. The demonstration required the use of traditional uniforms and coordination with a drum beat, for which the Harvard Foundation grant will be used. Thanks to the Harvard Foundation grant, these resources will be also be available to use for events in the spring, which include a collegiate tournament, a charity demonstration, and a training camp including students from Keio university.

—David Kuo '99

## *Arabs at Harvard Cultural Evening*

The Society of Arab Students (SAS) organized a series of informal evening gatherings to raise awareness of Arab culture and to provide a forum for cultural exchange. These gatherings were free of charge and open to all those interested in the Arab world. The evenings featured Arabic music and traditional Arab refresh-

ments that introduced the uninitiated to the delicacies of Arab cuisine. This term, SAS organized three such evenings, two of which were jointly organized with the Hellenic Society. The third Arabs at Harvard evening emphasized bringing together all Arab faculty and graduate students from Harvard's different schools. The event, attended by over thirty students and faculty, was held in Winthrop House Junior Common Room on Tuesday, December 2, 1997. The inclusion of Arab faculty and graduate students on this evening provided for increased interaction between the small Arab community and provided Arab undergraduates with role models from their own culture and the opportunity to learn from their personal experiences.

—Sulafa Bashir '99

## *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 Faynshteyn, 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 Hurdich, 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 Schertz. Ms. Schertz 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. Schertz speak at Harvard again in the future, possibly as part of Arts First or another artistic event.

Our talk by Clayton Valli, 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 Grossman '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 the 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-



dents surveyed indicated that they would attend another Speaker Series presentation. His speech fit well within the aims of the WSS, and we look forward to many successful speakers in the spring.

—Johanna Klein '98

## 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, *Kaise 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 inter-generational 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.

—Amit 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 moon-cake dessert, which consists of a solid red-bean interior caked in a sweetened breaded exterior.

More than 30 attendees had the opportunity to sample the moon cake and to 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

## Moiji Workshop

The Taiwanese Cultural Society held the 2nd Annual *Moiji* 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 *Moiji*, a traditional Taiwanese dessert consisting of a glutinous starch base, enveloped in a variety of toppings including red-bean paste and finely chopped peanuts.

*Moiji* 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 *Moiji* and the many other foods offered. In addition to the *Moiji*, the workshop offered a variety of other delicacies including pork 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 guests 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 one 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 *chwa-bing*, a Taiwanese shaved-ice dessert. Women from the Boston North American Taiwanese Womens Association sold *ba-tsang*, a Taiwanese rice dumpling stuffed with beef and demonstrated satchet-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 '01

### *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 Role 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.

—Azriel Rivers '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 Marlon Rigg'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."

—Kiisha Morrow '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 Davidson, 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, handi-crafts, and a traditional tea kettle called the *sama'-var*. 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 Malihi, enlightened us with poems by Hafiz, a famous Persian poet. English translations were offered by Mrs. Malihi 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 came to a sentimental end with two Persian Society officers reciting a well-known Sadi poem.

—Mahmood Firouzbakht '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 Tuchman 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 *Samad Goes to School*. This movie served as an ice-breaker and provided 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 Tuchman Living Room. The event was quite similar to the movie night on Sept. 29, 1997. We featured a movie called *The White Balloon* and served similar foods. The 25-30 Persians and non-Persians who attended enjoyed delicious food and a relaxing atmosphere.

—Mahmood Firouzbakht '98

## *Music and Pastry*

On November 11, 1997, the Persian Society hosted a "Night of Persian Music and Pastries" 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 technique during their performance. Mrs. Tal'at Malihi, a local poetry reader, recited classical Persian poetry to the sounds of the *nay*, 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 *santar*, a string percussion instrument, while the other played the *tabl*, a hand held drum. In the tradition of classical Persian music, the two improvised many numbers throughout the night. When 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 Firouzbakht '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 Iranian Films at the Museum of Fine Arts where we viewed the movie *Det Means Girl*. The movie is about a family struggling to find a cure for their comatose daughter. After modern medicine fails to cure his daughter, her father begins using mystical religious methods to rid her of her illness.

After the movie, we all went to La La

Rokh, a local Persian restaurant for a sit-down dinner which included a traditional yogurt drink, eggplant appetizers, saffron rice, and a chicken entree. This outing 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 Firouzbakht '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 DJs playing hip-hop and reggae. DJ's also played music from Arabic, Turkish, Latino, and various other cultures. Throughout the evening, patrons danced, mingled, and snacked 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 stepers 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 Firouzbakht '98



## Cultural Cafe

The Hellenic and Arabic Societies organized a cultural cafe aimed at increasing awareness of our own and each others 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 *Ouli* 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.

—Katerina Linos '99

## Dance Party in Winthrop Junior Common Room

On 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 Cuban American Undergraduate Student Association (CAUSA), and the Harvard Organization of Latin Americans (HOLA) 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 Hamm '99

## Korean Association and CSA Culture Night

On December 12, 1997, the soon to-be-formed Korean Association (KA) and the Chinese Students 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, barbecued beef, buckwheat noodles, and beef chow foon. 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 *poongmul* 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 attendees 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 Ahn '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 phenomena. 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 HRCSA 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 merit of ethnic clubs on campus. Derrick Ashong (BSA), Ravi Dixit (SAA), and Lamelle Rawlins (UC) argued on the side of ethnic organizations, while Andrew S. Chung (Crimson), Joshua Garoon (Salient), and Steven J. Mitby (UC) argued against the merits 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 segregationist?", 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 homogenous 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 alienate the rest of the school. The legitimacy 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 continually 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 '00

### *The Handbook to Asian American Life at Harvard*

The Handbook to Asian American Life at Harvard 1997-98, a project of the Harvard-Radcliffe 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 prove 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.

—Caroline Trang 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 Rs*. Liu's novel describes the seedier side of eighties New York through the dead-pan alienation of a young Chinese American woman on the make, while *Rolling the Rs* 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 Holoimua o Hawaii and the BGLTSA.

—Tara 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-Ming Hsu '00 and Nancy Lin '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.

—Claire Tseng '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 Holoimua 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.

—Claire Tseng '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 authors and scholars. The panelists were Professor Cornell West, Professor Harvey Mansfield, Professor Ruth Wisse, 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 the Science 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 underrepre-

sented minorities are 'less qualified' to enter the University.

Author and professor Ruth Wisse challenged Sandel's argument, advocating equal opportunity for all students. Professor Wisse said she would oppose the selection of alumni legacies as vehemently as she opposes affirmative action. Government professor Harvey Mansfield accompanied Wisse 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 opposed 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.

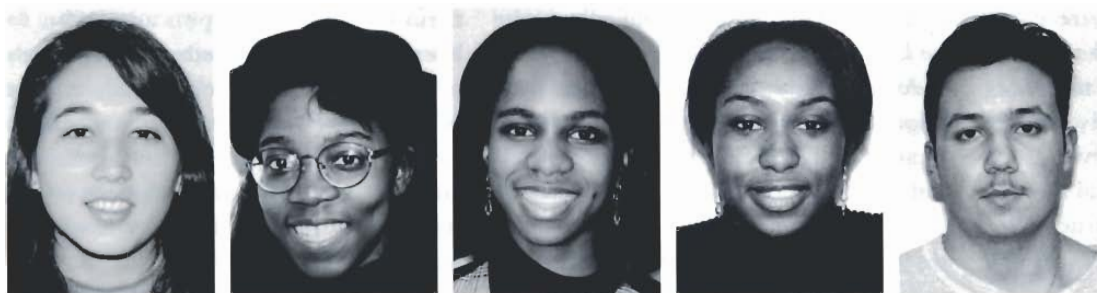
—Charisa Smith '00

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Not Pictured  
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*Special thanks to staff photographers*  
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