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Will Smith: Cultural Artist of the Year at Harvard

Will Smith, it turns out, is as charismatic in person as he is on screen. Smith, an accomplished musician, actor, and producer, was the guest of honor and distinguished host at the 14th annual Harvard Foundation Cultural Rhythms show held Saturday, February 20, in Sanders Theatre.

More than 1,000 people attended the festival, in which student groups such as the Hellenic Society, the Kuumba Singers, Fuerza Latina, and the Harvard Philippine Forum helped exhibit the diversity of races and ethnicities at Harvard. While a kaleidoscope of color and sound unfolded on the Sanders stage, Smith entertained with his comic improvisations—executing a full split, for instance, as he did an impromptu



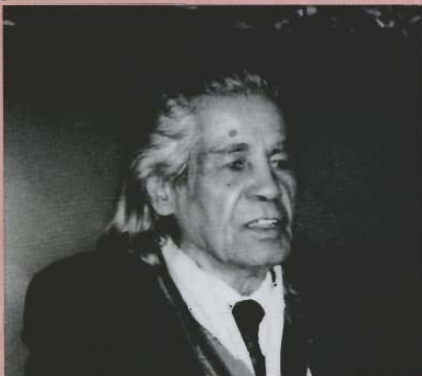
dance during the performance of the Persian Society.

The audience was equally lively. Students prompted Smith when he forgot to finish telling a story he'd started, then later shouted that he might pass a rose he received from the performers on to his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, who sat in the audience.

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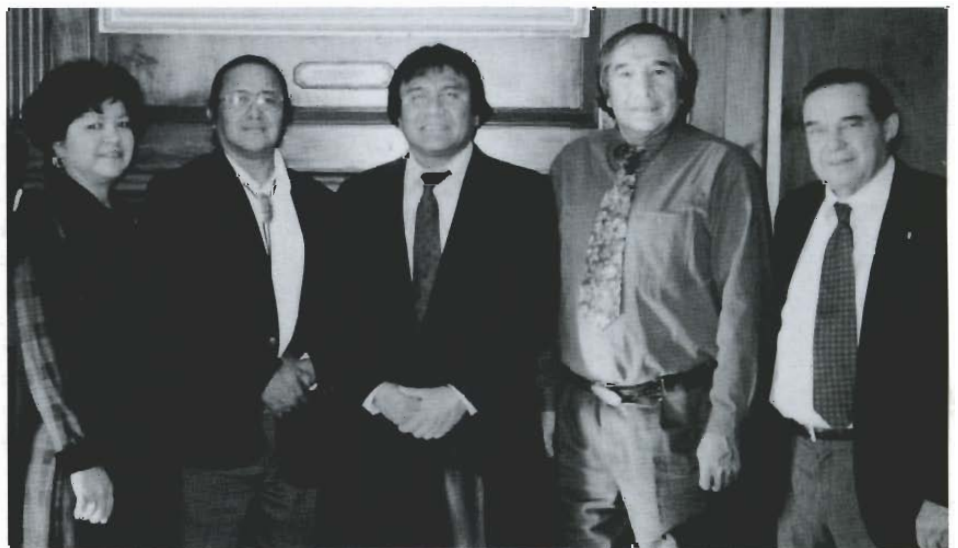
*Distinguished actor and musical performer Will Smith, star of TV's *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, and the films *Men in Black*, *Independence Day*, and *Wild Wild West*, was the 1999 Harvard Foundation Cultural Artist of the Year. Smith was feted by Harvard students and was honored by student performances from over 20 cultural groups at Sanders Theater.*

Harvard Foundation Hosts Ali Sardar Jafri, Urdu Poet



The Harvard Foundation hosted an evening of poetry with renowned Urdu poet, Mr. Ali Sardar Jafri. Mr. Sardar Jafri, considered the world's greatest living Urdu poet, was given a special medal to recognize his outstanding contributions to poetry, literature, and intercultural relations. Story page 4

Navajo Justices Honored by the Harvard Foundation



The Harvard Foundation presented special medals to three visiting Navajo Supreme Court Justices. While at Harvard, the justices discussed the Native American legal system and demonstrated the adjudication of an ongoing reservation trial. (Left to right): Associate Justice Irene Toledo; Associate Justice Raymond Austin; Chief Justice Robert Yazzie; Attorney Leroy Little Bear, Director of the Harvard University Native American Program; and Mr. Russell Peters, Chairman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee. Story page 5

Will Smith: Cultural Artist of the Year

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While students and faculty enjoyed Smith's relaxed and unreserved style, they also applauded his achievements. When welcoming Smith, Dr. S. Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, referred to the performer and philanthropist—who is widely known for his television persona, “the Fresh Prince”—as “real American royalty.”

Smith was selected as the Foundation's Cultural Artist of the Year because of his outstanding contributions to both American performing art and intercultural relations. Between student performances, Dean Harry R. Lewis presented Smith with an award for his humanitarian work through the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation, and for his contributions to music and the performing arts in the rap duo DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, the television sitcom, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, and films such as *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Independence Day*, *Men in Black*, and *Enemy of the State*.

“I want to thank the Foundation for



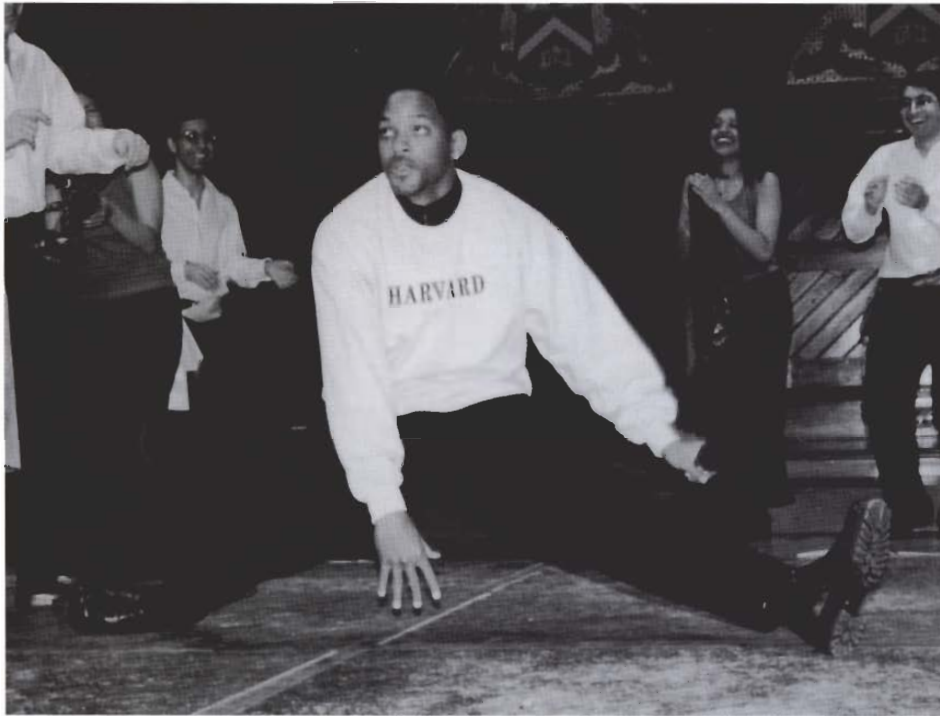
Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Dr. Harry Lewis, Dean of Harvard College, present noted actor and musical performer Will Smith with the Harvard Foundation Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Performing Arts and Intercultural Relations. Will Smith was selected as the Cultural Artist of the Year by the Harvard Foundation of Harvard University. He and his wife Jada Pinkett-Smith are widely recognized for their philanthropy and efforts to improve relations among Americans of all backgrounds.

choosing such a deserved recipient,” Smith joked. But on a more serious note, he also told his audience to “make it a point to share your best self with absolutely every-

one you come in contact with. . . . If you can find the strength to give the best of yourself, throughout your life you will find that, at some point, someone was watching.

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Will Smith joins student performances by demonstrating his dancing skills.

... Find that goodness in yourself and share it, and good things will always happen."

The Cultural Rhythms celebration included 16 performances by student groups, and was followed by more music and dance during a food festival at the Science Center.

Holoimua 'o Hawaii, in the first act of the show at Sanders, opened with a Samoan slap dance, which tests an individual's coordination, timing, and rhythm in preparation for battle. The Hellenic Society followed with a virtuoso leaping dance, and the Harvard Vietnamese Association presented a dance that illustrates the separation of men's and women's work in the rice fields.

Members of the Harvard African Association stomped and slapped their tall, red-tipped rubber boots, to create the throbbing sound of the Gumboots dance. James Irungu Mwangi '00 explained that this protest dance originated in South African mines, and is influenced by Zulu, Pedi, and Xhosa cultures. The commands that are shouted among the dancers are concealed messages about apartheid.

The Society of Arab Students demonstrated the use of the oud, tabla, and daff, three instruments that correspond to the guitar, drum, and tambourine in Western music. Ramy Adeeb '00, who is Egyptian,

played the oud. "The music I played is very classical," he explained. "Back home, most people my age play modern stuff. But when I came to this country I missed the culture and I switched from guitar to oud."

Native Americans at Harvard and Radcliffe performed a mixture of traditional, ceremonial, and jingle dances that occur dur-

ing intertribal powwows. Whereas many other student groups rented or shared their costumes, members of the Native Americans at Harvard and Radcliffe each wore tribal dress that they owned. Amanda Proctor '97, of the Osage tribe of Oklahoma, wore a layered dress that she beaded herself. "I have been beading it since 1995, and I'm still not finished," she said. "It's a skill that I've learned from my family back home."

Perhaps the most surprising performance, however, came from the French Club. When Smith introduced the group, Sam Sternin '01 strolled onstage to the familiar music of French singer and actress Edith Piaf. But Sternin quickly tossed his beret and his baguette, and was joined by David Horn '00, Ziad Obermeyer '01, and Hatim Belyamani '99 in performing a French rap. "The aim of the French rap was to present an alternative image of the French national identity," explained Obermeyer. "France is no longer a homogeneous country; it's 10 percent North African."

Belyamani added, "The idea of doing something like that for Cultural Rhythms was really exciting for us, because Cultural Rhythms is all about categorizing cultures. This is what history does, accept myths about what identity is. We wanted to replace the homogeneous white French image and

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Will Smith congratulates Cultural Rhythms coordinators (l-r) Serre-Yu Wong '01, Dana Bennett '99, Charisa Smith '00.

Will Smith: Cultural Artist of the Year

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replace it with a multicultural one. And then we just wanted to shock and have fun."

Said Obermeyer, "Obviously, the first thing people were going to think when they saw Sam walk out with a baguette and beret with Edith Piaf in the background is that this would be a very typical French act."

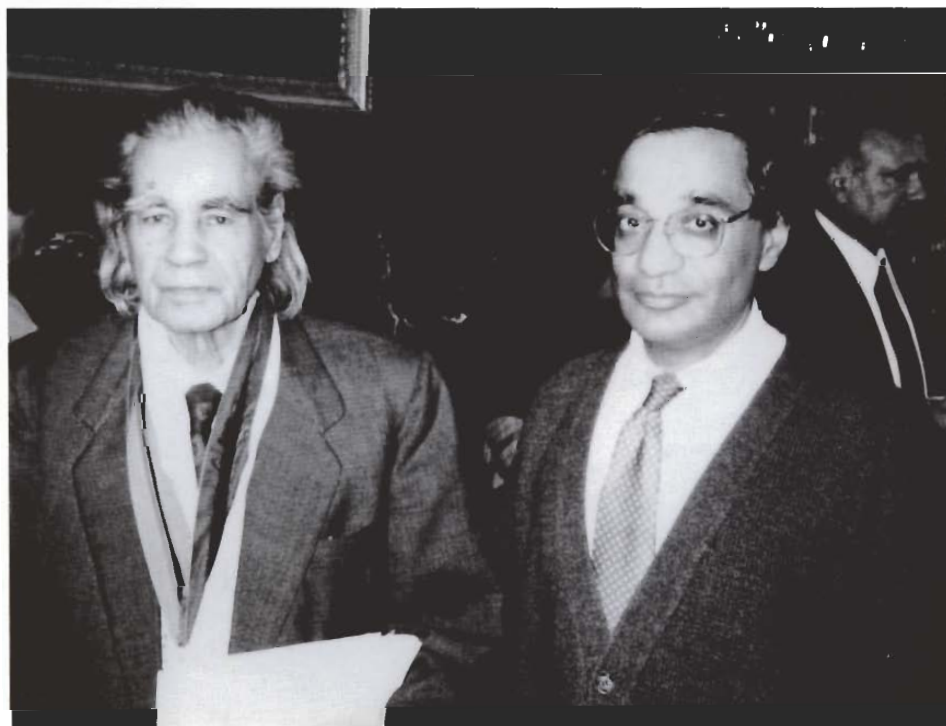
There was nothing typical about the 1999 Cultural Rhythms. The mesmerizing combination of costume, music, and dance was enlivened between acts by Smith's unforgettable comic antics. Counter suggested on stage that Smith might be invited to teach a class or seminar at Harvard in the future. When asked about possible seminar topics during a press conference after the event, Smith said he was considering the transitions among music, television, and film. "I've been thinking about the creative aspects of different media and how to make the leap as a performer or a producer," he said.

-Lama Jarudi
Special to the Harvard Gazette



A check from the proceeds of Cultural Rhythms was presented to Joyce Strom (center), President of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, by Cultural Rhythms coordinators (l-r) Dana Bennett '99, and Charisa Smith '00.

Harvard Foundation Hosts Ali Sardar Jafri, Urdu Poet



Dr. Ali Asani, Professor of the Practice of Indo-Muslim Languages and member of the Harvard Foundation faculty advisory committee, welcomes distinguished Urdu poet, Ali Sardar Jafri.

The Harvard Foundation presented a special award to renowned Indian poet, Mr. Ali Sardar Jafri. The eighty-five year old poet is viewed by many as a national treasure in India and is the oldest living Urdu poet. His novels and short stories are highly regarded in India and throughout the world. Mr. Jafri was the recipient of the 1997 *Jnanpith* award (India's highest literary honor). His visit to Harvard was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation and the students of the Harvard South Asian Association.

Mr. Jafri was introduced by Professor Ali Asani, Professor of the Practice of Indo-Muslim Languages and culture and member of the Harvard Foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee. Arif Nathoo '00 spoke of the significance of Mr. Jafri's literary work and life and welcomed him to the Harvard community. During the evening's program, Mr. Jafri read a number of his most famous works including his poetry on friendship between Pakistan and India. Mr. Jafri is a leader in the Progressive Writers' Movement

of South Asia. This group uses literature to promote social change. Among Mr. Jafri's readings were poems which he had dedicated to the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Paul Robeson, whom he met in Russia in 1936. Mr. Jafri said, "When I shook Paul Robeson's hand, it felt like holding the great paw of a lion." Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, presented Mr. Jafri with the Cultural Recognition Medal for his notable contributions to literature and his efforts to promote reconciliation between India and Pakistan. Dr. Counter called Mr. Jafri "a man of great literary talent and a promoter of peace and harmony among the peoples of the world."

The event was attended by Harvard College students as well as many of Mr.

Jafri's admirers from around the Boston area. The audience was captivated by the charm, wit, and passion of his poetry. Several undergraduate and graduate students read their favorite pieces from his voluminous collection of poems. GSAS student Philip Nikolayev also read some of Mr. Jafri's literary work as part of the evening's program. Mr. Jafri seemed to enjoy engaging the students and faculty present in intellectual exchange.

Following the reading, Mr. Jafri answered questions from the audience. At the end of the program, Mr. Jafri signed copies of his books, and a large reception featuring South Asian foods was held in his honor. The event was held in the Lowell House Library.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



Alina Das '01 greets acclaimed Urdu poet, Mr. Ali Sardar Jafri.

Navajo Justices Honored by the Harvard Foundation

On February 5, the Harvard Foundation and the Harvard University Native American Program hosted a special Cabot House luncheon in honor of the Supreme Court Justices of the Navajo Nation. The Honorable Chief Justice Robert Yazzie, Justice Raymond D. Austin, and Justice Irene M. Toledo were presented Harvard Foundation medals for their notable contributions to Native American Law and American Jurisprudence.

The guests of honor were welcomed to Cabot House and Harvard College by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation. The program began with a traditional Native American chant performed by Mr. Leroy Littlebear, Director of the Harvard University Native American Program. Mr. Littlebear expressed his appreciation of the Justices' visit, and the scholarly value of the programs they would share with Harvard. Mr. Russell Peters, Chairman of the Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee and graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, addressed the gathering and presented a brief history of some Native American legal issues in Massachusetts.

Several students also paid tribute to the Justices with formal remarks. Morgan Rodman '02 and Heather Nizhonii Kinsel '01, both members of the Harvard University Native American Program, dis-

cussed the symbolic importance of the visit by the Navajo Supreme Court Justices to Harvard College students. Monica Eav '99, senior intern at the Harvard Foundation, highlighted the many impressive achievements of the Justices, noting their effort in the area of cultural enlightenment and "community-building". . . precisely what we at the Foundation seek to promote with our mission of intercultural and interracial understanding." Eav concluded her remarks by saying, "We salute Chief Justice Yazzie, Justice Toledo, and Justice Austin for their commitment and accomplishments."

In his remarks, Chief Justice Robert Yazzie discussed the importance of recognition and respect of the laws and sovereignty of Native American "Indian" communities. He thanked the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation and the members of the Harvard University Native American Program for the honorary luncheon and special recognition of their achievements. The luncheon was co-sponsored by Cabot House Masters, Professor Jim Ware and Dr. Janice Ware.

On the following day, the Justices held an oral argument on the case of *Navajo Nation vs. Means* at the Ames Courtroom of Harvard Law School. The case centers on the limits of the jurisdiction of the tribal courts. It is a criminal prosecution

against Russell Means, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and a major figure of the American Indian Movement. In this case, Means is charged by the Navajo with one count of "threatening" and two counts of "battery" stemming from an aggressive exchange with his in-laws on the Navajo reservation in December 1997. Means argues that the Navajo Nation has no jurisdiction over him, based on precedent established in earlier U.S. court cases.

The honorary luncheon for the Navajo Supreme Court Justices continued the Harvard Foundation's program of recognition of the cultural contributions of members of Native American nations and communities throughout the United States. The Harvard Foundation has honored other distinguished Native Americans in the past including: Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation; Russell Means, former head of AIM; R.C. Gorman, Native American artist; Scott Mamaday, noted Native American playwright; Graham Greene, actor and star of *Dances with Wolves*; Billy Mills, Olympic gold medalist; Rigoberta Menchu, Nobel Peace Prize Winner; and Richard West, founder and Director of the American Indian Museum of the Smithsonian.

-Harvard Foundation Staff

Student Contributions to Race Relations Recognized at Aloian Dinner

To kick off the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations' 13th Annual David Aloian Dinner on April 29, the Radcliffe Pitches sang, "This Could Be the Start of Something Good." And then the Foundation set to work celebrating the intercultural and race relations work of students and faculty in the Quincy House Dining Hall. The Foundation awarded plaques to 18 students and recognized 15 others for their involvement in campus events, including Cultural Rhythms, the Caribbean Club, and Kuumba. The Foundation also gave Monica Eav '99 the Director's Award, a large medal, for her work behind the scenes at the Foundation. In addition to the student awards, the Foundation also presented its Faculty/Administrator Award to Senior Preceptor of Mathematics

Robin Gottlieb and Adams House Co-Masters Jana M. and Robert J. Kiely '60.

An award recipient, Kuumba President Shannon T. Hodge '00, said her organization had striven to achieve the goals of the Foundation. "This year and past years we've made an effort to share with the Harvard community through events and concerts," she said.

Foundation Director S. Allen Counter, who has been with the Foundation since its inception in 1981, said the dinner is their chance to recognize students' outstanding achievements like those of Kuumba members. He also made special note of Shin Lin '99, who put on a conference for Chinese Americans, and Macarena M. Correa '00, for her work in Harvard's Latino community. Correa said she was excited to receive the award. "It's

nice to see that your work gets noticed," she said. Daniel B. Baer '00, who was recognized last night for his mentoring work, said, "he was proud to be there last night." He also thinks the event unites the Harvard community. "One of the reasons this particular award is important is that there are so many organizations on campus and this one night brings them all together," he said.

Dean of Students Archie C. Epps III said he attends the event every year in support of its mission and he continues to be impressed by its work. "Because it's the event that honors students, you get a real sense of the practical work of students," Epps said.

Counter said students are nominated for the awards by their House masters. Then a committee of students and faculty



The Harvard Foundation honors Monica Eav '99 for her outstanding contributions to race relations throughout the University. (Left to right): Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Ms. Eav, Dean Harry R. Lewis.



The Harvard Foundation honored students who have contributed to fostering better intercultural and race relations throughout Harvard at its annual David Aloian Dinner. The Harvard Foundation Award were presented to: Shannon T. Hodge '00, Macarena Correa '00, Nancy Lin '99, Mohamad M. Al-Ississ '99, Dana B. Bennett '99, Sergio Castellon '00, Brian J. Daigle '99, Lee A. Dalope '99, Lizzeth Henao '99, Brian G. Howard '00, Edidiong N. Ikpe '99, La Tanya N. James '99, Chaundra C. King '99, Nancy G. Lin '99, Arif N. Nathoo '99, Jeloni M. Shabazz '00, Charisa A. Smith '00 and Anita K. Wong '99. Receiving Honorable Mention Recognition for their incipient work in intercultural and race relations were: Andrew Amo '01, Daniel B. Baer '00, Adam P. Bailey '01, Keith E. Bernard '99, Jennifer R. Darrah '01, Kenneth N. Ebie '01, Omolara O. Fatiregun '00, Joyce I. Imahiyerobo '01, Marlene M. Losier '01, Kiisha J. Morrow '99, James I. Mwangi '00, Joelle G. Novey '01, Niki V. Santo '00, Nina S. Sawyer '01, and Serre-Yu Wong '01.

review the nominees. Students must exhibit an extraordinary commitment to intercultural and race relations beyond that of other students, Counter said. "We could never recognize everyone [who has made contributions to improving race relations at Harvard] in one day," he said.

Before Counter handed out the awards, Senior Admissions Officer David L. Evans, a member of the Foundation's faculty advisory board, spoke on the history and current state of intercultural and racial relations at Harvard. When he came to a racially unaware Harvard in 1969, Evans said, "one faculty member thought Black Muslim was a form of fabric."

He added that although the situation has improved, easing race relations is never a smooth path. He urged the audience to think about the Rwandan conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic

groups. But he said it is vital that the Foundation continues to work toward a more diverse and aware community. "There's trouble in our land," Evans said. "We need effort. We need it badly. And we need Harvard to be involved in it."

Dean of the College Harry R. Lewis '68, who also spoke at the event, praised the winners. "I want to say how proud I think we should be of the community we have created here," he said. "We are extremely proud of you and your work."

Winners of the Foundation Awards were Hodge, Correa, Lin, Mohamad M. Al-Ississ '99, Dana B. Bennett '99, Sergio Castellon '00, Brian J. Daigle '99, Lee A. Dalope '99, Lizzeth Henao '99, Brian G. Howard '00, Edidiong N. Ikpe '99, La Tanya N. James '99, Chaundra C. King '99, Nancy G. Lin '99, Arif N. Nathoo '99, Jeloni M. Shabazz '00, Charisa A.

Smith '00 and Anita K. Wong '99.

The Foundation's Recognition Recipients were Andrew Amo '01, Baer, Adam P. Bailey '01, Keith E. Bernard '99, Jennifer R. Darrah '01, Kenneth N. Ebie '01, Omolara O. Fatiregun '00, Joyce I. Imahiyerobo '01, Marlene M. Losier '01, Kiisha J. Morrow '99, James I. Mwangi '00, Joelle G. Novey '01, Niki V. Santo '00, Nina S. Sawyer '01 and Serre-Yu Wong '01.

The Aloian Dinner is held annually in memory of the Harvard Alumni Association Executive Director and Quincy House Master David Aloian who died in 1986. He helped the Foundation by hosting numerous events at Quincy House.

-Victoria C. Hallett
Staff reporter, Harvard Crimson
Courtesy of the Harvard Crimson

Professor Walter Frontera Honored at the Harvard Foundation's Annual Science Conference

Dr. Walter Frontera, Charlton Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School, and Chief of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Spaulding Hospital, was guest of honor at the Harvard Foundation's Annual Science Conference: Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. The event is co-sponsored each year by the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers (HSBSE), Hispanics in Medicine, Engineering and Informational Sciences (HEMIS), Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe (WISHR), and Minority Biomedical Scientists of Harvard (MBSH). Dr. Frontera was presented the Harvard Foundation medal during a traditional luncheon ceremony at Pforzheimer House on Friday, March 19. The gathering included both students and faculty of Harvard and visitors from neighboring colleges and universities. The Pforzheimer House program was hosted by House Masters Professor James McCarthy and Suzanne McCarthy.



Dr. Walter Frontera was honored by the Harvard Foundation for his outstanding work in the medical sciences. Dr. Frontera was the keynote speaker for the Harvard Foundation's Annual Student and Faculty Science Conference on Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Dr. Frontera, a noted clinician and scientist in the area of rehabilitation medicine, expressed the need for inclusiveness in the medical and scientific training and education of today's youth. He advocated excellence through diversity, and the importance of scientific investigations in clinical medicine. He encouraged the students to pursue science and medicine with the highest of ideals. At the end of the luncheon ceremony, Dr. Frontera was awarded the Harvard Foundation medalion "to recognize his outstanding contributions to Science, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation."

The conference continued throughout the afternoon with a series of presentations by professors, undergraduates, and graduate students. The topics discussed this year included "Mechanics at Large and Small Scales in Engineering" by John W. Hutchinson, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Mechanics; "Atmospheric CO₂ and Forests: Can Trees Mitigate the Increase in Carbon Dioxide Arising from Fossil Fuel Burning? A Current Research



Science Conference Coordinators and Faculty honor Dr. Frontera. (Left to right): Stephanie Murg '01; Professor James McCarthy (biologist and oceanographer) Master of Pforzheimer House, Joyce Inahiyerobo '01, Kenneth Ebie '01, Professor Dudley Herschbach (chemist and Nobel Laureate) Dr. Margaret Marshall (physicist), Dr. Walter Frontera, Dr. J. Woodland Hastings (biologist).

Perspective" by Stephen Wofsy, Gordon McKay Professor of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences; "Stresses in Thin Films" by Andrea Santoro, Graduate Student, Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences; "The Transmission of Multiple Antibiotic Resistant Tuberculosis" by Noah Freeman '98-'99, Biology Department; and "High Field Magnetic Resonances Imaging of the Cochlea and 8th Nerve" by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Associate Professor of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School.

The first day of the Science Conference concluded at the Arco Forum of the John F. Kennedy School of Government with a panel discussion entitled "Science Bias and Cloning: Implications for Race and Gender." The distinguished panelists included: Dr. Walter Frontera; Dr. Richard Lewontin, Professor of Biology, Harvard University; Dr. Mary Jo DelVecchio-Good, Professor of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Dr. David Haig, Assistant Professor of Biology, Harvard University; Nana Coleman '98, Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation and Master's Candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Elizabeth Chao '00, President of Women in Science at Harvard-Radcliffe. Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, served as the moderator of the discussion.



Student conference coordinators present Dr. Frontera and his family with flowers. (left to right): Stephanie Murg '01, Joyce Imahiyero '01; Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation; Aida Jimenez, Dr. Frontera's wife; Dr. Walter Frontera and his daughter, Natasha; Lavanya Kondapalli '01, WISHR Representative; Kenneth Ebie '01, HSBSE, Andrea Santoro, GSAS-Engineering.

The panel discussion was provocative and stimulating, and evoked a lively response from the audience of local citizens, Harvard students and faculty, including Dr. Ruth Hubbard, Professor of Biology Emeritus. Some panelists viewed the rapidly growing trends in the scientific

cloning of biological organisms as potentially dangerous, and in need of government regulatory controls. Other panelists expressed the view that biological cloning, particularly of human beings, posed no immediate dangers, and did not require special concerns or actions on a national level. Most of the panelists however, agreed that there is potential for possible misuse or abuse of cloning techniques as they are perfected in the future, and that such scientific developments would require oversight and moral guidance.

Traditionally, the second day of the conference provides an opportunity for Harvard students and faculty to meet and interact with children from the Boston and Cambridge public schools. On Saturday, March 20, students from the Benjamin Banneker Charter School of Cambridge and other schools were presented with a series of talks and scientific demonstrations by some of Harvard's most eminent faculty.

Professor James Davis, distinguished chemist and teacher, dazzled the students with chemical reactions ranging from color changes in red cabbage, to converting soft foods to rock solid objects with liquid



Members of RAZA welcome Dr. Frontera at a luncheon in Pforzheimer House. (Left to right): Jeanette Soriano '01, Cristina Delgadillo '99, Dr. Walter Frontera, Marcella Prieto '02, Monica Ramirez '01, and Elena Chavez '01.

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Harvard faculty and students discuss the roles and challenges of minorities and women in science. (Left to right): Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, Ms. Elizabeth Chao '00, President of WISH-R and biochemistry concentrator; Dr. Walter Frontera; Professor Mary Jo Delvecchio-Good; Professor David Haig; Professor Richard Levontin; Ms. Nana Coleman '98, Ed.M. '99, Harvard Foundation Student Activities Coordinator.

Science conference

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nitrogen. Professor Davis' demonstration is always popular with students of all ages, and will likely inspire some to become chemists. Professor Paul Hoffman presented a similarly inspiring talk entitled "Earth Science: How the World Works." The demonstrations and scientific talks concluded with a presentation by Professor S. Allen Counter entitled "Nerves, Muscles, and Electricity." Professor Counter showed a brief video that he made

for the Children's Television Workshop on "Electricity in the Body" and let the students participate in demonstrations that measured the electrical activity generated by their own nerves and muscles.

The second phase of the Saturday science program involved the pairing of Harvard College students with each child for in depth discussions of science, games, and assessment of the children's understanding of what they learned during the program. This program, called "Partners," encourages undergraduate science concentrators to tutor

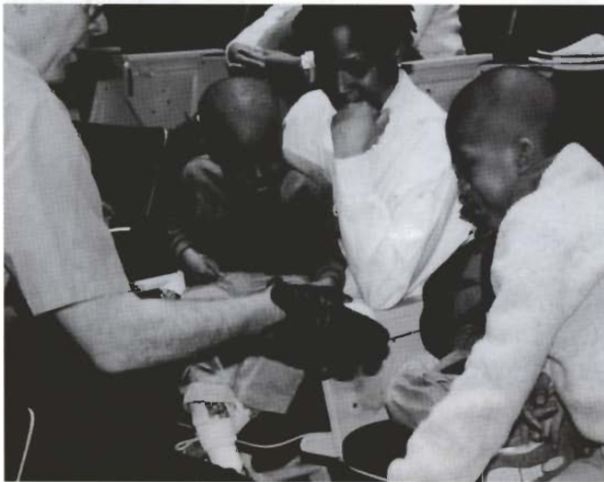
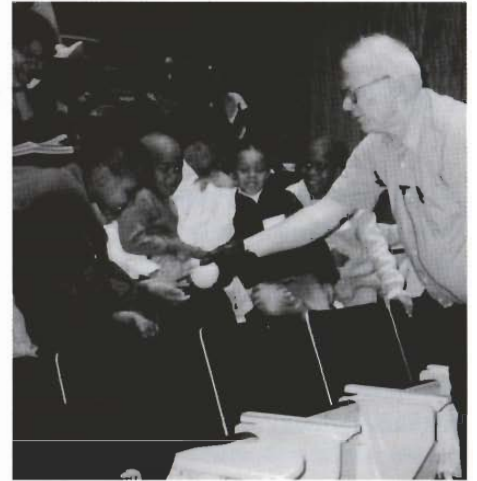
children in the areas of science, engineering, and mathematics, and to serve as role models for youth of all cultural and economic backgrounds.

The 1999 Harvard Foundation Science Conference was coordinated by Nana Coleman '98, Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation, and organized by Joyce Imahiyerobo '01 and Kenneth Ebie '01 of the Society of Black Scientist and Engineers.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



Professors and graduate students from across the University participated in this year's science conference. Left. Noah Freeman, GSAS-Biology. Center. Dr. S. Allen Counter demonstrates bio-electric nerve and muscle responses to a Public School Student. Right. Environmental health researcher, Mary Nell Payton, M.D., Ph.D. of the Harvard School of Public Health, greets students at the Harvard Foundation Advancing Minorities and Women in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Conference.



Professor Jim Davis, Head Tutor in Chemistry, reveals the wonders of science to local public school children during the Harvard Foundation's Annual Science Conference, "Advancing Minorities and Women in Science."

In Appreciation

Robin Gottlieb, Senior Preceptor in Mathematics, was presented the Harvard Foundation Faculty Award for her notable contributions to intercultural and race relations at the University. Ms. Gottlieb was selected for the award by the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation because of her widely appreciated advising and guidance of students of all racial and cultural backgrounds in the area of mathematics. The award was given at the annual David Aloian Student/Faculty Awards Dinner. Ms. Gottlieb, who is a member of the Harvard Foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee, is well known for her nurturing support of students who seek tutoring in mathematics.

-Harvard Foundation Staff



Ms. Robin Gottlieb, Senior Preceptor in Mathematics, is presented with the Harvard Foundation Faculty Award for her notable contributions to intercultural and race relations at the University by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

In Appreciation: House Masters Honored by the Harvard Foundation

On Thursday, April 29, the Harvard Foundation honored Adams House co-Masters, Professor Robert J. Kiely '60 and Dr. Jana M. Kiely, for their distinguished service as house masters and their contributions to the intercultural life of the University. Professor and Dr. Kiely have been active in supporting the Harvard Foundation's events by bringing issues of intercultural and race relations into the Harvard houses. They have hosted numerous Harvard Foundation programs including evenings of Irish storytelling and music by Batt and Maura Burns, theatrical workshops for various student cultural groups, lectures, and many Harvard Foundation dinners and discussions with distinguished guests. The Kielys were honored during the Harvard Foundation's annual David Aloian Dinner held in Quincy House. The purpose of the dinner is to recognize outstanding contributions to intercultural and race relations at Harvard by students and faculty. "The Kielys have been very instrumental in the work and success of the Harvard Foundation," said its director, Dr. S. Allen Counter. "They were exemplary house masters, and were committed to the Foundation's mission of improving intercultural and race relations at Harvard University. They will be deeply missed in their role as house masters by the students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation."

--Harvard Foundation Staff



Adams House co-Masters, Professor Robert J. Kiely and Dr. Jana M. Kiely are honored by the Harvard Foundation for their distinguished service as house masters and their contributions to the intercultural life of the University. (Left to right): Dr. S. Allen Counter, Dr. Jana M. Kiely, and Professor Robert J. Kiely '60, Dr. Michael Shinagel, Master of Quincy House and Dean of Continuing Education, and Dr. Harry Lewis, Dean of Harvard College.



Professor Robert J. Kiely, Master of Adams House and Loker Professor of English.



Commentary

The Harvard Foundation welcomes brief articles and letters of commentary from students and faculty on matters of race and intercultural relations.

I am writing to express my disappointment and frustration with the Crimson article "Foundation to Receive Increased Role, But Critics Question Its Approach," written by Vasugi Ganeshanathan and Rachel Kovner, which appeared on Friday, May 21, 1999. On the one hand, I applaud the writers for tackling a timely and significant topic. However, as a four-year intern at the Harvard Foundation who has given a lot of experience and thought to the Foundation's goals and shortcomings, I must take them to task for their inadequate research and sloppy journalism on this very important topic.

Although the article displays many faults and inaccuracies, in the interest of space I will try only to hit upon the most serious ones. First of all, the writers give no background on the Harvard Foundation whatsoever. From their article, the average reader would be left to wonder such basic questions as: What is the Foundation? (An office founded by the administration in 1981 to improve intercultural and race relations at Harvard.) Who staffs it? (One full-time director, one full-time staff assistant, and 10-15 student interns.) On what does it spend its budget? (Sponsoring intercultural, interethnic, and interreligious activities on this campus.) What is the Foundation's Student Advisory Committee? (A committee made up of representatives of student cultural, ethnic, and religious organizations on campus. Organizations apply for membership and current SAC members vote on their inclusion.) What does the SAC do? (Among other things, it presides over the Foundation's grant process, deciding where to allocate the Foundation's resources.) Apparently, Ganeshanathan and Kovner think that such basic, fundamental understandings are totally unnecessary in assessing the Foundation's effectiveness.

Secondly, Ganeshanathan and Kovner make sweeping assessments without bothering to verify them, resulting in several misled conclusions. As a basic tenet of journalism, if you quote a student accusa-

tion about the homophobia of the Foundation's Faculty Advisory Committee, shouldn't you provide some evidence one way or the other whether this is true? At the very least, shouldn't you get a statement from Dr. Counter or a representative of the FAC on the accusation? If you are going to criticize the Foundation because "no one from the Afro-American Studies Department's 'dream team' of race scholars sits on the committee," shouldn't you at least check whether the Foundation has actually already invited said scholars to participate? Shouldn't you check whether those same scholars might themselves have refused, because of their own time commitments? And if you are going to hint that the Foundation's resources might be misspent, shouldn't you bother to find out exactly what those resources are?

According to Ganeshanathan and Kovner, the Foundation has "two Yard offices, several full-time administrators, a staff of paid interns and a discretionary budget." In fact, the Foundation has a tiny on-room office in University Hall for Dr. Counter, and three closet-sized rooms in Thayer Hall Basement -- one room that is shared by the student interns (that's how small it is), and another that's barely large enough to hold a table, a copying machine, and a small video library. The Foundation gets one full-time administrator (Dr. Counter) and one full-time staff assistant -- not "several full-time administrators." The "staff of paid interns" consists of 10-15 students who work 6-10 hours a week each. That "discretionary budget" goes almost entirely to fund student projects and, I guarantee, is not a large one. Shouldn't Ganeshanathan and Kovner have an obligation to do such basic and preliminary research before they throw around serious allegations?

Why, sometimes Ganeshanathan and Kovner are not just misleading, but downright wrong. For instance, they charge that the Foundation does not sponsor forums "that deal with these more controversial issues." They go on to assert that last year's affirmative action debate was "sponsored by

the Minority Students Alliance, not the Foundation." This is plainly incorrect. Not only did the Foundation provide funding for the debate, the Foundation's director, Dr. Counter, even moderated the forum. The Foundation has also co-sponsored forums on the role of ethnic student groups on campus, interethnic conflict in Yugoslavia, Black-Korean relations, interethnic tensions within the Asian community, and more. I do not understand why Ganeshanathan and Kovner did not choose to acknowledge this aspect of the Foundation's activities.

I must criticize Ganeshanathan and Kovner as well for what I can only understand as lazy reporting. For, although they appear to have interviewed a number of SAC representatives (though only one student intern is represented), they devote the majority of their space on student concerns to Geoff Fowler. And what is Fowler's basis of judgment? Geoff Fowler has no prior experience with the Foundation, although Ganeshanathan and Kovner did not seem to think this was an important fact to note. As someone who has never worked with the Foundation, he is not necessarily qualified to make informed criticisms of the Foundation. Nor can he be expected to be--only Ganeshanathan and Kovner seem to think that he is. They rely on him to provide the backbone of their assessment of student complaints. They write that "The centerpiece of the Foundation's approach to race relations is its annual festival, Cultural Rhythms." Says who? I know that Fowler feels this way, but, had Ganeshanathan and Kovner bothered to ask us, Foundation interns, SAC representatives, and student group members might not have agreed. Certainly I and many other interns at the Foundation recognize Cultural Rhythms as being our most well attended event. However, we would point instead to our hard work in planning for guest speakers, film showings, discussions, and conferences as efforts that more significantly embody the Foundation's mission. In another instance, Ganeshanathan and Kovner let stand Fowler's criticism that the Foundation

pushes most whites to the side by ignoring students who are not in cultural/ethnic/religious organizations. This is a gross oversimplification of the issue. Do they or he realize that, in fact, much of Harvard's minority population is not involved in campus cultural/ethnic/religious organizations? While I would agree that the Foundation must do more to address the needs of students who are not in such organizations, I cannot agree that it is a simple "white/ethnic" issue. Once again, Ganeshanathan and Kovner's misplaced emphasis on

Fowler leads them to misrepresent the Foundation's efforts and its impact.

As a result of their ignorance and/or misinformation, I think that Ganeshanathan and Kovner missed a great opportunity. They were very courageous in tackling a hard-hitting, controversial issue that could potentially touch many students' lives. I just wish that they had taken their journalistic responsibility more seriously and done more research to separate guesswork from informed criticism and misconception from fact. If they had, they could have pro-

vided us with the well-researched and insightful assessment of the Foundation that we so sorely need. The students of this campus, minority or not, definitely need to do some serious debating about what the University needs to do better in addressing intercultural, interracial, and interreligious issues at Harvard. I only hope that ill-informed and unhelpful provocations such as Ganeshanathan and Kovner's article do not obscure or misdirect such discussion.

-Monica Eav '99

On Friday, May 21, 1999 the *Crimson* published an article entitled, "Foundation to Receive increased Role, But Critics Question Its Approach," which discussed various aspects of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. As a graduate of Harvard College and Student Activities Coordinator of the Harvard Foundation, I am deeply troubled by the tone of the article, as it neither honestly nor fairly addresses the subject of concern. In the article, the authors, Vasugi Ganeshanathan '02 and Rachel Kovner '01, demonstrate a gross lack of professional accountability in their work and present an inaccurate interpretation of the Harvard Foundation. Even more troubling, it is even unclear whether the stated authors in fact wrote the article themselves, as the piece manifests several underlying agendas that had already been expressed verbally and in writing by those directing the article.

As an individual who has worked diligently with the Harvard Foundation for the past five years as both a student intern and in my present position, I am offended by the distorted information presented in the article. Furthermore, I am severely disturbed by the inaccurate and ill-informed character assessments produced by the authors in an effort to give credence to their misinformed statements about the Harvard Foundation. The Harvard Foundation continues to thrive as a result of the initiatives and insights brought forth by students of diverse backgrounds. However when such critiques are rooted in blatant misinformation and journalistic unprofessionalism as in the case of the

forementioned article, it devalues the efforts of these many students and it becomes difficult to respect such assertions. Perhaps the two authors were completely misinformed about the subject, or worse yet, were unconscionably exploited to further the agenda of others. In either case, the result was the same: erroneous, juvenile, and unprofessional journalism.

Let me make it clear at this point that I am not so much troubled by the deliberate and ill-spirited attempts at character defamation which were interspersed throughout the article—my five years of personal experience with *Crimson* reporting have taught me that this is not an uncommon occurrence. Nor am I overly troubled by criticisms of the Harvard Foundation, as it is an organization designed to serve students, and can only move forward with constructive student input. What does trouble me, however, are those statements that incorrectly portray the Foundation's mission, structure, and views about particular cultural issues. Furthermore, those statements that reflect a clear lack of research about these and other relevant issues only emphasize the lackluster quality of reporting inherent in this article.

Perhaps one of the most disappointing, and even insulting features of this piece concerns the misuse of the article to advance the various agendas of particular students who have had extremely limited experience with the Harvard Foundation, but consider themselves to be knowledgeable about, and sensitive to issues of race and culture. With unfounded authority, Geoffrey Fowler '00 and Michael Tan '01 present a distorted image of the Foundation which lacks credi-

bility, as neither student has sought to truly understand the mission of the Harvard Foundation or made significant and consistent efforts to learn about its history and operation. Fowler and Tan trivialize the highly sensitive subject of race relations by intertwining the issue with discordant personal agendas. Several of the statements made by Fowler and Tan are manipulated to fuel their unproductive commentary about the Foundation, and in some instances, are simply false. When Michael Tan '01 speaks of his resignation from the Harvard Foundation due to "frustrating circumstances," what he fails to mention is that first, elections for Student Advisory Committee officers were set for May 15, 1999, therefore his "resignation" was invalid, as his term of office had long since expired. Moreover, it is also of concern that within minutes of Mr. Tan's announced electronic mail "resignation," the Harvard Foundation was besieged with questions from Ganeshanathan and Kovner concerning this and other simultaneous occurrences. Perhaps the close connection between the authors' journalistic interests and actions by Fowler and Tan is coincidental; however, I am inclined to believe that it is only another example of how this entire scenario was orchestrated by those harboring unfulfilled and transparent agendas.

I am most troubled by the various conflicts of interest that are further represented by Mr. Fowler's involvement with this article. Fowler, who is listed as a *Crimson* editor, punctuates the article with erroneous and frequently spiteful commentary. It is my understanding that *Crimson* editors are not

permitted to be directly involved with articles—there is a clear violation of this policy in this article. Furthermore, Fowler's views on race relations demonstrate a high level of ignorance, insensitivity, and arrogance that is both unprofessional and disdainful.

Fowler is perhaps well-meaning in his attempt to represent the views of minority students, and may be genuine as he professes insight on minority issues, although he himself is not a minority student. What Fowler does not realize, however, is how condescending and offensive he is to those individuals who are minority students, and others who demonstrate sincere sensitivity for

issues of race and culture. What might have also been an oversight by Mr. Fowler is his failure to mention that during the Cultural Rhythms discussion-meeting cited in this article, it was perhaps his reference to minority performers as "exotic freaks" that led students to walk out of the meeting—not as he alleges, frustration with the ongoing discussion. Fowler, Tan, and those associated with the orchestration of this article do a poor job of concealing their agendas, and only embarrass themselves by the insensitivity and disrespect they demonstrate towards their fellow students who are truly committed to advancing intercultural and race rela-

tions on this campus. Race relations work is very delicate and it only takes one or two misguided individuals or one ill-informed *Crimson* article to undo the hard work of many fine students.

I would like to end by thanking those students who have been committed to the improvement of intercultural relations at Harvard, and to urge you to continue your commitment to this significant and fulfilling mission. My work at the Harvard Foundation in the past five years has meant a great deal to me, and to all those who have shared in this experience, I say thank you.

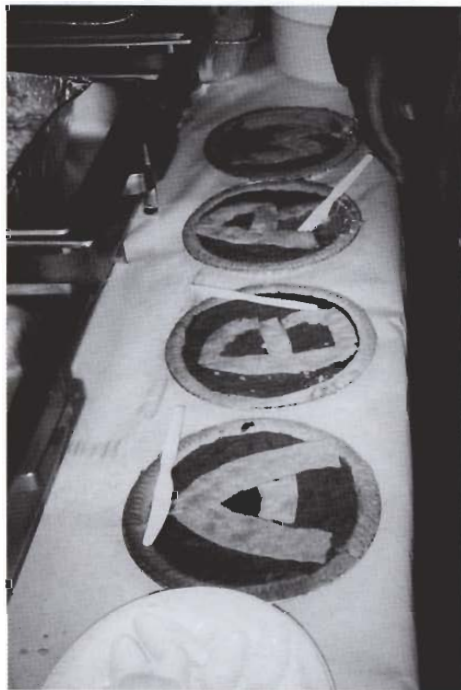
-Nana E. Coleman '98, Ed.M. '99

Cultural Rhythms 1999











Harvard Foundation Fall 1999 Student Grant Activities

Footsteps through Africa II: An Evening of African Performance

On March 13, the Harvard African Students Association presented the second show of our two part series, "Footsteps through Africa." While the first featured storytelling from the continent, this second show focused more on the visual and musical aspects of African performance. The evening began with the Expressions Dance Troupe, accompanied by two professional drummers, performing two dances from West Africa. The Brothers of Kuumba and the Afro-Quartet from Northeastern University entertained the audience with their *a cappella* performances. The Gumboots dancers displayed their foot-stomping, boot-slapping dance from southern Africa.

Besides highlighting African culture, the show attempted to demonstrate how these arts have been spread to various parts of the world, particularly through the African diaspora. In this regard, HASA is extremely grateful to the other student groups, such as the '01 Steppers and the Caribbean Dance Troupe, who were kind enough to contribute their talents for our show. The show ended with a collaborative dance effort with Gumboots and the '01 Steppers, each performing in their own unique way but still managing to dance with the same rhythm and sense of purpose, as if to emphasize the kinship that exists between Africans everywhere.

The show was held in Lowell Hall. Approximately 200 people attended the performance. The majority of this audience was comprised of undergraduates, not only from Harvard but from other schools in the area.

-Timothy Durrett '99

Harvard-Radcliffe Kendo Club Budo Arts Lecture Series

The inaugural Budo Arts Lecture Series focused on the development of *bushido*, or "the way of the warrior" in feu-

dal Japan, and its influence on Japanese culture today. The lectures were presented by Mr. Junji Himeno, a visiting scholar at the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japan Studies. All lectures were given in classrooms at the Reischauer Institute in Coolidge Hall, and the lectures have attracted about twenty to twenty-five students, mostly undergraduates. Our first lecture, on April 27, focused on the history of the *samurai* and *bushido*, who have long formed an important social class in Japan. We discussed the elements of *bushido* (justice, loyalty, honor, devotion, and courage); how they arose; the educational system that taught these values; and the preservation of the traditions of *bushido* in martial arts. The lecture was followed by a demonstration of *kendo kata*. On May 3, we focused on important figures and texts in the development of *bushido* by investigating texts dating back to the Kamakura *bakufu*, such as the *Hakakure*. These documents relate both the social status of the bushi and the laws that bound them. They were compared to more modern accounts, such as Nitobe's Meiji-era book. Through this discussion the actual character of *bushido* was explored in greater depth. On May 10, we discussed ritual death and *bushido*, questioning why such traditions as *seppuku*, or ritual suicide, have become legendary for the *Samurai*. Our final discussion of the many martial arts that developed in Japan occurred on May 12, when we discussed *iaido*, or the art of drawing a sword. *Iaido* is perhaps one of the most beautiful and abstract arts and also reflects the mental facets of *bushido*. An introduction to *iaido* followed the lecture.

Society of Arab Students Film Festival

The Second Annual Arab Film Series was held during the months of March and April at Harvard showcasing the Arab culture and heritage. All films were free admission and were presented in Harvard Hall 201. The series consisted of five Arabic movies from various Arab countries

that dealt with a wide range of important topics ranging from women's issues to political issues and independence aspirations. The following movies were screened: On Monday, March 22, 1999, *The Extras* from Syria; Monday, April 5, 1999, *Al-Maseer* from Egypt; Monday, April 12, 1999, *Bint Familia*, from Tunisia; Monday, April 19, 1999, *The Tale of Three Jewels* from Palestine. The films drew a large audience, many of whom had little previous familiarity with the Arab world.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ, '00

Salpurichum Korean Folk Dance

During the spring semester, Loretta Kim '99 taught the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe members her adapted version of a Korean scarf dance called *Salpuri Chum*. Having studied Korean dancing for ten years before coming to Harvard, she was very experienced in the techniques of scarf handling and dancing with the sorrowful emotion necessary for the dance. *Salpuri Chum* is a pensive dance, traditionally performed by young women in their times of hardship, reminiscing about their happier times. The majority of AADT's dances are celebratory and lively, so this was a challenging change of pace.

Taught in approximately five weeks in seven rehearsals, the dancers were enthusiastic to learn a non-Chinese dance, and were particularly impressed by the subtleties of Korean dancing which were much different than those of Chinese dancing. Dancers were also exposed to traditional Korean music with its own characteristic rhythm, much less intuitive but very unique and beautiful. The dance required mastery of slow, intense movements and a sorrowful mindset filled characterized by sad, personal reflection.

Salpuri Chum allowed AADT's members to experience a very different side of Asian culture and dance, and its performance at Arts First's Dance Festival and Quincy

House's performance luncheon allowed the audience to experience the same. Through Harvard Foundation's generosity, the preparation and performance of this dance was made possible and the Harvard community was exposed to a new aspect of Korean culture.

-Jessica Leuong '00

Palestinian History Presentations

The Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students continued its Palestinian History Presentations, which started this fall. These presentations are held in commemoration of the fifty-first anniversary of the Palestinian catastrophe in 1948. The presentations were a combination of a series of lectures, films, and exhibits. This term, these events took place on April 19. The first event was a photo exhibit held in the Science Center during the week of April 19-23. The exhibit was titled "The Palestinian Experience 1948-1999." It depicted in photos the struggle of the Palestinian people throughout the Israeli occupation, the agonies of the refugees, and current hard work to achieve peace and independence. The second event was a debate with Shawqi Issa, the executive director of the Palestinian Human rights organization, LAW. The debate was titled: "Should the Palestinian Authority Declare a State on May 4, 1999?" The third event was a Palestinian film called "The Tale of The Three Jewels" which describes the dreams of freedom and peace and the reality of three Palestinian children. The importance of this series of events comes from the fact that listening is the first step towards peace.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ, '00

Singapore and Malaysia Association Spring Dinner

The Singapore and Malaysia Association (SAMA) Spring Dinner was held on Saturday, May 1st (a public holiday in Singapore) in Memorial Hall between 5:00

and 7:00 P.M. Sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, the purpose of the annual spring event is to bring the Singaporeans, Malaysians, and affiliates together, as well as to introduce the Harvard community to some "outdoor" Singaporean/Malaysian food in celebration of spring. Authentic Singaporean/Malaysian food, including *char kuay teow* (fried noodles) and *satay* (skewered, barbecued meat), traditional outdoor hawker favorites, were ordered from Penang. There were other vegetables and soy bean milk (another hawker favorite) on the side. Dinner officially started at five although people moved freely in and out during the whole time period.

At 5:30 the co-presidents, Serena Tan '01 and Daryl Sng '01, gave opening remarks, summed up SAMA's years and activities, and announced the new committee and exciting new plans for 1999-2000. The turnout was surprisingly diverse, with a good mix of SAMA members and curious non-members, many of whom had never tried Singaporean/Malaysian food before. The atmosphere was characteristically casual and relaxed. Conversation flowed, ranging from food (as usual) to the possibilities of setting up a forum to discuss social and political issues in the Southeast Asian region. The company, informal atmosphere and food served as an authentic introduction to the Singaporean and Malaysian community and way of life.

-Serena Tan '01

The Winter Night Market

The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society hosted its second annual Winter Culture and Food Festival on Friday, February 26, 1999. The evening featured over fifteen courses of Taiwanese cuisine and highlighted Taiwanese arts and crafts in a typical night-market setting. Over 250 students in all attended this event in Quincy House Dining Hall, which was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The Winter Night Market opened with a huge array of Taiwanese dishes, prepared with the kind assistance of the local Taiwanese Women's Association group. The

variety of tastes ranged from hors d'oeuvres like dumplings and scallion pancakes to main dishes like rice noodles, Chinese sausage, and marinated hard-boiled eggs. Of course, there were plenty of desserts to choose from after dinner, such as *moi-ji*, almond jello, or pearl milk tea. Even then, the night was not complete, as arts-and-crafts booths and cultural displays awaited the guests. Everyone had the chance to learn how to play a game of Chinese chess, tie special Chinese knots, carefully wrap a colorful sachet, or build a chopstick gun to amaze friends. Students stayed late into the night, spending time at each booth and studying the posters displaying Taiwanese culture and scenery.

Once the student performances with the Chinese yo-yo had concluded, Henry Hsieh '00 and Chanda Ho '01, TCS co-presidents, spoke briefly on the symbolism of the arts-and-crafts demonstrations. They also spoke of the importance of the uniqueness of the Taiwanese night market. Finally, they thanked those involved in organizing the event, especially the project coordinator, Helen Lo '02, and the local mothers who had lent their cooking and artistic expertise. This year's edition of the Winter Culture and Food Festival was a tremendous success that left the guests' appetites for Taiwanese cuisine and culture satisfied.

-Carey Hsu '01

The 2-28 Incident Commemoration

This year marked the 52nd anniversary of the 2-28 incident, a key date in the course of Taiwan-China relations. On February 28, 1947, Taiwanese citizens were massacred by Nationalist troops, an event that spurred a period of Taiwanese history sometimes called the "White Terror." The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society commemorated the incident this semester on a number of occasions leading up to the anniversary date of the incident. This commemoration was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

During the course of events this semester, TCS took care to increase awareness of this example of injustice. A discussion

about the incident took place during the dumpling workshop in mid-February. Additionally, informational materials that outlined the history of the incident and provided a timeline of that tumultuous period of Taiwanese history were distributed at TCS's Winter Night Market just two days before the commemoration. On that evening, TCS co-president Henry Hsieh '00 offered remarks about the incident and its continued significance.

Finally, on February 28, information and background on the historical event were distributed to interested students, and, in the evening, a small group of students gathered in Loker Commons to commemorate the incident. This year, in the hopes of reaching a broader audience, TCS tried to shed light on the 2-28 incident through discussion and the distribution of informational materials at several events. Hopefully, this unique approach succeeded in increasing awareness of this brutal date in Taiwanese history.

-Carey Hsu '01

Dumpling (Tang-Yuan) Workshop

On Tuesday, February 16, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society presented a cooking workshop, an event sponsored through a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Over seventy Harvard students crowded into the DeWolfe Common Room to taste and try their hand at making Taiwanese dumplings called *tang-yuan*.

Grace Kao '01 led the cooking demonstration, by showing the proper technique used in preparing and crafting the small dumplings. She also described the cultural significance of making and eating this special dish for festive occasions. The dumplings are made with sweet rice flour and are typically served in a sweet soup, either hot or cold. The workshop participants rolled, cut, and shaped their own dumplings from a prepared dough mixture. The dumplings were then cooked together. After a seemingly interminable wait, everyone had a chance to taste and to enjoy the evening's creation, which was served in sweet red bean soup and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

TCS co-presidents, Henry Hsieh '00 and Chanda Ho '01, opened and closed the evening's event with brief remarks that touched on the importance of cooking and eating in Taiwanese culture. Traditionally, food represents an occasion to celebrate unity, and, in the context of an event on the Harvard campus, this workshop brought together students of different cultures to enjoy a delicious feature of Taiwanese culture.

-Carey Hsu '01

Karaoke Tea Party

The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society, along with the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association, organized a Mahjong, Karaoke, and Tea Night in Loker Commons on the evening of Friday, April 30. The event was well attended by students of the Harvard community who had an opportunity to enjoy three facets of traditional and modern Taiwanese and Chinese culture. The evening was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Karaoke and Mahjong are two forms of entertainment; one is extremely popular with young people in modern Taiwanese culture and in America, while the other has somewhat more traditional roots. Students celebrated the prospect of having just one week left in the spring semester by singing songs in English, Chinese, and Taiwanese, both individually and in groups. At the same time, other students, both well-seasoned veterans and novices alike, gathered around mahjong tables, trying their luck and strategy at the board game.

Of course, a Mahjong, Karaoke, and Tea Night would not have been complete without a wide array of foods and teas. Participants chose from a selection of pastries fresh from Chinatown bakeries and brewed delicious teas. Just about everybody left that evening having satisfied their hunger for Taiwanese and Chinese food, drink, and entertainment. The event was a unique organizational collaboration between the students of the Taiwanese Cultural Society and the Chinese Students Association.

-Carey Hsu '01

The Harvard Vietnamese Association at Cultural Rhythms

The 14th Annual Cultural Rhythms Festival, which took place in Sanders Theatre on February 20, 1999, was a cultural success. The event brought students of various ethnic backgrounds together to enjoy and celebrate the many unique aspects of music, dance, and art from different cultures. The Harvard Vietnamese Association (HVA) contributed to the celebration with a dance that reflected the traditional Vietnamese styles of clothing, music, and choreography.

After a warm introduction by Will Smith, the master of ceremonies, seven women clad in traditional Vietnamese dresses, called *ao dai*, entered the stage with traditional cone hats. The dresses were all different, displaying the various brilliant fabrics and designs which amplify the grace of a Vietnamese woman's figure. The cone-shaped hats symbolize traditional Vietnamese daily life. For centuries, the Vietnamese people have relied on these hats to protect themselves from the intense sunlight while working in the fields. The men on stage, on the other hand, wore simple, brown clothing. They dramatized a scene of men rowing in rivers and streams and then working on the rich, fruitful lands of Vietnam, which reflected the daily life of Vietnamese village men. In contrast, the HVA women on stage echoed movements of a calm domestic life.

The choreography contained many rhythmic, yet fluidly graceful movements. The cone hats created circular formations which, on an abstract level, symbolized the complex unity and cyclic nature of life, while on a concrete level, represented ocean waves and the movement of wind. The dance was meant to reach the audience with cultural as well as aesthetic significance.

The music accompanying the dance had a slow tempo but a spicy tune. The lyrics evoked images of rivers, the moon, the wind, and the four seasons, matching the theme of the dance. Together, the music and lyrics painted an interpretation of life—tranquil and cyclic, yet rhythmically invigorating.

The Harvard Vietnamese Association

would like to thank the Harvard Foundation for its support in this cultural exhibition. Hopefully, through more events like Cultural Rhythms, the Harvard student body will attain a deeper understanding and interest in the Vietnamese culture and all other cultures that help shape our mosaic society.

-Thu Ho, '00

Puppeteer Workshop

On the evening of Tuesday, April 12, members of the Harvard community had the unique opportunity to learn about the nuances of Taiwanese puppetry, an art that is a well-enjoyed hallmark of the culture. Students gathered in Weld Common Room to hear and partake in a presentation by Ms. Sue-Mei Wu of the Department of East Asian Studies.

After a brief introduction by the project coordinator, Kenneth Wang '02, Ms. Wu distributed a handout containing a general overview of Taiwanese puppetry. Once she had presented a basic foundation of the art, she provided a demonstration of the puppet-acting, using several different puppets, which showed the variety of puppet forms that are used in Taiwanese puppet theater.

In addition to demonstrating a series of acting techniques that a master puppeteer would use, Ms. Wu showed a collection of videotaped performances that revealed the evolution of the puppetry form. The audience members had a chance to view an excerpt of Taiwanese puppet performance in its most traditional form, followed by a more modern open-air puppet theater show, and finally a puppet theater program adapted for television. Before concluding her presentation, Ms. Wu shed some light on the similarities and differences between the varied forms of puppet theater that coexist.

Upon conclusion of the formal workshop, students took the opportunity to try their hand at Taiwanese puppetry by wearing the hand-held glove puppets and to attempt some of the characteristic acting techniques that were demonstrated earlier by Ms. Wu and in the videos. Although many students were familiar with the art form, this was the first time that they had handled the actual puppets. The workshop

succeeded in allowing students to learn about a special form of Taiwanese art culture in a hands-on fashion.

-Carey Hsu '01

Taiwanese Cultural Society's Taiwanese Awareness

A Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society event sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations Taiwanese Awareness Week was held beginning Friday, April 9, and encompassed a series of events designed to increase awareness of Taiwanese culture and history on the Harvard campus. The week's events were highlighted by a documentary presentation of *Tug of War*, followed by a discussion with Judith Vecchione, who wrote, directed, and produced the film. The week was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The documentary presentation was held in Harvard Hall 201 on the evening of April 9. The evening began with a screening of the ninety-minute documentary, which examined the history of the island nation with a primary focus on the events of the current century. While focusing on the politics of Taiwan's course, the documentary also addressed issues of economics and culture as well.

Upon completion of the screening, John Lin of the Harvard University Taiwan Study Club, who helped to organize the event, introduced Judith Vecchione. She told the audience some of her inspirations for producing the documentary and disclosed some of the hardships and the successes included in the making of the film. Ms. Vecchione also took numerous questions from the audience members, who posed more in-depth questions about the interpretations and the focus of the work. Finally, the evening was concluded with a reception during which Ms. Vecchione spoke with students on a more informal and individual basis. The event seemed to be a success in bringing awareness to Taiwanese culture through the showing of the documentary and a reception with its creator.

-Carey Hsu '01

Expressions Cultural Rhythms Performance

On Saturday, February 27th, Expressions Dance Company performed at Cultural Rhythms with honorary guest Will Smith. The event was held in Sanders Theatre. Expressions is a dance company dedicated to performing the dance forms that promote the African-American culture as well as the artistic elements of the culture of its members. We perform jazz, modern, hip-hop, and more recently, flamenco, and African dance.

The piece "Expressions" performed for Cultural Rhythms was choreographed by the company directors, Maryvonne Neptune and Manuela Arciniegas. It was a mixture of jazz and hip-hop dance forms, and the song we danced to, "Skew it on the Barbie," was composed by the hip-hop group Outkast. The company was a mixture of about twenty old and new members who all worked very hard to perform the piece at an optimum level.

Cultural Rhythms is particularly important to the company because it is our opportunity to represent our group to one of the largest audiences of the year. The audience was over 1,000 Harvard students, faculty, as well as parents and children from the local community. To many audience members, Cultural Rhythms is the first opportunity they have to witness hip-hop/jazz dancing.

-Manuela Arciniegas '01

Japan Society- Hanami

Hanami is the traditional Japanese practice of flower-viewing. It is not simply looking at blooming cherry blossoms, but a celebration of spring and an appreciation of the beauty of nature. Gathering along the Charles River on Sunday, May 2, we were able to catch a last glimpse of blossoming flowers. With several trays of traditional Japanese food (*sushi*, *yakitori*, and the like), we were able to attract a crowd of 30 people to share the flower-viewing experience. Guests ate the food, listened to Japanese music, and chattered away as they watched the flowers along the Charles on

that perfectly sunny day. This was also an opportunity for the Japan Society to show appreciation for the hard work and effort put forth by the graduating seniors that have served on our board.

-Kelly Yamanouchi '00

Persian Society "Becoming Fire" Poetry and Dance Festival

On March 6, the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society kicked off its first major event of the semester with the "Becoming Fire" event. This event was hosted primarily to foster a better knowledge of poetry, dance, and arts of the Middle East. It took place in the Eliot House Junior Common Room. Approximately fifty undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and local Cantabrigians attended the event. The presentation featured a dance troupe that performed three different dances. Each dance was representative of a different region of the country and the ethnic dance that is associated with that group (i.e. Gilakee, Bandari, etc.). Between each performance, different members of the faculty recited and translated a Persian poem. The poems were *ghazals* (the Persian equivalent of a sonnet) of famous poets such as Hafiz, Saadi, and Rumi. The event was a great success! The audience, comprised of both Persians and non-Persians, was captivated by the dance performances. We also served rich Persian pastries and tea at the performance. Persian baklava as well as delicious *zulia* and *bamia* were served, and such scrumptious refreshments will surely be among the most fondly remembered parts of the evening. The event was extremely successful and the H/R Persian Society was glad to sponsor it.

-Amir Zarrinpar '99

Harvard Native American Program Native American Powwow

The fifth Native American Powwow was held May 1, 1999 on a beautiful,

warm, and sunny day in front of the Harvard Science Center. The event was well attended with hundreds of people enjoying the dancing exhibitions provided by the Canadian dance team, Keepers of the Eastern Door. They were joined by the Wichita Veterans Honor Guard from Wichita, Kansas. These Native American dancers were invited to attend the powwow to honor members of their tribes who are currently Harvard students.

There were twenty vendors who set up their booths offering Native American related wares. This is an important part of any powwow gathering, adding to the carnival atmosphere enjoyed by both Native and non-Native alike. Powwows are dances to be enjoyed by Natives and their guests, featuring contest and exhibit dancing with opportunities for non-Indians to respectfully join the festivities inside the arena. A master of ceremonies keeps everything moving, keeping the contests on course, joking and announcing all the upcoming events.

Traditionally, a meal is served after the powwow is over, sending everyone home with a full stomach, with much satisfaction derived from spending time with congenial companions, both Native and non-Native. The Harvard powwow was successful in bringing together all peoples who were interested in native traditions, encouraging participation as well as showcasing the best exhibitions Indian Country has to offer.

-Adam Bailey '01

Asian American Association Interethnic Forum/Discussion

During the spring semester, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association presented two interethnic forums to the Harvard community. The first forum was in conjunction with CSA, KA, HKC, SAA, China Current, JS, HVA, and Phillippine Forum. The attendance was in the high twenties and everybody was engaged in exciting discussion. The topic focused on the role of Asian student groups on campus and the role of AAA in general. While we concluded that while it is hard to work cooperatively in cultural activities

due to the differences in culture amongst the different student groups, we would easily work together in both the educational and political aspects of Asian Americanism. We decided to work together in the future in truly bringing ethnic studies to Harvard. This forum proved to be extremely successful and stimulated cooperation amongst members of different ethnic organizations.

The second forum focused on hip-hop culture and its role in both the Asian American culture and beyond. We opened up discussion with the question, "What is Hip-Hop?" We came to the conclusion that hip-hop is an inner-city culture, that there are many elements in hip-hop, such as graffiti writing, breaking, DJing, and rhyming. We discussed the fact that hip-hop is a culture that displaced individuals cling onto, because in many respects, they don't have anything else that they can claim for themselves. In other words, hip-hop is indeed interethnic; the displacement factor accounts for why many recent Asian immigrants and refugees have adopted hip-hop culture as a way of life. We also touched upon commercial vs. "true" or underground rappers. We lastly discussed the lack of female rappers and the womanization that occurs in hip-hop music. Attendance was in the high teens and discussion lasted well beyond the time we had allotted.

Overall, both of the forums we presented this semester were exciting and provoked both debate and thought. While sampling different snacks, people at the discussions remained focus on the discussion. As we hope to consider continuing the discussions into the next semester, we would like thank the Harvard Foundation for their support this past semester.

-Walter Kim '00

Japan Society

The Japan Society Dorama showings exposed members of the Harvard community to contemporary Japanese culture and its underlying values and social problems. Showings were held twice weekly—one in the River area and the other in the Quad—until diffusion of participation led to one Quad showing only per week. Japanese snacks were provided at

these showings, but the relatively higher prices of imported snacks strained the budget somewhat. Still, a core audience developed and attended faithfully.

-Kelly Yamanouchi '00

Society of Arab Students SAS-Hillel Roundtables

The Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Arab Students and Hillel continued their discussion roundtables to shed light and talk about the Middle East. The first roundtable was held in February 1999, under the theme, "Leaderships in the Middle East." The participants from SAS and Hillel discussed the various present leaderships in the Middle East and their impact and contribution towards achieving and maintaining comprehensive peace. The second of these events was open to all students on April 4, 1999 under the theme, "Is it the End of Wars? The Search for Lasting Peace in the Middle East." The event began with a student panel from SAS and Hillel and was moderated by Professor Mendelsohn. The panel was followed by an open discussion. On May 11, the last of this series was held to discuss the role of peace organization in achieving peace in the Middle East.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ '00

Fuerza Latina: Latina Appreciation Day with Special Guest Margarita Lopez

On Saturday April 17, Fuerza Latina had its first annual Latina Appreciation Day. The event took place in Kirkland Junior Common Room and it was well attended. We began the day by honoring Margarita Lopez, a New York City Council woman. Ms. Lopez spoke about her unique experience as a Puerto Rican lesbian woman and her political experiences here in the U.S. She gave a wonderful speech about prejudices that are held against people for one reason or another. She said that there is always an oppressor that keeps racism preva-

lent in all relationships. She told us that one day she hopes that we will be seen as human beings and not defined by our gender, ethnicity and race, and sexual orientation.

Ms. Lopez's speech was an inspiration to many of the young Latinas and Latinos that filled that room. She not only inspired us as Latinas/os to pursue our desires as women, but also as students who are just about to begin to function in the adult world. She offered different perspectives on how to overcome disadvantage. Part of her speech specifically spoke about the power of a woman and was filled with praises for the strongest woman in her life, her mother. She emphasized the importance of women in her own life and in the world. A showcase of poetry, dance, and monologues followed her powerful speech. Harvard students performed, and the show ended with a dance performed by one Harvard student and students from the local high school.

The poetry addressed the identity that has been assigned to Latinas. One of the monologues given was dedicated to the different, not always "American" ways to be a strong woman. The event was kept lively with a salsa performance and a little bit of conga playing. The night ended with a dinner that was cooked by members of our organization. We were very happy with the success of our event because we reached out to members of different communities, and we were able to honor these women. The event offered something to all that are interested in race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and political life. As a community of students interested in reaching different groups of people, we had a variety of people of different ages, ethnicities, and races. Between 75 and 100 people were in attendance. In general we were very happy with the event and felt that it enhanced the awareness of our culture and the sharing of appreciation of women in general.

-Priscilla Samady Aquino '01

First Annual Korean Culture Banquet

On the evening of March 13, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Korean Association held its first annual Korean Culture Banquet in Eliot House Dining Hall to promote

awareness of many different aspects of Korean culture to a more widely spread audience than can usually be targeted. Thanks to a dedicated publicity effort of poster and invitations sent to VIPs, we were more concerned with limiting ticket sales than making sales as up to 180 people came to the event. As hoped for, the attendees consisted of Korean and non-Koreans alike, including a good amount of people who do not usually come in contact with the KA.

The evening started off with a buffet-style dinner provided and served by KA members. The majority of the food was excellently catered by Koreana, a local Korean restaurant. Traditional foods such as mandoo, kimchee, kimbap, and succulent bulgogi were served. After second, even third, servings had been made, the program began with an introduction from MC's Steve Chung, '01 and Christina Yoon '01, the '98 Co-Education/Political Chair and Co-Culture Chair, respectively. After the crowd was loosened up a bit, Jung Eun Oh '00 delivered stirring renditions of "Sah-Rang" and "Amazing Grace". Other performances included a string quartet, a Tae Kwon Do demonstration, a monologue by Daniel Chung '00, Chunsu Fan Dance Troupe, and P'oongmul. Midway through the show, the new Executive Board of KA was introduced. Special treats came in the form of a demonstration of Tae Kwon Mu, an art form combining dance and martial arts, performed by its creator, Master Kicheol Bom, and a skit performed by the freshmen of KA. A rousing piece delivered by P'oongmul, the Korean Drum Troupe, capped off the evening with a gong.

Overall, the banquet was well received, ran rather smoothly for a first-ever event, and was generally enjoyed by all. The variety of performances made for a good show of the extremely varied aspects of Korean culture, promoting awareness of Korean culture and heritage.

-Edward Kim '02

Woodbridge Society Fiesta Mondiale

The Woodbridge Society's signature event, Fiesta Mondiale, is a tasteful cel-

celebration of international culture. Woodbridge strives to do this by organizing an elegant party that celebrates the diversity of nations and cultures represented at Harvard. The event was held on April 30, 1999 at Dunster House. Highlights included a jazz band performing in a flag-draped reception room and cuisine from over twenty different countries. The food was received through donations from local restaurants, and an exciting dance party was held at the close of the evening. Most guests chose to wear their distinct cultural or national attire to the event, which made for a truly special evening. The Fiesta, as it is known to all, drew about 200 students this year, and we hope to welcome even more next year.

-Siddharth Mohandas '99

Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán: Folklórico Workshop with José Tenas

On the weekend of February 13, Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán participated in the third annual dance workshop led by Mr. José Tenas, an accomplished dancer from New Mexico. This event was held in conjunction with other dance troupes from the greater Boston area and Wellesley College. Approximately 30 dancers attended the workshop with 11 dancers representing Harvard.

Mr. Tenas taught the group four dances representing the Mexican states of Sinaloa, Yucatan, Veracruz, Jalisco, and one dance in a style typical of northern Mexico. In addition to these dances, Mr. Tenas practiced many dancing techniques with the group, from footwork, to walking and posture. His extensive knowledge of the history and tradition of Ballet Folklórico was also relayed to the dancers through question and answer periods that concluded each day of the workshops.

On Saturday evening, Harvard hosted a reception for Mr. Tenas in the Lowell House JCR. An excellent selection of tamales from Taqueria La Mexicana was served. Mr. Tenas screened a video showcasing the dance repertoire of his own Ballet Folklórico in New Mexico for the guests. The reception

was an enjoyable evening of socializing with Mr. Tenas and members of neighboring Ballet Folklóricos.

-Macarena Correa '00

South Asian Association Classical Dance Lessons

Over the past five years, Kathak dance classes have become one of the more important cultural projects sponsored by the South Asian Association. Kathak is a classical Indian dance form that originated in the Mogul courts of Akbar and has since spread to become an extremely popular and well-appreciated dance form in South Asia.

The South Asian Association has had the privilege of having Mr. Dulal Talukdar, a professionally trained Kathak dancer from Bangladesh, teach the class for several years. Mr. Talukdar has been teaching dance for over twenty years and has choreographed dance performances all over the country.

This year, Mr. Talukdar began with studies of the complex rhythms involved in Kathak dancing. During the fall semester, students worked on the intricate footwork of various *todas* (dance phrases). The class met on Saturdays in the Adams House Lower Common Room for one hour, and it was composed of six students of both South Asian and non-South Asian descent.

This spring, four of the group's members performed at the annual South Asian Cultural Show on March 4th through March 6th in each of four shows. The members performed both solo and group performances for four sold-out audiences. In addition, one member of the group also performed at the Arts First Dance Festival in May. Both sets of performances were received well by audiences and each member was able to gain a better understanding of dance and South Asian culture.

Asian American Cultural Show

Each year, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association holds an inter-collegiate conference here at Harvard that

explores, questions, challenges and celebrates Asian and Asian American culture/history/politics/issues. As part of our annual conference, we always have a cultural show, one which brings old traditions together with modern interpretations. This year, the cultural show was a huge success, in large part due to the wonderful talent that we had performing. By having a cultural show in which students today demonstrated their interpretations of traditional songs, dances, etc. we helped to break stereotypes while celebrating the rich and vast culture of Asian America today. It not only helped to open students' eyes to the cultures of the diverse communities of Asians and Asian Americans, but it also gave students a chance to share their talents with others. It was definitely a worthwhile event. Asian America is such a broad categorization that in order to celebrate all of the various ethnic groups which fall under that category, AAA had to work hard with the performers to bring it all together in a cohesive program. Around 100 students were at the show which was held in Loker Commons, Saturday, the 13th of February.

Our purpose in organizing the cultural show was to share the talents and cultures within the Asian American community with the entire Harvard Community and beyond. Overall, the cultural show was a success. Many students from Harvard and from around the nation, expressed how much they enjoyed the show. The student performers were also very happy with the turnout and the show itself. Interesting ideas and views were brought up during the event and everyone seemed to take away something with them at the end. Thanks to the funding from the Harvard Foundation, AAA was able to put on a wonderful educational, insightful event that once again helped to open lines of communication among students.

-Walter Kim '00

HASA Food Festival

On April 16, the Harvard African Students Association held our annual food festival, featuring various culinary delights from the African continent. This year, our banquet was graced by the pres-

ence of Professor Abena Busia, a renowned poet and daughter of a former president of Ghana. The banquet, which took place in the elegant Lowell Senior Common room, attracted about 30 people with various interests in Africa. While the majority of those present were undergraduates, several graduate students and visiting fellows also attended the function.

The dinner itself featured African delicacies from local restaurants, supplemented with dishes prepared by students. The somewhat formal nature of the banquet meant that many of those present wore colorful traditional African attire. The highlight of the evening however, belonged to the poetry reading. Akweley Ablorh '02 began by reading a poem by Wole Soyinka, after which Fredrick Antwi '01, Co-President of HASA, introduced our guest of honour. Professor Busia then proceeded to enchant the audience with a selection of her poems, drawn mainly from her new anthology "Testimonies of Exile". Besides simply reading her poems, Professor Busia explained the circumstances behind the writing of each poem. These explanations, sometimes funny and at other times sad, always lent a sense of familiarity and connection to her works. Her final poem was certainly the most memorable. A tribute to Nelson Mandela, this piece listed the numerous historical events that occurred during his imprisonment. This reminder of just how long he was locked away highlighted the sacrifices made by this great man, and others like him. The evening concluded with Professor Busia signing copies of her new anthology.

-Timothy Durrett '99

Harvard-Radcliffe South Asian Association: Conference of South Asian-American Politics

On February 6, Harvard University was host to the 1999 Conference of South Asian American Political and Community Activists. Sponsored by the Harvard South Asian Association, the Institute of Politics, the Harvard Foundation, and the Indian American

Forum for Political Education, the conference brought together almost 60 students from across the Boston area to Emerson Hall for a half-day conference.

The conference focused on the role of South Asian Americans across our nation and how our community has evolved since the early 1960's when our numbers were too small to even measure. Today South Asian Americans are almost 15% of the total Asian American population and as our numbers increase through immigration that percentage will only go up. The conference featured six incredible speakers, Yash Aggarwal, Kris Kolluri, Tito Sinha, Dr. Rajini Srikanth, Ram Uppuluri, and Prema Vora. All participants were given packets with the day's schedule, statistics about South Asian Americans, and a short essay by Bharati Mukherjee about immigrating to America.

The conference began with seminars lead by each of the speakers. Mr. Aggarwal and Mr. Uppuluri spoke about their runs for Congress and how they brought their South Asian heritage into their campaigns. Mr. Sinha spoke about the impact of hate crimes on our community. Mr. Kolluri discussed his desires for the South Asian American community and the steps we need to take to give ourselves real political power. Ms. Vora presented her experiences as Program Director at Sakhi, a center for abused South Asian women in New York City.

Finally, Dr. Srikanth was the day's moderator and led the closing panel discussion on the future of the South Asian American community in the new century. Our community is at a turning point, a first generation is becoming a second generation, South Asians in America are becoming South Asian Americans. The 1999 Conference of South Asian American Political and Community Activists was organized to give students a chance to meet and talk about how to get more involved in this evolution. From the responses of the participants and the speakers, it was a great success.

RAZA Chicano/a Performing Arts Festival

On May 1, 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe RAZA (the largest Latino organiza-

tion on campus) held a Chicano/a Performing Arts Festival. This fabulous event took place in Pforzheimer Dining Hall and consisted of art exhibitions, dancing, and speakers.

The main speaker of the night was Aurelio Ramirez who spoke to the audience about some of the most important lessons he had learned in life. He was also the recipient of the RAZA award presented later in the night. The evening then moved to a slideshow of some of Jaime Olmos's '99 photography. In addition to the above, some graduating seniors gave some of the undergrads advice for the future. The events then moved on to Ballet Folklórico de Aztlán performing some traditional dances of México.

The RAZA event brought together an audience of nearly one hundred people. The audience included members from Fuerza, Latinas Unidas, and HOLA. Our audience was diverse and enthusiastic to learn more about Chicano art. The participants worked long and hard hours to help educate and enlighten the audience and Harvard about Chicano culture.

This event would have been impossible to put together without the hard work of RAZA members. However, the most important source of aid was the Harvard Foundation; without their support, our efforts would not have been as fruitful.

-Ruben Marinelarena '02

Voices of the Subcontinent

"Voices of the Subcontinent," a speaker series devoted to the literature of South Asian writers, capped another successful semester with a visit by Ali Sardar Jafri, India's leading Urdu poet. The program also featured readings by Mr. Vikram Chandra on February 25 and Dr. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni on March 10. Mr. Chandra, author of *Red Earth and Pouring Rain* and *Love and Longing in Bombay*, entertained the audience with selections from his writings and fielded questions about the balance between South Asian and American settings in his works.

Dr. Divakaruni is known for several books of poetry, including *Arranged Marriage* (winner of the 1996 American

Book Award) and the recently released novel, *Sister of My Heart*. She fielded questions concerning the role of the South Asian writer and her experiences working with MATRI, a service group for South Asian women in San Francisco. Dr. Divakaruni also read a couple of passages from *Sister of My Heart*, much to the enjoyment of the audience.

The response to the speaker series was excellent, drawing over two hundred people to readings this semester. Every speaker was well received by the audience, creating the foundation for future series events. The South Asian Association expresses its gratitude to the Harvard Foundation for its continual support throughout this year. For those interested in more information or a recording of any event, please e-mail Arif at nathoo@fas.harvard.edu.

-Arif Nathoo '00

Asian American Association Coffeehouse

At the ninth annual Harvard Asian American Intercollegiate Conference this past February, students from across the United States as well as some areas of Canada gathered in order to discuss, share, explore and experience Asian American culture, politics and identity. One of the defining events of our three-day conference was the Coffeehouse, which was held on the morning of Saturday, the 13th of February. What made this particular coffeehouse special, and not just another breakfast gathering, was that it brought together so many different students and members of the Harvard community in a serious discussion of what it means to be Asian American and how that identity fits into the rest of an ethnically diverse nation. The topic itself is very controversial and hence discussion heated up at times, but always remained controlled. Author Samantha Chang, an Asian American who has always been searching for her own identity, led the discussion. Surprisingly, despite the heated subject matter of whether or not there even exists an Asian American identity, the people in attendance were all still very respectful of one another. About 150 students attended the event in Loker, several of which were

not Asian. In the 2 hours that the event lasted, those 150 people gained perspectives on Asian America that they had probably never had before. This event helped to open the eyes and minds of many students, but more importantly it opened up dialogue, not only on the identity of one ethnic group, but also the place, status, and identity of minorities and immigrants in the US in general. Needless to say, the event was a big success, but it was the result of a lot of work on the part of the student organizers as well as financial support from the Foundation.

The Harvard Asian American Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations for making this event possible. We look forward to continuing work with the Foundation in the future and wish the Foundation the best of luck in pursuing its mission.

-Walter Kim '00

Harvard-Radcliffe Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society

The Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society enjoyed a successful spring semester and is looking forward to many future semesters. Many of our events were made possible by the generous grant awarded by the Harvard Foundation.

Our semester began with Kalevala Day on March 8. Visiting professor Thomas DuBois presented a fascinating lecture and slide show on the Finnish national epic. Following the presentation, traditional Finnish pastries were served. Shortly thereafter, on March 10, the Harvard Swedish Table hosted a night of Swedish music and poetry, which was enjoyed by members of both the Table and Scandinavian Society. The evening was a mix of various presentations, readings, and music. On March 25, the society showed a Swedish film entitled *Söndags Barn*. On April 8, we showed *Bröderna Mozart*. Both films were in Swedish with English subtitles.

Our next magnificent event was a celebration of Icelandic summer on April 22. Traditional Icelandic pastries were served

to approximately 15 people prior to a showing of the Icelandic film *Born Natturunnar*. The film was in Icelandic with English subtitles. We look forward to future interaction with all the members of the Harvard community interested in Scandinavia.

-Elizabeth Chiappa '01

Persian Society No Rooz Celebration

On March 19, the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society celebrated No Rooz—Persian New Year. No Rooz is always celebrated on the first day of spring. Usually, No Rooz falls during Spring Break which means that the Persian Society's celebration has to be the week before. This year, No Rooz fell on a school week which caused us to expect a huge turnout. We were right...there were close to three hundred people packed into Currier Fishbowl for the event. We served our guests the traditional No Rooz banquet of Sabzi-polo and Mahi (fish and rice mixed with herbs). Professor Wheeler Thackston agreed to read some Persian poetry during the event. To see the community of Persians at Harvard converge at one place was exciting and great. Also during the event, we had a *haftseen* (or Seven S's), which is traditionally placed during No Rooz. The *haftseen* is comprised of seven objects that start with the Persian letter S and symbolize different aspects of life. For example, one of the objects placed in the *haftseen* is grass, which symbolizes growth and rejuvenation of youth. Another is coins, which symbolize wealth and success. The event was a great success, and the turnout made this event completely worthwhile.

-Amir Zarrinpar '99

DHARMA Holi Celebration

On Sunday, April 11, a group of students gathered on the lawn of the

Malkin Athletic Center Quad to celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi, under the auspices of Dharma and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. The estimated fifty attendees started off the afternoon with a picnic lunch provided by Harvard Dining Services. Games were also played. They then listened as Maneesh Amancharla ('99-'00) retold the story of Holi. He relayed both its mythical and historical origins and its practice today. Following this presentation, the participants (and several passers-by) threw colored powder and water onto each other to celebrate life and the vitality of the spring season.

Holi is a festival of spring. Originally, the festival began when farmers bestowed blessings upon their land in hope of fertile ground and a good harvest in the upcoming year. The festival also has roots in Hindu mythology, commemorating the triumph through faith alone of a virtuous prince over the evil king and the king's sister.

With the grass—and the participants—covered with all the colors of the spectrum, those who took part left with a greater sense of community within Harvard. Holi is a time for us to get together, abandon any inhibitions, and realize just how similar all of us really are.

-Maneesh Amancharla '99-'00

Society of Arab Students Cultural Evenings

A series of informal evening gatherings was held to raise awareness of Arab culture and 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 refreshments that introduced the students to the delicacies of Arab cuisine. A conscious effort was made to include Americans of Arab descent who wish to explore their culture. The event was a great success in introducing Harvard students from various backgrounds to the Arab culture. This opportunity was very valuable as many people had false stereotypes about the culture.

-Mohamad Al-Ississ '00

Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club Carnival

The Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club held its annual Carnival this year on April 25 in the Quincy House courtyard. The event was created to celebrate the various elements of Caribbean culture including food, music, dance, and art. Approximately 150 students attended the fete. Quincy House's courtyard was decorated with an array of Caribbean flags, balloons, and streamers. The festivities began in the early afternoon as Tajh Grant played the latest music from the Islands. In place of Caribbean cuisine, which is traditionally a staple of Carnival, the club experimented with traditional drinks including peanut punch and cola-champagne, a type of Jamaican soda. We anticipate next year that both drinks and food will be available for our attendants.

The most surprising element of the afternoon, however, were the five performances by the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, choreographed by Currier House Junior Janelle James, and the limbo and "whining" contests. These events certainly got people into the spirit of Carnival as even limbo novices took their turn under the bar! Interspersed throughout the three-hour event were trivia questions meant to inform carnival-goers of the history, culture, and politics of the Caribbean.

This year's Carnival was undoubtedly one of the most entertaining in recent memory, helped indeed by fabulous weather. The H-R Caribbean Club would like to extend the sincerest thanks to the Harvard Foundation for their continued support of our endeavors to the Caribbean's culture within Harvard's rich ethnic community.

-Danielle Romain '00

Asian American Association Performance of David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*

In mid-April of 1999, the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association

Players presented a production of David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. The Tony award winning play addresses provocative issues of race and gender and cuts to the very core of societal norms and attitudes, raising such questions as: can an "Oriental" man ever truly be perceived as masculine? And what does it mean to be a woman?

This particular production of the work, staged in an intimate and appropriately sparse setting at the Leverett House Old Library, succeeded in bringing across Hwang's ideas to a broad audience. Indeed, the house was often filled by students from other universities and colleges, as well as by members of the Cambridge community at large. With the audience only a matter of feet from the actors, spectators could not help but feel the intimately involved in lives of the characters.

M. Butterfly enabled the AAA Players to continue pursuing their goals of presenting issues of relevance to the Asian American community; encouraging Asian American students to participate more actively in theater; and promoting the works of Asian American playwrights.

The production met with rave reviews from such publications as *Bay Windows* and the *Harvard Independent*. The AAA Players are currently planning their next production for the fall of 1999.

-Walter Kim '00

Zalacain

Since early January a group of undergraduates and graduate students have been hard at work to create a new forum for Latino and Hispanic issues and interests at Harvard. Their effort, which culminated in a forty-page issue entitled *Zalacain*, helps to bring together many different tangents of undergraduate and graduate Latino/Hispanic cultural and academic life. *Zalacain* contains interviews of both students and professors, fiction, poetry, and beautiful photographs taken in places like Venezuela, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Allston, Massachusetts.

The magazine has striven to present a sampling of the incredibly varied experiences and sentiments that the Harvard community shares with Latino/Hispanic culture.

We did not set out to craft an academic forum, but rather tried to bring together the different viewpoints of students at Harvard who might be from Latin America, or might have Hispanic roots, or simply have an interest in the region, its culture and people. The magazine reflects some of this diversity and beauty, and hopefully in the years to come it will continue to do so in many more different ways.

Woodbridge Society Baraza Program

The Baraza project began in the Fall of 1994 by the Woodbridge Society of International Students. It aims to bring together international students once a month in a forum for discussion and social interaction. During these barazas, discussions are usually held about international issues ranging from culture to politics. Various forms of cultural exchange, such as the performance of different ethnic songs and dances, take place. This exchange is usually accompanied by international cuisine. Our goal is to create a relaxed environment for cross-cultural interaction at the personal level. Barazas are open to all members of the Harvard community. In the Spring Semester, the Woodbridge Society held four barazas, featuring cuisine from a large range of regions, including Turkey, Southeast Asia and Africa. The events are free and we look forward to many more evenings of exchange.

-Siddharth Mohandas '99

Japan Society Sushi-Making Workshop

Students from across the country joined together to learn the art of making sushi, and of course, they also had the opportunity to sample their own creations. The Japan Society co-sponsored an educational sushi-making workshop in conjunction with the Asian American Association's Harvard Asian American Intercollegiate Conference. The workshop, held on February 13, 1999, was held in the Science Center Greenhouse, eas-

ily accessible to all conference delegates as well as members of the Harvard community. The co-sponsorship of this sushi workshop has become a tradition, and its popularity has grown year by year—this year, 80-90 people came to the workshop.

A number of tables with bamboo sushi rollers, rice, vegetables and other sushi fillings were set up for participants, and an introduction to the history of sushi in Japanese culture and demonstration on how to roll sushi were presented by Japan Society co-president Kentaro Fujita. Japan Society members came to the workshop to lend a helping hand to workshop participants—creating an artful roll of sushi can sometimes be difficult. Conference delegates, Harvard students and Japan Society members all enjoyed coming together for this culturally educational event.

All of the expenses for the workshop were provided for by the Harvard Foundation, and the Japan Society and its members would like to thank the Foundation for the opportunity to present this cultural experience to the Harvard community and conference participants.

-Kelly Yamanouchi '00

South Asian Association Shades of Brown

On April 10, 1999, the South Asian Association held its annual Shades of Brown conference for greater Boston area high school students. The conference offered South Asian high school students an opportunity to learn about and discuss issues concerning the South Asian American community. The aim of the conference was to establish a forum and a sense of community for high school students from throughout New England to meet and discuss issues of race, culture, and education in the context of their own lives.

The conference served students of a wide range of South Asian backgrounds including those with families from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies. Issues discussed included parent/child relationships, dating, racism within and outside the South Asian community, career choices, and everyday issues that teenagers face. Three workshops

were held during the day and the conference ended with a mini performance by Ghungroo cast members for the students' entertainment.

A large number of students attended the conference, and more than 20 South Asian Association members volunteered their time for the full day to serve as mentors and group discussion facilitators. The conference was an overall success, and Shades of Brown reunion event is planned for the fall.

Holoimua O Hawaii May Day Haku Lei Making

Holoimua O Hawaii (The Harvard Hawaii Club) and the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural Race Relations held its Third Annual May Day Haku-Lei Making Session on Thursday, April 29, 7-10 pm, in the Winthrop JCR. The event was a resounding success; all forty-five participants expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation the instruction offered to them and the *haku leis* they were able to wear for the May Day weekend.

Harvard students, faculty, and alumni took off their shoes, sat amongst piles of flowers and Hawaii leaves, and wove their *hakus* while having opportunities to hear each other's stories of home to the background of Hawaiian music. Snacks were served and the Cultural Rhythms hula group performed informally for the group. For these Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians alike, the event was an enjoyable way to share in the culture of Hawaii in an interactive, hands-on activity. The event attracted a large number of participants, and yet it was intimate enough to allow friendly interaction and efficient and personalized instruction.

This event was funded by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural Race Relations and the Harvard Hawaii Club, and also received support and/or flower donations from Brattle Street Florist, Harvard Square Florist, and Mr. Lance Dunbar (Molokai, Hawaii). The event was one through which the Hawaii Club could step beyond simple food festivals and dance performances to bring the full richness of

Hawaiian culture to the Harvard community.

-Deanne Nakamoto '00

US-North Korea Relations: Prospects for Engagement

On March 23, 1999 the Korea Institute, Korea Society and the Harvard-Radcliffe Korean Association sponsored a symposium on US-North Korea Relations, held at the Harvard Faculty Club. The three-hour symposium, led by distinguished panelists at the forefront of forging US-Korea relationships, attracted undergraduates, graduates, policy makers and scholars from diverse backgrounds. From perspectives ranging from the political, military, historical and social, the event was a success by any means of measurement. Panelists included the Former U.S. Ambassador to Korea, the President and Chairman of the Korea Society; James Grant, a retired Brigadier General, USAF; Han S. Park, Director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues at the University of Georgia; and Mitchell B. Reiss, Assistant Executive Director and Senior Policy Advisor at the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

General Grant began the event with an assessment of military capabilities on both sides of the Korean Peninsula, as well as suggestions on strengthening strategic positioning and military defense. He encouraged the development of a theater missile defense system as well as continuation of "Team Spirit" exercises—a joint military exercise involving ROK and US forces, testing cooperation skills in a simulated invasion situation.

Professor Han S. Park, who is perhaps the only civilian to have visited North Korea as many as 30 times, gave a historical and sociological account of present North Korea. He also provided a unique North Korean perspective—one that explored its ideology, political system and regime mentality. He concluded by that stability in the Peninsula will only come through engagement and understanding.

-Steve Chung '01

Harvard Hellenic Society Greek Dancing

Greece is most often viewed in relation to its antiquity and its classical heritage to the rest of the world. Even though this is an important aspect of Greek civilization, it has long overshadowed the contemporary aspect of Greece, which reflects a combination of the long Hellenic tradition and Balkan or Middle Eastern influence. As part of its efforts to open up modern Greece to the Harvard community, the Harvard Hellenic Society (HHS) has organized a dance group for folklore and modern Greek dances.

This year, the generous contribution of the Harvard Foundation and the University Council enabled us to obtain traditional costumes, which are an integral part of folklore Greek dances. The dance group participated in Cultural Rhythms, Arts First, and the celebration of Greek Independence Day. Cultural Rhythms, which was hosted in Sanders Theater by famous actor/singer Will Smith, attracted about a thousand people. The dances that took place during Arts First filled the Lowell Lecture Hall, and the celebrations of the Greek Independence Day attracted about 50 people. According to most attendees all three events were successes. They were especially appreciated by the numerous Greek Americans of the Harvard community, as watching and participating in the Greek dances gave them the opportunity to strengthen their bonds with their origins and develop an interacting relationship with their heritage. As a result, the Harvard Hellenic Society is looking forward to expanding its dance group, which currently consists of about fifteen members, and participating in even more cultural events.

-Filippos Papakonstantinou '02

Harvard Islamic Society Eid Dinner

The Harvard Islamic Society (HIS) held its third annual *Eid al-Adha* dinner at Pforzheimer House with continued success. This has become our largest single event of the year. With decorations, linens, and an

impressive menu of food from different Muslim countries, it is also our classiest. Attendance this year was again more than 200 people, and the audience was an inter-collegiate as well as interethnic one. And, while *Eid al-Adha* is a Muslim holiday, the event was attended by non-Muslims from the Harvard community as well.

The evening began with refreshment and mingling on the Moors Terrace and the Moors Terrace Room. After the setting of the sun and the evening prayers (facility provided in Cabot House for those who needed to pray), the party moved downstairs to Pforzheimer Dining Hall. A couple of welcomes officially began the evening. The delicious dinner (Arab appetizers, South Asian rice and curries, and Iranian kebabs) was an opportunity for both social conversation and intellectual exchanges on Islam and Muslims. Dessert (*ramsalai*, a South Asian sweet) was accompanied by two more speeches by Harvard students, Uzma Ahmad, HLS '99 and Nabil Kassim '01, as they shared what *Eid* meant to them.

Eid al-Adha is the second of two *eids*, or holidays, on the Islamic calendar. It follows the yearly pilgrimage to Makkah, and commemorates Abraham's intended sacrifice of his son. It is a time of festivity in families and neighborhoods around the Muslim world. HIS tries to bring some of the taste of *Eid al-Adha* to Harvard, providing Muslim students an opportunity to celebrate while presenting Muslim culture to the greater Harvard community.

-Abdur-Rahman Syed '99

Philippine Forum: BALIK-BAYAN Conference

The Philippine Forum BALIKBAYAN Conference was held at Harvard University, March 1999. The conference sought to address the US-Philippine relationship, especially as it has developed over the last century. The primary aim of the conference was educational; we, the organizers, wanted to provide delegates with a sense of the breadth and continuing relevance of history, particularly, the history of Filipino resistance to US colonial policy. We wanted to locate the Filipino-

American in the broader historical context, as a racial community whose collective identity has been shaped by the experience of foreign occupation and diaspora. The BALIKBAYAN Conference thus looked at how the US-Philippine relationship has developed historically, how the legacy of US colonial policy continues to influence Philippine culture, society, and politics, and what roles this relationship has determined for Filipino-Americans.

The conference spanned over four days, and in addition to the proceedings, it included performances, both cultural and modern, movie showings (including the film, *Jose Rizal*, about the Philippine national hero), a fashion show, a cultural show, an open mic and DJ battle, and a mural-making project (which culminated in a mural done by delegates under the supervision of renowned muralist Papo de Asis). The proceedings were organized into 6 blocs—3 panels (conference-wide) and 3 sessions (which split into 6 workshops each and enable a closer scrutiny of more specific topics). The opening panel, “The Relevance of History,” sought to stress how we are subject to and products of an ongoing historical process; “The Philippine-American War” followed, laying the groundwork for the following 2 sessions, “Philippine Issues” and the “US-Philippine Relationship,” which looked at the legacy of the war and US imperialism/influence on Philippine cultural, political, and economic institutions. The third session, “Implications for and Instances of Activism” looked at what knowledge of this history might mean, and what forms practical application of this knowledge might take. The closing panel, “Making History,” continued to press the question, “Where do we go from here?”

Speakers included Jerry Barican, the spokesperson to the President Estrada, Raul Rabe, Philippine ambassador to the US, Migueal Zubiri, Philippine congressman, Amando Doronilla, a renowned Philippine journalist, Malou Mangahas, former editor-in-chief of the Manila Times, and Loida Lewis, CEO of Beatrice Foods Corporation.

EVALUATION/REFLECTIONS

Looking back, it seems that the process of having organized this event was nothing

short of transformative. Going into it, I don't think any of us had any idea of what we were tapping into—I mean, no one expected to find this history so seductive! We felt as if a part of ourselves was implicated in this history, as if in reading this story, we were discovering something about ourselves. We took it in bit by bit, foraging websites, essays, and documentaries for another part to the story.

What this history supplanted wasn't exactly a vacuum; it was a false story. I don't think it's inaccurate to claim that most Filipino-Americans are without a sense of history—and I don't mean they're unaware of facts, but that they don't locate themselves in the broader historical context, they don't see that the concept of the Filipino-American is historically modulated. Without a sense of history we cling to what is present, what surrounds us and is apparent, for self-definition. So, for example, our idea of what constitutes “Filipino” is made up of various threads, mostly cultural, such as foods, customs, the accent which marks our parents' speech, etc. But more than this, we also appropriate the broader culture's perception of Filipinos, and we attune to the subtle, virulent strains of inferiority that the perception projects.

Thus an unease, a sense of displacement, of difference (from the racial and cultural norm) enters into our collective consciousness as much as anything else, this unease makes us Filipino-Americans, or Filipinos in America. But this too proves a vital bond, and not just among Filipino-Americans, but among all colored groups in America. Above the particulars of culture and color, that elementary and American-bred experience of unease unites or could unite all persons of color, even informally, and as a distinctly American force, we could forcibly include ourselves into the name America and so redress our unease by more than adjusting to fit an inherited concept of “home,” but by transforming “home” into one reflective of its true family. A sense of history, of being able to locate where we are historically, would make us aware that while we were subject to the historical process, we were also, in our own right, conductors of history. I don't think it was only the learning that did this, but the learning together, as a group of Filipino-Americans who were

bound by a sense of unease and displacement, however slight or severe.

However, as for the event itself, it seemed that a conference is too sprawling and condensed an event to do more than introduce delegates to the issues at hand. If something sparked their interest, it was up to them to pursue. More pressingly, it concerns me that the form of the conference lends itself to a too general sort of education, where delegates learn the gripes and rallying cries but fail to develop a more nuanced and complex idea of the matter. This can be dangerous because what delegates may end up taking from the proceedings is a cynical, reactionary, and impotent standpoint. They might feel “duped” by history if all they hear is how a thousand evils oppress them, and do it conspiratorially; they might get the idea that there is nothing to do but sneer at the idea of justice ever showing its face on earth. There is nothing to do but gripe, adopting a stance that as ethnocentric and idealist in a way that precluded action and such posturing might even be stylish. Or, alternately, delegates can become disgusted and just tune out and be turned off. The result is a sense that history is more trouble than its worth. Such strategies are reactionary because they neither diagnose problems nor prescribe solutions, and they spring from an unhistorical cast of mind.

The last two FIND conferences have moved away from identity/culture issues and have found a more historico-political focus. If this betokens a shift in the Filipino-American consciousness, reflecting a swelling community, then the time may be ripe to press on with further organizational efforts to facilitate and harness this “awakening”. But what is this an awakening to? If we construe the conference's more ominous signs as indicative of the community's growth, it might seem we are creating a community that is exclusive, cynical, non-participatory, and hostile and one whose relationship to the Philippines is perverse, unhelpful, and even inimical. But, there are other, more propitious signs. Certainly, these conferences now primarily serve as a way for Filipino-Americans to network, but in celebrating Filipino (or Filipino-Americans') culture, delegates can also be organized as a political force. Groups like NAAFFA are eager to be rep-

resented in such events, and even Filipinos, like Congressman Zubiri, realize that Filipino-Americans could be harnessed to exert political (and economic) pressure regarding Filipino issues. As yet, I don't think Filipinos, at least on the East Coast, can recognize themselves as a political force. The numbers are not quite there yet, but more importantly, it seems that most Filipino-Americans don't perceive there to be a need to organize around their ethnic or racial identity. In other words, for Filipino-Americans, identity hasn't become imperative. "Filipino-ness" is for some a point of ethno-cultural identification and that only; in all other things, they are "American." But, this dynamic may be breaking down. Filipino-Americans, more than any other Asian-Am group, affiliate themselves with "cultures of resistance" such as hip-hop culture. In this way, they are less Asian and more black or Hispanic. Socio-economic facts support this distinction, but so do the cultural modes Filipino-Americans themselves appropriate, from hip-hop style dress, slang, musical preference, and even interracial relationships tend to be between blacks or Hispanics and Filipinos. This is a break from immigrant generation Filipinos and is distinctly Filipino-American. I bring this up because I think it is here, in their cultural self-fashioning, that a political predisposition will follow. If a political force does originate from this sector, it will not be distinctly "Filipino," but more like an interracial coalition, "Colored," or a collection of young people who are disenchanted, disenfranchised, and feel ready to right their sense of displacement. Their focus will be America, but the reverberations of their work will be felt internationally. As Boone Schirmer insightfully noted in his talk, "You [the delegates] are the true inheritors of the legacy of 1976 and more than this, of the legacy of the Filipino insurrectos as well." This, I think, is the most viable movement probable, a rising of young people for whom the prevailing cynicism is no option, and who draw their strength from history, taking up a revolutionary spirit that finds its source in America and their ancestral motherland. I think it is of importance that those young people most susceptible to the revolutionary tradition be disenfranchised, displaced, and disillusioned. Not

only will their hearts burn the more for change, but their spirits will develop a resiliency and their imaginations a fantastic daring, expending itself in envisioning what justice might look like.

-Marco Garrido '99

The Harvard Radcliffe RAZA Cinco de Mayo

On May 5, the Harvard Radcliffe RAZA threw a beautiful celebration in honor of the Mexican American holiday, Cinco de Mayo. This magnificent festival shared the many facets of Mexican culture with Harvard. On the date of the famous battle, RAZA assembled a wide range of performances for its audience. These performers included dancers dancing the traditional dances of Mexico, such as Ballet Folklórico. In addition to the traditional dances, RAZA introduced Harvard to modern Chicano dance style as exhibited by a dance group from Jamaica Plain. The night continued with poetry reading and speeches.

Recognizing that this event would draw a large, diverse crowd, RAZA reserved the spacious Lowell House dining hall for the occasion. We decorated Lowell dining hall with beautiful, vibrant colors, hung traditional Mexican art, and even made our own traditional Mexican decorations such as *Papel Picado*, which is intricate patterned paper and delicate cloth cut out and hung on a wire. In total, we made three hundred *Papel Picados*.

The results of our efforts were fantastic. We drew more than two hundred spectators to Lowell House. This group included students from Fuerza Latina, Latinas Unidas, Hola, CSA, and many other organizations. Our crowd was a perfect mixture of not only diverse ethnic groups but also of the various class years and faculty and students within the Harvard community. We even had the honor of hosting Dr. Counter of the Harvard Foundation and his two daughters.

This event could not have been held without the support of the Harvard Foundation. As in the past, the Harvard Foundation has been an important supporter of RAZA's activities.

-Ruben Marinelarena, '02

Harvard-Radcliffe Korean Association Discussion Group on Korean Women: Power, Strength, Beauty

On the night of April 14th, the Harvard-Radcliffe Korean Association held a discussion group about the role of Korean women in society. Professor David McCann was in attendance, along with some fifteen undergraduate students and four graduate students. Coeducational and Political chairs Robert Lim and Joyce Koh opened it up by talking about the importance of women in everyone's lives, and asking people to volunteer values they held about the females in their lives.

Major issues that were discussed from various perspectives included the expected behavior of women and men in their different interactions, from informal group get-togethers to marriage, responsibilities of each gender for their situations, perceptions held by each gender, the uniqueness of the Korean woman's situation, and the issue of the contemporary woman's choice on how much tradition to follow. Although a bit animated at times, the atmosphere was generally lighthearted yet thoughtful. There was interesting dialogue between men and women, but many people came with different expectations, or without knowing what to expect.

For example, Professor McCann contributed less than he would have liked, since he hoped to share what he knew of the traditional historical role of women in Korea. A few students had come thinking it would be an all-women discussion. While they enjoyed how the discussion went anyway, they strongly suggested that such a group be held sometime.

-Edward Kim, '02

Persian Society Musical Extravaganza with Amir Arbabi

On April 24, the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society had the extreme pleasure of hosting a Musical Extravaganza fea-

turing Amir Arbabi, an acclaimed Persian musician. The event took place in the Junior Common Room of Eliot House. Thirty to forty Harvard undergraduates, graduates, and faculty filled the room to listen to Mr. Arbabi's talent. Mr. Arbabi plays an ancient musical instrument called a *santoor*, which produces a sound much like a melancholic harp. It is a difficult instrument to master and is also extremely popular in the modern Middle East.

After a brief introduction in which Mr. Arbabi gave a brief biography and discussed how he became involved in playing the *santoor* (all translated into English by Ali Satvat), he played four different songs. All of the songs were met with abundant applause and admiration. Afterwards, many attendees in the crowd stated that they were surprised by the quality of the music from Iran. Musician among the group took a closer look at the *santoor* and even attempted to play it. The Eliot House JCR was decorated with images of other Middle Eastern instruments, and the dinner of the traditional *cholo kabob* was served before Mr. Arbabi began to play. This was a highly enjoyable event.

-Amir Zarrinpar '99

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs International Careers Dinner

On March 4, 1999, the Weatherhead Center Student Council was proud to host its annual Careers Dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club. This event, held annually since 1997, gives students an opportunity to interact in a relaxed but formal setting with distinguished international scholars, journalists, business leaders, and government employees. This year, the 70 students in attendance had the pleasure of dinning with fellows from the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, and other centers around the Harvard community.

Over dessert, the Office for Career Services gave a presentation discussing the programs that they have available for stu-

dents interested in international careers. They emphasized that in today's global workplace, international opportunities are not limited to what one normally thinks of when one considers an international career—an ever increasing number of jobs today have international aspects.

The highlight of the evening, however, came after dinner with our panel discussion. During this talk, Emmy Award winning journalist Susan Reed, Ambassador Charles Crawford, Michael Boorstein for the US State Department, and Dr. Carola Eisenberg, of Physicians Without Borders and the Harvard Medical School entertained the students and other guests with stories from their international careers. They then fielded questions from students anxious to learn more about their experiences.

All students in attendance seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening and the Weatherhead Center Student Council thanks the Harvard Foundation for helping to make it possible.

-Steven Kruczek '01

House Interethnic and Race Discussions

The Harvard Foundation's annual interethnic and race relations discussions were held in Lowell and Eliot houses by members of the Student Advisory Committee. The first of these discussions, which was held in Lowell house, focused on the interaction of race and religion. Students from a variety of backgrounds participated in the discussion. One of the main topics was the conflict experienced by the interplay of important human influences in cross-cultural interaction. Much of the discussion centered around the concept of differences both within race and within religion. Students of the Baha'i faith talked about the strong correlation and unity among race, religion, culture that is stressed in their faith. Others talked of being a minority race within a religion. Conversely, those whose religions were intricately associated with their culture, commented on the sense of unity and identity that they gained from active participation in religious activities. The discussions were lively and cordial, and most

people left with a sense of appreciation of the complexities of the subject.

The second of these conversations on race was held in Eliot House and focused on interethnic relations in the former Yugoslavia. Former British Ambassador to Bosnia Michael Crawford, a professor of Slavic Languages and of Government, joined in an earnest discussion on the state of ethnic relations in the Balkans. A major point stressed by participants was the complexity of the relationships among Serbs, Muslims, and Croats, where ethnic lines are not always clear. The intricate history of these interactions, passed from family to family and friend to friend, was cited as the driving force behind the crimes committed and ethnic cleansing. The participating scholars further noted a generational gap in racial sentiments and, thus, a hope for increased cooperation among younger generations. The discussion was informative and generated a sense of the intricacy of ethnic tension, whether in the Balkans or elsewhere in the world.

-Serre-Yu Wong '01

Persian Society Multimedia Persian Film Festival

On April 6, the Harvard-Radcliffe Persian Society held its annual movie/dinner event at the Eliot House Grille. As with previous years, we had the event catered by *La La Rokh*, the most well-known Persian restaurant in all of New England. We also viewed *Where's My Friend's Home* a world-renowned film by Abbas Kiarastami, who had received the Palme d'Or award at last year's Cannes Film Festival. The movie was about two classmate friends, one who constantly gets into trouble for forgetting to do his homework in his notebook. The principal threatens to suspend him, if he forgets once again after so many warnings. However, the student manages to forget his notebook at school and his friend must find him and give him the notebook so that he may do the homework for the next day. The movie was beautifully lyrical and the scenery and the depiction of the simple lifestyle of the Iranian villages was beautiful. After the movie, we shared

some Persian pastries and discussed the movie. There were many students in the room who had been from the region where the movie was filmed, and they shared some of their memories of the region. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

-Amir Zarrinpar '99

Harvard Hellenic Society Greek Independence Day

On the 25th of March Greek and Greek-American students from all over the campus came together to celebrate the Greek Independence Day. Celebrations included a festive meal with Greek food, which took place in the dining hall of Mather House. The students had the opportunity to taste delicious Greek specialties like *souvlaki*, *baklava*, and *tzatziki*, and also to talk about issues that concern them.

The guest speaker for the event was Professor Yannatos from the Music Department, who has been the conductor of the Harvard & Radcliffe Orchestra since 1964. The focus of his short speech was the present and the future of Greek music and music in general. The speech was followed by a roundtable discussion, during which Professor Yannatos had the opportunity to

divulge some interesting personal experiences, and answer students' questions.

The approximately 20 students that gathered for the celebrations enjoyed both the discussion and the food, and thought that the whole undertaking was definitely worth the effort. The Harvard Hellenic Society, which sponsored the event along with the generous contribution of the Harvard Foundation, is looking forward to organize more events that will bring together graduates and undergraduates who are interested in the Greek culture.

-Filippos Papakonstantinou '02

Lowell House Opera

On March 10, 1999, Lowell House Opera premiered *Yossele Solovey*, with music by Professor Noam Elkies and libretto by Jeremy Dauber '95. The opera starred singers from inside and outside the Harvard community, under the stage direction of Dax Kiger from the American Repertory Theatre. Joel Bard '99, conducted the orchestra.

Yossele Solovey, based on the novel *The Nightingale* by Sholem Aleichem, tells the story of the rise and fall of Yossele, a wunderkind cantor in 19th century eastern Europe. In his search for fame and fortune,

Yossele leaves his family and childhood sweetheart behind and eventually realizes that he has lost sight of his true values. The libretto preserves the atmosphere of the time, with many reflections on the Yiddish culture and Jewish customs. Elkies' score incorporates Jewish liturgy and Yiddish folksongs into his modern music.

The highly successful opening night, playing to an audience of special guests and patrons who generously supported the production, was followed by the traditional black-tie reception hosted by Masters Diana Eck and Dorothy Austin. The two-and-a-half hour production ran on March 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 21 to unusually large audiences of Harvard students and the general public totaling over a thousand. Reviews highly complimented the singers' and musicians' talents, especially Anne Harley in the title role, Paul Soper as her father, and principal cellist Sarah Siska '98. On the production side, the Globe singled out the period costumes and dramatic lighting for special praise. Composer Noam Elkies is a professor of mathematics at Harvard and has previously written many chamber music and choral works. He also played the keyboard and piano in the production. Librettist Jeremy Dauber '95 graduated from Lowell House *summa cum laude* and is currently finishing a degree at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar.

-Heidi Kim '00



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The Harvard Foundation would like to express their appreciation to our staff photographers: Andrew Amo '01, Nancy Lin '99, and Mahmood Firouzbakht '98. Many thanks also to staff videographers: Dana Bennett '99 and Nancy Lin '99.



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