December 31, 1990.

Dear Friend of HRAAA:

Harvard needs our help again! (and, once again, they won’t admit it!)

Because Harvard’s administration lacks the check of a critical majority on the Board of Overseers, it too often left its liberal moorings and drifted into inexplicable folly. For example:

• After years of pursuing what it claims is a “selective divestment” policy, Harvard finally disclosed that its South Africa-related holdings increased in value by over 32% in the first six months of 1990 (they declined with the rest of the market in subsequent months)! Worse yet, more than half the increase comes from new purchases of stocks. If this is “selective divestment,” our language is being stretched beyond all semblance of meaning.

• Against the tide of other large universities, the presidential search has gone on almost in secret. Now that the process is nearly complete, the administration has decided to solicit student and faculty opinion. But thousands of letters from Harvard to its own undergraduates were sent to the wrong addresses! It is doubtful that any meaningful outside views can be considered at this late date.

• At the Law School, progress toward faculty diversity has been so slow that students have sued the school in an effort to obtain results. Meanwhile, the Afro-American Studies Department has enjoyed such a lack of support that distinguished scholars in the field have declined to join it. Afro-Am concentrators have had to sit-in regularly to emphasize their concerns.

• Administrators confronting women’s issues, from punishing date rape to establishing a women’s center, have seemed to be speaking from the 1950s rather than the 1990s.

We must bring a system of checks and balances to the administration that produced these results! And once again, HRAAA is determined to elect good candidates who share our concerns to the Board of Overseers. Our candidates for the 1991 election are:

• F. Forrester Church, a 1974 Divinity School and 1978 doctoral graduate, now Senior Minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York and author of many books, including a biography of his father, Senator Frank Church of Idaho.

• Barack Obama, currently the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, and formerly director of a grassroots community development group in Chicago.

• Nadine Strossen, a 1972 Radcliffe and 1975 Law School graduate, now general counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union and a law professor.

Executive Committee
Judith Kauflinan Baker ’79
Dorchester, MA

Chester Hartman ’57, Ph.D. ’67
Washington, DC

Jonathan Walters ’71, J.D. ’75
Philadelphia, PA

Eric Bekulwenza Gumbi, M.P.A. ’90
Cambridge, MA

Joel Krieger, Ph.D. ’79
New York, NY and Wellesley, MA

Robert Paul Wolff ’53, Ph.D. ’57
Pelham, MA

Jan L. Handler, S.M. ’75 (Pub. Health)
Memphis, TN

Irving P. McPhail, M.A.T. ’71
Washington, DC

Lena S. Zezulin ’76, J.D. ’79

Ex Officio:
Donald M. Solomon, J.D. ’73
Executive Director
Keene, NH
As a past supporter of HRAAA, you know what comes next. Petitions are enclosed. Please sign one yourself, get as many of your alumni friends to sign, and return them **QUICKLY** in the enclosed envelope. **We need them back by January 15, 1991.** Please remember the following rules:

1. Only Harvard or Radcliffe degree holders may sign (including graduate schools).
2. Signers should sign their names as they appear on Harvard's records.
3. Print all the other information required on the petition.

Don't forget to remind the signers to watch for their ballots in the spring and **vote.** That's even more important than signing petitions. However, a big signature total this year will send Harvard's soon-to-be-chosen new president a message right now that alumni are watching.

Obviously, we're excited to have such impressive people running under the HRAAA banner. They're doing so because **they agree with us that Harvard must become socially responsible as a matter of University policy, and that Harvard must become a place that truly seeks out and nurtures diversity in its faculty and student populations.** In addition, they support greater openness in Harvard's governance, from the Overseers' election procedures to the search for a new president.

The campaign will be extra difficult this year. As you know, Harvard has changed the rules by which Overseers candidates are nominated and elected. Our candidates are segregated at the bottom of the ballot -- ironically -- and other procedural changes require us to win more votes to elect a candidate. In order to plan a successful publicity drive, **we are asking you to renew your membership early.** This will give us an opportunity fully to deploy our resources for the election, and you'll get a full year tacked onto your membership, regardless of when it expires. Of course, if you have renewed in the past three months, you've already helped in this way and have our thanks.

Your membership expiration date should appear on the address label -- if it doesn't, **that means you haven't contributed to us during the past year.** Look for your member number on the label now and write it on the coupon below. That will save this one-person staff a lot of list-checking!

Thanks once again for all your support. I am continually impressed by the strength of our membership, both in numbers and in enthusiasm. Keep those cards and letters -- and petitions -- coming.

Very truly yours,

Donald M. Solomon
Executive Director

Please return this line

Please return to HRAAA, P.O. Box 1327, Keene, NH 03431:

Member No.   Amount Enclosed: $10.00 low income $25.00 $50.00 $75.00 $100.00 Other:
(copies from address label)

Fill in the information below only if it has changed or if you do not have your number:
Name
Address
City   State   Zip
Telephone: Home   Work
Comments:

Please check this box **if you do not** want us to share your name with other like-minded organizations to build up our own mailing list.