



GREEN LIGHT

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D-GALA ALUMS HELP STYMIE “LONE PINE REVOLUTION”

A sizeable group of D-GALA'ers journeyed to Alumni Hall in Hopkins Center on October 23rd and helped to defeat the latest effort by the self-styled “Lone Pine Revolution Committee” to impose their conservative agenda upon the College. The October event was the election for leadership of the Dartmouth Alumni Association (DAA), and the vote was a particularly significant showdown in the struggle launched by the Lone Pine group to reverse recent progressive advances at the College. As reported in the June 2005 “Green Light”, Lone Pine conservative candidates have used petition candidacies to win the three most recently elected seats on the College’s 18 - member Board of Trustees. In the October



D-GALA members and students dine before October DAA vote

election, the Lone Pine group sought to further expand its power by seizing control of the DAA. Had it succeeded, the conservative group would have been able to control the ongoing process to reform Trustee election procedures and to combine the DAA and the Alumni Council. As reported in the New York Sun just before the election, “The composition of Dartmouth’s board of trustees and the academic direction of the school may hinge on the outcome of the election.”

While the official pronouncements of the Lone Pine Committee usually are carefully sanitized, their

DAA Election, continued on page 2

D-GALA Young Alums Tell of Active, Challenging Lives

Following *Green Light*’s practice of keeping abreast of what alums are doing and facing in their lives, this fall we asked a random group of young alums if they would share something about their lives after Dartmouth, and here are the impressive reports that we heard from these talented and dedicated alums :

Kiva Wilson '04: “Life after Dartmouth...has been a crazy fun yet uncomfortable ride. I live and work [with the Peace Corps] here in the rural village of San Fidel, El Salvador. The day starts at 4 o’clock in the morning and ends at 8 at night. Water falls from the faucet two hours a day when we are lucky and sometimes no more than twice a week. My toilet is a big ass hole in the ground and my favorite meal is corn tortillas stuffed with refried beans. No more of this swiping my ID card for nuggets and fries at Thayer. No more will I have to worry about the janitor knocking on my door at an odd hour of the morning to clean my bathroom. The luxuries of college life are now gone. But much more valuable than ready-to-eat food at Thayer or a Chai at Novack was the “freedom to just be me”. Here in El Salvador, surrounded by a male-centric culture, being gay, black and female is much more of a challenge than it ever was at Dartmouth. It is expected that I wear a skirt everyday...and surprisingly I do. People assume that I am from Guatemala or Honduras because of my skin color. I am regularly referred to as “la morenita” because of my skin color. And my host community constantly ask about my boyfriend “Raul” back in the states, who I constantly lie about to avoid uncomfortable and invading advances from aggressive men. So life here is certainly different and challenging. I sometimes wonder if coming from Dartmouth directly to El Salvador was a wise decision. I have decided it is the best I could have possibly made. The support and affirmation of self that surrounded me at Dartmouth have made me strong and resilient enough to not only endure but learn from this experience.”

Peter Jacobsen '00: “After Dartmouth, I was expecting to live an expanded version of my college years. I figured the real world was more queer, more urbane, faster

Alums, continued on page 4

DAA Election, continued from page 1

supporters have been more direct. For example, a right-wing blog by three 1971 Dartmouth alumni, PowerLineBlog.com, wrote just before the election: One feature of the proposed [DAA/Alumni Council] constitution that opens a window into the collective mind of its authors is the allocation of a block of seats on the elected alumni assembly to designated alumni groups, including Asian, black, gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgender, and Native American alumni. As *[Dartmouth Review writer]* Malchow observes, "This is, on its face, outrageous, undemocratic, and wrong." It is in fact symptomatic of the ills that plague Dartmouth and so many elite educational institutions, ills that in part prompted the [three Lone Pine trustee] candidacies in the first place.

At least for the moment, the Lone Pine reactionary agenda was sidetracked at the October vote, as the slate of candidates nominated by the outgoing DAA governors defeated the Lone Pine slate 248 to 140. Although all Dartmouth alumni/ae are members of the DAA, current rules only permit voting on DAA matters by alums who are present in Hanover for the vote. Thus, the appearance at the election of some twenty D-GALA voters was important to the successful outcome.

Important upcoming battles are on the horizon. First, the new DAA executive council has scheduled a special meeting of the DAA for the Sunday morning of Winter Carnival Weekend, February 12, 2006 at 11:00 AM. The purpose of this meeting is to vote upon an amendment to the DAA's constitution that would permit voting by mail and internet, and that would reduce the required vote to amend the constitution from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$. Second, it is anticipated that the proposed new DAA/Alumni Council constitution will be submitted to a vote of the alumni in the spring. Regarding these future developments, D-GALA President Trevor Burgess '94 (a member of the Alumni Governance Task Force that drafted the proposed new constitution) told *Green Light*. "DGALA has a vested interest in these deliberations in that a new constitution would allow for greater representation for affiliated groups. Those attacking the new constitution regularly use affiliated group representation as a rallying cry for anti-diversity forces. It is critically important for D-GALA members to vote on these matters when they are presented to the alumni/ae. We will keep our members informed."♦

Busy LGBT Life Continues on Campus

LGBT academic and political life continued apace on campus last month, following an active National Coming Out Month in October. The last full week of the term before Thanksgiving recess featured a series of forums on current LGBT political and religious topics. Allison Smith '06 reported on the week's developments:

"On Wednesday, November 16th the GSA co-hosted the term's "Big Meeting" with Dartmouth Hillel on the topic of "Gays and God". About twenty people came out to discuss how the GLBT community is integrated (or not) in the church in America. We started the meeting with eight quotes from different traditions on a spectrum of extremely welcoming, to extremely conservative views of homosexuality. The conversation launched into some personal stories of persons who left the church and others who remained in their traditions while still being aware and open with their sexuality. Several members of the discussion encouraged members of the GLBT community to remain in the church and challenge the notions that one cannot be both Gay and affiliated with God. The Jewish Rabbi from Hillel affirmed GLBT members of his community and expressed his synagogue's support for all healthy relationships that foster community. Overall the event was well attended and members from various traditions expressed hope for the convergence of the GLBT and religious communities now and in the future.

LGBT Life, continued on page 5

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D-GALA Member Profile –Thomas Song '53

Would you tell us where you were born and how you happened to come to the United States?

I was born in 1929 in Japan, of Korean parents (my parents had had to move to Japan due to political problems with the Korean dynasty), but grew up as "a Japanese" in Dairen (Dalian in Chinese), Northeastern China (Manchuria). Japan had invaded and occupied Manchuria and established a puppet state with P'u-i, "the Last Emperor" of the Qing Dynasty, at its head. His two nephews were two classes ahead of me in my (Japanese) high school. My high school years during World War II were unhappy ones, as I was constantly beaten up for being Korean and for being a Roman Catholic. When the war ended in August 1945, I was



Song (boy, 4th from left; mother behind) at 1937

anti-fascist, anti-war assembly in Manchuria
in the 11th grade. Soviet troops invaded and came to our city. My family endured the occupation for 14 months and escaped in November 1946. The boat we escaped aboard was so slow that it took almost a week to cross the Yellow Sea and to reach the American zone of Korean peninsula.

For twenty months in South Korea I worked as a secretary for the U. S. Army military government. I was the youngest one. In 1948 my parents sent me to Boston, where an Irish-American family informally adopted me and enabled me to enroll at Newman Preparatory School then at Copley Square. I finished the American high school curriculum within a year, and entered Dartmouth in 1949. The Korean War started in 1950 as I finished the freshman year.

And how did you come to attend Dartmouth?

My foster sister, who is still alive on Cape Cod, selected Dartmouth and helped me to apply. I was lucky she helped me, as I didn't know Dartmouth from beans. Dartmouth gave a 4-year full scholarship.

Would you tell us something about your years at Dartmouth?

Those four years were enlightening, yet confusing and bewildering. To start with, there was a culture shock. The effects of the bitter years of World War II were with me. I had no money. I was living in

a culture then totally new and alien to me. I knew I somehow had to belong to survive. Because of the



Song in 1953

Korean War, I didn't know if my family was alive or dead. All I knew was that I was lucky to be alive, and that Dartmouth and America had saved me.

I was trying to identify my own sexuality somehow while trying to figure out where in this strange world I'd fit in. You see, I had never really fit in anywhere throughout my life. I was born a stranger, and was always a stranger no matter where I went

in my life. It was between 1949 and 1953 that I attended Dartmouth. In a way, I can say that I spent those four years reading Freud and Marx in Baker Library. I was trying to figure out what was the matter with me, while trying to make sense out of what was happening in the Far East. It was an impossible puzzle. I didn't have a clue. I also read Dartmouth alumnus Owen Lattimore's book "Situation in Asia", a book that was then like a North Star to me.

During my time at Dartmouth, there were many foreign students from war-impooverished Europe and Asia. Many of us were scholarship kids. DDA (Dartmouth Dining Association) was our fraternity, Delta Delta Alpha, and we formed a bond among us. They were great guys. I eventually grew up somehow, of course. I even managed to grow out of Freud and Marx. However, my process of growing-up was neither endearing nor acceptable to the public eyes in those traditional days of Senator McCarthy.

One more issue I must add. All through my four undergraduate years, I had to think through my



Thomas Song '53 (right) with Charles Burke (left) today

faith, Roman Catholicism. During World War II, the Church was the only refuge I had under Japanese militarism. I came to the U. S. and found the Church here strikingly suffocating, intolerant, and sterile. It was not the mission church I knew back in the Far East. (However, I am still a Catholic even now, and always will be.)

Song, continued on page 5

Alums, *Continued from page 1*

paced, and wildly glamorous. My life post-Dartmouth was not in bold Technicolor, of course; it involved rent, groceries, and car insurance, and was fairly ordinary for a couple of years. No circuit parties, no all-nighters, no exciting travel. Just me and a boyfriend in a small apartment over a pizza joint with floor-thumping Reggae Nights every Tuesday. Little Burlington is a far cry from the South Beach life I had been planning for, and it took a long time to realize my queer bubble dream wasn't perhaps a realistic one.

I went on feeling kind of "small fish, big pond" until I realized how formative my college years really were, and what a rare opportunity I had been handed. I had used my time in Hanover to learn how to lead within a community I care about, to organize events, and to find inspiration among the broader LGBTQ community. Those experiences led me to establish a non-profit in Vermont for LGBTQ folk experiencing domestic or sexual violence and hate crimes, called SafeSpace and in its fourth year now. Building off that success, I taught myself more about nonprofit management and am now the Executive Director of Vermont's largest AIDS Service Organization, Vermont CARES. This is a job I have planned for since I was a teenager coping with my own fears and questions about HIV/AIDS; I'm thrilled to be at the helm this year.

I've built for myself a life analogous to that of my college years; with great friends, exciting opportunities, a little travel sprinkled in, and compelling challenges each week. While I'm certainly not on track to rake in a huge salary any time soon, I know I'm making a difference in an area about which I care deeply. I've focused so much on work these past few years that I've fallen out of touch in a lot of ways, and that's disappointing, but I'm happy, determined, and proud of my time at the Big Green and beyond."

Zana Bugaighis '05: "I am happy to report that I am carrying on the Dartmouth GSA spirit here in Seattle. My OUTLAW group hosted a school wide showing of the arguments before the Washington State Supreme Court last March of the unconstitutionality of the Washington DOMA, a decision that should come down within the next few weeks. A decision from the Washington Supreme Court just came down last Thursday giving standing to non-biological parents, including same-sex couples, to bring suit for parentage rights which was very exciting and bodes well for the marriage decision that is still forthcoming.

I was recently chosen to be on the Admissions Committee at UW Law, helping to set standards of admission and select students from the applicant pool. So hopefully next year we will have a much higher number of LGBTQ students, one that is more representative of the LGBTQ population in Seattle. Last month I co-authored a proposal to the University of Washington School of Law, as Outlaws

1L representative, asking for funding to send students to the Lavender Law conference in San Diego in amelioration of the Solomon Amendment. I was fortunate enough to actually attend the conference, <http://www.lavenderlaw.org/>, and I was incredibly impressed by the valuable and inspirational information provided and speakers in attendance. One of the most special aspects of the LGBTQ community is that people of any gender, race, ethnicity, class, or socioeconomic background can be a member. Therefore the issues that are addressed must cover a broad spectrum of topics. Panels were hosted on issues from immigration and the experiences of bi-national couples to U.S. Federal constitutional and statutory issues, from discrimination within our own community to reaching out to various communities by using our own voice within, such as gay members of certain racial, religious, and partisan groups. There were conferences relating to elder care and to the unique issues faced with planning for LGBTQ couples in estate planning and taxation to discrimination in the workplace. Of course there was plenty of debate about marriage and whether it is a "social construction" that the queer community should really be supporting. The conference really helped to highlight that discrimination exists in every avenue of life and that lawyers have an ability, and moreover a responsibility, to address these disparities.

I am very much enjoying the study of law and look forward to more opportunities in the future. I only wish that my classmates were out here with me!"

Sarah Morton '05: "One second I feel like I was walking across the green yesterday, the next second I can barely remember what it felt like to be in New Hampshire in November. I am working on my master's degree in English Literature at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. My concentration is under the umbrella of Sussex's Centre for Sexual Dissidence. Dartmouth is still with me in the form of the Reynolds Scholarship, which is funding part of my work here in England this year. I live in the city of Brighton instead of on-campus, and the difference from Dartmouth's close-knit campus academic community has been really interesting for me. At the moment most of my involvement in queer issues is centered on my academic work - the two classes I'm taking at the moment are "Sexuality, Fiction, and Subculture" and "Queering Popular Culture." Otherwise I'm working part-time at an American coffee shop to help support myself and generally enjoying the scene here in Brighton, which is known in the UK as being a particularly queer city (sort of a cross between Provincetown and San Francisco - but with a British accent.) My degree program ends in August, and my plans after that are uncertain. I have the feeling I'll be moving back to the States and looking for work! I'm having a hard time deciding exactly where to move, since I have a hankering to be in the northeast, near Dartmouth and my family in

Alums, *continued on page 5*

Alums, continued from page 4

Massachusetts, but so many of my Dartmouth friends have moved on to other exciting parts of the country like California and DC, that the decision will probably rest on where I can get the most exciting job."

Andrew Goldstein '05: Since graduation, I have started two jobs – one as a cancer researcher in Boston at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and the other as a lacrosse player with the Boston Cannons of the Major Lacrosse League. Both have been rewarding in different ways. I joined a gay hockey team in Boston, and that is about the extent of my LGBT life for now. Coming up in December, I will be part of a great list of people, gay and straight, on the Out 100 which will appear in Out magazine as well as a one-hour feature on LOGO, MTV's new LGBT network. Life in Boston has been good, and yet I think about Dartmouth everyday and how thankful I am for four incredible years up in Hanover.❖

Song, continued from page 3

What did you do after Dartmouth?

Dartmouth gave me a fellowship to the University of Michigan after I graduated with an AB in mathematics. I entered the graduate school at Michigan and then was drafted into the U. S. Army. I served for three years and then was given U. S. citizenship. After the Army I returned to Michigan. I gave up mathematics (which I had forgotten during military days), got married, had a child, earned a philosophy degree, finished library school, and became a librarian.

After the University of Michigan, I started working as a reference librarian, and concurrently taught Chinese philosophy and Classical Chinese at the Michigan State University Oakland (now Oakland University). The dual librarianship and teaching role continued all through my life. I worked and taught at Wayne State University in Detroit (dabbling in a NASA project there), at Yale, and finally at Bryn Mawr College where I managed the library system, taught in the philosophy department and eventually retired in 1988.

I met my partner, Charles Burke, in September 1969. This is our 37th year of our life together. These 37 years have been a very happy, peaceful life.

Would you tell us something about how your sexual orientation affected your life at Dartmouth and/or thereafter?

The term "sexual orientation" did not exist in my days. Homosexuality was a disease, a heinous sin, a plague subject to expulsion from the campus. During World War II, I understand there existed a thriving gay under-culture in the campus though I don't learn much about it. When I was there between 1949 and 1953, however, there was nothing, zilch. I heard of only four guys who were supposed to be "gay", though I didn't know them personally. I didn't have the luxury of "relationship". Gay sex was the last thing I could consciously think of. It was a taboo. It was not an option. I didn't have even a nickel to spend at a gay bar, and I didn't know what and where it might be.

As one of D-GALA's senior members, would you share any thoughts or perspectives with us?

Despite the difficulties that I faced, I believe that your sexual orientation is a gift to you. Treasure it. Because you are gay, you can and do find many great friends in your life. I wouldn't be otherwise.❖

LGBT Life, continued from page 2

Earlier that evening, a fraternity hosted an event comparing the GLBT movement with the Civil Rights movement. A heated debate between both communities ensued with many GLBT members defending their identities against several opinions that their sexuality was a choice and optional. A few voices wanted to reserve marriage rights only for heterosexual individuals and did not agree that the two movements could be compared since one was a matter of race and the other allegedly a matter of choice. These opinions fueled plenty of lively discussion. That being said there were many voices supporting the rights of GLBT persons and affirming their "identities" rather than "preference".

On Friday night, I attended a dinner discussion put on by AGORA - a Friday dinner discussion group hosted at the Rockefeller Center by students – entitled "Homosexuality and Religion". This conversation traveled through similar terrain as the other two, but with a new twist occasionally. Some Hindu students discussed how homosexuality is not specifically prohibited in Vedic texts, but it is frowned upon by Hindu society. Most of this discussion raised questions about the objection by the Christian church and supposition of future action based on the church's tradition of accepting societal trends, or not."

Earlier in November, the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) issued a "GSA Position Statement on ROTC." For the full text of the Statement, see <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~gsa/ROTCPositionStatement.htm>. The Statement noted that, by discriminating against LGBT students, ROTC at Dartmouth violates the College's Equal Opportunity Clause and causes specific articulated harms to LGBT students on campus. While preferring an outright end to ROTC at Dartmouth, the Statement noted that some students may rely upon ROTC scholarships from the U.S. military, and so the Statement requested that Dartmouth at a minimum adopt the Brown University model, under which students are permitted to take ROTC courses at another institution.

Also in November, Professor Ana Merino of the Spanish and Portuguese Department presented a Humanities Forum lecture on "Gay and Lesbian Characters in the Comics." The lecture surveyed the history and increasing appearances today of LGBT characters in the comics. A new generation of young artists, the lecture reported, is revitalizing the genre, particularly with semi-autobiographical stories drawn from the artists' lives.❖

President's Message

December 1, 2005. I'm writing this message overlooking Copacabana beach in Rio De Janeiro Brazil - it's a wonderful summer day (southern hemisphere and all.) Alas, my business suit is on and I'm about to go into a full day of meetings so no beach time for me.

Tomorrow I'll be in Hanover (where it is not summer!) to accept the Distinguished Young Alumni Award. I just finished my speech and I'd like to share a few themes with D-GALA's membership.

Dartmouth has made a lot of progress when it comes to taking care of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. Those of you who have made it to campus for any of our reunions can report the same – Dartmouth is better today than it has been in the past. As a group we are healing from challenging experiences as students but now that Dartmouth has taken steps forward we have met them half way.



Dartmouth has a lot left to do. First, over 100 leading US corporations include gender identity in their non-discrimination policies and it is time for Dartmouth College to do the same. Second, tomorrow before my speech I'll meet with the director of admissions to talk about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students being able to self-identify on their applications.

If students can choose to self-identify as a "legacy" - a son or daughter of an alumni – then they should be able to self-identify as GLBT and have access to the services and support the college makes available.

Those are just two of the 18 initiatives we on the D-GALA board are advancing this year. Thank you for your continued support of D-GALA and do not hesitate to contact any member of the board with questions.

Trevor R. Burgess '94 trb72@aol.com ♦

D-GALA DIRECTOR NEWS

Cherie Holmes '79 of Walpole, New Hampshire, joined D-GALA's Board of Trustees this summer as D-GALA moves to fill its newly expanded Board. Welcome Cherie! The Board expects to add more new directors early in 2006, and so if you are potentially interested, please contact Trevor Burgess at trb72@aol.com.

D-GALA NOTES

Next Scheduled Event on Campus! D-GALA will hold its annual reunion breakfast meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2006. Please make plans to join us, whether your class is reuniting or not that weekend. Dorm rooms will be available for all. Contact us at DartGALA@gmail.com for more information.

• **D-GALA needs your support!** D-GALA's good works (not to mention this newsletter!) depend on your support. If you have not yet done so this fiscal year (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006) you may renew your membership (and contribute!) at <http://www.dgala.org>. D-GALA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and your contribution may be deductible. And we also need members to be involved in any aspect of D-GALA that interests them, be it local events, the next all-class reunion or a particular issue or need. Contact us at DartGALA@gmail.com.

• **D-GALA member Uri Barrera-Vasquez '98 becomes Dartmouth's Assistant Director of Alumni Diversity!** Uri's job involves, among other things, supporting affiliated alumni/ae groups like D-GALA, and so we're especially glad that he's returned to Dartmouth. Most recently Uri taught public school and earned a Masters Degree in New York City. Before that, he spent two years as Volunteer Coordinator at the Tucker Foundation. Uri's predecessor at Alumni Relations was Maria Higuerey-Birgisson, who was a great help to D-GALA during her years on the job. Maria has moved on to graduate school, and we wish her the best.

• **The Directories are still coming!** We've had a slight delay, but we plan very soon to get D-GALA member directories to all D-GALA contributors who'd like to be listed.

• **Thank you, Thomas Song '53!** I had some formatting issues that kept me from appropriately thanking on page 3 Thomas Song '53 for sharing with us a bit of the amazing story of his life. Thank you for that, Thomas, and for being a great D-GALA member! – Ed.