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 54th 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 wild 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 ought pass a rose he received from the performer on to his wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith, who sat in the audience.

continued on page 2

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 flanked by Harvard students and was honored by student performances from over 20 cultural groups at Sanders Theatre.

Harvard Foundation Hosts Ali Sardar Jafri, Urdu Poet

The Harvard Foundation hosted an evening of poetry with honored 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 international 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 restoration trial. (Left to right) Associate Justice Irene Tibble, Associate Justice Raymond Justice, Chief Justice Robert Vecsum; Attorney Ltney Little Bear; Director of the Harvard University/Native American Program, and Ms. Russell Peters, Chairman of the Wasayumte' Gibi of Muleip. Story page 3
Will Smith: Cultural Artist of the Year

While students and faculty enjoyed Smith’s relaxed and unrehearsed 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 Henry 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 films and television series of 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 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 everyone 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.”

Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, and Dr. Henry Lewis, Dean of Harvard College, presented a seated chair and a watch to 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.

In this issue:

...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.

Hokoiimu 'a Hawaii, in the first act of the show at Sanders, opened with a Samoan slap dance, which tested 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 thrumming sound of the Gumboot 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 consentath that are shouted among the dancers are concealed messages about apartheid.

The Society of Arab Students demonstrated the use of the oud, tabla, and duff, three instruments that correspond to the guitar, drums, and tambourine in Western music. Ramsy 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 during intertribal powwows. Where many other student groups rented or shared their costumes, members of the Native Americans at Harvard and Radcliffe each wore traditional dress that they owned. Amanda Proctor '97, of the Ojibwe tribe of Oklahoma, wore a layered dress that she had made herself. "I have been working on 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 strode onto stage 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, Zind Obermeyer '01, and Hattie Belzamani '99 in performing a French rap. "The aim of the French rap was so present an alternative image of the French national identity," explained Obermeyer. "France is no longer a homogeneous country; it's 10 percent North African."

Belzamani 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 homogenized white French image and...continued on page 4
Will Smith, Cultural Artist of the Year

(continued from page 3)

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 beer
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 enriched between acts by Smith's
unforgettable comic antics. Counter sug-
gested 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.

-Lawrence Groho

Special to the Harvard Gazette

Harvard Foundation Hosts Ali Sardar Jafri, Urdu Poet

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 trea-
ure 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 stu-
dents 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. Asani thanked '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.
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 Nithkoni Kinel ’01, both members of the Harvard University Native American Program, discussed the symbolic importance of the visit by the Navajo Supreme Court Justices to Harvard College students. Monica Eav ’99, senior intern at the Harvard Law School, highlighted the impressive achievements of the Justices, noting their effort in the area of cultural enlightenment and “community-building”, precisely what the Foundation seeks to promote with our mission of intercultural and interaccultural 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 June Wang and Dr. Justice Wroe.

On the following day, the Justices held an oral argument on the case of Navajo Nation v. Man 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 Manusaid, 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 Calzonal Rhythms, the Caribbean Club, and Kuumba. The Foundation also gave Monica E. Ewe '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/Administration Award to Senior Preceptor of Mathematics Robin Gontijr and Adams House Co-Masters Jana M. and Robert J. Kicly '60.

An award recipient, Kuumba President Shannon T. Hodge '00, said her organization had worked 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. Bar '06, 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...
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 continue 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 ’88, 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.”


The Foundation’s Recognition Recipients were Andrew Ano ’01, Baer, Adam P. Bailey ’01, Keith E. Bernard ’99, Jennifer R. Darragh ’01, Kenneth N. Elie ’01, Onudara O. Fastragun ’00, Joyce I. Imahiyeroho ’01, Marlene M. Losier ’01, Kinsha J. Morrow ’99, James I. Mwawgo ’00, Joelle G. Noyere ’01, Niki V. Santos ’00, Nina S. Sawyer ’01 and Serre-Yu Wong ’01.

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

Vivian C. Hulsen Staff reporter, Harvard Crimson Courtesy of the Harvard Crimson
Professor Walter Frontera Honored at the Harvard Foundation’s Annual Science Conference

Dr. Walter Frontera, Chafton 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 (WESHR), and Majority Biomedical Scientists of Harvard (MBSH). Dr. Frontera was presented the Harvard Foundation medal during a traditional luncheon ceremony in 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 Master’s Professor- James McCarthy and Suzanne McCarthy.

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 student to pursue science and medicine with the highest of ideals. As the end of the luncheon ceremony, Dr. Frontera was awarded the Harvard Foundation medal “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” by Dr. Walter Frontera, DeL. Woodland Hastings (biology).
The first day of the Science Conference concluded at the Aero 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; Nuni Coleman ’88, 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.

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, Lawrence. 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 provided 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
Science conference
(continued from page 9)

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 Insalubbery '01 and Kenneth Elie '01 of the Society of Black Scientists and Engineers.

- Harvard Foundation Staff
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 Alan 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
In Appreciation:
House Masters Honored by the Harvard Foundation

On Thursday, April 29, the Harvard Foundation honored Adams House co-Masters, Professor Robert J. Kirky '60 and Dr. Jana M. Kirky, for their distinguished service as house masters and their contributions to the intercultural life of the University. Professor and Dr. Kirky 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 evening of Irish storytelling and music by Bert and Maria Burns, theatrical workshops for various student cultural groups, lectures, and many Harvard Foundation dinners and discussions with distinguished guests. The Kirbys were honored during the Harvard Foundation's annual David Alton 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 Kirbys 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
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 Varuni Ganeshananthan 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, Ganeshananthan and Kovner think that such basic, fundamental understandings are totally unnecessary in assessing the Foundation's effectiveness.

Secondly, Ganeshananthan and Kovner make sweeping assumptions without bothering to verify them, resulting in several missed conclusions. As a basic tenet of journalism, if you quote a student accusation 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 SAC 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 mismanaged, shouldn't you bother to find out exactly what those resources are?

According to Ganeshananthan and Kovner, the Foundation has "two-year offices, several full-time administrators, a staff of paid interns and a discretionary budget." In fact, the Foundation has a tiny on-campus 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 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, it is not a large one. Shouldn't Ganeshananthan and Kovner have an obligation to do such basic and preliminary research before they throw around serious allegations?

Why, sometimes Ganeshananthan 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-American relations, interethnic tensions within the Asian community, and more. I do not understand why Ganeshananthan and Kovner did not choose to acknowledge this aspect of the Foundation's activities.

I must criticize Ganeshananthan and Kovner as well for what I can only understand as lax 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 Ganeshananthan 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 Ganeshananthan 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 Ganeshananthan 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, Ganeshananthan and Kovner let stand Fowler's criticism that the Foundation
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 distressed by the tone of the article, as I regret honestly nor fairly addresses the subject of concern. In the article, the authors, Vasuki 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 uninformative 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 aforementioned article, it devalues the efforts of these many students and it becomes difficult to respect such assertions. Perhaps the two authors were completely uninformed about the subject, or worse yet, were unconsciously exploitative 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 ill-informed attempt at character defamations throughout the article—my last 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 more accurately be corresponded to 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 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 credibility, 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 interweaving the issue with discontent personal agendas. Several of the statements made by Fowler and Tan are manipulated to fuel their undiscussed 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, thereby his "resignation" was invalid, as his office of term 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 beset 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 spurious commentary. It is my understanding that Crimson editors are not provided 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 unethical provocations such as Ganeshanathan and Kovner's article do not obscure or misdirect such discussion.
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 distasteful.

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 agenda, and only embarrass themselves by the insensitivity and disrespect they demonstrate towards their fellow students who are truly committed to advancing intercultural and race relations 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.


Cultural Rhythms 1999
Harvard Foundation Fall 1999 Student

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 Expresions Dance Troupe, accompanied by two professional drummers, performing two dances from West Africa. The Brothers of Kinshasa and the Afro-Quartet from Northeastern University entertained the audience with their a cappella performances. The Gumboot dancers displayed their foot-stomping, boot-slapping dances 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 Gumboot 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 the audience was comprised of undergraduates, not only from Harvard but from other schools in the area.

-Timothy Comm '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 feudal Japan, and its influence on Japanese culture today. The lectures were presented by Mr. Junji Himeura, a visiting scholar at the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japan Studies. All lectures were given in class rooms 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 kate. 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 Hokubun. 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 are the dates:

On Monday, March 22, 1999, The Exodus from Syria; Monday, April 5, 1999, Al-Masir from Egypt; Monday, April 12, 1999, Beirut Family from Tunisia; Monday, April 19, 1999, The Tale of Three Jews from Palestine. The films drew a large audience, many of whom had little previous familiarity with the Arab world.

-Nahmed Al-Jubua, '00

Salpuriuchim Korean Folk Dance

During the spring semester, Loreta Kim '99 taught the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe members her adapted version of a Korean scarf dance called Salpuri Chum. Having mastered 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 calms, 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 intense 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 Leung '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 1948-1996." It depicted in photos the struggle of the Palestinian people throughout the Israeli occupation, the agony of the refugees, and current hard work to achieve peace and independence. The second event was a debate with Swatif Isha, 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.

Mohamed Al-Isa, '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 PM. 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 kway tow (fried noodles) and satay (skewered, barbecued meat), traditional outdoor hawkers favorites, were ordered from Penang. There were other vegetables and soy bean milk (another hawker favorite) on the side. Dinner officially started at 5:00 although people moved freely in and out during the whole time period.

At 5:30 the co-presidents, Serena Tan '01 and Daryl Sing '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 dishes ranged from hot d'oeuvres like dumplings and scallion pancake 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 mung bean jelly, almond jelly, 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 amuse 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 Huchu '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 coordinators, 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.

Chanda Ho '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 Hu '00 and Chua-Da Ho '01 offered remarks about the incident and the Harvard student movement.

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.

-Caryn Hsu '01

Dumpling (Tung-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 lump-yuan.

Grace Kao '01 led the cooking demonstration, showing by 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-president, Henry Hu '00 and Chua-Da 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 introduced together students of different cultures to enjoy a delicious feature of Taiwanese culture.

-Caryn Hsu '01

Karaeke 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 wouldn't 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.

-Caryn 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 áo dài, entered the stage with traditional cone hats. The dresses were all different, displaying the various brilliant fabrics and designs which amply 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 roaming 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 cast has 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 a 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
Puppeteer Workshop

O n the evening of Monday, 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 participate in a presentation by Ms. Sus-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. Outre the presentation, 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 had added some light on the similarities and differences between the varied forms of puppet theater that exist.

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 video. 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.

-Tsuei Wu '00

Taiwanese Cultural Society's Taiwanese Awareness

A Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwan 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 Tag 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 come, 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 most 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 Hu '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 Theater. Expressions is a dance company dedicated to perfecting 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 Neptue and Mansela Arincigis. It was a mixture of jazz and hip-hop dance forms, and the song we danced to, "Sweat 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.

-Mansela Arincigis '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 blooming flowers. With several trays of traditional Japanese food (sushi, pickles, and the like), we were able to attract a crowd of 30 people to share the flower-viewing experience. Guests are the food, listened to Japanese music, and chattered away as they watched the flowers along the Charles on
Perian American "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 Castarians 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. Gilaki, 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 Hafez, 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 zabbaleh and haima 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. -Ania Zaripova ’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 carnal atmosphere enjoyed by both Native and non-Native alike. Powwows are dances to be enjoyed by Natives and their guests, fostering contact 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 ’91

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 Philippine 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 focused 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.

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 Yamazoe '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 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 War? 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 Mendeholm. 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.

-Mohamed Al-Issawi '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 Councilwoman. 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 present 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 praisies 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 our Harvard student and students from the local high school.

The poetry addressed the identity that has been assigned to Latinas. One of the mono- logues 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 dance, much to the delight of the audience that was cooked by members of our organization. We were very happy with the success of our event because we reached out to mem- bers of different communities, and we were able to honor three 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 genera- l 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 Samadu Aspinot '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 posting and invitations sent to VIPS, we were more concerned with limiting ticket sales than making sales up to 180 people came to the event. As hoped for, the atten- dants 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, kimchi, kimbab, and succinct 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 '00, 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 10-man quartet, a Tae Kwon Do demonstration, a monologue by Daniel Cheng '00, Chumsa Fan Dance, Troope, and P'ongmul. Midway through the show, the new Executive Board of KA was introduced. Special treats came in the form of a demon- stration of The Kwon Mo, an art form combining dance and martial arts, performed by its creator, Manse Reichleder Bum, and a piano performed by the新鲜man. A rousing piece delivered by P'ongmul, the Korean Drum Troope, capped off the evening with a going. 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.

-Eric Kim '02

Woodbridge Society Fiesta Mondiale

The Woodbridge Society's signature event, Fiesta Mondiale, is a talented cel-
bibration of international culture. Woodbridge strives to do this by organiz-
ing an elegant party that celebrates the diversity of national and cultural heri-
tage at Harvard. The event was held on April 30, 1999 at Dunster House. Highlights included a jazz band performing in a tapestry of reception rooms and a food buf-
cette and guest foods. 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 Mehendale ’99

Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan: Folklorico Workshop with Jose Tenas

On the weekend of February 13, Ballet Folklorico de Aztlan participated in the third annual dance workshop led by Mr. Jose 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, and Jalisco, and one dance in a style typical of northern Mexico. In addition to these dances, Mr. Tenas prac-
ticed many dancing techniques with the group, from footwork, to walking and pos-
ture. His extensive knowledge of the his-
tory and tradition of Ballet Folklorico was also relayed to the dancers through ques-
tion 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 Folklorico in New Mexico for the guests. The reception was an enjoyable evening of socializing with Mr. Tenas and members of neighboring Ballet Folkloricos.

-Maaraona Comas ’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 classi-
cal 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. Ddal Talakdar, a professionally trained Kathak dancer from Bangladesh, teach the class for several years. Mr. Talakdar has been teaching dance for over twenty years and has choreographed dance performances all over the country.

This year, Mr. Talakdar began with stud-
ies of the complex rhythms involved in Kathak dancing. During the fall semester, students worked on the intricate footwork of various tadas (dance phases). 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 mem-
bers 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 Fest Dance Festival in May. Both sets of performances were received well by audiences and each mem-
ber 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 cele-
brates Asian and Asian American culture/history/politics/issues. As part of our annual conference, we always have a cultural show, which brings old tradi-
tions together with modern interpret-
tations. This year, the cultural show was a huge success, in large part due to the won-
derful 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 catego-
ization that in order to celebrate all of the various ethnic groups which fall under the 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 March.

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 commu-
nication 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-
The main speaker of the night was Aurelio Ramírez 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 Olmo's '99 photography. In addition to the above, some graduating seniors gave some of the undergraduates advice for the future. The event then moved on to Ballet Folklórico de Atlantas 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 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 Martinez '92

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 Sarfar 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 well-received 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
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 evening 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 was 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 whom 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 its continual support throughout this year. For those interested in more information or a recording of any event, please e-mail Nathoo at nathoo@fas.harvard.edu.

Anj Nathoo '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 Kalvågsdagen on March 8. Visiting professor Thomas DalBöi 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 Sundags Barn. On April 8, we showed Blådronn Meistret. 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 Börn Nationánum. 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.

-Ellie 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 Saffron-pole 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 hafteen (or Seven S), which is traditionally placed during No Rooz. The hafteen is comprised of seven objects that are part of the Persian letter S and symbolize different aspects of life. For example, one of the objects placed in the hafteen is grain, 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.

-Anita Zarifian '99

DHARMA Holi Celebration

On Sunday, April 11, a group of students gathered on the lawn of the
Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club Carnival

The Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club hosted 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 fête. Quincy House's courtyard was decorated with an array of Caribbean flags, balloons, and streamers. The festivities began in the early afternoon as Tjah 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 attendance.

The most surprising element of the afternoon, however, were the five performances by the Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, choreographed by Current House Junior Janelle James, and thelimbo and "whipping" contests. These events certainly got people into the spirit of Carnival at even limbo novices took their turn under the bar. Interpersed 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 favorable weather. The Harvard-Radcliffe Caribbean Club would like to extend the sincerest thanks to the Harvard Foundation for their continued support of our endeavors to the Caribbean, culture within Harvard's rich ethnic community.

- Danielle Remulla '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 only feel but experience 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

Zalacán

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 Zalacán, helps to bring together many different tongues of undergraduate and graduate Latino/Hispanic cultural and academic life. Zalacán contains interviews of both students and professors, fiction, poetry, and beautiful photgraphs taken in places like Venezuela, Cola, Puerto Rico, and Albion, 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 Mahond '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 Intercolligate Conference. The workshop, held on February 13, 1999, was held in the Science Center Greenhouse, easily 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, 90-95 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 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 Yamamoto '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 Gungoo Coast 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.

Holeinua O Hawaii May Day Haku Lei Making

Holeinua O Hawaii (The Hawaiian 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 lei 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 wore their haku while having opportunities to hear each other’s stories of home to the background of Hawaiian music. Snacks were served and the Cultural Rythms 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 commu-
nity.

-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 fore-
front of forging US-Korea relationships, attracted undergraduates, graduates, policy makers and scholars from diverse back-
grounds. 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 posi-
tioning and military defense. He encour-
aged 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 reality. He concluded that stability in the Peninsula will only come through engage-
ment and understanding.

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. Event 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 folkloric 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/notable 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 atten-
dees all three events were successes. They were especially appreciated by the numer-
ous Greek Americans of the Harvard community, in watching and participating in the Greek dances gave them the opportu-
nity to strengthen their bonds with their origins and develop an interesting relation-
ship with their heritage. As a result, the Harvard Hellenic Society is looking forward to expanding its dance group, which cur-
tently consists of about fifteen members, and participating in even more cultural events.

-Hellenic Diaspora 99

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 largest. Attendance this year was again more than 200 people, and the audience was an inter-

college as well as internetsich 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 refreshments and mingling on the Myers Terrace and the Moes Terrace Foods. 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 conversa-
tion and intellectual exchanges on Islam and Muslims. Dessert (namoos, a South Asian sweet) was accompanied by two more speeches by Harvard students, Uma Ahmad, HLS '99 and Nabil Kasim, '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 Mecca, and commemorates Abraham's intended sacri-
cifice 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, provid-
ing Muslim students an opportunity to cele-
brate while presenting Muslim culture to the greater Harvard community.

-Islam-Rahman Sind '99

Philippine Forum: BALIK-
BAYAN Conference

The Philippine Forum BALIKBAYAN Conference was held at Harvard University, March 1999. The conference sought to address the U.S.-Philippine rela-
tionship, especially as it has developed over the last century. The primary aim of the conference was educational, we, the organ-
izers, wanted to provide delegates with a sense of the breadth and continuing rele-
vance 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 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 role 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, "Just 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 Pepo de Ani). 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 Baricam, the spokesperson to the President Estrada, Ray Robles, Philippine ambassador to the US, Miguel Zuhiri, Philippine congressman, Amado Dononilla, a renowned Philippine journalist, Malou Mangahas, former editor-in-chief of the Manila Times, and Leida 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 the organizers 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 story, we were discovering something about ourselves. We took it in bit by bit, thinking of Filipino history and documents for another part to the story.

What this history supplants 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 that I don't mean they're unaware of fact, but that they don't locate themselves in the broader historical context. I don't think 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 attribute to the subole, virulent strains of inferiority that the perception projects.

Thus an unseemly sense of displacement, of difference (from the racial and cultural norm) enters into our collective conscious- ness as much as anything else, this unseemliness makes us Filipino-Americans, and 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 Americanised experience of unseemly others or coverts all prevents color, even informality, and as a distinctly American force, we could forcibly include ourselves into the name America and so redress our unseemly 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 unseemly and displacement, however slight or severe.

However, as for the event itself, it seemed that a conference is too sprawling and conditioned an event to do much more than introduce delegates to the issues at hand. If something sparked their interest, it was up to them to pursue. Moor pressingly, it concerns me that the focus 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 compositely; 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 is as ethnocentric and idealist in a way that precluded action and such posturing might even be stylized. 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 historic-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 organization 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, unlawful, and even inhumane. 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-American) culture, delegates can also be organized as a political force. Groups like NAFFA are eager to be
resented in such events, and even Filipinos, like Congressman Zubiri, realize that Filipino-American 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 inter racial 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 inter racial 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 repercussions 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 the 1976 and more than this, of the legacy of the Filipino insurgents as well." Thus, 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 resilience and their imaginations a fantastic, expansive capacity for envisioning what justice might look like. —Mario Carillo '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 Baile Folklórico. In addition to the traditional dances, RAZA introduced Harvest to modern Chicano dance style as exhibited by a dance group from Jamaica Plain. The sight 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, CISA, 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 activities.

—RaYee Martinez, '92

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

On the night of April 14th, the Harvard-Radcliffe Korean American Association held a discussion group about the role of Korean women in society. Professor David McCain was in attendance, along with some filters undergraduate students and four graduate students. Cordial and cultivated, Robert Lim and Joyce Kol open it up by talking about the importance of women in everyone's lives, and asking people to volunteer values they hold 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 abstract and times, the atmosphere was generally lighted 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 McCain 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 exquisite pleasure of hosting a Musical Extravaganza fea-
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 concern expressed 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.

-Sune Yi Wong '01

Persian Society Multimedia

* 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 House a world-renowned film by Abbas Kiarostami, who had received the Palme d'Or award at last year's Cannes Film Festival. The movie was about two classmates who, once 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...
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 soutsi, baklava, and retsini, 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 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.

On March 10, 1999, Lowell House Opera premiered Yiotsi Solvay, with music by Professor Noam Elkind and libretto by Jeremy Dauber ’95. The opera starred singers from inside and outside the Harvard community, under the stage direction of Dan Kiger from the American Repertory Theatre. Joel Bard ’99, conducted the orchestra.

Yiotsi Solvay, based on the novel The Nightingale by Sholem Aleichem, tells the story of the rise and fall of Yiotsi, a wunderkind cantoor in 19th century eastern Europe. In his search for fame and fortune, Yiotsi 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. Elkind’s score incorporates Jewish liturgy and Yiddish folksongs into his modern music.

The highly successful opening night, playing to an audience of special guests and persons who generously supported the production, was followed by the traditional black-tie reception hosted by Masters Danna 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 Ska ‘98. On the production side, the Globe singled out the period costumes and dramatic lighting for special praise. Composer Noam Elkind 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.

-Noah Kie '00
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