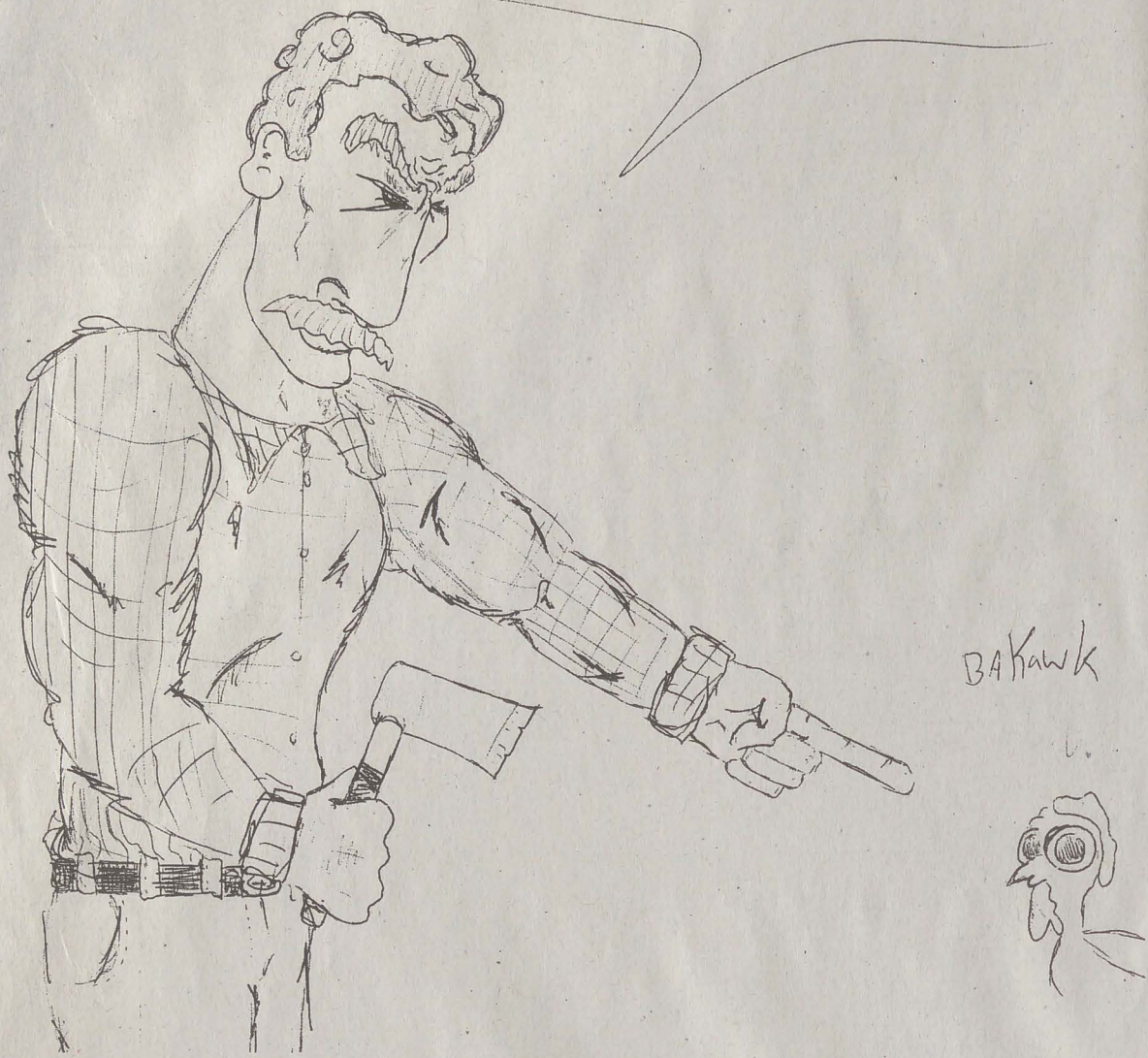


# Superfluity By Josh Timlick

DAMN YOU FOR  
MAKING ME LOVE YOU!



## Barbara Kingsolver goes into Africa

BY JOHN KISSANE  
STAFF WRITER

"Imagine a ruin so strange it must never have happened," begins *The Poisonwood Bible*, Barbara Kingsolver's masterpiece. The line is ostensibly a description of the jungles of the Congo, but it also serves as foreshadowing, as the novel is a tragedy, one so awful it cannot be believed, but rendered with such verisimilitude it *must* be believed.

Kingsolver has written three other novels, and all of them have been excellent in depiction of character. This one is better. Her other three novels have also resonated strongly on the political level and so does this one, involving the political turmoil of the Congo starting in the late 1950's, during which a popularly-elected president was killed, probably by the CIA, and replaced with a more American-friendly dictator. This facet of the book, though very well fleshed-out, never intrudes on the main story.

The main story involves four girls who are taken by their mother and father to the Congo for missionary work.

The father, a minister, is rigid in his belief systems and unwilling to make any concessions to the age-old beliefs of the Congo people, which causes many problems. Also, he verbally and sometimes physically abuses his family.

The church that sponsored their stay in the Congo decides to stop sponsoring them after a year, seeing no results, which means that the family will not even have the meager outside help they once did. The father elects to stay, despite the protestations of his wife, and tries to instill a love of Christ into the natives while he slowly loses any last vestiges of sanity.

The novel shows the arrogance of trying to force others to your way of thinking. It shows the comfort of faith, and what's left after all your faith is gone. It shows how to survive even after you lose your humanity. Ultimately, it puts the lie to the old saying, "whatever doesn't kill me can only make me stronger." None of the characters who survive until the end of the book do so without serious psychological and physical scars.

Kingsolver manages to

be literary without being showy. She gives the novel extraordinary depth while managing never to descend to the self-conscious level of such exercises in verbal self-indulgence as Philip Roth's *Sabbath's Theater* or Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*.

In the end, this is a novel of character. The four daughters narrate the bulk of the story, with occasional passages from their mother. The character of Adah, one of the daughters, is in particular powerfully drawn-out and alive. She's a malformed genius with a taste for palindromes and a stoic attitude, and to trace her development is to watch a real human being grow.

Buy it, borrow it, check it out, or steal it. I love this book, and I very much believe you will too. Of the hundreds and hundreds of novels I've read, I've never encountered a better one.



## Nunsense: The Divine Comedy

By AMY WALLOT  
STAFF WRITER

Five hilarious nuns graced the stage for ACC's second annual scholarship fundraiser. *Nunsense*, a musical by Dan Goggin, was performed in Granum Theatre January 14-17 and January 24.

The fundraiser is used to support performing arts scholarships here at ACC. Last year's faculty variety show raised \$3,500. Sonya Titus, the director of *Nunsense*, said that she hoped to raise around \$4,000 this year.

*Nunsense* is a musical about the Little Sisters of Hoboken. They stage a talent show to raise money to bury the last four, out of 52, Sisters who died after eating poisonous soup. The surviving nuns were spared since they were off playing bingo.

The Little Sisters of Hoboken would have had enough money to bury all the dead, had Sister Mary Regina, played by ACC business faculty member Linda Suneson, not bought a new VCR.

The musical is unique in that the cast interacts with the audience. The nuns use the audience as the audience for their talent show.

"It was funny. I loved it," said ACC student Amanda Nielsen. "I laughed so hard I cried!"

Humor and good times were not the only reason Titus decided on doing *Nunsense*.

"I thought I could cast it really well from the area so that it would be a high quality show," Titus said.

And indeed, the cast did contain some of northeast Michigan's finest talent, including Marlo Chittick as Sister Amnesia, Alisha Cole as Sister Hubert, Melissa Gleason as Sister Leo, and Mary Jo Scott as Sister Robert Anne.



With help from choreographer Christine Giordano, the cast started learning the dance routines in September.

While the stage was filled with talent, so was backstage, where many people worked hard building and painting the sets and doing lights and sound.

ACC student Chris Thomas helped paint the set. Thomas is also one of about 20 students who received a performing arts scholarship this year.

"Working in the theatre is a great experience, especially for people who want to perform in theater. You have to do more than just act in a show to know what theater's all about," Thomas explained. He plans on transferring to CMU next semester to study theater and vocal music education.

Titus noted, "As our [per-

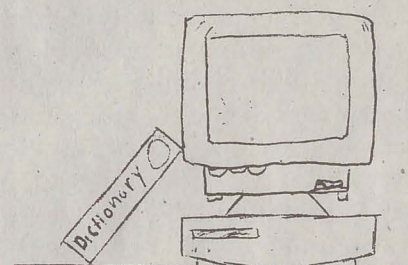
forming arts] program grows, we're going to need more scholarship money. So far we've been able to support all our scholarship applicants."

To qualify for a performing arts scholarship, a student must present Titus and ACC's acting instructor Nan Hall with a portfolio detailing their past work in theater. They must also include recommendations. If Titus and Hall are unfamiliar with the student's work, the student may have to audition for the scholarship.

Titus and Hall try to see area high school plays as often as possible to watch for talent that might head to ACC after graduation.

With more than 200 people in attendance for most of the shows, and even a few shows that sold out, this year's fundraiser was a great success, Titus said.

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It came with my pea sea  
It planely marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea

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It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lee ever wrong.

Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
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It shows me strait a weigh.

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Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
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