



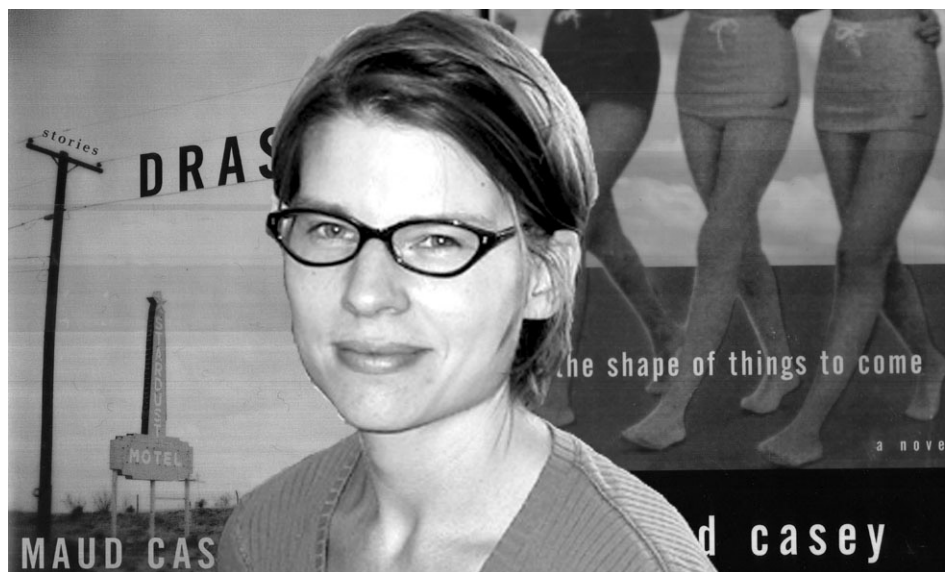
The News

May 16, 2003

Gilman School

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Maud Casey, this year's Tickner Writing Fellow, is shown with *Drastic*, her new collection of short stories, and *The Shape of Things to Come*, her first novel. (Photo by Peter Brockmeyer, photo illustration by Tom Miller)

New Tickner Writing Fellow Chosen

Fellowship Now Held by Writer Maud Casey Anchors Gilman's Literary Scene

BY CHRISTIAN FLOW

As quiet as she may seem in person, Ms. Maude Casey's presence on the Gilman campus is undoubtedly a significant one. Author of a critically acclaimed novel, *The Shape of Things to Come*, as well as a collection of stories entitled *Drastic*, Ms. Casey has taken the love of writing that she acquired growing up in a household full of writers

and has coupled it with a love for teaching, also to some extent acquired from her father, an English professor. Having had experience as a college professor, Ms. Casey this year moved from Brooklyn, New York and has enthusiastically filled her position as this year's Gilman writer-in-residence. She down plays the idea of having had any difficulty with the transition, saying simply that she is "definitely teaching something she enjoys," and noting that the students she has encountered at Gilman have been mostly "on par if not more sophisticated than the students [encountered] in the college setting." When asked about particular memories she has gained from her experience, Ms. Casey cites the simple pleasures she has experienced: being able to work with students both in a welcoming classroom setting and one-on-one in the writing center, as well as the excitement and anticipation she felt when students would come back to her with their revised work.

Certainly it takes the right type of person to fit the Tickner Fellowship mold, in order to insure that the responsibilities intrinsic to the position are properly executed. The selection process is a rather involved one. To begin with, the position is advertised in only one place, the Associated Writing Programs, which Dr. Tipper describes as the "umbrella program for all college writing programs," with an audience primarily composed of those who happen to be coming out of college with a writing degree. This one advertisement draws annually about fifty applicants, a field whittled down to about thirty by Dr. Tipper and the rest of the selection committee, comprised of such parties as Mr. Schmick,

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Growing Role of Religion In Athletics Incites Little Controversy

BY PETER JAROW, MICHAEL SILICIANO, AND JOSH SWEREN

In an October 20, 2000 interview between the Baltimore Sun and local sportswriter Mike Preston, the following question was asked, "What do you think about Gilman now that they have become a nationally recognized program?" Mike Preston responded, "I admire the Gilman program. I think very highly of Biff Poggi, Stan White and Joe Ehrmann, who are solid Christian people. Poggi has done everything he has needed to elevate the program." This seemingly non sequitur of responding to a question about a football program with a religious description indicates the recently growing ambiguity between athletics and religion on Gilman's campus.

Given Gilman's mission to promote "mind, body, and spirit," religion, or at least some conception of spirituality, has always played a major role in life on campus. The role of religion, however, is far from static. Indeed, lately a disparity has grown between religion's role in academics and athletics. Although religious devotion is seldom shown in

the classroom, many coaches, on the other hand, feel that a silent moment or prayer before a game can be effective. Athletic director Mr. Holley, who has been a part of the Gilman community since 1971, commented on the growing role of religion in athletics as the result of coaches who attended Gilman in years past, when not as much focus was placed on religious sensitivity. He noted that assembly was once known as chapel, and hymns were often sung. As "nostalgic alumni" have returned to join the coaching staff, they try to share the religious tradition from their time at

Gilman with present students. In effect, it has become a passing down of traditions, an attempt to teach character education from a "different angle." He continued to stress that none of these rituals is in any way denominational; the point is to encourage unity among team members and merely a "belief in something bigger" than ourselves, whatever that "something" might be for each student.

More specifically, the football team coached by Gilman alumnus Mr. Biff

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Sports: Season Wraps Up For Tennis and Lacrosse; What Drives Major League Players? (Page 4)

LETTERS...

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the heated debate concerning Mr. Jeffrey Marx's book *Season of Life* and his assembly that took place earlier this year. Moreover, it is clear that at the heart of the debate lies a deeper struggle that exists in the Gilman Community: the apparent conflict between athletes (read "football players") and the rest of the Student Body.

So there I was, slouching in my chair in that assembly listening to this author rant and rave about the life-changing experience that defined Gilman Football. Like Messrs Miller and Siliciano, I was skeptical of this so-called character development program. After all, since freshmen year, I had encountered all the pompous varsity jackets, etc., that had accompanied football players. My own football career had ended after eighth grade because, quite frankly, I didn't have the size or the desire to pursue the sport at a higher level. I was a critical outsider, always raising an eyebrow at the notion that such a physically demanding sport could foster any deeper understanding of love or brotherhood. I had heard all the rumors that surfaced practically every fall—of the lower academic standards and easier grading that football players could expect, of all the free clothing, of the sport's large budget that swallowed the fiscal allowances for cross-country and water polo. No, I told myself after that assembly, that book's just full of crap—it just exaggerates the camaraderie that the overachieving team built up. All these feelings and more raced through my head...that is, until about two months ago.

You see, two months ago, my JV lacrosse season began, and I met Coach

Joe Ehrmann for the first time in my life. And at that moment, all those rumors, all those skeptical doubts, and all those suspicions and off-beat remarks, vanished, replaced by one hopeful, albeit simple, statement: Ehrmann was for real. For the past two months, Coach Ehrmann, drawing from those same themes described in *Season of Life*, has taught me and my teammates lessons that will carry on long beyond the end of our season. Using our erratic performance in games, Coach Ehrmann has helped us grow and mature as a team by exploring the true nature of what it means to be on a team, but his underlying message, however, is how we can apply what we learn on the lacrosse field to life. How will we overcome adversity? Coach Ehrmann stands strong in his belief that it is through a cooperation effort, that is, the awesome synthesized power of 30 some boys all working and enduring for the same goal. Furthermore, these goals are not materialistic—at one point during the season, Coach said he didn't care about our 4-6 record is we were a 4-6 team. In short, Coach Ehrmann's greatest characteristic that he brings to the table is his unwavering optimism, even when things can't get any worse. In response to Mr. Miller's and Mr. Siliciano's articles, then, I think it is important for one to understand something before they criticize it, whether it be art, athletics, or whatever. Moreover, I am disheartened that this misinformed critique has come at the expense of one of Gilman's greatest individuals. Indeed, while other programs and activities at Gilman attempt to fulfill the school's goal in the development of the "mind, body, and spirit," it is Coach Ehrmann's philosophy that truly captures the essence of the school.

Sincerely,
Evan Chriss '04

Religion in Athletics Provokes Little Debate

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Poggi convenes before games for what has become known as "chapel." During chapel, players listen to readings from a wide variety of sources, from the Bible to *Les Miserables*. Several players described this experience as "motivating" and "unifying." David Donahoo '04 commented on the open format saying, "You speak to each other. No speaks down to you." Joe Battaglia '04 remarked, "It is more morals than religion. It teaches how to be a good person."

Mr. Poggi discussed the chapels in a remarkably similar fashion. "Gilman needs to be a place of inclusion for people, not exclusion," he commented. Moreover, Mr. Poggi stated that the purpose of chapel meetings was more one of character education. The chapels are "not religion as people would originally jump to, but the idea that you are transcending yourself, the idea of what I can do to help you." Mr. Poggi thinks of the chapels as more of a spiritual experience, as opposed to any sort of denominational religious experience.

The sentiment that religion is not being taught but instead the accompanying social values seems to be widely

felt. This practice of holding chapels has been adopted by other teams as well, including J.V. Lacrosse, coached by Mr. Joe Ehrmann, a minister at Grace Fellowship Church.

In general, sports chapels tend to focus on other issues rather than religious matters and thus do not exclude against any religious group. Jewish student Michael Silber '05 commented, "I don't have a problem with the J.V. lacrosse chapels because they don't center on religion. They help us get in the right mindset before a game." Jordan Tucker '05 felt similar about the J.V. football chapels, saying, "I liked prayers before a game because it was a spiritual thing, and the coaches made an effort to include everyone." Tucker did, however, say he felt awkward when Jesus was mentioned in prayers.

Some members of the community do express fears that these practices do tread a fine line, as the division between religion and athletics has become more fluid. Mr. Julius commented that these practices should be more open and discussed in the community. Mr. Julius went on to say, "All things need the light of day."

Gilman Graduate "Gets Some" At College

BY TOM MILLER

Fans of the music of 2002 Gilman graduate Derrick Wang will be pleased to know that his composing career has continued at college. Indeed, the author of Gilman's 2002 spring musical, *Prom*, has already produced a second musical theatre opus. Coauthored by fellow Harvard University freshman Michael Mitnick, *Get Some* was produced as the eighth annual Harvard Freshman Musical on April 24, 25, and 26. Wang served as director.

Described as "a searing social commentary of what it means to be a freshman at Harvard," the hilarious show successfully – perhaps too successfully – fulfills this lofty goal. Deeply sophisticated and intellectual in tone, the show tells the story of three male students "in desperate search of love" who become entangled in a complicated dare, the substance of which inspired the work's title.

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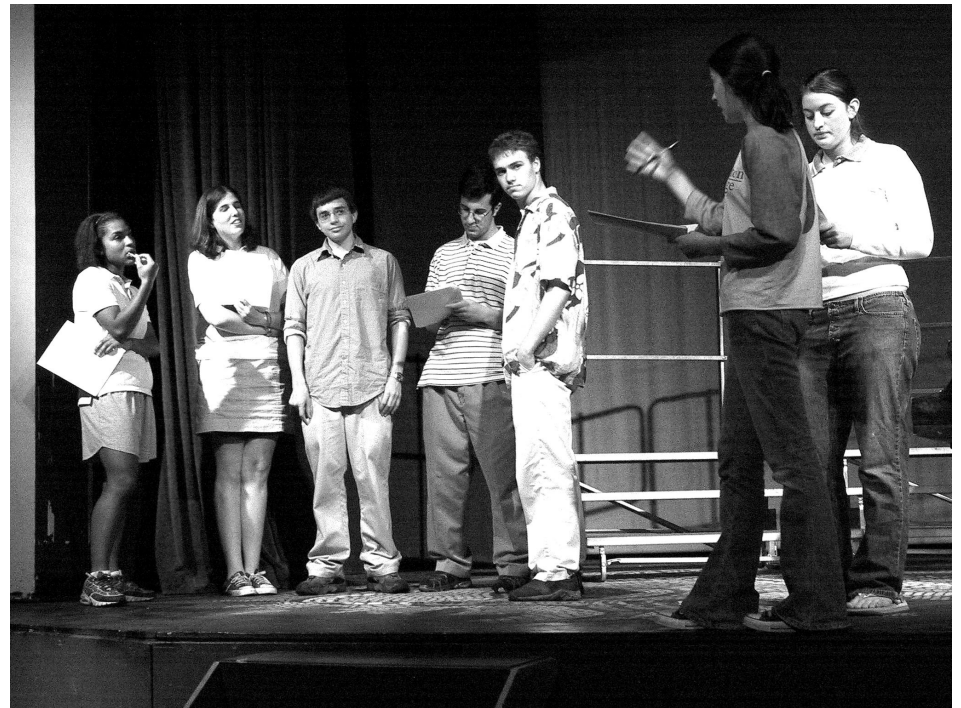
Adam Chiles to Replace Maud Casey as Tickner Writing Fellow

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Mr. Christ, Mrs. Turner, and Mr. McGill along with input from the Paragon editors and additional members of the English department. The main criteria looked for in the incipient stages of the selection process include published works, teaching skills, organizational skills for organizing the writers-at-work series, and an excellent overall knack for writing. As so many of the candidates easily satisfy these basic standards, the committee then has to investigate whether each candidate is really interested in being on the teaching staff at a high school – most actually are looking to be hired at a college, and from there the list continues – do the candidates demonstrate the good communication skills necessary for a teaching position? Which of the prospective Fellowship recipients will demonstrate the greatest degree of facility in making a transition to the Gilman atmosphere – it is imperative that the Tickner Fellow be able to “hit the round running,” for the position is only a one year fellowship, there is little time for the Fellow to warm to his/her surroundings. And finally, the committee looks for a candidate who has their own writing project to occupy themselves over the course of the year. Says, Dr. Tipper, “It’s nice to have the feeling that a particular piece of writing was accomplished in residence at Gilman.” Having the writer in residence working hard on something also helps to set an example for students expected to demonstrate the same level of commitment to their own work. And so, the field gradually dwindles – the thirty culled from the original fifty are narrowed down to a group of three or four finalists, who come to visit the school in order that the selection committee might be allowed to see how each reacts to the environment of this particular

educational institution, which is often a very different setting from that which the candidate might be accustomed to, before making a final decision.

In the eight years since the Tickner Fellowship’s inception, Dr. Tipper states simply that the position has “actually stayed very true to itself.” The combination of tasks that she helped to put together along with former headmaster Mr.. Montgomery have changed little. If anything, with the generous gift of the class of ‘75, allowing the salary of the writer in residence to be increased, alongside the health insurance benefits added by Mr.. McGill, the position has become a bit more appealing to potential applicants. One must realize that while the “scope of the job and the kind of person” being sought hasn’t changed; the future of the Tickner Fellowship is far from being predictable and insipid. The parameters of the position have not changed precisely because the fellowship has been consistently able to attract such exciting new characters as Mr.. Adam Chiles, next year’s writer in residence, whom Ms. Casey refers to as “a dynamic teacher,” certain to be a worthy addition to the Gilman staff next year. Currently involved with the poetry department at the University of Arizona, Mr.. Chiles will be moving across the country to occupy the position as writer in residence. Clearly, the Fellowship has directly benefited the Gilman community on many occasions since its beginnings, and will continue to do so. It has grown from one man’s great dream, into a great idea, and finally into a great reality, and certainly this quality does justice to the man whose name the Fellowship bears, for, in the words of Mr.. Schmick, Reginald S. Tickner, “was a giant, a great man.”



Fia Alvarez BMS '03 (second from right) provides artistic direction at a rehearsal for her show *Blue Hours*. Gilman students Rusty Rich '05, Kareem Shaya '03, and Billy McCarthy '05 figure in the cast. (Photo by Jennifer Redd)

Times Are Blue At Bryn Mawr As a Student Director Lives Her Dream

BY MATT YOUN

Ever had the dream of writing and directing your very own play? Well, whether you have or not, that’s beside the point, because the point is that Fia Alvarez has had that dream, and she’s living it right now. Having written the script for the play *Blue Hours*, she is currently directing it for this year’s Bryn Mawr Spring Play. With this first time directing, Alvarez is starting her future career in the arts, aspiring one day to start a production company. *Blue Hours*, a two-act script, is based on poems written by Sylvia Plath, a 20th century poet, and the storyline emanates from selected poems recited during the course of the play. After having written a term paper on the poet during her junior year, Alvarez commented, “I knew that once the term paper was done, I didn’t want to stop writing about her.” By analyzing Plath’s poems, Alvarez developed characters based on the poems, over about a year and a half, to write the script. Senior Arup Chakrabarti noted, “It’s hard for me to believe that someone’s writing in high school can be this good.”

The story, in two acts, is based on several poems by Plath. Throughout the play, the two main characters on the stage are Fig Tree, played by Nina Themelis, which is from the poem “The Bell Jar”, and Sleeping Girl (Sarah Attman), who represents Sylvia Plath. The characters all come from the dreams of this girl. Act 1, based on the poem “Eavesdropper”, tells the story of

Mrs. Thyme (Fionnuala Fox), an old, groggy lady who spends her whole life watching her neighbors, a girl Diana (Margot Wohl) and her brother Joey (Keith Levy '03). Although she is very critical of the siblings, one must question whether she is in the right position to judge their lifestyles. In Act 2, two poems called “Daddy” and “Mad Girl’s Love Song” are interpreted. In this story, Dad (Billy McCarthy '05) has AIDS, yet he refuses to undergo any treatment while his wife does research for him. With this conflict, much turmoil within the family ensues and especially causes much frustration for the daughter Aurelia (Alex Jacobs). For all these characters, the fig tree on the stage represents the paths that their lives could take, but the tree also represents the fear of not accomplishing everything that they want to accomplish.

The play, in addition to the dialogue of the characters and the poems, includes dance sequences choreographed by Elizabeth Burger. Along with play advisor Mr. Shoemaker, help also has come from set designer Brett Luskin '03. The play has also had much aid from Themelis and Morgan McDonald, with costume design from Alvarez. As Alvarez explained, “It’s a very interesting production and is shaping up so well.” To see the play, admission for which is free, come out on May 30, 31, or June 1 at 8, 8, and 2 at Bryn Mawr Centennial Hall.

Varsity Lax’s Talent Brings Success

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Calvert Hall.

In their final meeting of the season, a playoff match against rival Boys Latin, the Greyhounds had their hearts broken in a tight 3-2 loss.

Senior Luke Wilson, moving onto the University of Pennsylvania next year, led Gilman’s offense along with Senior middies Bart Weinstein (Cornell), Chris Merwin and attackman Alex Wharton.

Even though Gilman had a potent offense, the real strength of the team

was the defensive unit anchored by goalie Grant Zimmerman '04. Zimmerman kept Gilman in many games with his acrobatic saves, charisma, and ability to handle the ball. Along with Zimmerman were defensemen Gentry Fitzpatrick '03, who will be going to UNC next year, Tap Kolkin (Yale), and Juniors Dave Baker and Dave Caperna.

Yes, Gilman’s lacrosse season has ended, but the future looks bright for the Greyhounds.

Varsity Tennis Wins MIAA Championships

BY NEILL THUPARI

On the afternoon of Friday May 2nd, 2003, the Varsity Tennis team traveled to McDonogh in hopes of recapturing the MIAA Varsity Tennis Championship. Later that evening, the Varsity Tennis team returned home with the Championship in hand. Avenging last year's championship loss, and a loss to McDonogh earlier this year, the Varsity team savored every moment of their sweet victory over the Eagles. The team won by a final score of 3-1 in matches, with no need for the final match to be played since the Greyhounds had already won.

However, the match was much closer than expected. At #2 singles, senior Rohit Rao came back from one set down to win his match while the #2 doubles team of senior Peter Ahn and junior Josh Sweren won their match coming from behind to ultimately clinch Gilman's first Tennis Championship since the year 2000.

During the course of the season, the team displayed a strong showing in almost every match they played. Losing only one match in their whole season,

the team left a strong impression on all the teams in the MIAA Conference. "After a stellar season like this," said #1 singles player freshman, Ted Kelly, "we would have accepted nothing less than beating McDonogh in the Championship."

Coach Jim Busick, who has been coaching here at Gilman for more than 20 years, was extremely happy with the result at this year's championship. Additionally, Coach Busick was glad to see #1 and #2 doubles win the individual championship. Nonetheless, the team will lose three of its senior stars on this year's team, but it is not a bad feeling to go out on top of the MIAA's for Ahn, Rao, and #3 singles player, Amol Narang.

For these three seniors, it is their second championship in four years, but with a strong core of returning players, and another great class of players coming from the underclassmen, the Gilman Varsity Tennis Team looks to return next spring in full force with hopes of keeping the MIAA Championship here at Gilman.

Abundance Of Talent Allows V. Lax Team To Thrive

BY REDMOND FARHA

When the spring season started, the general sentiment around the league was that this year's Varsity Lacrosse Team would be the team to beat. It may not be one of the best teams that Gilman has ever had, but there was a lot of speculation about Gilman's defensive abilities. Not only was the defense expected to succeed, but the team was full of talent at every position on the roster. The bottom line is that a lot was expected out of the Varsity Lacrosse team.

The year was up and down for the talented team but optimistic senior Tap Kolkin when he said "we're hopeful that the year will finish a success; we think we've proven a lot in our last two games against Calvert Hall and Mt. St. Joe, and we're looking forward to a good end."

The team got off to a great start, winning their first four games. In one of their first games of the preseason against

Georgetown Prep, Gilman showed their ability in a convincing win. They went on to win games against Boys' Latin, Friends, and Severn. At that point, the season looked very promising, but the season suddenly took an unexpected turn.

After the 4-0 start, the team slowed down a bit, losing two games in a row against two formidable opponents, Calvert Hall and St. Mary's. After the short mid-season slump in which the team dropped to 6-4, things started looking up again. And knowing Gilman's team, they would not be losing many more. The team recently played Calvert Hall, the number one team in the division, and beat them in overtime. They now share the second place spot in the division, but count on the team to make a big effort to regain first place over

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SPORTS VIEWPOINT

Major-League Motivation: Money or Love of the Game?

BY SIMON LANDAU

Often in the professional sports industry, athletes are criticized for their lack of motivation. Also, fans complain that big-time athletes are just playing for the money, that the reason for playing the game is no longer because they love it, but because they want the annual check.

For pleasure or for money, that is the question. Do Major Leaguers play because of their love of the game, or for the salary that accompanies it? Has the fire that burns inside of baseball players become nothing but ashes? I set out to find the answers to all these questions and more. I came up with two differing opinions.

Most of the players I spoke with took the approach that the money is just an incentive, an extra bonus. In the big scheme of things, however, they said they were just playing for the love of the game. I asked Orioles first baseman/designated hitter David Segui if money impacts the way he plays, to which he responded, "No, (money) is an incentive and a perk, it's how we feed our families. The money we make now has to last us the rest of our lives."

After hearing this, Gilman 10th grader Tyler Hoffberger said this about Segui's comment, "I can respect what (Segui) says, because it's his job to play base-

ball, but I don't understand people like A-Rod (Alex Rodriguez) who desire excessive amounts of money."

Other players said that the money was important, that it was a big reason for playing in the MLB. Mostly, these players were foreigners (ex: Tony Batista of the Orioles, Angel Berroa of the Royals). This is an interesting idea,

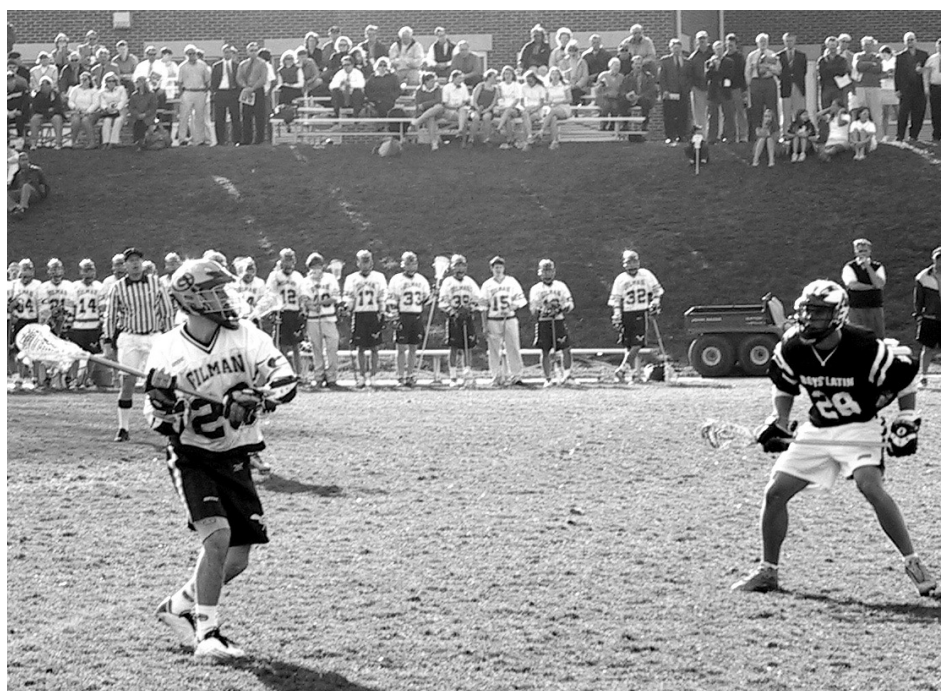
that foreign baseball players, who grew up needing money, enjoy the cash which is given back to them through the game of baseball. Orioles third baseman Tony Batista said this in regard to the money, "I play good every day for the money. That's why every-

"I PLAY GOOD EVERY DAY FOR THE MONEY. THAT'S WHY EVERYONE IS HERE."

one is here."

So, Major Leaguers are playing the game for many different reasons. They could be playing for the love of the game, for the need of income, or for a mixture of both. Therefore, the next time you're about to criticize a MLB player, just stop and realize that despite being paid all that money, they're just like any other young adult trying to make a living.

Special thanks to players from the Orioles, Royals, and Devil Rays, for allowing me to interview them, and to Mr... Bill Stetka of the Orioles Public Relations Dept. for making this article possible.



John Corbin '03 looks for a pass in the Varsity Lax game. (Photo by Brian Sanders)