

Chapter & Verse

Correspondence on
not-so-famous lost words

Lewis Klebanoff seeks a poem, possibly titled "Together," describing a married couple aging together, in their living room, the husband reading, the wife knitting. "As I recall, they didn't speak, but the poem dealt with the depth of their communication and relationship."

Bob Tieger asks whether "more brio than class" has a literary origin, and if so, who said it about what or whom.

"I'm a city boy myself" (May-June). Daniel Rosenberg and David Goldber were the first to identify the conclusion of Saul Bellow's *Humboldt's Gift*.

Send inquiries and answers to "Chapter and Verse," Harvard Magazine, 7 Ware Street, Cambridge 02138, or via e-mail to chapterandverse@harvardmag.com.

insult is so delicious that the insulted could endure it with a measure of joy.

Alas, there is not much joy in *No Joke*. Obviously, writing seriously about humor, especially its potential to lead to shame and defeat, does not lend itself easily to funny expression. But does this mean such a book must be virtually devoid of fun and wit? The entire enterprise of evaluating humor by extraliterary standards, particularly moral and political standards, is very much with us these days. Comedians and just plain partygoers routinely endure serious condemnation for going outside the bounds of political correctness with their witticisms. Undoubtedly, this represents a step forward in sensitive civil behavior, but one cannot help wonder if something gets lost in the process. Something funny. ▢

Daniel Klein '61 is the coauthor, with Thomas Cathcart '61, of *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar—Understanding Philosophy through Jokes* (see "Jocular, Ergo Sum," May-June 2007, page 26). Klein's most recent book is *Travels with Epicurus*.

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