TELLURIDE HONORS VICTOR BARAS
Holds Human Rights Symposium

Cornell Branchmembers were pleased to host a Symposium on Human Rights in honor of Victor Baras (SP61 CB62 TA64) who died in November, 1977. It was held the weekend of October 13-15, under the joint auspices of Cornell Branch, Telluride Association, and the Alumni of Deep Springs and Telluride Association. Initiated by Donna Tussing Orwin (CB66 TA68), the Symposium brought to the House Branch alumni, guests from the hill, and friends and colleagues of Vic. Housemembers—cheerfully prodded by Alumni Relations Officer Aviva Orenstein (SP76 CB77)—saw to it that no one slept on the floor, that the coffee urn was full, and that participants didn’t overlook a younger perspective (although the oldcomers seemed to do the newest disco dances as well, if not better, than the present CBT’ers).

The six members of the Symposium were Clifford Orwin (SP63 CB64 TA66), Fred Baumann (CB62 TA64), Charles Fairbanks (SP62 CB64 TA65), Paul Wolfowitz (SP60 CB61 TA62), Abram Shulsky (SP58 CB59 TA61), and Myron Rush, Cornell Government professor.

Those of us who had never met Mr. Baras gained increased respect for him through the high quality of this event organized in his memory. It is the feeling of the Newsletter staff that the substance of the presentations should be shared with all alumni and friends of the Association. We regret space restrictions do not allow a fuller presentation.

Panelists—A. Shulsky, F. Baumann, C. Orwin, M. Rush, P. Wolfowitz, C. Fairbanks

Symposium Speeches

Cliff Orwin, substituting for Allan Bloom, his colleague at the University of Toronto, opened the Saturday morning session with a talk on the history of the concept of human rights. Orwin’s insightful and informative speech provided a useful frame that all the subsequent speakers referred to in the course of the Symposium. His argument was that the idea of human rights is a transformation of the Enlightenment idea of natural rights, which was itself a reaction to the Classical and Medieval notions of man and the state. Philosophers of the 17th century thought that the question “What is the nature [end] of man?” was incoherent, and that the moral hierarchies derived from various answers were merely pretexts for political tyrannies. To the moderns, all men were free and equal, and man was seen to have natural, pre-political rights—like self-preservation; government came to be seen as a structure of consensual arrangements whose whole purpose was “to provide an island of freedom” or “privacy” for individuals.

But these ideas, said Orwin, have continued to shift in response to two types of criticism. The first critique was that of the historicists, whose emphasis on the role of culture and history on man’s perception of his “nature” leads to real doubts about whether man has any pre-political (or pre-social) nature at all. What if our notion of human or natural rights is not universal, but only a culturally reinforced ideology of its own?

The second criticism tends to reinforce the first. In the 19th century, the rhetoric and vocabulary of rights began to expand until people began to talk of social as well as individual rights. Individual rights, Orwin said, can then be infringed on in order to achieve collectively-understood human rights—like the right to health care or the right to a minimum income. Without the clear distinction between collective and individual rights that earlier theorists felt they could make, he concluded, we must exercise much prudence before we make claims on the grounds of natural rights.

The second speaker was Fred Baumann, an historian, who was Rinehart-Telluride Professor at Deep Springs for the fall term. Formerly he was a colleague of Baras in New York City, where the two wrote together on the topic of affirmative action. Mr. Baumann began his presentation by arguing that the points of contention in the Bakke case had finally proved what he and Baras had believed throughout—that current affirmative action programs were not more nor less than “preferential treatment according to race, sex, or religion.” Most of the arguments used to justify this preferential treatment defend it on utilitarian grounds—the interest in integrating the races for greater social stability; the need for ethnic role models; the expectation that black professionals can serve black communities more efficiently. While Baumann thought that this class of arguments could be defeated on its own grounds, he spoke more generally against the entire notion of weighing rights with utilitarian notions of national or group interests. Baumann argued that affirmative action programs grew out of a “liberal” administrative and manipulative theory of government, much like that advocated by contemporary philosophers John Rawls and Ronald Dworkin. He claimed, however, that the notions of rights and of human nature upon which these theories are based are essentially illiberal and anti-democratic. When man is thought to be almost infinitely malleable, strong and permanent desires are no longer conceivable. Not everyone is a risk-avertor (yet), but Mr. Baumann felt a Dworkinian/Rawlsian view of government could help bring this about.

He closed his remarks by claiming that affirmative action seems to be contrary to the American liberal and national ideals. Without any racial or religious basis of national identity (despite periodic attempts to impose them), America, the immigrant nation, has forged an identity from these very absences

continued on page 2
Symposium continued from page 1
—from a desire to put a man’s past behind him. Affirmative action undermines this value.

In the third Symposium speech, Yale political scientist Charles Fairbanks recalled Western European “human-rights” efforts in the 19th century, and raised the possibility of using those experiences as an example for us today. Fairbanks associated the Victorian Era with the “growth of decency” in international relations. He stated that we can consider 19th-century progress in human rights as a real accomplishment, for it was often achieved despite a lack of national self-interest in increasing human rights elsewhere, despite the existence of client states and colonialism, and despite fierce international rivalries—three factors that seem to hinder present-day progress in human rights.

M. Rush, D. Orwin, A. Shulsky, S. Sestanovich, J. Withrow, W. Berns

An international consensus in favor of human rights seemed to exist a century ago, as there is now an alleged consensus for “democracy” in the United Nations. However, the only real international agreement today seems to be prohibitions against racism and nuclear war; nations cannot even agree on the condemnation of international terrorism. Moreover, the internal intellectual consensus for human rights has been weakening as the issue has been seen as a rhetorical cover for the furthering of national political or economic interests, according to Fairbanks. If “human rights” are a product of an ideology that not all current big powers share and could only be enforced by a consensus that does not exist, the 19th-century example may no longer be useful.

Professor Fairbanks concluded by saying that, despite an atmosphere that might not be conducive to its success, a U.S. foreign policy that condemned international violations of human rights had beneficial internal consequences, since our own disaffection from American political institutions has resulted from the large separation between our foreign policy and our traditions of national morality.

Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Forces (Program Analysis and Evaluation), concentrated on the implication of increasing the priority of human rights in foreign policy. While conceding that America had suffered some political losses in its recent emphasis on human rights, Wolfowitz attributed much of this to mismanagement of international situations, rather than to the policy itself. He thought, for example, that U.S./Soviet relations during the Carter administration were more complex than the pessimists would paint. All the Scharansky case proves, he said, was that Russia was very misinformed about U.S. intentions and actions; he thought that most of the Russian dissidents who might suffer from American public outcry would really prefer that the U.S. take a public pro-liberty stance, rather than preserve the superficialities while operating on a secret diplomatic level.

A real fear, however, is that American efforts to destabilize right-wing regimes can do nothing more than bring left-wing regimes into power, equally inhumane but more permanent, as well as politically and economically hostile to American interests. Wolfowitz said he found this argument harder to dismiss than many, and reminded us that support of U.S. intervention in the name of human rights must be qualified by all the factors that make each case a unique one.

He concluded by expressing the hope that there will no longer be a false distinction between our ideological goals and our “true interests” in foreign countries, for the promotion of human rights is a true American interest. While not all nations have an equal “prospect for democracy,” and there will be real costs—in arms control, oil prices, and perhaps even military bases—we can and ought to prove our commitment to human rights.

Commentary and Discussion

Following a welcome break for a buffet luncheon, Professor Myron Rush and Abram Shulsky, Professional Staff, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, set the stage for general discussion by summarizing the morning papers and raising a series of issues regarding U.S. human-rights policy and the intellectual and political supports such a policy requires. Discussion from the floor followed.

Paul Szasz (CB48 TA49) faulted the U.S. for a lack of commitment to the United Nations as the place to settle disputes on human rights. Baumann, Shulsky, and Orwin, however, replied that the UN tended to define human rights so broadly—including collective “rights” as well as individual liberties—that it made for many difficulties as an American forum. John Burleigh (SP64 CB65 TA67) questioned Baumann’s anti-affirmative-action stand, wondering if redistribution or preferential treatment due to poverty was a legitimate criteria. Many people took up such questions as the need for a national will, and whether the theoretical incoherence of natural-rights philosophy made it both difficult to defend at home and to “export” through foreign policy.

All in all, CBT-Aers got an impressive look at their alumni, who treated academic and political questions with carefulness and freshness which led to clearer understandings of the issues of human rights. Discussion did not end with the formal Symposium, but continued through the dinner and following party. The Victor Baras Memorial Symposium on Human Rights was a thought-provoking and valuable experience for its participants. —Patrick O’Connor, SP75 CB76

J. Bailey, T. Pangle, E. Eisenach, F. Baumann, E. Baras, M. Stern
The fall semester of 1978 ended for Cornell Branch members in the usual flurry of final exams and term papers, followed by a general exodus from Ithaca for a welcome winter break. The months preceding the last several mad weeks, however, were filled with varied activities—both at the House and on campus.

In addition to the Baras Memorial Symposium [see story and picture, page 1], several other academic events were highlights of the semester. Mathematician Brian Rotman of the University of Bristol, three-week guest of the Branch, led a seminar on "metacodes"—a discussion of ways of dealing with abstract concepts in language and thought, which ran the gamut from the invention of the zero, to King Lear, to animal languages. Philip Grierson of Cambridge University, Branch faculty guest, led a seminar on the fall of Rome. Andrew Harvey, visiting fellow at the Cornell Society for the Humanities and spring-semester Branch faculty guest, interpreted Shakespeare's sonnets and their broader implications in his seminar offering. Housemembers and guests were given a preview of his new book by Eugene Genovese, University of Rochester historian, during his seminar on slave revolts. As the "home office" of the entire Cornell Forum board of directors, the House was also host to Samuel Huntington, Harvard professor of government, shortly after he left Carter's national security staff; and Bertram Rafael of Stanford University, who participated in a debate on the possibilities and problems inherent in the future of computers.

Public speaking presentations contributed breadth to Branch intellectual life. Topics covered included South Africa, the economics and politics of New York City's housing problem, mathematical and physical models of the human brain, Quebecois nationalism, and Alice in Wonderland. The speeches were consistently followed by lively discussion.

The House also had its full complement of non-academic events. Pre-Convention Preferment Committee, TA Summer Program Board and Custodians each held weekend-long sessions in Ithaca during the fall, thus affording all Housemembers frequent opportunities to meet with older Association members. The Orientation Party, Halloween Party, Faculty Party, and a reading of Taming of the Shrew were all great successes, as were the numerous pre-dinner poetry readings.

Gingko turns out to be female) or the process of avoidance thereof led to somewhat anxious discussion. In a more serious vein, fall term Housemeetings involved lengthy discussions of many serious issues of self-government and community.

We were fortunate to have as fall term Branch faculty guests Susan Buck-Morss—political theorist in the Government Department—and Cambridge University historian Philip Grierson, who was warmly welcomed back after a two-year hiatus since he was faculty guest in fall 1976. Dinner and lunch conversations were greatly enhanced by Grierson's participation, and his visits will be fondly remembered by Branchmembers.

The term was notable for the wide involvement of Housemembers in campus activities—as Cornell Chorus and Orchestra members, as staff and editorial board members of both the Sun and Praxis (Cornell undergraduate magazine), and as the previously-mentioned entire Cornell Forum board. Housemembers have also become involved in campus and local politics, and one is a volunteer counselor for the Tompkins County Task Force on Battered Women.

Halloween '78—A. Mack, J. Lopez

At Housemeetings, the gingko tree question was raised in a new, more virulent form. Those who have been at the Branch in the last decade may remember the gingko—for the beauty it adds to the landscape of our front lawn, or for the salutary effect of the inevitable aroma of gingko fruit each spring. Since Ms Gingko has now been discovered to have an offspring, the prospect of doubling both these features (if Baby,
Board Sets 1979 TAPS

Telluride Association Summer Program (TASP) Board held its annual fall meeting over the weekend of October 27-29, in Ithaca, with Kathy Sullivan (SP71 CB72 TA74) serving as chairman, and members Sarah Conly (CB76 TA77), Maureen Graves (SP74 CB75 TA77), and Eric Wefald (SP74 CB75 TA76) in attendance. The Board's fifth member, Richard Velkley (SP66 CB67 TA69), had to leave early Saturday due to illness. Association President Eric Swanson and Executive Secretary Bea MacLeod were present for most of the sessions.

Just as the meetings began, the Board received good news from Johns Hopkins University. The Hopkins administration offered to fund, for the second consecutive year, an urban-policy TASP in Baltimore. After brief deliberations, the Board decided to accept the Hopkins' offer, with the understanding that both TA and Hopkins would make efforts to overcome some of the perceived shortcomings of the otherwise successful first Baltimore TASP.

In the summer of 1979, in addition to the 20-person Hopkins TASP, there will be two Cornell TAPS of 16 students each, as well as a contingent of six male TASPers attending the Deep Springs summer session. The two Cornell TAPSs represent a return to the old style, after last summer's experimental cutback to one 20-person Ithaca TASP. Cornell I, entitled "The World Seen: Perception and the Visual Arts," will be taught by art historians Jacqueline Falkenheim of Cornell and David Cast (CB Faculty Guest 75) of Yale. Cornell II, "Liberal Democracy and its Problems," will be taught by Harry Cloe (TASP Faculty 75) and Richard Melanson, political science professors at Kenyon College. The Hopkins program will again be led by Henry Henderson, urban planner at the Hopkins Metro Center. The Deep Springs seminar, "Problems of Community and Authority," will be taught by University of California—Santa Cruz political theorist John Schaar (DSTASP Faculty 70&71), and current Deep Springs faculty members David and Sharon Schuman. In all, there will be places for 58 TASPers—more than there have been in one summer for many years.

At its Saturday meeting, the Board selected factota for the programs. Daniel Segal (SP75 CB76) and Hallie DeChant (SP75 CB76 TA78) will be factota for the Hopkins program. Aviva Orenstein (SP76 CB77) and Ken Pomeranz (SP75 CB76 TA78) will be factota for Cornell I and II, respectively. Pat O'Connor (SP75 CB76) will attend the Deep Springs summer session; he will therefore be in a position to provide information to the TASP Board and PCPC on both the students and the program in general.

As its last piece of business, TASP Board considered a proposal from Bill Pezick (DS65 BB69 TA70) for a West Coast economics TASP, to be co-sponsored by the Public Interest Economics Group. Although the Board found Pezick's proposal very attractive, members thought it would not be possible to implement it in 1979, as proposed, both because of the short time allowed for planning and preparing such a TASP, and because of the already large commitment of TA to 58 students for the four TAPS. The Board was also informed that Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, is interested in holding a TASP, although it has not yet submitted a detailed proposal. TASP Board expressed hope that it will be possible to take advantage of both of these opportunities in future years, and made plans to explore both of them further in the months ahead.

—Eric Wefald, SP74 CB75 TA76

News From TASP Alumni

- **John W. McCarter, Jr.** (SP55) has been elected executive vice president of DeKalb AgResearch, Inc. He will continue to serve on the boards of Depco, DeKalb Petroleum Corporation, Heindol Commodities, and Dynapol. He is director of the Chicago educational television station.

- **Steven H. Brach** (SP62) is a mental health worker at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health in New York City, a psychoanalytic training and treatment clinic, as well as a community and research center.

- **Lawrence V. Rubinstein** (SP63) recently completed his PhD in mathematical statistics at the University of Maryland, and has taken a position in the Biometry Branch of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

- **Lee N. Rudolph** (SP64) reports his second collection of poetry is being published by Alice James Books, a thriving feminist collective he helped to found about five years ago. "Dan Vogel (also SP64) used a poem from my first book in a class he taught; a nice curse; I hope this book will find as much use." Rudolph is an assistant professor of mathematics at Columbia University, "alongside Avner Ash (SP66). My current work is in 'analytic geometric topology,' his is 'arithmetic groups,' but still we talk to each other."

- **Charles R. Kochis** (SP65) has completed his third year at Boalt Hall, University of California—Berkeley law school, and continues as vice president, Bank of America, Global Treasury Management Group, San Francisco.

- **Tom R. Tyler** (SP67) earned a PhD in social psychology at the University of California—Los Angeles, in August, 1978. He is now with the Department of Psychology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

- **Ann H. Halbert** (SP72) has become Literary Assistant at The New Republic, and is co-author of a piece which appeared in the October Commentary.

- **Robert J. Lack** (SP72) earned an MA in public affairs from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and became engaged to Colleen Kelly, a former classmate at Princeton. He is currently a first-year student at Harvard Law School.

- **Joseph L. Hoffmann** (SP73), after Harvard graduation in June, embarked on a career as a radio sportscaster. "I am now working for WQFA Radio in Watseka, Illinois (population 6,000—in the heart of the Corn Belt). This should confirm the suspicions of fellow TASPers, who always thought I was crazy."

- **Matthew Konigsberg** (SP73) has been studying Japanese literature at the University of Hamburg in West Germany for three years, and is spending the fall semester in Japan on scholarship from the European-Japanese Association while working on his Master's thesis.
A glorious fall . . . best crop of new students in recent history . . . replenishment of water table . . . anticipation of good beef prices are representative phrases contained in recent communications from Deep Springs.

The Board of Trustees met during the second week of November. Robert B. Henderson (DS35 CB38 TA39) was elected Chairman, James R. Withrow, Jr. (DS27 CB31 TA30), who held that position since December 1, 1975. David Werdegar (DS47 CB 49 TA50) and Trustee Secretary Francis Tetreauil (DS37 CB40 TA40) resigned. Newly-elected Trustees are Thomas E. Fairchild (DS29 CB33 TA31), Judge of the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and Kenneth A. Odell (DS61). Especially good news for the Trustees was the decision made by Edwin M. Cronk (DS36 CB39 TA39) to continue as Dean for another three-year term.

Eric Swanson, TA President and DS alumni, attended the meetings and led discussion of DS/TA relations. Some of the other college matters covered by the Trustees were: consensus government, “isolation policy,” and the continuing study of coeducation. Discussion of ranch/farm problems centered on: 1) January retirement of Ranch Manager Merritt Holloway, for whom a replacement — Tom Payne, college graduate and former cowboy—has been found; 2) acquisition of a new dairy herd necessitated by the advanced age and diseased condition of the present herd; and 3) destruction of the virus-ridden chicken flock. These problems were, happily, offset by the rise of beef prices and the large 350-head beef herd—many courtesy of alumni donations.

Direction of fund raising for Deep Springs has been assumed by Frederic S. Laise (DS31 TA35). He replaces Dr. Robert B. Aird (DS21 CB23 TA24), who vigorously and productively guided DS fund-raising efforts for the past five years. Aird will, however, continue in a limited capacity: canvassing alumni of classes preceding 1930, and furthering the Johnny Johnson Scholarship/Award Drive.

Final DS news—a Nunnian reunion is slated for the 1979 Labor Day Weekend to be held at the ranch. More information of this event will be in future DS and TA newsletters.

---

1978 TASPers awarded preferment at Cornell Branch by PCPC are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Boes</td>
<td>Amy Nestor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Foster</td>
<td>Zoe Swenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Glazener</td>
<td>Steven Van Meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Goodman</td>
<td>Stefanie Weigmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Kline</td>
<td>Nancy Werlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Kolbert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Lost TASPers

Mail sent to the below-listed TASP alumni is being returned to us. If you know the whereabouts of any of them, please advise Carolyn Farrow at the TA Office, 217 West Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850.

- Amdur, Leora R. '69
- Austin, Jacqueline M. '70
- Bangs, Stephen Edward '65
- Barlowe, Avram S. '72
- Beim, David Odell '57
- Chaplin, Rebecca L. '74
- Clark, Matthew Campbell '65
- Gilroy, Wendy L. '67
- Glover, Kenneth E. '69
- Hogan, Teresa A. '68
- Kunzig, Robert J. '75
- Lay, Thorne '73
- Matz, Pamela Jan '65
- McMenamin, Paul J. '72
- Neilsen-Steinhart, Therry R. '64
- Nickens, Jacks C., Jr. '66
- Reiter, Jeannette Loeb '63
- Rosenberg, Charles '62
- Rosenberg, Jeffrey Lawrence '65
- Schnare, David P. '65
- Siemion, Michael L. '62
- Sohn, Ruth H. '71
- Unsworth, Sarah P. '71
- Wiener, Dorothy Girob '63
- Wohlberg, David J. '70
- Yolken, Robert Harry '65

---

SPECIAL TO DS FROM TA

Beginning this year and continuing through future years, applications from Deep Springs students for preferment at Cornell Branch must be received by January 1 for consideration by Telluride Operations and Awards Committee. The Association urges DS students to keep this deadline in mind for future years, so that orderly and timely consideration can be given them.

---

We Can’t Afford the Postage

. . . much less the ADDED postage we have to pay when your mail is returned because the address is wrong. For each piece that comes back we are charged 25¢. We send out lots of mail in answer to requests for information. But just to you—our alumni and associates—we mail more than 13,000 pieces each year. This means that, if you don’t let us know promptly your change of address, the unnecessary outlay can be serious. Postage rates escalate indefinitely; our income does not. Thank you!

Name ..........................................................................

NEW Address ..................................................................
News From Alumni and Friends of Telluride

- Vangala Jaya Ram (CB34) has returned with his family to the United States, after nine years in Beirut, Lebanon, where he served as Chief of the Human Settlements and Resources Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia. Ram is now the Principal Technical Advisor to the United National Conference on Science and Technology.
- Peter T. Geach (CBGuest59) gave the first series of O'Hara studies at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, England—the British equivalent of the Council on Foreign Relations.
- Sally B. Philips (CB64) has joined the graduate faculty of Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, as clinical co-ordinator of the Counselor Education Department. She coordinates counseling internships, teaches a section of Clinical Practice and Supervision, and conducts meetings for counselor education supervisors.
- Stephen R. Sestanovich (SP67 CB68 TA69) began teaching this fall at the New School for Social Research, New York City, and reports, “I’m already a confirmed New Yorker—is there anywhere else to live? The ‘I Love New York’ T-shirts are still a little more than I could comfortably take.”
- William D. Marvin (DS68) has begun his first year of study at the Temple University School of Law, Philadelphia.

Who Is “Me”?

In the spring of 1978, the insurance inspector for Telluride House strongly advised that the large accumulation of attic “keepsakes” be sorted and culled. For the next several months, forays were made into the literal heights of Telluride House, letters were written to departed alumni whose belongings reposed there, and cartons were prepared for fall disposal.

One item saved from certain oblivion was a cigar box filled with pictures taken in the early to mid 1940’s—but with no owner identification. Most bearing captions are of the Potsdam, New York, area during 1943-44, covering army camp activities—living quarters in the “Tri Sig House.” Others are views of Niagara Falls and environs, the Racquette River, as well as a few of the Ithaca area. People identified are: Tex Matyeam and Lucille; Betty and Bob Rouck; Tom, Tut and Bill; Bob Hawkins (or Hawrin); Jean Tolson, Herb Gottlieb; Sgt. Doo; John Manning; Mel Kreigel; and Bill Barkley. Several pictures are captioned “me.”

Who is me? Is he one of our alumni who later forgot he had stored the box in the TH attic? Here is a grand opportunity to review WWII army camp days of 35 years ago. Let us hear from you, and we will send along this long-long record of your youth!

Recent Alumni Publications


In Memoriam

A. R. Oliver, Constitutional Member, September 17, ‘77
Walter Balderston, DS30 CB33 TA34, October 26, ‘78
The ADSTA Agenda

Presidential Thoughts

Although it is now winter and ADSTA is well into another year of activity, the lead-time required for Newsletter publication causes the item to have been written “between terms,” in mid-summer '78—a good time perhaps to lean back and reflect upon a few impressions from the past season which have not been touched upon in the periodic news-notes of ADSTA dinners and Council meetings.

The ultimate concern of the alumni is clearly not the social interactions enabled by ADSTA, pleasant as those are, but rather the welfare of our two parent organizations, Telluride Association and Deep Springs College. Survival of our institutions requires, first and foremost, continuing intellectual strength in our ever-changing membership. My own attendance at the October '77 DS Trustees' Meeting and the '78 TA Convention has assured me that an involved and verbal student constituency continues to thrive in both organizations. There seems to be no shortage of issues, though two that have especially penetrated my own consciousness this past year have been those of co-education, at Deep Springs, and South African business involvement by TA portfolio companies, within the Association. I was impressed with the sincerity, the intensity, and the quality of the arguments in these debates. We alumni, I think, should be especially concerned with the health of this process of examining and resolving issues (it is presently healthy), we should be mildly involved in stating our own opinions (we are involved—sometimes not so mildly), but it seems self-evident that we should hold ourselves strictly aloof from voting our opinions with our pocketbooks. Not even the U.S. government could survive if, at the first disagreement with its actions, we could choose to stop payment of our taxes (though we might well be inclined to opt for at least a small reduction).

In addition to the above element of intellectual strength, survival also requires fiscal strength. We have not yet awakened to the needs imposed upon our uniquely financed institutions by the current inflation. Earnings on investments leave little or no margin over the bite of inflation to cover the costs of our operations, so that our effective income is largely alumni gifts. But for the same alumni-giving rate as typical universities, we do significantly less well than they because our gift income must presently cover nearly all, rather than a fraction, of operating costs. Both Deep Springs and the Association are paying increased attention to this reality; there is growing recognition that alumni giving, important as that is, will be incapable of compensating for continuing inflation unless it becomes driven by new and stronger motivations or is augmented by student contributions. Both of these come to the same point: our future members will very likely need to be imbued with a stronger sense of responsibility toward the financial needs of our institutions—it may no longer suffice to “return to society” the educational gifts our institutions offer. The reactions of present students tend to be negative toward the concept of current fees; I suspect that our past emphasis on the absence of fees has acted as a screening agent in attracting students with an especially strong inclination toward personal financial independence. This is not the place to solve these problems, though it seems not amiss to suggest substitution of a stronger sense of future obligation, or even a concrete promise, as a viable alternative.

To end on a less austere note, ADSTA membership increased significantly this past year, and it is especially promising and satisfying that the younger alumni are entering our ranks in increasing numbers (though I hope this is not just my own myopic view, in which the “younger” segment appears larger year by year). It is vital that this trend continue, both to support our institutions effectively and also to enrich our own experiences through congenial and intellectually challenging personal associations.

—Erik M. Pell, ADSTA President

Fall Activities

As 1978 drew to a close, ADSTA membership had reached nearly 210—the highest in its seven-year history and broadly representing the entire range of ages and affiliations of the parent organizations.

Council Meeting

ADSTA Council met in mid-November at the New York City law offices of James Withrow. Business covered by the Council was varied: approval of the appointment of new Washington, DC Area Chairman Lindsey Grant (DS43 CB46 TA47), who replaces William H. Allen (DS42); allocation of $300 to both the Deep Springs and the Telluride Association newsletters; brief review of DS and TA fund-raising plans for 1978-79, and indication of interest in discussing such activities further with the respective chairmen—Fred Laise, for DS, and Steve Fix, TA—at the spring ADSTA Council Meeting. Also on the agenda at the next council meeting will be finalization of plans for an Alumni Weekend to be held at Cornell Branch in the fall of 1979. Future issues of the TA Newsletter will carry more specific information on this ADSTA-sponsored event. ADSTA will also assist in sponsoring the DS-organized Reunion to be held Labor Day Weekend.

Area Gatherings

Washington, DC—A summer picnic was held at Cremona Farm, home of Norton Dodge (DS43 CB46 TA46). In addition to alumni, the 1978 Johns Hopkins TASP participants attended.

New York City—On November 16, approximately 25 alumni attended a dinner held at the Cornell Club following the Council Meeting. Of particular interest to many were the informal conversations with Kathleen Frankovic (SP63) about her political polling experiences at CBS News.

Boston—A small gathering was held at the home of Area Chairman James S. Mansfield (DS22 CB25 TA25) on the Sunday following the November Council Meeting.

Upstate New York—Alumni of the immediate Rochester area, as of press time, had planned a gathering for December. General—Each area tentatively plans a gathering for late-winter/early-spring 1979, prompted, as in previous years, by DS Dean Edwin M. Cronk’s recruitment tour across the country. Eric Swanson, TA President, will also attend as many as possible, or designate a representative, to bring alumni up to date on Association activities.
Telluride Association
217 West Avenue
Ithaca, N. Y. 14850

Address Correction Requested

All Your News That Fits We'll Print

Your friends and TA Associates are interested in what has become of you. Write us about your recent travels and adventures, honors and awards, books or papers published, promotions or job changes, marriages, births and address changes for Newsletter publication.

Name .......................................................................................
Address ..................................................................................

.......................................................................................