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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDMonline.com @thedm_news

lifestyles

The 2016 Oxford Conference for the Book



Page 5

sports

Basketball power poll



Page 6

sports

Time to close the book of Manning



Page 8

Students petition for sex education

ISABELLA CARUSO
igcaruso@go.olemiss.edu

Two students are advocating for more comprehensive sex education in Mississippi.

Public policy leadership majors Cody Austin and Sara Porcheddu have been members of the Mississippi Youth Council since August. They are traveling to the State Capitol in Jackson on Thursday to speak with state legislators and lobby for a bill that would authorize and direct local school boards to implement “personal responsibility” education into middle and high school curriculum. The Personal Responsibility Education Program is a federal effort to reduce teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases through education.

The Mississippi Youth Council, organized and funded by Mississippi First, is supporting a sex education bill through their petition encouraging reform in the state’s sex education policies.

The Mississippi Youth Council’s petition calls for legislation

SEE EDUCATION PAGE 3

Cycling club advocates for safety & awareness



MORGAN WALKER
mlwalke4@go.olemiss.edu

Since it’s recent implementation in 2015, the Ole Miss Cycling club has grown exponentially, and with that growth comes a need for a more bike-friendly environment on campus.

In November 2015, the University was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists with a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Award. According to Ole Miss Cycling Team Advisor Peter Reed, the cycling team has been working closely with the Oxford bike community to advocate for improved bicycle infrastructure and safety both on and off campus.

“The more the University routes traffic more carefully through campus, the safer and easier it gets for bikes — the gates go up and pedestrian areas go up,” Reed said. “It’s increasingly getting better in a lot of ways and the University deserves a big thumbs up on that, but they should also continue to improve as well.”

The University has shown

support of the bike community by adding bike lanes and supporting and maintaining the Ole Miss Bike Shop, Reed said. However, he said he would like to see more of an emphasis placed on sustaining a clean space free of debris, rocks and potholes for bikers to safely ride.

“On one hand, we all just want to share our love for bikes, but on the other, we’d like a community and town with infrastructure that makes it easier and safer to love bikes, and that is the challenge,” Reed said.

With roughly 20 members, the Ole Miss Cycling Team is the first collegiate cycling team in the state of Mississippi, Everett Gooch, cycling team president and senior general studies major, said.

“I really would like to see us become greater advocates for the bike community on campus,” Gooch said.

Gooch said he would like to see small improvements on campus for the bike community including the addition of more bike racks throughout campus and a bike lane in front of the Union.

“The whole cycling industry is booming right now, and it’s starting to trickle into Mississippi,” Gooch said. “But we are really doing a good job for the

size school that we are when you consider how many people actually ride.”

Instead of focusing on the areas of improvement, however, Gooch said he believes they should focus on the unique opportunities the University offers to cyclists.

“What we’d like to do is to continue to promote things we currently have on campus, like the South Campus Rail Trails that run off of the mountain trails are fantastic,” Gooch said. “There is no other school that has any type of mountain biking trails on campus.”

Gooch said the cycling team originally began in 2011, but was re-chartered in 2015. The team aspires to grow from 20 members to eventually reaching a ‘sweet spot’ of at least 30 active members.

“Really, our main goal is to establish ourselves as a sustainable club, once we get that sustainability and start getting funding, then we can start moving onto competitions and ultimately recruiting good riders,” Gooch said.

The cycling team competes in both road and mountain biking races, and travels to approximately six races across the Southeast during racing season. For a small and new-

SEE CYCLING PAGE 3

PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Everett Gooch, Ole Miss cycling club president bikes in the Circle.

Equestrian team seeks funding for new facility in Oxford

DAWN BODDIE
dboddie@go.olemiss.edu

Colleen Stimola grew up surrounded by horses. Following in the footsteps of her sister, she started riding at 5 and last year, the sophomore general studies major brought her passion to the University through the Ole Miss Equestrian team.

Stimola now captains the team. Though the paperwork associated with starting a campus club intimidated her, she said she knew she wasn’t the only person interested in being a part of such a group.

“During my freshmen year, I really started to miss riding,” Stimola said. “So when I searched

for an equestrian team here on campus and saw that we didn’t have one, my parents encouraged me to start something.”

Stimola posted flyers around campus to attract attention, and, within the first week, 31 women signed up. At that point, Stimola said she knew her plan would work.

Then, in the fall of 2015, the team sought out a coach and practice area. The team currently travels to Memphis once a week for lessons to practice at Hunters Edge Stables, where they meet with coach Beanie Cone.

Though the team is currently all-female, they are actively seeking male and female members.

Freshmen exercise science major Nora Heidel explains how difficult it is to find time to make this trip every week. Members can compete at a variety of skill levels.

“It’s an hour drive down, then we stay and practice for two hours, and drive an hour back,” Heidel said. “It’s hard to find four hours during the week to do this.”

The team is working toward building a facility in Oxford. Their ideal facility would cost \$1.5-2 million, according to Stimola and Cone. They’re seeking donors and the help from the school to provide the funds to make it possible.

SEE EQUESTRIAN PAGE 3



A student tightens her stirrup before performing.

COURTESY: OLE MISS EQUESTRIAN TEAM

**THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN
EDITORIAL STAFF:**

LOGAN KIRKLAND
editor-in-chief
dmeditor@gmail.com

CLARA TURNAGE
managing editor
dmmanaging@gmail.com

TORI WILSON
copy chief
thedmcopy@gmail.com

**DREW JANSEN
LANA FERGUSON**
news editors
thedmnews@gmail.com

LIZZIE MCINTOSH
assistant news editor

COLLIN BRISTER
sports editor
thedmsports@gmail.com

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
assistant sports editor
thedmsports@gmail.com

**ZOE MCDONALD
MCKENNA WIERMAN**
lifestyles editors
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

HOLLY BAER
opinion editor
thedmopinion@gmail.com

**ARIEL COBBERT
CAMERON BROOKS**
photography editors
thedmphotos@gmail.com

CAROLINE CALLAWAY
design editor

ASHLEY GAMBLE
online editor

**JAKE THRASHER
CARA KEYSER**
illustrators

ADVERTISING STAFF:

EVAN MILLER
advertising sales manager
dmads@olemiss.edu

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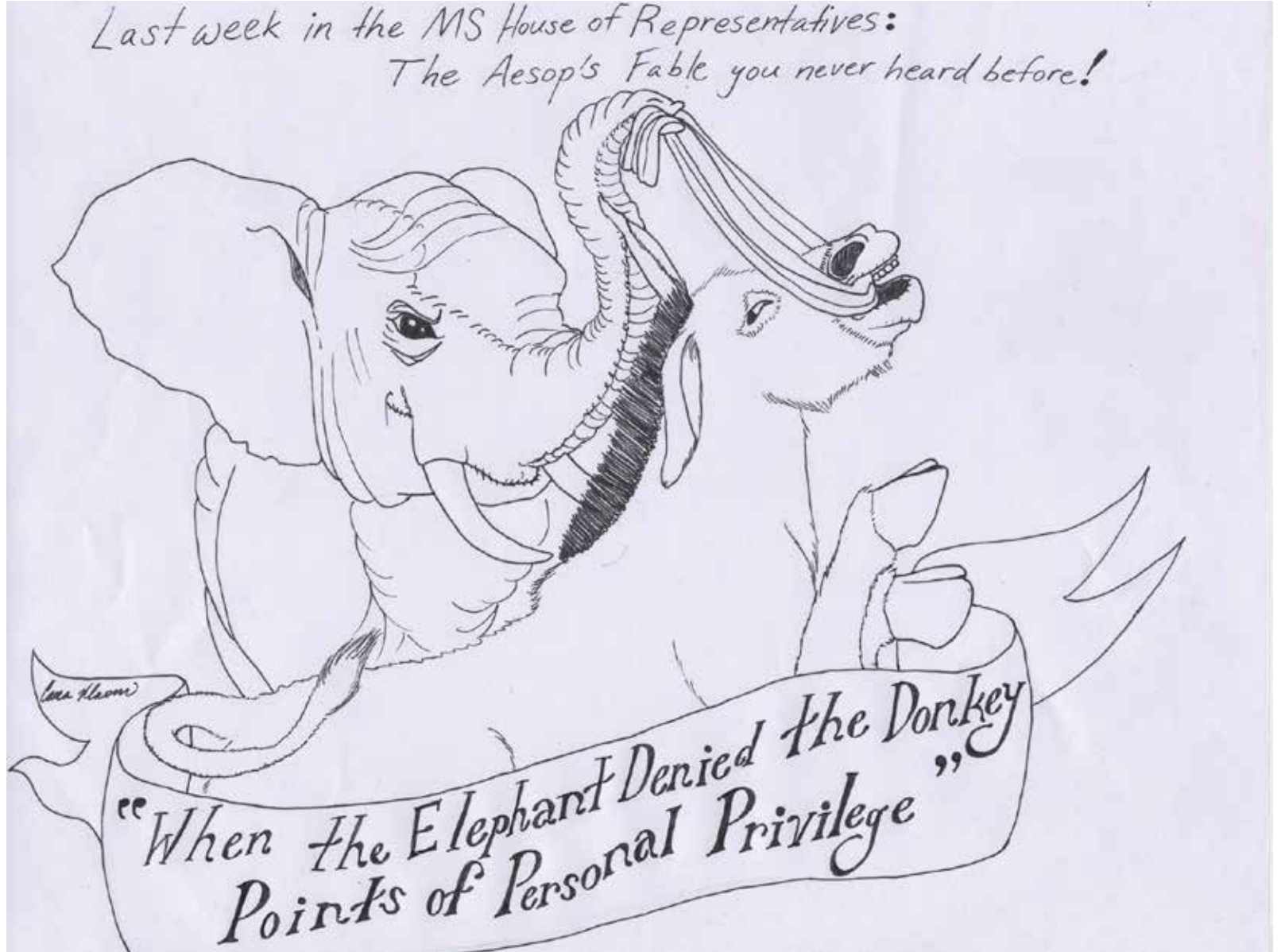


ILLUSTRATION BY: CARA KEYSER

COLUMN

Confederate heritage month in context

DALTON CAPPS
RDCapps@go.olemiss.edu

I have seen a lot of very angry posts lately on social media about Gov. Phil Bryant signing a proclamation naming April as Confederate Heritage Month. Granted, I am not a supporter of Bryant and I do find this timing rather distasteful, but I find the disdain for this designation unnecessary.

I am not going to defend the fact that the American Civil War was not about slavery. I am not going to make the claim institutions are trying to rewrite history. I am not going to purposefully distract from the continuing injustices occurring to minority groups in this state and throughout this country.

The first point I would like to make deals with the actual wording of the proclamation.

There is nothing inherently wrong with what Gov. Bryant said. While it is true he did not mention slavery, he did not really mention anything substantial at all. He does not defend or repudiate any ideas about the Confederacy or the war.

As the proclamation states, Mississippi will, “reflect upon our nation’s past, to gain insight from our mistakes and successes, and to come to a full understanding that the lessons learned yesterday and today will carry us through tomorrow if we carefully and earnestly strive to understand and appreciate our heritage and our opportunities which lie before us.”

This is the meatiest statement in the entire document. What is wrong with learning about our past? We do it every day in our history classes. Maybe this month will be a chance to educate young Mississippians

about slavery. Maybe it will be a chance to educate young Mississippians about the wider effects of the war on populations all over the country. I know the chances are slim, but I can hope.

The second point I’d like to make pertains to what Confederate heritage is. Many people will say Confederate heritage is about oppression, treason and degenerate morals, but it is not so simple. Confederate heritage is American heritage. The ideals our Founding Fathers ascribed to—including personal rights, freedom against tyranny and justice—are the same ideals for which the Confederacy fought during the Civil War.

Yes, I realize these ideals were related to slavery, but so were those of our Founding Fathers. Do we demonize them the way we do the Confederacy? No. The only difference is they won the American Revolution. There is

nothing more American than why the South separated from the Union.

It is a representation of the American ideal, no matter how unfortunate it may be.

Confederate heritage is also not just a white heritage. Entire Native American battalions fought in the Confederacy. Not only this, but in New Orleans free blacks formed the First Louisiana Native Guard, the first regiment in either army to have African-American officers. They were not pressed into service, but formed it of their own volition after their states seceded. Confederate Heritage Month gives us a chance to learn about these groups and others like them.

Dalton Capps is a senior history major from Coldwater.

THE DAILY
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S. Gale Denley Student
Media Center
201 Bishop Hall,
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS
38677-1848

Main Number:
662.915.5503
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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.



**MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION**

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

EDUCATION

continued from page 1

focused on evidence-based, medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education in Mississippi public schools. The petition began circulating in January 2016 and has gained 468 signatures.

“Mississippi Youth Council just works on sex education policies we believe are important,” Austin said. “We’re not Republican/Democrat or conservative/progressive because we think both conservatives and progressives can agree on access to evidence-based, medically-accurate and age-appropriate sex education.”

The bill would require public schools to enroll students in a sex education course once in middle school and once in high school, designating separate curriculums for each level.

This type of education teaches decision-making skills, accurate information on condoms and contraceptives and the benefits of delaying sexual activity, according to the council’s petition, while also focusing on information about dating violence and healthy relationships.

Mississippi has one of the highest sexually transmitted infection and teen pregnancy rates in the United States, according to statistics on the Mississippi First website.

“I don’t think a lot of people know these things, and if they have exposure to this information, then I think it will stick,” Austin said. “If the information is taught well, I think it will certainly help our current situation.”

The current state law on sex education requires that schools adopt education programs that are either “abstinence-only” or “abstinence-plus.”

These programs must be

taught to students before high school graduation.

The difference between abstinence-only and abstinence-plus is the material discussed and presented. For both courses, discussions of abortion and physical contraceptive demonstrations are forbidden. However, in the abstinence-plus program, verbal demonstration of contraceptives is allowed. Abstinence-only programs strictly discuss the benefits of practicing abstinence and the effects of sexually transmitted diseases.

The new bill, SB 2413, will get rid of “abstinence-only” and “abstinence-plus” labeled programs and only require schools to adopt “personal responsibility” education programs.

Porcheddu said she hopes to remove the social stigma around sex by supporting this bill.

“They’ll do things like chew a piece of gum and say ‘This gum is already chewed, would you want to chew it?’” Porcheddu said. “It’s negative in a way that it’s shaming for people, especially the students that are sitting there that may have already had sex, it can be really damaging for kids that are still developing.”

Freshman hospitality management major Camille Griffin never received sex education at her public middle or high school in Madison.

Griffin said she and her peers could have benefited from the information taught in a sex education course, including proper condom application demonstrations.

“I think if you’re in a place that has a high statistic for STIs or pregnancies such as Mississippi, then you should have the physical demonstrations as a requirement, no matter how awkward,” Griffin said.

Griffin also said talking about the possible consequences of having sex should be a main topic of discussion within any sexual education course.



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Pete Dawkins, a member of the Ole Miss cycling club, does bikes tricks in the Circle.

CYCLING

continued from page 1

ly established team, they have placed extremely well in Collegiate USA Cycling, Gooch said.

At every race so far, the cycling team has managed to achieve a podium finish, receiving either first, second or third place.

Another goal of the cycling team is to create a lasting legacy for the club and to establish sustainability for the years to come, Gooch said.

“Compared to the previous attempt to start the club, we actually have younger members,” Gooch said. “But, we actually have some freshmen

now and those people are motivated and excited about it and they’re more than likely going to carry the club on.”

Junior mechanical engineering major Taylor Campbell said the cycling team has offered him a unique opportunity for self improvement, as well as camaraderie among the team.

“I like cycling because it’s competitive in a unique way. Not only do you compete against others, but you are in competition with yourself as you try to break your personal records,” Campbell said. “Whether you are a novice or an expert, you can always go out and have a good time with the team.”

EQUESTRIAN

continued from page 1

With their own facility, they would be able to train properly on a daily basis. Stimola and Cone said these things would help them take the club to the next level.

The two said the school could collect revenue by renting stalls to students each semester, so that some riders could bring their personal horses to school and compete with them.

The equestrian team currently competes in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. The association schedules all of their shows. The team placed fifth at recent shows at Georgia College and Auburn University.

Junior public policy leadership major Cheney Thomasson describes how the recent accomplishments only further prove their need for a practice area.

“With how successful we’ve been doing during our past shows, it’s a true testament to what the potential of the team is,” Thomasson said.

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LOGAN KIRKLAND
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“Khalifa” is more than just an album: it’s an experience.

Wiz Khalifa made a quiet yet infectious statement in releasing his most recent album, “Khalifa.” Yes, Wiz refers to drug use throughout the album’s entirety. Shocker, I know— but this album is more than just the lyrics.

You can actually feel his music throughout “Khalifa.” Wiz’s love for THC proves to be a strong thread that carries the audience through incredible production and harmonization that is drug-like, inviting all of his listeners to join him for a smoke session filled with hard-hitting but soft synths and vocals.

Wiz has never been a lyricist, but, then, that’s not what he is aiming for. His voice as a performer and writer is unique, even

if what he says can be minimalistic. Wiz reaches out to his audience, encouraging them to live a life that is built on success while remembering to stay true to who it is yourself, a theme boasted on the second track of this album, “Celebrate.”

If you’re looking for a club banger, “Khalifa” isn’t the album for you— but if you’re looking for an album you can listen to on repeat, then “Khalifa” is your champion.

Each song has its own unique sound, but when placed together in sequence, the product puts you in a trance, making life as weightless as smoke.

The album only features three major artists: Travis Scott, Ty Dolla \$ign and Juicy J. The rest of the features come from artists that are not as well known, but that’s what this album needed. “Khalifa” isn’t an attempt to be flashy or a claim to be the best album ever made.

It’s just Wiz being Wiz.

“Khalifa” appears to be the sister album to “Blacc Hollywood,” which Wiz released in 2013. It is much more delicate, floating through the minds of listeners. Critics claim this album wasn’t a success for Wiz, but I disagree.

I think Wiz found his niche. He isn’t trying to win over the approval of the mainstream crowd. He is making music that captures his emotions, provoking thoughts of what it means to really experience and live life.

“Khalifa” is worth the listen because of its addictive sound, and it has you asking for more of this Wiz. I promise a late afternoon meditation with “Khalifa” will definitely take the edge off.

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REBEL RADIO

Oxford's literary history, future: Conference for the Book



COURTESY: SITE

ALEX MARTIN

jamarti1@go.olemiss.edu

Established in 1993 by Ann Abadie, the then-associate director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and Richard Howorth, the owner of Square Books, the Oxford Conference for the Book has become an integral part of the thriving literary scene in Oxford. Drawing a literary crowd of both established and up-and-coming writers, poets, novelists, bookmakers, book publishers and readers, the conference focuses on the “whole book,” not just any one particular aspect of the business. In this way, the conference’s multifaceted variety of events is suited for an equally large variety of attendees and interests.

Aside from the opening reception, which serves as a fundraiser for the conference, all events are free and open to the public. The conference is designed so people may come to as many or as few of the events that interest them without obligation to attend every panel or reading in the three-day affair. The different events are scheduled at several different places, such as the Overby Center, the J.D. Williams Library, the Lafayette County Courthouse on the Square, the University Muse-

um and Off Square Books.

There are reoccurring events, such as the opening reception at the Barksdale-Isom House and the special Thacker Mountain Radio Hour, but the focus of the conference is less on tradition and more on bringing exciting, unique literary programming to Oxford year after year. This year marks the conference’s 23rd year in Oxford.

The conference will open 11 a.m. Wednesday morning with a welcome lunch at the Archives and Special Collections section of the J.D. Williams Library and close 5 p.m. Friday with the closing reception and book signing at Off Square Books. In between, a series of incredible, imaginative, unique events will take place, headlined by authors and other literary figures and industry members from around the country.

Curtis Wilkie, with Minion “K.C.” Morrison and Dennis Mitchell, who has just written a new history of Mississippi, will discuss “Exploring Mississippi’s History” Wednesday.

James Thomas, the associate director for publications of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, said after this event, “inevitably [the attendee] will understand where we are, where we live, work and go to school, in a

different context.”

Also on Wednesday, Kiese Laymon, the current John Grisham writer-in-residence, LaKisha Michelle Simmons, an assistant professor of global gender studies at the University of Buffalo, SUNY, and Ted Ownby, the director of the University’s Center for the Study of Southern Culture will discuss “Growing Up in the South” at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics.

The University of Mississippi Museum will host to the exhibit “Of Rivers: Photography by Young Suh” 3:30 Thursday afternoon. Suh’s photographs will be paired with poems by Chiyuma Elliott, Katie Peterson, Derrick Harriell and Jericho Brown, who during the event will read their poems in response to a poem by Langston Hughes entitled “The Negro Speaks of Rivers.” After, there will be time for conversation as well as a few words from the artist, Young Suh.

“Having so many amazing artists assembled in the Museum to read poems and talk about art will be magic,” Chiyuma Elliot said. “It’s a good example of what happens when lots of people across the University think outside the box about creative work.”

Thacker Mountain Radio at Square Books will conclude

Thursday’s events with live literature by feature guest authors Julia Claiborne Johnson and Ariel Lawhon. Friday morning, Vereen Bell, a longtime literature professor at Vanderbilt University, and Joseph Crespino, the Jimmy Carter professor of 20th-century American political history and Southern history since Reconstruction at Emory University, will discuss Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “Go Set a Watchman” at the Lafayette County Courthouse on the Oxford Square in what is sure to be a particularly poignant event given the recent death of the famed author.

“It is a good thing for us to have ‘Go Set a Watchman’ to remind us of how irrational and vicious and demented white racism became in the 1950s and 1960s, and what it felt like to be stranded in the midst of it.”

Crespino, who reviewed “Go Set a Watchman” for the New York Times, will respond to Bell’s paper with a discussion to follow.

Two Pulitzer Prize winners—Sheri Fink, author of “Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital,” and Edward J. Larson, professor of History at Pepperdine University and author of “Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America’s Continuing Debate

over Science and Religion”— will speak on Friday at the Lafayette County Courthouse as part of the Pulitzer Prize Centennial Campfires Initiative.

This initiative seeks to “illuminate the impact of journalism and the humanities on American life today, to imagine their future, and to inspire new generations to consider the values represented by the body of the Pulitzer Prize-winning work,” in commemoration of the prize’s 100 year anniversary.

“I know we are in small-town Mississippi, but this is very much still a literary town,” Thomas said. “This one of the places where people like to come if they are writers—to come to the same town as William Faulkner, Larry Brown, Barry Hannah, and all those guys, Willie Morris, you could go on, and some really wonderful writers that continue that today.”

Oxford is steeped in literary tradition, and that tradition will continue with monumental events such as the Oxford Conference for the Book.

A detailed schedule for the conference, with locations and biographies of all of the speakers included, is available online at www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com.

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SEC Basketball Power Poll

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE RANKS THE 14 BASKETBALL TEAMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE



1. **TEXAS A&M**

Since hitting a stretch where they lost four in a row and five of six, the Aggies have rebounded. Texas A&M has won four in a row and returned to the mid-January form that made them the most dangerous team in the SEC. This team averages just under 18 assists per game, and that is due in large part to the play of Jaylen Jones and Alex Caruso. They're only allowing 67 points per game in this stretch and will be a tough out in the NCAA tournament.



2. **KENTUCKY**

Kentucky fell victim to a game that Vanderbilt had to have over the weekend, losing 74-62 in Nashville. Kentucky has lost two of its last three, but is not really grounds for concern. The Cats are tied at the top of the SEC with Texas A&M at 11-5 with two games left against LSU and Florida. One would assume that winning the SEC regular season is the goal in their immediate future.



3. **VANDERBILT**

Someone must have shown Kevin Stallings what they were saying about him on Twitter this time a week ago, because his team has done a 180-degree turn since. The Commodores went down to Florida and won last week before returning home to beat Kentucky by double digits. This has been a strange year in Nashville, but maybe, just maybe, they are figuring out and turning into a second weekend NCAA tournament team like most thought in November.



4. **SOUTH CAROLINA**

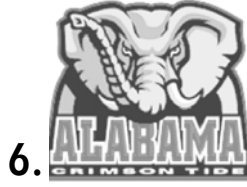
Frank Martin's team lost on the road to a Mississippi State team that is making a habit of ruining people's seasons late in the year. The Gamecocks have 23 wins and are comfortably in the NCAA tournament for now, but many questions still surround this team as far as consistency goes.



5. **FLORIDA**

Florida is sweating it just a bit; they have lost three in a row and are projected as one of the last four teams in the tournament. Michael White has done a tremendous job in his first year, with big shoes to fill in replacing Billy Donovan, but this team is losing at the wrong time. The Gators must have a 2-0 week to feel safe in the tournament as they face Kentucky and Missouri.

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6. **ALABAMA**

Like Florida, Alabama has much work to do. Also like Florida, first-year head coach Avery Johnson has done an outstanding job. The Tide are on the first four out and will need to win out and win a game or two in the SEC tournament to cap off a season that has exceeded expectations.

- ACROSS**
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 - 8 Incite
 - 12 NW state
 - 14 "— Ha!"
 - 15 Comet — -Bopp
 - 16 Kind of pool
 - 17 Meadow browsers
 - 18 Footnote abbr. (2 wds.)
 - 19 Proxies (hyph.)
 - 21 Discourse
 - 23 Opposite of post-
 - 24 Harper Valley org.
 - 25 Travel on powder
 - 26 Fuse unit
 - 30 Put on the late show
 - 32 Cool!
 - 33 Kind of effort (hyph.)
 - 37 Muscle-car dial
 - 38 Planck's "thanks"
 - 39 Ashram figure
 - 40 Character
 - 42 Better quality
 - 43 Polygraph flunkers
 - 44 Household funds
 - 45 Ms. Gardner
 - 48 Kid's ammo
 - 49 Objective
 - 50 Gauzy trap
 - 52 Premature
 - 57 Mme.'s daughter
 - 58 NFL broadcaster
 - 60 Undeliverable mail
 - 61 Fifty-fifty
 - 62 Scare the chickens
 - 63 Persona non —
 - 64 Prepare laundry
 - 65 Half a score
 - 66 Iowa college town
- DOWN**
- 1 Little foxes
 - 2 Fix a manuscript
 - 3 Zilch
 - 4 Larger — life
 - 5 Game marbles
 - 6 Bullring yell
 - 7 Say it wrong
 - 8 Clarified butter
 - 9 Singers Hall and —
 - 10 "Wellaway!"
 - 11 City in India
 - 13 No newbie (2 wds.)
 - 14 Nota —
 - 20 Eur. country
 - 22 Invoice stamp
 - 24 Like a gnat
 - 26 Debate side
 - 27 Signify
 - 28 What allies share
 - 29 Merman or Waters
 - 30 Carries on
 - 31 Unyielding
 - 33 Wildlife refuges
 - 34 Wood-finishing oil
 - 35 Subarctic tribe
 - 36 Offended
 - 38 Dullest
 - 41 Jeer at
 - 42 Hopping mad
 - 44 Took the bait
 - 45 Crowning points
 - 46 Saab competitor
 - 47 More up to it
 - 49 Cato's year
 - 51 Left
 - 52 Hit — (discover)
 - 53 Red giant in Cetus
 - 54 Semester ender
 - 55 Lo-cal
 - 56 Team cheers
 - 59 Seashell seller?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

T	R	E	E	D	D	R	U	B	S	K	I	D
H	A	I	K	U	O	U	R	S	A	N	N	E
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U	S	E	D	T	O	B	E	D	I	C	E	D
C	A	V	E	A	T	M	I	L	D	E	W	S
O	C	E	A	N	M	E	L	E	E	U	M	P
L	I	S	T	P	A	S	T	E	O	R	A	L
D	D	T	F	O	R	A	Y	G	E	S	S	O
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F	A	C	T	S	C	H	U	G	G	I	N	G
E	L	K	E	H	E	I	R	W	A	D	E	R
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L	A	T	H	T	O	E	D	Y	E	A	R	N

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12			13		14		15					
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64				65							66	

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 Puzzles by KrazyDad

HOW TO PLAY
 Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
NOVICE

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

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



7.

LSU

I have no clue how a team with this much talent can be this mediocre. The No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft this summer might (will probably) participate in the NIT. That's almost impressively awful.



8.

GEORGIA

This team beat Ole Miss Saturday, adding one more team to the SEC NIT party. The Bulldogs will also be at that party.



9.

OLE MISS

The Rebels were on NCAA tournament life support, and their hopes for an at-large bid ended in Athens this weekend with a loss to Georgia.



10.

MISSISSIPPI STATE

This team is playing great basketball, and if I'm one of those bubble teams working for an NCAA tournament bid, I'm really not wanting to draw Mississippi State in the SEC tournament. The Bulldogs will beat someone they are not supposed to in the SEC tournament, and Ben Howland is building serious momentum going into next year.



11.

ARKANSAS

The Razorbacks are 15-14 (8-8). That's so average it hurts.



12.

TENNESSEE

The Vols have a chance to put their instate rival back in the ever-so-shaky NCAA tournament bubble as they play Vanderbilt this week. That's at least some motivation to finish strong.



13.

AUBURN

Injuries suck – ask the Tigers. Brighter days are ahead for this program.



14.

MISSOURI

Hang in there. It's almost over. I'm sorry.

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Week of February 28, 2016

COLUMN

Peyton, please hang up the cleats and call it a career

MATT BARNTHOUSE

mbarnth@go.olemiss.edu

There comes a time in every athlete's career that they just don't have "it" anymore. It is more than apparent that Peyton Manning reached that point in the 2015 NFL Season.

For the sake of both Manning and the rest of the NFL, it is time for the five-time Most Valuable Player to retire. His health and play are rapidly declining and his skills are no longer at an NFL level.

The main reason that Manning needs to retire is for the sake of his own health. Last August, Manning told Sports Illustrated's Peter King that he no longer has feeling in his fingertips. That, among a number of other health issues, including a lingering neck injury that forced him to miss the 2011 season, is his body telling him his time has come.

The second and still very important sign that it is time for Manning to go is that he is no longer is capable of playing at an NFL level. Per Pro Football Reference, Manning's 67.9 passer rating in 2015 was tied for the



AP PHOTO: PAUL SANCYA

Peyton Manning looks at the scoreboard during the 2016 Super Bowl.

worst in the NFL with journeyman quarterback Ryan Mallett. Manning didn't even play well in the Super Bowl, accounting for the second-worst passer rating of a Super Bowl winning quarterback since 1999.

Despite missing almost seven games in the regular season, Manning finished second in the

NFL in interceptions with 17, trailing Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles by a mere interception. The list of awful stats goes on and on for Manning.

Peyton Manning has nothing to gain by returning to the NFL for another season. He already has the NFL records for most career touchdowns, most ca-

reer passing yards, most passing touchdowns in a single-season, most passing yards in a single season and most career MVPs among others.

Manning also has the opportunity to end his career with a Super Bowl victory, even if the Broncos won Super Bowl 50 in spite of Manning. The only

thing Manning can do by returning is make fans groan with his now-terrible play. People may have a harder time remembering the greatness that was Peyton Manning. Nobody wants to remember a hobbling Manning throwing lame duck passes to the other team. It isn't fair to either Manning or the fans.

Manning is arguably the greatest quarterback of all time, but even the best are winless against Father Time. Brett Favre learned the hard way in the last of his several comeback attempts, and partially hurt his legacy by being known for both his play and his lack of commitment to retirement. Fans should just want to know Manning by his tremendous play on the field.

It's over, Peyton. Please leave the game while you are remembered as one of the top quarterbacks of all time. Please leave before you get so hurt that you cannot play with your kids. For the sake of your family, and football fans everywhere, please hang up the cleats and call it a career. The Hall of Fame is waiting.

Matt Barnthouse is a junior journalism major from Carmel, Indiana.

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