Dear HRAAA Member:

With this mailing I am reporting to you on the results of the Overseers elections, inviting those of you who would like to be more deeply involved in HRAAA to nominate yourself for a position on the Executive Committee for the coming academic year, and sending out an urgent appeal for persons seriously committed to HRAAA’s goals who are willing to consider taking on the tasks of the Executive Director.

As this last implies, I am stepping down from the Executive Directorship after two exciting and rewarding years. I have started a new organization named University Scholarships for South African Students (USSAS), whose aim is to raise money here in the United States for scholarships for young men and women whose university educations in South Africa have been interrupted, or not properly begun, because of their involvement in the anti-apartheid movement there. I shall be continuing on as HRAAA’s Executive Director until Labor day, by which time we hope to have a new Executive Director in place.

Now to the news, which is both bad and good. The bad news is that we did not succeed in electing any Overseers this year. The good news is that several of our candidates received almost three thousand more votes than their predecessors received last year. So, if we drew that many more votes, why didn’t we win? Because Harvard changed the rules!

Last year, stung by our successes, Harvard decided to nominate only eight candidates in future for the five positions, instead of ten. Their explanation - which I leave it to you to evaluate - was that they could not find ten good people! The effect of the decision, as anyone with high school math could figure out, was to increase by 25% the number of votes their candidates received. This year, for example, despite the fact that Judy Lieberman received roughly as many votes as Archbishop Tutu received last year [!!!], Judy fell three thousand votes short of winning a place. Ruth Simmons actually received six votes fewer than the fifth place winner, Bernadine Healy, received last year, but because of the rules change, Ruth was 3500 votes off the mark this year.

Well, I doubt Harvard is going to cut the number of the candidates even more! There is a limit, after all, to what they can say with a straight face. So what we have to do in the next ten months is crank up an even greater effort, and get the extra 3,000 to 4,000 votes we need to place several of our candidates in the winners’ circle. Can we do it? You bet we can. With a hard-working Executive Committee, a demon Executive Director, and a loyal crew of HRAAA members and supporters [that’s you people], we will elect two, three, or more of our candidates next year.

Executive Committee

Judith Baker, ’70
Dorchester, MA

Jan Handke, SM ’75 (Public Health)
Cambridge, MA

Joel Krieger, PhD ’79
New York, NY & Wellesley, MA

M. Brewster Smith, PhD ’47
Santa Cruz, CA

Dorothy Benz, ’37
New York, NY

Chester Hartman, ’57, PhD ’67
Washington, DC

Nell Painter, PhD ’74
Princeton, NJ

Robert Paul Wolff, ’53
Pelham, MA

Peter Gabel, ’68, JD ’72
San Francisco, CA

Ephraim Isaac, BD ’63, PhD ’69
Princeton, NJ

Damon Silver, ’86
Washington, DC

19 June, 1990
For those of you who were not at Commencement, here are the official results [or at least as much of them as Harvard will give out].

1. Crichton - 19,141
2. Armstrong - 19,083
3. Hesburgh - 17,792
4. Haimo - 17,137
5. Fishburn - 17,021
(Those are the five winners)
6. ??? 15,511
7. ??? about 15,000
8. Lieberman - 14,094
9. Simmons - 13,525
10. ??? about 12,000
11. Woods - 11,500
12. Johnson - 9,573
13. Scondras - 8,613

If there are any election junkies out there, here are some more facts: Last year, about 188,130 votes were cast, 131,700 for them, 56,430 for us. This year, even though 1616 more people voted, they got about 130,185 total votes, and we got 57,305.

Essentially, they divided up the same vote pool among fewer candidates, and we divided up a slightly larger vote pool among the same number of candidates, but less evenly. The evidence very strongly indicates that despite their attempts to segregate our candidates at the bottom of the ballot and at the end of the informational booklet, the same number of people this year as last crossed over and voted for our candidates.

What can we conclude from all of these facts and figures? Well, I think they have shot their wad! They put us at the bottom of the ballot, they cut the number of their candidates, they mailed an issue of the HAYWARD GAZETTE to 175,000 graduates with a report from the official nominating committee, and in the end, the got fewer votes for their candidates than last year! If we can put on a spectacular push to find and rope in all the progressive alumni/ae out there who will vote for us, if they vote at all, we can do very well indeed in the next election.

That means you folks must give HRAAA your time, your energy, and your money, so that once and for all we can win this battle.

It remains only for me to thank all of you for the splendid support you have given HRAAA in past years, especially during my two years as Executive Director. It has been, for me, an enormously enjoyable task - indeed, rather more like a hobby. It has been specially rewarding for me to learn through your letters, membership forms, and responses to my mailings, just how broad the progressive Harvard/Radcliffe community is. Some of you are members of the class of 1989, and at least one of you is a member of the class of 1920. HRAAA has very nearly as many women as men among its members, although there are vastly greater numbers of men in the alumni/ae pool; and despite what was in many cases a miserable undergraduate or graduate experience, there are very large numbers of African-American graduates among our members. You folks come from virtually every school and division of Harvard, and you have contributed everything from one dollar bills to checks for a thousand dollars and more. It has been a privilege for me to work with you, and I thank each of you. We are fighting the good fight, and we will win.

With great affection,

Robert Paul Wolff '54
Executive Director
[and now, Executive Director of USSAS]
NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1990 - 91 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is time to choose a new Executive Committee for HRAAA. In order to get a jump on the 1990-91 campaign, we are moving the process up several months, so that the new Executive Committee will be in place right after Labor day. As in the past, we are asking any of our members who are interested in serving on the Executive Committee to nominate themselves by:

- Filling out and sending in the nomination form at the bottom of this page
- Sending along a brief vita, with address and phone number.

*** ALERT *** ALERT *** ALERT ***

There is one Very Big change in our procedure. With a new Executive Director, we need an Executive Committee willing to spend many hours working on the campaign. Therefore, on the self-nomination form, you are asked to indicate which major tasks you are willing to take on and take responsibility for in the coming year.

Every Executive Committee member will be expected to help raise money for HRAAA. In addition, here are the major tasks that members of the Committee will be responsible for:

1. Interviewing prospective Overseers candidates and selecting the slate.
2. Conducting the petition drive to place the candidates on the ballot.
3. Overseeing the membership renewal drive [and making monthly phone calls]
4. Organizing fund-raising coffee hours, parties, etc.
5. Organizing a nation-wide Phone Network to get out the vote.

If you would like to join the Executive Committee and help HRAAA to elect a pro-divestment slate of Overseers next Spring, please fill out this form today!

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HRAAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SELF-NOMINATION FORM

I would like to be a candidate for the HRAAA Executive Committee. As a member of the Committee, I would be willing to make a major commitment of time and energy to the following tasks:

1. _____ Interviewing Prospective Candidates 2. _____ Running the Petition drive
3. _____ Running the Membership Renewal Drive 4. _____ Directing Other Fund Raising Efforts
5. _____ Organizing a Phone Network 6. _____ Other

Name: Phone: (____) -
Address: City: State: ____ Zip: ____

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE A BRIEF VITA
HRAAA NEEDS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Are You That Person?

Can You Recommend Someone For The Job?

Bob Wolff is moving on to other things, as he has explained in the accompanying letter. We need someone to fill his shoes, hard as that task is.

THE JOB

-> Running next year's Overseers campaign
-> Raising our budget
-> Keeping in touch with the membership
-> Coordinating the work of the Executive Committee
   (The members of which will take on many of the tasks)
-> Keeping the mailing list up to date.

In four of our five years we have had a non-paid Executive Director, and if possible we would like to keep up that tradition. BUT: we may have money for a decent salary, if that is the only way we can bring on the right person.

Bob has prepared a 36-page manual, "How To Run HRAAA" [no kidding, he really has], which makes filling his shoes far, far easier. We'll send a copy to anyone seriously considering applying for the position.

We would like someone on board by about Labor Day. The person can be located anywhere in the US. A Harvard-Radcliffe degree is desirable, but that is not mandatory.

The whole shebang is highly computerized at this point, so computer literacy is strongly preferred. But it is not a necessity - the computer-type work can be farmed out.

If you are interested in learning more, applying, or suggesting someone we should contact, please phone or write IMMEDIATELY to HRAAA Executive Committee member [and ex-HRAAA Executive Director]:

   Chester Hartman
   Institute for Policy Study
   1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW
   Washington, DC 20009
   Telephone: 202-234-9382

We Want To Start Interviewing Right Away