MACALESTER TODAY

May 1987

The curtain rises on three dramatic careers

World Press Institute: hands-on across America

Building a library on a century-old tradition
Corporate 'greed' may benefit worthy cause

I have some questions regarding [alumni] Thomas Welna's letter in your February issue criticizing (among other things) the November story of the recent Mac grad who took a position as a stockbroker. The writer said he knew four or five people living under the Wabasha Street bridge who "could really use" the $40,000 salary this stockbroker earned.

May I point out that the expenses Welna incurred while earning his solitary Macalester degree must have totaled between $25,000 to $40,000? I strongly suspect, too, that some Macalester professors earn salaries in the vicinity of $40,000, not to mention other income sources such as consulting fees, book royalties, speaking fees, and so on. Do we ask them if they are aware that a number of people eating out of dumpsters could really use that kind of money?

In light of the letter's description of "corporate greed," may I ask if today's Macalester students enjoy the many direct and indirect benefits of corporate and family endowments with names like Weyerhaeuser, Olin, Carnegie, and Wallace? Do they boycott use of the Weyerhaeuser Library? Refuse to enter Carnegie or Olin Hall? Turn down the scholarships offered by Reader's Digest or DeWitt Wallace?

The point is not that anybody who has attended Macalester has spent a pretty penny to do so. The point is whether the dollars spent on such an education were a worthwhile investment.

Meanwhile, there are some of us who, in some small way, are trying to do some things to alleviate suffering as we see it — and are realistic enough to acknowledge the sad fact that there could indeed be always more that is done to this end.

Robert G. Hazen '73
Saint Paul

One should measure service by more than money

The story about Miss Kari J. Nelson ("a stockbroker at 22") in the November issue confirms our conclusions about the priority-setting of stockbrokers in general.

We read on page 15 that Merrill Lynch "encourages its employees to measure their success" by the money they earn in commissions. Nowhere do we read about any concern whatsoever respecting what is in the best interest of the client, which sometimes means no trading at all.

During the nearly six years since we moved from the Netherlands to Canada, it is indeed our experience that brokers first of all have making commissions in mind. This is sadly confirmed by this 22-year-old girl. The entire story is symptomatic of the commercial attitude and way of thinking on this North American continent.

Where is the notion that institutions are supposed to serve the public and individual interests in the first place?

Alberdina Roosegaarde Bisschop
(mother of Petra Schoep '82 and Renate Schoep '84)
Brantford, Ontario

The Last Californian' is window on history

Other than a few minor errors—Feliz Guthrie teaches in Sutter Creek; the National Hotel is in Jackson; it's "Lower Rancheria" instead of just "Rancheria"—I enjoyed your informative sketch of Ms. Guthrie and her book, The Last Californian (February).

As a local historian, I find it clear that the Rancheria massacre was one of early California's most awful but least known race terrors. The slaughter of Spanish-surnamed innocents after the massacre itself is a horrible episode in our history.

Guthrie's book, while not dwelling on those sanguine aspects, helped me understand the Californian culture and point of view.

Larry Cenotto
(father of Laird Cenotto '90)
Jackson, Calif.

Success on whose terms?

I read with interest and dismay the piece on Scott Stapf in the February issue. It is surprising that someone coming from a school with such a tradition in social consciousness has chosen to direct his obvious talents and energy to such destructive ends.

In the spirit of portraying the range of graduates' career "successes," I can see why Macalester Today featured this alum.

I wonder, though, if you would choose to feature in the same light an equally "successful" advocate for racism, sexism, violence, or other sources of suffering.

Maybe his case can provide the impetus for the college to sponsor a forum addressing the scientific, legal, ethical, and economic implications of smoking and tobacco production. There are certainly plenty of objective scientists, public health and legal experts, and ethicists without corporate interests at heart who could discuss the issue with Stapf and serve to educate the Mac community (and maybe even Mr. Stapf) about the well-established health hazards of tobacco and consider the complex ethical, legal, and economic elements of the issue. Perhaps this will also stimulate the college to reevaluate its teaching of the scientific method so that future graduates can be more informed in their advocacy efforts.

Carol Wolf Runyan '72
Chapel Hill, N.C.

McCurdy menagerie left out some details

I enjoyed reading your February article on anthropology professor David McCurdy, but I couldn't help wondering if he still has any of the pets he was famous for when I was a student.

Micheal J Thompson '81
Saint Paul

We forgot to mention that David McCurdy's household includes a dog, Madeleine; a cockatil, Merlin; a boa constrictor, Julius Squeezer II; and two cats, Max and Orence (the latter named for Lawrence of Arabia). The McCurdys' list of former pets is even longer: an alligator, Mohammed Ali Gator; a rabbit, Sid Vicious; about seven hooded rats; assorted baby squirrels and raccoons ("They get meaner as they get older," McCurdy tells us); and a young jaguar, Rema, and lion, continued on page 33

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At Macalester
A new chaplain, a newer provost, and a whiz of a women’s track team make the Macalester headlines.

Covering the World
The Macalester-based World Press Institute has quietly built an international reputation among journalists.


In Depth
A century (plus) of Macalester libraries.

Bright Lights, Long Days
From an Emmy-winning series to a New York Shakespeare company, the stars of three Macalester alumni are rapidly rising on stage and screen.

Center Stage at Macalester
Theater director Sears Eldredge stresses student participation.

More Than a Guru
Philosophy professor David White looks back on a lifetime of acting on his principles.

Alumni News
News of alumni gatherings, plus admissions advice.

Alumni Profiles
Meet an orphan’s judge, a housing-for-homeless advocate, and neighboring near-governors.

Class Notes
Notes from Singapore to Santa Fe.
Ground broken last month to build a longtime dream

On April 3—a date chosen to coincide with the most recent meeting of the Board of Trustees—ground was broken for Macalester’s new library.

“The library stands at the center of our aspirations for Macalester,” says President Robert M. Gavin, Jr. “It is an essential and highly visible symbol of our continuing pursuit of academic excellence. It will be a focal point for scholarship at Macalester.”

The 92,000-square-foot facility will provide individual and group study space to accommodate one-third of the student body, capacity to expand the book collection to 450,000 volumes, ability to place computer terminals throughout the building to provide access to a new on-line database, and flexibility to incorporate other mixed-media innovations.

“These capabilities will draw together scholars from all parts of campus, all disciplines, seeking and using academic information in new ways,” Gavin says.

Construction of the building, on the site of the recently demolished east wing of Old Main, is expected to be complete by fall 1988. A two-story portico will connect the new building with the renovated west wing of Old Main, which will house classrooms and faculty offices. Administrative offices now located in Old Main and several other buildings will move to Weyerhaeuser Library.

The architectural firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott was selected after a national search. The firm has designed libraries at Bowdoin College, Bucknell University, and Franklin and Marshall College.

The library project will cost $15 million: $10 million to build the library, and $5 million to endow the book collection and the building maintenance costs. To date, $5 million has been given; when the college has raised $10 million, it will earn a $5 million challenge grant from the Wallace Funds to complete the $15 million total. Deadline for earning the challenge grant is June 1988.

Annual Fund support helps build library

“To make the most of the new library’s potential, we must have continued strong Annual Fund support for college operations,” notes President Robert M. Gavin, Jr.

“The library will be more than a building,” Gavin says; “it will be an important part of Macalester’s educational program.”

“The Annual Fund supports 5 to 8 percent of the college’s budgeted activities every year,” explains vice president Catherine Day. “We must sustain Annual Fund support in order to maintain high-quality programs.”

Thus, while major gifts are being sought to build the library, everyone can participate in its success through continued and increased commitments to the Annual Fund. Checks to the 1986–87 Annual Fund must reach Macalester by May 31, 1987.

“A meeting-place of ideas”—Macalester’s new library—took a first step toward reality with a ground-breaking ceremony April 3. Among participants were members of the Board of Trustees’ library fund-raising task force: from left: trustees Virginia Brooks and Mary Wurtele Vaughan, President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., and trustees Mary Lee Dayton and Timothy Hultquist ’72. See related story on pp. 8–11.
Chaplain's spiritual mission embraces social issues

Earlier this spring, Macalester welcomed Brent C. Coffin, an ordained Presbyterian who has worked extensively with the urban poor, as its new chaplain. Coffin's graduate work at Harvard Divinity School had kept him in Massachusetts for fall 1986, during which time Julie Neraas served as Macalester's acting chaplain.

Social ethics, the subject of his doctoral studies, is a longtime interest of Coffin's. He graduated from Dartmouth College as a psychology and sociology major in 1970, following considerable involvement with the anti-Vietnam War movement. Not only had he studied Indo-Chinese history at Dartmouth, but he organized Vietnam debates on campus with classmates and fraternity brothers.

Coffin says his vigorous confrontation of the America-Vietnam conflict "shattered my naive view of the world." Instead of attending law school and having "an upwardly mobile career like every sane person did," he says, he went for a master's in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Before becoming ordained, he interned for a year and a half as an assistant pastor in an inner-city church in the New York City's tough South Bronx neighborhood. It was there, Coffin says, that he "discovered both the reality of systemic poverty and evidence of an incredible amount of faith and hope in people who were fighting incredible odds just to survive."

Brent Coffin's résumé does not stop there. After spending time at a church in Trenton, N.J., he went to Europe to research the church's presence in urban environments for the World Council of Churches. Coffin was then associate pastor for four years at a church in Bloomington, Minn.—his first exposure to Minnesota.

Brent Coffin is married and has three children—Emily, 1, Adam, 5, and Josh, 7. His wife, Poppy, is the founder and president of a cooperative nursery school in Boston.

Coffin says he is looking forward to continuing his spiritual and intellectual journey at Macalester. Having traveled to

Latin America three times in the past six years, he would like to plan an Interim seminar of study and travel in either Central America or Europe.

—Melissa Morris '87

Honors program inspires graduate-level work

From such timely topics as "Terrorism in the 1980s" to an investigation of women's varied roles in Shakespeare, honors projects at Macalester give students a sense of graduate-level research. At their 1987 graduation this month, nearly 40 seniors will be cited on the Commencement program for their rigorous independent work as part of the Macalester honors program.

At the end of their junior year, students with a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to apply for the program, which carries only a chance for glory—no academic credit. They then spend a large part of their senior year completing the project, usually as an independent class during fall semester or Interim.

Projects, which are guided by faculty members, are of students' own choosing. Sometimes professors collaborate with them: Last year, for example, Kathleen M. Lemon '86 worked with assistant professor of biology Mark Davis on researching the effect of fire on certain prairie plants; that project won Lemon "highest honors," and the paper she helped coauthor (with Davis and Alyssa Dybvig '85) has been accepted for publication in The Prairie Naturalist, a scientific journal. This year, a number of honors students joined Janet Carlson, assistant professor of chemistry, in studying the pine bark beetle.

Before 1974, the program was administered by individual departments. Now, under the supervision of program associate Lynn Hertz, procedures are standardized throughout the college. This year, Hertz expects 36 to 38 students to complete projects—up from 30 in 1986.

In the five years that Hertz has worked with the program, she says she's seen about 50 students start honors projects each year. Their 70 percent completion rate is "perfectly appropriate," she says, given the academic rigors of a typical senior year.

David Smail '87, who is majoring in both biology and French, is writing a paper on "wrongful life" that he hopes eventually to publish in a law journal. In this age of amniocentesis, he says, it is possible for genetically handicapped children to sue their parents for "wrongful life," arguing it would have been better not to be born. The issue raises complex legal questions, which Smail is exploring in his project, about parents' and physicians' responsibility to the fetus.

For her part, Adele Cloutier '87, an adult scholar who is majoring in history, is examining why the protest movements of the 1960s passed by her hometown. In her honors paper, she focuses on Stillwater, Minn., in 1970, the year she graduated from high school there. Her conclusion is that the city's logging-town origins have preserved its autonomy, pride and independence from the (historically younger) Twin Cities.

Simply writing the requisite honors paper isn't enough, although some are hundreds of pages long. After the paper is done, the senior's faculty supervisor, together with two other faculty members, question the student face to face. If students pass this oral examination, the phrase "with honors" (or, still more coveted, "with highest honors") goes on their transcripts. And as a bonus, their honors papers are bound and added to the Macalester library's permanent collection.

—Christine Hartelt '87
James B. Stewart, a Macalester faculty member since 1969, was named Macalester's provost on Feb. 17. Stewart fills the position vacated by Peter Conn, who resigned Jan. 31 for personal family reasons.

Stewart was appointed by President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., following an internal search. The appointment is for a term of three years.

"I was fortunate to have a difficult choice," Gavin said of the appointment. "I came away from the process very impressed with Jim Stewart's credentials, with the quality of the other excellent candidates, and with the degree of commitment to the college on the part of the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the selection."

Stewart, a James Wallace professor of history, specializes in the history of the early United States, including the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the American South. At the time of his appointment this semester, he was teaching two classes.

He has written three books, the most recent being Liberty's Hero: A Life of Wendell Phillips, a biography of a 19th-century orator, reformer, and social critic. Stewart earned the B.A. degree from Dartmouth College in 1962 and the Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1968.

Stewart has served on virtually all of the elected standing committees of the college, and he has been chair of the history department twice: 1973-78 and 1983-86. He has served as associate to the provost (formerly academic vice president) in charge of faculty development, and had recently been named associate provost.

As provost, he is the college's chief academic officer; he will coordinate all academic programs, the library, athletic programs, and academic computing, and will provide leadership in faculty recruitment and professional development.

Like you, we love reading about Macalester people in the news. Unlike you, we don't read your local newspaper every day. And although the clipping service we subscribe to keeps us informed of some alumni news, we want more.

So when you run across a newspaper or magazine article about a former Macalester student, don't just tell your friends — cut it out and send it to us! (Be sure to write the full name of the publication and the issue date in the margin.) Address the envelope to: Anne Bushnell, Alumni Office, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105.

Two individual national titles, two new meet records, and three All-American certificates highlighted the fourth-place finish of the women's track and field squad at the NCAA Division III indoor meet on March 13–14 at the University of Chicago.

Julia Kirtland '87 (Aurora, N.Y.) captured her sixth national title and 14th All-American certificate with her impressive victory in the 3,000-meter race. She took control of the event from the opening gun and surged midway through to shed the remaining contenders, and came home with a meet record time of 9:33.78.

In the 1,500-meter, Mary Schlick '87 (Wauwatosa, Wis.) took the lead with 400
meters to go in the race. Her first-place finish, with a record clocking of 4:32.35, earned her the national title and her fourth All-American certificate.

Seeded third heading into the finals with a school-record preliminary time of 7.25, Francene Young '88 (Port Gibson, Miss.) collided with a meet official while warming up for the 55-meter dash finals. Minutes later—7.41 minutes, to be precise—she gallantly recovered to finish sixth in the race.

The Scots scored 21 points to trail the University of Massachusetts at Boston (56), Virginia's Christopher Newport College (52), and the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse (25) in the final team standings. Their fourth-place result equalled the Scots' finish in last spring's outdoor national meet.

"It's unbelievable," says Vanessa Seljeskog, in her first year as women's track and field coach. "I feel so lucky to be working with such talented runners. To set meet records and come up with a fourth-place finish in the team standings like that—it was an incredible feeling."

Indoor meet

The Scots finished in third place at the MIAC indoor meet (they had finished eighth in the 1986 indoor championships), propelled by outstanding performances by Kirtland, Schlick, and Young. There, the Scots tallied 83 points to trail Saint Thomas (106) and Saint Olaf (99) in the chase for the coveted MIAC crown; Concordia finished fourth.

Kirtland collected the 17th, 18th, and 19th MIAC titles of her brilliant career with her victories in the 1,500 (4:32.42), 3,000 (9:46.75), and 4 x 800-meter relay (9:43.43). Schlick won the 1,000-meter (2:58.14) after finishing second to her teammate in the 1,500 (4:34.57); she came back to anchor the victorious 4 x 800 relay squad.

Not to be outdone, Young glided to victory in the 55-meter with a time of 7.42, then set a new meet and school record with her winning leap of 17 feet, 4¼ inches in the long jump. She wrapped up two outstanding days of competition with a fourth-place finish in the 300-meter with a time of 43.34.

Men's track and field

The 11-member men's track and field team scored 32 points to finish eighth in the MIAC indoor meet—a decided improvement over the Scots' two-point 1986 total.

A 2-3-6 finish in the pole vault paced the Scots' efforts. Peter Hay '87 (Honolulu, Hi.) and Dave Hargrove '90 (Lincoln, Neb.) both cleared 14 feet to break the school indoor record, with Hay ending up in the second position. Brad Pospisil '89 (Cedar Rapids, Ia.) sailed over a personal-best height of 13 feet, 6 inches to place sixth in the event.

Swimming

In the Feb. 12–14 MIAC meet at Hamline University, Liz Young '89 (Sedona, Ariz.) placed third in the 200-yard breaststroke with a school record time of 2:38.86, and fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:14.59), leading the women's team to an eighth-place finish. The Scots broke 8 of their 15 new school records at the conference meet alone, turning more than a few heads along the way.

"Liz was the outstanding performer of the meet for us by far," head swim coach Rian Greseth says. "No one expected us to have anyone in the top six, and she made it in two different events. She should set her sights on qualifying for nationals down the road."

In the men's championship Feb. 19–21, a total of seven Scots placed in nine different events to lead the men's swim team to an impressive MIAC showing. Powerful Saint Olaf racked up 668 points on its way to the team title—the eighth straight year the Oles have captured it. The Scots tallied 88 points, finishing in seventh place in the final team standings.

In the 400-yard freestyle relay, Dan Allen '90 (Lafayette, Ind.), Chad Baasen '90 (Hutchinson, Minn.), Charlie Caithorn '90 (San Antonio, Tex.), and Stanton Enomoto '89 (Kahului, Hi.) paced the Scots' efforts in the meet with a new school record clocking of 3:16.73.

—Marc Ryan
Macalester-based institute celebrates 25 years of international success

by Nancy A. Peterson

Each year in May, a dozen promising young journalists from all parts of the world converge on Macalester College to begin an intensive seven-month study-tour of the United States. By the end of their stay, they have travelled 10,000 miles, visited some 30 states, talked with people from all walks of life, and come to understand a great deal more about the U.S.

The sponsor of this ambitious program is the World Press Institute (WPI). As part of an effort to increase international understanding, this Macalester-based organization has brought more than 300 print and broadcast journalists to the U.S. over the past 25 years.

At a conference last fall commemorating WPI's 25-year anniversary, the institute's important role was underscored by former senator J. William Fulbright, who had also addressed the first WPI graduating class a quarter-century earlier.

Fulbright drew parallels between the purposes of the WPI and of the Fulbright educational exchange program he helped establish while in Congress. Both, he said, promote conciliation rather than confrontation among nations. Both promote the kind of international understanding that is necessary if the world is to avoid nuclear warfare.

Most of the WPI's alumni have risen to positions of power and influence in their countries, Fulbright noted. "They not only understand the people of the United States and its institutions, but they also look at their own country from a different point of view."

Further, Fulbright noted, both the WPI and the Fulbright exchange program are designed to stretch beyond their direct participants, creating a "multiplier" effect.

"For every university professor or every journalist whose outlook has been broadened by work or study in another country, many thousands of their students or readers will gain some measure of intercultural perspective," Fulbright said.

A 1964 alumnus of the institute endorsed Fulbright's assessment. "In the course of the years, many of us have been critical of this country," Dieter Buhl

The 1986 Fellows meet with former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, left. Moving right: Robert Dunkley (holding pencil); Emmanuel Onyejena (back to camera at center); and Rahul Bedi (with patterned tie).

One dozen 1986 WPI Fellows, brought together from all corners of the globe. Back row, from left: Rahul Bedi, India; Annika Borgdalen, Sweden; Emmanuel Onyejena, Nigeria; José González, Peru; Yasuko Wakita, Japan; Deniz Yegül, Turkey; and Kim Hyo Soon, South Korea. Front row: Michael Ngoma, Zambia (see sidebar); Irene Helmke, Chile; Caio Kraiser Blinder, Brazil; Louis Baumard, France; and Robert Dunkley, United Kingdom.
said, "but at least we knew what we were talking or writing about because we had a chance to find out what makes this country tick."

Buhl, senior political editor of Germany's Die Zeit, noted that through travel, arranged visits, homestays, study, and work at small-town and big-city media outlets, WPI fellows are exposed to the variety and contrasts of the United States.

"We got to know the wide-open spaces of this country, its sleepy little towns and big bustling cities," he said, speaking on behalf of the institute's 303 alumni at the anniversary observance. "We met the poor and deprived as well as the prosperous and powerful. We talked to the mighty and famous in the big companies and on the political stage. And we listened to the homeless and lonesome at the edge of American society."

"Above all, though, we came close to the men and women who are the most important of all—the average American," Buhl said. "To sit in the kitchen late at night with a military officer's family and exchange views about war and peace; to talk with a black farmer in Appalachia striving for the respect of his fellow citizens; to have a drink with a gentleman in a Chicago bar who suddenly joined the band and turned out to be the best crooner we ever heard—these and many more are the unique experiences the World Press Institute offered us."

Buhl noted that many WPI alumni have gone on to impressive journalistic careers. They include the editor of Thailand's The Nation Review, the president of Swedish National Radio, the head of the international affairs department of Asahi Broadcasting Corporation, Tokyo, the editor-in-chief of the German magazine Stern, the news director of Television Ivoirienne in the Ivory Coast, and more.

The institute has been headquartered at Macalester ever since its founding by journalist Harry Morgan in 1961. Fellows spend the first few weeks of their U.S. visit in study, discussion, and interviews at Macalester; they return for a final week of summation and review before journeying home.

Dunking doesn't dampen Institute visitor's views

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by Ann Daly Goodwin

Thank goodness he only got dunked up to his knees. But a guest at our Wisconsin cottage underwent a novel and chilling experience the other day [in January] when he fell through the ice on our little lake.

It will severely tax his powers of description to recount that event in his own country, where ice and snow are unknown. Zambia, in south-central Africa, enjoys a climate so temperate that—can you believe this?—no one talks about the weather, not even on television newscasts.

My husband Jack and I have played host to Michael Ngoma whenever he has touched base in Saint Paul since last spring, when the World Press Institute awarded him a scholarship and matched us up. The institute, based at Macalester College, is funded by media, corporations, foundations, individuals, and the college. It brings about a dozen "Fellows"—young men and women journalists—to America every year, each from a different country.

The Fellows crisscross this nation for seven months in what sponsors hope will be "a journey into understanding." In WPI's 25-year history, 303 writers from 83 nations have set out on that journey.

Michael illustrates the purpose like this: Turning out news stories about unfamiliar peoples and cultures is like reporting a wrestling match where the participants are covered with blankets. You know something is happening in there, but you are not sure what, or who's winning. WPI gets this country out from under the blankets.

Not all who emerged into light for Michael and his companions could be called winners. Group members met Stillwater prison inmates. They ate with the homeless in a San Francisco soup kitchen. They interviewed four Ku Klux Klan members in North Carolina. That creepy quartet told the WPI group—which included a Jew and another black besides Michael—that Jews and blacks have no right to be in the United States, and "we agree with what Hitler did."

While WPI made no attempt to cloak imperfections, the Fellows saw our best face too. In Georgia, they met the gracious Jimmy Carter. In Washington, D.C., they chatted with Secretary of State George Schultz at the White House and witnessed the swearing-in of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

More: They got to know ordinary Americans wearing everyday faces. Michael went cross-country skiing (Jack coached him in case Zambia fields a Winter Olympics team). He worked on an Iowa farm for a week, rode to breakfast on a Texas dude ranch, met Hopi Indians in Arizona and Amish people in Pennsylvania, and gambled—like most Americans, without much luck—in Las Vegas. He has seen more of this country and its people than I may in my lifetime.

He told us once that from what he had read, he thought America might be dangerous. "But that," he said, "was before I went to Iowa."

This nation is what he expected, but a whole lot more. He expected skyscrapers and discovered vast sweeps of open country. He expected preoccupation with technology and saw people taking simple pleasure in their dogs and cats. He expected racism and found welcome.

The Fellows have dispersed now: Michael to graduate school at Northwestern University; the 11 others back to their homes and media jobs. What will they write about America? I know this: It will be different because they were here.

They tested the American waters and, apart from Michael's Wisconsin dunking, I believe they found the waters warm.

Ann Daly Goodwin, the mother of Joan Goodwin Swearenger '79 and John D. Goodwin '76, is an editorial writer for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch, from which this column is taken.
A Century of Libraries

1885: Macalester founder Edward D. Neill is named college librarian.
1886: Macalester College opens its doors to six freshmen.
1887: Moss Hall (named for trustee Henry L. Moss, who pledged $15,000 towards its construction), on Snelling Avenue, houses the reading room and librarian's office.
1888: The reading room moves to the second floor of Old Main.

1896-97: Library collection totals 6,000 volumes. Reading room moves to first floor of Old Main.
1899-1900: Library and reading room moves to 48 by 50-foot space on the third floor of Old Main.
1. Macalester's first building, the now-demolished 1885 east wing of Old Main, which housed the college library for more than 40 years. It stood on the site of the new library. This photo was taken in 1885–86, from the east.

2. The Macalester faculty gathers in the Old Main library c. 1900; James Wallace, 1894–1906 president of Macalester, is seated third from left.

3. Another view of the Old Main library from the same period.

4. Old Main (east and west wings) and Carnegie Science Hall, taken from the northeast in 1922.

5. Students in the Old Main reading room c. 1930.

1910–11: 12,500 volumes.


1932: 20,600 volumes, 135 periodicals.
1942: Weyerhaeuser Library built on east side of Macalester Street for approximately $150,000; architect is William Ingemann. Houses 40,000 volumes, 260 periodicals, Neill Collection. Student body: 667.
We extend our thanks to Harry Drake '50, college archivist, for his help in researching the history of Macalester's libraries.


e. 1969: College begins search for site and design of new library building.

1970—71: 192,000 volumes, 1,300 periodicals.

Dramatis Personae

Bright Lights, Long Days

Three rising stars have Macalester in common: ‘Cagney and Lacey’ veteran Carl Lumbly ’73; W. Stuart McDowell ’69, who founded a Manhattan Shakespeare company; and television and film actress Karen Landry ’72.

by Claude Peck ’77
A white South African woman is in the U.S. to participate in the New York marathon. She receives a death threat from an anti-apartheid group, and officers from the city's 14th precinct are assigned to protect her and her son. Detective Marcus Garvey Petrie, a black man in sympathy with the anti-apartheid activists, doesn't feel he should be forced to participate. When he is ordered to do so, he shows up on the day of the race wearing an anti-apartheid T-shirt.

This storyline is from a 1986 episode of the Emmy Award-winning CBS series "Cagney and Lacey." The black actor is Carl Lumbly '73. Lumbly is finishing his fifth season on the series, which stars Tyne Daly and Sharon Gless as New York police detectives. The anti-apartheid episode was a favorite of Lumbly's, he says, because it merged his acting career and his political beliefs.

The two don't always come together so neatly, even though the series' writers like their scripts to reflect the actors' interests. "I reserve the right to object to scripts I don't like. I don't always win," Lumbly says with a laugh.

The Jamaica-born actor grew up in south Minneapolis and went to South High School before becoming a Macalester English major. At Macalester, his theater involvement consisted of a senior-year part in Guys and Dolls. For two years after he graduated, Lumbly ignored his current calling; instead, he joined the corporate world as writer and editor of a 3M company newsletter.

"The corporate existence was not to my liking," Lumbly says now. "I didn't feel free enough—most of my inspiration comes between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m."

Lumbly left the Saint Paul corporation and stumbled by "happy accident" into acting through a local comedy gallery, the Dudley Riggs Brave New Workshop. Over the next two years, Lumbly was cast in a number of Workshop productions and became active in two other local companies, Mixed Blood Theater and Theatre in the Round.

At Mixed Blood in the late 1970s, Lumbly wrote and appeared in a musical called Badd High. "I still remember the review," he says: "The music was not unforgettable, the book was nothing new... panning it would be like kicking a warm puppy. I can laugh about it now."

Then Lumbly moved to San Francisco, where he got an agent, began doing commercial work, and became involved in more overtly political theater. He and another black actor, Danny Glover (The Color Purple), starred in Athol Fugard's Sizwe Bansi Is Dead at San Francisco's Eureka Theater; the story, told through a black South African photographer, pictures the rich diversity and pain of black life under apartheid. That play represented a sort of breakthrough for Lumbly.

"Before, I saw acting as a source of entertainment," he says. "After Sizwe, I realized there was a way to do work and still allow your integrity to be maintained. You could be politicized and still be an artist. I saw that it was possible to become a theater worker as opposed to just an actor."

Lumbly became artistic director of the Eureka, a post he held for about a year. Then, restless at what he calls the "limitations" of San Francisco, he moved to Los Angeles. There, he did another Fugard play on the stage and spent a few years trying out, sometimes successfully, for television roles.

A pattern quickly emerged in his guest appearances on network series, Lumbly recalls. "I was usually a young 'blood,' raised in the ghetto, who gets out because of school or athletics, then goes back to the ghetto to save it. I got tired of being 'perfect' for these roles.

"After a few years I moved to New York. I was thrilled. I fell in love with the city. I have a lot of energy, but it isn't possible to have more energy than New York. It moved on my kind of schedule, with midnight poetry readings, experimental theater, all-night restaurants. I did New York for almost three years, from 1980 to 1983."

MAY 1987
New director puts theater in center stage

by Deborah A. Weiner '78

Professor Sears Eldredge enjoys a challenge. As chair of Macalester's newly created department of dramatic arts, which was made separate from the speech communication department last September, he has the task of building a drama program that can attract majors from around the country. Since he joined the staff last fall, he has generated considerable enthusiasm and support from faculty and students.

Eldredge's first production, Romulus Linney's Holy Ghosts, was sold out the last three nights of its November 1986 run. Other productions this year included "Sam Shepard: Early Works," A. R. Gurney, Jr.'s The Dining Room, and Carlo Goldoni's Servant of Two Masters.

The themes of these plays are troubling and controversial, reflecting Eldredge's own philosophy. "Holy Ghosts presented an intellectual challenge on both sides of the stage," he says. "This kind of challenge is essential to our cultural health. Theater shouldn't merely support current attitudes and beliefs. It should probe, ask questions, be provocative."

The Dining Room, directed by dramatic-arts lecturer Carolyn Levy and performed in March (one act is to be presented as a special Commencement program this month), was equally provocative. A contemporary play, it examines how American cultural values have changed since the turn of the century. It is also something of a tour de force for the actors, since eight people play 40 different characters.

Eldredge balanced out the season in April and May with Goldoni's Servant of Two Masters, an 18th-century Italian classic. "For educational purposes, it's important to include at least one classic per year," he says.

Nor did these three plays represent students' only exposure to hands-on theater this year. Interim, as well, included an ambitious Eldredge-directed project: the production of four early one-act plays by Sam Shepard. Macalester's tiny Black Box, which can accommodate audiences of up to 60 people, was filled to standing-room-only capacity all three nights of public performance.

For Eldredge, all productions are laboratory experiments where students can put their class work to the test. That's why he added a fourth play to this year's schedule and plans to add a fifth next season. An increased number of productions allows non-theater majors at Macalester more chances to be involved in drama, he says: "I'm not interested in a program that excludes people who want to participate."

According to senior urban-studies major Eric Muschler, who was assistant director for The Dining Room and acted in Holy Ghosts, Eldredge is working to establish "a connection between the theater department and the rest of the college"—and he is succeeding.

"What's happening is wonderful," says junior English major Belinda Walker, who played roles in both Holy Ghosts and Dining Room.

Eldredge has also made changes in the curriculum of the dramatic-arts department, whose newly separate status has given him more leeway in...
anything like the money you make after you've been on a series for a few years,” he says. “We're paid much more than one would consider reasonable. It's like having won a lottery.” He continues to do stage acting on the side; the series' visibility earns him much better treatment from agents and casting directors, he says.

“I retain an extremely sane perspective on myself and Los Angeles,” Lumbly says. “There's lots of stuff in the world that has nothing to do with Nielsen's, Arbitrons or who's guesting on the series this week.”

Lumbly continues to read, write and remain politically involved. For him, Macalester represents “a microcosm, not an ivory tower,” where he “learned the importance of choices, of seeing questions, not just answers.” History professor Ernest Sandeen and English professors Patricia Kane and Harley Henry stand out in his memory. It was in Sandeen's American-studies class, Lumbly says, that he first discovered a principle that continues to guide him:

“I learned that events could be influenced by art, instead of art functioning only as a reflection of the times; that making a contribution was important,” Lumbly says. “I think the course showed me that people create myths—-it’s possible for us to be larger than ourselves.”

In his small-screen role as Detective Petrie, Lumbly makes that message manifest to millions every Monday night.

I t's a long way from the “black box” of Macalester's studio theater to Shakespeare on a sunlit hillside in the middle of a New York City rush hour. But even after 17 years, the spiritual connection between the two remains strong.

W. Stuart McDowell '69, co-founder and for eight and a half years artistic director of the Riverside Shakespeare Company, brought Shakespeare to more than 100,000 people in the parks of Manhattan between 1977 and 1986.

“Shakespeare is the intellectual as well as the spiritual heart of theater people everywhere,” says planning.

“Theater students need more emphasis in their particular area of interest—acting, directing, design, or technical theater,” Eldredge says. “At the same time, we need to develop a core program in which majors and minors can gain a basic, across-the-board knowledge of each area. This was possible in the old department, but it wasn't laid out for the students in any structured way.”

By the end of next year, Eldredge plans to institute a formal evaluation process, in which the work of theater majors would be examined by the dramatic-arts faculty at the end of the junior and senior years. Part of the idea, Eldredge says, is to offer practical career and graduate-school advice before students audition for graduate scholarships.

Eldredge is well acquainted with liberal arts-based theater programs from his eight years as head of the drama program at Earlham College. “It was hard to leave Earlham,” says Eldredge, “but I was at a point where I wanted to do more in theater and wanted more to do it with. Macalester offered me that chance.

“I'm working in my dream facility,” he says. “The main stage has three configurations—thrust, proscenium, and round. This season we used all three forms, which hasn't been done in years at Macalester. With the experimental black-box performance stage downstairs, I have all the theater space I ever wanted.”

A generous gift from former Macalester student and Broadway actress Ruth Easton '21 is helping to support the strengthening of the department and expansion of the theater program. Easton in 1984 promised to match one-for-two every dollar raised up to $150,000 and one-for-one any additional dollars up to $200,000. Terms of her challenge are to be met by Dec. 31, 1987.

Funds have been used to offer a summer workshop for high-school drama teachers, to support interim-semester student productions, to support a visiting lecturer while a faculty member was on leave, and more.

Dramatic-arts chair Sears Eldredge: “Theater should probe, ask questions, be provocative.”
McDowell, who founded the company with practically no budget. “My love for Shakespeare goes back to Macalester and Doug Hatfield”—Hatfield having taught theater at Macalester from 1955 to 1986.

“Outdoor Shakespeare is 60 percent outdoor theater and 40 percent Shakespeare, but that’s okay,” McDowell says. “It keeps actors and directors honest. You have to attract [people’s] attention, grab them, compel them. You must remind people of what’s in Shakespeare—there’s something for everyone.”

When McDowell first came to New York City, fresh from graduate study in Germany, “there was no ongoing professional Shakespeare company” in the city, he recalls. “We offered the public a viable and vibrant voice for the Bard.” Operating without a payroll until 1981, his “bus-and-truck” operation toured New York parks in the summer.

“We’d set up on a stage on our rented truck at 5 o’clock in the afternoon on a weekday,” McDowell recalls. “No microphones, no lights; we’d just find a good hillside and begin. The audience would run the gamut from Hispanics and black kids to yuppies and octogenarians with their First Folios in their laps.”

After several years of this low-budget operation, Riverside attracted the support of influential actors and of producer Joseph Papp, who brought the company considerable prestige when he underwrote four summer tours of the company beginning in 1981.

McDowell, the son of a Presbyterian minister, has journeyed far in theater since he took his first role—prophetically, a Shakespearean part—as Lysander in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. A junior at Ladue High School in Saint Louis, he remembers that he turned to drama only after being cut from the soccer team.

At college, it was McDowell’s knowledge of German that led him to Macalester’s studio theater, for which he translated several German plays for performance. He couldn’t entirely get away from Shakespeare, though. In Hatfield’s “monumental” Macbeth, performed during the 1967 Interim, McDowell played MacDuff.

“I was probably quite horrible,” he admits. Nonetheless, Hatfield’s meticulous direction stands out in his memory. At one point, Hatfield imported a voice coach from the Royal Shakespeare Company to work with students on accent, diction, and phrasing.

McDowell’s academic specialty continued to be German drama even after he graduated from Macalester. He earned concurrent master’s degrees in theater and divinity at the University of California at Berkeley and the San Francisco Theological Seminary, then spent two years in Berlin, studying Bertolt Brecht on a Fulbright scholarship.

Back from Germany and casting about for work, McDowell did what most serious aspiring actors eventually do—he moved to New York City.

At first, he says, “I became totally disenamored with New York. There was no work, no prospects.” There was a lot of unused talent, however, and McDowell hatched a plan to tap the talent while serving Shakespeare: bring the Bard to the city’s public parks.
With Papp’s financial backing in 1981, tour budgets grew to $30,000 per year. Papp and veteran actress Helen Hayes dedicated the company’s upper-west-side Shakespeare Center in 1981 at an opening attended by British actor Ben Kingsley and a dozen well-known Broadway actors.

Also instrumental in the growth of Riverside were John Clingerman ’70 and Tim Oman ’70, who acted in and directed many Riverside productions over the years. Oman, as Riverside’s assistant artistic director, “helped put us on the map” in 1982, McDowell says, when he directed one of the company’s most famous productions, a version of The Merry Wives of Windsor set in 19th-century New Orleans, “with Falstaff as an old Confederate war hero,” he recalls. “Walter Cronkite, Joe Papp and Helen Hayes saw that one in the midst of a terrific thunderstorm one afternoon.” During the storm’s most violent perturbations, Hayes repaired to the cab of the company’s rented truck—giving the thrill of their lives to the other actors waiting there, McDowell says.

For his part, Clingerman formed and became director of the School of the Riverside Shakespeare Company in 1980. The school now has six instructors and a dozen course offerings for professional actors interested in honing their classical acting skills.

McDowell, who left Riverside last year, is now playwright-director of Atlantis, a for-profit professional theater production company that plans to mount a modern Julius Caesar at the Mercury Theater later this year. The adaptation, written by McDowell, is set in a “contemporary, computerized democracy in 1987 where people are so swept away by their leader that they make him president for life,” McDowell says. The $600,000 production opens Nov. 11, 1987. That happens to be on the 50th anniversary of the Mercury production—also a modern-dress Caesar—that launched the careers of Orson Welles and John Houseman.

McDowell seems to have a penchant for celebrating theater history. He has an even more ambitious project underway—a 400th-anniversary marathon production of Shakespeare’s eight history plays planned for 1990, with Richard III as the final hour.

“Sweet Will” must be smiling.

Fans of the innovative television series “St. Elsewhere” remember Karen Landry ’72 as the long-suffering Myra White, whose stormy marriage with Dr. White (Terence Knox) occupied a number of episodes during the 1982-83 and 1983-84 seasons, Landry recalls: “We had money problems, then he got involved in drugs and we separated, then we got back together, and then the writers implicated him in a rape. I left him and they [the scriptwriters] shot him.” Landry made her last appearance on the show two years ago. Such are the slings and arrows of a network series.

She acquired her professional name, Landry, during her acting career. When she attended Macalester for two years (1969 and ’70), she was Karen Nienaber, the daughter of a Minneapolis dentist—Doug Hatfield’s dentist, as a matter of fact. Like McDowell, she took courses from Hatfield, and she appeared in several one-act plays with student directors. Landry liked the theater, but she actually majored in art; she spent most of her time in the studios kitty-corner from the theater department studying sculpture, ceramics, and painting.

It was a turbulent time to be a student. Landry remembers the controversy over the first coed dormitories, and the day that students embellished the office of professor Hubert Humphrey with barbed wire to protest the war in Vietnam. Between art classes and activism, Landry’s Macalester experience gave her no inkling of her future Hollywood career.

Landry left Macalester after two years, transferring to the University of Minnesota. There, she
earned a B.A. in art in 1972 and continued as a graduate student in theater for two more years. “My big break came when I auditioned for A Streetcar Named Desire at the U of M, in a production directed by Charles Nolte,” she says. Not only did playwright Tennessee Williams attend the production, but, perhaps more importantly for Landry, so did the Guthrie Theater’s artistic director, Michael Langham. While in graduate school in 1975, Landry became a member of the Guthrie acting company.

She was given major roles right from the beginning. “During my first season at the Guthrie, I got the ingenue parts, such as Stella in Streetcar,

On ‘St. Elsewhere,’ Landry played the long-suffering wife of a doctor: ‘I left him and the scriptwriters shot him.’

instead of what we used to call the ‘spear carrier’ parts,” Landry says—a “big thrill, very scary and a big responsibility.” She received help and encouragement from many of the theater’s veterans, including actor and director Ken Ruta, who encouraged Landry to go on to Hollywood. This she did, with much trepidation, in the spring of 1978.

“There was a sort of Minnesota connection out there, with former Guthrie people and people I’d known at the university,” Landry says. She learned the locations of the best drive-in burger places, eventually secured an agent, auditioned for parts in television, and spent a “pretty depressing first year” in Los Angeles.

Finally, she landed a “Lou Grant” spot, and her television career took off. She was impressed by the intelligence of the series’ cast and directors, she says. In one episode, reporter Joe Rossi (played by Robert Walden) ended up in bed with her character while investigating computer dating. Other network-series appearances included “M*A*S*H,” “Trapper John, M.D.,” and “Webster.”

Along the way, she married a fellow actor, Chris Mulkey, who has had movie parts in 48 Hours, First Blood (shot in Vancouver) and Rampage.

Although she hasn’t been a regular on a series since her “St. Elsewhere” character moved on, Landry still has plenty of network-television roles. In December 1986, she played the mother in a Disney Christmas movie on ABC, “The Christmas Star.” In the same month, on NBC, Landry played an architect who has an affair with a married client in the miniseries “A Year in the Life.” She also appeared in a recent episode of the revivified “Twilight Zone.”

How did her stage acting talents transfer to television? “In theater, you have a lot of interpretation to put on a role,” she says. “Once you go out to perform, no one’s going to edit you or shut you up. There are endless rehearsals. In television, you rehearse for about two seconds, then do it.”

But Landry’s career extends beyond the stage and TV screen. She has been involved in three feature-film projects, two produced in the Twin Cities. The first of the three, the 1979 Heart Beat (which starred Nick Nolte, John Heard and Sissy Spacek), was the least auspicious; in fact, her role ended up on the editing-room floor, Landry says.

Landry had her second film role in director Peter Markle’s first film project, The Personals. Landry played psychologist Adrian, the love interest of lead William Schoppert; Stephen Yoakum ’75 also appeared in the movie.

“That one was a lot of fun,” Landry says of the 1980 location shooting in the Twin Cities, much of which took place on roller skates around city lakes. Patti Rocks, Landry’s most recent movie, is due to be released during the 1987 Christmas film season. The gritty low-budget film, which Landry and Mulkey helped write, was filmed in Minnesota last December. Landry says it’s about “sex, men’s attitudes about women, relationships—a sort of on-the-road picture.” It also provided bit roles for Landry’s daughters Amelia, 4½, and Elizabeth, 2.

Landry and her family live in Venice, Calif., near the beach. She fills time between roles with commercial work and a new greeting-card company she founded last year. Despite her considerable successes, she says she’s still waiting for a “really great” film role, and Landry’s life continues to involve a lot of auditioning.

“It’s like having to apply for jobs all the time,” she says. “There’s a lot of pressure, because you’re sitting there saying to yourself, ‘If I’m really good in the next five minutes I could make $7,000 a week.’ Some say you should turn down the small stuff to wait for a bigger part, but I just want to go on doing the work. If that makes me rich and famous, that’s great. I just like to keep going.”

Claude Peck ’77, a Minneapolis writer, became managing editor of Mpls. St. Paul Magazine this past March.
Retiring professor takes a stand on principle

Retiring this year, a self-described 'Okie' goes from pacifist to teacher to—dare we say it?—guru. by Terry Andrews

David White, who is retiring this year as Elizabeth Sarah Bloedel professor of philosophy. By Terry Andrews

I hate to be called a guru,” David B. White says emphatically, picking up his cup of coffee and settling back in a chair. “A guru is a spiritual teacher, and I'm not that. I prefer sensei,” he explains. “That’s the Japanese word for teacher.”

For the last four decades, White, 70, has been just that: a teacher. He has spent most of those 40 years at Macalester, teaching Eastern philosophies to college students. Not all his students are products of American culture, but rarely does one emerge without new insights into White’s ancient subject. And at the end of May, White will retire from Macalester—although he makes it clear that he will never stop being a teacher.

David White has introduced hundreds of Macalester students to the philosophies of India, China, and Japan—Zen, Taoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Confucianism. “I just simply love teaching,” he says. “I love meeting young minds, giving them things to think about, and teaching them how to think about those things.”

But now and then, much to his consternation, someone does refer to him as a guru. And it’s easy to see why. There is a gentleness to him, a pervasive peacefulness in his words and actions and a quiet resoluteness that makes it understandable that students look to him for direction and guidance. White is a man of conviction and principle, a person willing to take a stand for what he believes, a soul whose history speaks louder than his words.

White’s story starts with his upbringing in eastern Oklahoma in the small town of Checotah. “I’m an Okie from just south of Muskogee,” he points out, his Oklahoma accent still intact. His father was a well-known watchmaker; his mother was a schoolteacher in one-room rural schools who was so well liked by the county superintendent that he kept her age concealed from the state so that she could continue teaching into her 70s.

White’s mother was also superintendent of the local Southern Methodist Sunday school, and the young White was a regular in her classes. Much of the time, he recalls, he also stayed for the church service, and it was there that he felt the first stirrings of the pacifism that guided most of his adult life.

Those feelings, and a passion for science, were overriding influences on his youth. In high school, he was a state-champion chemist; as an undergraduate at Northeastern State College, he studied chemistry, English, and education, planning to go on to medical school. But he graduated in 1937, in the depths of the Depression. “I didn’t have a single cent,” he remembers. “There was no way I was going to medical school.”

Instead he applied to four different graduate programs, in English, zoology, and chemistry. On the same day (“I will never forget it”), he was accepted into all four. Which road to follow? He chose a master’s program in English; “I was very nearsighted and had never been very good in the lab,” he explains.

It’s a decision he hasn’t regretted, leading him as it eventually did into philosophy. “The universe has always been
What the Gītā has to say about disciplined action
by David White

Excerpted from Professor David White's "translation with exposition" of the Bhagavad Gītā, an early Hindu text. White's translation has been accepted for publication by Peter Lang Publishers.

Of the many scriptures of the ancient Hindu tradition, the Bhagavad Gītā is best known to the Western world. "Bhagavad gītā" is a phrase meaning "song of the Lord." The scripture is a poem of seven hundred stanzas called "shlokas" in 18 chapters of varying length. The Gītā, as it is popularly known, constitutes a single short section of the sixth book of the Mahābhārata, an epic poem of 200,000 lines telling the story of the great war between the Pandavas, rightful heirs to the throne of the Bharatas, and their kinsmen, the usurping Kauravas. The Gītā was probably written at some time about 200 B.C.

The reading of other people's ancient scriptures always involves more than the usual difficulties of translation, and as the Christian experience with the Greek text of the New Testament demonstrates, the difficulties of translation alone are more than sufficiently troublesome. The proper and useful translation of a text such as that represented by the Bhagavad Gītā consequently involves not only the conversion of the Sanskrit into English; it also necessitates a "translation" of the cultural context of the work in enough detail to make it possible for us to understand those circumstances of its composition and use which most fundamentally determine its significance to the people for whom it was written. We must also know something of its meaning and significance for the Indian people of our own day....

Krishna said:
Be concerned for the action alone, never for its fruits.
never let the fruits of action be your motive for acting—
neither, however, should you be attached to inaction.
Being always disciplined and giving up all attachment,
perform action with evenness of mind toward both success and failure;
for yoga may be defined as evenness of mind.
Action is certainly greatly subject to discipline of the intellect-will (buddhi);
therefore seek protection in the buddhi.
They are miserable whose motive for action is its fruit.
He whose buddhi is disciplined transcends both good and evil actions in this world.
Therefore discipline yourself in yoga: yoga is still in actions.
With the buddhi disciplined and having given up the fruits produced by action,
those who are wise are freed from the bondage of rebirth,
attaining thereby a state which is free of all evil.

II.47-51

Karma yoga: a summary. These five shlokas summarize the Bhagavad Gītā's teachings concerning the nature and practice of karma yoga, the discipline of nonattached action: from them, we can see that karma yoga is the discipline of action by means of action in the very midst of all actions. Nonattachment is simply lack of concern for personal gain or loss as the result of our actions, and it is experienced as what the Gītā refers to as "evenness of mind toward both success and failure." That this does not mean either detachment or indifference is made clear when the Gītā tells us that we should "be concerned for the action" that we perform—and that that concern will be expressed as "skill in actions." The necessary evenness of mind and skill in actions are made possible by control (discipline) of the buddhi, that function of human consciousness which is capable of directing and controlling human actions.

on my side," he notes, "even though it didn't always seem that way at the time." He received an M.A. with honors after nine months at Oklahoma State University, then began work on his Ph.D. in English at the University of Oklahoma.

There, he took a course in esthetics—his first philosophy course ever—from a professor named Gustav Mueller. "I was hooked," he says. When he finally got his Ph.D. many years later from the University of the Pacific, it was in Asian studies and Indian philosophies. He had found his niche.

White and his wife, Beverly, who teaches viola da gamba and harpsichord at Macalester, share a 45-year interest in Eastern philosophies and pacifism. Together, they have traveled to India and Japan and have team-taught several courses, including "The Philosophy of Yoga."

Beverly and David met in 1941. That was the year Beverly graduated from Macalester, and two years before David was sentenced to prison for resisting the draft.

White's pacifism had started with his religious training; it was clinched, he says, when he read Aldous Huxley's collection of essays, Ends and Means, as a junior. "I was one of the very few draft resisters of World War II," he says. "I got a five-year sentence." The memories are still fresh.

The soft-spoken White, dressed casually in a red plaid shirt and cinnamon-colored corduroys, pauses for a moment. "I should make one thing perfectly clear. I did everything I could not to go to prison except give in." The state of Oklahoma had declared him legally blind in his left eye, but the Selective Service didn't go along with this. "The army examiner passed me on the eye exam and wrote down '4E'—conscientious objector. "He refused my appeal—and I refused to be drafted to do alternative service."

White spent six weeks in jail and seven months in federal prison. "I learned a lot about humanity," he says. As an example, he recalls the day he turned himself in to an FBI agent, to be taken to jail.

"His name was Buchanan. He was my age. He said, 'You have till 3 p.m. Why don't you go with me on my rounds?' Well, I did. Then he invited me to lunch. Then he invited me on his afternoon..."
rounds. Finally at ten to three he drove up in front of the jail and asked if I had any money for the commissary. He knew the diet and knew I needed money to buy supplemental food or I'd get scurvy. He gave me five dollars. I wondered why he was being so kind. Finally he told me he had joined the FBI to avoid the draft. He was killed a few months later in a jail-break in Texas.

White was paroled by President Roosevelt and sent to a forest-service camp for 30 months. Finally, at his request, he was transferred to a hospital in Los Angeles, where he put his chemistry background to work as a clinical technologist for 16 months. During that time, he and Beverly were married.

In 1948, President Truman pardoned him. "He took the list [of draft resisters who had been jailed] and checked every fifth name as a gesture," White says. That "gesture" effectively erased White's prison record.

Of all his memories from that period, his most striking involves his brother, Dick, who volunteered for the Air Force the same year that White decided to be a draft resister. "We always stood by one another," White says, "and we both did what we did with integrity."

The day White was released from jail, Dick asked his commanding officer for a hardship leave. "As kids we used to walk the length and breadth of town on Saturday nights, waving to people on their porch swings," White says. "The night I got out of jail Dick put on his best uniform and his [ribbons for] sharp-shooting and good conduct, and we walked arm in arm. He wanted to show everyone that we were together."

When White first came to Macalester, he taught both English and philosophy; he joined philosophy full-time in 1955–56. His interest, then as now, was Asian philosophy. "It's a less analytical, more intuitive" approach to the subject, White says.

In 1975, White persuaded the philosophy department to offer a major in Asian philosophy, the only such undergraduate major in the United States (the subject is co-taught by James Laine, assistant professor of religious studies). White agrees with Margaret Mead on the subject of retirement. "She was asked in an interview when she would retire, and she replied, 'I will die someday but I will never retire.' " He laughs. "I continue to trust that the universe will come up with something for Beverly and me."

The Whites, who live with their two cats, Chandra and Astra, in a comfortable home not far from campus, also have a summer residence "up North" on Big Sandy Lake, about two hours' drive from St. Paul. They describe it as a haven where they regularly spend June, July, and August. Beverly gardening and David fishing for northerns and crappies off the dock. "I farm the back yard and he farms the lake," Beverly says.

White is also shepherding a book, a translation of the ancient Hindu scripture Bhagavad Gita, into print through Peter Lang Publishers. He has spent some 20 years on the project, having learned Sanskrit while working on his Ph.D. "The problem of translation is more anthropological and cultural than linguistic," he says. "The Sanskrit dictionary is huge"—here White holds his hand out as if measuring the fish that got away. "It's like detective work. You have to figure out from the context of the work itself which synonym is the right one." Even after 20 years perfecting his translation, he says, "if I knew I'd live to be 120, I wouldn't publish it yet."

Students who have used his translation-in-progress over the years have helped with the process, he says. When he had trouble coming up with the right match for one Sanskrit word, samadhi, a math major suggested "clarity of consciousness." "Bells rang," White recalls. "It took a student to tell me."

"The philosophy is so good and pertinent to today—it's a philosophy that students appreciate. That's what makes it fun," he adds.

One of White's students was Jerry Fisher '59, now a professor in the Macalester history department. He remembers White as "a superb teacher. He's a master at pulling out how bright you are," Fisher says. "And he's always excited about students' learning. He excites you in the process.... He's one of the major reasons I decided to become a liberal-arts professor."
ALUMNI NEWS

From Boston to L.A., alumni clubs thrive on events

When two of Macalester's alumni meet, it doesn't take them long to discover their college connection. Each of the nearly 17,000 living people who attended Macalester is automatically a member of the Alumni Association, and the alumni clubs scattered throughout the world help everyone participate in the life of the college. Here is what Macalester clubs have been doing since our last report in February:

□ In January, alumni of all ages shared a buffet supper in the restored Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, thanks to Bryan Bach '80 and John Adams '74, who helped plan the event. After viewing an admissions-office video of Macalester scenes, guests discussed current campus issues with President Robert M. Gavin, Jr., vice president Catherine Reid Day, and alumni director Karen McConkey.

□ Twin Cities alumni gathered at Macalester's Alumni House in January to explore options for renewing their careers with dynamic speaker and writer Janet Hagberg, one of several workshop leaders in the "Renewal in Work" series presented by the alumni office.

□ In Boston, alumni families skied and frolicked for a February winter weekend in the Berkshires. Besides the spectacular scenery, participants enjoyed dinner on the Orient Express, a private showing of Richard Bennett's pottery, and much good conversation.

Mark your calendar for October weekends!

Two weekends in October have special significance for Macalester alumni and parents of students.

Homecoming Weekend Oct. 10-11. Enjoy a fall weekend on campus, with activities to include a football game against Concordia College, a soccer-team reunion, a reception hosted by President Gavin, and a dance. Watch for details.

Parents Weekend Oct. 16-18. If you have a daughter or son attending Macalester, circle Oct. 16-18 for a lively on-campus reunion with your student, and watch for more information.

Also in planning stages: the alumni association board of directors is building a vision of a more national, responsive alumni board to meet the needs of our far-flung members. Details will be discussed and new bylaws voted on at the first-ever alumni association annual meeting at the all-alumni dinner, June 13, during Alumni Weekend.

Further, plans are underway for alumni clubs in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. For information and a chance to be part of the action, call alumni director Karen McConkey at 612/696-6295.

College-selection advice available this summer

With student applications to Macalester at an all-time high, it's more difficult for even an outstanding student to gain admission.

As a special service to alumni this summer, the admissions office will provide advice to high-school-age children of alumni on how to select a college and how to get into the college of one's choice.

A member of the admissions staff will meet with alumni offspring weekdays and during Alumni Weekend (June 11-14). Call or write for an appointment several days in advance: Admissions Office, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105; 612/696-6357 or toll-free 800/231-7974.

Written a book? Tell the world!

Help Macalester Today develop a book-review section to cover the most important literature of our day: your published poetry and prose. If you've recently published a book (or are in the process of publishing one), be sure to ask your publisher to send a review copy to: Nancy Peterson, Editor, Macalester Today, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105.

Potential critics are also welcome—literary critics, that is. If you'd like to write book reviews for this magazine, send us a letter telling us so. Be sure to include any areas of your expertise (architecture? music? molecular biology?) that might help us match you to a particular book.
Homeless and hungry have advocate in Nagler

by Aron Kahn

It happened last June [1986], Two homeless men died about the same time—one at the bumper of an automobile, the other along a stretch of railroad tracks where the homeless often make their last stand.

Homeless people had died in obscurity in Saint Paul for years, but it was different last June. A memorial service was held for the two men, and wooden crosses and flowers were placed near the spots where they died.

The idea to memorialize their lives came from a 24-year-old woman who grew up in upper-middle-class comfort in Amery, Wis. She was a country sprout with a perpetual smile who knew the world did not include the fact that some Americans were homeless.

Then Nancy Nagler '86 came to the city and got smarter.

"I was shocked to find out that such people do exist," Nagler recalls.

Nagler decided that in addition to all the rights Americans possess, one more had to be added—the right to protection from the elements. Especially here in Minnesota.

Working as an intern for Saint Paul City Council member Jim Scheibel, and later as a Scheibel aide, Nagler tried to get a right-to-shelter initiative placed before Saint Paul voters. When the effort failed, she wrote an emergency overnight-shelter ordinance, lobbied tirelessly for it, and beamed her major-league smile when the City Council gave it life.

Her work on the ordinance—which made Saint Paul the first American city to establish a board to regularly assess the needs of the homeless—was a major reason why the state of Minnesota recently gave her an outstanding-service award for helping homeless and hungry people.

But there's more to Nancy Nagler than writing ordinances.

A month before her temporary job in City Hall was to terminate, Nagler resigned from the position to search for a job that would place her squarely in the middle of the quest to feed and house people who, for dozens of sad and complex reasons, are not doing it for themselves.

"Of all the advocates that I've met, she is one of those who has the best comprehension of how the governmental and political systems work," says Patricia Conley, an assistant to Mayor George Latimer who has seen Nagler do battle in numerous skirmishes over social services.

Not that she isn't in the middle already. Nagler is chair of the Saint Paul Coalition for the Homeless, a group of unpaid volunteers that tries to find food and lodging for those in Saint Paul who are at rock bottom.

"It hurts me to walk down the street and see people picking up other people's cigarette butts," she says, sitting in the coalition's near-barren office on the fourth floor of the YWCA.

Nagler came by her concern for the underprivileged early.

"My dad is a lawyer, and one of his strongest points is ethics and the law—how you treat others. He used to do a lot of things free of cost. I think that sort of primed me," she says.

At Macalester, Nagler was a philosophy major, influenced particularly by those philosophers who believed government should take care of the basic needs of all people.

Landing an internship with Scheibel, Nagler started putting her learning to use, forever questioning government when it didn't do what she thought it should and knowing how to tug it in the right direction.

"Of all the advocates that I've met, she has the best comprehension of how the governmental and political systems work," says Patricia Conley, an assistant to Mayor George Latimer who has seen Nagler do battle in numerous skirmishes over social services.

Now, Nagler is plugging away on the fourth floor of the Y, trying to get various agencies, foundations, anyone to pitch in with the city's shelters to help the homeless.

While her goals are as immediate as making sure there are enough beds and food to go around, Nagler, together with other charitable souls in the community, focuses her efforts on the future.

She is monitoring emerging federal legislation that may remove a tax shelter for developers of low-cost housing. If that happens, "the possibility of building affordable housing goes out the window," she says.

She's also trying to create a fund that would provide local money for low-cost housing. And she's working on an ordinance that would prohibit owners of buildings with subsidized apartments from converting those apartments into upscale digs for people who can pay more.

The thing is, she knows she's never really going to win.

"I know I'm not making anything more than a dent in the problems, and that regardless of what I do, there's always going to be homeless people," she says.

"All that I can try to do is make some of their lives a little bit better. It's really hard to make a difference in a problem as complex as homelessness."
Orphans’ judge makes law a ‘healing process’

by Terry Andrews

For Michael Waring Lee ’75, being a forerunner in the legal field is a family tradition that dates back 100 years. In 1885, Lee’s great-uncle, Everett J. Waring, became the first black attorney admitted to practice law in the state of Maryland. Almost a century later, Lee himself, who is 33, was appointed the first black chief judge in the history of Maryland. With his appointment, just five years after graduation from law school, he also became the youngest chief judge in the state.

Given Lee’s history, such a significant achievement is not surprising. He’s been head of one organization or another since the third grade, when he became president of the Library Aids club. “I guess I’ve always had a gift of gab,” he says. “It’s part of what has made me persuasive in the realm of law.”

Lee not only has the gift of gab, he has an eloquence of speech and a precision to his well-chosen words that belie his young age. “I always try to have something to say before I open my mouth, and I don’t say anything I don’t mean,” he says. “Credibility and sincerity are essential both in personal and professional life.”

Lee grew up in Baltimore with his parents and two brothers. (His younger brother, Franklin, is also an attorney.) His father, now retired, was a photographer for the U.S. government, and his mother a social worker. Both of his parents, Lee remembers, worked long hours to put aside money for their sons’ educations. “We didn’t even have an automobile until my senior year in high school,” he says.

The work ethic was instilled, but so was a sense of equality and fairness, something that made Lee active in student government and politics. In high school, he organized a peaceful sitdown strike to call attention to the fact that despite the large number of black students enrolled in the school, there were no courses related to black American history. “The department of education met with us and found merit in what we had to say,” he recalls. “By the following year, there were courses in every school in the city.”

With organization, he realized, one person could make a difference. “It was possible to change society to make it better,” he says. “I was impressed by the concept that fairness is important. It left an indelible mark on me. To this day I get concerned when I see anyone treated unfairly. I didn’t think of it at the time, but looking back I realize I was beginning to discover some aspects of lawyering that were appealing to me. I was an advocate, and that’s what the law does—advocate.”

Lee had never heard of Macalester College when the school first contacted him. But the letters he received from professors, students, and admissions staff got his attention, and he decided to investigate this small college 1,200 miles from home. “What impressed me most was [Macalester’s] personal approach to education, the strong political science and music programs, and that there were students from all 50 states and 30 countries and many ethnic groups,” he says. “I liked the progressiveness of the school’s philosophy. It encouraged students to take responsibility for their own lives and learn from their mistakes.”

Once at Macalester, Lee learned that a person in the public eye is like “a lightning rod who must expect public scrutiny,” he says. His senior year, he was Community Council president, and a scandal erupted when he temporarily charged some personal expenses to the council’s account. Lee made a public apology as well as reimbursement, then set about to amend the CC bylaws concerning the expenditure of funds so that future student officials would be spared his experience.

“It taught me that a person in a position of responsibility has to do more than the average person, and has to be totally circumspect and avoid any appearance of impropriety,” he remembers.

Lee wavered between law and a career as an orchestral conductor—at Macalester, he played string bass in a group called the African Movement Jazz Quartet.

Having settled on law, he graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1978. He worked first as a law clerk-bailiff, then as an assistant solicitor in the Baltimore City Law Department, and finally as managing attorney for the Baltimore firm of Mitchell, Mitchell and Mitchell.

In 1983, he was appointed judge to the Orphans’ Court of Baltimore City, becoming chief judge in 1984. Last November he won re-election to a four-year term as chief judge.

The Orphans’ Court, established by the Maryland Constitution, decides legal disputes regarding wills, estates and the guardianship of minors. As chief judge, Lee is the court’s administrator, handling both budgetary and personnel decisions.
Same job, different states, lofty aspirations

by Barbara Houghton

Marlene Johnson ’68 and Scott McCallum ’72 share an unusual and distinguished job title: they are both lieutenant governors. Johnson is in her second term as lieutenant governor of Minnesota, and McCallum took the oath of office for Wisconsin in January.

Occupy-ing their respective states’ second-highest elective offices, both have been delegated areas of responsibility by the governors with whom they serve. Both are responsible for developing the state budget and overseeing its passage through the legislature. Both also have been charged with fostering development of small businesses within their states.

Johnson, who earlier founded and developed a successful advertising and public-relations agency, has been active as lieutenant governor in promoting the Minnesota tourist industry.

Johnson was attracted to Macalester by the reputation of the late G. Theodore Mitau, then chair of the political-science department. Although she enrolled in the pre-law program, she did not pursue law after graduation. Instead, she worked several years for an anti-poverty agency, then founded her communications firm. She became a local and then a national leader in the National Association of Women Business Owners at a time when successful new women-owned businesses were an emerging phenomenon. And she has been a leader in fostering women’s participation in politics, both as a founder of the bipartisan Minnesota Women’s Political Caucus and as a founder of a major fund-raising effort for women candidates.

She speaks earnestly of her mission as a public servant. “I really believe my role is one of helping to create a more just society,” she says, “one much more community-based, that helps people find connectedness on a personal level. We must recognize the diversity of this society and support it. The melting-pot theory is limited. If we deny differences, they don’t go away; they just don’t get utilized.” She also speaks of improving the public pol-
continued from inside front cover

Togo, David's wife, Carolyn, now a special-education teacher at a Saint Paul shelter and treatment center, was a longtime docent at the Minnesota Zoo, which accounts for some of the McCurdys' more exotic visitors. They have never owned a mouse, but if they did, David says, it would be named Mouse Se Tung.

—Editor

How about those teams?

Congratulations to the '86 football team. Their accolades are certainly noteworthy after so many seasons of disappointment. Also, Julia Kirtland '87 is once again very deserving of the honors she has been awarded. I do not want to overlook the MIAC accomplishments of standouts Mary Schlick '87, Kevin Corliss '87, or Liz Gotz '88 either.

But while perusing the February issue, I had a problem with the oversight that was committed concerning the 1986 men's and women's soccer teams. Maybe it was a spatial problem and the necessary lines were cut out of the article to make room for the Robert J. Lifton photo, but more could have been said about the soccer teams besides their "lackluster record[s]."

First, on the men's team, Tom Alberg '87 was named to the All-MIAC Academic team, and goalie Mike Cohen '89 to the All-MIAC squad. Members of the women's '86 team also merit recognition:

JoAnne Diebel '87 was named All-MIAC and All-MIAC Academic. She was chosen by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) to be on the west regional first team. JoAnna was also voted Regional Academic All-American by the Intercollegiate Soccer Association of America (ISAA). Karen Moen '88 was named to the NSCAA's west regional first team and to the NSCAA's All-American second team. She too was on the All-MIAC squad. Emihle Crosby '87 was named to the ISAA's regional academic All-American team, and Maureen (Mo) Kelly '87 to the All-MIAC academic team.

I could go on, as most other fall sports teams could, and recite the various team awards that were handed out by the players and coaches. But alas, space is once again a consideration.

Melissa A. Morris '87
Co-caption, women's soccer team
Andover, Mass.
It's May, and another Macalester graduating class takes its place in the world.

Their Macalester education is distinctive, and your Annual Fund gift helps make it so.

Your annual contribution helps sustain the college's excellent teaching programs, facilities, equipment, and services. Year after year, the repeated and growing support of alumni helps provide that margin of excellence that marks a Macalester College education.

The 1986–87 Annual Fund ends May 31. We're counting on your support.

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