

## JUST PUBLISHED

### CAROL COOPER '77, MALS '79

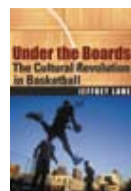
**Pop Culture Considered as an Uphill Bicycle Race: Selected Critical Essays 1979–2001**  
Nega Fulo Books, 2006



This thoughtful collection offers a cultural snapshot of the end of the 20th century and features reviews and essays published over a 20-year period. The book contains movie, book, music, “new tech,” and nightlife reviews culled from various newspapers and magazines ranging from *Elle* to *The New York Times* to *Wired*. Cooper writes passionately about many subjects including the Rolling Stones, Iggy Pop, Bob Marley, Tori Amos, Otis Redding, Spike Lee, Brazilian literature, Latin hip-hop, Broadway musicals, and more. The book’s introduction was written by cyberpunk movement co-founder Bruce Sterling.

### JEFFREY LANE '01

**Under the Boards: The Cultural Revolution in Basketball**  
University of Nebraska Press, 2007



Lane’s lively and intelligent work tells the story of the changes in American basketball over the last 30-plus years and discusses culture and race within the sport. He provides six case studies that focus on players, coaches, institutions, and events that have shaped the culture and politics of the sport and how they impacted and reflected American life and culture. Lane provides fascinating insights on such topics as the relationship among hip-hop, basketball, and the drug culture; the impact of two rappers’ deaths on rookie Allen Iverson’s career; the legendary Celtic player Larry Bird and nostalgia about white players; coach Bob Knight’s abuses of power at Indiana University; Latrell Sprewell and the politics of the NBA; the ideals of black masculinity within the sport; and the dramatic shift in attitude toward European players.

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](mailto:dlow@wesleyan.edu) or at Wesleyan magazine, Office of Public Affairs, Wesleyan University/South College, Middletown, CT 06459.

### LARA TUPPER '95

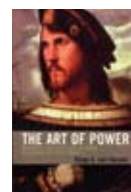
**A Thousand and One Nights**  
Harcourt, 2007



Tupper’s entertaining first novel begins when 22-year-old Karla is hired as an entertainer on the *Sound of Music* cruise ship, with plastic ice sculptures, fixed slot machines, and rum punch that is 80 percent Kool-Aid. On the ship she becomes involved with Jack, a British musician, and soon they form a cabaret duo who belt out pop hits in the Middle East and China, countries far from their small-town origins. Tupper vividly captures life on the road as she charts the ups and downs of their relationship. They partake in international hotel nightlife and meet a number of memorable characters along the way. The novel was inspired in part by Tupper’s life as a former lounge singer, performing at sea in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, and on land in Thailand, Japan, China, and the United Arab Emirates.

### DIEGO A. VON VACANO '93

**The Art of Power: Machiavelli, Nietzsche, and the Making of Aesthetic Political Theory**  
Lexington Books, 2007



Von Vacano’s provocative book closely studies the writings of Niccolò Machiavelli and examines how the 15th-century thinker established a new, aesthetic perspective on political life. The author offers an extensive analysis of the writings of Friedrich Nietzsche in relation to those of Machiavelli, and the similarities between the two thinkers’ political theories and perspectives. Von Vacano explores the implications of their common way of viewing the human condition and political practice, and considers the phenomenon of the persistence of aesthetic, sensory cognition as fundamental to human experience, particularly in political life. He then places the aesthetic political theory in the context of modern political thought. Von Vacano argues that in the post-9/11 world, spectacle has become more central to political conflict. Aesthetic political theory borrows categories from art theory, such as representation, emotion, form, and appearances to analyze this transformation of spectacular politics. Von Vacano suggests that Machiavelli lays the foundation for this perspective, while Nietzsche radicalizes it.

— David Low

## FICTION AND POETRY

JENNIFER NATALYA FINK '88, V (She Devil Press/Suspect Thoughts Press, 2007)

J. KATES '67 (TRANSLATOR) AND MIKHAIL AIZENBERG, *Say Thank You* (Zephyr Press, 2007)

IAN MACDONALD '90 (TRANSLATOR) AND OKAMOTO KIDÔ (AUTHOR), *The Curious Casebook of Inspector Hanshichi: Detective Stories of Old Edo* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2007)

GERARDO PIÑA-ROSALES P'07, *Desde esta cámara oscura (From This Darkroom)*, (Editorial Nostrum, 2006)

CLAUDE CLAYTON SMITH '66, *The Stratford Devil* (Pocahontas Press, 2007)

LIZABETH ZINDEL '98, *Girl of the Moment* (Viking, 2007)

## NONFICTION

ROBERT J. CALVIN '56, *Sales Management Demystified* (Mc-Graw Hill, 2007)

MARISA COHEN '89, *Deliver This! Make the Childbirth Choice That's Right for You ... No Matter What Everyone Else Thinks* (Seal Press, 2006)

NAFTALY S. GLASMAN '62 AND LYNETTE D. GLASMAN, *The Expert School Leader: Accelerating Accountability* (Rowman and Littlefield Education, 2006)

DREW HARTZELL '60 (EDITOR), *A Catalogue of Manuscripts Written or Owned in England Up to 1200 Containing Music* (Boydell and Brewer, 2006)

PAGAN KENNEDY '84, *The First Man-Made Man: The Story of Two Sex Changes, One Love Affair, and a Twentieth-Century Medical Revolution* (Bloomsbury, 2007)

ERIC LICHTENFELD '97, *Action Speaks Louder: Violence, Spectacle, and the American Action Movie* (Wesleyan University Press, 2007)

PHILLIP R. SHAVER '66 AND MARIO MIKULINCER, *Attachment in Adulthood: Structure, Dynamics, and Change* (Guilford Press, 2007)

RICHARD (CHIP) SMITH '64, *The Cost of Privilege: Taking On the System of White Supremacy and Racism* (Camino Press, 2007)

JESSICA STERNFELD '93, *The Megamusical* (Indiana University Press, 2006)

CHRISTINA WILSDON '83, *Smithsonian Q & A: Birds* (Collins, 2007)

CHERYL WOODSON '76, MD, *To Survive Caregiving: A Daughter's Experience, A Doctor's Advice on Finding Hope, Help and Health* (Infinity Publishing, 2006)

## FACULTY

ALLAN PUNZALAN ISAAC, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, *American Tropics: Articulating Filipino America* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006)

MATTHEW SHARPE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, *Jamestown* (Soft Skull Press, 2007)

DANI SHAPIRO, VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LETTERS, *Black and White* (Knopf, 2007)

## OF NOTE

J. PEDER ZANE '84 is the editor of *The Top Ten: Writers Pick Their Favorite Books* (W. W. Norton, 2007), in which 125 leading American and British writers—among them Kate Atkinson, Russell Banks, Alice Hoffman, Ha Jin, Norman Mailer, and Annie Proulx—offer their lists of the 10 greatest works of fiction of all time, including novels, story collections, plays, and poems. The results from the writers were tabulated to produce the most authoritative lists to date of the *Top Ten Works of Fiction of All Time*, the *Top Ten Works by Living Authors*, the *Top Ten Mysteries and Thrillers*, and more. To find out more about the book, see [www.toptenbooks.net](http://www.toptenbooks.net).

For additional book reviews, listings, and news, please see: [wesleyan.edu/magazine/](http://wesleyan.edu/magazine/) or [wesleyan.edu/magazine/extra/](http://wesleyan.edu/magazine/extra/).

## BACKSTORY

# Who Is a Journalist?

In his first book, *We're All Journalists Now* (Free Press, 2007), **Scott Gant '91** considers the rights and privileges of traditional vs. citizen journalists in the 21st century.

I never had any serious plans to write a book. It was one of those things it would have been nice to say I had done, like running a marathon. Though I've authored a number of legal academic articles over the years while keeping busy as a lawyer in private practice, a book seemed too much to take on.

Yet for several years I've been fascinated by questions about whether journalists are entitled to privileges not extended to ordinary citizens, and what distinguishes "journalists" from other people who make information and ideas available to the public. I found my interest in those questions intensifying in early 2005, when a number of news stories propelled them into the headlines. One of those stories disclosed that the Department of Education had paid Armstrong Williams, a prominent African-American commentator, \$240,000 to promote the federal government's No Child Left Behind program on his nationally syndicated television show (a fact he did not disclose to his listeners). Another revealed that for two years the White House had been issuing a press pass to Jeff Gannon of Talon News, a now-defunct Web site affiliated with GOPUSA (an organization whose mission "is to spread the conservative message throughout America"), during which Gannon asked the President and White House press secretary questions that many described as "softballs" designed to demonstrate support for the administration and its policies. After it was revealed that Gannon had used a pseudonym to obtain his press pass (his real name is James Guckert), and lacked any significant journalism experience, a furor over his two-year admittance to the White House press corps ensued, with many claiming that Gannon did not belong alongside "legitimate" journalists in the press room.

As these incidents were making headlines, a much more significant story was taking shape. By the middle of 2005, it became unmistakably clear that the Web was facilitating the emergence of large numbers of nonprofessionals and nontraditional journalists (including many bloggers) as a force in defining and distributing news—a media revolution compared by some to that launched by Gutenberg when he invented movable type and the printing press in the middle of the 15th century.

I recognized that the lines distinguishing professional journalists from other people who disseminate information, ideas, and opinions to a wide audience had been blurred, perhaps beyond recognition. It was now harder than ever to answer the question: "Who is a journalist?" Aspects of the issue had legal dimensions that were receiving little attention. For instance, the question is important because it arises routinely in American courtrooms and legislatures, and at other government institutions, since there are many circumstances where those deemed "journalists" are afforded rights and privileges not available to their fellow citizens.

I also soon realized that I was forming strong views about these issues—for instance, that journalism should be viewed as an activity, not a job title, and that "freedom of the press" is a right that belongs to all of us, not just to those working for traditional news organizations. So I began taking notes and collecting material, planning to write an article for a legal journal examining these issues. Then I thought: Would this discussion interest a broader audience? Should I try to write something that more than 15 people might read?

I approached a friend who had recently formed his own literary agency, explained my ideas, and nervously asked: "Do you think this could be viable as a book?" With my friend's encouragement and assistance, I prepared a book proposal, which he sent out to publishers at the end of 2005. Within weeks I was fortunate enough to have sold the book to Simon & Schuster's Free Press. Now it was time for the hard part: writing the book.

Although the writing was difficult, particularly because I still had a challenging legal practice, it also was enormously enriching. Part of what I enjoy about being a lawyer is that I'm constantly learning—not just about "the law" itself, but about new subjects, new businesses. My current cases involve topics including genetically modified seeds, wireless telecommunications, and enzymes used for replicating DNA. Writing *We're All Journalists Now* was like a taking a self-designed course, during which I employed some of the many lessons learned at Wesleyan, including critical thinking, careful research, and efficient, accessible writing—as well as how to work in the middle of the night, with little sleep (unfortunately without the sustenance of O'Rourke's for this project).

With the book in my hand, and memories of blank computer screens and all-nighters receding, writing another doesn't seem all that daunting. Maybe I'll take up marathons next.

**Scott Gant practices law in Washington, D.C., where he is a partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP. He is the author of several scholarly articles on constitutional law and other legal issues.**

