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## BLACK & WHITE

N U M B E R

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Cover Art by Shawn Cheng '02

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# FORWARD

Gordon. While I cannot put into mere words whatever it was Gordon taught me, I'm sure that it was meaningful and important. One can't help but look up to a man who would forgive Cookie Monster for eating his Christmas tree. What compassion! He was like a father to me. Granted, a father I only saw for an hour a day, and a father who had never met my mother, but a father nonetheless. And then, as fate would have it, one day in 1985, he made an appearance at the Kansas City Zoo, giving autographs. As I stepped up to meet him, I smiled brightly. I realized I had found my mentor, the man who truly reflected my inner self. I will always treasure my picture with him. Gordon was and still is my role model, and though I may never become a mustachioed bald-headed African-American man, I can always dream.

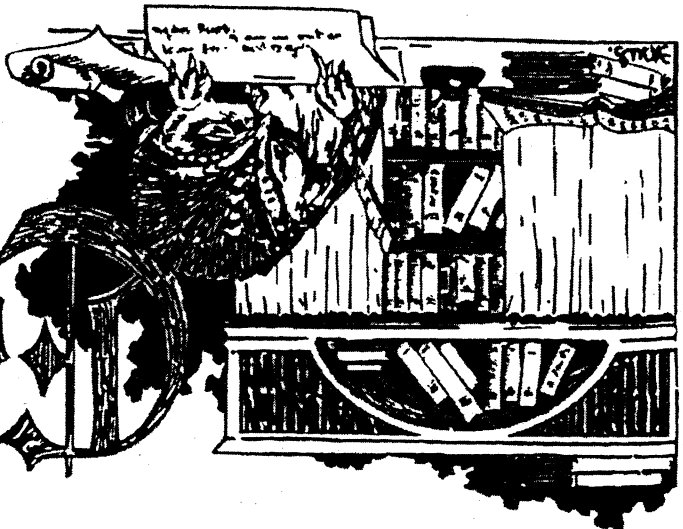
Since LeVar and Gordon were a part of my extended family, I never thought of them as being different. Together, through their example, they taught me to appreciate my non-existent black heritage.

Thanks to these two amazingly talented and influential African-American actors, you can rest assured that this issue of the *Record* represents the sophisticated, high brow comic sensibility that you've come to expect from us. Thank you, LeVar, but most of all, thank you, Gordon.

—LIPPOFF



Future *Record* Chairman Jules Lipoff with "surrogate father" Gordon (Roscoe Orman), ca. 1985.



Given this issue's theme, "Black and White," a discussion of race seemed inevitable. While many of the pieces herein have nothing to do with race, it's certainly a potentially touchy subject. So, as Chairman of this fine magazine, allow me to assure you that our staff is well versed in the virtues of good taste with regard to these sensitive issues. And what makes me qualified to evaluate race-related humor? While I may be white, I think I understand the African-American community. After all, I was practically raised in it.

In the early eighties, I was just beginning to understand the intricacies of this complicated world. My mother brought me up well, exposing me to a myriad of interests, among them television. Mom was one fiendishly clever matriarch, however, and until I was four or five, she had me fooled into believing there was only one channel on television: PBS. Eventually she allowed me to watch *Masters of the Universe*, *Voltron*, and *Fraggle Rock*, but PBS made me who I am—oh, the nostalgia! While I can spend hours reminiscing over *Square One*, in truth I owe almost everything to just two men, who honestly deserve parenting credit of some sort: LeVar Burton, host of *Reading Rainbow*, and Gordon (Roscoe Orman), resident of *Sesame Street*.

Without a doubt, these two black men prepared me, a Midwestern Jewish white boy, to become the cosmopolitan Yalie that I am today. Sure, my parents deserve some acknowledgment, having taught me to walk, to talk, and to master the so-called "practical life skills," but ultimately their contributions pale in comparison to what LeVar and Gordon did for me. (Also, as many will concur, I've never really mastered those "practical life skills.")

LeVar, with his personable manner and kind demeanor, taught me that, like a butterfly in the sky, I can go anywhere. Without LeVar, I might never have read any books at all (Did those parents of mine have books? Ha!), but you don't have to take my word for it.

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**PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPHILLS:** Phuoc La, Mark Manix.

Alumni or friends interested in donating time, expertise, or money to the *Record* can contact Michael Gerber OO '91 at record@yale.edu.

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The *Record* is always looking for new writers, artists, designers, and business staffers. Contact lee.tyler@yale.edu or just show up at our weekly staff meetings on Tuesdays at 9 pm in WLH 112.

**TO JOIN**

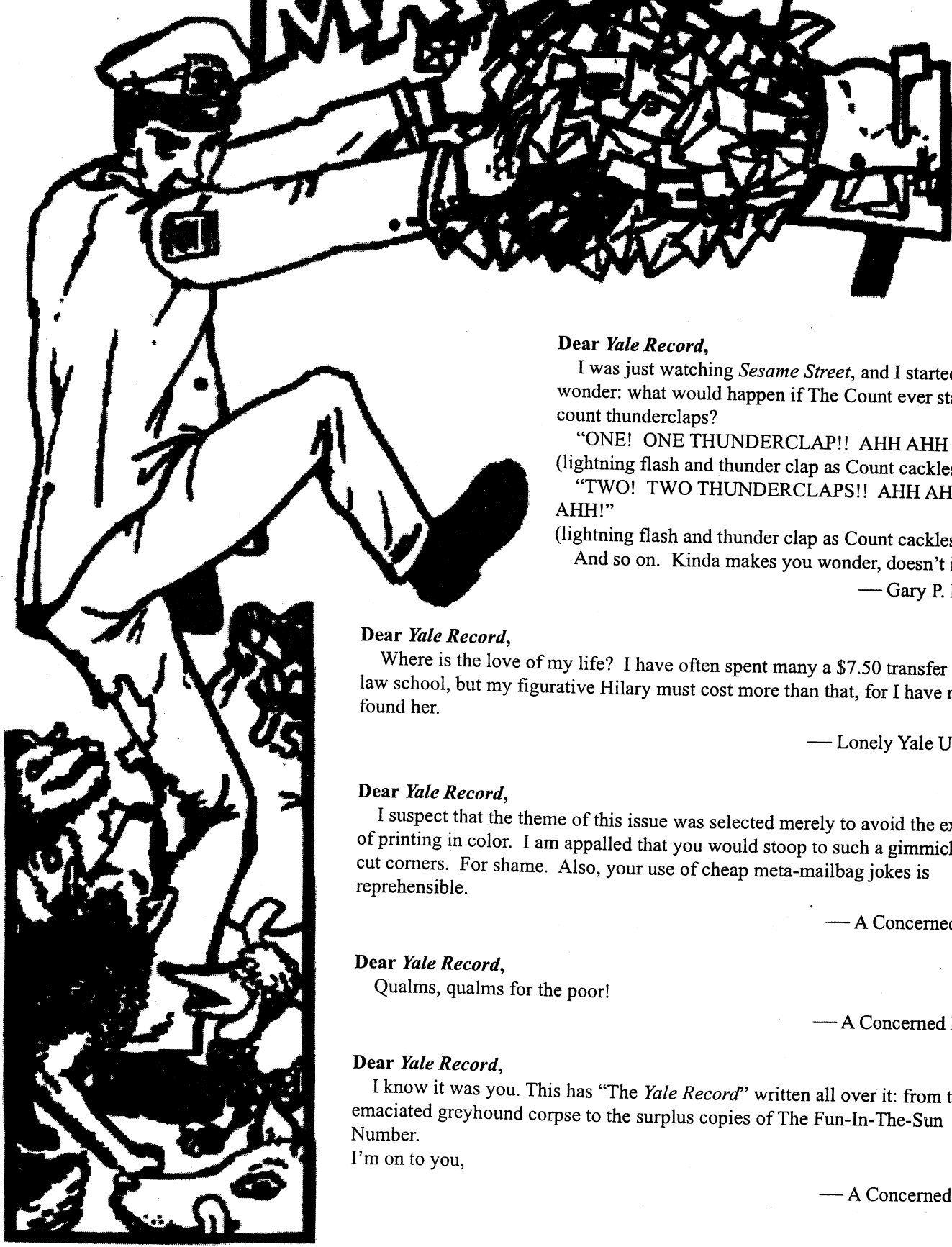
*Editor-in-Chief Mollie Wilson (L.) confers with Sesame Street's Gordon (Roscoe Orman), ca. 1985.*



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# MAILBAG



*Dear Yale Record,*

I was just watching *Sesame Street*, and I started to wonder: what would happen if The Count ever started to count thunderclaps?

“ONE! ONE THUNDERCLAP!! AHH AHH AHH!”  
(lightning flash and thunder clap as Count cackles)

“TWO! TWO THUNDERCLAPS!! AHH AHH AHH!”  
(lightning flash and thunder clap as Count cackles)

And so on. Kinda makes you wonder, doesn't it?

— Gary P. Fernando

*Dear Yale Record,*

Where is the love of my life? I have often spent many a \$7.50 transfer at the law school, but my figurative Hilary must cost more than that, for I have not found her.

— Lonely Yale Undergrad

*Dear Yale Record,*

I suspect that the theme of this issue was selected merely to avoid the expense of printing in color. I am appalled that you would stoop to such a gimmick just to cut corners. For shame. Also, your use of cheap meta-mailbag jokes is reprehensible.

— A Concerned Reader

*Dear Yale Record,*

Qualms, qualms for the poor!

— A Concerned Moralist

*Dear Yale Record,*

I know it was you. This has “*The Yale Record*” written all over it: from the emaciated greyhound corpse to the surplus copies of *The Fun-In-The-Sun* Number.

I'm on to you,

— A Concerned Citizen

Dear Sirs,

This year's Easter Egg Hunt in Kensington Gardens was delightful, but I would like to suggest an alternative plan for next spring. Rather than placing the eggs beneath shrubberies and amongst daffodils, would it be possible for the eggs to be hidden inside some of the park's many pigeons? Then the children could run about chasing the pigeons, tearing them open and looking for eggs. This would not only help to solve our pigeon problem; it would also be good sporting fun. I hope the Lord Mayor will take this into consideration.

Regards,  
— J. Vivian Ham-Huntington, M.B.E.

P.S. I assure you it is possible to conceal gaily-coloured eggs within comparatively drab pigeons. I would be glad to detail the procedure for His Lordship.

Dear Yale Record,

I'm crazy!

— The New Haven Weather

To Whom It May Concern,

Why is it that when jocks slap each other on the butt after a nice play, everyone thinks its okay, but when I touch my TA's ass after finishing an Econ problem set I have to go before ExComm? Athletes get so many unfair privileges.

— Rob in TD

Dear Yale Record,

Last night I was watching TV, and suddenly a smiling woman in a commercial began sharing details about her struggle with genital herpes. Needless to say, I was unable to finish my dinner. I feel strongly that such advertisements should not appear on network television. Those suffering from such repulsive illnesses should be forced to watch their own, STD-focused television stations. I know if there were a syphilis station, I would watch it.

— Ned Blumenthal

Dear Yale Record,

This letter was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. George Lowenstein, in memory of her husband, PC '47.

— Mrs. George Lowenstein

Dear Yale Record,

I'm going bald. How do I stop this horrible process?

— Angus Williams

Dear Angus,

I hear that if you wash your hair with a lye derivative shampoo 3 times a day, the bald spots will disappear in no time.

— The Yale Record

Glad to be of help,

Dear Yale Record,

Is it just me, or are there a lot of *Sesame Street* jokes in this issue?

— Gordon, 123 Sesame Street

Dear Yale Record,

I'll be attending Yale next year, and I'm already working on a plan to impress my new friends with my creativity and quirkiness. My toenails are already painted purple, and I've started using a "creative" spelling of my name (isn't that kewl?). I'm planning to get a Dr. Seuss tattoo on the inside of my ankle. Are there any other steps you would recommend?

— Chempther Holmes

Dear Greenhill Farms,

I find the name of your new meat substitute, "EcstasOY," misleading. In fact, my reaction would more accurately be described as "SOY-icidal."

— Disappointed vegetarian

Dear Angus,

Shit! Forget that last message. We got confused. Washing your hair 3 times a day with lye derivative shampoo makes bald spots APPBAR. Sorry about that. As for making the bald spots disappear, we suggest using a carbohic acid derivative shampoo.

Sorry for the confusion,

— The Yale Record

Dear Yale University,

I just love your TV system! I have all 12,478 hours of the "Blue Screen" on tape and I've started a chat group on AOL to talk about it. My favorite was when the time and date at the bottom of the screen changed over to the New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone said I was crazy to stay in my room all during winter break, but now the joke's on them! Keep up the good work, guys.

— Todd Im, DC '04

Dear New Haven Ninjas,

Stop dishonoring ninja traditions and win a damn game.

— Ninja Union Local 34

Dear Yale Record,

I don't think the letters in Mailbag are all from actual readers.

Getting suspicious,

— Martha Olsen

Dear Martha,

The letters in the *Record* are all from real readers...and you're going to hell.

— God

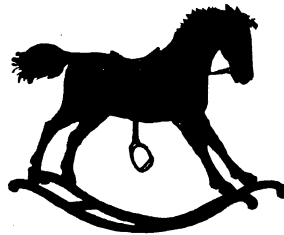
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