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Vol. 17, No. 3 (1997)

Jennifer Byron Owen

Wendy Goldberg

Michael A. Crivello

Walter G. Watkins Jr.

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Conference

Faulkner at 100, And Outlook

The 1997 Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference celebrating the centennial of Faulkner's birth will have the theme of "Faulkner at 100: Retrospect and Prospect." Dates for the 24th annual conference at the University of Mississippi will be July 27-August 1.

The conference will open on Sunday, July 27, with a reception at University Museums, site of an exhibition of "Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain."

Program events to follow on Sunday will include presentation of the winner of this year's Faux Faulkner Contest, Stanford University Professor Wendy Goldberg, who will read her winning entry in the write-alike contest, "Dyin' to Lie Down."

Conference features again this year will also include an opening day buffet at the home of Dr. and Mrs. M.B. Howorth Jr. across from Rowan Oak; a slide presentation on Faulkner by the author's nephew, Jimmy Faulkner, and Jimmy's daughter, Meg Faulkner DuChaine; tours of Oxford, Lafayette County and north Mississippi; a Wednesday picnic at Rowan Oak; and

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Faulkner Centennial

More observances of the centennial of Faulkner's birth have been scheduled as far away as Beijing and Venice since the last report on planned celebrations in the Faulkner Newsletter.

Faulkner was born on Sept. 25, 1897 at New Albany, Miss. His family moved the following year to nearby Ripley, Miss., and made their home in Oxford beginning in 1902.

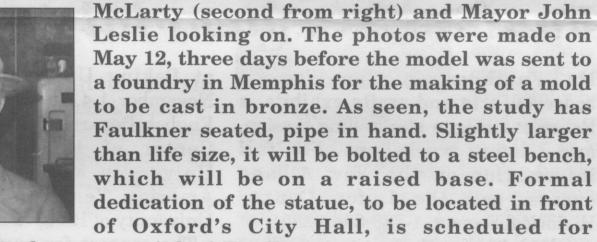
New Albany will host a three-day celebration of the 100th birthday anniversary Sept. 25-27. Included will be addresses by Dr. Robert Hamblin of Southeast Missouri State University and Dr. William Ferris of the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture, a performance of John Maxwell's "Oh,

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Work in Progress



CLAY MODEL OF FAULKNER STATUE is pictured above with sculptor William N. Beckwith in Beckwith's studio at Taylor, Miss., south of Oxford, and in the photo below showing Oxford's Dr. Chester A.



September 25, the centennial of Faulkner's birth. Some Faulkner family members have objected to the statue's placement in front of City Hall, the post office in Faulkner's day, preferring that it be located at Faulkner's Rowan Oak home. The City of Oxford will host the dedication of the statue at the site on Courtsquare, followed by a black-tie invitational reception that evening at the University of Mississippi. Invited to speak at the dedication have been authors Shelby Foote and Willie Morris.



Contest Winners

Wendy Goldberg Wins 8th Annual Faux Faulkner

Wendy Goldberg, a Faulkner scholar and Stanford University lecturer in writing and critical thinking, has won the 1997 Jack Daniel's Faux Faulkner Contest, bursting through the gender barrier and becoming the first female Faux Faulknerian.

When notified by phone by contest coordinator, Dean Faulkner Wells, niece of William Faulkner and copublisher of *The Faulkner Newsletter*, Professor Goldberg—who has been a semi-finalist three times—could not believe that she had won. Convincing her were contest judges Roy Blount, Jr. and Rose Marie Morse, who helped select the winner at a judging party held at Elaine's Restaurant in New York in April.

Blount told Goldberg that she captured his fancy with the phrase "like an onslaught of acne on a homecoming queen."

The other judges were George Plimpton, who has also been a judge for all seven previous contests, and novelist Cathie Pelletier of Nashville. Joining Dean Wells for the second year in a row as co-host for the evening was Jack Daniel's greatgrandniece, Lynne Tolley of Lynchburg, Tenn.

The contest is sponsored by the University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture, Yoknapatawpha Press and *The Faulkner Newsletter* and the Jack Daniel Distillery in Lynchburg.

Goldberg is to read her winning entry, "Dyin' to Lie Down," at the opening ceremonies of the 24th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference at the University of Mississippi on July 27. The contest winner receives complimentary airline tickets for two to Memphis and passes to the Faulkner Conference, as well as lodging, meals and beverages at Oxford establishments. Local sponsors include Holiday Inn of Oxford, City Grocery Restaurant, Downtown Grill, and Bottletree Bakery.

Goldberg's entry was judged along with former contest winner Michael A. Crivello's "As I Pay Deion," and Walter G. Watkins Jr.'s "Light in August." Plimpton and Blount, Harvard graduates, voted for

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F&Y Celebrates Faulkner at 100

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a concluding reception Friday evening, August 1, at Faulkner's childhood home, now owned by Betty Jane Gary.

With these and other conference events will come six days of formal papers and added numbers of panel discussions this year by Faulkner scholars and writers, including sessions on "Teaching Faulkner" and presentations by townspeople who knew Faulkner.

Still other conference features will include dramatic and musical presentations based on Faulkner's work, films related to Faulkner's life and work, and an exhibit hosted by the University Press of Mississippi of Faulkner books and other works published by university presses around the country.

Speakers during the six-day program will include André Bleikasten, University of Strasbourg; Thadious M. Davis, Vanderbilt University; Susan Donaldson, College of William and Mary; Joseph L. Fant of Columbus, Miss., co-editor of Faulkner at West Point; Doreen Fowler, University of Kansas; Minrose Gwin, University of New Mexico; Lothar Hönnighausen, University of Bonn; Arthur Kinney, University of Massachusetts; John T. Matthews, Boston University; Thomas L. McHaney, Georgia State University; Michael Millgate, emeritus, University of Toronto; David Minter, Rice University; Albert Murray, whose books include The Omni-Americans: New Perspectives on Black Experience and American Culture; Noel Polk. University of Southern Mississippi; Carolyn Porter, University of California at Berkeley; Judith Sensibar, Arizona State University; Hans Skei, University of Oslo; Warwick Wadlington, University of Texas; Philip Weinstein, Swarthmore College; Judith Wittenberg, Simmons College; and Karl Zender, University of California at Davis.

Full particulars on the conference are available from Charlene Dye at the Ole Miss Center for Public Service and Continuing Education, University, Miss. 38677; e-mail cdye@ olemiss.edu; tel. 601-232-1047; fax 601-232-5138.

FAULKNER FIRST EDITIONS

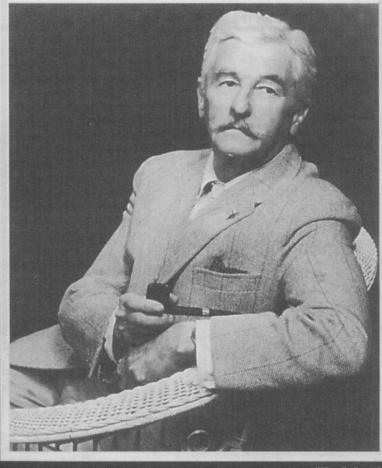
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1997 Conference Poster

PROSPECT



The University of Mississippi Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference Oxford, Mississippi, July 27 - August 1, 1997

Faulkner Centennial

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Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?," concerts, arts and crafts exhibits, a Rebecca Jernigan storytelling session, and teacher workshops. For full Center of Hong Kong Baptist information on the New Albany events, call the Union County Historical Society, 1-888-534-8232.

Scheduled for the entire month of October is a Faulkner Centennial Celebration at the College of Staten Island, NY, which is the recipient of the Faulkner Collection assembled by Dr. Karl J. Leone, a Staten Island dentist who is a frequent participant in the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conferences at Ole Miss. Speaking at that event will be Dr. Edmund Volpe, former president of the College of Staten Island and author of A Reader's Guide to William Faulkner (1964).

In a Leone exhibit will be a chronological listing of Faulkner's poetry, novels and short stories, his movie credits and adaptations of his work for films, Cofield photographs and a photo made by Louis Feldman in 1936 while a senior at Ole Miss, and first editions of Faulkner's books, several of them signed.

The William Faulkner Society has announced that a special session on "A Century of Faulkner and His Critics" will be held during the SCMLA conference in Dallas in October.

An international conference on Faulkner and the centenary is scheduled by the English Department

at Peking University in Beijing November 1-4, co-sponsored with the English Department by the East-West University and the Hong Kong-America Center of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The contact for particulars on the Beijing program is Ms. Yan Cui, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Peking University, e-mail yytj@pku.edu.cn, fax 86-10-62751259.

A Faulkner Centenary International Conference is scheduled at the University of Ca'Foscari, Venice, for November 13-15. Professor Rosella Mamoli Zorzi said the conference will focus on problems of language and style, and on problems of translation.

For information on other celebrations of the centennial at Square Books in Oxford, Randolph-Macon College, the University of Delaware, THE FAULKNER NEWSLETTER

William Boozer

Editor

Dean Faulkner Wells and Lawrence Wells

Publishers

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Mrs. Bessie Sumners Dies at Oxford

Mrs. Bessie Furr Sumners died May 8 at her home in Oxford.

A popular member of panel discussions at annual Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conferences at the University of Mississippi on "Oxford Women Remember Faulkner," Mrs. Sumners stayed in touch over the years through correspondence with a number of conference participants who heard her recollections of Faulkner. She was 98, two years Faulkner's junior.

Mrs. Sumners was born in Lafayette Springs, Miss., and was a 1919 graduate of the University of Mississippi. She lived most of her life in Oxford, except for teaching school before her marriage and in Corinth, Miss., where her husband, Chester L. Sumners, practiced law for 18 years. She was preceded in death by Mr. Sumners and by a son and a daughter. She is survived by a son, Lester F. Sumners, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

the University of Nottingham, the Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State University, Tbilisi State University in the Republic of Georgia, Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow, Faulkner House Books in New Orleans, and the Fondation William Faulkner at Rennes 2 University in France, see Faulkner Newsletter for January-March and April-June 1997.

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Faux Faulkner Judges



JUDGES FOR THE 1997 Jack Daniel's Faux Faulkner Contest were (from left, seated) Cathie Pelletier, George Plimpton, Roy Blount Jr., and Rose Marie Morse. Standing are Dean Faulkner Wells (left), contest coordinator; Larry Wells, master of ceremonies at the judging party at Elaine's in New York; and Lynn Tolley, great-grandniece of Jack Daniel.

Faulkner Centennial to Bring Exhibits of Dain and Cofield Photos and New Dain Book

By JENNIFER BRYON OWEN

Photographs of Faulkner and Faulkner country taken by Martin J. Dain and Oxford's Cofield Studio will be featured in traveling exhibits this summer and fall as part of the University of Mississippi's observance of the centennial of Faulkner's birth.

Planned are Ole Miss sponsorship of two traveling exhibits of Dain photographs and a new, updated printing of Dain's book, *Faulkner's Country: Yoknapatawpha*, originally published by Random House in 1964. The new printing will have a foreword by Oxford author Larry Brown and an introduction by Tom Rankin, Ole Miss associate professor of art and coordinator of the book and exhibits, in which he discusses the original printing and includes recent interviews with Dain.

Rare Cofield photos, in storage at Ole Miss since the exhibit toured Russia in 1984, are being refurbished for the new exhibit. Originally created by Patricia Carr Black, then director of the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson, the Cofield exhibit was assembled before a Cofield Studio fire in which many photographs and negatives by J. R. Cofield and son Jack Cofield were destroyed or damaged.

After its opening in July at the Ole Miss Center for the Study of Southern Culture, the Cofield exhibit will tour the state.

The Cofield archive of Faulkner photos and negatives and Dain's almost 9,000 35mm black-and-white images of Faulkner, Oxford and Lafayette County are now owned by the Center.

The new printing of Dain's book will be titled *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain*, and will be released in September by the Center and the University Press of Mississippi.

The book will have 100 photographs, most of them from the original printing, but with added photos made during Faulkner's funeral. A regular trade edition and a signed, limited edition will be available from the Center.

Many of the photographs in the Dain book will be included in "Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain, A Traveling Exhibition Celebrating William Faulkner's 100th Birthday." Funding of two traveling Dain exhibits is from the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

One exhibit of 40 photos with interpretive text will travel to libraries, galleries, cultural centers, and colleges and universities in the 13-state ARC region after opening in New Albany, Miss., Faulkner's birthplace, during September observance of the centennial there. A second exhibit will open at the University Museums at Ole Miss July 27, opening day of the 24th annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, then will be sent on a two-year tour of the state.

(Jennifer Bryan Owen is a staff writer with the University of Mississippi's Department of Public Relations.)

Faux Faulkner Contest Winners

(From Page 1)

Goldberg's takeoff on the Boston Marathon, while Morse read aloud her favorite, Crivello's assault on professional football (Blount interrupting to correct Morse's delivery of the line, "How 'bout them Plowboys!") and Pelletier stood fast for Watkins's "cold, ineluctable...apotheosis of amber nectar." In the end, emcee Larry Wells, co-publisher of *The Faulkner Newsletter*, took the vote to the crowd, which consisted mostly of writers, media representatives, magazine editors and friends of literature. They raised a thunderous racket in favor of Goldberg.

Crivello teaches high school English at Lewisville, Texas. Watkins is a Jackson, Miss. attorney.

This year's eighth annual contest attracted entries from 31 states and six countries, including Ukraine. Upon being notified of the outcome, Crivello, who has entered all eight competitions, congratulated Goldberg and admitted (via email), "I guess I'm still doomed to enter. This fevered Faux Faulknerian salutes you for running such an enjoyable contest once again."

To enter the contest, aspiring Faux Faulknerians should submit their 500-word, typewritten parodies to: The Jack Daniel's Faux Faulkner Contest, P.O. Box 248, Oxford, MS 38655; by e-mail, to: "Faulkner@watervalley.net." For more information, visit the Yoknapatawpha Press and Faulkner Newsletter website at this address: http://:www.watervalley.net/yoknapatawphapress/htm.index. The deadline for the 1998 contest is February 1.

Goldberg

"Dyin' to Lie Down"

By WENDY GOLDBERG

father says victory is an illusion he would say that wouldn't he that had never won so much as a crosseyed kewpie doll at a two bit raree show or a dimestore trophy in a third-rate turkey-shoot let alone a crown of laurel halo of honeysuckle in a first class feat of first-class feet—the fourteenth Boston Marathon thinks Sprintin' wheeling and careering through sprawling city streets whose sentient cement synapses register

the tumult of talcumed toes (ten of 'em) that had heretofore trod (but would nevermore trudge) the humble hamlets and earthy enclaves of Yoknerpatoffy County but now find themselves pounding pavement prodigiously pockmarked with potholes that had probably come over with the Pilgrims along with the Sox and the pox... that what they larned you up at Havahd father winks and shakes his head that tarnished temple of too-much-talk where sour-faced summa cum latelys dispense earfuls of errant nonsense to packs of precocious young pups...i say O how the mighty have fallen london bridge and my aching arches...but the South shall rise again

they came out of nowhere and without warning like an onslaught of acne on a homecoming queen, shades of Sherman shellacking Atlanta: a phalanx of foot soldiers forging fearlessly forward, legions of the lean, the best of the buff; a host of heroes, a galaxy of gods they were!: any number of nimble Nikes, assorted Atalantas, and a myriad middle-aged Mercuries meting out punishment to muscles merely mortal; sweeping me up in a tide of toe-flexing Titans (trailing glory and Little Sister Time), a vortex of vibrating vertebrae, an army of appendages assiduously advancing whose collective capacity for maximum motion makes the Indy 500 look like a tinker-toy tourney, bringing something of the glory that was Greece to the ballyhooed bastion of Yankee ingenuity—built on equal parts brains and "blustah" (as the locals say)—that is Boston: bona fide birthplace of baked beans

and all that I have ever known or felt remembered or believed or jest plain read about in that feller Faulknah's fast-paced fiction, and all whom I have ever loved or pittied (or parodied), every burden I have borne (along with these six-pound flat-irons), everybody I have bored (especially St. Shreve), all keep pace with me today, stride for stride—breath for breath...Why, there's shoeless Joe Kickmiss!—a speed-demon in spandex—with the Right Reverend Highjump drawing nigh; Thomas Shotput shoots by shouting chasin' ragin' Charlie Bonsai—the better to bid him get lost!; which he (Bon) is and will remain, since Miss Rosie Ruiz-Coldfeet—Our Lady of the Trolley—shamelessly shanghaied Charlie on the MTA (did he ever return)...As I wipe my brow, take my bow, and ease my toes, Addie Bunion looks at me funny...so I axes her right-kind (but with a groan): Did you ever have a blistah? Did you? Did you!

(Continued Page 4)

Faux Faulkner

(From Page 3)

"As I Pay Deion"

(A Faulknerian Tour de Farce Purportedly Written on an Over-Turned Wheelbarrow in the Boiler Room of Lewisville High School)

By MICHAEL A. CRIVELLO

Thus saw America: after the debacle of losing to the Mottstown '69ers and thus failing to return for a third consecutive time to the Sutpen Bowl, Jefferson Plowboys owner/general manager Jerry ("100 Coaches Could Take My Team to the Sutpen Bowl") Jones-Snopes, in fierce and indomitable Jones-Snopesian fury at those talk-show and sports-page critics who posited and penned then that it was his sheer hubris, Jones-Snopes's, in hiring the then-retired Barry Swizzler after not a firing but more an abrogation, a disengagement, a sudden February caesura after the second consecutive Sutpen Bowl victory over the Tupelo Bills, divorcing himself from the well-coifed Jimmy Wonsome and his two Sutpen Bowl victories—"How 'bout them Plowboys!"—revered by all but the envious Jones-Snopes who longed to bathe himself solitary and apotheosized at the center of the light in August's training camp all through the inexorable march to cold and bright January's Sutpen Bowl, for glory and not the least of all for profit, when after his Swizzler-led eleven lost to the '69ers and their subsequent erecting of the new sign on Old Highway 6: "Keep your on Mottstown" and below: "HOW 'BOUT THEM '69ERS!" saw the specter of a bygone and tragic ancestor, Wash(ington Redskins) Jones, rise up before him to declare, "They mought have kilt us, but they aint whupped us yit, Jerry. It was them durn first-quarter turnovers," had to, in the incorrigibility of his undefeat, initiate his vengeance on the incessant and susurrous murmurings bemoaning the departed Jimmy Wonsome by signing away the '69ers' star cornerback Deion ("Pram Tam") Scamders; he, Jones-Snopes, not merely raising but, more, wresting the necessary cash to sign Deion by concluding a promotional deal with his cousin's, Edgar Allen Nekrophilius (Phil) Snopes' Neki coffin company in Batesville (motto: "Just undertake it") and then festooning Phil Snopes' ubiquitous swoosh-of-shoveled-dirt logo in, over, around, and upon any festoonable surface at the Plowboys' home stadium, Rosa Cold Field, so that Jones-Snopes could entice Pram Tam to don the Playboys' stars and bars (later, when two of the Plowboys were caught in highly ambiguous circumstances in the Holston House with a pair of equally ambiguous "self-employed models," one less than reverent chronicler of the perspiring arts would term the Plowboys "the stars behind bars"); images of the signed and stabled Deion would begin to appear on crocker sacks and fertilizer bags and milk bottles and any other surface large enough to hold his beyond-the-salary-cap smile, the same smile that beguiled the Jefferson town fathers into allowing him to erect an eight-foot wall and gate around his brand-new porticoed and columned mansion, "For Pram Tam's privacy," he said, and then finally to affix five huge and shameless golden letters to that baronial gate: "DEION" — and he, Jones-Snopes, would accomplish his vindication, not even having to face the old nemesis, the '69ers, who were upset by the Greenville Peckers, but then victory in Sutpen Bowl XXX (the numerals Roman and cryptic to almost the entire Plowboys' roster, meaning nothing mathematical or historical but instead the triple X's conjuring in the Plowboys' turbid gray matter vague recollections of various distillations of everclear and moonshine), dispatching the Pittsburg Landing Stealers not through any Pram Tam heroics but more through the steady generalship of quarterback Troy ("Touch Down,") Moses, after which Jones-Snopes, in a sham of mawkish humility, and the giddy Coach Swizzler in that last red and dying evening would vie for sole embracing rights to the silver Sartoris Trophy, together crowing, "We did it our way, bay-bee!", but evermore doomed and damned by all time and ennui and pride and parity and injury and more pride and salary cap and assault charges and drug suspension and still more pride to try next year to do it their way once again.



"Light in August"

By WALTER G. WATKINS JR.

His fermented cynosure sat before him golden cold ineluctable, an apotheosis of amber nectar in its vitrified sand-silica container, its frosty chaplet escaping the tankard, collecting on the wood of ten thousand nights and before that five hundred years standing tall in the forest, the big woods, the wilderness of Ikemotubbe and later Sutpen and later yet McCaslin, de Spain, Ewell, Hogganbeck, Lion, Old Ben, deer and panther (then) before humankind

Faulkner Centennial Exhibition: "A Faulkner 100"

Special Collections at the University of Mississippi Library will publish a catalogue to accompany the exhibition commemorating the Faulkner centennial. Entitled "A Faulkner 100: the Centennial Exhibition," the catalogue will feature 100 items drawn from extensive holdings of printed and manuscript Faulkneriana. Some of the items will be illustrated in the catalogue, a number in color.

Many of the items in the exhibition relate directly to the University, the town of Oxford and the Faulkner family. Two rare letters from Faulkner's great-grandfather, Col. William Clark Falkner, will be on display. One is a Civil War-dated letter in which Falkner expresses chagrin at the dispersal of several companies from his Regiment. The other is a four-page letter which, in itself, constitutes a brief history of the Ripley Railroad Co. The catalogue will also print several Faulkner poems that have been previously unpublished.

A goal in designing the exhibition is to present printed materials that are unique to the Ole Miss Library and not duplicated in other Faulkner collections. Funding for the catalogue has been given to the Department of Archives and Special Collections by Leila Clark Wynn of Greenville, Miss. The price of the catalogue was undetermined at this writing.

discovered and desecrated this holy ground with its (humankind's) vitiosity and rapaciousness, the tree's life struck from it by the axe, crashing silently to the ground heard only by a lumberjack, thereafter planed, polished and shaped to fit the needs of humble, quiet servitude; discreetly listening to the tales of man and woman, the travails of love, lack of love, and need for love, discretion and (more often) indiscretions, fidelity, infidelity, loneliness, hard times, glasses raised in toasts, broken in anger; stained by tears and the sweat of an honest day's work, the blood of the brawl, and the hard drinking man's spilled whiskey and beer; it (the wood) maturing hard and dark, burdened with names, dates, places, crumbled hopes, realized dreams, hearts broken and mended, deaths wished and recorded, a directory of numbers, hearts pierced with Cupid's arrow, triumphs, defeats, blackened scars of cigarettes smoked and unsmoked; a hieroglyphic history recorded for future generations to decipher; a time capsule encompassing more of life than the relics molding in the cornerstone of any building. Apostatizingly, he raised the halcyon liquid known as Bud Light to his lips and drank the auriferous liquid brewed by the men—owners of the baseball team whose games pierced the night from the north (Although Missouri bordered the South, no true southerner could forget its allegiance in The War in a time when loyalty to land, sanguinity, family overwhelmed any imagined duty to Country; the question not right or wrong, but simply loyalty to the land) making its way to the ears and imaginations of men (boys) seeing clearly in the night's blackness the men(gods) in white uniforms consecrated by the magic lights, playing the game of youth and America—who also made regular Budweiser, the beer of his father and grandfathers. The honey liquid was repugnant to his taste, still he persevered. "I don't hate it" he thought, said almost immediately. He screamed in the coolness of the tavern on the hot August evening, "I don't hate it. Light Beer is less filling with more taste. I don't! I don't hate it!"

Reaching into the cooler's depths, the voyeur bartender collected the coldest real Budweiser in Jefferson, popped the top, and placed the can of temptation before the man who aposiopetically slammed the Bud Light—his avatar of failure—to the floor cursing his spirit's weakness, his nature and his tastebuds. Obeisantly raising the real can to his lips, he—in his solitude of the flesh—indissolubly, indomitably, indubitably crossed Phlegethon and with great satisfaction drank long and hard.

THE ** FAULKNER NEWSLETTER & Yoknapatawpha Review

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