

MAC HALF CENTURY

KMAC RADIO 550
 PROGRESSIVE SOUNDS
 and
 UNDERGROUND
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20/20 Hindsight: Ask MGO

An update of the *MacDo* Book, with thanks to Mary Gwen Owen, the arbiter of the social graces at Macalester.

Dear MGO,
 Are there dress codes for our 50th Reunion? I do believe that the Class of '70 got rid of them, but if they came back, what is the expected attire for the weekend?

Signed,
 Dowdy Dresser

Dear Dowdy,
 You may rest assured that the work your class did to undo all my hard work has survived. No more are fancy frocks and white gloves seen at dinners. (sigh). It seems that casual is the word for daytime events, and business casual for the evening. Some things do not change, however. Men, white socks will never be appropriate in the evening, although still preferable to no socks! If you must have your thinning grey hair in a ponytail, make sure the rubber band matches your tie-dyed shirt. And ladies, if you must wear sandals, please make sure they are not of the plastic variety. I believe they are called flip-flops and crocs!! Your toenail polish should be iridescent ONLY if you plan to dance in the dark. If you use common MacDo sense and these tips, you will not be seen as a MacDuff. While the dress codes may have changed, it is still important to be well-groomed, and to enter the room with a smile on your face. You will have a wonderful time.

Signed,
 MGO

Septuagenarians Stage Insurrection: Campus Occupation Imminent

Class of 1970 Macites provided the administration with an ultimatum for their participation in the 50th Reunion, June 5–7, 2020—including full occupation of Briggs House, the former President’s mansion, and a wheelchair and walker-accessible area for alumni teach-ins and naps.

“We confronted them, and they caved,” said a gleeful Peter Fenn, one of the lead instigators from the planning committee for the Scots Golden Reunion. “Student power is back.”

“They also acceded to our demands for a formal confirmation of our graduation,” Mary Ackerman, another lead instigator, stated, noting that the planning committee has set in motion an ambitious schedule that includes “maximum feasible participation” from classmates. The administration also agreed that the ill-named ‘M*n and H*s World’ will be referred to in the future as “that course,” correcting an embarrassing designation for classmates submitting transcripts when applying for employment today.

Welcome to the first edition of our 50th Reunion newsletter! We hope you are already making plans to join us on campus June 5–7, 2020. Look for print and e-newsletters in the coming months with more information about special Reunion programming and activities, and visit macalester.edu/reunion/50yearreunion.

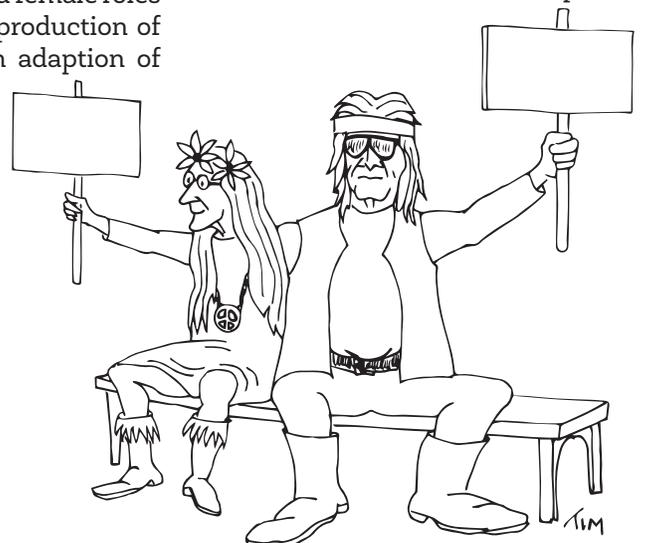
classifieds

Wanted: The Mac Alumni Anarchists Society is not meeting. The Mac Procrastinators Association is indefinitely postponed.

Wanted: Class notes from Hugo Thompson’s philosophy class. Slept through another one. Advice: Don’t take this one after lunch. PO 264.

Miscreants of Macalester Musical Auditions Open: Both male and female roles available for the lavish production of the Gilbert and Sullivan adaption of *Pirates of Penzance*, set in the always contemporary Twin Cities. Those seeking spots must perform excerpts from “We are the Very Models of the Mac Class of 1970.” Look for full details—and lyrics—in next month’s issue!

Cartoon Contest: You all enjoyed Tim Wintermute’s cartoons in *The Mac Weekly*. Now’s your chance to put YOUR caption to this Tim cartoon. Email your caption to the Reunion Committee (jhessler@macalester.edu), or bring it to Reunion in June. All captions will be displayed and you will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite. There may or may not be a prize, just as there may or may not have been a commencement speaker.



REBOOT IT FOR 2020

“People and our Planet.”

[i] Truman Schwartz at 2007 Oral Interview

[ii] Press Release, and September 1964 course syllabus, Aug 1963

[iii] Suggested Framework for the Course, Aug 1963

[iv] Report to the Faculty, March 1967.

“Man and His World”

You'd never dare call a course that today, would you? [i]

Macalester called us to come ready to dream bravely that fall of 1966. The faculty who met us had been boldly dreaming—designing a course for freshman students to “introduce freshmen to the academic disciplines of the liberal arts”[ii]. Dewitt Wallace funded a design committee led by Professor Yahya Armajani. By relying on primary sources, teaching critical thinking, and offering varied intellectual challenges, their work provided an elegant plan.

The “fundamental questions,”[iii] today perhaps called “enduring questions,” anchored all student course activities:

1. What are the most fundamental problems facing humanity?
2. What are the sources of these problems?
3. What are the concepts and principles most relevant to understanding these problems at their origins; and what are the values which give these concepts and principles their significance?
4. What are the solutions (past and present) of these problems?
5. What are the books and other works of human spirit which best or most characteristically express efforts to solve such problems?

Criticized from the beginning as over-lengthy and somewhat pretentious, finally a spring 1967 evaluation declared it a bold experiment, “[that] cannot accurately be described as a failure[iv] and canceled the course.

As the last students to experience the phenomenon known as “Man and His World,” let's give it a 2020 Vision for the future.

1. What do you remember about “Man and His World”? What had a positive impact on you? What could you have done without?
2. If an updated “Man and His World” were to be offered at Mac now, what do you think should be the nature of this class?
3. What are the enduring questions that students should be exposed to fall 2020? What works of the human spirit would you suggest?

Planned: a panel of those who taught “Man and His World” and those who might.

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classifieds

Submit: Do you have a question for Ask MGO about Reunion? You may submit your question to dasumn@me.com. Miss Owen will select an appropriate question (yes, this is very subjective on her part) for inclusion in the next *Mac Half Century*. Lucky for you all submissions will be online, which saves you from the embarrassment of having your letter tossed because of poor penmanship or the use of ball point pen instead of black ink on linen paper.

REUNION

JUNE 5-7, 2020

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