Students Take Protest Against Dwindling Diversity to Alumni

By Francesco Barbera

Last Friday, over 40 students protested the perceived decline in minority enrollment at the Law School by leafleting hundreds of alumni attending a reception at Hauser Hall. The leaflet questioned the Law School's commitment to diversity, citing statistics which point to a dramatic decline in minority enrollment in recent years.

According to the flyer, in the last three years Latino enrollment is down 37 percent, African-American enrollment is down 30 percent, Native-American enrollment is down 25 percent and enrollment of women remains stagnant at 42 percent. "Our goal tonight is to raise awareness of the drop in minority enrollment and to bring that message home to the alumni," said Asian Law Students Association Co-President Rajeev Goyle '00. "This is the opening salvos in a larger campaign for the Law School to honor its own commitment to admitting a diverse student body."

"We want this trend reversed," said Baxter Wason '01, an organizer of the event. "We want the institution to make whatever changes are necessary, be it pre-admissions recruiting or post-admissions recruiting or both."

Dwindling Diversity to Alumni

By Ben Lehrer

As Berkeley students staged a massive walkout from their classes to protest California's ending of affirmative action, over 70 Harvard students gathered last week in Hauser Hall to show their support and to discuss the state of activism at Harvard.

The students listened as Prof. Duncan Kennedy spoke on the history of activism at HLS, and aired a number of complaints concerning the climate at the Law School.

Law School's commitment to diversity. By Ramesh Kumar '01, the event's principal organizer, said at the meeting's outset that he wanted to compile a list of things that students thought should change at the School. "And then," he said, "we have to go out and change them." Less than 24 hours later, many of these same students distributed flyers about declining minority student enrollment, and openly questioned HLS's commitment to diversity.

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HLS Student Activists Gear Up for Change

Students bring the decline in minority enrollment to the attention of alumni outside a alumni weekend event.

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1Ls Clean Up Roxbury

By Alyssa Caples

Last Saturday, 1Ls ventured into Roxbury to clean up vacant lots with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), a community empowerment organization, as part of the 1998 City Year Serv-a-thon. Organized by Jennifer Harvey '00 and Prof. Bruce Hay '88, the day brought together approximately 150 students from all different sections. In addition, several BSA members, Prof. Larry Lessig and spouses of some students also joined the effort.

The students cleaned up lots left vacant following arson and condemnation after the area became depressed as a result of red-lining and white flight. Overrun with weeds and trash, the lots are used as illegal dumping grounds, sites for drug trafficcking and general mischief. There are over 1300 vacant lots in the area, which the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative is trying to reclaim.

"We have the power of eminent domain over a 60-acre triangle in Roxbury and so far we have built about 100 houses in the neighborhood. We are also launching a beautification campaign to change attitudes in the area," said Trish Settles, Environmental Organizer for DSNI.

We are already a thousand times better than we were when we first started. Ten years ago, we hauled away three hundred tons of trash, including refrigerators and autos."

On Saturday's visit, HLS students found a variety of different discarded items including a passport, beer, liquor bottles, a

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