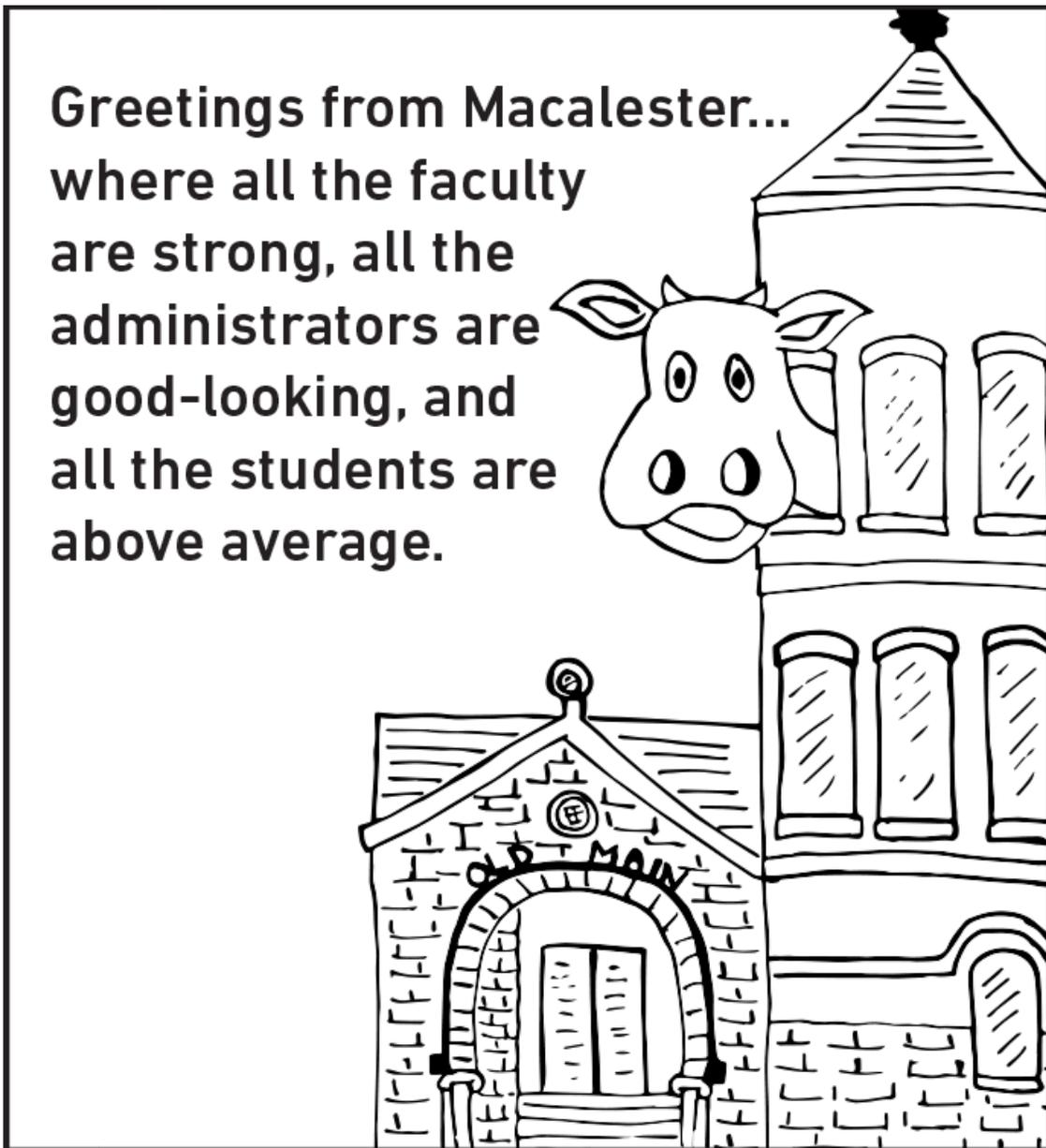




MACALESTER

REUNION

MAC HALF CENTURY



2020 Vision: Reflecting on the past, looking to our future.

Reunion Newsletter: October 2019

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,

I would like to attend my 50th Reunion, but I am a very shy person. The thought of speaking with someone whose name I don't remember sends me into paroxysms of embarrassment. Can you help me?

Signed,
Blushing in Poughkeepsie

Dear Blushing,

Please do not let your shyness keep you away from a lovely June weekend (June 5-7, 2020) in Minnesota! The Reunion staff has your back. First of all, everyone attending Reunion will be given a nametag, and the names are printed out in bold letters! This is quite a boon for us with aging eyes. And, if you should encounter a classmate not wearing a nametag, why you just turn the tables. In your sweetest voice, confront said classmate with “Oh my, you must have forgotten your nametag!” Now he or she is the embarrassed one, and must apologize for their forgetfulness.

I hope to see you at your Reunion!

Signed,
MGO

Miss Owen appreciates the wonderful response to her column. Remember, if you have questions about Reunion, she is here to help. Send your question to dasumn@me.com, with MGO in the subject line. As stated before, Miss Owen will select only questions which she feels are appropriate. Poor grammar or punctuation will lead to immediate disqualification.

**For Rent: Private furnished room;
half-bath, 19 So. Milton. Rent is
\$40 a month. Bus line nearby, or
use of garage is available. Call
CA 5-3746 and ask for Mrs. Silver.**

Staying in Touch

Are you looking to connect with former classmates? Notice, we did not say “old”! We're in the midst of developing our [Class of 1970 Reunion website](#) as a place for the Class of 1970 to take part in some 20/20 vision, and reflect on the past, look to our future, share updates, and stay in touch. Look for more details in our next newsletter. Holy cow! This sounds like fun.



Diversity at Mac: Then & Now

by Tom Nelson

Modern ideas of diversity were absent in higher education until at least the 1940s, and there is nothing to indicate Macalester was any different. Available sources indicate the college was typical—overwhelmingly white, middle-class, and Protestant.

Female students in small numbers were admitted starting in 1893, nine years after the college opened its doors. Women became a substantial minority of students starting in the early 20th century, following a trend in higher education.

The Mac Weekly in 1921 mentions “the foreign student upon our campus,” presumably the only one, and “another foreign student” in 1922. In 1922, Mac hosted an international conference with delegates from 40 nations. Foreign students and internationalism do not appear to have been important for years afterward, however.

The college sponsored a few international programs: the Canadian-American Conference, begun in 1940; Mexican caravans, a program of understanding, begun in 1950; and the World Press Institute in 1960. Mac began flying the United Nations flag in 1950, one of the first colleges to do so. By July of 1950, *The Mac Weekly* could brag, “The college has the largest foreign student group of any liberal arts college in the state, and one of the three or four largest in the nation.”

Macalester did not track students by race until 1969 but, according to Mac

history professor Mahmoud El-Kati, “black students at Macalester were as scarce as buffaloes.” There were few, or no, Latino or Native American students. That changed in 1969 with the start of the Expanded Educational Opportunities (EEO) program. President Arthur Flemming, with the initial support of mega-donor DeWitt Wallace, committed to admit 75 students a year from underrepresented backgrounds, and to provide them with full tuition. In 1969, the program admitted 65 African Americans, five Latinos, five Native Americans, and one white, raising the number of students of color in the incoming class to 15 percent. Prior to EEO, students of color represented 2 percent or less of the student body.

DeWitt Wallace began to withdraw his support. He had become disillusioned with campus activism and what he saw as wasteful spending at Mac. EEO was not to blame, but the program was strongly affected. In the ensuing belt-tightening, EEO suffered a series of budget cuts, and the number of new students was cut from 75 to 40, and then to 25. In the early 1980s, EEO became Minority Programs, a lower-profile initiative that recruited minority students from more middle-class backgrounds.

EEO was part of a nationwide movement for integration, and other colleges were becoming more diverse as well. Today, 31 percent of Macites are students of color, about average compared to similar small liberal-arts colleges and universities.

Where Macalester stands out is in its commitment to internationalism and its appeal to foreign students. Today, 24 percent of the student body are citizens of other countries, representing 97 nations. In contrast, *Forbes* magazine’s “50 Top Schools for International Students” average only 11.5 percent such undergraduates.

For the girl who is tired of looking all over town for shoes in larger sizes . . . here is a chance to come into your own . . . hand-sewn LADY BOSTONIAN loafers at half price . . . and in larger sizes only.
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Alert from the Registrar's Office: May 1970

We've had several responses to the article in last month's edition about "demands for a formal confirmation of our graduation." One alumnus sent in

her own experience to share.

The attack on students at Kent State turned an already tumultuous Macalester Campus upside down. You may not be aware that even though we were handed signed diplomas on graduation day, Dorothy Grimmell had the final say.

As reported by a 1970 alum, when she received a copy of her transcript in 1990 while applying for a new job, she was stunned to see a sticker on her transcript. "Degree Conferred. Coursework Not Completed."

Holy cow!

While it is believed that these stickers have since been removed, you, too, might find yourself in this awkward situation. For those of you considering applying for another job in the not so distant future, you might want to contact the Registrar's Office.

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Miscreants of Macalester

A tongue-in-cheek classified ad in our [September newsletter](#) referenced upcoming auditions for *Miscreants of Macalester*, described as a "lavish adaptation" of *Pirates of Penzance*. The production isn't real, but the lyrics are. The composer wishes to remain anonymous. The full lyrics will be revealed (and sung?) at Reunion, but here's the first stanza!

MALE SINGER

I am the very model of the Mac Class Nineteen Seventy

I've lived my life from then to now, in middle-class security.

I'm liberal, used brain not brawn, to earn a robust salary
That also gave me space to muse on life's rare-e-tability.

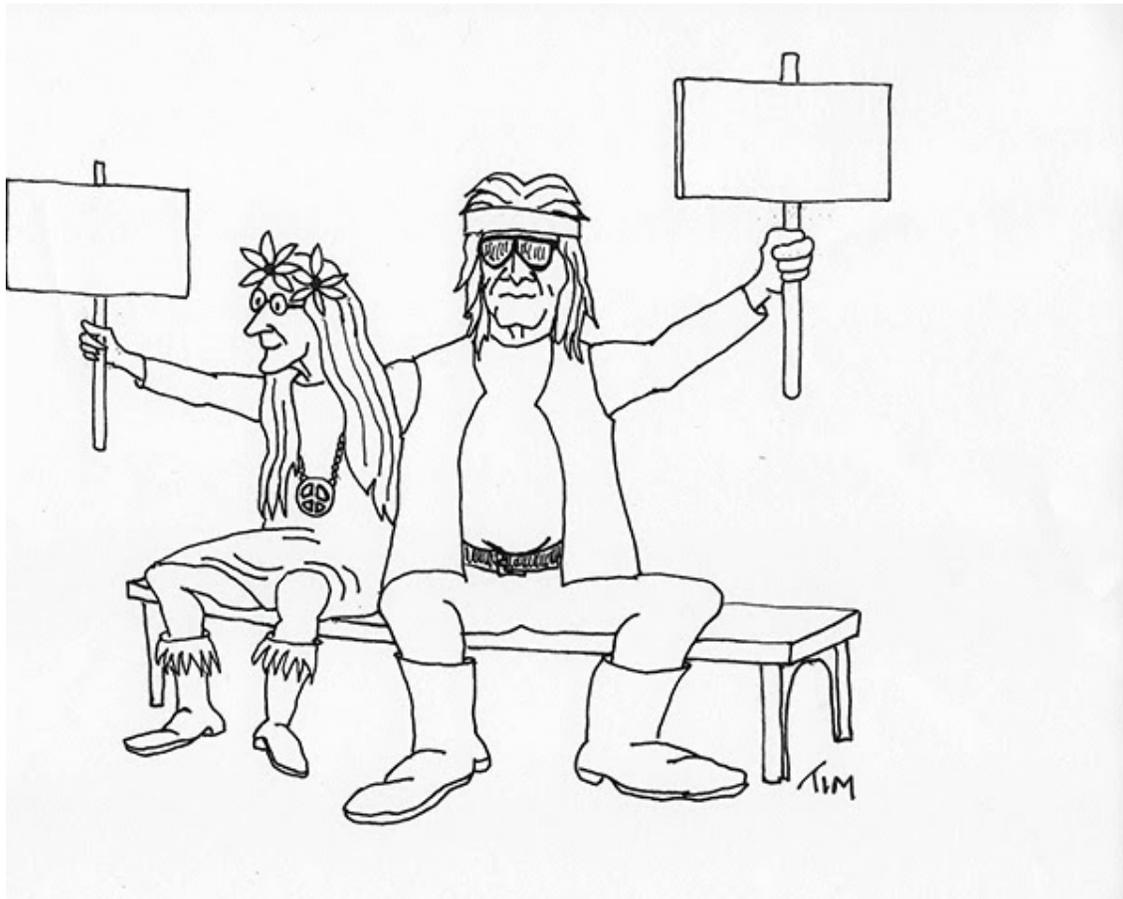
A nerd before the term was coined, yet treated preferentially
At MAC no walls, except my own, to become what I chose to be.

For Sale: 1960 Chevrolet station wagon, six cylinder, straight stick, radio, heater, snow tires, and it runs good. Price: \$200.00. Also, Wollensak stereo tape recorder in perfect condition. Call Carey Carlson at 698-6511.

Cartoon Contest

Captions are already flowing in for our Cartoon Contest. You all enjoyed Tim Wintermute's cartoons in *The Mac Weekly*. Now's your chance to put your caption to the Tim cartoon below. [Email your caption to the Reunion Committee](#), with the subject line Caption, 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.



Classifieds: "Man and His World"

Did last month's article about "Man and His World" bring back some memories? For one of us, they were more like nightmares! A classmate who suffered through one semester with a philosophy professor is still trying to solve the riddle of the box -- when you put in A, B comes out; WHAT!!! We would like to hear from you. Here are the three questions that followed the article:

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 in fall 2020? What works of the human spirit would you suggest?

You may want to respond to one or all questions, or send in questions or thoughts of your own. [Email your "Man and His World" responses to Jackie.](#)

Wanted: dead or alive. Light green key case suspected of deliberately losing itself. Suspect is probably unarmed. Try to talk it into surrendering itself to Lost & Found in the Student Union.

A Note from the Gift Committee

Is Macalester in your will? This is one way to leave a lasting gift for your alma mater. It also makes you a member of the Wallace Society which gets you an invitation to a really great dinner every year at Reunion time. [Learn more about Planned Giving at Macalester.](#)



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This message was sent to jhessler@macalester.edu

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