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MISSISSIPPIAN

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



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Oxford remembers

The Oxford-University community continues to participate in the nationwide conversation on recent shooting deaths. A vigil (left) was held in Lamar Park Saturday morning to pay respect to Philando Castile, Alton Sterling and the police officers killed July 7 in Dallas. Another peaceful protest and vigil is planned for Saturday night on the Square. The University also hosted an open discussion Monday afternoon to reflect on the deaths of Castile and Sterling.

For more information about the upcoming vigil, the discussion session and Ole Miss students' involvement, see [pages 4 and 5](#). Visit theDMonline.com for additional content and photos.

MISSISSIPPI &

THE CAMPAIGN



As the political conventions approach, Daily Mississippian Staff Writer Austin Hille interviews Ole Miss graduates with ties to both presumptive nominees' campaigns as well as the state's Democratic and Republican chairmen for their opinions on Mississippi's role in the presidential election. **SEE PAGES 6 AND 7.**

Hille will report next week from the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. Follow his coverage online at theDMonline.com, and in next Thursday's print DM.



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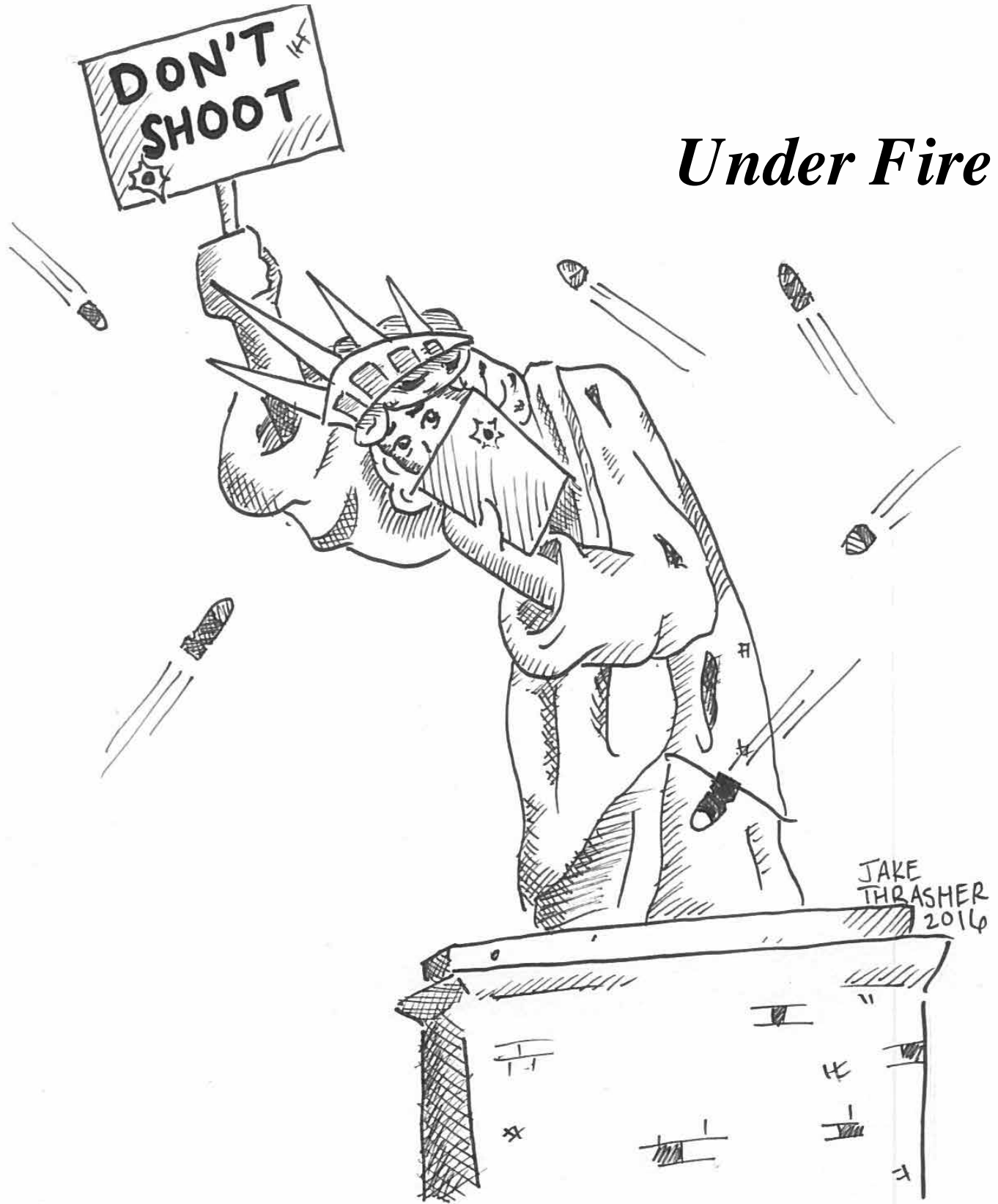
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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS, 38677-1848, or e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

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 Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published.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.



Under Fire

The DM is seeking submissions from University students for the Opinion section.

Interested Ole Miss students should email opinion columns of 400 to 800 words to dmeditor@gmail.com.

The DM editorial staff will select the best submissions to publish in the print edition of the paper each Thursday for the rest of the summer.

CORRECTIONS

In last Thursday's edition, the correct spelling of one of the campers' names at Oak Hill Stables is Mary Francis Mangum.

For the graphic "Military women by the numbers," the correct number of female Marines is 14,100.



MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

University alumna faces challenges of being an artist

TAYLOR JONES
thedmnews@gmail.com

Avery Cordray started painting when she was 6 years old in the studio of her home in Houston, but it wasn't until her freshman year at Ole Miss that she realized her dream career as a painter.

"I've been selling a lot but it comes in waves so I'm starting to see how difficult it's going to be to keep that creativity and keeping a side job that's taking a lot out of me," Cordray said.

Since graduating from the University's Bachelor of Fine Arts program in May, Cordray has launched her career and is beginning to understand the challenges artists face.

"I came here and went pre-med, which is absolutely hilarious, and then I took my first biology class and failed it," Cordray said. "I started taking some art classes because they sounded really subjective. Like, how do you really fail art? Then

I figured out I wanted to be in the (BFA) program cause I was really having fun."

The BFA program is extremely rigorous. In order to enter the program, students first have to go through an interview process to be considered. Additionally, once students are accepted, each semester they undergo staff reviews assessing their artwork and future in the program.

"You have to interview in front of, like, 20 staff members. They ask you a bunch of scary questions. I didn't get in the first time. I cried, tried again the next semester and got in, probably because they felt bad," Cordray said.

However, Cordray said the program really pushed her to let go and fulfill her dream of becoming a painter.

"I think that's how I became an artist, I figured out I really wanted to do this and pretty much just started out this childish dream I've had," Cordray

said. "It definitely encouraged me. I made a lot of connections and friends and learned a lot."

Many of the people in the fine arts program became huge influences in her life and on her artwork. Cordray explained the connection she gained with everyone she worked with in the school's shared studio space.

"Phillip Jackson was the department head of painting and my advisor and my best friend. He's an amazing painter, like, the opposite of what I do," Cordray said. "He was my teacher, advisor and confidant for four years. He was my biggest influence."

Aside from the academic community, Cordray said she gets a lot of influence from colors she sees in the real world.

"I see colors all the time that I take pictures of and I paint shapes. That's it. Nobody else can do it," Cordray said jokingly.

Cordray has participated in Oxford's Makers Market the past two years, an arts festival allowing artists to set up tents around the courthouse on the Square.

Because people don't go out looking for massive tapestry paintings, Cordray feels like she hasn't really targeted her market.

"Oxford is a lot of interior art except for, like, the academic community in Ole Miss. That's where it's more refined and becomes more of a fine art rather than just about filling a house with paintings," Cordray said.

Many of Cordray's paintings are currently hanging in the Powerhouse, and will be for sale during a reception on July 27. Yalobusha Brewing Company has sponsored the event and Will Griffith will be playing.

Cordray explained her doubts as to whether she could make a life-long career out of painting, because as she sees it, no new continents of art can be discovered, allowing an artist to really blow up.

"This generation is a culmination of all generations previous, so it's going to be hard to shock people nowadays, I guess," Cordray said. "I do want inspiration, though. I want to get out of Oxford because it has gotten kind of Punxsutawney, if you will."



Department of Art & Art History, photo by Paul Gandy
PHOTO COURTESY: PAUL GANDY

CRIME BLOTTER

Briefs do not include every incident from the past week; additionally, all suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Reports compiled by Lasherica Thornton.

OPD REPORTS

- 3 ANIMAL COMPLAINTS 1 ATTEMPTED BURGLARY 1 AUTO THEFT
- 5 CARELESS DRIVING 3 CIVIL MATTERS 11 DISTURBANCE
- 6 WELFARE CONCERN 1 DISTURBING THE PEACE 2 FIREWORKS COMPLAINT
- 2 HARASSING PHONE CALL 2 LARCENY 2 MALICIOUS MISCHIEF
- 1 PEEPING TOM 1 UTTERING FORGERY 1 STALKING
- 1 REPORTED GUN SHOTS 4 SIMPLE ASSAULT

ARRESTS

- 2 CARELESS DRIVING 2 DUI'S 3 POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
- 1 POSSESSION OF SCHEDULE 2 NARCOTIC 1 PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS
- 2 PUBLIC INTOXICATION 1 SHOPLIFTING

UPD REPORTS

- 2 BURGLARY 1 INTOXICATED PERSON 2 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

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Students react to Black Lives Matter protests

“I really wanted to bring awareness to what happened. Lately I’ve been exhausted and scared altogether. What happened was uncalled for. I want to keep fighting, and I am. I was depressed after the protest.”

Tinecia Francis, senior

“I think their anger is definitely justified, but slightly misplaced. There is indeed a problem amongst certain officers, but they’re judging the whole by the actions of a few. I also think they’re going about it all wrong. They protest, but there is no definitive goal, no clear goals or desired outcomes. There is also a big lack in unity. The Black Lives Matter protesters do just that, protest, but nothing past that, there has been no action taken.”

Wood Morris, senior

“Black Lives Matter is an important movement. ‘All lives matter’ is the point, but their focus is that black lives are the ones in danger. I also think not every cop is bad. Every side has a yin and yang. I also think it’s possible that national media is reporting everything at their own convenience. I’m not not saying any stories are fake or anything, but the sequence of events is mighty convenient to start a race war and distract people. If not a race war, than a modern civil war, but less bad.”

Aaren Avera, senior

“I think it’s important to show bodies in the streets and show that we’re willing to stand up against militarized police forces that are seeking to escalate hostilities and not create dialogue or protect citizenry. But at the same time, we need to support black-owned businesses, we need to support black workers, and we need to boycott businesses that are undermining the movement.”

Allen Coon, junior

Ole Miss hosts open discussion on the deaths of Sterling and Castile



PHOTOS BY: ARIEL COBBERT

LEFT: Jamie Nelms, who works in the Department of Sociology, expresses her thoughts about the recent killings. RIGHT: Tinecia Francis in tears expresses how tired she is of fighting after experiencing excessive force at a protest in Baton Rouge. Francis was one of several Ole Miss students who attended protests in Baton Rouge over the weekend. The ACLU of Louisiana and Baton Rouge organizations filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday accusing the Baton Rouge Police Department of using excessive force, physically and verbally abusing protesters and making wrongful arrests to disperse demonstrators.

KIARA MANNING
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Students and faculty gathered Monday afternoon to reflect on the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile.

Both men were killed during separate altercations with police officers within 48 hours of each other. The 2-hour discussion in the Student Union allowed participants to speak freely on topics including police brutality and the “Black Lives Matter” versus “All Lives Matter” debate.

The Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement and the UM Counseling Center co-sponsored the event.

Ole Miss student Tinecia Francis said she believes this discussion was needed because she is deeply hurt by the events that have transpired.

“It was not what I expected, but it was a conversation I needed to have. It was helpful for me because I am deeply struggling to deal with what is going on right now,” Francis said. “I haven’t had

time to really heal or deal with all of this since Trayvon Martin. I suffer deeply every time something happens in the black community that is unjustifiable and nothing is done about it.”

The deaths of Castile and Sterling are among many tragic incidents that have happened in the country recently including the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and the shooting of Dallas police officers.

The recent violence has sparked national outrage, prompting protests and marches in various cities across the South, such as Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Memphis and Jackson.

During the conversation, Francis brought up a tweet from UM Chancellor Jeff Vitter where he offered condolences to those who lost their lives in Dallas, but failed to mention anything about Castile and Sterling.

Alice Clark, vice chancellor for University Relations, spoke on Chancellor Vitter’s behalf and said Vitter talks about the loss of everyone and the importance

of higher education in his blog post.

“I honestly feel as if Vitter does not understand what inclusiveness means,” Francis said. “His team told us to go look at his blog, but we should not have to do that because he should not have said it.”

Francis was not the only one who had an opinion about the way Vitter handled the situation. Jamie Nelms, who works in the Department of Sociology, expressed how she felt about his statement.

“It always seems as though it was after-the-fact,” Nelms said. “Nothing was said about Orlando ever from him and he makes an after-the-fact statement on his blog. Why was nothing said about Orlando? Why was nothing said immediately after these two events?”

Emotions were high as people shared their experiences and pondered a solution in light of the recent controversy.

Public policy and African-American studies major Allen Coon discussed his hatred of white supremacy.

“If you are not perpetually enraged you are not there yet,” Coon said. “You

realize your enemy is not racism, it’s white supremacy because that’s killing black and brown bodies every day. This country was built on white denial. This University was built on white denial. It needs to become borderline obsessive. What can I do with my body to destroy white supremacy? I’m not free until everybody’s free.”

Emotions were poured out even more as a tearful Francis tried to explain how broken she felt.

Undergraduate student Grafton Sykes was very involved in the conversation and touched on the “Black Lives Matter” movement and its progress.

“There are protests everywhere from all different views, all different perspectives,” Sykes said. “Change is happening. Just because we’re getting tired doesn’t mean the movement is. We have to keep trying, keep thinking ‘What will make them feel this? What will make them feel our pain?’ and as soon as they feel this, then they’ll act like they were the ones with the ideas.”

Prayer vigil and peaceful protest scheduled for the Square

LYNDY BERRYHILL
thedmnews@gmail.com

In light of recent violence, the Oxford community will gather for a prayer vigil and peaceful protest on the Square on Saturday, July 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in front of City Hall.

The event has been organized by Oxford residents Rachel Johnson and LaToya Faulk, both of whom were inspired to create an event where people could have a positive outlet to express their grief.

Two other vigils concerning the same events were held in the Oxford area last weekend.

On Saturday, the names of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and the Dallas police officers killed at a protest will be read aloud accompanied with a brief biography. It will be followed by a closing prayer from Burns United Methodist Rev. Christopher Diggs.

“When I woke up morning after morning last week to the devastating news of violence and death, I was heart-sick,” Johnson said. “A part of me wanted to throw my hands in the air and say ‘screw this.’”

Faulk said although police brutality and gun violence are not new issues, the recursive problems have just now become part of a national conversation where voices that were once marginalized are rising to the surface.

“We sought a space where people could mourn but also be provoked to action through prayer, community solidarity and art,” Faulk said. “Pain and frustration inspired us to organize this event; yet, I hope we en-

courage participants to direct their pain and frustration toward policy reform, or in ways that foster democratic engagement, and a serious look at the epidemic of gun violence in this country.”

Johnson and Faulk both felt the loss of lives viscerally as the news spread across the nation in the past month.

“In times like these, we need each other, and we need to utilize the talents in our community to encourage and soothe the pain and hopelessness so many of us feel,” Faulk said. “We might be united by pain, but I hope that togetherness, art and prayer provoke us to do right by each other, and to find ways to serve each other in these trying times.”

As of Wednesday, the event on Facebook had been shared multiple times, 313 people were scheduled to attend with nearly 400 more interested.

“As a University town we hope that this becomes not just a place to be encouraged, and find peace and a sense of community, but that it also encourages a meeting of the minds,” Faulk said.

Although the attendees expected to originally attend have multiplied, the intended outcome has not.

“I think that is because the problem of achieving justice, equality, and safety for all Americans sometimes seems insurmountable,” Johnson said. “LaToya and I agreed that doing something, anything, that would bring people together would be helpful, even if it turned out to be a small event. If there is anything that I have learned since we posted the event, it is that there are

lots of people just like us out there who want a space to mourn and connect. There are a lot of people in Oxford and the surrounding areas of Mississippi who want to be part of solving these problems. We aren’t ready to throw our hands in the air and give up.”

In the spirit of keeping a community-themed event, several local figures and artists are scheduled to speak during the vigil. Poets Derrick Harriell and Virginia Henry will perform as well as blues singer Effie Burt.

Hate speech or any form of action intended to provoke violence will be unacceptable. Local law enforcement will be present at the event to remove disruptive individuals.

Johnson said she and Faulk felt like the vigil and protest are examples of a civic duty to fellow community members.

“I think we all have a part to play in making change that can be in the simple act of taking care of each other, especially those who are suffering,” Johnson said. “It can be in the form of listening with an open heart to another person’s experience of the world.”

Johnson said she believes solving problems starts by establishing common ground.

“I hope this event will help folks find that,” Johnson said. “A vigil is a space to reflect and mourn. A demonstration is a way to make a commitment. It’s a chance for the people of Oxford to publicly commit themselves to engaging with these problems and to identify allies to help them see that commitment realized.”

Memphis protesters block traffic on I-40 bridge



PHOTOS BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Memphis protesters dash onto the I-40 Bridge after bypassing police borders. For more photos, visit thedmonline.com

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Q & A

The following is an edited transcript of Staff Reporter Austin Hille's interviews with Ole Miss graduates involved in the campaigns of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Visit theDMonline.com for a more complete transcript and additional interviews.

MARGARET ANN MORGAN

PRESS SECRETARY AT CORRECT THE RECORD, ORGANIZATION FORMED BY HILLARY CLINTON

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
BROADCAST JOURNALISM; PUBLIC
POLICY LEADERSHIP MAJOR
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DM: Tell us about what you do and how you got to where you are now with the Clinton Campaign.

MAM: Correct the Record is a rapid response and strategic resource organization that was created for Hillary Clinton several years ago. I actually started on the digital team back in January when I moved to Washington, D.C. We basically brought people onto our team to help with online attacks. Hillary Clinton, her name, her character, is attacked more than others for a few different reasons: one, she's a woman. Also because she has been in the public sphere her whole life. So, the team that we brought on to the digital side would go on to what was happening online, mostly on Twitter, put in a positive message, drop it and leave. It is now working in to some grassroots organizations that support Hillary who may



AP PHOTO BY: ANDREW HARNIK

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at the Old State House in Springfield, Ill., Wednesday

not have the resources of larger organizations or may not be as well established. After I did that then I moved into the communications department at Correct the Record and that is where I took on the role of Press Secretary. My day-to-day is primarily booking our representatives to go on television. I am in charge of booking them to get on television to talk about Hillary and her message, and to spread why she is the best candidate for the U.S.

DM: How were you involved with politics as an Ole Miss student and how did that play into your career as of now?

MAM: I was in different cam-

pus organizations, but I never did the political role; I've just always been interested in politics. And, some of the reason I never did that was because I went into journalism, and you couldn't have an opinion. So, I was really involved in the Student Media Center, that's where I spent a lot of my time. But, I also had a minor in public policy. So I had an interest and dedicated some of my academic studies to that, but I never got involved in that until afterwards.

DM: This year's election cycle has been almost unanimously regarded to be highly historic in nature. Why do you think that is?

MAM: The most obvious

thing is because Hillary Clinton is the first female presumptive nominee for a major political party. That speaks volumes as to why it is so historic. It's also 2016, and there are all different types of ways to reach your audiences. What we are seeing with that is this whole era of new media and the ways that campaigns are being run. And then, in general, it's because you have a candidate who is not expected to be the nominee, and he's not the traditional nominee for the Republican Party. So, that is just a complete whirlwind for people at every level. It really has turned this whole thing upside down, and now this is a whole new game. We

are totally relearning how to do a presidential election both as people who have had a lot experience on the business side of it and also as voters.

DM: If elected, what do you think Clinton will bring for the state of Mississippi?

MAM: What I hope that we will see is that Hillary Clinton gets Democrats excited again. It's sometimes pretty hard to be a Democrat in Mississippi. (Clinton) is not only the most qualified candidate for president, but she also has so many different experiences that a lot of the people in Mississippi can relate to. I think that we see a change coming to Mississippi. You have a new wave of voters, and I am talking about millennials of course, but you also have people that have voted all of their lives, but now with the way this election is going they are kind of questioning, "Well, do I vote with my party? Or, do I actually look at the candidate and see why I need to support them?" I think that is really going to affect the way people participate in the political process. I think a strong Democrat with this much experience is going to be very exciting for the people of (Mississippi) because they have someone who can be their champion on a federal level, and I hope that can trickle down to state and local politics. Because it's time for our state to recognize their potential and to get past the partisanship to work towards reaching for what Mississippi is capable of.

BOBBY MOAK, CHAIRMAN OF MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

When it came to both the Republican and Democratic Primary in Mississippi, there was no guessing who the voters of the state fully supported.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton nearly took a staggering 83 percent of the votes, something which the new chairman of the Mississippi Democratic Party, Bobby Moak, feels was a wise and well thought-out decision from the voters.

"They were looking for a stable force," Moak said. "She has a history as a senator, and former first lady, and as a Secretary of State. (Voters) were not afraid of the stance she took on national and international issues. She has a history there, and she's not a person who is going to lead us into economic disaster."

Moak also contends that Clinton would be an invaluable ally to the state, and that her relationship with many Mississippians can only further benefit the cause of both state Democrats and citizens in general.

"Mississippi has quite easily been brushed away from the table for an awful lot of years," Moak said. "(Clinton) is fully aware of the state, and I don't think Mississippi will be brushed aside any longer. Obviously there is immense

power in the office of the presidency, and I think Mississippi will get more than its fair share of attention."

This insight comes from many years of experience in state politics on Moak's part. The Ole Miss alum and former Mississippi state representative has been involved in politics ever since his time at the University in an organization titled the Committee of 82.

"They did a little bit of lobbying on behalf of the University, with the state legislature for the most part," Moak said. "That sort of got me interested in politics. And, from there, I went back home after graduating, and then three years later I got elected to the House of Representatives for 32 years."

Moak was later encouraged to run for the Democratic Chairman position this past election cycle and won.

"I was just lucky enough to know a lot of folks who pushed me to do the effort," he said. "It wasn't really anything I set out to do."

With both the Democratic and Republican conventions right around the corner, much talk has been raised regarding what the major parties will attempt to focus on in the national platform.

However, according to Moak, when it

comes to the platform, Mississippi delegates can be expected to fight for one thing in particular.

"I don't expect the platform to be anything different than it being an inclusive platform for everyone who wants to be a part," Moak said. "I think it will be like -- sort of like our founding fathers -- all men are created equal. Also, everyone should be treated equal under the constitution and the laws of the land."

Moak feels that such an inherent right is highly important to introduce at a national level at this point in time, and something that has not been properly enforced within Mississippi over the past couple years.

"We absolutely will be pushing that particular agenda," Moak said. "We've seen a lot of that occurring here in Mississippi with some of the legislation our Republican colleagues have been pushing through the legislature that has kind of hoodwinked some folks. It's just not constitutional, but it is certainly costing taxpayers a lot to defend them."

As the general election quickly approaches, Moak encourages all students to get out and vote regardless of their preferred candidate and try and get involved in the political process as much



as possible.

"While there will be a lot of interest, while there will be a lot of talk, there will also be a lot of slippage in the polls," Moak said. "You have no reason to complain about the nature of the government and politics if you don't vote."

STEVE VASSALLO
CO-CHAIR OF DONALD J. TRUMP FOR
PRESIDENT, LAFAYETTE COUNTY

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DM: Tell us about what you do and how you got to where you are now with the Trump Campaign.

SV: I volunteered back in the primary to be the chairman for Lafayette County in March, which we carried the county. And, not only did we win the Republican Primary in Lafayette County, but we also got more votes than Mrs. (Hillary) Clinton did in the Democratic primary. Because we were so successful in the primary I was asked by the state headquarters to take this responsibility for the general election, which I accepted.

DM: How were you involved with politics as an Ole Miss student and how did that play into your ca-



AP PHOTO BY: MICHAEL CONROY

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally Tuesday in Westfield, Ind.

reer now?

SV: I really got involved in politics when I was very young, probably at age 10. I was involved in going door-to-door canvassing in Nashville for a national U.S. Senate campaign. That just carried over to high school where we had a mock presidential election and I was asked to chair the Republican party. And then, once I got into Ole Miss, I stayed active and interested in politics, and that just carried over into adult life.

DM: This year's elec-

tion cycle has been almost unanimously regarded to be highly historic in nature. Why do you think that is?

SV: I think we have reached a crossroads in the United States. I think there are so many critics now in the way the last eight years have been handled as far as national security; the indebtedness is now said to be \$21 trillion. There have been so many things that have happened in the past eight years. Our military has been depleted severely, and our borders are

porous. There are just so many things Americans are unhappy about. Usually when people are unhappy or concerned they go to the polls in greater numbers. Trump handed over 15 million votes in the primary, I mean, he brought out people who hadn't voted ever, or some that hadn't voted in years because they had never been excited about a candidacy like the one he is presenting.

DM: As we approach the Republican National Convention, what sort of role

do you see the state of Mississippi playing?

SV: I think our governor, Phil Bryant, and the delegation is going to play a major role. First of all, they are going to make sure that all the votes that are taken as far as the platform before the convention even starts are in a way that Conservatives can rally around. So, I think they are going to play a key role in that. (Mississippi) is definitely a red state. I think it is going to stay a red state. We are convinced that Trump is going to carry Mississippi, and (Jim Stephens) and I are going to make sure that we carry Lafayette County like we did in March. I think Donald Trump and the Republican National Committee can rely on us to make sure that our electoral votes are Trump's when all the smoke clears in November.

DM: What do you think Trump will bring for the state of Mississippi if elected?

SV: I think he will be an ally like we haven't seen in many years, maybe going all the way back to the days of Nixon and Eisenhower. I think he will look favorably on our needs, and I think he will work closely with our governor. It's my understanding that they have a great personal relationship already and I see that doing nothing more than improving between now and next year.

JOE NOSEF, CHAIRMAN OF MISSISSIPPI REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ole Miss has had the honor of educating many of the nation's politicians.

Many of these notable alumni gained their first experiences as elected officials at the University, and for Joe Nosef, now chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party, this first experience wasn't necessarily for all the right reasons.

"My main involvement was when I ran for student body president of the law school because I wanted a faculty parking sticker, just because I didn't want to have to walk from the depot to the law school," Nosef said. "I don't know how good my motivation was back then, or how pure it was."

Of course, Nosef pursued further political aspirations with a much different motivation following his law school days, accepting prominent positions on the staffs of Haley Barbour and Phil Bryant during their respective times as governor.

The experience he gained in those positions eventually led to him being elected chairman of the Mississippi GOP in 2012, and with the 2016 Republican National Convention starting next week, Nosef now commands the party in the midst of one of the nation's most historic

elections.

"It's been a long time since the Republicans or maybe either party have nominated somebody who isn't an elected official or never has been an elected official," Nosef said. "Donald Trump's status as an outsider, I think, makes it historic as well."

And with such an important election ahead, Nosef fully plans to ensure the state of Mississippi gets its say during the Republican National Convention next week, something of which he feels has been characteristic of the state's involvement for decades.

"Mississippi always has, and really has for a long time, played an outsized role for the size of our state," Nosef said. "This year, I think we just have a lot of Mississippians who are very involved on the Republican National Committee. We have a very good lineup of Republicans elected across the board in Mississippi."

Of course, at the end of the convention, all Republican delegates will select a presidential nominee for the party, and that nominee is expected to be Donald Trump. Trump is expected to take 25 of the 40 available Mississippi delegates at the convention, something which Nosef

attributes to his historic outsider stance.

"The fact that he got 48 percent of the vote is pretty phenomenal. Obviously, I believe it was a surprise to a lot of people, probably including Donald Trump, that he was able to win like he did," Nosef said. "In Mississippi, people are just so disenchanted to a large degree with what goes on in Washington. The ability to vote for an outsider is what helped Donald Trump."

Although Nosef generally finds congressional representatives to be more beneficial in working for Mississippi, he also finds merit in having Trump as a Republican ally for the state.

"He is going to work with our delegation certainly more so than President Obama has, and certainly more so than a president Hillary Clinton would," Nosef said.

As the convention comes to a close and nominees are chosen for both parties, Nosef simply advises Mississippians to trust that the political process will be worked out properly and fairly and ultimately encourages all people to go out and vote during the general election.

"Another thing I would encourage (citizens) to do is vote," Nosef said. "There



are a lot of people who say the Republicans always get the win. There's a lot of people who believe that they don't need to vote--- that their vote does not count. As the Republican chairman I would urge (Mississippians) to vote for the Republican nominee and hopefully urge their friends and neighbors as well."

AUSTIN HILLE
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Review: 'Blank Face' mirrors rapper's struggles



PHOTO COURTESY: schoolboyq.com

ZOE MCDONALD

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Schoolboy Q nearly quit music after he made this album a year ago.

Let's all be glad he didn't, because "Blank Face LP" is what we need out of rap right now.

The album in its entirety is a piece of work based in the streets and dodgy neighborhoods of the rapper's past, mirroring his struggles as he sees a rift between

his music and his life with his young daughter, and as he faces getting older (he just turned 30). This isn't the playful Schoolboy Q we know from "iBETIGOTSUMWEED," nor is it the big-balling partier we know from "Man Of The Year." He released a three-part group of music videos that again departs from the party mentality present in his earlier works, showing Schoolboy and his boys in the streets, in jail uniforms and in court. The last

video ends with Schoolboy ruminating on life with his daughter outside of prison during "Black THoughts."

The album itself can be described in Schoolboy's own words in "TorchH:"

"This be the realest shit I wrote."

Nothing less than detail oriented, "Blank Face" surprises at moments, bringing listeners into that kind of awe, or at least appreciation for these details, both in the album's production and in Schoolboy's verses. An example of this is in his duet with producer Kanye West, "THat Part." West's signature flair is rampant throughout, but Schoolboy still owns the track, which has possibly the most lighthearted subject matter on the LP.

Just before the album dropped on July 8, a remix of "THat Part" surfaced featuring the members of the rap collective Black Hippy (made up of rappers Kendrick Lamar, Jay Rock, Ab-Soul and Schoolboy Q). This rare collaboration was to the appeasement of Top Dawg Entertainment CEO Anthony "Top Dawg" Tif-fith, according to Schoolboy. In recent interviews, the members have tip-toed around any major collaborations. Schoolboy has

gone as far to admit that they don't rap together any more, citing that their time is devoted to individual projects.

The members of Black Hippy are — and have been — some of the strongest rappers in the game. We now have works like "Habits and Contradictions" and "To Pimp a Butterfly" because they've enveloped themselves with their solo careers. But together, they create rap magic. Let's not forget "Collard Greens" in which Kendrick and Schoolboy combined to create one of their best collabs yet. Schoolboy's music, like Ab-Soul's and Kendrick's, has always been open and raw about life in the streets of South Central L.A.

"Blank Face" is creepy. From Kendrick's low-frequency hook in "Black Thoughts" to the dark and twisted beat in Kanye and Schoolboy's collab and single. Schoolboy made heavy use of female vocalists, which has become more popular in a time in rap when we see a number of artists revisiting the styles of pioneers of the craft.

Schoolboy raises torches of respect for several of his own influences. In fact, the album name itself is a reference to Wu-Tang Clan's Ghostface Killah.

And in the fourth track, "Groovy Tony, no face killa" is another reference to the rapper. Schoolboy recreates Tupac's "Str8 Ballin'" in a deep and gritty version of the track looking back at his own road to success, from "From sleepin' on Top's couch to multiple bank accounts."

There are some clear bangers on this album. But as he points out in an interview he recently gave on L.A. radio station Real 92.3, he revisits some intense images from gang life in almost every track. "Whatever You Want," with its dance beat and psych-y drop, even goes deep lyrically.

Separate, the pieces of "Blank Face" are easily savored. Together, however, the album has the ability to transport the listener to the dark corners of the street where characters like "Groovy Tony" would hang out and slyly sling baggies filled with questionable substances for a living, or to a smoky bar circulating the scent of dancing bodies and malt liquor.

As Schoolboy Q wrestles with his personal life, social media and fame, he's still respected, sought after and whether he likes it or not, just as gangster as ever.

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ACROSS

- Be pouty
- Traffic stopper
- Orange seeds
- Take out to dinner
- Herr's spouse
- Break suddenly
- NASA rocket
- Made a loan
- Enormous
- Of course!
- Clown around
- Looked daggers at
- 500 sheets
- Like tea
- Go wild at the mall
- London lav
- Emulates Galen
- Winter warmer (2 wds.)
- Handel contemporary
- Adjust the wheels
- Pleasant
- Have doubts about
- Nulls
- Rainbow, for one
- Taps
- Hands-on-hips
- Lie in wait
- Thinner
- Wine served warm

DOWN

- Wait
- Yen
- Wine sediments
- Colo. neighbor
- Burning
- Heavy hydrogen discoverer
- Neutral color
- Too small now
- Bah!
- Habituate
- Leafed through
- Exceeded the limit
- Slacks off
- Fall behind
- Uris of "Topaz"
- Decrees
- Online journal
- Hoops nickname
- Altiplano locale
- Beatles hit "Penny —"
- Repartee pro
- Woofs
- Luau strings
- Knock it off
- Comic strip's — Nomad
- Grocery container
- Spiral shape
- Tempo
- Whisper loudly
- Perchance
- Noise
- T-shirt type (hyph.)
- Colleen's home
- Kilt wearer
- Hardy's dairymaid
- Paint sprayer
- Kind of weed
- Blah
- Swiss financial hub
- Flattened bottles
- Puffin kin
- Condor nest
- "The Castle" author
- Map within a map
- Ella was his cover
- Jiffies
- Corduroy rib
- Osiris' beloved
- Written material
- Chiang — -shok
- Sushi fish

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HOW TO PLAY

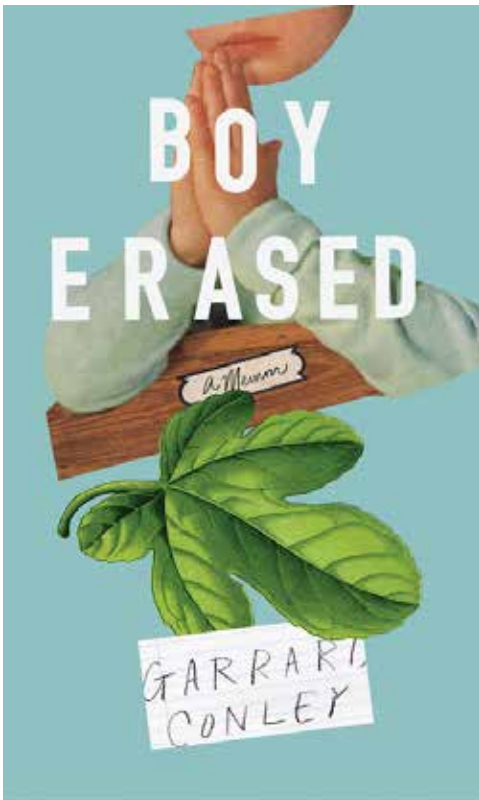
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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SUPER TOUGH

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‘Boy Erased’: memoirs of an ex-ex-gay man



CHARLES MCCRORY
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“When did you realize you were gay?” It’s a common question, and often well-meaning, but anyone who has had to grow into a marginalized identity knows the answer is rarely that simple. For Garrard Conley, author of the wrenching memoir “Boy Erased,” self-discovery came bound in a straitjacket of religion, trauma and shame. Conley grew up in rural Arkansas, the only son of a devout car salesman turned missionary Baptist preacher. He did his best to suppress the urges, interests and mannerisms that would condemn him in the eyes of his parents, neighbors and a God who had no place in His Kingdom for gay boys. But the option of privacy was taken from him when his rapist, a college classmate, outed him to his parents. In the summer of 2004, threatened with excommunication, the withdrawal of his parents’ support and eternal damnation, the 19-year-old agreed to enter Love in Action, a Christian “ex-gay” ministry. The book

alternates between Conley’s time at the facility and the events leading up to it to form a searing and timely coming-of-age tale.

Conley and his fellow clients at Love in Action were compelled to work a version of the Twelve Steps used by Alcoholics Anonymous and other recovery fellowships, twisted to equate sexual orientation with sexual addiction. Watching Conley delve into this program, we see the recovery narrative, familiar from memoirs of alcoholism and drug addiction, turned on its head. Here is a story where the treatment is the disease. The true recovery begins as Conley recognizes the cracks in this ideology.

The details of Love in Action’s program are disturbing enough, but what makes “Boy Erased” so unsettling is the closeness of Conley’s voice. Rather than address his experiences at Love in Action from the distance of the 12 years that followed, Conley gives us the raw thought process of a young man convinced his identity is innately sinful and yearning

for a cure. The prayer, “Lord, make me pure,” runs throughout the book like an urgent heartbeat. Few writers are brave enough to work from a place of such deep internalized shame. Conley does a vital service to the conversation on conversion therapy by taking us there.

Conley’s writing is consistently lovely, but lingering descriptions – of light coming through a screen door, his mother’s hair, layers of wood on a chair – often clutter an otherwise powerful scene. Still, the poignancy of the material and the resilience of the narrator shine through.

The book’s greatest feat is its capacity for empathy, especially toward Conley’s parents. Conley paints his mother and father not as homophobic monsters, but as flawed, loving people who tried to cure a son who wasn’t sick.

“Boy Erased” is a generous and forgiving book, but it is fierce in its gentleness. That Conley attended an institution of hatred and fear, and survived to write about it so beautifully, can surely be called a miracle.

Review: ‘Bored to Death’ with ‘California’

TAYLOR JONES
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We live in a society where nostalgia sells. We want to hold on to the things that make us feel younger. Blink-182 released their newest album amidst, what is in my opinion, the band’s musical mid-life crisis.

After splitting with long-time guitarist Tom DeLong, Mark Hoppus and Travis Barker released the band’s seventh studio album, “California,” with guitarist Matt Skiba (formerly of Alkaline Trio). The album recently replaced Drake’s “Views” at the top of Billboard’s 200 top albums, the band’s first No. 1 album since “Take Off Your Pants and Jacket” in 2001.

We all know more Blink-182 songs than we would like to admit, and the band manages to keep the same California pop-punk sound that we rocked out to in the ‘90s and the early 2000s.

Except, it’s not the same. All the songs sound whiny with Hoppus and Skiba on vocals. The lyrics are also super depressing. I



PHOTO COURTESY: FACEBOOK

had hoped that Barker might save the album with his unique, drum-line style of percussion; which was evident at times on the album but was possibly lost as

Barker’s drum kit got continuously larger.

Hoppus is quoted as saying the song “Sober” is about rebuilding and finding yourself, which the band desperately needs to do, because nothing is cool about grown men making music for teenagers.

The only single off the album, “Bored to Death” had me just that. It sounds like every other Blink-182 song, which in a way is a good thing, but it sounds overproduced -- a pop song as opposed to the punk roots of the band.

Hoppus, known for his childish antics on stage and in the recording studio, included short joke songs “Built this Pool” and “Brohemian Rhapsody,” similar to songs that the band was known for recording on previous albums.

I honestly wouldn’t recommend this album to anyone, and don’t know how it was popular enough to take the top spot on the Billboard charts.

Sometimes you have to move on and leave things in the past, and Blink-182’s “California” is a perfect example of that.

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- Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for 8 years.
- A Founding Member of the National College for DUI Defense conducted at Harvard Law School.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 DUI Attorneys in Mississippi by the National Advocacy for DUI Defense.
- Selected as one of the Top 10 Best Attorneys of Mississippi in 2015 for Client Satisfaction Award by the America Institute of DUI/DWI Attorneys.
- Selected as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Organization.
- Recipient of the **DISTINGUISHED AWARD OF MERIT** for 1989 from the Mississippi State Bar given to one Attorney in the State each year for outstanding contributions to the practice of law.
- Voted “Best Attorney in Oxford, Mississippi” in the 2013 Grover’s Choice Awards
- Former Vice President and President of the Lafayette County Bar Association; Member of the Mississippi Bar Association, etc.
- Appointed by the Mississippi State Bar to the Mississippi Commission on Attorney Ethics and Attorney Violations of the Canon of Ethics and All Mandatory Rules concerning the Practice of Law. Occupied the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman.
- A member of the Chancellor’s Trust since 1981.
- Et cetera.

Listing of these previously mentioned areas of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise therein.

'Dine Out MS' campaign good news for food lovers

ASHNA SETHI

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The Magnolia State is famous for many things — music, culture and, most importantly, food. Mississippi's culinary culture is expanding rapidly, and for those who love to explore new eats around the state, good news lies ahead. In an attempt to reward food explorers as well as encourage residents to try new restaurants, the Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association (MHRA) has created the "Dine Out MS" campaign.

To be a part of this campaign, customers should save all receipts from participating MHRA restaurants when dining out this summer, specifically from July 1 to August 31. After customers spend \$100 or more in total within the two months, they can submit it to the MHRA office and receive a coupon for 10 percent off at any MHRA location as a thank you. Executive Director Mike Cushion states, "It is our way of saying thank you to our valued and loyal guests as well as showcase the members of the MHRA family."

The new campaign will attract consumers of all ages, especially college students. Hattiesburg's Miss Hospitality and Ole Miss student Mary Margaret Hyer said, "I think the 'Dine Out MS' campaign is a fresh, innovative way to encourage Mississippians to support local businesses

in their respective hometowns. Self-promotion is one of the most effective ways to generate public interest, and consequently, revenue, and I think that the

MHRA has struck gold with this campaign. Not only will this be good for the economy of our state, but it will provide a new, fun way for Mississippians to

celebrate and promote our culture."

Mississippi's economy thrives upon the culinary profits throughout the state. The

non-profit association has more than 700 of its 1,400 members participating in the Dine Out MS campaign. Restaurant sales are expected to surpass \$3.8 billion this year while adding \$228 million to state taxes.

"Any time you can get guests to support an independent business in Jackson," said Andy Nesenson, Iron Horse Grill general manager. "Whether it's a restaurant, whether it's a pop-sicle stand, whether it's a bar, the fact that they're dining out, they're spending dollars — it helps the local economy, obviously. It all trickles down," from the restaurant employees who live here to the Mississippi products they make a point of using.

For a list of participating restaurants throughout the state, see www.dineoutms.com. Any restaurant that would like to be a part of this campaign but isn't yet is welcome to apply at www.msra.org/membership. The MHRA office address is as follows: DINE OUT MS; 130 Riverview Dr. Suite A; Flowood, MS 39232.

Restaurant owners, managers and MHRA staff are excited for the new promotion in the peak of the tourism months, July and August. Many believe this will boost the economy while attracting many visitors to experience the vibrant and colorful scene in Mississippi.



PHOTO COURTESY: eatdrinkmississippi.com

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Column: Logic or loyalty? The Kevin Durant dilemma



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On July 4, former National Basketball Association MVP and seven-time All-Star Kevin Durant announced his decision to move from Oklahoma City to the golden state of California. He penned a letter thanking Thunder fans for their support and told them that he was leaving to get out of his “comfort zone.” Durant meant to say that he was leaving to win championships.

In 2007, Kevin Durant was drafted by the Seattle Super-sonics and stayed with the organization as it relocated to Oklahoma City in 2008. Durant became the face of the Oklahoma City Thunder and the city put him on a pedestal. During his tenure there, Durant scored a mind-blowing 17,566 points for OKC and led the team to its first championship in 2012, where they eventually lost 4-1 to the Miami Heat. That year, the Heat rode to victory on the back of the “Big Three”: Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade and LeBron James. The Thunder simply could not compete with the superstar lineup that Miami had assembled as cries of unfairness rang throughout the league. Winning does not come to those who wait.

On July 8, 2010, just two years prior, ESPN aired a 75-minute special titled “The Decision,” during which LeBron James, the patron saint of Cleveland, announced that he would be taking his talents to South Beach. James, much like Durant and Oklahoma City, had built his career from the ground up in Cleveland, earning himself back-to-back National Basket-

ball Association MVP awards in 2009 and 2010. He was born in Akron, a smaller city outside of Cleveland, and became a larger than life hero to fans of the Cavaliers. But James wanted more than just adoration: He wanted to win. After announcing his move to the Miami Heat, he cited his desire to win championships as the reason for his departure. That offseason, Miami tried to sell Chris Bosh and James on the idea of teaming up with Dwyane Wade and making a dream team. He couldn't say no. LeBron James decided that winning was more important than loyalty to his city. Is that wrong? Should MVP caliber players always put their fans before winning titles?

The simple answer is no. Sports fans tend to romanticize the players and teams they follow. They watch players like Derek Jeter with the Yankees and Kobe Bryant with the Lakers and fall in love with the idea of loyal players staying at one team for their entire careers. And why shouldn't they? Representing your city for years and becoming a sports legend there is as American as apple pie. But step back and consider the success that both Derek Jeter and Kobe Bryant have had at their respective organizations and the choices that James, and now Durant, have committed seem more understandable. Jeter was a five-time

World Champion and Bryant was a five-time NBA Champion. See the connection? If James were winning titles with Cleveland would he have left? No. He has said in the past that he wanted to win and that's why he ended up in Miami. While the LeBron James jersey-burning parties seem a little ridiculous now, they speak to how highly respected he was there. But James, believe it or not, is still human. He isn't a god. He can't win the MVP award every year and, most importantly, he can't just win a championship whenever he wants. LeBron James made a choice: He chose to put winning before the fans of Cleveland, and he had every right to make that decision. He doesn't owe the people of Cleveland anything. He was simply a good basketball player who made a career choice.

For some perspective as to how idealistic American sports fans have become, look no further than the world of European soccer. During the 2015 English Premier League summer transfer window, powerhouse Manchester City signed Raheem Sterling, an English national team winger who had spent the entirety of his professional career at Liverpool after debuting there in 2012, for \$64.5 million. Moves like this are common

throughout Europe: Players leave teams every year in hopes of contending for titles. Sterling left Liverpool because they were not winning championships. If Manchester City is consistently in the hunt for the EPL Championship and Sterling wants to win, then doesn't the move seem logical? Or should he have stayed at Liverpool and been satisfied with fourth- and fifth-place finishes while keeping the fans happy?

Talking heads around the league are going to call Kevin Durant's move unfair. They'll say that the Golden State Warriors are trying to stack their team (But really, who isn't?). There isn't a team in the NBA that wouldn't have taken Durant in a heartbeat. Durant has his own set of goals and priorities over which fans have no control. If his ultimate goal is to be an NBA Champion, so be it. Maybe Westbrook will step up next year. Maybe they'll find a new superstar to lead the team. In the end, it doesn't matter. Kevin Durant, just like LeBron James before him, wants to win. If Durant feels that he has a better chance of winning an NBA championship alongside Klay Thompson and Steph Curry at Golden State, why should anyone stop him from pursuing that dream?

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SEC struggles through offseason of investigations



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FILE PHOTO

LEFT: Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey speaks to the media at the Southeastern Conference NCAA college football media days, Monday in Hoover, Ala. RIGHT: Head coach Hugh Freeze and quarterback Chad Kelly celebrate after winning the All-State Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

HOOVER, Ala. (AP) — For the Southeastern Conference, football season can't get here soon enough.

The 2016 SEC Media Days are in full swing, with players and coaches from Ole Miss, LSU and South Carolina speaking today. Head coach Hugh Freeze will likely hear many questions about the NCAA investigation, senior quarterback Chad Kelly and the 2016 freshman class, which features former five star quarterback Shea Patterson and five star defensive tackle Benito Jones, among others.

The league that's home to eight of the past 10 national titles has also been home to a large amount of offseason problems. There's been an ongoing NCAA investigation at Mississippi, a Title IX lawsuit at Tennessee and several legal issues that haven't painted the league as college football's best citi-

zens.

Still, SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey doesn't believe the league has an image problem.

"The body of work of this conference far outweighs those problems, yet we are attentive to those realities," Sankey said. "We understand when the issues arise, we need to even be more attentive, be that on campus or as a collective group."

Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen was one of the coaches at SEC Media Days who faced some pointed questions on Tuesday. The Bulldogs recently allowed prized recruit Jeffery Simmons to enroll in school and join the football team, even though he's still facing misdemeanor assault charges for striking a woman during a fight in March.

The school announced a one-game suspension for Simmons in June, a decision that was

roundly criticized as being too lenient. The league already has guidelines for potential transfers who have serious misconduct in their past, but those rules don't apply to incoming recruits.

Mullen defended the decision, saying that he was "thrilled that we're having Jeffery as part of our family."

"Our university did a very, very thorough investigation into everything that happened within the situation there and came up with the conclusion that, you know, we felt that Jeffery deserved the opportunity to be part of our family," Mullen said.

Ole Miss — which won 10 games last season, including the Sugar Bowl — has been in the middle of a long-running NCAA investigation that involves the football, women's basketball and track and field programs.

The university has already

self-imposed some penalties for football, including scholarship reductions and three years of probation. The NCAA can accept or add to those penalties.

The case could drag on for several more months. Ole Miss asked to delay a hearing before the Committee on Infractions while it looks into draft-night allegations involving former left tackle Laremy Tunsil, who was picked in the first round by the Miami Dolphins.

Tunsil was the story of the draft after a bizarre 30-second video of him smoking from a gas mask-bong contraption was posted on his Twitter account just before the selections began. There was also a post on Tunsil's Instagram account showing an alleged text conversation with a football staff member about arranging payment for bills.

Tunsil said both accounts were hacked, but acknowledged

following the draft that he accepted money from a coach while he was at Ole Miss.

At best, it was an embarrassing episode for the school and the league. At worst, it could add to Ole Miss' penalty from the NCAA. Coach Hugh Freeze and athletic director Ross Bjork have been mostly silent about the investigation over the past few months.

"The central thought must be — must be — we never have a team return a championship trophy, never vacate any wins, and never have one of our teams precluded from postseason competition because we either can't follow the NCAA's rules or can't meet the expectations for academic success," Sankey said.

DM Sports Editor Cody Thomason contributed to this article.

Seven Ole Miss athletes to represent the Rebels in Rio

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Ole Miss will have a strong presence in this year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a school record of seven Ole Miss track and field athletes will be competing in August. Current Ole Miss track and field Head Coach Ronnie Price-Smith will also be in Rio serving as the head coach for the USA women's track and field team.

The only current Rebel athlete competing is sophomore Raven Saunders, who is just 20 years old and is the first athlete from Ole

Miss to compete in the shot put. Saunders will represent the USA and recently won at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field championships and set collegiate records in outdoor and indoor competitions. Saunders was the runner up at the Olympic Trials with a throw of 63 feet, 1.5 inches.

Former Rebel star and Olympic Gold Medalist Brittney Reese will be making another return to the games after placing fifth in 2008 and winning in 2012. Reese, a nine-time U.S. champion, will once again be representing the U.S. in the long jump. Reese set

also set an Olympic Trials record by jumping 23 feet, 11.75 inches.

Sam Kendricks, who graduated from Ole Miss in 2014, will be the first Rebel to compete in the men's pole vault after setting an Olympic Trials record with a vault of 19 feet, 4.75 inches. Kendricks was a two-time NCAA champion at Ole Miss, a five-time U.S. champion, and will be representing the USA in the games.

Also competing for the USA will be Kendricks' former teammate Ricky Robertson. Robertson is the first Rebel athlete to compete in the Olympic high jump, and



AP PHOTO COURTESY: CHARLIE RIEDEL

Brittney Reese lands during the women's long jump final at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials Saturday.

was a three-time NCAA runner up and seven-time All-American during his four years at Ole Miss.

Recent graduate Khadijah Suleman will be competing for Nigeria in the 4x100-meter relay. Suleman was a two-time All-American with the Rebels, and ranks second among all-time Rebels in the indoor 200-meter race.

Antwon Hicks will also be competing in Rio, as he is slated to run in the men's 110-meter hurdles. Hicks is the second Ole

Miss athlete to make the Olympics in the 110-meter hurdles, and will also be representing Nigeria. During his Ole Miss career from 2002-05, Hicks was a six-time All-American and two-time NCAA champion.

Ole Miss Volunteer Assistant Coach Gwen Berry will also be competing in the women's hammer throw after placing second in the Olympic Trials. Berry threw 239 feet, 9 inches in her trial and will be Ole Miss' first representative in the hammer throw.

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