Fearless Leader of the Hegemonocle

English Majors Outside the Classroom

By: David Jacobson ’13

Waverley Editor David Jacobson spoke with Alex Juffer (’13) about his contributions to the satirical student news publication, The Hegemonocle.

DJ: Tell me a little about yourself.

AJ: I’m a Junior English major at Macalester. I’m from Pennsylvania, and I’m a big Ryan Gosling fan – regardless of genre.

DJ: If you could spend an evening with any Macalester faculty member, who would it be? What would you do?

AJ: I’d probably hang out with Robert Warde, and we’d uh, probably play a little Wii-Fit, and kill a box of Franzia. After the Franzia, we’d probably spill a little English theory, maybe write an in-class essay.

DJ: What’s the best part about being an English major?

AJ: The faculty is really strong across the board. The classes they design are really innovative and they’re very passionate about their work and their teaching.

DJ: Why did you choose English as your major?

AJ: First and foremost I love books. I love talking about books. I even use books as coasters and shelving material to put more books on.

DJ: What activities/hobbies do you participate in outside of school?

AJ: Club volleyball and the Macalester Hegemonocle.

AJ: The Hege is THE humor magazine on campus. I joined it the spring semester of my freshman year. I became good friends with the founders of the Hege and was promoted to the editor at the end of last spring.

AJ: The Hegemonocle? And how did you get started with the Hegemonocle?

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The Artistry of Writing

By: Erin Schulz ’14

I love libraries. I especially love secret or restricted places in libraries, places where the already hushed tone drops into sacred silence. Before my class field trip on February 17, I’d never been to the special collections room at DeWitt Wallace Library, but I loved it the minute I walked through the door. Our Medieval Heroic Narrative class, taught by Professor Krier, took a day off from discussing Icelandic Sagas and Beowulf to explore pages and print of books made centuries before our campus existed.

Our guide, Ellen Holt-Werle, told us all she knew about the seven different documents we were exploring. She gave us a tour through old books and bookbinding, then held up each of the pages and shared bits and pieces of its story. Professor Krier added her knowledge about the art of medieval writing. They shared with us a manuscript leaf with “Hufnagel nota-...respect the sacred ritual that is the Kagin Dance.”

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lead discussions to revise new pieces, we lead production meetings to format those pieces, we’re in charge of distribution and we’re also a two-man, party-planning committee.

DJ: The Hegemonocle has been known to write controversial articles. What are your thoughts on this?

AJ: Since we write so much about Macalester, I think it’s important that we call attention to some of our misconceptions, or things that the campus isn’t as aware of as we’d like them to be. Humor can be an excellent tool at calling attention to unrecognized issues. We don’t consider ourselves to have any political leaning or agenda, but we’re also not afraid to tackle issues that might be considered controversial.

DJ: Any specific examples of controversial material?

AJ: We talked about the new scoreboard which some felt was an excessive amount of money to spend on our football team. We’ve done several issues on the GOP nomination process.

DJ: What do you hope to do after college?

AJ: Probably end up going to an MFA program to continue my studies in Creative Writing.

DJ: Is there anything else you’d like to say?

AJ: I have something to say to the incoming class of 2016: Respect yourself, respect your peers, and respect the sacred ritual that is The Kagin Dance.

As we looked at the other works around the table, I started to feel taunted by the pages. They held words and pictures, symbols of things we hold in common with medieval humans. We could understand what they represented, but, in the artistry, the choices of color and design, we have so little ability to answer our questions.

The leaf that taunted me the most was an old page from the Bible with a hand-written note scrawled at the bottom in French. My French speaking friend and I bent over the leaf and tried to puzzle out the sloping letters, but we couldn’t decode the message.

As we pored over the pages, Professor Krier explained that early writers were artists too. Their function was not just to set words to paper, but to capture some of the inherent life in the words that they were writing. The vibrancy of the colors, the shapes of letters, and the work that went into thinning and smoothing each piece of vellum all work together toward the end of creating words that have voice, words that correctly embody the life they represent.

I think back on those thick, real pages and the intention that went into each stroke of the pen, as I try to capture the feeling of the experience in a typed document. I’ve always loved words and relied on them to convey my meaning better than any other form of communication, but after stepping into the rare books room and listening to voices echoing through sheets of old vellum, I’m wondering if we’ve robbed ourselves of some of the power of words by divorcing them from the artistry of writing.
The Laramie Project Opens in April

“THE LARAMIE PROJECT”
By Moisés Kaufman and the members of TECTONIC THEATRE PROJECT

April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 and a matinee on April 7 at 2:00

Research for the The Laramie Project, Moisés Kaufman’s internationally successful play, began one month after a horrific crime occurred in the city of Laramie, Wyoming. In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a twenty-one-year-old homosexual student at the University of Wyoming, was tied to a cattle fence, beaten about the head, robbed, and left to die on a bitterly cold night in October.

The play is based on more than 400 interviews with about 100 Laramie residents, as well as journal entries from the members of Tectonic Theater Project and Kaufman, as they reflect on their own reactions to the crime and to the interviews they carried out. Structured as a documentary, it attempts to reenact the events that occurred on that fateful night. Was this a hate crime? Or was it a random, senseless assault and robbery? Either way, Kaufman’s objective was to explore the issues of homosexuality, religion, class, economics, education, and non-traditional lifestyles through the residents’ raw responses to the incident.

Includes Macalester English majors Alana Horton, Jessun Choi, and our very own David Jacobson.

English Department Prize and Award Winners

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the English Department Prizes and Awards for 2012. Thank you to all the students for your wonderful submissions and to the faculty judges. Congratulations to the winners!

WENDY-PARRISH POETRY AWARD
For a student who exemplifies a commitment to poetry and excellence in writing:
Kerry Alexander ’12

LIVINGSTON-PATNODE PRIZE
For a graduating senior who has made a special contribution as an English major:
Anna Waggener ’12

HARRY SCHERMAN AWARDS FOR SENIORS
H.S. Literary Essay:
Eliza Leamy ’12
Dwelling and Transcendence: the Mythological Connection Between Earthly and Cosmological Temporalities in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens
Sarah Mintz ’12
The Transformation of Womanhood: Hester’s Social Identity in The Scarlet Letter

H.S. Creative Prose:
Madiha Bataineh ’12 for This round
Angus McLinn ’12 for Paper Airplanes
Jesse Fox ’12 for The Gravedigger

H.S. Poetry:
Clara Younge ’12 for Cross-Fade
Emma Colon ’12 for Floating

ARDIS HILLMAN WHEELER PRIZE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY
Olivia Starkie ’14 (Oxford)
Alvin Kim ’14 (University of Amsterdam)

The winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize has not been decided.

Nick Adams Short Story Contest winner is Clare Boerigter from Grinnell. However, Macalester’s Nina Slesinger was selected as one of five finalists. Congratulations Nina!
Life after Graduation

By: Jamie Lucarelli ‘13

Being employable after obtaining a liberal arts degree is a concern many students have today. Especially at Macalester, where little vocational training is available, many students worry they will look underqualified after graduation. Thankfully, alum Jeff Henebury ‘11, assures Mac students that prospects are good.

“In the Twin Cities, people like Macalester Students. They’re smart and nice…that reputation really helps,” said Henebury.

Henebury, who has an internship with Graywolf Press and works part-time at the Walker Art Museum, emphasized how his undergraduate background helped him get hired. The hiring manager at the Walker who interviewed him had a good relationship with Mac students.

He loves both of his jobs, though the Graywolf internship is unpaid and soon he’ll need to find full time employment. The time at Graywolf is passed sorting through “the slush pile,” an industry term for the unsolicited submissions hopeful writers send in to publishers, hoping for a break.

“[Graywolf] has open submissions and they get like thousands a year,” said Jeff. It is enjoyable work though. “If I could do this for a career, it would be pretty sweet,” said Henebury.

“But… I know there’s only nine people working in those [big publishing houses]…there aren’t many opportunities…. [you could] go to New York, work at a big publisher, live with nine people and eighteen rats, do that for four or five years and maybe it would work.”

That’s not Jeff’s plan, but he does hope to continue having a relationship with The Walker. Jobs there are coveted and even if he only had time to volunteer, he would be extremely interested in participating.

At the Walker he helps out with customer service, ushering plays, and tour surveillance. Surprising past experience helped him get his job, like volunteering at a nursing home. “Get off campus...do as much as you can,” Henebury stressed.

He stated that one cannot anticipate the varied ways in which undergrad experiences can become applicable. “Just put a spin on it,” said Henebury.

Jeff will continue living in the Twin Cities and recommends this to students. “It’s as good of a place as any you’ll find for a job,” said Henebury.

The CDC was very useful in his job search and he advises students start using them as soon as possible for resume help and job searches. He wishes everyone the best of luck!

Birthday Babes


April 4th: Maya Angelou (1928-), American Poet, Civil Rights Activist. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.

April 7th: William Wordsworth (1770-1850), English Romantic Poet.

April 7th: Francis Ford Coppola (1939-), Film Director. The Godfather, Apocalypse Now.


April 13th: Seamus Heaney (1939-1999), Irish Poet, Translator of Beowulf, Nobel Prize in Literature.

April 17th: Thornton Wilder (1897-1975), American Playwright. Our Town, By the Skin of Our Teeth.


April 28th: Harper Lee (1926-), American Novelist. To Kill a Mockingbird is her sole work.

April 29th: Yusef Komunyakaa (1947-), American Poet, Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.
This month we hear from Professor Neil Chudgar on what he’s reading, both for fun and for class.

**Henry Fielding, Joseph Andrews.** I’m reading this one for English 321, and it’s a disturbing pleasure. Every time I come back to this novel, I find a startling new tangle of intellectual and ethical problems—especially when I get to talk about my reading with brilliantly insightful fellow-readers, as I’m lucky enough to be doing right now. The stupid cheerfulness I feel when I’m reading this novel, however, never seems to change—even (or especially) if I find myself chuckling at moments when my conscience disapproves. If you want to know more about this alarming and entertaining book, ask anybody in English 321. You’ll get an earful.

**Frank Herbert, Chapterhouse: Dune.** Recently, I had to visit the place where I grew up; I discovered this book—along with the other four *Dune* novels—in a box in my mother’s basement. I hadn’t read the *Dune* books since junior high, but the startling familiarity of the sci-fi covers made me take them along when I came home to Minnesota. These five books have kept me company all winter. Professor Dawes and his students know much more about how science fiction works than I ever will—my interest in these novels is not academic. Reading the *Dune* books gives me the consolation of returning to a lost home, recalling a language, a history, a geography, and a scale of values I’d forgotten I ever knew. I do not think that the *Dune* books are very good books, but I love them. I’m sorry to be finishing the last one. If you are interested, begin with the first book (*Dune*) and then go from there.
Attention graduating seniors!

Please let us know about your post-grad plans! If you have a job or internship lined up, grad school, heading home to mom and dads...we want to hear about it. Please email us, or just wait for us to pester you. Because we will...you’ve been warned.

Jamie Lucarelli ’13
<jlucarel@mac>
So sad you haven’t contacted us yet.

Maddie Disner ’12
<mdisner@mac>
Shocked you are hesitating before emailing us.

David Jacobson ’13
<djacobs1@mac>
So distraught waiting to hear from you he had to go sit in his lonely spot.

Graham Sutherland ’13
<gsutherl@mac>
So upset you haven’t submitted to the Waverley yet.

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Behold Beopeep!

This year, courtesy of Katie Klos’s hours of hard work, David Jacobson’s assistance and Neil Chudgar’s input, the English Department submitted an admirable exhibit to the annual Peeps Contest. A depiction of a bloody scene from the epic poem, Beowulf, complete with gore and marshmallows. Thank you for all of your efforts, English Workers!

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Mac Students to Launch Cloud City, A New Chapbook Press

Coming to Common Good Books on Friday the 13th will be chapbooks published by Cloud City, a new press founded by Macalester Students Oliver St. John and Luke Marcott.

To celebrate Cloud City’s first chapbook, Filmpocalypse by Marcott, a reading and launch party will be held at Common Good Books brand new location at 38 Snelling Ave, Saint Paul. The event will begin at 6:30.

"I couldn’t be happier to host the launch of Macalester’s newest literary project at the neighborhood’s newest bookstore!" says assistant manager David Enyeart of Common Good Books.

St. John and Marcott have found the support of hot shot Twin Cities authors, Wang Ping, James Cihlar, and Peter Bognanni to launch the new press.

"What a great start!" wrote Macalester faculty advisor Wang on Cloud City's Facebook Page. "Mac students rock!"

For more information visit <cloudcitypress.tumblr.com>