

Help Yourself, by Omair Ahmad (BSS Class of 2010)

"Help yourself," the sage advised
To the lady, single and singular
Who had raised matrimony
In the Chancellery
Somewhere between Greece and Discipline
Of a fiscal nature
Because no other discipline
Was to be had
When ties were unknotted
Beer bottles opened
Gay bars conquered
By madly dancing participants
Who disappeared in a puff of smoke
Leaving behind nothing
But a broken watch
On the dance floor
Africa was extracted, India inserted
And China struggled
"We were only killing our own people."
Somewhere along the way
MacDonalds offered very happy meals
Even with late night chicken wraps
With a Schluck here and a Schluck there
Germany and Egypt met separately
And disappeared together
Russia said "Well ...,"
And Romanian interest was kindled
By something large on the train
To a town that might
Or might not exist
Germany fluctuated between Bulgaria and Turkey, all or none,
Slept the night away
While Britain stalked Berlin, skirtless
Man bag armed and ready
America was quiet, at times strategized
At times apologized
While Nigeria stalked leopard-suited
Upon the world stage
Catholic and Protestant support
Kept the Muslim upright.
Proving yet again that women will save us all
In their own way, no doubt
Although Iran and Pakistan, sadly absent
Missed the chance
While Egypt and Israel challenged history
With memory
And a nuclear free world was unveiled
Kind of
While Afghanistan was lost, and won,
And Lebanon raised a question, then another, then another
And finally only asked one.