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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 [DM Visit](#) [com](#) [@thedm_news](#)



WHAT'S INSIDE...

Why road trips should be part of your college years

SEE **OPINION** PAGE 2

Oxford filmmaker highlights Kurdish culture in Nashville

SEE **LIFESTYLES** PAGE 5

Baseball bats its way to a win

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 8

Students parade in blue for autism awareness



PHOTOS BY: XINYI SONG

Undergraduate and graduate student volunteers from the Speech and Hearing Center spend autism awareness day with their class. Organizers encouraged participants to wear blue Wednesday.

SLADE RAND
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Eliza Mulherin, among other graduate assistants, donned blue T-shirts and ate blue gluten-free cupcakes with preschool students under a tree outside

of George Hall Wednesday morning.

Professors and volunteers at the Speech and Hearing Center in George Hall celebrated autism awareness month on Wednesday with a miniature parade and cupcake picnic for their students.

The Speech and Hearing Center began its work on campus three years ago and has since offered free speech and hearing screenings for university students and a daily class for local preschoolers diagnosed with speech or hearing disorders. Since its inception, 25

children have participated in the center's program.

In three years, the center has trained 70 graduate students, according to Amy Livingston, speech-language pathologist and clinical instructor.

Livingston said not all of her students are diag-

nosed with autism, and the celebration was designed to foster understanding of the disability.

April is autism awareness month, and Livingston said it was her student volunteers' idea to throw a picnic

SEE **AUTISM** PAGE 3

Assistant provost wins first alumnus Sullivan Award

JENNIFER FRONING
althusiu@go.olemiss.edu

Donald Cole is the first alumnus to receive the Sullivan Award for his dedicated service to Ole Miss and the Oxford community.

The award is given to members of the community who display selfless service to others. It is the university's highest honor recognizing service.

Cole, assistant provost and mathematics professor, is involved on campus with Increasing Minority Access to Graduate Education (IMAGE) and the Bridge STEM program, centered around science, tech-

nology, engineering and mathematics education. As part of his work with IMAGE, Cole is responsible for finding grants for students to attend Ole Miss for STEM classes during the summer.

"If someone comes through my door with a problem, then it's more than their problem – it's our problem," Cole said. "I think people see this is not just work for me. It's something that helps me lay my head down at night and sleep with a smile."

Cole was unaware he was the first alumnus recipient of the award, but he said he has always loved to serve others.

"I never sort of think of it

as service, never think of it as work," Cole said. "I just think of it as enjoyment. It's a process that you never forget, and once you're a part of it, you'll always be a part of it."

Cole also helped found Books and Bears, a program benefiting employees working in the school's facilities management department. The program collects toys, books and games at Christmas time for the employees' children and grandchildren.

Jacqueline Vinson works with Cole in the IMAGE and Bridge STEM programs.

"He is very passionate about

SEE **SULLIVAN AWARD** PAGE 3

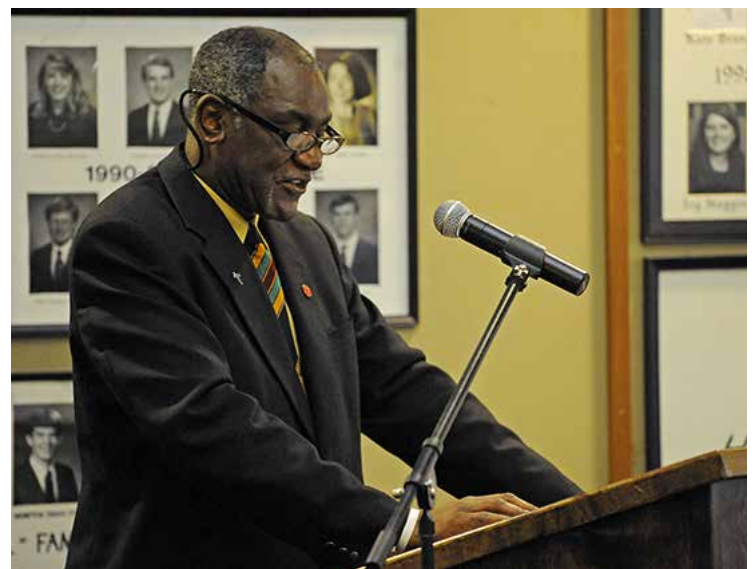
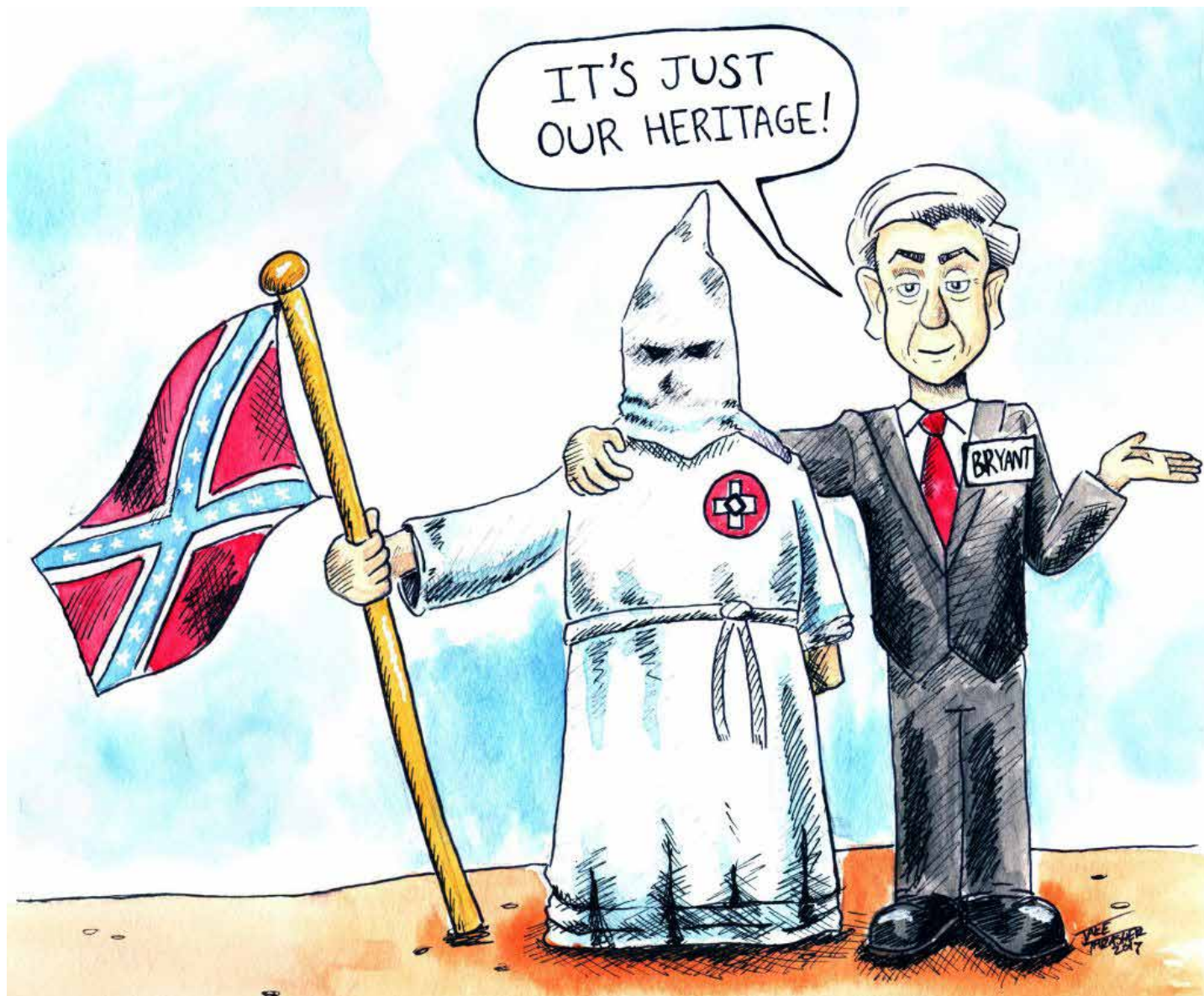


PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Donald Cole, assistant provost and assistant to the chancellor concerning minority affairs, speaks at the CAHC Listening Session earlier this semester.



COLUMN

Road trips: An essential college experience



NESTOR DELGADO

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In my first two years of college, I have had the opportunity to take two road trips on opposite sides of the country.

My first came during spring break of 2016 when I got to travel along the West

Coast. We began in Phoenix, made our way to Las Vegas, San Francisco and then south to Los Angeles.

While this included more than 20 hours of driving altogether, it was worth every minute.

I had the opportunity to see the Hoover Dam, Las Vegas Strip, Golden Gate Bridge, Pacific Coast Highway One and the area surrounding Los Angeles.

That road trip gave me a new perspective on what it meant to live in the United States, and it taught me more about life than any class I could take or sport I could play would. It exposed me to different cultures and the United States' diversity.

This year, I also had the opportunity to take a road

trip, except this time it was across the Eastern seaboard.

This trip took us to visit Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Charlottesville, Virginia; Philadelphia; Providence, Rhode Island; Hartford, Connecticut; and Boston. We saw the beauty of the Ivy League schools and even spent St. Patrick's Day in Boston.

During this road trip, however, I reinforced my desire to live in the southeastern U.S., as once again, I realized the United States is diverse within itself, but that nothing is more spectacular than the Southern lifestyle.

Whether it is cruising down the coast of California or surviving a "Nor'easter"

at Yale, road trips provide an experience of a lifetime that could not be found elsewhere.

And, while spring break in Destin, Florida, or going up the river is fun, it's always nice to do something different that allows you to experience a new perspective of our country.

You see, through both of these experiences, I can truly say that I have experienced the United States, almost to its fullest. And I encourage every one of you to do the same.

If you have the opportunity to road trip with friends, fraternity brothers or sorority sisters, there is nothing like it.

Another perk of doing it at our young age is that it can

be done on a small budget. The real question is whether or not you're willing to put in the time.

If so, I highly encourage it because there won't be another point in your life where you'll be able to say you traveled across 13 states in seven days.

Whether it is a long drive to South Padre Island, Texas; Rocky Point, Mexico; or the valley of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; road tripping is an experience that everyone should have the ability to try at least once.

Nestor Delgado is a sophomore public policy leadership major from Pascagoula.

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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday during the academic year, on days when classes are scheduled.

Columns do not represent the official opinions of The University of Mississippi or *The Daily Mississippian* unless specifically indicated.

The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.

AUTISM
continued from page 1

in recognition. "We're trying to show that being different is not something to be ashamed of," undergraduate assistant Eliza Mulherin said.

Mulherin is majoring in communication sciences and disorders and said she spends two or three days at the Center each week. She volunteers in the center's transition class, helping integrate 5- to 7-year-old students into regular, full-sized classes.

The center offers two levels of half-day classes limited to four students each during the week. Jennifer Johnson directs the hearing impaired language and literacy program for 3- to 5-year-olds, and Livingston directs the HILL transition class.

Robyn Hood has worked as the clinical records coordinator at the center for just over a year, keeping track of these graduate students earning their required 400 clinical credit hours at the center.

"We help the grad students get hands-on clinical experience," Hood said.

Graduate students train at the center by giving speech and hearing evaluations, as well as therapy when required. The clinic functions throughout the year when students are in school, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Screenings and therapy are free for students, and faculty members receive a 50 percent discount.

"I actually have a waitlist for evaluations and therapy right now," Hood said. "They've been very popular."

Many of the graduate students Hood works with come from out of state for Ole Miss' American Speech-Language-Hearing Association-approved program. Communication sciences and disorders graduate student Anjani Patel is originally from California.

This semester, Patel has worked with pre-kindergarten students who have varying speech or hearing disorders. She said she sees many of the kids every day and has formed her own relationships with them.

"It's the small changes that matter," Patel said. "It may take a month or two, but the little things are worth it."

Johnson said the center has a handful of Individualized Education Plans with schools in Lafayette County. An IEP is a basic contract of which services a child eligible for special education will receive in their public school system. Each child enrolled with the center has an IEP catered to his or her individual needs.

"This is a grant-funded program, so right now we're able to provide these services for free," Livingston said.

First-year graduate students Mary Ashley Bullard and Erin Robertson both earned their undergraduate degrees at Ole Miss before joining the communication sciences and disorders master's program. Bullard said she chose to stay in Oxford because the school offers many clinical opportunities.

"Other graduate schools don't have a program like this, when you work with the kids every day," Bullard said.

SULLIVAN AWARD
continued from page 1

diversity and the STEM disciplines," Vinson said. "He always, always goes far and beyond his duties with all students and his responsibilities. There is no one that I know that has made a more major impact on the Ole Miss community than Donald R. Cole."

Cole said he loves working with students on campus and has a passion for helping minority students pursue advanced degrees. After convincing students to come to Ole Miss, he mentors them throughout their time in Oxford.

Cole said he was fortunate enough to get a good education and tries to pay it forward.

"I wasn't hired to write grants, but somewhere along the way I knew that if I did, I could help somebody," Cole said. "Give scholarships to somebody who

otherwise wouldn't have one. I want to give them the same opportunities that I was fortunate enough to have."

Cole is involved not just in the community on campus but in the Oxford community, as well. He has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity for years and just recently built and dedicated a house to a family in Oxford.

In addition, Cole works closely with Kairos Prison Ministry, where he spends three to four days in the prison with around 40 inmates. The ministry aims to lower return rates for Mississippi inmates by promoting Christian values in jails. Cole said he sleeps in the prison at night, separately from the inmates, and spends time with them from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Students feel comfortable knowing they can seek Cole out for help. Whether he helps them himself or refers them to another professor, Cole said he will be there for his students.

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Hannah Rae Rogers

B.A. IN PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP
"Memory Retention Rates of Gossip Related Information"
Directed by Matthew Reysen

Thursday, April 20 at 11:00 am
Peabody Hall Room 208

The defense is open to the public.
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Bailey Nicole Flamm

B.S. IN CHEMISTRY
"Synthesis of Cross-conjugated Dibenzochrysenes-based Photosensitizers for Dye-sensitized Solar Cells"
Directed by Jared Delcamp

Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 pm
Coulter Hall Room 288

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Georgia Norfleet

B.B.A. IN MARKETING
"Surfaces in a Digital Age: Marketing Strategies for Software Startup Company Myra Mirrors"
Directed by Owens Alexander

Thursday, April 20 at 2:30 pm
Holman Hall Room 230

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Elson Stewart
Dani Thomas
Sarah Thomason
Scout Treadwell
Sara Valentine
Dugan Walker
Shelton Wittenberg



San Fermin's 'Belong' reflects on love, brokenness

JAKE THRASHER
jakethrasher@gmail.com

"Belong" is the third album from indie-rock band San Fermin. Classically trained composer and songwriter Ellis Ludwig-Leone heads the band with vocals by Allen Tate and Charlene Kaye. The group produces an eclectic mixture of different styles, genres and sounds.

Ludwig-Leone's musical mastery successfully combines classical elements with folk and indie ones while also flirting with pop undertones. San Fermin's previous album, "Jackrabbit," functioned as a narrative album, but "Belong" is a more self-reflected; each track holds an individual meaning.

The album's introductory track is "Open," which features a cacophony of orchestral compositions accompanied by Charlene's haunting vocals. This track not only serves as an opening for the album, but also sets the stage for its the self-reflective nature by inviting the listener to "open your mind/ let me in."

The album builds up intensity with heavy percus-

sion songs "Bride" and "Oceanica," which both explore thoughts of mental dissociation and imperfection.

The focus on reflection shifts with the song "Better Company," where Allen looks at his social circle and how his appearance and social interactions may be inadequate. This song also changes a bit in style, with a softer and less intense instrumental aspect, so the listener can hear Allen clearly.

San Fermin slows things down for a second with the smooth track "Bones." This is the track that makes you want to grab someone special and slow-dance. Allen's powerful vocals fuse with Charlene's to navigate the dangers and risks of falling in love. This soulful calmness leaves as quickly as it came, though, as the album returns to its fast-paced, percussion-based tempo.

The album jumps into the euphoric brass-heavy song "Dead," which features Charlene's strongest performance of the album. The song shows a disgust at romantic things such as roses. Charlene "would rather be dead" than fall prey to meaningless romance.



COURTESY: NPR

The next track, "Perfume," expands on this idea and shows a regret for once trying to lure in that kind of romance. These two songs highlight independence.

The album wraps up with songs centered around Allen's voice and closes with the song "Happiness Will Ruin This Place." This song is heavily folk-inspired with a strong acoustic guitar sound. The beginning of the

song softens as Allen has fallen in love. He recognizes that it will eventually fade, but he cannot help but to fall for it.

By the end of the song, he and his lover recognize that their love, just like everything else in this bitter world, will go extinct. Allen admits that by falling in love, he had "lost his way." He fell in love, was softened and now is broken.

But the question stands: Is

he more broken than he was before, or has this faded love exposed a brokenness he's had all along?

Although "Belong" is thematically different than San Fermin's previous albums, this work has all of the mastery expected from this musical powerhouse and enhances what's expected with subtle experimental sounds and styles.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Joseph Peyton Vaughan

B.A. IN BIOCHEMISTRY

"Cytotoxicity Assay of Self-Assembling Protein-Based Biomaterials"

Directed by Susan Pedigo

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SMBHC Room 202

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LIFESTYLES

Documentary shows immigrants through new lens

RACHEL LAMBERT
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

The Nashville Film Festival will screen "Little Kurdistan" next weekend, a documentary short by Oxford's Ava Lowrey that highlights the Kurdish immigrants' food and culture in Nashville.

Lowrey, a filmmaker who works for the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, said it's easy to find common ground with her subjects through food.

"The nice thing about food is that it connects us all," Lowrey said. "Everyone likes food, and everyone has to eat, as one of the women in the film said. So, it's the easiest way to connect people from different cultures. The big thing with this film was hoping that people from Nashville or people passing through will actually check out the market and the restaurant and interact with this community more."

Lowrey said many Nashville natives and visitors are unaware of the Kurdish community in the city. "Little Kurdistan" puts the immigrants' humanity and normalcy on display.

"The good thing about the film is it not only puts a human face to the issue, it also shows that these people are adding to the local culture and to society," she said. "These people

have skills. Obviously, in this film, food is featured, but there is also a member of the Kurdish community who is a police officer in Nashville, and there are Kurdish elected officials. I hope that the film does change the minds of people who have a negative view of refugees or immigrants."

Nashville has the highest concentration of Kurdish immigrants in the United States. Lowrey said she thinks this may have something to do with its geographic similarities to Kurdistan, like its mountains and mild weather, but the city is a good fit in more ways than one.

"Nashville is a super welcoming city, not just the local government but also just the people," Lowrey said. "It's a city of newcomers; people with a dream go to Nashville to make it in country music. These people came there to make it as valued members of an American town, and they are pursuing their own version of the American dream."

The film is available to watch on the Southern Foodways Alliance website. Lowrey used Vimeo to upload the video and has seen noticed its broad reach.

"We had people in the Middle East, the U.K. and other areas like Canada that have large Kurdish populations watching," Lowrey said. "Seeing those places light up on the map was really exciting."

The film premiered the summer of 2016 and has been featured in the Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington, North Carolina, and also at the Oxford Film Festival. Melanie Addington, executive director for the Oxford Film Festival, said Lowrey's film was selected out of nearly 1,000 entries.

"Ava Lowrey is a fantastic filmmaker, and another of her short films, 'Otha Turner,' won best Mississippi film this year," Addington said. "We are glad to have filmmakers like her in the community."

The Nashville Film Festival is the third festival to feature "Lit-



COURTESY: SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

tle Kurdistan." The festival is competitive, and the film is up for awards.

"Obviously, I hope we catch the judges' attention," Lowrey said. "There are ton of films; we are in good company. But really it's just exciting to have this film about Kurdish refugees and im-

migrants in Nashville featured in a Nashville-specific festival and highlighted as a really important and vital part of the Nashville community."

This article was submitted to The Daily Mississippian from an advanced reporting class.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Ashley Elizabeth Williams

B.S. IN CHEMISTRY

"Spectroscopic and Computational Studies of the Hydrogen Bonded Interactions of Hydroxyethyl Ethers"

Directed by Nathan Hammer

Thursday, April 20 at 2:30 pm
Coulter Hall Room 211

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Elena Bauer

B.B.A. IN MANAGEMENT

"An Evaluation of the Sociological and Economic Factors Impacting a Workforce Development Program in an Impoverished Community"

Directed by Albert Nylander

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Insight Park

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COLUMN

Examining the 2017 NBA MVP candidates' cases

QUE'TAURUS CERTION
thedmsports@gmail.com

The NBA'S Most Valuable Player title is traditionally awarded to the league's best performing player throughout the season.

While fans have been fortunate to witness incredible performances this NBA season – Stephen Curry becoming the first ever player to record back to back seasons with more than 300 3-pointers, “Greek freak” Giannis Antetokounmpo bringing excitement – and, more importantly, wins – back to Milwaukee, “silent assassin” Kawhi Leonard giving his all and then some to the Spurs or “the little man with the most heart,” Isaiah Thomas, leading the Celtics to the top of the Eastern Conference – these accolades are on the outside looking in to this year's MVP debate.

By now, every basketball fan has heard someone ask, “Russell Westbrook or James Harden?” This question was impossible to answer for most of the year, as both posted two spectacular seasons and set the league on fire.

League players are terrified to guard James Harden; he can devastate a team in so many facets of the game. Defenders are left with the options of guarding his killer jump shot, his trademark sidestepping drives or his incredible court vision as he dishes assist after assist.

Harden's incredible performance this season has led him to average 29.1 points per game, 11.2 assists and 8.1 rebounds per game, but, more importantly, it led the Rockets to improve from a 41-41 record the previous year to an unforeseen 55-27 record this year and finishing third in the powerhouse Western Conference.

While Harden's season has

been one of the most impressive statistically, he should not receive the MVP award. Why?

Russell Westbrook is the real MVP. From the very beginning of this season, spectators knew they were in for a treat from Westbrook.

Even after losing Kevin Durant to the star-studded Golden State Warriors, the same team that beat the former duo in the Western Conference finals the previous year, Westbrook's love for Oklahoma City remained.

How would Westbrook – a player doubted by countless sports analysts, a man whose friend walked out on the Thunder, a teammate stuck on a weak roster – respond?

By leaving the league in utter chaos as the world witnessed one of this sport's greatest-ever spectacles. Westbrook's incredible regular season led the Thunder, a thoroughly average team, into the playoffs. He astonished fans with record-breaking performances that broke Oscar Robertson's once thought to be untouchable record for most triple-doubles in a season with 42.



COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA.COM

Westbrook also became only the second player ever to average a triple-double over the season. He led the league in points per game with 31.6, finished third in assists per game with 10.4 and finished 11th in rebounds per game with 10.7.

These feats were accomplished in, on average, two minutes less per game (34.6) than MVP rival James Harden (36.4).

Some argue that the MVP must demonstrate an ability to win games for his team, and no player in the league carried his

team quite like Westbrook.

The Oklahoma City Thunder finished 47-35, just eight fewer wins than Harden's Rockets, and still climbed to sixth in the Western Conference. That record could have been exponentially worse had Westbrook's season been anything but extraordinary.

The league's MVP title is intended for the best-performing player over the course of a season, and, frankly, no one can hold a candle to Westbrook's performance. Take a bow.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Vaccine amts.
 - 4 Some T-shirts
 - 8 Burn up the road
 - 12 Give a high-five
 - 13 Nose stimulus
 - 14 Chilling
 - 16 “Tomb Raider” heroine
 - 17 Cheerful tone
 - 18 Lady outlaw Belle —
 - 19 Sierra Madre gold
 - 20 Assist (3 wds.)
 - 22 Mezzanine
 - 24 Hitch in plans
 - 25 Make haste
 - 26 Household members
 - 28 Square root of IX
 - 31 Bean or Welles
 - 34 Mrs. Lennon
 - 35 Dollywood loc.
 - 36 Prospector's tool
 - 37 Garden bulb
 - 38 Part of NBA
 - 39 Lot size, often
 - 40 Shah's kingdom
 - 41 Oven gloves
 - 42 Gehrig or Rawls
 - 43 Noncoms
 - 44 Thug's piece

- 45 Complimentary
 - 47 Move like a moccasin
 - 51 Yegg
 - 55 Tina Turner's ex
 - 56 Express a view
 - 57 One-time Mets' stadium
 - 58 Roman poet
 - 59 Risk a ticket
 - 60 Overflow with
 - 61 Female lobsters
 - 62 Bring to bay
 - 63 Diploma word
 - 64 Chow mein additive
- DOWN**
- 1 “It Girl” — Bow
 - 2 Wassailers' tune
 - 3 Health resort
 - 4 Illinois city
 - 5 Uplift
 - 6 Numbskull
 - 7 Baja Ms.
 - 8 Pine exudations
 - 9 Insurance giant
 - 10 Most rugged
 - 11 Aer Lingus base
 - 12 Messy person
 - 15 Bungle
 - 20 Kind of cloth
 - 21 Lens setting
 - 23 Throttle
 - 26 Rum mixers

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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- 27 Similar
- 29 Technical sch.
- 30 Motels of yore
- 31 Outback gem
- 32 Puerto —
- 33 More shabby
- 34 Round dwelling
- 35 Sully
- 37 Kind of lily
- 41 California's — Woods
- 43 Break away
- 44 Shimmers
- 46 “Walk Away —”
- 47 Trapshooting
- 48 Honey producers
- 49 Scraping by
- 50 Lipstick shades
- 51 Soap pad brand
- 52 Client mtg.
- 53 Whodunit terror
- 54 Sonny's ex
- 58 Unit of resistance

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Kathryn Elsa James

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7	9	1	8	3	2	5	4	6
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5	4	8	1	9	6	7	3	2
8	3	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
6	5	7	9	1	3	4	2	8
4	1	2	7	8	9	3	5	6

COLUMN

Who took all the excitement out of sports?

GRAYSON WEIR

thedmsports@gmail.com

Ever since I can remember, I have been in a love affair with sports.

Sports used to be an out, an oasis and an escape from the hustle of everyday life. The puck would drop, the first pitch would cross the plate, the coin would be flipped – the world would stop. Families would put everything aside, huddle around the radio, circle around the television and root for their squad. Sports used to be fun.

But sports aren't what they used to be. Sports aren't fun anymore.

I grew up on ESPN, just like any prepubescent child whose life revolved around bats, balls and pucks. I could lie on my couch and watch SportsCenter for hours on end. The same highlights, in the same order, all day. John Buccigross, Jenn Brown, Karl Ravech, John Clayton, (a young) Chris Berman and, of course, the late legend Stuart Scott were how I got through my day and how I kept up with every game. They were my best friends.

Recapping the day's highlights, the broadcast was full of catchphrases, celebrations and exhilaration. Kenny Mayne's "I don't know what that pitch was, but it tastes like chicken," Boomer's "back, back, back, GONE," and Stuart's "Boo-yah," created a conversational, comfortable element. Sports were relatable, reliable and riveting.

Turn on ESPN today. Highlights have become analysis, and what used to be a small dose of analysis has become an excess of politics and speculation.

This year's tense political season, along with Colin Kaepernick's episode (I know, sorry for bringing him up), brought a massive bludgeon down on ESPN. Following a record loss of 621,000 cable subscribers in October, the company turned around and lost an

additional 555,000 in November, as well as losing its primetime cable crown. Brutal. And in March, the proclaimed "Worldwide Leader in Sports" announced it was going to cut nearly \$100 million of on-air talent. Even more brutal.

The numbers speak for themselves, but it's not all ESPN's fault; competitors like Fox Sports 1 are picking up their coverage, and sports have just lost some of their chutzpah.

We '90s kids had it made. We had Ochocinco and Terrell Owens, the bad boys down at "The U," bench-clearing hockey brawls, Kobe dropping 81 and the juice days of baseball pinnacled by Barry Bonds slapping his 756th dinger. Sports were fun.

Today, celebrations are hit with penalties, brawls are hit with fines and suspensions, "bad boys" are chastised and PEDs are, well, PEDs.

In an interview on SiriusXM NFL Radio last week, Scott Green, the head of the NFL Referees Association, said even officials don't enjoy throwing flags for excessive celebration after big plays, adding that the league is putting the referees in a tough position.

Thank you, Mr. Green. Fight the power.

That being said, there's a limit, and I understand that. Should I be able to score on a deep toss down the sideline and proceed to mimic a mooning of the fans in the back of the end zone? Sorry, Randy Moss, probably not. But through the 14 regular-season weeks of the 2016 NFL season, there were 18 excessive celebration penalties. Eighteen.

C'mon, man!

This de-fun-ifying of sports extends beyond the NFL, and even beyond professional sports entirely. Let's take a jump down to the lowest level of competition: the youth.

According to a poll from the National Alliance for Youth Sports from this time last year, around 70 percent



FILE PHOTO

of kids in the United States stop playing organized sports by the age of 13 because "It's just not fun anymore."

Let's imagine Target found out that shoppers were leaving stores and swearing to never return. Of course, it's not quite the same, but that situation wouldn't be allowed to continue. The next day, Target executives would be working through the problem of customer alienation and how to fix it. Why aren't we taking the same approach toward the decline in youth sport participation? Instead, we're increasing the cost of participation, focusing on too many specifics within athletics programs and placing too much weight on the result of a fourth grade pitcher's little league outing.

"What we're seeing is the 'professionalization' of youth sports," Daniel Gould, director of the Institute for the Study of Youth Sports at Michigan State University, said.

What kid wants to play in a professional-esque atmo-

sphere? What kid wants to play under all that pressure? I sure don't, but that's a separate column entirely.

At the end of the day, sports aren't what they used to be. Once upon a time, sports were played on the field. Spectators either showed up to watch, or they didn't.

That was before sports became a business. That was

before sports became money-centric. That was before sports became politics.

The whistle would blow, the final out would be called, the clock would expire and everyone went home. That was sports. They were wild, passionate and fun.

Sports aren't what they used to be. Sports just aren't fun anymore.

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Rebels slug their way to a 14-6 win over UAPB

BRETT ORSAY

thedmsports@gmail.com

The Rebels bat themselves to a commanding 14-6 win over the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, improving their overall record to 23-14.

The game didn't start out the way the Rebels wanted it to, giving up a home run in the top half of the first to Aderly Perez to make the score 0-1. However, the Rebels quickly bounced back, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first to take the lead.

After the Rebels went ahead in the first, they didn't look back. The Rebels scored six runs in the bottom of the second inning, starting with a leadoff home run from left fielder DJ Miller.

The home team did the rest of the damage in the second inning with two outs against them. RBIs in the bottom half of the in-

ning came from Miller, Tim Rowe and Nick Fortes. Ryan Olenek knocked in Grae Kessinger with two outs, but the run was unearned due to a fielding error by the third baseman.

Greer Holston gave up three runs in the top of the third inning, but he regained his composure and threw two clean frames in the fourth and fifth innings. Following the fifth inning, Houston Roth replaced Holston and put up two no-hit innings in his time on the mound.

The game was stagnant from the third inning to the sixth inning when Bortles' RBI single and Olenek's two RBI double put the Rebs up by seven runs, making the score 11-4.

Coach Mike Bianco took advantage of the big lead by giving some bench players chances to perform.

"We talked about it in pregame," coach Bianco said. "When you get your opportunities, make the most of it. It was certainly nice to



PHOTO BY TAYLAR TEEL

DJ Miller prepares to hit Wednesday night against Arkansas Pine Bluff.

see DJ come off the bench and get a big homer and really give us the lead."

Bryce Blaum, Michael Fitzsimmons, Bryan Seamster and Kyle Watson also came off the bench to collect hits in the rout against Ole Miss Wednesday night. Other changes to the lineup included Nick Fortes switching to first base and DJ Miller playing left field.

The Rebels initially had to adjust to the pitching of UAPB, coming off a three-game series against SEC foe LSU. The pitching was much slower than what the Rebs have been accustomed to.

"The speed difference was a little different, and to make that adjustment was big for our offense, and it shows the maturity we have and what we are capable of doing," Tate Blackman said.

"We just got to keep being patient and taking advantage."

Ole Miss looks to take the momentum from this win over UAPB into the three-game series against the Missouri Tigers at home this weekend. Ole Miss is second to last in the SEC West, but with a series win this weekend, it could move up a few spots in the rankings.

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