

The

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## Randall Robinson Speaks on Reparations



Ms. Ada Maxwell '02, Harvard Foundation Intern (center), welcomes social justice advocate and Harvard Law School alumnus Randall Robinson back to Harvard. Ms. Aaliyah Williams '02, president of the Black Students Association (right) served as one of two student moderators in a discussion with Mr. Robinson on the subject of reparations for African-Americans.

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*

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## Cuomo's *Speak Truth* Earns Recognition



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

Kerry Kennedy Cuomo visited Harvard on Monday, December 4, to receive the Harvard Foundation

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## 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 Deans.

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 showing was also held for members of the first-year class by arrangement with the

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When Herman Boone (Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington, center) is hired over veteran football coach Bill Yoast (Will Patton, left) to lead the T.C. Williams High School team, *The Titans*, the players, including Jerry 'Rev' Harris (Craig Kirkwood, right) are forced to overcome personal obstacles in Walt Disney Pictures' / Jerry Bruckheimer Films' drama, *Remember The Titans*, based on a remarkable true story.

## Randall Robinson

(Continued from page 1)

*Owes To Blacks.* This book deals with the issue of slavery and addresses the idea of reparations for African Americans. The event, held in the Fong Auditorium of Boylston 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 in which candidates are not made accountable



Danielle Jean-Pierre (HLS '01) speaks with social justice advocate Randall Robinson, at a dinner in his honor at Quincy House.

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, Ms. Aaliyah Williams '02, president of the Black Students Association, and Mr. Peter-Charles 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-

### In this issue:

Randall Robinson author of *The Debt* Honored by Harvard Foundation/1; Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, Distinguished Human Rights Advocate, Guest of Honor at the Harvard Foundation/1; The Harvard Foundation premieres *Remember The Titans*/1; Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference *Pieces of the Mosaic: Diversity Within Our Lives*/6; Annual Harvard Foundation Freshman Brunch/4; AAA Cultural Extravaganza/10; AAA Handbook to Asian American Life at Harvard and Beyond/11; AAA Players Present A Language Of Their Own/11; AADT Banquet Dance/11; AADT Spinning Scarf Dance/11; BSA Apollo Night 2000/11; CSA Mahjong-Karaoke Night/12; CSA Pearl Milk Tea/12; CSA Santa Ana Project/12; Dharma Bhajanavali/13; Dharma Diwali/13; Dharma Navratri/13; *Diversity & Distinction*/13; Expressions Fall Dance Program/13; Freshman Black Table Documenting Our Discussion/12; Harvard African Students Association Cultural Show/14; Half Asian Persons Association: Fifth Pan Collegiate Conference on the Mixed Race Experience/14; Harvard Japan Society Tsukimi (Moon Viewing)/15; Japan Society New Year's Banquet/15; Korean Association hosts Cho Kyung Hee/16; Harvard Philippine Forum Filipino Holiday Celebration/14; Multicultural Issues Forum Progress Report/19; RAZA Latino Issues Forum Summary/16; Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society Holiday Party/15; Scandinavian Folk and Culture Society Hosts Esko Aho, former Prime Minister of Finland/15; Society of Arab Students Multi-Cultural Music Night/17; TCS Dumpling Workshop/17; TCS Mid-Autumn Festival/17; TCS Tea and Karaoke Night/18; TCS Taiwan-China Relations/18; TCS Yo-Yo Workshops/18.



pensation should take, and whether such restitution 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 reborn 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



*Mr. Randall Robinson, J.D. (HLS '74), distinguished author, receives the Harvard Foundation Award for his contributions to and work in social justice from Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.*

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 stated that initiating a national conversation on this matter alone would be useful for it would acknowledge U. S. racial atrocities, and allow a self-discovery by Blacks. 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 Ticknor 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 Illingworth, and Mrs. Jackie Benson-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.



*Distinguished author and social justice advocate Randall Robinson (HLS '74) signs copies of his latest book, *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks*, for students from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.*

*-Andrew Amo '01 and Marcel Anderson '03  
Harvard Foundation Interns*

## 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 Darrah '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. Darrah 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.

—Macarena Correa '00



Mr. Adam Bailey '01, representative from the Harvard Native American Program and Mr. Roberto Gradilla '03, president of RAZA, moderate a discussion with Ms. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, author and human rights activist, on her most recent book, *Speak Truth to Power*.

### Kerry Kennedy Cuomo

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Award for her outstanding contributions to human rights and intercultural relations. Introduced by Harvard Foundation Director Allen Counter, Cuomo answered questions from the largely student audience in Boylston Hall's Fong Auditorium about her

human rights work and her new book, *Speak Truth to Power*, a series of interviews with defenders of human rights around the world.

"This is a great moment for Harvard students of all racial and cultural backgrounds," said Counter. "Ms. Kennedy Cuomo 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."

Cuomo also presented a film based on the book in which a lineup of well-known actors, including Alec Baldwin, Giancarlo Esposito, Kevin Kline, John Malkovich, Sigourney Weaver, and Alfre Woodard, read from the personal testimonies of the human rights defenders, interspersed with footage of the defenders themselves, in many cases showing the work they do. The film is slated





Dr. Harry R. Lewis, Dean of Harvard College, welcomes Ms. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, distinguished author and human rights activist, to Harvard for a booksigning and reception for her latest publication, *Speak Truth to Power*.

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 10 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 mad," he said.

**Harry Wu**, who spent 19 years imprisoned in the Chinese *laogai*, a prison camp 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 nun 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.

Cuomo 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 fled with her teenaged son and got as far as Texas, where she was picked up by immigration officials and imprisoned. According to Cuomo'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," Cuomo said.

Cuomo went to law school and later founded the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights, which supports human



Ms. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, author and human rights advocate, is welcomed by Winthrop House senior Matthew Daggett '01.

rights advocates throughout the world.

When asked whether she found the human rights workers' stories of suffering and torture depressing, Cuomo 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



Dr. Grace Brown, President of Roxbury Community College, converses with human rights advocate Mrs. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo about her new book, *Speak Truth to Power*.



*Ms. Nina Sawyer '01, Secretary/Treasurer of the Student Advisory Committee, welcomes Ms. Kennedy Cuomo to Harvard.*

being attacked by dogs. These stories are not about repression, they're about resistance."

Cuomo said that the people in her book were all leaders who had displayed extraordinary moral courage and had created change in their societies. She said that she found certain common themes in their stories. All of them admitted that they felt fear, all had a deeply religious upbringing (although some rejected it in adulthood), all had a profound sense of humility, and all managed to retain a sense of humor in the face horror and violence.

Cuomo asserted that there has been much positive change in the world as a result of the efforts of human rights workers. For example, twenty years ago she worked to stop human rights abuses by General Pinochet in Chile. Today Pinochet faces trial with more than a hundred cases pending against him.

Kim Dae Jung, the current President of

South Korea, was at one time an exile in Boston, fleeing a repressive regime, Cuomo said. Now he heads a democratic government in his homeland. And South Africa, whose apartheid policies were targeted by protesters worldwide, is now under a democratic government and is scheduled to host a UN conference on human rights.

"There's a lot to celebrate, a lot to make us feel we're moving in the right direction, but there's still lots to do."

Cuomo is married to U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo, but her connection to the federal

government has not weakened her stand on human rights. In 1997, when Chinese President Jiang Zemin visited this country, she led a protest demonstration outside the White House. "We all understood each other," she said.

Ms. Kerry Kennedy was presented the Harvard Foundation Award, which is signed by President Neil L. Rudenstine, is given annually to a distinguished world figure selected by the Student and Faculty Advisory Boards of the Harvard Foundation.

-Ken Gewertz

*From the Harvard Gazette December 7, 2001*



*Human rights advocate and recent author of Speak Truth to Power Kerry Kennedy Cuomo receives the Harvard Foundation Award for her outstanding contributions to human rights and race relations from Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations and Ms. Cynthia Rosenberger, co-master of Winthrop House.*

## 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 Vivian Louie, speakers Dr. Howard Hu, Professor Andrew Leong, spoken word artist Beau Sia, and Professor L. Ling-Chi Wang engaged in an informal dialogue with conference atten-





Ms. Angela Lin (c) '02 presents media recognition awards to Ms. Suzanne Kai (far left), television broadcast journalist; Ms. Lia Chiang (c), actress; and Mr. Jeff Yang (r), founder of A. Magazine, at the Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference.

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, an award-winning journalist, author, and activist, spoke about the necessity to understand the multifaceted history of Asian America. She urged students to take an active role in civic and political affairs and to not idly watch history 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. Professor 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 wenholee.org, 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 Asian-Americans in the media. Actress Lia Chiang, former television broadcast journalist Suzanne Kai, and A. Magazine founder Jeff Yang offered their opinions on issues ranging from the broader concerns of the media's influence on ethnic and race relations to the more specific biases surrounding the portrayal of Asian American gender and sexuality.

During the final panel, Republican Senate candidate Matt Fong and former Lieutenant Governor of Delaware S.B. Woo engaged in a heated debate over the responses of the Republican and Democratic party to Asian-American issues. Though the partisan politics amused 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 artists Staceyann Chin and Beau Sia, 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 Intercultural and Race Relations.

-Ethan Yeh '03 and Angela Lin '02



Mr. Matt Fong (l), Republican Senate candidate, and Mr. S.B. Woo(r), former Lt. Governor of Delaware, debate current political issues at the Chinese American Intercollegiate Conference.

## Remember the Titans

(Continued from page 1)

Freshmen 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 mutual 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-



In Walt Disney Pictures/Jerry Bruckheimer Films drama, *Remember The Titans*, Will Patton (center, left) and Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington (center, right) star as high school football coaches Bill Yoast and Herman Boone, respectively, who in 1971 take an Alexandria, Virginia team and transform the players into dynamic winners.



Harvard College Associate Deans Dr. Georgene Herschbach (l) and Mr. David Illingworth (c) discuss the film, *Remember the Titans* with a student.



The Titans team players including Julius Campbell (Wood Harris, left) and Gerry Bertier (Ryan Hurst, right) face off over racial conflicts on the football team.



Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of the great film *Remember the Titans*.

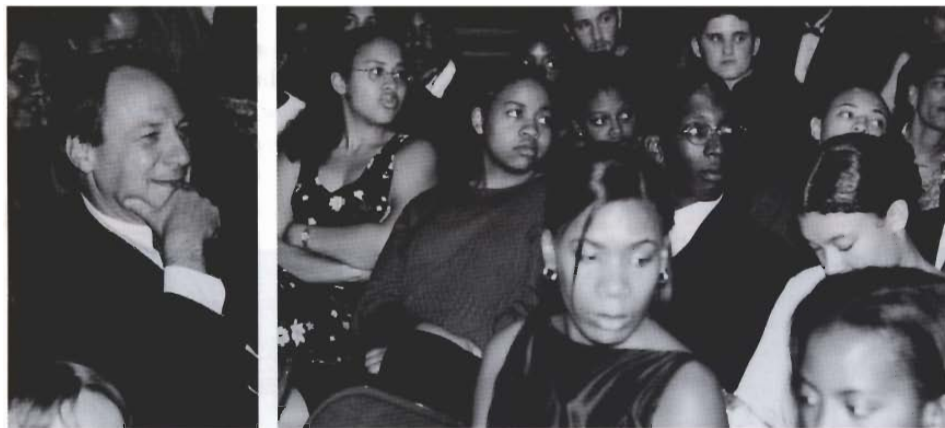


Professor Robert Graham, master of Currier House, and his son, Powell, attend the premiere of *Remember the Titans*.



Attorney Rob Barber '72 with wife Bonnie and sons Ben, Alexander, and Nicholas attend the *Remember the Titans* premiere.





Harvard College students and faculty, including Dean Harry Lewis (top left) 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 interns Adam Bailey '01 of the Native Americans at Harvard (r) and Serre-Yu Wong '01 of the Chinese Students Association (l), lead a discussion about the film *Remember the Titans* with Dr. S. Allen Counter, Director of the Harvard Foundation, following the premiere. Students engage in intellectual discourse around issues of diversity presented in the film.

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 interns Adam Bailey '01 and Serre-Yu Wong '01. "I was most impressed that many students remained after the film premiere for discussion on the import of the movie," said Associate Dean of the College Georgene Herschbach. "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

interracial understanding.

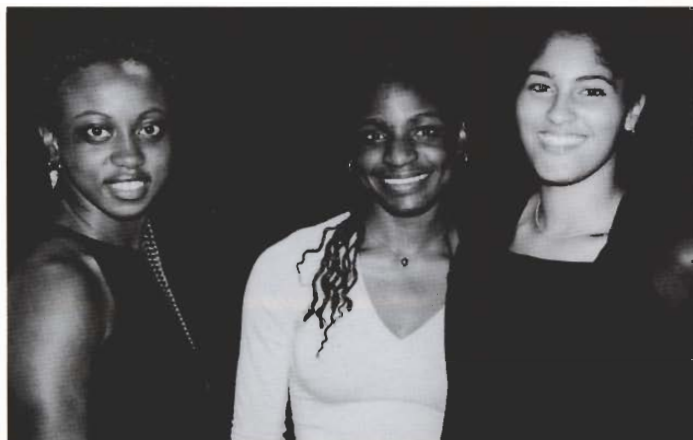
The Harvard Foundation would like to express its appreciation to Denzel Washington and Rita Pearson, as well as to the Walt Disney Studios and its Vice President Mae Joyce for having made it possible to hold this unique film premiere at

Harvard. We would also like to thank the Carpenter Center, and especially Mr. Bruce Jenkins and Mr. John Gianvito, 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 foodfest 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 Tang '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 samosas 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 Kendo Club, the Tai Chi Tiger Crane Club, and the World Taekwondo

Federation gave martial arts demonstrations that delighted the audience with their choreographed moves. The Asian American Dance Troupe performed two traditional Chinese dances, while the Korean Drum Troupe roused the audience with their beating drums. Several groups were also new to the Cultural Extravaganza this year. The newly formed Chinese Yo-Yo 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 Everson '02 as well as several other Harvard students closed the show with some breaking. The night was an entertaining one, one which would not have been possible without the generous help of the Harvard foundation and the hard work of so many Asian groups on campus.

-Jenny Shen '01

## *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 and 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 Players presented a theatrical production of Chay Yew's *A Language of Their Own* in the Leverett House Old Library. The production was directed by student director Jaynie 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 Jaynie Chen and produced by Carey Hsu '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 sexuality in present-day America. Both humorous and gravely serious at times, the production boasted a multicultural 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 is grateful for the continuous support of the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

-Carey Hsu '01 and Annie Wong '02

## *AADT Banquet Dance*

The Asian American Dance Troupe choreographed and performed the banquet dance during the fall semester of 2000-2001. A three part dance, the banquet dance includes a farmer hat dance, a chopstick dance, and a plate dance. The farmer hat 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 *zhong-ze*, bundles of sticky rice wrapped in lotus leaves. This dance has been highlighted at several events including the graduate school Students of 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.

-Wei Ho '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 stately, 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.

-Wei Ho '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, Mosi 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 Expressions, Caribbean Club Dance Troupe, and '04 Steppers. Modeled after "Showtime at the Apollo," the performers were brought to the stage by Kimberly Levy '03 (Kiki Shepherd), and introduced to the audience Apollo style. The show was complete with boo acts, and when booed, 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. Attracting 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. Each year, Apollo Night provides 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 Students 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 our words will be available for classes to come. The Harvard Foundation helped make this possible. We used the grant awarded to finance the weekly videocassette recorder rentals that over the course of one semester totaled \$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.

-Nina Niamkey '04

## *Mahjong-Karaoke Night*

On October 13, the Harvard Radcliffe Chinese Students Association held its annual Mahjong-Karaoke Night in Loker Commons. It is an event that the members of CSA and the rest of the Harvard community have come to expect from CSA each semester. Basically, the event is divided into two areas. One half is designated for those who choose to participate in Karaoke. This provides the musical backdrop for the other portion of the room, where people will be engaged in playing Mahjong. The event was 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 HRCSA expresses its deep 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 Loker Commons, the pearl milk tea was served with pastries during a screening of the movie *Fong Sai Yuk*. 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 HRCSA 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 dazzled the Sanders Theatre audience 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 Pops 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 eight different Peruvian dances in beautiful traditional attire corresponding to each dance. On the following day, the Harvard, the



Harvard Crimson published the article 'IncaSon, Eclectic Performers Thrill the Crowd' in appraisal of the concert. The event was made possible by the Rincón Liméo Restaurant, Cosmopolitan Travel (who donated a free roundtrip 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.

-Gordon Carlos McCord '02

## Dharma Diwali

Diwali, held in the room of Tonushree Jaggi and Harini Reddy (two kind seniors), took place on Wednesday, October 25, 2000. Diwali is an Indian religious festival 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. Everyone felt comfortable and at ease. Many told stories of personal family events.

After the introduction and story telling, the small Harvard community began to sing bhajans, or religious Indian songs. The talent of the Harvard students was amazing as the majority of the students created so much enthusiasm that everyone forgot where time went. The students joined in the simple songs and let out their emotion for the Diwali, the Indian festival of lights.

After the singing, students ate *raas malai*, a tasty Indian desert. They talked with their peers and relaxed over drinks late into the night.

## Dharma Navratri

Navratri, a joyous Hindu festival, was held on Saturday, November 4, 2000 in the Lowell Dining Hall (after all the tables and chair 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 partake in this happy occasion.

First, and hour-long *puja*, or Indian prayer, was held, where one could relax and meditate during a fifteen-minute ceremony. Flowers were offered to Gods, and hymns were sung. After the *puja*, there were drinks and samosas, a savory Indian dish, served to all those who attended.

Then the fun part ensued. Everyone took dandias—long wooden sticks—one in each hand and entered the cleared dining hall. They danced a special Gujarati dance called *raas*, while listening to DJ Sameer's fabulous collection of Indian songs. Other dancing also took place, such as Bhangra, and other types of Indian dance. More than 200 people showed up, and they had a great time as the entire group danced to music until 1 AM. During the dancing, if one got tired, he or she enjoyed the samosas and drinks and other refreshments provided to all those who attended.

The event as a whole was a memorable and wonderful occasion for many of the entire Boston Community and for Harvard University as a whole.

## 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 articles 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 educational experiences of Native American students on and off reservations, the obstacles faced by the high school-age immigrants 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 commentary 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 interpreted. The cover package includes articles on the history of corporate diversity-training 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 overshadowed, and the revived debate over teaching 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 Juliette Kayyam '91, and feature and commentary pieces.

In addition to the publications, on November 1, *Diversity & Distinction* co-sponsored, with several other Harvard student organizations, a forum attracting an estimated 350-400 people to Science Center C. Panelists 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 Yalman, Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Anthropology.

-Claudia Cyganowski '02

## Expressions 'Groove Inn'

The Fall 2000 Expressions dance event, entitled "Groove Inn," was a huge success. The event, which was held in Rieman Dance Theatre, sold out on both nights, December 8 and 9. 'Groove Inn' consisted of student-choreographed dances from a variety of genres including jazz, hip-hop, and modern dancing. Many people who attended the show claimed that they 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 diversity enabled all audience members to enjoy the show.

'Groove Inn' would not have been a success without the hard work of many students, including choreographers and dancers, lighting and sound assistants, 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 in 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 *Simbang Gabi*, the event featured two speakers who focused on the issue of Religion in the Philippines. Minda Bacosa, from MIT, gave a presentation on the history and traditions of Christmas 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 Moro-Christian 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 Philippine's. 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 thin 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 "Pasko na Naman" and "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit". Of course, the event would not have been complete without traditional Filipino foods such as *adobo*, *lumpia*, *pancit* and *turon* 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*, *Singkil*, *Sakuting*, or *Itik-Itik*. The sticks were purchased from a vendor in Jamaica Plains.

-Robert Nocon '02

## Fifth Pan-Collegiate Conference on the Mixed Race Experience

On April 20-22, 2001, approximately 200 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 multiethnic 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 its 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.

-Adrian Wall '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 *Ohemaa* (an Akan 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 focused 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.

-Paa Kwesi Nunoo '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, licorice and traditional Santa Lucia buns. Sofia Lidskog '01, Yuni Kim '02, Uma Vismanathan '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 eldest daughter 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 rooms. 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.

-Yuni 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 resounding 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 groggily from their winter breaks into reading period, the event was an excellent chance to get together with friends, enjoy exotic food and to 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 *mochi* and *ozoni*, as well as more standard (but no less authentic) Japanese foods such as *sushi*, *oden* and *tonkatsu*. 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 artists against their female counterparts. 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 2001!

You can check out pictures of the event at the JS website: go to [www.hcs.harvard.edu/~js](http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~js) and follow the "Pictures" link.

-Masafumi J. Hoshino '02

## Harvard Japan Society Tsukimi (Moon Viewing)

This year's annual Japan Society Tsukimi Event was held from 9-11pm on October 13, 2000 in the Common Room



of 20 DeWolfe. Tsukimi, which means "moon-viewing" or "moon festival," is a traditional Japanese autumn event. Originally imported from China, this practice first became popular among Heian nobility before being popularized among all peoples of Japan during the Tokugawa era. In it, families and friends gather together to admire a full moon in autumn (usually in August or September) on verandah where they eat as well as offer to the moon certain traditional Japanese foods associated with the holiday. Tsukimi is an important event within the culture of Japan as it is widely practiced and is commonly referred to and written about throughout Japanese literature and art. As the first formal Harvard Japan Society event of the school year, we also used the Tsukimi Event to serve as our first general meeting at which to speak with our members about the goals and purposes of our organization for this year.

Everything went according to plan. Members of the Japan Society Executive Board worked hard for hours beforehand to hand-make several varieties of *ohagi*, a traditional Japanese pastry made by mixing together and cooking glutinous and nonglutinous rice which is lightly squashing and molded into balls and then covered with bean jam or else soybean flour or sesame seeds. This is an essential food twice a year, for both the spring and autumn equinoctial weeks in Japan. Also prepared and served were edamame (cooked whole soybeans with their pods dashed with salt), *omochi* rice cakes filled with ice cream, other various traditional Japanese snacks and candies, and soft drinks. Everything turned out to be delicious and won rave reviews from attendees. Enhancing the experience was the aesthetically pleasing and attractive manner in which the food was laid out as it was presented to the event attendees for consumption.

Actual moon viewing itself took place through the windows of our DeWolfe Common Room locale. As the weather was too cold outside to comfortably spend more than a few minutes away from the warmth of the indoors, this suited our purposes just fine. We had a decent view, and Japan Society Executive Board members explained to club members unfamiliar with the holiday the significance of the event.

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 treats 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 Mori Walther '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 Women's 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 edits an essay journal, presides over the Essayist 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, interspersing 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 Eliot 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 *quisado*, a thick stew-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



RAZA, Concilio Latino, and Fuerza; however, about a quarter of the students that attended were not Latino. As people arrived, they grabbed some Mexican sweet bread, bolcanes, and hot chocolate and listened to Mexican music. While dinner was being prepared, the students mingled. Dinner was served. After dinner, the President, along with the RAZA board, presented some goals and issues that the Latino community has to deal with. The focus was primarily on the role of Chicanos, Mexican-Americans, on campus. We broke into discussion. The primary issue was the dominance of the Caribbean culture on campus. The dialogue included how Mexican music is excluded from Latino musical events, like dances; some of the differences between the Mexican (Spanish) [language] and that of other Latino cultures; and what we can do to increase tolerance and awareness amongst Latinos and non-Latinos alike. Oftentimes the intolerance or unawareness of differences comes from the Latino community itself. The discussion broke off into smaller groups, while we ate sweet bread and hot chocolate. People left as late as 11:30 pm. The event was a great opportunity to begin discussing issues that have been serious problems for many years. There is often an unspoken intolerance of the Mexican culture amongst Latinos at Harvard, which has, for years, lead to segregation amongst ethnicities as well as the different Latino organizations on campus. This even helped highlight the heterogeneous Latino culture on campus.

-Reyna Hernandez '03

### *Society of Arab Students Multicultural Music Night*

On Sunday, November 5, 2000, the Society of Arab Students (SAS) cosponsored "A Night of Devotional Music and Art" with the Harvard Islamic Society (HIS). The event was held in the Winthrop Junior Common Room from 7-9 pm, and was the first in a series of events annually hosted by HIS under the name Islam Awareness Week. The purpose of the event was to illustrate the diversity of Islam by giving an example of the many regions

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 and beyond (students, faculty, and others). He performed several *nasheeds* (religious songs) 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 partake of 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 Islamic calligraphy.

-Rita Hamad '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 they are deep fried, not boiled like dumplings.

The workshop participants rolled, cut, and shaped their own dumplings and egg rolls. After the dumplings and egg rolls were cooked, everyone had a chance to taste the evening's creations, and by all accounts enjoyed them thoroughly. The evening's workshop closed with remarks about the importance of cooking and eating in Taiwanese culture. Traditionally, eating a meal is an occasion to celebrate unity, 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 cause appreciation for Chinese culture through food and discourse. 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 '01, at which festival-goers actually 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 jello. 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 Fairbank 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 Taiwanese immigration to the United States. The discussion fed upon questions posed by audience members, and Professor Wachman both answered these questions and used them to generate other topics of interest. In total, over twenty members of the Harvard community took part in this discussion, which was tremendously educational and entertaining in considering the present state of tensions across the Taiwan Strait

-Carey Hsu '01

## 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.

Karaoke 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.

Of course, a Tea and Karaoke Night would not have been complete without the tea, and the Taiwanese Cultural Society offered both hot and cold varieties. In addition to demonstrating traditional methods of preparing and serving tea using small kettles, members of the organization also cooked pearl milk tea. This drink is an

iced tea prepared with milk and tapioca pearls and is extremely popular in modern Taiwanese culture. All of the students left that evening having satisfied their hunger for Taiwanese food, drink, and entertainment.

-Carey Hsu '01

## TCS Chinese Yo-Yo (Tsu Ling) Workshop Series

Throughout the Fall 2000 semester, the Taiwanese Cultural Society has held semiweekly 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 from 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 Jeng '03, an expert in this art form. Mr. Jeng 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. Tabling 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 Arabic Students, and other more knowl-

edgeable groups in structuring informative and productive discussions. 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 30th. The first evening, entitled "Inside the Gates" allowed individuals from the entire Harvard community to discuss real issues that confront members of the Harvard community. Session topics were Rape & Sexual Assault, Self-Segregation, 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 invited at least three campus organizations whose missions seemed most related to the topics 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, promoting 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. Attended by more than 40 student group leaders, this reception facilitated communication between Harvard's many groups, enabling 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 in 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 per 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!



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*Not pictured: Ms. Nina Sawyer '01,*  
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*The Harvard Foundation would like*  
*to express their appreciation to our*  
*staff photographer, Marcus Holivi.*



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