1) If you could take the place of a character in a novel, who would you be and why? Richard Yates in Richard Yates by Tao Lin. Haven't read it and don't think I ever will. Not having read the book or met the real Richard Yates, I can only picture the eponymous hero like the faceless figure on the cover of the American edition (Melville House, 2010). I want a conch-shell to cover my face in Tiepolo pink as I stand framed by floral wallpaper. To be copyrighted material on an Amazon page. Or not.

2) What is the single best English class you've taken at Carleton and why?
To quote a Dan, I don't play favorites.

3) Tell us something that most of the other English majors don't know about you. There was this one time I saw a rhesus monkey's skull in the dust on the side of a road called Pillar Rocks Road, Pillar Rocks being a scenic site in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, a tourist spot that looks more like Chinese literati landscapes than most places in India do, now that I come to think of it.

4) Which book would you be okay never reading again?
Any book. If I read Richard Yates, for instance, I would probably be okay never reading it again. Or Revolutionary Road.

5) Six words describing your experience as a Carleton English major:
For sale, baby shoes, never worn.
Or is that one already taken?

What is the last book you read for fun?

quote of the week
“It’s funny. Don’t ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody.”

STUDENTS! Call in to ext. 4322 with the author and work these last lines come from. The first person to correctly name the quotation with receive a package of cookies with a faculty signature.
CANDY IN LITERATURE:
A VALENTINE’S DAY QUIZ

February 14th is a controversial day. But there is one thing about Valentine’s Day that we can all agree on: candy. Here is a quiz, adapted from Katie Pappageorge’s story in McSweeney’s about candy in literature. Match the candy with the work that corresponds with the clue.

i. SNICKERS
ii. M & Ms
III. SUGAR DADDY
IV. SWEDISH FISH
V. GOOD AND PLENTY
VI. BOSTON BAKED BEANS
VII. JOLLY RANCHERS
VIII. MIKE & IKE
IX. MOUNDS
X. SOUR PATCH KIDS
XI. RAISINETS
XII. BABY RUTH
XIII. PAYDAY
XIV. SUGAR BABIES
XV. GOOBERS
XVI. BIT-O-HONEY
XVII. WHOPPERS

a Sherwood Anderson story
b. Elizabeth Bishop poem
c. Tennessee Williams play
e. Story published in Harper’s in 1911. Later recognized for its impact on American realism.
f. Novel unfinished at time of death by Carson McCullers.
g. Jingoistic WWI ballad, recirculated during WWII.
h. Controversial semi-journalistic muckraking work.
i. Literary critic’s nickname
Henry Miller’s infamous long work The Book of Uninteresting Redundant Sex.
j. Title of lost Hemingway novel.
k. Poem by e. e. cummings.
l. Portion of title of 1874 Bret Harte Western.
m. Flannery O’Connor story.
n. Faulkner’s Snopes family story sequence.
o. Rejected title for collection of poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks.
p. Poem by James Whitcomb Riley that is heavy on odd dialect.
q. Naturalistic novel tracing the life of an beautiful immigrant girl to her downfall as a prostitute.


NEXT WEEK: TWO MAJOR AMERICAN WRITERS VISIT NORTHFIELD

SIRI HUSTVEDT
AUTHOR OF WHAT I LOVED, THE BLINDFOLD, & LIVING, THINKING, LOOKING

PAUL AUSTER
AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TRILOGY, VERTIGO, & THE BOOK OF ILLUSIONS

Wednesday, February 20, at 4:30 p.m. in Severance Great Hall
A joint reading: Paul Auster will read from his latest work, Winter Journal, and Siri Hustvedt will read from her recent novel, Summer Without Men. A reception and book signing will follow the reading.

Thursday, February 21, at 11:30 in Viking Theater, St. Olaf
Author Steve Marsh will hold a “guided interview” with both authors, dealing their work and their take on the literary scene.

Convocation: Friday, February 22, at 10:50
Siri Hustvedt will give the Convocation Address in the Carleton Chapel. The title of her presentation is “Reflections on Creativity: Memory, Imagination, Narrative and the Self.”