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Poet Jordan’s “New Days”

by Karen Olson

June Jordan.

What does she look like?” asked the bookstore lady.

“Tall, black and slender,” I said.

“Sort of majestic. I suppose she’s in her late thirties, but she looks a whole lot younger than that,” I said.

“Oh,” said the bookstore lady. “I know her. She came in here this morning. She was very pleasant.”

“I wanted to buy her book,” I said. “Oh, there it is. $3.95? Oh dear.”

“If it must have been a good poetry reading,” the bookstore lady said.

“It was beautiful,” I said. “Just beautiful. She has a beautiful voice. Her poems flow out just like she’s thinking them up at the moment. They match her voice and expressions.”

“It must have been a good reading. Her book has been selling fast. We hardly ever sell many of those poetry reading books,” the bookstore lady said.

“I want to buy one so much,” I sighed. “$3.95. I flip through, and there are those words again, the ones that enchanted me last Thursday night. Her voice is not in print; the poems aren’t quite the same. But the words are, and reading them I recollect the tones, the pauses and emphasis.”

“If the Watergate poem is in here, I’ll buy the book, because that is the funniest poem I have ever heard,” I think. Yes, there on page 112 is the tale of how Richard Nixon chopped down the cherry tree.


“If I sound a little shaky, that’s only ‘cause I am,” the poet says.


“I know her. She came in here this morning. She was very pleasant.”

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“If I sound a little shaky, that’s only ‘cause I am,” the poet says.

“Oh, you came in on one of those ten-seater Executive Airlines planes?”

“Yes.

“Did you want to come up here?” I ask.

“Yeah, I really did. I wanted to see what Maine was like. I’ve never been to Maine before.”

The poems are smooth, vocabulary simple, length medium. There are 17 poems of exile, “Roman Poem Number One” through “Roman Poem Number Seventeen.” Sixty Baties listen. Ancient Rome poems and undercurrents of “yesterday and yesterday... in the Middle Ages... this is the truth the people left this place alone.” Temples, vast crumbling massive temples, “The temple is the color of a life on stone the sun continues blustering the surface tenderly” when time is it? “Coming home from Rome: “Poems of Return.” To technology.

family and lover:

“Your body is a long black wing
Your body is a long black wing.”

June Jordan gets angry. “When I heard about those two men getting shot at Southern University last year, I couldn’t sleep until I’d written a poem,” she says.

“Sometimes it’s best to write a poem when you feel it,” she says. “I revise everything about 20 times anyway. Some poems come later when you look back. But I feel everything I write.”

“Fragments from a Parable” are angry poems. A poem for Michael Angelo Thompson, 13 years old, killed in Brooklyn last March, “but did not die.” A poem for two human beings black men, shot on the lawn of the president’s house at Southern University, Baton Rouge. A poem for Ethel Ennis, who sang the “Star Spangled Banner” at Richard Nixon’s inauguration. And a poem for June Jordan’s mother. Humor, too, though. “God is on the TV watching you and watching me we better be good.”

Playing soccer with a pine cone: “Hey man, is that a regulation pine cone?” Yeah, man, God has done it again.”

The end of a love poem: “Baby I do not exaggerate, and if I could I would.”

June Jordan. Back to where I

RA Meets

What can you say about a half-hour meeting?

This week, the Assembly unanimously passed a motion that would require every student with evaluation sheets to measure and comment on each of their courses at the end of each semester. Although the planning is still tentative, currently the evaluation is planned to be aimed more at informing the faculty that the students.

The yearbook has requested $150 to help relieve the debt incurred by last year’s Mirror and the Chess Club asked for $100 to finance a professional tourney. Both of these requests will be acted on next week.

The Assembly also heard a worker for the PAM campaign, requesting the help of Batesians on voting day.

Forgotten Blacks

A letter.

The Black student body of Bates is completely ignored on this campus. We are noticed, but then again we can’t help to be noticed, but this is where it ends. Three and a half years ago I went to this huge freshman meeting where the President spoke to us. He informed us that Bates doesn’t give special treatment to anyone regardless of their race, creed, color or sex. From this statement I’m sure you can gather the flexibility this college has for dealing with people coming from the same society but different cultural backgrounds. It possesses no flexibility, if you can’t assimilate into the type of cultural atmosphere that Bates is geared to, then you’re lost. You either have to escape from Bates every weekend, or simply withdraw into the safety of oneself, (which is dangerous). Racism, subtle or blatant, you find everywhere in this country, so don’t think it doesn’t exist here on this campus. There are probably two main reasons why certain racist acts haven’t been pointed out. The first being the fear of stirring up trouble for the college, oneself, and most important one’s friends. This is a bad attitude, but nonetheless it exists. The second reason being the attitude, “what’s the use”. This attitude has grown out of the constant attempt to do things and the constant blocking or having limitations placed on you to a point that you can accomplish only very little.

For an example the Afro Am Society, its purpose is to bring about a better awareness between Black and white students on this campus. It is attempting to do this by bringing Black poets, movies, speakers and artists to this campus in hopes that they can give some insight to the Black experience in this country. But for four years these attempts have been badly crippled by lack of funds.

Last week the proctors met with the President, we were discussing “social life” at Bates college. I couldn’t get into the discussion knowing the Black students have very little social life. He also mentioned the “Sugarloaf” conference which really angered me, it would have angered you to if you knew the only Black student...
To Enjoy, Not Crucify

The intramural constitution states that two teams should "enter a contest with the expectation of having the maximum of pleasure." Last week the divisional winners of the A touch football league played for the championship of that league and in this game it became apparent that this principle of the intramural program had degenerated into one of "win at any cost" and its connotations of injuries, arguments, and personal grudges.

However, this event should not be singled out as an isolated event but rather it is the culmination of an attitude that has been invading the intramural program for years. The competitive atmosphere that exists today is a perversion of the recreational function that intramurals should provide. Instead of providing an organized forum enabling students to relax and expend some energy by participating in an athletic event, the intramural program is now an intense, goal oriented competition which one associates with intercollegiate varsity athletics.

The program itself has aided the creation of this atmosphere through the use of final standings, officials, and championship playoffs. However, the real blame for this situation must lie with those who participate in the program. One should enter into these contests with the intent of having fun, regardless of the outcome of the games themselves, rather than competing as a pseudo-athlete with the won-lost record as a measurement of one's enjoyment. Each participant should examine his reasons for playing and if these are recreational in the true sense of the word then the intramural program will be a valuable one once again.

BC

Anti-Mush Mind

League Members Unite

by Cathy Anne Gallant

All people with ideas bumping around, in the works, in permanent form - take notice! Are you hunting for a forum to exhibit your "creative ability"? If so, you may be interested in our publication, a vehicle for the poet, short-story writer, essayist, critic, photographer, and artist. We are interested in all art forms. So, whatever you do, please submit your material to the main desk in the library as soon as possible. (A Garnet Publication)

How to Beat Bates

WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

by Ed Byrne

For all you freshmen with Dana Scholar aspirations, enclosed herewith is the full recommended text for your guided perambulations complete with introduction by Dean Lendaholm.

"Mr. and Mrs. Cash, I'd like you to meet Dana Grinde, a product of the strong liberal arts foundation at Bates. I'm sure both you and your son, Bill, will enjoy your tour."

"Thank you Dean Lendaholm."

"Yeah, and thanks for the munchies, Milt."

"As we pass through the quasi-Greek columns defacing Lane Hall, we see the national historic site of the campus, Hathorn Hall. The ivy-strangled structure, which is a fine example of the crumbling brick period, also houses the offices of the radical right and radical left, the Ousting Club and STUDENT respectively."

"Don't you have a student government?"

"Yes, but the RA spends most of its time talking to librarians and watching rocket launches."

"Is that a dorm over there on the right?"

"Yes, that's Porter Hall, a sanctuary for expatriate Rand girls and loser of door design contests for the last fifty years. As we walk through the few remaining survivors of Dutch elm disease you see the massive stone throwback to the religious past and convenient token sanctuary for expatriate Rand girls."

"Have you decided on your major yet or are you still dabbling in the liberal arts?"

"Oh yes, I'm a double honors major in chemistry and government, take five courses and audit a sixth."

"What are some of the better departments here?"

"I have no idea, the requirements of my major prevent me from taking anything but chemistry and government courses."

"Oh?"

"Most all the houses you see are dormitories as well, except for the gray one which is "ole heid's" place."

"Ole heid?"

"Yes, since the Bowdoin and BMV Barbarian scandals, the president has become a cultural anti-hero with the students and hence earned the enduring nickname."

"How long has the psych lab been here; it looks new?"

"No one in the department can remember since they perform the memory experiments last year."

"Are these dorms, too?"

"No but that white house is the latest addition to the campus virgin vaults."

"Parsons House?!"

"Yes, but actually the gnomes painted the wrong name on it. It should read Parsons Home for Wayward Girls since the purpose (or unpurpose) of the dorm is to provide an atmosphere where sweet petticoats can sit around a crackling fire and write German papers, get into Byrne or some blase about their wayward off-campus whims. They even provided a nook for studying for genetics exams."

"Aren't we reaching the limits of the campus?"

"By no means, the college owns practically all of Frye Street. Besides it would be unfair to show you Parsons without showing you its antithesis, that bastion of campus capers, intramural hot shots, and all around studs?"

"Chase House?"

"Hell, no! Pierce House! (I just don't know about this new crop of subfash; don't even know a phallic symbol when it's half way up their nose.)"

"What's the social life like here?"

"In back of us is Memorial Commons, the only place on campus that gets more crowded than the library."

"I guess you didn't hear my last question?"

"Just answered it."
PLAY TO OPEN TONIGHT

Bates College Theater Director David Twomey has announced that the College's first production of the season will be Bertolt Brecht's CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE in the Schaeffer Theatre November 8, 9, and November 11 at 8:00 p.m. and November 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Fox Watson, '76, of Waterville, plays the lead character of Grusha, a kitchen maid who finds and cares for an abandoned child and brings him up as her own.

But when the changing tides of political fortune make the child's royal heritage an asset, the real mother tries to take him back. To whom does the child belong, the mother by love or by birth? The play is set against a backdrop of war, revolution, and counter-revolution, and as with Shaw's "Arms and the Man," Brecht's work treats the subject lightly, comically, but also profoundly. Technical Director is Norman Dodge, Set and Costume Designer Donald Lent, and Music Director Joanne Stato, a senior from Monroe, N.Y.


Dear Editor,

I recently returned from a weekend spent at Bates College observing the first annual college field hockey tournament. What I saw was that which constantly reminded me of the ongoing government scandal - but on a smaller scale. I relate this experience only because I hope that in making the public aware of it, I can somehow prevent it in the future.

To start from the beginning, my first reaction to a state tournament in which all teams would participate was one of delightful anticipation. All season, I looked forward to going to Bates and participating as a member of a college field hockey team. But my delight was turned to disgust when Bates set up the tournament, rating teams, not on this year's performance, but on last year's record. I couldn't understand why teams should be seated in the tournament on a past season, seeing how each successive year brings in new players, new potential, and a new season's record of wins and losses. Thus, why not use this year's wins and losses in rating the teams for this first tournament? It's interesting to note that last year's ratings seated Bates second. This leads me to wonder what position they might have been in had they gone by this year's record. However, my attention was soon diverted from this puzzling and needless question when I found out that not only did Bates "twist" the team rating but also set an arbitrary ruling that each team could have only 15 members. The logic behind this rule completely boggled me. Why was it necessary to limit the size of individual teams? Bates provided very little refreshments and housing so surely the reason wasn't financial. The sidelines were never completely full, so surely the reason, too, wasn't overcrowding. Could it be that Bates was afraid of a competitive team's strategy in substituting more players than Bates could handle? This indeed seemed the only answer.

Anyhow, the rule of 15 members per team went into effect. Thus, I along with three other members of my team, went to "observe" the first annual hockey tournament instead of rightfully participating in it like we had happily anticipated the whole season.

Other minor incidents and events occurred the whole weekend which helped to leave a bitter taste in my mouth and unpleasant memories in my mind. For instance, why was it Bates was the only team that had only one game to play yet made it to the final round while Portland-Gorham played three games in one day and never made it? Strange indeed - except that - don't forget it was Bates who set up this whole tournament so obviously they knew what they were doing. I won't go into any other incidents because to do so might cause my loss of temper. Let me just say that completely unnecessary obstacles and frustrating rules were set up in this past tournament which took away from what might have been an enjoyable weekend for all teams involved, and to quote Claudia Turner, center halfback for the Bates team "... what are sports for if not for the enjoyment of all teams?"

Sincerely,

A member of a participating college hockey team.
WEDNESDAY 14 November
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
(Graduate School of Business Administration)
Graduate Education and Careers in Management
Possibility of LUNCHEON MEETING, 11:30 A.M. (Interviews 9-11:30)
Representative: Mr. James Smallfield
THURSDAY 15 November
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
(Graduate School of Professional Accounting)
MBA Program in Accounting
(LUNCHEON MEETING, followed by interviews)
Representative: Professor Joseph Goremme

CAREER DAY
Bates College will serve as host for a Federal Career Day, Friday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alumni Gymnasium.

Representatives from a variety of Federal agencies and activities including the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, First National Bank Region, Customs Service, FBI, U.S. Civil Service Commission, Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Veterans Administration, and others, will be on hand to discuss the latest programs and employment opportunities in the Federal Government and to provide instruction on how to apply for Federal jobs.

The career day, designed as an informal meeting between students and government representatives rather than a recruiting effort, will provide students of all academic levels and backgrounds with a chance to learn about possible future careers with the Federal Government.

PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (in cooperation with Boston College Graduate School of Education)
Internships and Graduate Study in Special Education (Scholarships)
GROUP MEETING 2:30 P.M. in Skelton Lounge
In individual appointments available before 2:30 and after 4:00 P.M.
Representative: Mr. William T. Heider
FRIDAY 16 November
KATHERINE GIBBS SCHOOL (Boston, Mass.)
Special Training for A.B. graduates in office practice and business procedures
Representative: Ms. Martha R. Sloan

ALL INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY AT THE GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT OFFICE

ALTERNATIVES
Attention: History Majors and others who may be interested.
The History Department Council is sponsoring an informal program, "Some Alternatives to Teaching: Historical Societies, Museums, and Archives." Mr. Gerald Morris, Director of Maine Historical Society, Mr. Edmund Lynch, Director of Strawbery Banke, Inc.; and Ms. Jo August, Kennedy Foundation, will discuss the nature of their jobs, the training that is required, and the employment situation. An informal atmosphere is designed to encourage questions and discussion.
Place and Time: Monday, November 12, 4:30-5:30 P.M. in Hisawza Lounge.

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RESEARCH?
Any student or faculty member interested in researching land use, French-Canadian culture, or energy on either a state-wide or a local level is asked to contact a Bates member of the Maine Public Interest Research Group. Maine PIRG is currently gathering information on these subjects for use in future litigation and social work.

On the Bates campus, contacts include Merle Bradlont, Barry Gilberg, Dave Webster, Dave Mansfield, Sue Hawkes and Karen Olson.

CHEM. HOSTS
The Bates College Lawrence Chemical Society will host the November meeting of the Maine Section American Chemical Society, Friday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in room 119 Dana Chemistry Building. The speaker for the evening will be Prof. William R. Moonaw from the Department of Chemistry at Williams College, who will be speaking on "Thermodynamic Perspectives in Environmental Problems." The lecture is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

LECTURE
The Bates College Campus Association will sponsor a lecture by Earl Robit, Professor of English at City College of New York, Nov. 15 at 8:00 p.m. in the College's Chase Lounge. Prof. Rovit has authored two books of poetry, "A Far Cry" and "The Player King." The title of his lecture is "The Poetics of Crossing."
The public is invited to attend and there is no admission charge.
With Regrets,  
Another Third

by Wendy Ault
Bates hit the road for another weekend tournament and came up with their usual third place win. Unfortunately, the order of teams was as it was because we played better and more together as the tournament moved along.

We lost a tough match, one that we could and should have won, to UMPI. We seemingly wanted the first game progress leaving us the loser, but came back to give them a real fight in the second, but it just wasn’t enough. Our regrets to the hockey team, we tried, but just didn’t get it together enough to get revenge.

Our three victories were over Machias, Fort Kent, and UMPG. Scoring the key factor was not three. Jackie Harris always pulled through at the lead-off position and although known for her chop ability, Alyson Trico came through in the clutch. Selby bruening almost won an entire game against POGO.

The best game of the day was against UMO. Joyce Holiday, Alyson Trico, and Jackie Harris finally got some good bumps to setters Candy Stark and Selby Bruening who used their fingers well, giving Phl Mosher something decent to spike. Pat did a great job despite the fact she was suffering from an injury received during a rigorous practice. Shirley Stone did an excellent job filling in for Pat in the game against Machias. Her high bumps to the front line enabled Joyce and Alyson to get over some good spikes.

Although the ride home was interrupted by the unchubb’s car’s malfunctions, (it seems there was a marshmallow stuck in the rear tire), it was a lively one; a free concert by the fearsome foursome and Mrs. Lachapelle seemed to have an enjoyable time listening to Wolman Jack and his music.

This Friday, Bates is hosting its own tournament at the Lewiston Armory which is just down the street, access, next to Lewiston Jr. Y.M.C.A. Here’s your chance to see the Bates’ Beauties in action. It begins at 9:15 and lasts throughout the day. We’ll probably need some help with line judging and timing so if you have any free time come help. It’ll be appreciated and unhealthy to special added attraction, (that is, if knowing Alyson Trico is playing isn’t enough to get you there) Cindy Holmes will be there officiating. So y’all be sure to come.

Intramural

Sign-ups for the intramural volleyball and 3 on 3 basketball tournaments will be held until Nov. 9th. Also sign-ups for a basketball and co-ed volleyball. Sign up in your dorm.
INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS TOURNAMENT
Bates Takes Third

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Claudio Iida of the Bates starting line;
"Good things come in small packages."

Soccer Closes Season With A Tie

by John Willhoite
The varsity soccer team concluded their schedule last week with two more ties and finished an unusual season with a disappointing 2-5-5 record. The booters battled to ties with Colby and Bowdoin 1-1 and 3-3 respectively.

The Colby game, played in the rain on an extremely muddy field, was hardly a true test of soccer skill but made for exciting spectating none the less. Jim Tonrey, the freshman left wing who, incidentally, had a very good season, scored the Bobcat goal early in the second half. The Mules tied it up soon after, and, several muddy minutes later, the game ended in a deadlock.

In the Bowdoin game Eric Tank-Nielsen ended his college career on a high note; scoring two goals in twice rallying the Cats from one-goal deficits to a tie. Bowdoin jumped off to an early 1-0 lead in a first half marked by poor Bobcat defense. Tank-Nielsen tied it moments later on a beautiful shot from the eighteen-yard line. The first half ended 1-1. The Cats played considerably better in the second half, but still had to come from behind twice to salvage a tie; once on Eric's second goal (another 18 yarder) and once on a penalty kick by fullback Pat McNulty. They just missed on several other scoring threats.

The Cats must now look to next season. They will be without the services of forwards Wayne Lariviere, John Dickey, and Ken Gibbs, halfbacks Eric Tank-Nielsen, and Dirk Visser and goalie John White; all graduating seniors. Gibbs, Tank-Nielsen and White have all been starters for four years. Visser also was a starter. With the nucleus of seven returning starters, however, it is hoped that the Cats can look for better things next season.