

value-free neutrality has on academia.

<sup>3</sup>All of this is an overview of the *bias* in academic scholarship and does not treat important details. If the situation were simply this, we would not expect Women's Studies programs to be allowed at all. Thought in universities is, of course, not monolithic and biases are not necessarily conscious on the part of professionals themselves. Universities operate within an ideology of liberalism, with some room for diverse opinions. This, however, does not change the systematic bias toward the maintenance of the status quo in the mainstream disciplines.

<sup>4</sup>Some feminist scholars have not stayed in academia. Those that have not, however, have generally used the other structures that provide credibility, such as publishing.

<sup>5</sup>Some toleration of ties between organized labour and the university exist, but in a top-down way that usually does not contribute to any progressive tendencies in the unions.

<sup>6</sup>Physics and mathematics may be possible exceptions to this statement. In these fields, the constraints on both the questions that can be asked and on the possible results are so great that they appear to unfold in a deterministic way, unaffected of social factors. These constraints are due to the narrowly defined systems under investigation, the dependence on the existing theoretical framework, the already known facts and the state of experimental development.

<sup>7</sup>A complete look at the mechanisms for controlling the directions of research calls for a long discussion. Funding is clearly an important component.

<sup>8</sup>Note that one implication of this discussion is that a real world does exist out there that we can try to learn about. However, even within the limited questions we necessarily ask, we can never be absolutely sure that we have found the truth.

## References

*Author's Note: Much of Margaret Benston's work is relevant to this discussion. See the bibliography in this journal.*

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## HELEN POTREBENKO

### A Song for Maggie

Goodbye old friend  
Longtime friend  
Now beyond time  
Goodbye friend  
Longtime friend  
Now beyond, now beyond time

Never again to pick up the guitar  
Never again to sing like an angel  
Sing out on the picket line  
Sing, sing, sing to soothe a friend  
Now beyond, now beyond comfort

Never again going for a walk  
It was a good road you travelled  
Every step of the way  
Now it's a long, long, it's a long road without you  
Now beyond, now beyond distance

No more talk  
No more papers  
Ideas are for living  
Students to other classes now

Never again to come over for dinner  
No longer needed  
The earth is now your home  
Returned to the earth, returned to the air  
Returned to the wind and the sea

Goodbye friend  
Never helped you live  
Couldn't help you die  
Now beyond pain  
Never again will I bring you daffodils  
Now beyond, now beyond season

*Helen Potrebenco was a longtime friend of Maggie Benston's. This poem was written for her memorial service and was set to music by Phil Vernon.*