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Macalester Today November 1991

Macalester College

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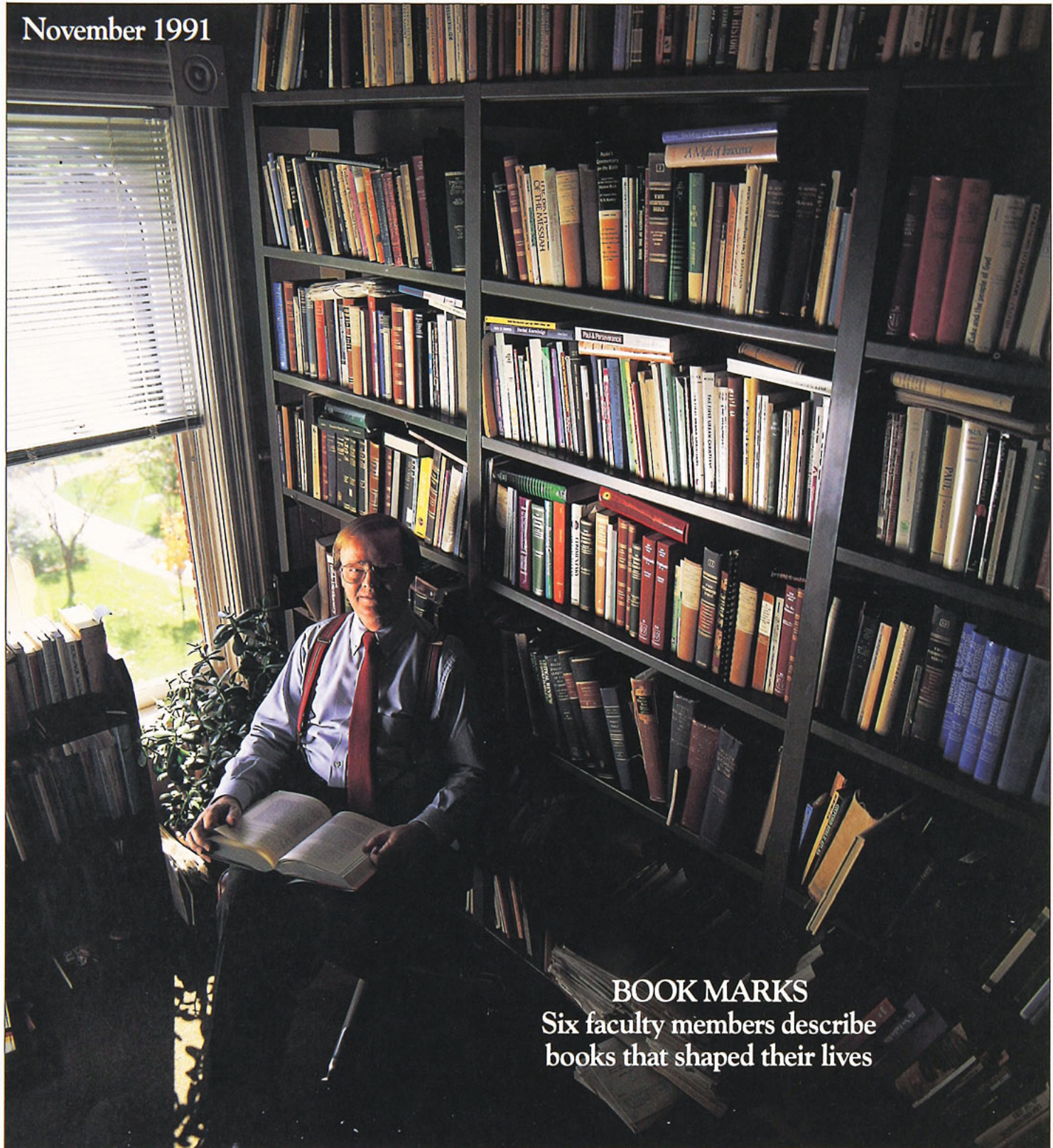
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MACALESTER TODAY

November 1991



BOOK MARKS

Six faculty members describe books that shaped their lives

LETTERS

The policy of Macalester Today is to publish all letters from alumni, the primary audience of this magazine, as well as other members of the Macalester community. Exceptions are letters that personally malign an individual or are not related to issues at Macalester or contents of the magazine. Please send letters intended for publication to Letters to the Editor, Macalester Today, Public Relations and Publications Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. We reserve the right to edit letters for conciseness and clarity.

Homosexuality

I was greatly saddened by the terrible attacks on Mr. C. Wesley Andersen in the May issue. He is to be admired because of his courageous defense of traditional Christian morality.

Whatever has happened to the Macalester I attended 30 years ago? It would certainly not have allowed homosexual and abortion rights groups. How can these things be justified in light of the Ten Commandments of God and other direct condemnations by God (see Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13)?

One explanation, it seems to me, is found in the poem by Alexander Pope: "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien/As, to be hated, needs but to be seen/Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face/We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Miriam Rice Marra '61
North Cambridge, Mass.

The May issue of *Macalester Today* was great! The letters to the editor were simply terrific! I'm proud of the Macites who so wonderfully answered C. Wesley Andersen's homophobia. Also, I appreciated knowing the position of Mac regarding non-discrimination. I'm proud to support such a school!

Brian H. Cleworth '49
Seattle

While I seem to have missed the offending letter by C.W. Andersen, I appreciate the space you devoted [in the May issue] to the replies of many of my friends and cohorts in all their diversity.

Saul Davis '80
New York

Most responses to Mr. Andersen's letter published in the February issue were in direct opposition to your stated policy of not publishing letters that "personally malign an individual." Many authors were so busy espousing morality and/or Christian attitudes that they overlooked their own denigration of the human dignity of another individual.

It would be interesting to ask each of the parties to write a letter to each other discussing their understanding (with evidence) of the other's position on the issue. They could be forwarded to the appropriate party but not published. Included in your request for their letters would be an invitation to pray for or just think positive thoughts about strength for the recipient to confront his/her opinions and concerns, as well as the openness and wisdom to understand the diversity of individuals. Then, turning the same prayer or thought inward to confront one's self as well.

No doubt such efforts would take a great deal more thought and courage than the first letters that were written. However, the understanding realized through open-minded introspective reasoning may offer just the prescription to let the healing begin.

George Kraft '53
Red Wing, Minn.

As the mother of a Jewish bisexual alumna of Macalester, I can only find Levin Tull [August *Macalester Today*] to be a pathetic example of why it is still

necessary to have to make school policy on morality. How glad I am that he has had no responsibility for the decisions made at my daughter's alma mater.

I know that, as an adult, I can no longer protect her from the devils that would disparage her religious beliefs, right of conscience or sexual orientation. But I can stand next to her and her peers and watch while they make this a better, freer and more humane world than some members of earlier generations would allow.

For you see, Mr. Tull and Dr. Andersen, there are more of us than there are of you. You may live your lives however you wish—just don't touch any of the rest of us.

Pearl C. Lipner
Southfield, Mich.

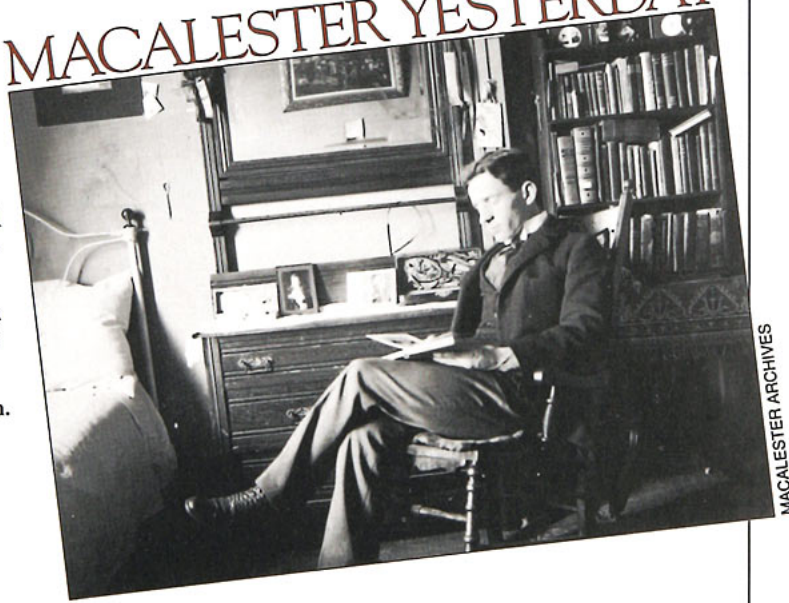
An open letter to Dr. C. Wesley Andersen '30: Just as the lad running barefoot through the meadow stepped in the "inevitable," you have verbally transgressed against the "inevitable" in our society. Granted, just because the "inevitable" exists shouldn't require you to embrace it. Nevertheless, that is the tenor of our current society and my advice would be to "step with care" unless you don't mind being corrected and chastised for views, earlier considered correct and moral, now held to be bigoted and un-Christian.

Since you are one of Macalester's more illustrious music graduates and your

LETTERS continued on page 33

MACALESTER YESTERDAY

Hitting the books: A Macalester student, circa 1900, apparently felt compelled to wear a coat, vest and tie as he posed for this photo showing him studying in his room.



MACALESTER ARCHIVES

ABOUT THIS ISSUE



Professor Calvin Roetzel was photographed reading in his office on the top floor of Old Main by Mike Habermann. To find out what books he and five other Macalester professors enjoy most, turn to page 6.

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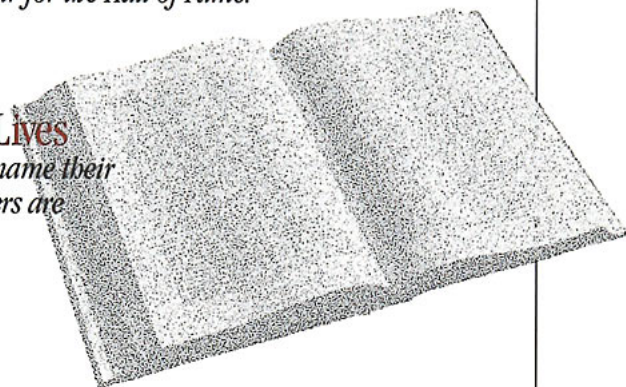
To submit *comments or ideas* concerning other sections of *Macalester Today*, please write: *Macalester Today* Editor, Public Relations and Publications Department, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105-1899.

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From Costa Rica and Cameroon, from Silver Bay and Silver City, we have all kinds of news from all kinds of Macites.

by Kevin Brooks

31 Alumni News

A special nationwide series of discussions will seek alumni participation in shaping Macalester's future.

Award-winning faculty

Four Macalester faculty members have been honored this year with teaching awards:

- Anna S. Meigs, anthropology, was selected as a winner of the 1990–91 Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award. Meigs was honored for both her classroom teaching and for her leadership in curriculum innovation.
- Jerry J. Rudquist, art, was named winner of the 1990–91 Burlington Northern Foundation Teaching Achievement Award. Rudquist received his award in recognition of both his classroom teaching and his distinguished reputation as an artist.
- Calvin J. Roetzel, religion, was presented with the 1991 Thomas Jefferson Award for his outstanding service to the Macalester community as a teacher, author and scholar. His researches in the New Testament, and especially in the writings of the apostle Paul, have reached a wide audience.
- Janet R. Serie, biology, is the first recipient of the National Association of Biology Teachers Four-Year College Biology Teachers Award. Sponsored by Harper Collins, it is intended to recognize creativity in college biology teaching. The \$1,000 award and a recognition plaque will be presented at the group's national convention in Nashville this month.

Four other faculty members also received special honors:

- A. Truman Schwartz, chemistry, received an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of South Dakota for his accomplishments as a scientist and science educator. He received his B.A. from the university in 1956.
- Jack M. Weatherford, anthropology, was named a recipient of the American Anthropological Association's Anthropology in Media Award for 1992. The award honors uncommon achievement in advancing the public understanding of anthropology. Previous winners include Jane Goodall, Stephen Jay Gould and Tony Hillerman. Weather-

ford's latest book, *Native Roots*, was published in October. It chronicles the contributions of Native Americans and encourages Americans to do more to discover the rich history of their land.

- Carleton Macy, associate professor of music, and Joseph Holmquist, former



A. Truman Schwartz at his alma mater

music lecturer, were named recipients of awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for 1991–92. The cash awards, intended to assist writers of serious music, are granted by an independent panel and are based upon the prestige value of each writer's catalog of original compositions as well as the recent performance activity of those works.

New dean of students

Macalester's new dean of students brings an anthropologist's perspective to the job.

Edward A. DeCarbo Jr., who took over as dean on Aug. 15, earned a Ph.D.

in anthropology and African studies from Indiana University and has taught courses in anthropology and African studies. He is a member of the American Anthropological Association and has written papers on south Bronx community needs, as well as artistry among Kasem-speaking peoples in northern Ghana.

He came to Macalester after 10 years as a college administrator, having served as dean of students at the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University since 1984 and as dean of student life at Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, N.Y., from 1978 to 1984.

"My primary responsibility, as I see it, is to be a strong voice for the institution with students and, likewise, to be a strong voice within the institution for students," he said. "You have to have that interplay, and that's best accomplished at a residential campus."

DeCarbo succeeds Mary A. Ackerman '70, who left Macalester after more than 20 years of service to the college.

—Gary McVey

Multicultural festival

For the second straight year, Macalester's dramatic arts and dance department will host a multicultural performing arts festival during January.

"Giving Voice," a series of performances, lectures, discussions and films, will be held Jan. 6-31 at Macalester's Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center. The goals of the festival are to introduce the college and community to the works of a broad range of artists, to support the diversity of American cultures and to help fulfill Macalester's commitment to pluralism.

This year's festival will emphasize storytelling, in its broadest sense. Artists from theater, dance, music and other expressions will share stories and tales representing a wide variety of cultures.

Details were not available at press time for *Macalester Today*, but the schedule of performances, classes and workshops may be obtained by calling the dramatic arts and dance department at 696-6340 or 696-6281, or the box office at 696-6359.

Scholarship, leadership, diversity: The Class of 1995 makes an impression

The Class of 1995 that enrolled in September constitutes the largest group of U.S. multicultural students to enter Macalester in more than 15 years, Dean of Admissions William M. Shain said. The 56 first-year students (23 Asian Americans, 15 Latinos, 15 African Americans and three Native Americans) make up 15.3 percent of the class' U.S. students. In addition, seven new transfer students are students of color.

The 52 new full-time, degree-seeking international students (including 16 transfer students) constitute the highest total ever; with U.S. permanent residents and dual citizens, the number comes to 66 or 14 percent of the entering student group.

New students this fall included 403 first-year students, 65 transfer students and seven Adult Scholars. This year's 2,360 freshman applications were the second highest in Macalester's history, and 57.7 percent were offered admission, making it the sixth toughest admissions year in the college's history.

"In truth, however, what is most notable about our admission process is its stability in an era when these situations all too often change with bewildering rapidity," Shain said. "In each of the past five years, we have offered admission to between 51 and 57 percent of our first-year candidates, a steadiness which may well be close to unique in the admissions universe."

In remarks welcoming the new students to campus, Shain offered a wealth of facts about the Class of 1995. Among them:

- They came from secondary schools in Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and 43 states—probably the broadest U.S. geographical representation in Macalester's history—and from schools in 31 other nations. For the second year in a row, Macalester received applications from all 50 states.
- By region, 49 percent are from the Midwest (17.5 percent from Minnesota), followed by 10-plus percent each from New England and the Middle Atlantic states, 8.6 percent from the Southwest and Rockies combined, 8.1 percent from the Far West and 4.3 percent from the South. U.S. and international students attending schools

outside the U.S. make up the remaining 9.1 percent of the class.

- 46 students were National Merit Scholars, more than any other class in the past 15 years except the Class of 1991, and 78 other students attained other levels of recognition in the National Merit Scholarship competition.
- They have been "remarkably active beyond the classroom, with what appears to be the highest level of individual leadership achievement that I have witnessed in an entering class during my 11 years at Macalester," Shain said. Twenty-one first-year students served as student body presidents, 33 held top responsibility for a high school publication, at least 18 attended Girls State or Boys State, and 66 served as captain of an athletic team.

- For the first time, environmental action topped the list of community service commitments, having been pursued by 39 members of the class during high school. Amnesty International, the top choice for the past three or four years, was second with 37, and 30 students have been active in issues related to hunger and homelessness.

Shain noted that Macalester students "are hard to summarize with lists," and many have done unusual things. Individuals in the class have toured nationally with the group Up With People; acted in an anti-drug commercial which has been televised nationally; worked as a professional locksmith; appeared as an extra in the movie *Field of Dreams*; written and marketed a new board game, and met the pope. —J.H.

GREG HELGESON



Strong pool of future alums

Cathy Torrington '95, right, Bethesda, Md., and a classmate try inner-tube water polo in the Leonard Natatorium during orientation for new students in August. The week-long orientation introduced students to all aspects of campus life, including athletic department activities such as aerobics, fencing and Ultimate Frisbee.

New tenure-track faculty members find a congenial place

Teresita Martínez-Vergne joined the Macalester faculty this fall partly because students asked good questions during her first visit to campus. "I get my batteries charged by students," said the historian. "So it was very reassuring to realize that they were in fact interested in what I had to say and that there was a place for me."

Don Belton, a novelist and writer who accepted an offer to join the English faculty, also felt welcome at Macalester. "What is important to me is to be in an environment in which I feel I can flower as a writer and as a teacher," he said.

Martínez-Vergne, who is originally from Puerto Rico, and Belton, an African American who grew up in Philadelphia and Newark, N.J., are two of the nine new tenure-track faculty members at Macalester this fall. Provost Elizabeth S. Ivey is pleased by their individual strengths and because collectively they help diversify the faculty. Four of the nine are people of color and one is originally from Iran; seven of the nine are women, increasing the female-male ratio among tenured and tenure-track faculty to 30-70 from 24-76. (For the faculty as a whole, the female-male ratio is 43-57.)

"I think we hired a fantastic group of people," Ivey said. "Some of them are right out of graduate school; some of them have established careers, like Teresita Martínez-Vergne, who is highly visible nationally."

The seven other tenure-track faculty include:

- Rosa J. Bird-Swaim, Spanish. Ph.D. 1991, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Originally from Puerto Rico, she is interested in the Spanish Renaissance and Baroque poetry and its relation to the development of modern poetic discourse.
- Ruthann Godollei, art. She has been at Macalester on a temporary appointment since 1986. She has an M.F.A. in printmaking from the University of Minnesota and has exhibited widely.
- Michele Emanatian, linguistics. Ph.D. 1991, University of California at Berkeley. She does work in cognitive semantics. She has published on grammatical constructions in Chagga (Tanzania) and Nootka (Canada).

□ Karla V. Ballman '83, mathematics. Ph.D. 1990, MIT. Her research interests include probabilistic modelling, statistics and optimization techniques as applied to transportation issues, the manufacturing and private sectors, and public policy questions, particularly those relating to AIDS and the environment.

□ Mahnaz Kousha, sociology. Ph.D. 1990, University of Kentucky. A native of Iran, she earned a B.A. in 1978 from the College of Fine Arts in Tehran. She previously taught at Hamline. Among her interests are racial and ethnic relationships, the sociology of gender, sociological theory and feminist theory.

□ Kimberley L. Phillips, joint appointment in history and women's and gender studies. Ph.D. 1991, Yale. An African American, she spent the 1988-89 academic year at Macalester as a Hewlett-Mellon Pre-doctoral Fellow. She begins teaching at Macalester in February.

□ Sanford F. Schram, political science. Ph.D. 1979, State University of New York at Albany. He came to Macalester on a temporary appointment last year from SUNY-Potsdam, where he was chair of the political science department. He has published widely.

Among other new faculty on campus this year are five scholars in the Minority Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program. Funded originally through the Hewlett-Mellon Presidential Discretionary Fund and the Knight Foundation, the program is now in its fourth year and has brought 16 minority scholars in all to Macalester. The fellows teach one or two courses, but their primary task is to finish their doctoral dissertations. The goal of the program is to increase the number of minorities teaching in colleges and universities.

As departments conducted their faculty searches, Ivey said she "insisted that there be equally viable candidates who are minorities and female on the short list, or they have to keep the search going until they do that. It's hard work.

"What that means in practical terms is

that you can't just run an ad and read the 200 resumes that come in. You will continue to hire primarily white males if you do that as your only way of going about a search. Outside of advertising in minority higher education publications and in the women's publications that are sometimes separate in certain disciplines, what we do is get on the phone."

Martínez-Vergne first heard of Macalester when history Professor Emily Rosenberg phoned her a year ago at the University of Puerto Rico. Impressed by the "international thrust" of Macalester, she came for an interview. She met with faculty members and students at the history department.

"The students have a wide perspective as to what their impact is going to be when they leave Macalester," Martínez-Vergne said. "Latin America and Hispanics in the United States are not marginal topics for them."

Her impressions were borne out in her classes. "Students are very internationalist-oriented, they travel, they see things from a wider perspective than just the narrow one of the U.S. or their local experiences. That's what I mean by a place for me: I have something to say to them that they are willing to receive."

Martínez-Vergne, who received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and has also taught at Colgate, is teaching courses this academic year on Latin America, the history of Brazil, women in Latin America and a seminar on plantation societies.

Belton first learned of Macalester from fellow writer Charles Baxter '69 when Belton gave a reading several years ago at the University of Michigan. They became friends and both ended up teaching there. Although he enjoyed the challenge of the university, exchanging ideas about literature in a class of 100 students was "a little like the Phil Donahue Show." When Belton came to Macalester a year ago on a temporary appointment, it reminded him of his undergraduate years at Bennington, a small, liberal arts college with "students who are bright and talented and not absolutely sure what they want to do. I think it's really exciting to be involved with people who are still



Eight of Macalester's nine new tenure-track faculty, standing (from left): Teresita Martínez-Vergne, history; Karla V. Ballman '83, math; Rosa J. Bird-Swaim, Spanish, and Sanford J. Schram, political science. Seated: Ruthann Godollei, art; Michele Emanatian, linguistics; Mahnaz Kousha, sociology, and Don Belton, English. The ninth, Kimberley L. Phillips, who has a joint appointment in history and women's and gender studies, will begin teaching in February.

forming the basis for a lot of their ideas."

In addition to working on his second novel, Belton, who has an M.A. from Hollins College, is teaching Southern American literature and comparative world literature as well as workshops in advanced fiction. He is also developing a course on 19th century African-American literature which may include recent works by Charles Johnson, Alice Walker and others that owe a debt to slave narratives or accounts of incidents in the lives of slaves.

Belton, who believes there is a black cultural renaissance under way, says black writers are "not only reclaiming but revisioning their history." He sees his own writing as "part of leaving witness, not only personally to what I've been but all the voices that have gone into mine. A lot of that is reflecting something ultimately positive about the black experience in this country."

Belton said that when he came to Macalester last year, he did not expect a tenure-track position at the college. He accepted the offer because "it was made in such a way that I felt that they were serious, and that they were willing to make a deeper commitment to me and my work."

—Jon Halvorsen

Four join Hall of Fame

Four new members were inducted into the Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 18 during Homecoming Weekend. They are:

- A. Myrvin DeLapp '40, who excelled in three sports and was a key member of a core of athletes who helped Macalester gain athletic prominence before World War II. He was an important player on the freshman basketball team and saw some varsity action on Macalester's first state championship team in 1936-37. He started the next three years at guard. In football, he was a standout halfback and safety. He was also a key point-scorer on Mac's track and field team as a two-year letterman. A Presbyterian minister, he lives in Swarthmore, Pa.
- George Wemeier '52, a dominating lineman and four-year letterman on some outstanding Mac football teams. His blocking helped make Earl Bowman '50 and Robert Engwer '51—both M Club Hall of Famers—all-conference backs while his defensive prowess gave opponents fits. He earned all-conference honors as a junior and senior. A respected Minnesota high school football coach whose Minneapolis Washburn teams won state championships in 1972 and 1977, he is now quarterback coach at the University of Minnesota. He lives in Minnetonka.
- Terry J. Graff '71, one of the most accomplished running backs in Macalester football history. He holds the single-season school rushing record of 1,031 yards, established in 1969 when he led the football team to a 5-4 record. That same season he ran for 311 yards against Augsburg, a one-game Mac record. He was all-conference as a junior and senior. Graff was also an excellent golfer, playing on conference championship teams three times and earning All-MIAC status in 1970 and 1971. A club golf professional, he lives in Richland, Wash.
- The late John W. Snyder '33, a three-sport letterman and a mainstay on several outstanding Macalester athletic teams. He was an excellent diver on three championship swimming and diving teams, winning the state diving title as a sophomore and junior. As a pole vaulter, he won three state championships after placing second as a freshman. He was also a standout high jumper, battling teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Bill Morris '33 for first place in nearly every meet. Finally, Snyder also competed on the tennis team in two seasons, making it once to the state semi-finals. Before he retired, he worked for the Weyerhaeuser and Talbot lumber companies and for the Navajo Indians in the forest industry. He died Aug. 10 in Eugene, Ore.

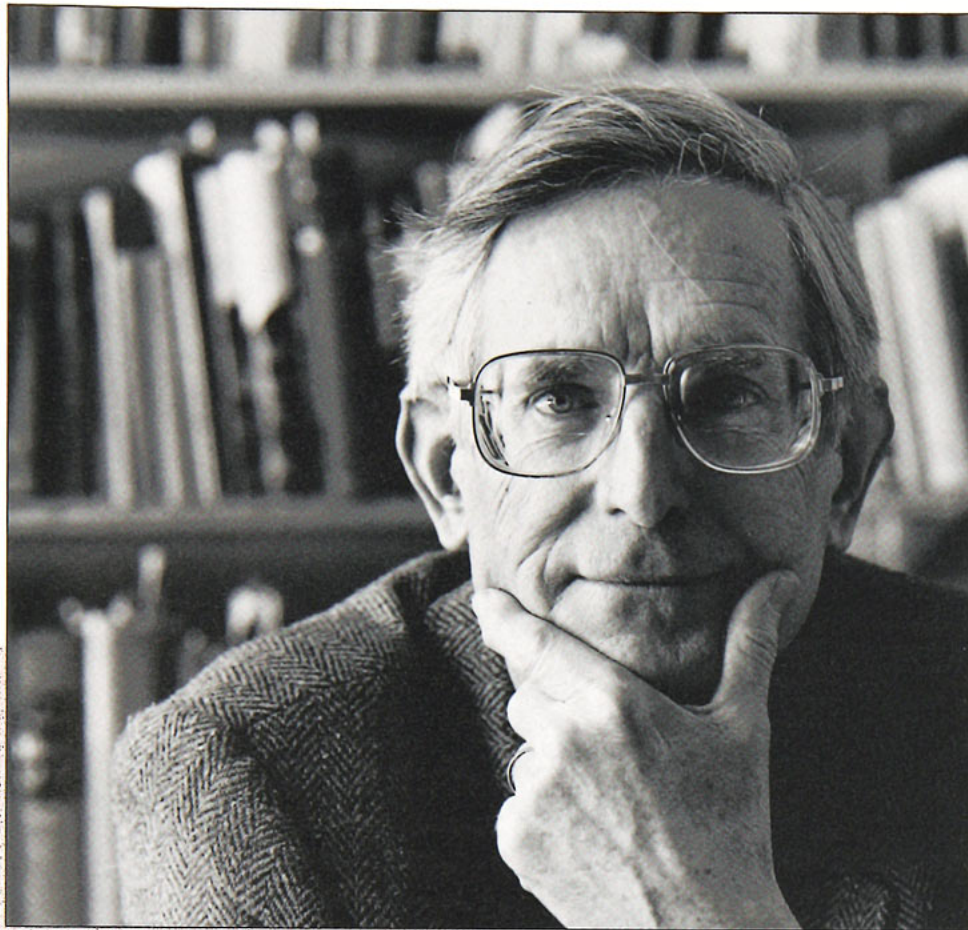
BOOKS THAT SHAPE LIVES

*Six Macalester professors
write about the books
that mean the most to them*

*W*ill book readers become an endangered species? "People ages 15 to 25 are computer-literate but book-shy," the *New York Times* declared last January in an article headlined: "The Lost Book Generation." *Times* writer Roger Cohen concluded that while illiteracy is a problem of the Third World, "it is the United States that appears to be leading the way in aliteracy—the rejection of books by children and young adults who know how to read but choose not to."

But books remain at the heart of a Macalester education, and dear to the hearts of professors (at least those over 25). We asked six longtime faculty members in six different disciplines to write a few words about books. Specifically, we asked them to name a handful of books that have had the greatest influence on their lives, the books that are their personal favorites, whether read in childhood, college or very recently.

Their answers are worth reading.



GREG HELGESSON

WILLIAM P. DONOVAN
professor of classics

At first I thought that it would be impossible for me, after a lifetime of reading, to choose a small number of books to list as most important in shaping my life. By applying two criteria, however, I was able to narrow my choices to the following short list. One criterion is ownership of a copy of the book in question. I can find these books at any time on the shelves in my home waiting to be picked up and read yet again. The second criterion is that all these books are closely connected in my experience with people who have been, and are, important to me. Perhaps these books help to shape my life because these people do.

□ I was introduced as a child to the wonder of books by my aunt, Gladys Dickey, an elementary school teacher and specialist in children's literature. She read to me J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* when it first appeared in 1937 and through her I came to read a trilogy by two English schoolgirls, Katherine Hull and Pamela Whitlock, who were 15 and 16 when their first volume, *The Far Distant Oxus*, was published in 1937. (*Escape to Persia* and *Oxus in Summer* followed.) In these books a wonderful natural setting, Somerset in England, was blended with the world of imagination, the legendary Persia of the

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 VALUE IN FAMILIAR OLD WORKS.
 HOMER'S *ILIAD* AND ST. MARK'S
GOSPEL OFFER NEW RICHES EVERY
 TIME I READ THEM.

poem "Sohrab and Rustum." On my first visit to Great Britain many years later I had to make a pilgrimage to see Exmoor where these stories are set.

- Books I had to read for college courses, however good, never were important to me when I was a student. Now that I am a teacher my students have stimulated me to discover new value in familiar old works. Homer's *Iliad* and St. Mark's *Gospel*, especially in Greek but also in translation, offer new riches every time I read them now and both I find extremely profound despite their apparent simplicity.
- The one person more than any other who has introduced me to new books as an adult is my wife, Patricia O'Keefe Donovan. Through her I discovered my favorite travel book, *A Time of Gifts* (1977) by Patrick Leigh Fermor. This is an account of a walking trip across Europe, which began in December 1933, from Rotterdam to Istanbul. Young Fermor was 18 and had dropped out of school when he started and the book is a record both of his trip and of his coming of age.
- My tutor at Cambridge, later to become bishop of Ely, Peter Walker, introduced me to the modern poem which has meant the most to me, T.S. Eliot's *Four Quartets* (1943). He not only gave us his personal copy but a valuable critical work, *Word Unheard (A Guide Through Eliot's Four Quartets)* (1969) by Harry Blamires. The latter has demonstrated to me how a good critical analysis can deepen our appreciation as well as our understanding of poetry.
- Two friends led me to two favorite novels. My partner on the debate team at Washington University when I was an undergraduate, J.L. Pierson, is very enthusiastic about the novels of Charles Williams, an enthusiasm which was catching. My personal favorite is *Descent Into Hell* (1937). This is a strange and thought-provoking work. A friend from Cambridge, the musicologist Peter le Huray, is equally enthusiastic about the novels of Anthony Trollope. I am

always impressed by this author's striking characters and the way they seem to develop almost in spite of their creator. The most interesting of all, to me, is Mr. Crawley of *The Last Chronicle of Barset*.

- A group of faculty colleagues here at Macalester who meet each week to discuss issues in cognitive science and artificial intelligence are responsible for a recent addition to my list, *Understanding Computers and Cognition* (1986) by Terry Winograd and Fernando Flores. The authors raise issues far wider than the title would suggest and their provocative ideas have implications for every aspect of my life and thought.

J. MICHELE EDWARDS

professor of music

- *Kinds of Love* (1970), May Sarton. It is difficult to know which of Sarton's novels or journal volumes to name since I have been touched by so many of them. I finally settled on *Kinds of Love* because it was the first of her volumes which I read (in the early '80s) and it made me a fan. I cannot resist naming another of my favorites, *As We Are Now* (1973), with its moving portrait of an elderly woman: her interior world, the indignities she faces in a nursing home, her courage in the face of diminishing capacity and her eventual suicide to reclaim power over her own existence. I especially enjoy the richness of character and the attention to everyday detail in Sarton's writings.
- *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne. As a child I was not particularly interested in reading, but I still remember my strong reaction to this novel when I read it during the ninth grade. I could not understand the particular view of life and morality which I saw in the novel. I kept asking: Why would Hester Prynne remain where she and her child were ostracized? Why didn't she go away and begin a new life? Why were people so critical of her? Later that year I did a research paper on Hawthorne and his novels, but I still didn't find answers to my questions.
- *The New Feminist Criticism*, edited by Elaine Showalter. Coinciding with my first sabbatical, the timing of this collection published in 1985 was perfect: I had time to explore these essays on women, feminist theory and literature. I was just beginning to do research on women in music, and the ideas here influenced my approach. This book was both my entree into feminist literary theory and my spur to further reading and thinking. Showalter gathered together numerous landmark articles which continue to shape academic dialogue, e.g., essays by

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OSTRACIZED?
WHY DIDN'T
SHE GO AWAY
AND BEGIN A
NEW LIFE?

DON HAMERMAN

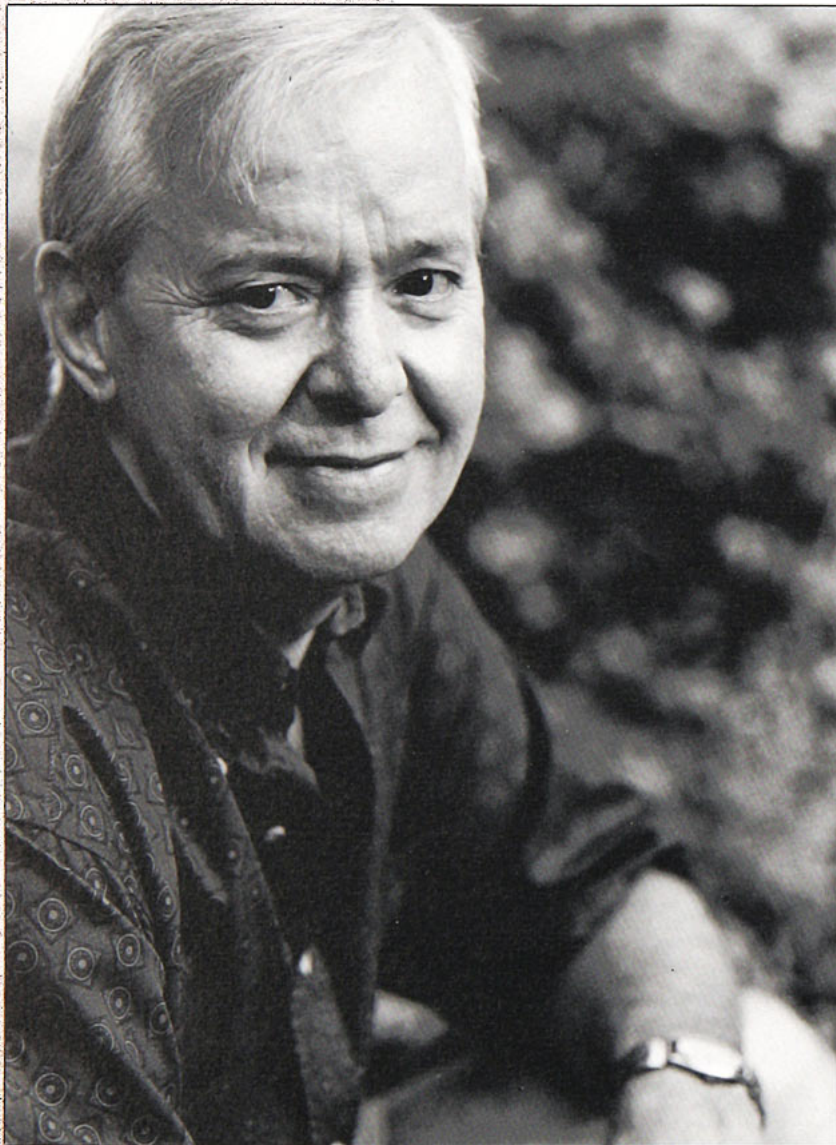


Annette Kolodny, Barbara Smith and Rachel Blau DuPlessis. The margins in my copy contain lots of notes and dialogues with the material. As a result, this is one of the few books in my library which I won't loan, but I have given copies as gifts to several friends.

- *Lies, Secrets and Silences. Selected Prose 1966-1978* (1979), Adrienne Rich. Rich's writings in this volume make a strong impact on my teaching as well as on me personally. These essays challenge me to take women students seriously and to approach teaching with the attitude that students must "claim an education." Through her discussion of teaching in an open enrollment program, I have faced the power of language and considered more thoughtfully who the students in my classes are and how this

affects my teaching. Rich also introduced me to one of my favorite Emily Dickinson poems, "My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun," which has been the subject of lively student discussions in my first-year seminars.

- ***Feminine Endings. Music, Gender and Sexuality*** (1991), Susan McClary. Its influence is both immediate—I'm currently reading this book—and past—I've read and heard some of the papers in earlier versions. The very existence of this book of feminist music criticism is encouraging and exciting for me. It is a first in my discipline, and the quality of the work is superb. McClary provides rich insights into gender constructions in musical compositions from the 16th to the 20th century and writes concretely about sexuality and the erotic in Western culture and music. Her essay on Madonna is particularly relevant given discussions of Madonna's recent video, "Justify My Love."



GREG HELGESON

THOREAU
SHOCKED ME
OUT OF
COMPLACENCIES.
HIS CRANKINESS
AND FUNNINESS
WERE SOUNDS
OF FREEDOM.
HIS OPTIMISM
WON ME.

MICHAEL KEENAN

associate professor of English

During my first 17 years, I virtually did not read anything. I ran the streets and the athletic fields. Here are some influential books in my life:

- ***Walden***, Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau shocked me out of complacencies. He persuaded me to reassess the businesses of life. His crankiness and funniness were sounds of freedom. His optimism won me.
- ***A Winter's Tale*** (then, all of Shakespeare). A breakthrough for me to a clear realization that I loved literature—stories, poems, words. . . . Also, that I could *work* with something I loved. And the *Winter's Tale* is, for one thing, about the animating power of love.
- ***Collected Poems*** (1953), Dylan Thomas. Opened me to the sensational ranges of our English-Welsh-American language—how sharp-edged or diaphanous our phrases can be, how gnarly or delicate, how raw or refined. I especially loved getting caught up in his exuberant melodies and his fierceness.
- ***Paradise Lost***, John Milton. The sheer enormity of the accomplishment of it. The grandeur *and* the intimacy of it. The revelation to me that the Christian myth is not entirely obsolete, the poem everywhere subtly and starkly reminding us that daily in our lives we re-enact its stories of good and evil.
- ***Centering—in Pottery, Poetry and the Person*** (1964), Mary C. Richards. I read this in 1970 and then again in 1980. The first time my brain told me: "These are vital home truths, Michael; you are reading the words of a deeply wise woman." The second time my whole being said, "Yes." She is a teacher of literature, a potter, a poet, a sister, a person who articulates a series of personal transformations—some as ordeals by fire—that we have to pass through in order to grow to become who we wholly are.
- ***Love's Body*** (1966), Norman O. Brown. A compendium—eccentric and centric, orthodox and unorthodox—of brief passages, paraphrases, quotations on the subject of the "incarnation of love." Psychology, philosophy, religion, mysticism, history, science—all visionary, prophetic and bracing. Central images for me: "Broken is open." And, "The ego is loquacity, the interior monologue, the soliloquy which isolates."
- ***Tell Me a Riddle*** (1961), Tillie Olsen. A long short story about a Russian-Jewish woman, an immigrant to the U.S., who was a political revolutionary in her teens in Russia and who has since become "only" an American wife and mother of seven and grandmother of more. We hear her amid her families for some months pre-



ceding her death from cancer at 70. The images and rhythms of Olsen's sentences pull forward my compassion (suffering-with) as irresistibly as the moon pulls tides.

- *Native Son* (1940), Richard Wright. Exhaustingly intense. Wright succeeds in communicating a "black boy's" consciousness by implicating our nightmares as the places where we white people can find some common ground with the daily lives of many urban black persons. Wright's successes set the stage for the American masterpiece, *Invisible Man* (1952) by Ralph Ellison—a richly ambitious, multi-dimensional, comic adventure story of a black man who is not a victim but a survivor and a hero. Both opened me out of singular "white sight."
- *House Made of Dawn* (1968), N. Scott Momaday. The story(s) of a young Jemez Pueblo Indian man who loses his native life, suffers extreme degradations and then eventually recovers by choosing to enter into tribal life. The Tanoan, Navajo and Kiowa consciousnesses that develop the stories continue to challenge, to baffle and to tantalize me. They draw me on to learn more and more about the people of the stories and their American cultures. Also, respectfully, to let many mysteries remain mysterious.

GONE ARE
THOSE DAYS
IS MY
GRANDMOTHER'S
AUTOBIOGRAPHY.
THE BOOK AND,
OF COURSE,
THE AUTHOR,
GAVE ME A
SENSE OF MY
ROOTS AND
I HAVE
CHERISHED THAT
ALL MY LIFE.

VASANT SUKHATME
associate professor of economics

This has been kind of a fun assignment, though more difficult than I had thought, to come up with a list of books that have influenced me and shaped my life. The fun part has been that in coming up with this list I have gone back (way back!) in time to my high school days in the (then) small town of Jamshedpur, in the state of Bihar in eastern India. My list begins with books I first read as a young teenager and it ends with those I first read in my middle years as a graduate student at the University of Chicago. Over these many years, I have re-read many of these books with much enjoyment. The list is in the order in which I read them.

- *Gele Te Diwas* (1960) (literal translation: *Gone Are Those Days*), Satyabhama Sukhatme. This is my grandmother's autobiography. I learned much about her generation and my parents' from this small book, written in Marathi, my mother tongue. The book and, of course, the author gave me a sense of my roots and I have cherished that all my life. To this date, every few years I re-read parts of the book.
- *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens. I first read this during a summer holiday period—it had been sent to me by a relative who had then just

returned from a visit to England. I enjoyed it immensely and was mesmerized by the knitting of Madame Defarge. I even memorized several lines of the book!

- *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), John Steinbeck. This was suggested by my favorite high school teacher. Ma Joad, to a little extent, resembled my grandmother. The book put a human dimension to the American Great Depression and



GREG HELGESON

helped me later understand more economic, factual accounts of those troubled times in the history of my adopted country.

- *A History of India* (1965-66), Romila Thapar. A carefully written, very literary work tracing the history of an old and great country, the country of my birth. I first read the book as a supplement to my Indian history textbook in my senior year in high school.
- *Freedom at Midnight* (1975), Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins. This is a story about the great events leading to India's independence in 1947 after many years of British rule. There is a lot of drama here, the kind that you want to go on to find out how it all ends, even when you know the ending!
- *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962), Milton Friedman. I read this during my second year of graduate school and was terribly impressed. The way in which Friedman presents his arguments is something that I have tried to emulate in my teaching and professional work.
- *Transforming Traditional Agriculture* (1964), Theodore Schultz. A small book written in a very simple style, but full of marvelous insights into problems of economic development. This book, and the Nobel Prize-winning author, a kind and gentle man, were the most significant influences on my professional life. I refer to it regularly even now and have often encouraged my students to read it.

WHEN I BEGAN TO READ THE BIBLE, I WAS SHOCKED BY WHAT I FOUND — STEAMY, VIOLENT, SCHEMING STORIES ABOUT ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH WHOM I COULD IDENTIFY.

CALVIN ROETZEL
professor of religious studies

Though our poor farm family in Arkansas could not afford books, its happy indulgence in storytelling taught me the magic, vastness and consola-

tion of the imaginary world. At home, stories were told. At my one-room country school, stories were read. Everywhere, everywhere were stories. Through those stories I became obsessed with the desire to read.

- The first book I took from a single library shelf to read on my own was Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The second book I borrowed from that shelf was his *Huckleberry Finn*. In retrospect, I see that Twain was interesting to me not only because he wrote about a young boy with whom I strongly identified, but also because he offered a delightful critique of the hypocrisy and shallowness of the religion of my native culture.
- The first book of my very own was the *Bible*, bought with money earned from selling garden seeds to my mother, grandmother and Aunt Minnie. When I began to read this book in a raw version unsanitized by Sunday School Quarterlies, I was shocked by what I found in those pages—more stories, steamy, violent, scheming stories about ordinary people with whom I could identify. To this day, the poignant story about David, the fallible hero, in 2 Samuel 9-20 and the deeply ironic tragedy in the Gospel of Mark hold me in their grasp. At another level, Paul's Letter to the Romans pushes me to the edge of my intellectual limits.

- In high school, two books caught and held my attention: John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939), which was about a Depression I knew first-hand, and Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth* (1931), which titillated me and transported me to a place on earth opposite the very place on which I stood.
- While in college, I cut a week of classes to go to Dallas to hear Reinhold Niebuhr give the Fondren Lectures, lectures so difficult that they drove me to read his *Moral Man and Immoral Society* (1932), a book whose devastating critique of the corporate expressions of evil shattered my naïvete and continues to shape my thinking.
- In seminary, I discovered the most exciting theological work I had ever read, Rudolf Bultmann's *Theology of the New Testament*. Bultmann's attempt to do theology as anthropology exposed me to the human dimensions of the biblical text in fresh and insightful ways. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Prisoner for God: Letters and Papers from Prison* (1950) further emphasized the secular character of religion that had fascinated me since childhood, and continues to intrigue me.
- After seminary, other works arrested my attention. A dog-eared copy of T. S. Eliot's *The Complete Poems and Plays* (1958) stands on my shelf next to an equally important work, W. H. Auden's *For the Time Being* (1944). I met Mircea Eliade's *The Myth of the Eternal Return* (1949) in graduate school, and have drawn on it ever since. Lately, my own mother's experience came to me afresh through Alice Walker's profoundly moving *In Search of Our Mothers' Garden* (1983).



FAVORITE BOOKS

Do you have a favorite book? One that helped shape your life? We invite alumni to write 50-100 words about a special book. We will try to publish every response.

—the Editors

MICHAL McCALL
professor of sociology

Books changed my life: their sheer number and variety, the discourses and ideas they embody, and the web of intertextuality they constitute. I grew up in a small town and neither of my parents had been to college, so I was unprepared for the book



GREG HELGESON

LIKE MANY
OTHER WOMEN,
I HAVE RE-
EDUCATED
MYSELF IN THE
LAST 10 YEARS
BY READING
BOOKS WRITTEN
BY FEMINIST
PHILOSOPHERS,
SOCIOLOGISTS
AND LITERARY
THEORISTS.

life I discovered at the University of Iowa and chose for myself there.

Among the books I read as an undergraduate, two stand out:

- *Street Corner Society* (1955) by William F. Whyte showed me what sociology could be: "thickly descriptive," novelistic in its attention to character and narrative, and revolutionary insofar as it looks at human social life from the bottom up.
- *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961) by Jane Jacobs showed me what an elegant analysis could look like and all that a careful observer could make of the social life around her. I suppose it also taught me how narrow any one of the professional, academic discourses is.

Like many other women, I have re-educated myself in the last 10 years by reading books written by feminist philosophers, sociologists and literary theorists. These books changed my intellectual life:

- Alison Jaggar's classic *Feminist Politics and Human Nature* (1983) explained the political philosophies and epistemologies built into liberal, radical and socialist feminisms. Like many others, I still use her work as a map to and through feminist theories.
- Dorothy E. Smith's *The Everyday World as Problematic* (1987) convinced me of the need for new, feminist research methodologies in the human sciences.
- Carol Stack's *All Our Kin* (1974), Susan Krieger's *The Mirror Dance* (1983) and Evelyn Nankano Glenn's *Issei, Nisei, War Bride* (1986) provided models of feminist research and respectful theorizing about women of color and lesbian women, women unlike myself, women who have been silenced even by the liberal, radical and socialist feminisms.
- Just now, I am reading Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* (1989). It is a lovely book, woven of stories, and I'm learning from it, about storytelling and the way relationships between women, especially mothers and daughters, are formed in and by the stories each tells about the other. ■

BORN IN THE *U.S.A.*

*Fifty years after Pearl Harbor,
a Japanese American
recalls the heartbreak and the 'miracle'
that brought her to Macalester*

BY ESTHER TORII SUZUKI





WE LIVED
COMMUNAL-
STYLE IN
CONVERTED
HORSE STALLS,
EATING IN
SHIFTS OF 2,000
AND GUARDED
BY ARMED
SOLDIERS.



Above: Esther, left, and a classmate, Jean Berquist Oliver '46, display photographs of their fiancés from a Kirk Hall window in 1944. Top right: Esther and her husband, George, with a photo of the Idaho internment camp where her parents and sisters were sent. George was also interned in Idaho but was released in 1943 in order to attend Macalester. After a year at Macalester, he was drafted into the Army in the spring of 1944.

I enrolled at Macalester in September 1942 when I was 16. For my first assignment in freshman speech class, I began by declaring, "The happiest day of my life was the day I left for college." But suddenly I remembered my father, mother and two sisters standing on the other side of the barbed wire fence in Oregon, waving goodbye, smiling bravely through their tears. I broke down and couldn't continue.

On May 5, 1942, my family and I were forced to leave our home in Portland, Ore., for a detention camp in that city. We had been given a week's notice and told we could only bring what would fit in a few suitcases. We had to sell or leave most of our possessions. We sold our piano for \$15, but I managed to take some books with me.

My father and mother were from Japan, but my sisters and I were Nisei—born in America of Japanese immigrant parents. We joined 4,000 other Japanese and Japanese Americans from Oregon and Washington in an "assembly center." It was actually Portland's exposition hall, used for rodeos and the like. We lived communal-style in converted horse stalls, eating in shifts of 2,000 and guarded by armed soldiers. The stalls had not been thoroughly cleaned and wooden planks had been placed over

the manure. When it rained, as it often does in Oregon, and the ground got wet, the stench was overpowering.

In all, about 120,000 people of Japanese descent were interned from 1942 to 1945. More than two-thirds of them were U.S. citizens like me and my sisters, Eunice and Lucy. This tragedy was caused by a combination of war hysteria after Pearl Harbor, racial hatred and economic greed for the rich farms that the Japanese had developed from marginal land.

In our detention center, days dragged endlessly. I was not allowed to attend my high school graduation that June; instead, my diploma was mailed to me. Then the pieces of a great cosmic puzzle began to miraculously fit together. The Quakers set up a scholarship fund called the Nisei Student Relocation Fund and awarded me \$100. I was accepted by Willamette University in Salem, Ore. But Japanese Americans were not allowed to attend college in the West Coast defense zone; we had to be accepted by a Midwestern or Eastern college.

My high school English teacher, who was also a Quaker, suggested Macalester because she had read a book by Glenn Clark, a Macalester professor. Macalester President Charles J. Turck wrote me a letter of acceptance. Macalester was the first college in Minnesota to accept Japanese-American students.

Before I could be released from detention, I had to send President Turck's letter to the War Department and obtain its approval. I also needed letters of recommendation from three Caucasians attesting to my loyalty and honesty, and letters from the St. Paul police and fire chiefs acknowledging my residence in their city.

Our group of 4,000 was scheduled to be taken by guarded trains from Portland to a permanent con-

Esther Torii Suzuki '46 of Minneapolis was among the first Japanese Americans to graduate from Macalester. She retired last January after 24 years as a Ramsey County social worker. Her husband, George M. Suzuki, who grew up next door to her in Portland and was also interned, attended Macalester for one year. Their daughter, Nami Suzuki Vizanko, graduated from Macalester in 1971.

centration camp—it was called a relocation center—in Minidoka, Idaho, at 1 p.m. on Sept. 8, 1942. Just two hours and 15 minutes before the appointed time, a telegram arrived from Washington, D.C., releasing me to attend Macalester. I was the first person to be freed from detention in Portland. We hurriedly repacked my belongings separately and my family gave me the only suitcase we owned.

I was born in Portland and had only visited Seattle, so traveling to Minnesota was a great adventure. When the conductor announced we were crossing the Mississippi—a big thrill since I had read Mark Twain's books—I became excited and raised the curtain. He loudly ordered me to lower it and asked if I knew there was a blackout. I felt everyone was looking at me as though I were a spy.

After a few hours of sleep, I took the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory the next morning in the Macalester gym. The person administering the test cautioned us to be truthful in answering all 500 questions, saying there was a way of detecting lies. So I truthfully answered "Yes" to questions like, "Do you feel people are out to get you?" and "Do you feel at times that someone is following you?"

One day at the corner of Grand and Snelling avenues, a lady asked me where she could catch the bus. When I told her, she asked me how long I had lived here and I replied, "Two weeks." She said, "My, you speak good English."

In addition to my degree, I learned a lot at Macalester about human kindness and concern for



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ON THE MMPI.
SO I TRUTHFULLY
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TO QUESTIONS
LIKE, 'DO YOU
FEEL PEOPLE
ARE OUT TO
GET YOU?'

others, and made friendships which have lasted through the years.

My adviser was Dr. Milton McLean, who was chosen to advise all five Japanese Americans at Macalester. On Sunday evenings he held open house and all students were welcome to join his family in a light supper and fellowship. My earnings (25 cents an hour) at the Macalester Park Publishing Co. owned by Dr. Clark put me through four years. Another faculty member who made me feel at home was Dr. Edwin Kagin, who opened my eyes to a whole different view of religion.

I had a student work contract to type scripts for drama Professor Mary Gwen Owen. One day my youngest sister, Lucy, wrote to say she and my family were all ill with food poisoning. I started to cry. Miss Owen went from her office on the third floor of Old Main down to the basement Grille and bought me an ice cream cone because, she said, one can't cry and eat ice cream at the same time. When I graduated, she gave me a party at her Wisconsin farm and invited my whole family. (My sister, Eunice, joined me at Macalester in 1944, later transferring to the University of Minnesota, but my parents and Lucy were not released from the concentration camp until the war's end. My parents became U.S. citizens in 1952.)

Margaret Doty, the dean of women, was wonderful. She gave me free tickets to the symphony, and for graduation gave me a year's membership in the St. Paul chapter of the American Association of University Women. She attended my wedding and bought my children birth gifts. At the 25th reunion of our class, Miss Doty was asked to give a few reminiscences. Seeing me, she recalled that the original plan was to have six Japanese Americans at Macalester in 1942—three men and three women. I had never heard that before and said, "I suppose that was so we could date each other." Miss Doty, never missing a beat, replied, "Esther, you were always impudent."

Survival would not have been possible without many thoughtful student friends. When my dormitory closed for the holidays, someone would invite me to her home. One friend's mother felt so badly about my family's internment that she offered to do my laundry. The large oatmeal cookies she baked and packed in the laundry box smelled like the homemade soap she used, but I ate them with relish.

It will take the rest of my life to pay back into the vast well of human kindness that I found at Macalester.

Japanese-American students like me who received assistance a half-century ago have been contributing over the years to the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. Since 1983 it has been awarding scholarships to other Asian students whose lives and studies have been disrupted by war, including Vietnamese, Laotians, Hmong and Cambodians.

The chain of helping hands continues. ■



The Suzukis at home in Minneapolis. In 1990, they returned to their home town of Portland for the first time in 48 years to attend a reunion of Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from Oregon. Top: George and Esther outside Kirk Hall in the spring of 1945, shortly before he was sent overseas. They were married in 1946.

ALUMNI & FACULTY BOOKS

Women writers put together a splendid house



The House on Via Gombito: Writing by North American Women Abroad
 edited by Madelon Sprengnether and
 C.W. Truesdale
 Minneapolis: New Rivers Press, 1991.
 505 pp., \$14.95 paper

When Americans think of travel, do they think of staying somewhere or of moving from place to place? In "Ontology and the Trucker," one of 47 diverse prose pieces in this wonderful anthology, Diane Glancy, assistant professor of English at Macalester, chooses movement. She is glad to be without a CB radio when driving because she likes to feel cut off: "It reminds me I am between the way life was before I was born & how it will be after I die." She transforms an American commonplace—the highway—into something unexpected.

Most of the writers in *House on Via Gombito* are Americans living outside the U.S. The title piece, by Margaret Todd Maitland, describes the ordeal of seeking emergency medical care in a place where she didn't know the language or the customs.

But others—and this collection includes both well-known and first-time authors—have gentler encounters with foreign cultures. In "Two Nuns," Nancy Raeburn '84 evokes the divergence and charm of life on a small Greek island through a portrait of two incompatible women. Alone in their convent, Sister Seraphine flaps about, dusting and scolding, while Sister Kyriaki paints religious subjects in her room. "Barba Manolis" is a tender and more fully realized profile of an old farmer, a friend of Raeburn's,

whose funeral includes her in his family.

Two people can travel together, of course, and have utterly different perceptions. For Katherine Maehr '89, living in Iran as a 5-year-old meant sitting on top of a pile of Persian carpets and pretending to be an empress. For her mother, it meant justifying being there at all. Eventually, the 35-year-old Jane came to believe "there was more to be feared in staying home, serving fried chicken on wedding china, than there was with bargaining in unknown Farsi for an unplucked rooster." Daughter and mother take turns remembering in "The Search for Blind Camels and Balloons."

In the stories, as in the nonfiction, women find themselves in strange psychological as well as geographical terrain. "Juan Mina" by Gretchen Legler '84 depicts a strained young couple on sabbatical in a Central American jungle. In the atmospheric "Taxi" and "Belinda" by Vivian Balfour '70, an American teen-age girl lives a cool existence in hot Manila during the Vietnam War.

All of these writings are full of life and a pleasure to read.

—Mary Lou Burket '78

David H. Hopper: *Technology, Theology and the Idea of Progress*
 Westminster/John Knox Press,
 1991. 168 pp., \$14.95 paper.

Hopper, James Wallace professor of religious studies at Macalester, traces the rise of the association of technology with "progress." He asserts that the theological response to this phenomenon has been woefully inadequate.

Christina Baldwin '68: *Life's Companion: Journal Writing as a Spiritual Quest*
 Bantam New Age, 1990.
 352 pp., \$10.95 paper.

Baldwin's *One to One: Self-Understanding Through Journal Writing* has remained in print since its publication in 1977. In her new book, she shows how to use journal writing for spiritual growth in daily life, whether or not the reader has a formal religious affiliation. The book's unusual format combines samples from journals with writing exercises and meditations. Baldwin has taught seminars to thousands of journal writers.

Mic Hunter '79: *Abused Boys: The Neglected Victims of Sexual Abuse*
 Lexington Books, D.C. Heath and
 Co., 1990. 339 pp., \$19.95.

"This year, as in every year, tens of thousands of boys will be sexually abused in the United States. . . . The stereotypes and myths that surround sexual abuse and males will prevent them from getting adequate help," writes Hunter. A licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice in St. Paul, he has had extensive experience in treating men who were victims of sexual abuse in childhood. Lexington has also published two companion books by Hunter, *The Sexually Abused Male, Volumes 1 and 2*.

Siah Armajani '63: *Bridge Book*
 Walker Art Center and Minnesota
 Center for Book Arts, 1991. 20 pp.,
 \$700.

Although Armajani has an international reputation as a sculptor and proponent of public art, he is best known in Minnesota for the Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge, which connects the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden with Loring Park. *Bridge Book*, issued in a limited edition of 300 copies, features wood relief prints of the foot-bridge and six other bridges he has designed since 1968.

Robert Hariman '73: *Popular Trials: Rhetoric, Mass Media and the Law*
 University of Alabama Press, 1990.
 268 pp., \$32.95 cloth.

Hariman, associate professor of speech communication at Drake University, edited this critical study of several popular trials which illustrate the interaction of the law and the mass media.

Charles Baxter '69: *A Relative Stranger*
 Norton, 1990. 223 pp.,
 \$17.95 cloth.

Three of the 13 short stories in this collection appeared in recent "best of the year" collections; most were originally published in magazines, including *Harper's* and *The New Yorker*. "The Disappeared" is dedicated to Macalester English Professor Alvin Greenberg.

ALUMNI BOOKS continued on page 32

'Alumni Soundings' series will ask alumni to help chart Macalester's future

A special nationwide series of discussions, starting this month and continuing through next summer, will seek alumni participation in shaping Macalester's future. Alumni leaders will host about 25 such meetings in 15 cities.

The meetings, called "Alumni Soundings," will provide a forum for groups of 20 to 30 alumni to offer their insights on Macalester's past and present strengths and future direction. Among the questions they will be asked to address:

- What distinctive qualities and values of your Macalester education have served you best since college?
- Based on your professional and life experiences, what knowledge and skills should distinguish the education of Macalester students in the decades to come?

President Robert M. Gavin Jr. or another college officer will lead each discussion.

Ideas emerging from the meetings will be part of both the college's strategic planning process—a new long-range plan is being developed—and the Alumni Association's planning process. A report to all alumni, published next fall, will discuss the themes arising from the discussions.

The first events are in Boston, Philadelphia and the Twin Cities in November; other events will follow in Chicago, New York, Washington, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Denver, Duluth, Mankato, Rochester, Northfield and the Twin Cities.

Alumni nominations

You are invited to nominate alumni for the following:

- **member, Alumni Association Board of Directors.** The 30 board members meet on campus three times a year. They are intended to reflect the diversity of Macalester's 17,000



GREG HELGESON



Top: President Gavin and his wife, Charlotte, left, welcomed Anne Harbour '64 of Boston and Peter Fenn '70 of Washington, D.C., and other alumni leaders to campus for Leadership Weekend Sept. 13-15. Bottom, from left: William H.A. Watson '42 of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and Albert Ranum '50 and Ruth Chalsma Ranum '52 of Stillwater, Minn., were also among the alumni leaders who gathered to share information and insights and to plan for the year ahead.

living alumni in terms of age, gender, ethnic background and geography. Board members serve for three years, so one-third of the board is new each year. Members must have a strong desire to be part of the future Macalester. They should be willing and able to

contribute time, talent and money to the college; to act as an advocate for the college; to learn about the college, its teachers, students and contemporary life; to attend Alumni Association

ALUMNI NEWS continued on page 32

ALUMNI NEWS continued from page 31

and committee meetings; to work with at least one committee; to generate ideas and strategies; to work cooperatively on new and existing projects.

- **alumni trustee of the college.** The 30 to 33 trustees also serve for three years. Trustees should have a deep commitment to and support for Macalester as a national liberal arts college of the first rank; the ability to assist with the task of securing the resources necessary to maintain Macalester as a college of the first rank; and an understanding of and interest in the critical policy issues which will enable Macalester to best meet its goals for academic excellence.

Nominations for either position should be sent to:

Judy Vickers
Macalester Alumni Association
1600 Grand Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105-1899

WILLIAM H.A. WATSON



An M Club picnic at Macalester on Aug. 31 brought together fall athletes, parents, coaches and alumni. Football players Derrick Malcom '93, left, of Social Circle, Ga., and Chris Crescione '93 of Westerly, R.I., chatted with Jon Osnowitz, assistant football coach.

Calling winter athletes

Alumni Winter Sports Day will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Macalester Field House and Gym. Among the events will be an alumni coed swim meet, alumni

men's and women's basketball, a buffet lunch, and varsity men's and women's basketball games against Gustavus Adolphus. For more information, call the Alumni Office at (612) 696-6295.

ALUMNI BOOKS continued from page 17

Howard S. Becker and Michal M. McCall: *Symbolic Interaction and Cultural Studies*. University of Chicago Press, 1990. \$37.50 cloth, \$14.95 paper.

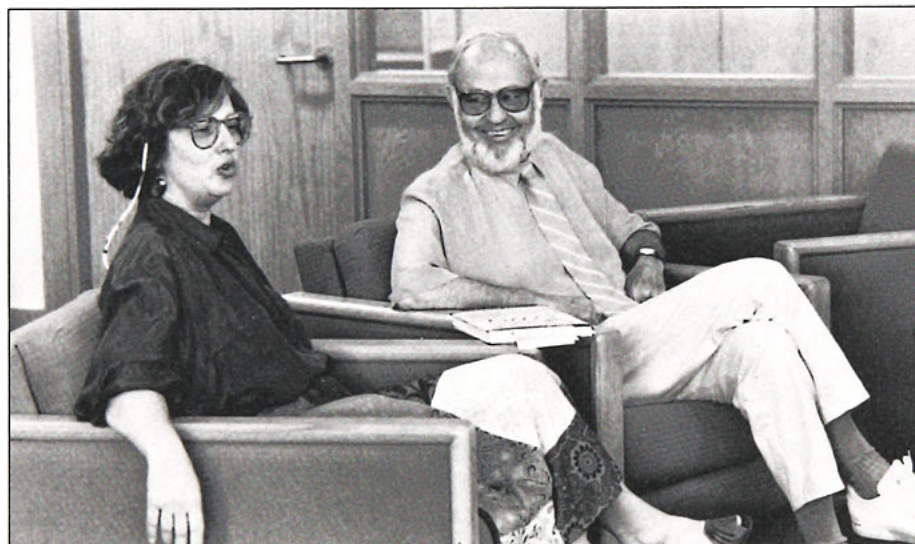
McCall is a professor of sociology at Macalester. She and Becker, a professor at Northwestern University, edited this volume on symbolic interaction, one of the major movements of contemporary social science.

Leland Guyer: Translation of *Poema Sujo* ["Dirty Poem"] by Ferreira Gullar. University Press of America, 1990. 212 pp.

Guyer is a professor of Spanish at Macalester. This is the first full-length translation of one of the most important and influential literary works written in Brazil.

Susan Allen Toth and James Stageberg: *A House of One's Own*. Clarkson N. Potter, 1991. 200 pp., \$20 cloth.

Toth, a professor of English at Macalester, and Stageberg, her architect-



GREG HELGESON

Susan Allen Toth and her husband, James Stageberg, talk about their book during Reunion Weekend last June.

husband, collaborated on what the subtitle calls "An Architect's Guide to Designing the House of Your Dreams." In the first section of the book, they address basic questions about working with an architect; in the second section, they use their own experience building their country home in Wisconsin as an example of the architectural process.

The prolific Toth has also collaborated with John Coughlan, a St. Paul friend, on *Reading Rooms* (Doubleday, 1991, 486 pp., \$27.50 cloth), an homage to American libraries. The book features stories, memoirs, essays and poems about public libraries by 67 authors, ranging from Eudora Welty to Stephen King.

LETTERS continued from inside front cover

contributions in the field have been most significant both as a teacher and an author, I am inclined to forgive you for not keeping abreast of the changing times; of not being p.c. (politically correct); of adhering to the Christian standards of another era.

Take strength in that most apt text from Isaiah that Randall Thompson employed in his choral work, *The Peaceable Kingdom*: "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil." The warning has been issued before; the warning has been ignored before; the results will be the same as before.

Donald O. Johnston '51
Missoula, Mont.

Since I am a heterosexual, I have previously been apathetic about the issues brought up as a result of C. Wesley Andersen's letter. The letter by Levin Tull, however, demands a response.

On the first point about biology, you are wrong, Mr. Tull. Homosexuality is rampant in the animal species. It has nothing to do with evolutionary survival techniques, merely availability and inclination, much like humans.

As for the Kinsey study, such studies are always controversial, but you needn't rely on them. Just look around you—homosexuals are everywhere. They're your best friend, your sister, your boss. Why are you so threatened by the idea of a normal, healthy person attracted to another normal, healthy person of the same sex?

You compare homosexuals to lepers and wife-beaters. By all means, present reasons why homosexuals make you uncomfortable. But what you're spewing is bigotry, which unfortunately masquerades as Christianity a lot.

Point to a civilization that has embraced homosexuality and survived beyond a single generation? I'd be glad to—how about ancient Greece? Want another one? Look around you.

By your last paragraph, where you thump your Bible, it is clear exactly who is the "half-educated man." They're here, they're queer, they're normal, wonderful people, Mr. Tull. Get used to it, or else learn to discuss it like a civilized, educated person.

Melanie Hohertz '94

Openness

Macalester has liberalized and broadened greatly since my four years there. I admire the openness of *Macalester Today* compared to our restrained reporting in the *Mac Weekly* of 1934-38 on which I served as a reporter/editor.

Fred F. Nora '38
Berkeley, Calif.

A Macalester legacy

Your notice of the death of the Rev. J. Maxwell Adams [August issue] gave short shrift to what, I believe, remains his greatest legacy to the college—long-term commitment to community involvement.

While you noted that the Rev. Adams "encouraged students to involve themselves in the larger community," you failed to mention what this encouragement led to: thousands of students providing hundreds of thousands of hours of service to the community. What a legacy!

When I worked in Community Involvement Programs (which became part of the Career Development Center), we spoke of commitment to community involvement as a great strength of Macalester. Indeed, you noted [in a separate article] that Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson honored the community service office and student service organization "for providing outstanding community service during the past year"—for the third year in a row!

While we praise the thousands of students (and faculty, staff and alumni) who have contributed hundreds of thousands of hours to the community, let's not forget the one person who, beyond all others, laid the groundwork for our commitment. Thank you, Max Adams.

Michael T. Keller '87
Arlington, Va.

Heartwarming reunion

My wife, Jeanne (Class of '45), and I have attended many reunion programs at Mac, but I believe the World War II alumni veterans' gathering last June was one of the most heartwarming. I have come to realize that the four years I spent at Mac and

the three and a half years I spent in the Army both shaped my life more than any other experiences.

At all reunions I have been impressed by the fact that Mac people are, above all, community oriented and that, wherever they may live, they contribute to the quality of life. This does not end with retirement, as I have noted since my own retirement and with meeting so many old Mac alumni friends at reunions and through keeping in touch with many of them. Jeanne and I have both sought to keep active in church, civic and community organizations and have been amply rewarded for doing so.

If I have had any success at these endeavors, it is attributable in part to communication skills acquired as a student at Mac and to the belief engendered then that we can and should try to do worthwhile things in our lives. I think that Mac's doing ever better in these matters with its students. One has only to read *Macalester Today* to reach this view.

Harold M. Kennedy '43
Fort Collins, Colo.

Vietnam vs. Gulf War

In the article on Macalester in 1971 and 1991 [August issue], the Gulf War is compared to Vietnam. The analogy between the two broke down long before the quick U.S. victory. In Vietnam we sent draftees to prop up a government that shouldn't have been there and in defense of a theory—the domino theory.

In the Persian Gulf we opposed wanton aggression by Iraq, which raped, murdered and oppressed the Kuwaiti people. Never forget that among the things looted by Iraq were incubators. They took the babies out and left them on the floor to die. No, Kuwait wasn't an ideal government, and Saudi Arabia's rulers were worse—but if someone is being raped or robbed, do you investigate their background before giving aid? I think not.

In 1972, I smeared blood on myself and sat down across from the Marine recruiting table—all by my lonesome. In 1991, if I weren't 38 with high blood pressure and six kids, I'd have been trying to join.

Pamela Harm Siegfried '75
Anchorage, Alaska



JIM HANSEN

Winter Light

Looking toward the DeWitt Wallace Library and historic Old Main, with the Bell Tower at right, photographer Jim Hansen captured the stillness that can envelop the Macalester campus on a winter day.

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