Randall Robinson Speaks on Reparations

On Thursday, October 12, 2000, the Harvard Foundation had the pleasure of hosting the renowned civil rights leader, Mr. Randall Robinson (HLS '74) for a discussion of his book, The Debt: What America Owe.

Cuomo's Speak Truth Earns Recognition

Mr. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, distinguished author and human rights advocate, discusses her new book, Speak Truth to Power, with Harvard students and faculty.

The Harvard Foundation Premieres Remember the Titans

On Tuesday, September 26, 2000, the Harvard Foundation sponsored a premiere showing of Remember the Titans, a Disney Studios movie starring Denzel Washington and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. The event was attended by over five hundred Harvard students and faculty, including the Harvard College Dean.

The Harvard Foundation was honored to have the opportunity to screen it first for the faculty, students, and especially the Athletic Department, since this film focuses on race relations in sports. A special screening was also held for members of the 2000-2001 class by arrangement with the Continued on pg 8

When Herman Boone (Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington, center) is hired over veteran football coach Bill Parry (Will Patton, left) to lead the T.C. Williams High School team, The Titans, the players, including Jerry 'Boo' Harris (Cuba Gooding, right) are forced to overcome personal obstacles in this Disney Pictures/Jerry Bruckheimer Films' drama, Remember The Titans, based on a remarkable true story.
Randall Robinson
(Continued from page 1)

Owens To Blacks: This book deals with the issue of slavery and addresses the idea of reparations for African Americans. The event, held in the Ford Auditorium of Boynton Hall, was well attended by students and faculty.

The discussion commenced after an introduction by Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, which highlighted the achievements of Mr. Randall Robinson. Mr. Robinson, as president of TransAfrica, an organization aimed at influencing U.S. policies toward Africa and the Caribbean, is regarded as being instrumental in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. In addition, he assisted in the movement to restore democracy in Haiti.

Upon his introduction, Mr. Robinson addressed the audience for twenty minutes. He talked about the need for an awakening of American conscience on the issue of its history of slavery and the continuing problems of racism. Several questions were posed to him by the audience. A graduate student at the Kennedy School of Government asked about his sentiments on the 2000 U.S. presidential elections. Mr. Robinson stated that the political process is one in which citizen apathy has diminished the effectiveness of the process, and one which candidates are not made accountable for their promises. For instance, he argued that the Democratic Party, the traditional group which African Americans support, has continuously failed to fulfill promises it makes to them during election periods. While acknowledging the problem with this situation and calling for some sort of action, Mr. Robinson also believed that the lack of effective leadership within the Black community is a contributing factor.

Following his address, Mr. Robinson had an open discussion with two student leaders. The students, Mr. Aalayah Williams '02, president of the Black Students Association, and Mr. Peter-Chales Bright '01 of the Black Men's Forum posed several questions to Mr. Robinson. The questions dealt with why the issue of reparations should be considered in the slavery of Africans in America, what form such com-
penetration should take, and whether such restitutions would heal the wounds of racial discord in America. Drawing upon the issues he addressed in his book, Mr. Robinson stated that African and African American leadership must be re-born in order for the Black community to address the problems it faces. He claimed that such leadership was instrumental in the birth and success of the Civil Rights Movement, and is necessary to address the problems of today. Drawing upon his own experiences in this period, Mr. Robinson saw such leadership as the reason why all segments of the Black population from the poor, the middle class and students, were motivated to participate in the Movement. He also saw this leadership as transcending the racial divide by influencing other American ethnic groups in a manner that gave birth to a national consciousness on the issue of race in America.

Mr. Robinson also addressed the idea of reparations to African Americans due to America’s history of slavery. Stating that there is a precedent for paying reparations to the victims of history, the suggestion given by Mr. Robinson for the African American was very unconventional. He stated that his idea of reparations was not one of monetary compensation, but one of investment in the educational and social welfare of the Black community. He argued that America’s financial obligation to African Americans can be settled through the creation of a trust to assist in the educational and economic empowerment of African Americans.

Finally, Mr. Robinson stated that the wounds of racial discord could only be mended with true national discourse. Although he believes in the idea of reparations, he states that initiating a national conversation on this matter about would be useful for it would acknowledge U.S. racial atrocities, and allow a self-discovery by Black. It would also cause an acceptance of the devastating effects of slavery, and initiate an active effort to educate all Americans, Black and White, about the history of Africa and its people.

Following the discussion, a book signing session was held in Boylston Hall’s Tischman Lounge. Afterward, Mr. Robinson was honored by the co-Masters of Quincy House, Dean Michael Shinagel and Ms. Marjorie Lee North, by a dinner in his honor. The dinner was well attended by students, faculty, and staff, including Dr. Anne Bailey, Dean David Blaugher, and Mrs. Jackie Berson-Jones. At the dinner, The Foundation presented Mr. Robinson with an honorary plaque signed by Dr. Neil Rudenstine, the president of Harvard University, and Dr. S. Allen Counter, the director of The Foundation, for his many significant contributions to matters of race and intercultural relations.

2001 Freshman Brunch

On September 10, 2000, the Harvard Foundation held its annual Freshman Brunch welcoming the Class of 2004 and introducing them to the Harvard Foundation. Over 200 students and parents came to Dudley House to partake of the fine ethnic cuisine and conversation around diversity at Harvard. Through various presentations, undergraduate students explained the role of the Harvard Foundation at the College to freshmen and their parents. The attendees were able to hear these accounts, review past Foundation newsletters, and register to become "Friends of the Foundation."

Greeting the students and parents were Dr. S. Allen Counter (Director of the Harvard Foundation), Jennifer Darragh '01, Macarena Correa '00, and Kenneth Ebie '01 (co-chair of the Student Advisory Committee). Each student presented elements of being involved at the Foundation. Darragh and Ebie spoke about the Student Advisory Committee (SAC). They described the SAC as a group of representatives from Harvard's ethnic/cultural student groups who meet in the interest of establishing an agenda for intercultural and race relations on campus. In the 1999-2000 academic year, the SAC had organized a panel on Hate Crimes and a successful student retreat. Correa invited students to the Foundation and described the range of resources and activities the Harvard Foundation has to offer. She also described various active Latina/o groups on campus.

In the meantime, various student leaders spoke about their past and future initiatives. Educational/Political Committee Chair of the Chinese Students Association Ethan Yeh '02 discussed his group's annual collegiate conference. Matthew MacInnis '01, President of the Harvard Crimson, encouraged incoming students to participate in the newspaper. To close, Dr. Counter led an informative question and answer period for the families. He described Harvard's approach to intercultural exchange—and other programs, all of which generate a number of events throughout the course of the academic year.

Dr. Counter and interns mingled throughout the reception meeting parents and students and welcoming them to the Harvard community. Ultimately, many new students and parents were able to connect with the Foundation during their first days at Harvard College.

-Krisena Correa '00

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Kerry Kennedy Cuomo (Continued from page 1)

Award for her outstanding contributions to human rights and intercultural relations. Introduced by Harvard Foundation Director Allen Counter, Cuono answered questions from the largely student audience in Boston Hall's Pong Auditorium about her human rights work and her new book, Speak Truth to Power, a series of interviews with human rights defenders around the world.

"This is a great moment for Harvard students of all racial and cultural backgrounds," said Counter. "Ms. Kennedy Cuono is one of America's leading humanitarians. She is following the fine example of her father, Robert F. Kennedy '58, who advocated human rights both domestically and internationally."

Cuono also presented a film based on her book to the class of Harvard students killed in the year-long conflict in El Salvador. She shared personal stories from the personal testimonies of the defenders themselves, many of whom she knew personally. The film was titled "The First Time They Killed Us Without a Shot."
to be broadcast on PBS.

The fifty-one individuals profiled in the book run the gamut from leaders of global importance like Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama to relatively obscure local figures who have nonetheless displayed extraordinary moral courage and resourcefulness in their struggle against oppression and injustice. The book is illustrated with black-and-white portraits by photographer Eddie Adams.

Among the book’s subjects are:

Kailash Satyarthi, an advocate for the abolition of child servitude in Asia, who has emancipated more than 40,000 people from slavery-like conditions. Satyarthi estimates that in his own country of India, 60 million children work at full-time jobs and 20 million are in slave labor.

Bruce Harris, executive director of Covenant House, who works with street children in Guatemala City. In the film, Harris visits a graveyard dedicated to children who have died, many murdered by local police. “These are all kids we know, and that makes me sad,” he said.

Harry Wu, who spent 19 years imprisoned in the Chinese forced-labor system that he hopes to make as well known as the Russian gulag. Wu describes how he turned himself “into a beast” in order to survive.

Digna Ochoa, a Mexican nurse and lawyer who says that her anger gives her the strength and courage to confront perpetrators of injustice. She has won acquittals for clients in highly charged political cases such as the trial of alleged members of the Zapatista insurgency in Chiapas.

Cooney said that her own involvement in the human rights struggle began when she was a sophomore at Brown University and worked as an intern for Amnesty International. Her assignment was to collect evidence on the treatment of Salvadoran political refugees by U.S. immigration officials.

She described her first case. A woman in El Salvador whose husband had “disappeared” tried to find out what had happened to him. Warned by the police to desist, she nevertheless kept asking questions. In retaliation, the police invaded her home and murdered her 15-year-old daughter. The woman filed with her teenage son and got as far as Texas, where she was picked up by immigration officials and imprisoned. According to Cooney’s investigations, the boy was forced under torture to sign a document that said he volunteered to return to El Salvador. Told that her son had signed, the mother agreed as well, and the two were flown back before a defense attorney could interview them.

“I was so horrified by what our country was doing that I was determined to put a stop to it. That experience made such an impression on me that it changed my life,” Cooney said.

Cooney went to law school and later founded the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights, which supports human rights advocates throughout the world.

When asked whether she found the human rights workers’ stories of suffering and torture depressing, Cooney said her reaction was the opposite. “After every interview, I walked away completely inspired,” she said. “I was always so impressed and moved by the capacity of the human spirit to forge ahead in spite of overwhelming danger and odds.” To illustrate her point, she asked the audience what was the first thing they thought of when she said the name Martin Luther King. Someone called out the words, “I have a dream.”

“That’s right. You think of the inspiring message, not people being imprisoned or...
Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference 2000: Pieces of the Mosaic: Diversity Within Our Lives

On October 13-14, 2000, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association held its third annual Chinese-American Intercollegiate Conference (CAIC). The two-day conference attracted approximately 120 Harvard students and 150 students from universities in the East Coast and Midwest, and featured a wide variety of speakers, panel discussions, and entertainers, including the international pop star CoCo Lee. Tied together by the theme “Pieces of the Mosaic: Diversity within Our Lives,” the conference celebrated the rich dedication, achievement, and leadership within the Chinese-American community.

In just its third year, CAIC has become a dynamic forum for the discussion of Chinese-American issues. Often included under the larger umbrella of Asian America, the Chinese-American community faces its own set of cultural, social, economic, and political concerns. The goal of CAIC is to explore and foster the awareness of Chinese American experiences and to strengthen the voice of the Chinese-American and Asian-American community.

The opening event of the conference was a panel discussion about the Chinese America diaspora. Moderated by Visiting Lecturer of Sociology Vijayti Louise, speakers Dr. Howard Ito, Professor Andrew Leong, spoken word poet Beau Sia, and Professor L. Ling-Chi Wong engaged in an informal dialogue with conference atten-
dees on how a common culture and history transcends different generations, and the meaning of being Chinese-American in a transnational society.

Early the next morning, keynote speaker Helen Zia, a prolific author, activist, and speaker, spoke about the need to understand the multifaceted history of Asian America. She urged students to take an active role in civic and political affairs and to not rely on history to unfold. Afterwards, she met briefly with students during a book signing for *Asian-American Dream: The Emergence of an American People*.

The conference then turned to the controversial issue of racial profiling and the case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee. Chung Lee, son of Dr. Lee, began the panel with an overview of his father’s situation and was able to give a more personal angle to a high-profile public case. Professors Leong and Professor Wang then broadened the topic to address the perception of Chinese-Americans as foreigners throughout history and examined the legal questions surrounding racial profiling. Through the publicity and cooperation of the Chinese-American community, this event was well attended by university faculty and adult members of the Boston community.

Attendees then had the option of signing a petition for a presidential pardon for Dr. Lee and donating to the Wen Ho Lee Defense Fund.

After a speaker luncheon in Lowell House sponsored by the Harvard Foundation, attendees returned to the Science Center for a panel discussion about the increasing presence (and often noticeable absence) of Chinese-Americans in the media. Actresses Liu Chang (former television broadcast journalist, *Ms. Liu Chang*‘s *Liu*), and Ms. Jennifer Yung, founder of *A Magazine*, at the Chinese American Interdisciplinary Conference.

During the final panel, Republican Senate candidate Matt Fong and former Lieutenant Governor of Delaware, Sam Woo, engaged in a heated debate over the responses of the Republican and Democratic Party to Asian-American issues. Both candidates were critical of the history of the party and the audience, both speakers agreed on the necessity to combat political apathy through local and national activism.

The evening’s activities began with performances in Lowell Lecture Hall, featuring spoken word artist Staceyann Chin and Bruce Lee, and international pop singer CoCo Lee. Ms. Lee traveled from Taiwan to perform and receive an award for Chinese-American Artist of the Year. The diversity of entertainment, followed by a question-and-answer session with Ms. Lee, gave audience members a glimpse of the tremendous breadth of talent within the Chinese-American community.

During the evening hours, students enjoyed a gala banquet at Dynasty Restaurant followed by dancing in a downtown club. The two-day conference was both inspiring and encouraging, and left attendees with a greater understanding of the issues that face Chinese Americans today. This event was made possible through the generous support of the Harvard Foundation for Interultural and Race Relations.

-Lihan Lin ’03 and Angela Lin ’02
Remember the Titans
(Continued from page 1)

Freshman Dean's Office.

The movie chronicles the story of a newly-integrated high school football team in Virginia and is based on the true story of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, where Herman Boone, played by Denzel Washington, is hired to coach the new, amalgamated football team in an atmosphere of racial distrust between the black and white players. Coach Boone was able to overcome the obstacles of racial prejudice and bring both the team players and the local community together in eth-
nic harmony.

"Remember the Titans is a masterful cinematic achievement and an important contribution to the national effort to improve race relations in America, and Denzel Washington is superb in his role as Coach Herman Boone," said Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. "This remarkable film is a stirring and memorable cinematic experience that will certainly improve race relations in the United States, and Denzel Washington's performance will go down in film history as one of the best of his distinguished career."

The film was very well received by students and faculty, provoking energetic discussion for days afterwards. Some one hundred students and faculty members from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds..."
attended a discussion after the film showing. The discussion was led by Harvard Foundation intern Adam Bailey ’01 and Serri-Yu Wong ’01. “I was most impressed that many students remained after the film premiere for discussion on the impact of the movie,” said Associate Dean of the College Georgene Hershbach. “I have rarely seen Harvard students so moved by a film.” As the credits rolled, the audience cheered and gave the movie a standing ovation.

Remember the Titans addresses in a sensitive and intelligent manner many very pertinent questions of race relations in the United States that are only rarely treated in a full-length feature film by a major studio. In fact, in its two hours, the film captures the essence of the racial conflict in America, and offers us hope that this problem can be resolved through a steadfast commitment to higher principles and inter racial understanding.

The Harvard Foundation would like to express its appreciation toDesiREL Washington and Rita Pearson, as well as to the Walt Disney Studios and its Vice President Mac Joyce for having made it possible to hold this unique film premiere at Harvard. We would also like to thank the Carpenter Center, and especially Mr. Bruce Jenkins and Mr. John Granito, for arranging the film showing in the Harvard Film Archive.

- Harvard Foundation Staff

Harvard College students and faculty attend the premiere of Remember the Titans at the Carpenter Center. The film starred Denzel Washington as the coach who in 1971 integrated T.C. Williams High School in Virginia.

Harvard Foundation Fall 2000 Student Grant Activities

AAA Cultural Extravaganza

On December 2, the Asian American Association, with the help of several other Asian groups on campus, organized the Cultural Extravaganza, a combined food and cultural show celebrating Asian-American culture. Held in Lowell Dining Hall, the event drew a racially diverse group of about 300 people and was organized by Robin Ting ’04 and Shirley Lai ’03.

Various Asian ethnic organizations from the Harvard community set up colorfully decorated booths serving food ranging from pearl iced tea and sushi to vegetable spring rolls and pad thai. These groups included the Chinese Students Association, the Hong Kong Club, Philippine Forum, Japan Society, the South Asian Association, the Taiwanese Cultural Society, and the Thai Society.

Meanwhile, numerous groups took to the stage performing acts that showcased all sorts of Asian American culture. Groups like the Kendos Club, the Tai Chi Tiger Crane Club, and the World Taekwondo Federation gave martial art demonstrations that delighted the audience with their choreographed moves. The Asian American Dance Troupe performed two traditional Chinese dances, while the Korean Drum Troupe routed the audience with their beating drums. Several groups were also new to the Cultural Extravaganza this year. The newly formed Chinese Yu-Yu Club showed off their skills with the complicated Asian toy, and another newcomer, the Chado Society, conducted a Japanese tea ceremony on stage. Other groups showcased less traditional facets of Asian
American culture. Mindy Chen '02 read a few of her spoken word pieces, poems set to a beat, about the unique and often frustrating issues that come with being Asian American. Lonnie Evertson '02 as well as several other Harvard students closed the show with some breaking. The night was an entertaining one, one which would have not been possible without the generous help of the Harvard foundation and the hard work of so many Asian groups on campus.

-jenny shen '03

AAA Handbook to Asian American Life at Harvard and Beyond

The Asian American Handbook should be distributed at the beginning of the spring semester. It is intended to be a comprehensive resource for students interested in finding out more about Asian American culture and issues (political, academic, everything!). To this effect, the Handbook includes essays, information on classes and events related to Asian American interests at Harvard and MIT, lists of undergraduate and graduate Asian American organizations at Harvard, reviews of Asian restaurants, clubs and grocery stores in the Boston area, information on internship and conference opportunities, and much more. The Handbook will be available to the general public, although only students who have expressed interest in the Asian American Association will receive it free of charge.

-Emmeline Chuang '02

AAA Players Present A Language Of Their Own

On the weekends of November 9-11 and November 16-18, 2000, the Harvard Asian American Association presented a theatrical production of Chen Yew's A Language of Their Own in the Leverett House Old Library. The production was directed by student director Janeen Chen '01. A series of dialogues and monologues, A Language of Their Own is a witty, yet bittersweet look at love and its labors lost. Directed by Janeen Chen and produced by Casey Hu '01 and Annie Wong '02, the play asks the questions "Do we ever outgrow or learn from our mistakes?" and "In the end, are all love stories the same?" By following the course of the failed relationship of two Asian-American men, the play addressed issues of race and sexual identity in present-day America. Both humorous and gravely serious at times, the production boasted a multicultual cast and met with success at the box office as well, as packed audiences came to see the production during both weekends.

The production furthered AAA Players' goals to present issues of significance to Asian America, to promote the work of Asian American playwrights, and to encourage students to take a more active role in an arena in which Asian Americans have been less prominent. AAA Players are grateful for the continued support of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

-Carey Hu '01 and Annie Wong '02

AADT Banquet Dance

The Asian American Dance Troupe choreographed and performed the banquet dance during the full semester of 2000-2001. A three part dance, the banquet dance includes a farmer bat dance, a cheekpicket dance, and a plate dance. The farmer bat portion of the banquet dance is especially notable because it is a traditional Chinese peasant dance, unlike the usual court dances most troupes perform. The dancers represent farmers washing rice, making sticky rice, and selling vegetables, often straw, bundles of sticky rice wrapped in lotus leaves. This dance has been highlighted at several events including the graduate school student Color formal in Fairmont Copley Square Hotel on November 30, 2000. It was also performed in front of a crowded audience of over one hundred people at the Asian American Association Cultural Extravaganza on December 2, 2000 in Lowell Dining Hall. The reception at these performances was very positive. Part of the banquet and dance was performed at the annual Chinese Students Association New Year's Banquet on February 9, 2001 in front of an audience of over 300 Harvard students, faculty, and staff. The success of this dance will make it a staple dance for the troupe for years to come. The Asian American Dance Troupe acknowledges the funding of the Harvard Foundation and the Office of the Arts at Harvard University.

-Wh Ha '03

AADT Spinning Scarf Dance

Choreographed in November, the spinning scarf dance—never before performed at Harvard—became a major performance piece for the Asian American Dance Troupe this winter. This dance is a type of Chinese traditional folk dance, combining scarves and flutter fans in a medley of bright colors. Starting with lively running and leaps, the dance then moves into a steady, graceful section with spinning scarves and beautiful fan poses for a few minutes. Then the dance ends with a short, quick section, much like the beginning, but even faster and trickier. The Asian American Dance Troupe finished learning the dance in early January, and it has been previewed by several audiences already. It will also be showcased on Friday, February 9, 2001, at the annual Chinese Students Association New Year's Banquet, a sold-out event attracting over three hundred Harvard students and affiliates. Because of the success of the project, the troupe has also decided to perform this dance at Cultural Rhythms on February 25, 2001, in front of over eight hundred people from the Harvard community. The Asian American Dance Troupe acknowledges the funding of the Harvard Foundation and the Office of the Arts at Harvard University.

-Wh Ha '03

BSA Apollo Night 2000

Apollo Night 2000 took place on Friday, October 28, 2000 in Lowell Lecture Hall. The talented hosts, Jamie Lawrence '03, Mei Secret '01, and Karl
Malloy '03 entertained the audience between introducing acts. The talent showcase was filled with a variety of acts from Latin dancing and vocal performances by Espressions, Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, and '04 Steppers. Modeled after "Showtime at the Apollo," the performers were brought to the stage by Kimberly Levy '03 (Raki Shepherd), and introduced to the audience Apollo style. The show was complete with boa acts, and when booted, Sand Man (Matthew Espy '03) quickly ushered the acts off stage. Sand Man also performed a comedy routine during the brief intermission, which rivaled those in comedy clubs. The winners were two young men, Adam Collins and Nate, from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, who performed a hip-hop piece they choreographed themselves. The winners, chosen by audience participation, received $100.

The event, which sells out well in advance, was attended by over 350 people. Amusing a diverse audience and performers from every aspect of the Harvard community, the event reflects the diaspora of cultures represented in the Harvard student body. These events help to provide students the opportunity to highlight the most intriguing aspects of their culture, exposing the Harvard community to performances they might not see otherwise. The producer, Kimberly Marshall '03, successfully modeled the show more closely than previous years after "Showtime at Apollo," and the event produced by the Black Student Association would not have been possible without the grant from the Harvard Foundation.

-Kimberly Marshall '03

Freshman Black Table  “Documenting Our Discussions”

The Freshman Black Table made history this year by being the first class to record our discussions to serve as guidance for future generations of the FBT. Since our videos are also open to the public, they may serve in assisting student research projects and senior theses relating to racial issues facing young blacks. Recording our weekly discussions proved to be a great success. It provided students with a sense of importance since it would be a main source for classes to come. The Harvard Foundation helped make this possible. We used the grant awarded to finance the weekly videoconference recorder minus the portion of the course of one semester totaling $120.

This year the freshman black table also set a precedence of welcoming diverse groups to take part in our discussions in order to generate a rich mix of ideas and voices. We will continue to maintain this diverse dialogue and also hope to host a freshman poetry reading night during Black History Month.

-Nilu Nilsenky ‘04

Mahjong-Karaoke Night

On October 13, the Harvard Radcliffe Chinese Students Association held its annual Mahjong-Karaoke Night in Lover Common. It is an event that the members of CSA and the rest of the Harvard community have come to expect from CSA each year. It consists of the female portion of the Harvard community and the male portion of the Harvard community. The event is scheduled for the same night as the Chinese American intercollegiate conference, so that members of the Harvard community would have a chance to mingle with people from other colleges and learn about this popular Chinese form of relaxation and recreation. It drew a crowd of approximately 100 people. The HARCSA expresses great gratitude to the Harvard Foundation for its financial support. Without it, this event would not have been possible.

-Jian Li ’02

CSA Pearl Milk Tea

On December 3, 2000, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chinese Students Association held its first Pearl Milk Tea event. Milk Pearl Iced Tea has grown to be one of the most popular drinks in Hong Kong and urban China. It is a sweet blend of condensed milk and tea chilled with crushed ice. What makes the drink so special are the pearls that float in the drinks. The pearls are balls of gelatin that float in the tea. It has made its way across from China and has been popularized in many cities in the United States, especially in Chinatowns. CSA shared this special drink in a study break, to offer the students a chance to sample the gelatin pearls and the Chinese iced tea and to bring students together for a social hour. Held in Lover Commons, the pearl milk tea was served with pastries during a screening of the movie Feng Shui. The turnout of approximately fifty people consisted of many who tasted pearl milk tea for the first time. Almost everyone came back for seconds, and even some for thirds. The Harvard Foundation would like to express its deep gratitude to the Harvard Foundation for its financial support. Without it, this event would not be able to happen.

-Jian Li ’02

CSA Santa Ana Project presents IncaSon’s Anniversary Concert

On October 20, 2000, the world-renowned Andean music group IncaSon performed at Sanders Theatre and created much buzz with the magnificent song and dance of its anniversary concert. IncaSon has achieved recognition both in the United States and in Peru as being ambassadors of Peruvian culture. In 1999, they won the "Outstanding World Music Act" of the Boston Music Awards and recorded on the Boston Pop's new Latin album. Organized by the Catholic Students Association Committee to restore the Church of Santa Ana in Ayacucho, Peru, the event attracted an audience of 570 (split roughly between adults and students). Besides having its complete band, IncaSon invited professional Peruvian dancers from New York who complemented the music with different Peruvian dances to beautiful traditional attire corresponding to each dance. On the following day, the Harvard, the
Harvard Crimson published the article "IncaSon, Electric Performers Thrill the Crowd" in preparation for the concert. The event was made possible by the Rincón Limró Restaurant, Cosmopolitan Travel (who donated a free round-trip American Airlines ticket for the contiguous United States, which was raffled during intermission), Classic Copy and Printing, the Peruvian Colony of Massachusetts (COPEMA), and the Harvard Catholic Students Association.

-Dorion Carlos McCord '02

Dharma Diwali

Diwali, held in the room of组团二
Jaggi and Harini Reddy (two kind
seniors), took place on Wednesday, October
25, 2000. Diwali is an Indian religious festi
val that marks the return of Sri Ram, in
the epic Ramayana, from his fourteen year
exile in the forest. This event has great
meaning for all Indians, and is marked as
a holiday in India. It was a great turn out as
over fifty people packed into a tiny room.
Every year, a special Diwali dinner was
hosted in the large hall, which was
taken over by various Indian groups.
The evening began with the lighting of
the oil lamp and the singing of songs.

-Dorion Carlos McCord '02

Dharma Navratri

Navratri, a joyous Hindu festival, was
held on Saturday, November 4, 2000,
in the Lowell Dining Hall (after all the
tables and chairs were cleared away). It is a
fall harvest festival that celebrates the
Goddess, a symbol of wisdom and purity.
Many Boston colleges, such as MIT, Tufts,
Boston University (just to name a few),
were invited to participate in this happy occa
sion.
First, a fire-lighting puja, or Indian
prayer, was held, where one could relax and
meditate during a fifteen-minute cere
mony. Flowers were offered to God, and
bouquets were sung. After the puja, there
were drinks and samosas, a savory Indian
dish, served to all those who attended.

-Dorion Carlos McCord '02

Diversity & Distinction

This semester, Diversity & Distinction
published two issues of the magazine.
The fall issue, entitled "Educational Divides: Beyond the One-Room
Schoolhouse," included cover package arti
cles that explored many of the issues raised
by contemporary American education and
educational institutions. The cover package
included articles on the possible impacts of
various school voucher proposals, the edu
cational experiences of Native American students on and off reservations, the obsta
cles faced by the high school-age immi
grants who must learn English in public
schools, the idea of the commodification of
education, and a personal commentary on
high school Gay-Straight alliances. The fall
issue also included a Mosaic section (art
and literature), a Views section (short pieces
solicited from non-staff writers within the
Harvard community) by Harvard students
considering careers in education, and a
profile of Coco Lee. Feature and com
mentary pieces included "Of Human
Bondage" on slavery in the Sudan, "Politics
101: The Multiple Faces of Asian Americans" on political activism by Asian
American students, and a commentary
piece on gossip in the African-American
community at Harvard.
The winter issue, entitled Serving Up
Diversity, seeks to investigate how the word
'diversity' and the concept(s) associated
with it are and have been used and inter
preted. The cover package includes articles
on the history of corporate diversity-train
ing programs, the various campaigns for
ethnic studies and how they reflect on
interpreting "diversity," the ways in which
issues of socio-economic diversity can be
overlooked, and the revised debate over
innovating religion in public schools and
concern for religious diversity. The winter
issue also includes a Views section that is
a transcription of a roundtable discussion
of students about Black History Month,
Mosaic, a profile of Julie Kayyem '91,
and feature and commentary pieces.

-In addition to the publications, on
November 1, Diversity & Distinction co
-sponsored, with several other Harvard stu
dent organizations, a forum attracting an
estimated 350–400 people to Science
Center C. Panels included Diana Eck,
Professor of Comparative Religion and
Indian Studies; Michael Sandel, Professor
of Government; Father Bryan Hehir, Dean
of the Divinity School, and John Roberts,
Executive director of ACLU-
Massachusetts. The panel was moderated by
Nur Yalan, Professor of Middle Eastern
Studies and Anthropology.

-Classic Owynmears '02

Expressions 'Groove Inn'

The Fall 2000 Expressions dance event,
ettitled "Groove Inn," was a huge suc
cess. The event, which was held in Kilman
Dance Theatre, sold out on both nights,
December 8 and 9. "Groove Inn" consisted
of student-choreographed dances from a
variety of groups including jazz, hip-hop,
and modern dancing. Many people who
attended the show claimed that they
took thought each piece in the show was unique
and that this made the show especially
entertaining.
The audience, consisting of 140 people per night, was also diverse. Many of the people who attended were students; but in addition to students, the audience was also composed of faculty and tutors of Harvard College, family members and friends of dancers in the show, along with young children. The show's director led audience members to enjoy the show.

'Groove line' would not have been a success without the hard work of many students, including choreographers and dancers, lighting and sound assistant, and others who contributed. But it would also not have been possible without the funding of the Harvard Foundation, the Undergraduate Council, and the Office of the Arts, made the event possible due to the grants Expressions received from these organizations. These grants enabled Expressions to have better costumes, sound and lighting, and overall a better, more professional show.

-Erika Jungblut '02

Harvard Philippine Forum
Filipino Holiday Celebration

On the evening of December 16, the Harvard Philippine Forum (HPF) held its holiday celebration at Loker Commons Coffeehouse. The event was designed to educate and promote the appreciation of Filipino culture in the Harvard community by enjoying traditional Filipino food, song, and dance, as well as learning about cultural traditions surrounding the holiday season in the Philippines. Though a rainy night somewhat limited attendance, almost forty members of the Harvard community came out to learn and enjoy the night. Reflecting on the tradition of the Singbuhay Gahi, the event featured two speakers who focused on the issue of Religion in the Philippines. Minda Bascos, from MIT, gave a presentation on the history and traditions of Christianity in the Philippines. She outlined the Spanish roots of the current tagalog traditions and the current influence of the historical dichotomy of the Filipino's devotion to their religion and the resentment of the colonizers who brought that religion. Madge Kho, a local scholar on Muslim-Christian relations in the Philippines also gave a brief talk on the roots of the Monarchist conflict that has been such a major issue over the years in the Philippines.

The HPF Dance Troupe performed the Tinkling, the national dance of the Philippines. In this performance, dancers step through long bamboo poles that are clapped together. The dance is meant to imitate the Tinkling bird (a heron), standing on its long legs stepping through sticks in the rice paddies in the rural areas of the Philippines. The dance troupe also spent time teaching the dance to all willing (and brave) guests. The event also gave guests a chance to learn a new language and sing along to some traditional Christmas songs such as "Paano na Narito" and "Ang Paghalin sa Sambat". Of course, the event would not have been complete without traditional Filipino foods such as adobo, lechon, pancit and siopao cooked by the HPF members. Thanks to the help of our speakers, the Harvard Foundation, and our guests, the event proved to be an enjoyable success.

Thanks to the help of the Harvard Foundation, the Harvard Philippine Forum Dance Troupe was able to purchase eight 12-foot bamboo poles required for many of their performances and can be used for a variety of performances such as the Tinkling, Singbuhay, Sabatolok, or ibab-iwik. The sticks were purchased from a vendor in Jamaica Plains.

-Robert Noon '02

Fifth Pan-Collegiate Conference on the Mixed Race Experience

On April 20-22, 2001, approximately 100 mixed-race students, families, and faculty from throughout the world converged at Harvard University for a three-day conference celebrating the mixed race experience and also educating each other about the history, health, and political issues concerning people of mixed race. The conference was organized and hosted by Harvard HAPA, an organization that deals with issues of being of mixed Asian heritage.

The mixed race experience is an umbrella term used to define the diverse experiences of biracial, multiracial, and multiracial people, trans-racial adoptees, and interracial families. Of paramount importance to Harvard HAPA and the conference was a recognition of the diversity of the mixed race experience. In recognizing this diversity, the conference provided a forum to communicate more effectively and address social and political issues of concern to all participants. Also, it was our goal to offer the opportunity to learn about various aspects and perspectives on mixed race as well as in history through a wide variety of workshops, speakers, performances, and exhibits. Performances and exhibits were in the form of an open-mic session held on Friday night in which students and others shared their poetic art with each other.

This was Harvard HAPA's second year hosting the conference. And like last year, it was an extremely successful endeavor. Harvard HAPA would like to thank the Harvard Foundation, the Undergraduate Council, and Boston College's MCBC for their financial and emotional support. We could not have done it without you.

-Alias Hall '03

African Students Association's Cultural Show

On November 3, 2000, the Harvard African Students' Association held an annual cultural show at Lowell Lecture Hall. This year, the cultural show was dedicated to the African woman named Okeke (an Igbo word for "queen" or "woman"). The show consisted of many cultural performances. These included dancing, singing, drumming, poetry, storytelling and skits. The performances represented the various regions of the continent. There were about 200 people at the show. The audience was primarily made up of Harvard students and Faculty. However, there other members from Boston area schools such as MIT, Wellesley, Northeastern and Boston College in attendance.
The event served to educate the audience about the diverse culture of the African continent. It featured on parts of African culture that are directly related to the African woman. It was a very entertaining and educative show and many people expressed their satisfaction after the show.

Our main sources of external funds were the Harvard Foundation Student Grant Program and the College Activities Fund. The members of the Association helped a lot by donating clothing and other items.

-Par Kaari Nneve '03

**Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society Holiday Party**

On December 14, the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society hosted a holiday party in the Coffeehouse at Loker Commons. Various Scandinavian refreshments were served, such as traditional Christmas soda, pepparkakor, Icelandic pastries, Icorice and traditional Santa Lucia bun. Sofia Liszkogi '01, Yoni Kim '02, Uma Vimanathan '01, Kristin Rakowski '03, and several other students performed a traditional Santa Lucia procession, wearing white robes and wreaths upon their heads, carrying candles and singing Swedish Christmas songs. The holiday is in celebration of Santa Lucia, a fourth century Sicilian woman who is said to have brought food to the persecuted Roman Christians. She was a virgin and martyr, killed for her religion, and was one of the first Christian Saints to become popular, by the fifth century.

The Santa Lucia procession is traditionally led by the oldest dispenser in the family, wearing a wreath on her head with seven candles, and brings Santa Lucia buns to all of the family members in their homes. Santa Lucia is the "Queen of Light" and she is said to lead the way for the sun, signaling longer days ahead during the harsh Scandinavian winter. Approximately 30 people attended this event, some of whom were members of the Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society and others who were not members.

-Kristin Rakowski '03

**Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society Hosts Esko Aho, former Prime Minister of Finland**

On December 11, Esko Aho, former Prime Minister of Finland, gave a talk in the Eliot House Library as a guest of the Harvard Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society. About thirty people attended, including members of the Scandinavian Society, Eliot House, and Harvard Finnish community. Mr. Aho was Prime Minister of Finland from 1991 to 1995 and is currently a fellow at the Institute of Politics.

Mr. Aho spoke on the topic of "America from a Finnish Perspective," discussing the history of Finnish emigration to America and his own impressions of Finnish influences in the American Midwest. He gave an overview of Finnish government and social policy, comparing them to the respective American systems. Afterwards, Mr. Aho fielded questions relating to Finland's leadership in the technology industry, its failure in the European Union, and his perspective on the recent US presidential election. Students were able to meet Mr. Aho personally at a small reception which followed the talk.

-Yoni Kim '02

**Japan Society New Year’s Banquet**

In January, the Japan Society hosts what has become the club’s flagship event of each school year. In Japanese culture, the New Year is by far the most important holiday. The turn of the year is symbolic in many respects. Most importantly, it represents renewal — an opportunity for change and a departure from the demons of the year gone by. More subtly, the New Year embodies a time of reflection and meditation on the events, both good and bad, of the year past. In Japan, New Year’s Day is the starting point for the cycle of life; it is both a time of hopeful projection and a time of sober reflection.

It is in this cultural spirit that the Harvard Japan Society convenes each January to celebrate the New Year. This year’s event was a rousing success. With a crowd of close to 100 packing the Loker Coffee House, the Japan Society was able to help bring in the New Year with a bang. For those students emerging freshly from their winter breaks into a reading period, the event was an excellent chance to get together with friends, enjoy exotic food and feel right at home back at Harvard.

This year the Japan Society had the support of Mr. and Mrs. Yamaguchi —parents of Japan Society co-Food Chair Yuka Yamaguchi ‘02—in the preparation and presentation of Japanese delicacies at the banquet. The celebration featured a diverse menu, including traditional New Year’s food such as mizhi and dessert, as well as more standard (but no less authentic) Japanese foods such as suki, obon and inakos. Board members manned the food line, diligently dishing out smiles and greetings, not to mention the delicious food.

While the guests feasted on the fantastic Japanese food, they watched “Ko-Haku,” the annual “Red-White” singing competition that faces off Japan’s most popular male artist against their female counterpart. In Japan, the “Ko-Haku” battle, televised on the national television network, is synonymous with the New Year.

The New Year’s Banquet was arguably the Japan Society’s most successful event in recent years. Advertised through the club’s e-mail list, news of the event spread by word of mouth, attracting a crowd much larger than anticipated. Nonetheless, thanks to the generous help of the Yamaguchis, no one left the venue hungry. Thanks to all those who attended the event and best wishes in 2002!

You can check out pictures of the event at the JS website: go to www.hcs.harvard.edu/~js and follow the “Pictures” link.

-Masayuki J. Hoshino ’02

**Harvard Japan Society Tsukimi (Moon Viewing)**

This year’s annual Japan Society Tsukimi was held from 9-11pm on October 13, 2000 in the Common Room.
DURING the two hours we were there, somewhere between 30 and 40 people showed up to partake in the festivities, eat the food, and socialize. We were pleased to see many members of the Harvard community show up who we had not met before. The event was for the most part very low-key, with explanations of the cultural significance of the event and food interspersed with periods of relaxed socializing and conversation all set against a soft background of Japanese pop music.

The event was a great success that was enjoyed by all who attended! Everyone seemed to have fun and really appreciate the delicious Tsukimi treat made possible in large part due to funding provided by the Harvard Foundation. It was a wonderful way for us to begin our yearly series of formal club activities with a bang! We look forward to similar success next year and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Harvard Foundation for its generous support! 

-Kent Mos/Wilker '99/01

Korean Association hosts
Cho Kyung Hee

Twenty to thirty members of the Harvard community gathered in Harvard Hall on November 13, 2000 to hear the life story of Cho Kyung Hee. Visiting the United States from South Korea to speak to the Korean Association of New York, Mrs. Cho stopped by Harvard to give her first-hand perspective on Korean history. Graduating from Ewha Womans University in 1939, Mrs. Cho spent many years as the only female reporter at the major Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo. In the 1980s, she was elected to the Presidency of the Korean National Academy of the Arts, which led to her selection by President Roh Tae Woo for the position of Minister of the Second Ministry of Political Affairs in 1988 and later Secretary of State for Political Affairs in 1989. Currently, the 83-year-old Mrs. Cho edited an essay journal, prides itself on the Ewha Association of Korea, and continues her association with the Korean National Academy of the Arts.

During her talk, which was kindly translated by Harvard Law student Kai Lee, Mrs. Cho recounted this life history, interpreting it with humorous anecdotes and references to general Korean history. Throughout her life, Mrs. Cho demonstrated an intense curiosity of potential advancements for Korea and worked to implement them. As a reporter, Mrs. Cho toured the United States, including a beauty pageant, then returned to report her observations to Korea even coaching then Miss Korea into the finals of the Miss Universe pageant. When she ran for the presidency of the Korean National Academy of the Arts, the male incumbent did not take Mrs. Cho seriously. As she garnered more support, he offered her a bribe to back out of the election. She refused and went on to win the election. Later, as Minister of Political Affairs, Mrs. Cho had the freedom to work on social reforms in Korea, and took up advocacy for the elderly.

Mrs. Cho, after sharing her stories, wished us all well, encouraged us to continue our studies, and expressed her happiness to have visited Harvard.

Latino Issues Forum Summary

On Thursday, November 2, 2000 at 9pm, RAZA held its second annual Latino Issues Forum. The event took place in the Elliot House JCR. While the scheduled event ran from 9pm-11pm, many students showed up to help cook at 7:30. While the cooking did not require twelve people in the kitchen, that many people showed up and helped supervise the cooking process. We prepared a Mexican queso, a thick new-like dish. Because we could not use and supervise the kitchen for the appropriate amount of time, we had to use canned beans. The Mexican salad was finely shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, sliced onion, and sliced cucumber with lemon juice and salt. Approximately 50 people attended (however, not all at the same time). People came representing different Latino organizations on campus including
of the world which Islam encompasses. HIS hosted other events to demonstrate the Turkish and South Asian roots of Islam as well, but this one cosponsored with SAS was aimed towards revealing the Arab aspect of the religion.

A Moroccan musician from Boston, Sa’eed was invited along with his group to sing for the audience, which included approximately forty members of the Harvard community beyond just those from faculty and others. He performed several religious tunes accompanied by another vocalist and a performer playing the tabla (drum). Sa’eed’s performance lasted for 45 minutes or so, after which members of the audience had the opportunity to speak with him and his band members.

After the music, students wandered around the room to look at the art displays and participate in the refreshments provided by Harvard University Dining Services. Among the items displayed were Islamic prayer rugs, pictures from the holy city of Mecca, and objects displaying Arabic calligraphy.

-Rita Hamel '03

Dumpling Workshop

On October 20, 2000, 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 thirty Harvard students came to the DeWolfe Common Room to taste and try their hand at making Taiwanese dumplings and egg rolls.

Grace Kao ’01, an expert in the culinary arts, led the cooking demonstration by showing the proper technique in preparing dumplings. She described the cultural significance of making and eating this special dish for festive occasions. The dumplings are made from an outer wrapping made largely from flour, which encloses an inner filling generally consisting of ground pork, Chinese cabbage, leeks, mushrooms, and other ingredients. The filling mixture is seasoned and then sealed within the flour wrapping, which can be made from scratch. This ensures that the flavors and juices will remain inside the dumplings, which are then boiled and served with soy sauce and vinegar.

Then Ms. Kao showed participants how to make egg rolls. Egg rolls are made from slightly different ingredients as dumplings. They can have a vegetable filling instead of meat and are deep fried, not boiled like dumplings. The workshop participants rolled, cut, and shaped their own dumpling and egg rolls. After the dumplings and egg rolls were cooked, everyone had the chance to taste the evening’s creations, and all accounts agreed that it was delicious. The evening’s workshop closed with remarks about the importance of cooking and eating in Taiwanese culture. Traditionally, eating a meal in a celebration, and especially in an environment as diverse as the Harvard campus, this workshop brought together students of different heritages to learn about and appreciate a delectable aspect of Taiwanese culture.

-William Lee '02

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

On Friday, September 15, 2000, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society presented the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. This festival is a traditional Chinese (and also Taiwanese) celebration that falls on the eighth full moon of the lunar calendar. By holding this event, the Taiwanese Cultural Society sought to highlight and encourage appreciation of Chinese culture through food and dance. The festival was sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is a holiday during which family and friends meet to celebrate the full moon and its significance in the fall harvest. The distinguishing characteristic of the festival is the consumption of moon cakes, small cakes filled with red bean paste that have a round shape resembling the full moon. The legend of the Moon Festival (which is beyond the scope of this summary) is retold on this occasion.

To magnify the cultural significance of
the festival, the Taiwanese Cultural Society offered a cooking workshop in the DeWolfe Common Room, led by Grace Kao '91, at which constituents got to make moon cakes. In addition to the moon cakes, the forty or so participants were able to sample two other authentic Chinese desserts: red bean soup and almond jelly. After the cooking workshop concluded, the Taiwanese Cultural Society planned to lead the participants in an observance of the full moon, but unfortunately the inclement weather prevented this consummation of the evening. Still, considering that forty people came on a rainy night to learn about Chinese culture through culinary exploration, we feel that this activity was a great success.

William Lee '02

Taiwan-China Relations Panel Discussion

On the afternoon of Monday, December 11, 2000, the Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society sponsored a panel discussion on the topic of Taiwan-China relations, a timely discussion given the recent diplomatic rifts between the two nations. The discussion was held in Loker Commons Coffeehouse and featured Professor Alan Wachman, Assistant Professor of International Politics at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Coordinator of the Taiwan Studies Workshop at Harvard University’s Fiersbach Center. Professor Wachman is also a Harvard College graduate and a former Quincy House resident. Originally scheduled for the spring semester, the event was postponed until the fall semester due to scheduling conflicts. The panel discussion was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

Stephanie Wang '03 organized the activity and opened the discussion with brief remarks and an introduction of Professor Wachman. From the beginning, Professor Wachman drew upon his broad expertise in discussing the future of Taiwan-China relations following the recent elections and political turmoil in Taiwan. While he addressed present-day security issues, he also considered the history of Taiwan, including Japanese occupation, as well as generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Wachman is extremely popular with young people in modern Taiwanese culture and in America. It allows participants to sing songs with background music and scrolling lyrics on a television screen. To some extent, the phenomenon of karaoke demonstrates the close relationship between Japanese and Taiwanese culture. The students enjoyed a relaxing night by singing songs in Chinese and English, both individually and in groups. The sounds of karaoke entertainment attracted a great number of students walking through the Loker Commons complex, many of whom stayed to grab a microphone in hand and sing a song.

Tea and Karaoke Night

The Harvard-Radcliffe Taiwanese Cultural Society organized a Tea and Karaoke Night in Loker Commons on the evening of Friday, December 15, 2000. Over fifty members of the Harvard community attended this activity and had a wonderful opportunity to enjoy these facets of traditional and modern Taiwanese culture. The evening was sponsored by a generous grant from the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

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TCS Chinese Yo-Yo (Tsuh Ling) Workshop Series

Throughout the Fall 2000 semester, the Taiwanese Cultural Society has held semi-weekly instructional workshops in the traditional art from known as tsuh ling, or more commonly known as Chinese yo-yo. This workshop series is sponsored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

The ‘Chinese yo-yo’ is an apparatus consisting of a yo-yo type object that rolls along a long string that is held by the performer at both ends by two sticks. The basic moves of the tsuh ling art form consist of twirling, throwing and catching the yo-yo object. Experienced performers can perform more advanced feats. All will agree that tsuh ling is a spectacular art form, as well as a popular art form in the Chinese world. One can find tsuh ling demonstrations in theater halls and on the street.

The tsuh ling instructional workshops have been led by David Jing '03, an expert in this art form. Mr. Jing has had extensive experience in tsuh ling. He has performed in a great number of shows, and many years of teaching tsuh ling at Chinese schools, his high school and local elementary schools.

The workshops have attracted a devoted following. At each workshop, about twenty participants attend, and of that twenty there are ten who consistently attend workshops. This core group performed at the Asian American Association's Cultural Extravaganza in December, and is planning more public performances in the spring. These performers have not only learned about and appreciated a unique aspect of Chinese and Taiwanese culture, but are also sharing it with the greater Harvard community. For these reasons, the first semester of the Chinese yo-yo workshop series has been a great success.

William Lee '02
MultiCultural Issues Forum Progress Report

During the fall semester, the MultiCultural Issues Forum expanded the number and scope of its programs, all part of an ongoing effort to foster dialogue and cooperation among Harvard's various ethnic, cultural, racial, religious, and other groups. The group prioritizes honest, sincere dialogue: only through dialogue comes understanding, and only through understanding comes change. The semester's activities culminated with the First Annual Cultural Leaders Reception, held on Wednesday, January 10, 2001.

At the start of the semester, we redefined our goals and ideas, ultimately producing a revamped mission statement, around which we could organize our efforts. As participation in MCIF activities, and all-around awareness of MCIF, had reached a low last year, we began the semester with a recruiting campaign. Tableting at the activities fair, holding info sessions shortly after, and publicizing our activities, the MultiCultural Issues Forum built an extensive email list of individuals interested in our program. With a small leadership board, the MCIF continually has generated an impressive turnout for our events.

This year seems to have been the year for dialogue. Our primary energies in Fall 2000 centered around Dialogue Circles. Whereas last year only four dialogue circles were held, this year we aimed at hosting three per month. In October, as a response to renewed violence in the Middle East, and subsequent tension between campus organizations, we led two dialogues addressing various aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We worked closely with members of Hillel, Society of Arab Students, and other more knowledgeable groups in structuring informative and productive discussion. We also helped advertise for the events that Hillel and SAS sponsored independently. We were successful in presenting balanced information and arguments about this sensitive topic.

In November, our theme was "What it means to be American." Our discussion topics ranged from reparations for Native and Black Americans to challenges facing bi-racial/multiethnic people. Then we assisted the Undergraduate Council in planning and advertising the campus-wide Days of Dialogue, which took place on Wednesday and Thursday, November 28th and 29th. The first evening entitled "Inside the Gates" allowed individuals from the entire Harvard community to discuss real issues that concern members of the Harvard community. Session topics were Rape/Sexual Assault, Self-Resegregation, and "Is there room for God at Harvard." Days of Dialogue was not as successful as we had dreamed, but we learned valuable skills that we applied to our later events.

Each month, we attempted to specifically design at least three campus organizations whose missions seemed most related to the topic being discussed. We desired that the various groups advise us about what they desired the outcome of the discussion to be and what to avoid. This attracted to MCIF individuals who might otherwise never have been involved, but who cared deeply about the issue. Furthermore, we advertised our discussions and events to the entire community via email lists and poster campaigns. The Dialogue Circles proved successful in bringing together diverse groups and individuals interested in the topics, prompting open dialogue about the topics, and generally raising awareness about the vision of the MultiCultural Issues Forum. In addition to hosting our own Dialogue Circles, the MultiCultural Issues Forum collaborated extensively with other organizations in planning other events. In November, MCIF co-sponsored Diversity and Distinction's Forum on "The Role of Religion in Public Life."

The semester's work culminated on Wednesday, January 10, 2001, with the First Annual Cultural Leaders Reception, held in the Lowell House Junior Common Room. Attendance by more than 40 student group leaders, the reception facilitated communication between Harvard's many groups and enabled participants to meet one another and begin to plan joint activities. We first introduced MCIF's activities and plans for the coming semester. After, we went through the spring calendar month by month, and asked the student group leaders to announce any events they plan to hold, noting places where they would appreciate assistance from other groups. The information, including the list of events as well as the names and email addresses of all participants, was subsequently sent to all participants and also posted on MCIF's web site. Turnout for the event was highly successful, and feedback was incredible.

Fall 2000 was just the beginning of a phenomenal work to progress. We hope to further expand the number and improve the quality of activities we host. We plan to continue the weekly Dialogue Circles throughout Spring 2001. In addition, we hope to cultivate more relationships and co-sponsorship between more student organizations through our Monthly Dinners, bringing several groups together each month for a dinner as well as other events, their groups are sponsoring. We plan to continue sponsoring and co-sponsoring larger events, such as the Faces of America Conference, the Hate Crimes Panel, and other such campus happenings. The assistance of the Harvard Foundation and other groups helped make Fall 2000 the great success that it was. We are looking forward to working with you in Spring 2001.
Harvard Foundation Staff

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Andrew Ano, '01
                                    
Manuel Andrews, '03
Adam Bailey, '01
Makenna Carma, '00
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Kenya Ekere, '01, Student Advisory Committee Co-Chair
Marlee Loehr, '01, Student Advisory Committee Co-Chair
Adi Massif, '02
Sue-Mei Wong, '01

Not pictured: Ms. Nina Saucier, '01, Student Advisory Committee Secretary/Treasurer

The Harvard Foundation would like to express their appreciation to our staff photographer, Marcus Helvi.