

JUST PUBLISHED

MICHELLE GAGNON '93,
The Tunnels
(Mira Books, 2007)

JASON PINTER '03,
The Mark
(Mira Books, 2007)



Gagnon and Pinter recently published first novels through the same publisher and bring fresh and exciting voices to the crime fiction genre. Gagnon's engrossing thriller, *The Tunnels*, concerns a serial killer who is stalking the grounds of a prestigious New England college (which bears a resemblance to Wesleyan). The FBI special agent assigned to the case, Kelly Jones, has evidence suggesting that the connection between the victims—daughters of powerful men—and the cryptic message left behind in the killings is rooted in a dark ancient ritual.

Pinter's riveting page-turner, *The Mark*, introduces the charming protagonist Henry Parker, a rookie investigative reporter who interviews an ex-con for a story and is then framed for the murder of a policeman. Parker must elude the New York police and the FBI agent who are after him as he tries to uncover the truth and prove his innocence.

SARA KATE GILLINGHAM-RYAN '97,
The Greystone Bakery Cookbook
(Rodale Press, 2007)



Food writer Gillingham-Ryan celebrates a thriving, 25-year-old business that produces scrumptious baked goods while it employs community members in Yonkers, N.Y., whose employment options are limited due

to their struggles with addiction, poverty, crime, and incarceration. The bakery was founded by Zen Buddhists and today helps support affordable housing, job training, child care, and health care and counseling. The book contains more than 80 recipes for inspirational desserts as well as a history of the bakery and the positive role it has played in Yonkers. Gillingham-Ryan provides tips and advice on the basics of baking and comprehensive lists of fundamental ingredients and equipment. She was the director of the Community Garden Project for the Greystone Foundation for four years.

EVAN JENKINS '57,
That or Which, and Why: A Usage Guide for Thoughtful Writers and Editors
(Routledge, 2007)



Based on Jenkins's column "Language Corner" in the *Columbia Journalism Review*, this engaging usage guide to writing contains brief, alphabetically arranged entries on approximately 200 stumbling blocks and head-scratchers faced by writers and editors. For instance, the volume offers advice on when to use "fewer" or "less," or "farther" and "further," and delves into more slippery areas like the correct way to use common idiomatic expressions. Jenkins draws upon years of editorial experience and writes in a witty and friendly tone that makes his helpful tome a pleasure to peruse. Who knew reading about the rules of the English language could be this much fun?

WILLIAM B. B. MOODY '59,
A History of the Eclectic Society of Phi Nu Theta, 1837–1970
(Wesleyan University Press, 2007)



Moody carefully traces the history of the Wesleyan fraternity over the decades from its founding in the early 19th century to the years when it changed radically in the late 1960s. He uncovers themes and patterns in the life of the fraternity and provides a few theories about why Eclectic ceased to exist in its old form. Moody brings back a period in the late 1950s when a large number of Wesleyan undergraduates felt a primary loyalty to the fraternity to which they belonged. At that time, the fraternity became the center of the undergraduate's life outside the classroom. The book contains archival photographs, a helpful glossary, and an appendix of six selected "Songs of Phi Nu Theta."

A special volume two of the history contains a complete list of all members of the fraternity from 1837 to 1970. This list is available online at www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/eclectic2. A limited number of hardbound copies of volume two is available directly from Wesleyan University Press. — David Low

OF NOTE

CHI-YOUNG KIM '03 has translated two Korean works of fiction: *I Have the Right to Destroy Myself* by Young-ha Kim (Harcourt, 2007), an impressionistic novel by one of Korea's leading young literary masters; and *Toy City* by Lee Dong-ha (Koryo Press, 2007), about a young boy growing up in a poor family in 1950s Korea.

MIA LIPMAN '99 is managing editor of *Canteen*, a new literary magazine. The magazine publishes essays, poetry, fiction, photographs, and visual art and celebrates the creative process. In the editors' mission statement, they comment: "We ask contributors to move beyond the boundaries of genre and final draft to delve into reputation, ferocious drive, unmarketable dreams, the danger of reader takeovers, and just what makes a work important." For more information on the magazine and its submission policy, log on to www.canteenmag.com.

NONFICTION

KATE BERNHEIMER '88, *The Complete Fairy Tales of Merry Gold* (Fiction Collective 2, 2006) and *Brothers and Beasts: An Anthology of Men on Fairy Tales* (Wayne University Press, 2007)

NICOLAS COLLINS '76, *Handmade Electronic Music: The Art of Hardware Hacking* (Routledge, 2006)

DONALD DUNBAR MALS '73 with G. F. Lichtenberg, *What You Don't Know Can Keep You Out of College* (Gotham Books, 2007)

THOMAS FROSCH '64, P '02, *Shelley and the Romantic Imagination* (University of Delaware Press, 2007)

SUZANNA HENSHON '93, *King Arthur's Academy: Descriptive and Narrative Writing Exercises and Haunted House: Descriptive and Narrative Writing Exercises* (Prufrock Press, 2007)

ELIZABETH SHAKMAN HURD '92, *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations* (Princeton University Press, 2007)

CARLA YANNI '87, *The Architecture of Madness: Insane Asylums in the United States* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007)

CHRISTOPHER ZURN '89, *Deliberative Democracy and the Institutions of Judicial Review* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

FACULTY

ANNIE DILLARD, FORMER ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE, *The Maytrees* (Harper/Collins, 2007)

JOEL PFISTER, PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES AND ENGLISH, *Critique for What? Cultural Studies, American Studies, Left Studies* (Paradigm Publishers, 2006)

KRISHNA WINSTON, PROFESSOR OF GERMAN STUDIES (TRANSLATOR), PETER HANDKE (AUTHOR), *Crossing the Sierra De Gredos* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007)

If you are a Wesleyan graduate, faculty member, or parent with a new publication, please let us know by contacting David Low '76 at dlow@wesleyan.edu or at Wesleyan magazine, Office of Public Affairs, Wesleyan University/South College, Middletown, CT 06459.

For additional book reviews, listings, and news, please see: wesleyan.edu/magazine/ or wesleyan.edu/magazine/extra/.

Fight for Freedom

Laurie Green '79 examines race, gender, and power during the civil rights era in *Battling the Plantation Mentality: Memphis and the Black Freedom Struggle* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

I discovered what my book would be about while driving through Arkansas in August 1995. I had crossed the Mississippi River, leaving Memphis on my way home to Chicago, and was keeping one hand on the wheel while the other scribbled notes. I don't recommend this method to my students. But the voices of African-American women I had interviewed in Memphis stayed with me, and I couldn't wait 550 miles to sort them out on paper.

The voice that reverberated most strongly belonged to Sally Turner. A few years before the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers' strike, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Turner had helped organize a union at the auto accessories sweatshop where she worked. When we met at her public housing apartment, I wanted to know what had made her take this enormous risk. She had proudly shown me photographs of her 12 children and I knew organizing jeopardized her job. Her voice rose to a near-shout: "The struggle was we didn't have a water fountain! No water fountain in 1965!" She told me that when she and other black women demanded a water fountain in the sweltering plant, the white manager went to a hardware store and bought "one of them country buckets I already done left in Mississippi!" He also bought a dipper. "A dipper!" she exclaimed. "And brought it back there and had everybody dipping!"

As the interstate bisected fields where cotton once grew, I thought about what her surprising answer revealed about black freedom struggles in the 1960s. For migrants from the rural South, I realized, cultural memories of the plantation—whether from the sharecropping or slavery era—shaped critical thought about city life. Struggles over race, gender, and power, such as the one at Turner's plant, had been ongoing long before the sanitation strike had erupted, with its famous slogan, "I AM A MAN." Ironically, not only men but women identified with that slogan because it definitively rejected the myriad ways in which they felt diminished as adult human beings in daily encounters.

I had begun this trip south intent on learning what sparked the

1968 sanitation strike, which erupted four years after the 1964 Civil Rights Act removed the legal barrier to freedom. Civil rights historians in recent years have shifted attention from movement leaders to organizing at the grass roots; I wanted to extend that inquiry about local people and local movements into issues of consciousness, culture, and politics. In other words, I ultimately was asking, what did freedom mean a century after Emancipation? What did it mean in the context of everyday life in southern cities, far from the cotton fields?

There was more to Turner's story. She expressed frustration with coworkers who refused to join the union out of fear they would be fired. "It was like they was glued in and afraid to step out of it," she declared, comparing them to sharecroppers who were afraid to leave the plantation. Turner, however, had walked out on a sharecropping contract "in broad daylight," a suitcase in each hand, despite her husband's admonitions. That internal struggle against fear was as important as the external conflict with the boss.

Oral histories like this one convinced me to title the book, *Battling the Plantation Mentality*. "Plantation mentality," a vernacular term used by people I interviewed, had dual meanings. On the one hand, it referred to white racist attitudes among those in positions of authority. On the other hand, it involved working class black activists' perceptions about internal barriers to freedom, such as fear.

In archives I discovered the struggles for black freedom occurred in unexpected realms. I encountered files on the Board of Censors' banning of Hollywood movies that portrayed African Americans in roles besides the "traditional" cook and butler, bellhop and maid. I also found bulging files about the Freedom Train—a democracy-promoting advertising campaign launched by the American Heritage Foundation that sent a modern high-speed train across the United States during the early Cold War, bearing documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation. The train bypassed Memphis after city officials refused to allow desegregated viewing of its precious cargo.

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the sanitation strike and King's assassination, nobody I interviewed believes the "plantation mentality" has disappeared. The formal segregation of the past no longer exists, but unequal power relations rooted in race, gender, and class do. My hope is that delving into the historical memories of black freedom movement participants like Turner will give us fresh insights into today's struggles for dignity and justice.

Laurie Green is a faculty member of the history department at the University of Texas at Austin. For more information on her book, see <http://uncpress.unc.edu/books/T-5758.html>.

