

## ANGELA BELCASTRO

### The Burial

It is time to bury you.  
It is time to bury this.

An intruder,  
you slip into my thoughts  
abducting what little  
strength  
I have left.

This hunger of yours  
to dissect our history  
this perennial inspection  
like some kind of  
sadistic review

embitters me.

But perhaps  
that is  
your pleasure.

One thing is certain:  
You are predatory.

Carefully  
I plan to bury you,  
the grateful earth  
concealing all trace of us.

I will not see  
one finger  
creep from this terra firma

pointing accusingly

demanding I be sentenced  
once again  
to love's scrutiny.

*Angela Belcastro is a graduate of York University's B.Ed programme and has been teaching in the area of Special Ed. and E.S.L. She has recently returned from Guyana, where she taught English in a rainforest village.*

## Reflections on a Tour to South Africa

by Sandra Levy

*L'auteure réfléchit sur son expérience en tant qu'athlète noire lors d'un récent tournoi de hockey en Afrique du Sud.*

For me personally, Black History Month is a time to reflect on my experiences as a black woman. My greatest achievements thus far have been in sports. Representing Canada has provided me with tremendous opportunities and filled me with an extra special sense of pride in my country. I believe that I am an ambassador of Canada when I travel to other countries to represent Canada at international competitions. As a black person, I feel an added sense of responsibility to also act as an ambassador for black people. This responsibility exists for all athletes but it is up to each individual to either consciously accept the role of ambassador or to reject it.

Last April, I chose to accept the responsibility of acting as a black Canadian ambassador on a field hockey tour to South Africa. After sanctions were lifted, my team travelled to South Africa to train against the South African women in an unprecedented tour by a Canadian team. I had reservations about going to South Africa. Firstly, I had supported sanctions against South Africa because of its racist apartheid policy since I was a teenager. And secondly, but most importantly, I was anxious about how I would be treated by South Africans, both black and white. As the only black member of my team, I feared being singled out and treated as inferior like my black brothers and sisters have been treated throughout time in South Africa. I did not enjoy the five weeks I spent in South Africa, but it was an important experience overall.

Upon reflection... I believe that I showed South Africans what a black person can achieve when given the opportunities that are supposed to be available to all people in a free and democratic country. My team (there were two other non-whites on this tour) was a good example for South Africans that integration is normal and encouraged in the rest of the free world.

I hope that every facet of South African life can eventually achieve the integration that their sport system purports to have attained in order to be reinstated by the International Olympic Committee. And wouldn't it be nice if all South African could one day rejoice in the contributions of the country's black population ...

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