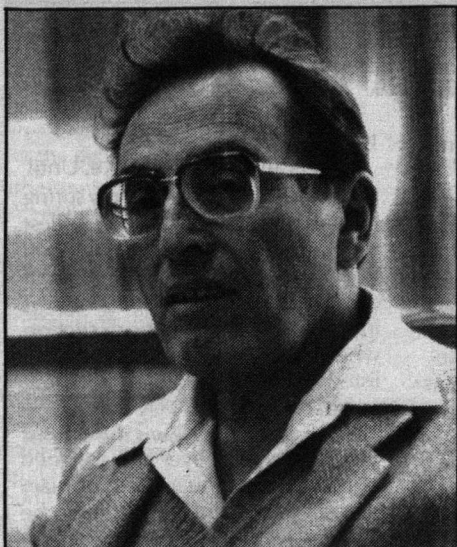


# A plea for religious tolerance



Clement Leibovitz

*Memoirs of God*  
Lone Pine Publishing

review by Gilbert Bouchard

Clement Leibovitz manages the impossible on two counts. Leibovitz takes some pretty heavy religious philosophy in his novel *Memoirs of God* makes it readable, creating a work of fiction with old Jehovah himself as the protagonist.

Through the course of *Memoirs* Leibovitz's Jehovah explains his actions during and after creation, explores his feelings and insecurities and (horror of horrors) discovers that he's not alone. Jehovah finds himself on trial. He's dragged in front of a conclave of all the multiverse's Gods. In fact, Jehovah finds out

that he's only an apprentice deity, and an incompetent one at that.

This conclave of Gods examines Jehovah's morality and behaviour using the Judeo-Christian Bible as evidence. The verdict: Jehovah has acted morally inconsistently, and has demonstrated considerable sexism and hatred.

Through the personas of two conclave gods — Koray the reader and Cholem the poet — Leibovitz dissects the Bible literally and metaphorically, pointing out how the God of the Old Testament fails to live up either to the loving caring God of the New Testament or to man inspired definitions of divinity and perfection.

The conclave of Gods, after hearing the testimony of Christ, decide to sentence Jehovah to spend time on Earth in the body of a man — minus omniscience — until Jehovah convinces one mortal of his true identity.

While on earth, Jehovah discovers the novelty of learning and develops a sense for men as individuals — not only as a species — and consequently discovers mercy.

Above all, Leibovitz's book is a cry for religious tolerance. Leibovitz's book is not an attack on Christianity nor on the Bible. What he is trying to do is to point out that the Bible, if taken literally and out of context, can produce a merciless and petty God inconsistent with the God presented in the Bible as a whole.

By indicting Jehovah's individual actions and individual inconsistencies, Leibovitz demonstrates the danger of men limiting God by trying to over-personify him. While fundamental Christians often accuse secular humanists and liberal Christians of inventing

God as they go along, Leibovitz very eloquently tosses the argument back into their theological faces, showing how the Bible itself can be used as a tool to rob God of some of his divine and omniscient splendor.

Leibovitz's conclusions are often extreme and always controversial but this should not deter anybody from reading his book. Christian and non-Christians alike can benefit from Leibovitz's analysis and conclusions.

The book works both as a work of philosophy and as an entertaining piece of literature.

While you may not agree with his conclusions on original sin, the divinity of Christ, and his ponderings on universal salvation, he sure presents them in a clear, logical and entertaining fashion.

No one can do too much thinking on their fath (or lack thereof). *Memoirs of God* is just a very painless way of doing so.



## Patterson moving high tech

story by Libby S. Progenitor

"I'm still a guitarist," said local musician Edward Patterson. "I'm expanding the guitar music through the guitar synthesizer and the music computer."

And with the help of his new Yamaha music computer Patterson is taking his long musical tradition and experience into the age of high tech sounds. Patterson's experience dates back to the mid-60's when he belonged to the R & B group the Good Shepherds. The Good Shepherds opened for almost every Motown group of the era including The Supremes, Little Richard and The Jacksons and even put out their own album on that label. Their single "Does Your Mama Know About Me" became a national hit.

After the break-up of the Good Shepherds, Patterson moved to Vancouver and did extensive studio work — studio work that introduced Patterson to the magic of synthe-

sizer music. He then went on to win the 1982 Roland International Synthesizer Competition for his creation "Angel Dance," and recorded his first solo album *Distinguished Alien*.

"I moved out to Edmonton a year ago to do studio work and discovered that there was more happening here than in Vancouver," said Patterson. "I've been doing work at Sundown recording studio on a second album." He added that a lot of musicians come from B.C. and other provinces to record here.

Patterson regularly performs at Andante and is also writing the music for a play called *Cat or Ph'ee* based on the Greek legend of Orpheus. The play — a work of music, dance, and mime — will also be presented at Andante.

Patterson will also be appearing in the Dinwoodie lounge April 6 beside the Ripchords, and ZaZa.

MARGARET THATCHER TODAY EXPRESSED RAGE AND SHAME AT BEING LEFT OFF MR. BLACKWELL'S WORST-DRESSED LIST.

MS. THATCHER, SHOWN HERE DID HOWEVER, TOP THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.

A NEW RUBBER TOY CRAZE IS BORN! "CHATTY CHEEKY" WAS DELIVERED TO PROUD PARENTS BARBIE AND KEN GOODYEAR OF LARCHMONT, N.Y.!

THE BOUNCING BABY WAS LAST SEEN OVER NEWFOUNDLAND AND WAS REPORTEDLY STILL BOUNCING!

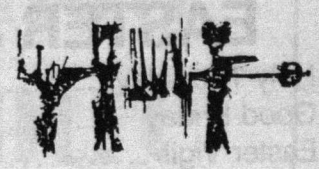
FINALLY, A REVELATION THAT A MAJOR COMIC BOOK COMPANY HAS BEEN BUGGED THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS!

IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY GOT HIP TO WHO I AM!

**AMBUSH BUG™**  
GET THE COMIC BOOK AT...  
**STARBASE 12**  
10627-101 St.  
(one block south of THE BRICK!)  
Phone 429-4622  
Comic Hotline: 424-4845

Also carrying Star Trek & Dr. Who memorabilia, Dungeons & Dragons, Wargames & Miniatures and Bloom County T-shirts.

### STUDENTS' UNION INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



#### EUGENE L. BRODY FUNDING BOARD

- requires 1 student-at-large member

**The Brody Board:**

Determines Students' Union financial donations to various charitable or relief projects from the Eugene Brody Fund.

#### HOUSING AND TRANSPORT COMMISSION

- requires 1 student-at-large member

**The Housing and Transport Commission:**

- Makes policy recommendations to Students' Council concerning housing and transportation concerns.
- Is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a long-range plan of housing and transportation for the students at the U of A by the Students' Union.
- Works with the various student residences on issues of concern.
- Investigates development and zoning plans for the University area.

#### RECREATIONAL USE OF "PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRE" COMMITTEE

(a Standing Committee of the University's Vice-President (Facilities and Services))

- requires 2 student-at-large members

**Purpose of the Committee:**

- To review recreational needs of the students and staff as they affect the scheduling of free time in the Physical Education and Recreation Centre.
- To establish policy as to the Centre's use during the periods not scheduled for regular classes.
- Meets at the call of the Chair.

**TERM OF OFFICE FOR ALL POSITIONS:**

1 May 1985 to 30 April 1986

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** 19 April 1985

For Applications/Information, contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, Room 259 SUB, 432-4236.