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The Daily Mississippian

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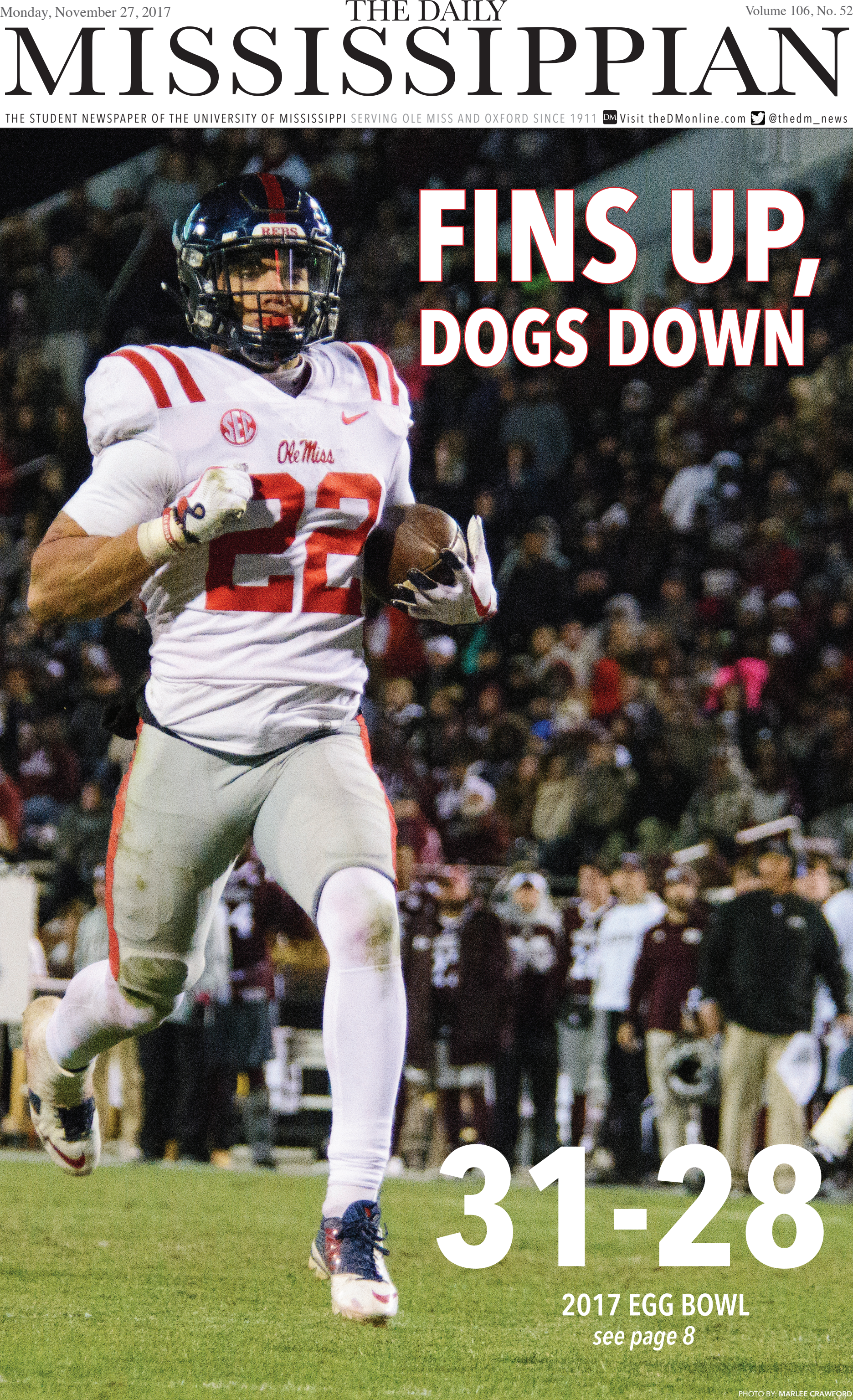
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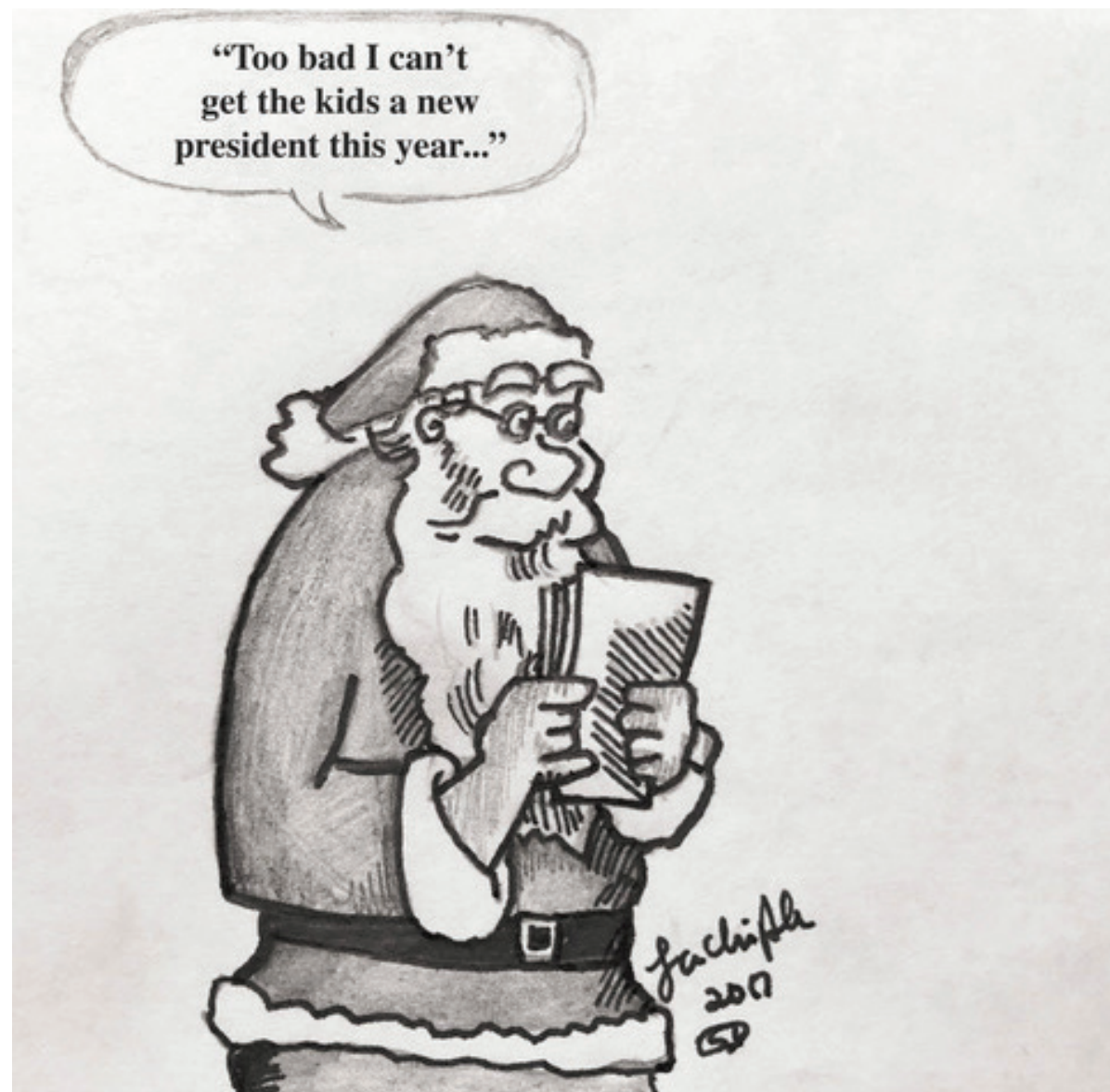
THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 [DM Visit theDMonline.com](#) [@thedm_news](#)



FINNS UP, DOGS DOWN

31-28

2017 EGG BOWL
see page 8

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@thedm_news**COLUMN****NBC article misrepresents campus****WILL HALL**
STAFF COLUMNIST

This semester, Ole Miss was blessed with the presence of a leader in the field of misinformation. NBC News set foot on the Ole Miss campus and, in the article “The Confederacy still haunts the campus of Ole Miss,” published Nov. 16, reinforced age-old lies about our university and state.

Apart from the easily verifiable factual error of referring to ASB Secretary Dylan Wood as attorney general, which has since

been fixed, the piece was remarkably predictable in tone.

Just like all other mainstream media reports on the state of our campus, NBC News made a point of aggrandizing political and racial tensions to appeal to its audience of liberal, coastal elites while ignoring anything remotely positive about the university.

Opening with remarks regarding the accident that hit the Confederate memorial last month, the author, Phil McCausland, takes readers on a journey filled with tales of riots, institutional racism and the elusive yet ever-present beast that is white privilege.

Using a slew of interviews from prominent political activists across campus, NBC News masterfully juxtaposed interviews with conservative activists with those of liberal ones in a way that artfully presented

conservatives as gleefully ignorant to the proclaimed struggle of their peers.

Though it is disappointing that the media considers this type of reporting acceptable, I would be lying if I said I expected more from NBC News. After reading the article, I found myself disappointed that McCausland did not take time to mention that while some members of our community often obsess over political divisions, this discourse truly operates on the fringes of university life.

We are Ole Miss Rebels. We are not a divided bunch.

I’ve never known division in the Grove on a Saturday afternoon. I’ve never known anger when someone looks you in the eye and greets you with a Hotty Toddy. Yet I’ve known the great joy felt while locking the Vaught with 60,000 of your closest friends whom you have yet to meet. This

is the heart of Ole Miss.

When you’re in these places on campus, nothing matters except for the love of the place from which we will never graduate. This is why it’s so challenging for journalists, regardless of affiliation, to report on life as it is at Ole Miss.

The next time a major news outlet finds itself in Oxford, whether it is NBC, NPR or Fox News, I invite it to accompany me on a tour exploring the true Ole Miss community outside of the spotlight, which all those before it have cast down. I have full faith that if members of the media witnessed the magic of this place, even for a brief moment, they would reconsider all past dispersions and discover the true values of the Ole Miss family.

Will Hall is a junior journalism major from Atlanta.

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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
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Giving Tuesday raises money for local organizations

BRIANA FLOREZ
STAFF WRITER

Groups throughout Oxford and Lafayette County will participate in #GivingTuesday tomorrow to raise money for different charitable causes.

Giving Tuesday was established in 2012 by the Belfer Center for Innovation and Social Impact. Every year, Giving Tuesday follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The campaign enables organizations throughout the world to raise money for their philanthropies after the two biggest spending days of the year.

Any official charity, business, religious or community group

that benefits at least one charity can register online to join the movement. Giving Tuesday seeks to get people involved with organizations near them to make a difference. Organizations such as the United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County and Sustainable Oxford are gearing up to participate.

Ken Brummett, executive director of United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County, said its main goal is to use Giving Tuesday to raise funds for all its partners and coalitions, such as Boys & Girls Club of North Mississippi, Leap Frog, Interfaith Compassion Ministry, Lafayette County Literacy Council, Meals on Wheels and more.

“We do not have a defined total in mind when it comes to Giving Tuesday,” Brummett said. “Rather, we want to promote the impact of our dollars throughout the LOU community in hopes of moving individuals, businesses and organizations to give.”

In 2015, 98 different countries participated in Giving Tuesday. According to GivingTuesday.org, \$177 million was raised through online donations, 1.64 million gifts were given online and 2.4 million social media engagements involving the campaign took place.

The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council has participated in past years, but this year, it de-

cidated to create its own fundraising initiative along with other local art groups, called “Day for Art.” It is an online giving event that raises money for local art organizations. The campaign is currently underway and ends January 23.

“The arts council has participated in the past, hoping to reach a wider audience interested in supporting arts education. We found that it did not have the desired results, as it conflicted with our own year-end donation drive,” YAC operations coordinator Caitlin Hopper said. “Local art groups have joined forces to create Day for Art, which we hope will introduce people to art and cultural groups in Lafayette

County.”

The funds raised in the past for United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County on Giving Tuesday have not been significant, but Brummett said monetary gain is not entirely what the campaign is about.

“We are blessed to live in a community that embodies the philanthropic spirit throughout the year,” Brummett said. “The importance of Giving Tuesday is not based strictly on monetary gain. If we can raise awareness of our work and impact throughout the community, that is extremely important as we seek to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.”

University launches Flagship Constellations Initiative

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter launched the Flagship Constellations Initiative to a full auditorium at the Gertrude C. Ford Center on Nov. 17. The initiative focuses on four themes, called constellations, for experts and university officials to research and present solutions on: big data, brain wellness, community wellbeing and disaster resilience.

Vitter said the university has a duty as the state’s flagship university to be the leader for growth and solutions in Mississippi. The origin of the theme comes from the ancient Greeks using the constellations in the sky to navigate across the ocean. Just like the Greeks, the university plans to use these constellations to guide itself forward.

“When we say the University of Mississippi is the flagship, it doesn’t mean we’re the oldest,” Vitter said. “It means we’re responsible for chartering the path of our state.”

Vitter also announced the establishment of the Ernest R. Duff Flagship Constellation Fund Foundation, which was started with a donation of \$1 million from Ernest Duff’s



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter introduced the new Flagship Constellations programs at Ole Miss. They are designed to promote the welfare of current and future students.

sons, Tommy and Jim Duff. Ernest Duff was an alumnus of the university, where he served as the student body president. This donation will go toward funding the research and solutions of the flagship initiative.

The sons talked about how proud of the fund their dad would be. They said their father would often share stories with them of the diversity on

campus and the different professors and friends he met. Duff went on to obtain a law degree from Ole Miss and developed a “gentleman lawyer” attitude, which the brothers said was a direct result of the university.

Provost Noel Wilkin said creating this initiative and fund for the university is a great accomplishment. Wilkin said he was excited about this

new initiative for the university and what it means for the future of the state.

“This collaborative initiative has the ability to advance our standing as an academic institution, to magnify the influence of our research on solving major challenges faced by society and to contribute knowledge that will change the lives of others,” Wilkin said. “Most important-

ly, it’s exciting to see the energy our faculty have brought to this initiative.”

Representatives for the different constellations presented their research on major problems found within the scope of their themes. The different constellation teams will continue to research their problems, seeking solutions on how to address them.

The constellation on brain wellness, presented by Mike Lehman, Jennifer Reneker, Chad Washington, Kristie Willett and Lique Coolen, revealed that “41,000 Mississippians are affected by strokes each year, 12,000 of those citizens will be disabled, 8,000 of those citizens will live in a nursing home (and) 2,000 of those citizens will die. In total, that will cost the state around \$6 billion.”

The other constellations presented their research in a similar fashion with a challenge to move forward.

Wilkin closed the initiative by challenging the faculty to become involved with the constellations because each is “an open invitation” to anyone wanting to seek solutions through research. Wilkin expects to see the constellation groups grow exponentially as the committees go forward.

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Award-winning novel examines racial violence, death

MEGAN SWARTZFAGER
STAFF WRITER

Local author Jesmyn Ward's fictional work "Sing, Unburied, Sing" carefully crafts a story of the dead that speaks for the dying. The novel has now received the 2017 National Book Award, making Ward the first woman to win two National Book Awards for fiction.

In this novel of fear and familial love, Ward brings to bear a more refined version of the lyrical style that made her 2011 National Book Award-winning novel "Salvage the Bones" so powerful, and she uses it to address current social ills in the context of their bloody and tragic history.

"Sing, Unburied, Sing" alternates between the voices of 13-year-old Jojo, his mother Leonie and the ghost of a 12-year-old boy named Richie.

Much of the novel's tension lies in Jojo and Leonie's familial relationships. Jojo is the main caretaker for his young sister, Kayla, and the grandmother who acted as his mother throughout his childhood is dying of cancer. Jojo's grandfather, Pop, is the only stable figure in his life.

Leonie's life is ruled by addiction, both to drugs and to her incarcerated boyfriend Michael, JoJo and Kayla's harsh biological father. This causes Leonie to neglect her children and become frustrat-

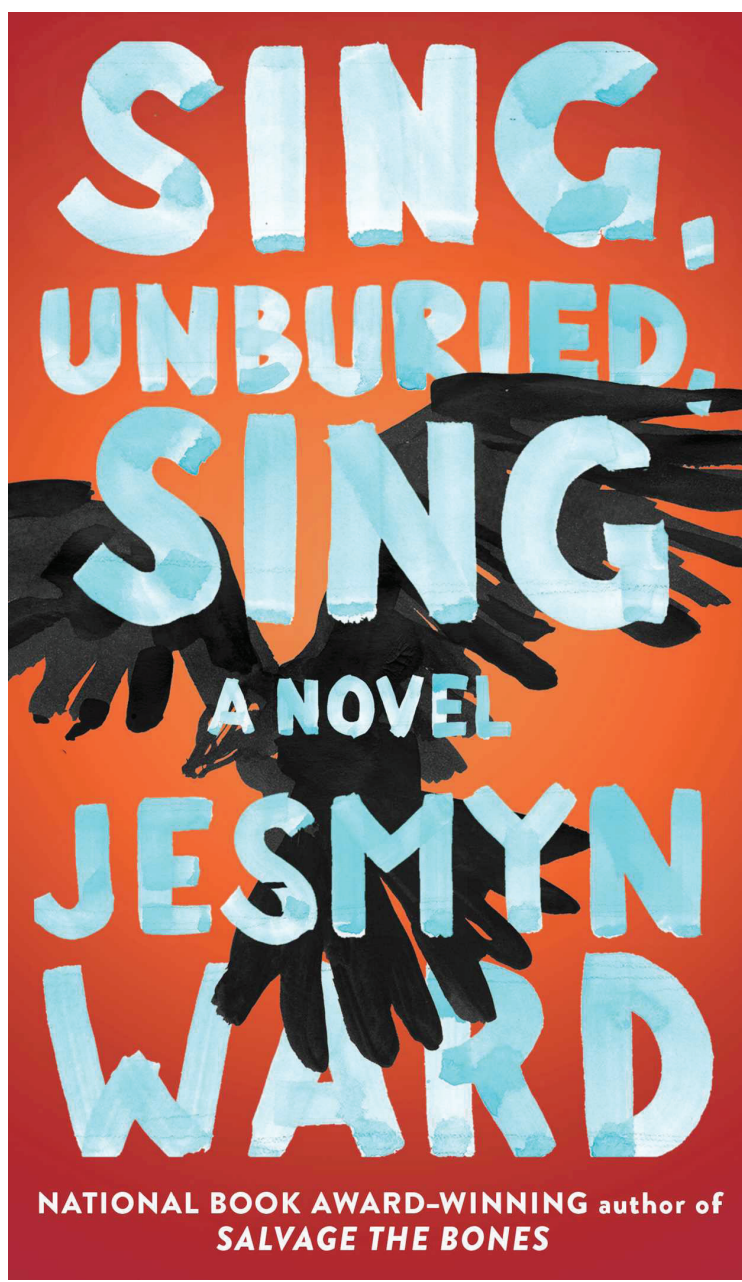


PHOTO COURTESY: SIMON & SCHUSTER

ed by Jojo and Kayla learning to function without her.

Jojo, Leonie and Kayla also all have the ability to see ghosts.

The two ghosts in the nov-

el are Given, Leonie's brother who was killed in a racially motivated shooting when he was a teenager, and Richie, a 12-year-old boy who died violently while incarcerated with

Pop in the Mississippi State Penitentiary, also known as Parchman.

When Leonie receives a call from Michael saying he is being released from prison, the relative stability the family had achieved is turned on its head. In an attempt to force her family together, Leonie brings Jojo and Kayla on a miserable drive from one end of the state to the other to pick up Michael when he is released.

At Parchman, Jojo meets the ghost of Richie, about whom he has heard many stories from Pop. While the cruelties and prejudices of Parchman are apparent through the stories of other prisoners, they reach new and appalling heights in the story of the 12-year-old African-American boy who suffered and died in the Mississippi prison system.

While the narrative details of the ghosts, Given and Richie, can feel heavy-handed at times, the ghosts themselves are powerful tools that convey Ward's message about the ubiquity and brutality of racism in the American South with a force that would not have been accomplished without them.

A billboard the group passes on the way to Parchman reads "Protect life" and depicts a human fetus. Seeing this billboard through the eyes of Jojo, who has been unloved by his parents and stereotyped by society to the point of dehumanization, is

heartbreaking. In the light of his uncle Given's violent death and the subsequent failure of the justice system — his death was explained away as a hunting accident — it is even more so.

Richie's story fully realizes the injustices of the legal system and Southern society in dealing with people of color, especially when those people are children.

Richie recounts to Jojo his experiences after death, saying, "How could I imagine Parchman would pull me to it and refuse to let go? And how could I conceive that Parchman was past, present, and future all at once?"

Elements of their story, mostly the painful elements, are embodied by the multitude of ghosts that appear to Jojo and Kayla at the end of the novel. Their suffering, however, is not without redemption. The young Kayla soothes these victims of violence with a song that, while incomprehensible to Jojo and Pop, produces in the ghosts "something like relief, something like remembrance, something like ease."

Through this, Ward produces a compelling commentary on the sensationalized acts of racial violence that have taken place over the past few years. She writes from a place of genuine compassion that resonates throughout the novel, creating deeply empathetic characters who live out a painfully relevant narrative.

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Local author draws inspiration from world travels

SARAH SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Whether hitchhiking through New Zealand, breaking horses in Mexico or making a pilgrimage in Japan while writing books, it's just another day for author Catherine Lacey.

Lacey is the Grisham writer-in-residence at Ole Miss and the author of two novels, "Nobody Is Ever Missing" and "The Answers," which have both been reviewed by popular magazines and newspapers such as Vogue and The New York Times.

Lacey describes herself as a creature of habit and has always liked "impractical things."

Her friend Kathleen Alcott described Lacey as a person who is extremely interested in social justice, and she said Lacey's writing isn't just her profession, but that everything about her work connects to her life.

"She thinks, as though it is her job, about how to be good to the people in her life," Alcott said.

Lacey's dedication to writing extends beyond just spending a few hours a day in her office. It branches out to everything she reads and watches, as well as to conversations she has.

"She does not eat any junk food," Alcott said. "She treats all the hours she is not writing as an education in high culture that will feed back into it."

Lacey's journey through life and writing has taken her all over the globe, sometimes inspiring the characters readers get to see in her novels. She said the things these characters do are not what the people actually did but that the characters are similar in demeanor to the people she met.



PHOTO COURTESY: CATHERINE LACEY

Lacey said she based one character on a woman called "Jaye" she met in New Zealand while she was participating in World Wide Opportunity on Organic Farms.

Lacey said she learns from her experiences traveling.

Jesse Ball, Lacey's colleague, said Lacey spends a good part of her free time abroad. In fact, traveling is how they met and became partners.

"She was breaking horses at a ranch in Mexico," Ball said. "I was selling bottles of water out of a truck. She came to buy the bottles of water a little too often, so I knew something was up."

Ball described Lacey as "a

combination of an astronaut and a hobo."

Despite Lacey's success as a novelist, she didn't always see herself on a path to fiction writing. At the beginning of her writing career, things were very different.

After receiving help from a professor in New Orleans, Louisiana, she decided to go to Columbia University to get a master's degree in nonfiction writing. There, she tried her hand at writing magazine-style pieces.

She then got a job as an assistant to another novelist. She said he was bad at keeping up with his day-to-day, so she helped him stay on task. About a year into her

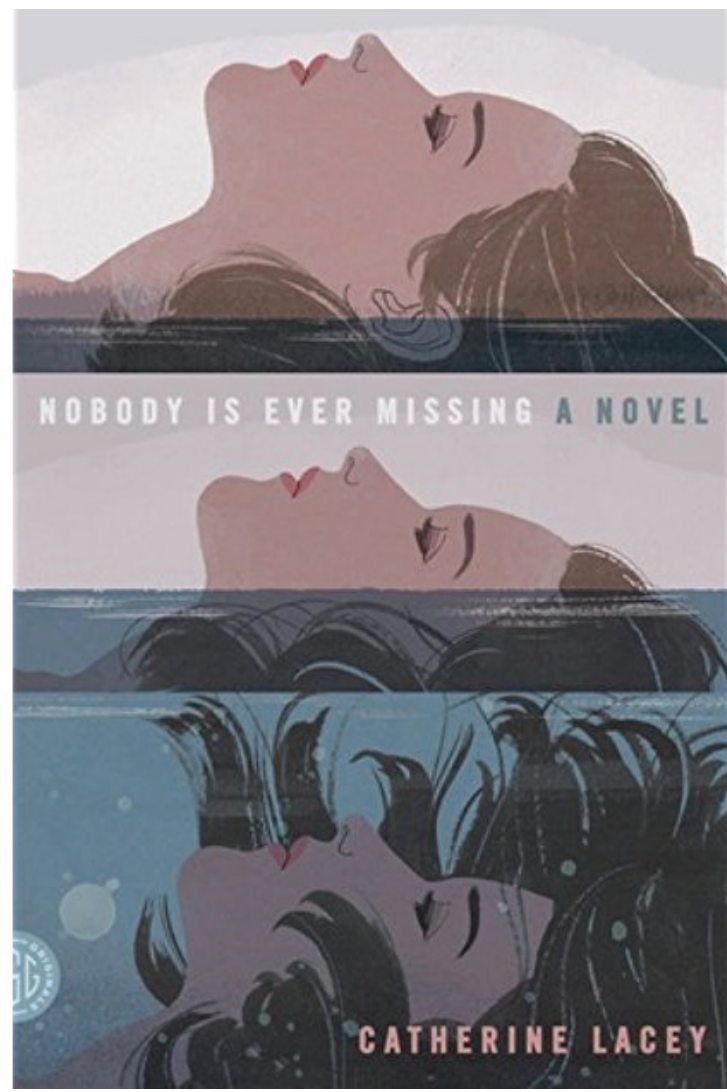


PHOTO COURTESY: GOOD READS

job, she'd been working on her novel and decided to ask for agent recommendations, which began her road to publication.

After being rejected by several agents, the one she had been wanting to work with told her that her novel needed some more work.

"It broke my heart," Lacey said. "I thought I had done everything I could do to it."

Still, Lacey worked on it, and after a few months, she sent it back to the agent. This time, it was accepted, but her work wasn't finished.

As her editor asked questions about why she wrote certain scenes, Lacey realized which things needed work and what was good. She said this process was about grow-

ing as a writer and making her book better.

"You're not always a good writer in the beginning," she said.

Lacey said it was a long and tiring process and that things don't just happen instantly.

She described the writing and publication process like golf: So many times, writers believe they have one chance and have to do things in a certain way, like a golfer who is told he has to get a hole-in-one the first time, and that if he doesn't do that, he isn't successful.

Lacey said this line of thought isn't accurate and that just because someone can't write a novel within a month doesn't mean he or she is not a writer at all.

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Saa student activities association

Rebel volleyball closes curtain on mixed season

FLINT CHRISTIAN
STAFF WRITER

Ole Miss volleyball finished its season in a positive fashion with a 3-1 win over South Carolina last week, capping off a solid year of improvement for head coach Steven McRoberts' squad.

The Rebels closed out the year with a final record of 17-14 and a conference record of 8-10, good for eighth in the SEC and tying their best conference record since 2012. The Rebels continued to separate themselves from the conference bottom-dwellers this season as they pushed to compete with top-level teams like Florida and Kentucky. Despite the lack of a breakthrough victory, they consistently took care of business against teams with less talent. They also swept in-state rival Mississippi State 2-0 while suffering a num-



FILE PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Players celebrate during a match against Mississippi State earlier this season. Ole Miss won 3-1.

ber of hard-fought losses to conference foes.

The Rebels were led throughout the season by seniors Kate Gibson and Lexi Thompson. Both have etched their names in the record books and left their marks on the Ole Miss volleyball program. Gibson finished the season leading the SEC in double-doubles with 20, while she and Thompson both became members of the 1,000 kill/1,000 dig club over the length of their careers. Thompson also holds the school record for most career kills, most career service aces and most single-season kills while also holding the third-most career digs. Gibson added to her career totals this season, finishing sixth all-time in kills and digs.

Plenty of other Ole Miss players stepped up down the stretch; the Rebels were a balanced team that relied on contributions from every part of the lineup. Sophomore middle blocker Nayo Warnell was named the SEC Defensive Player of the Week for Week 6 after her excellent performances in victories over Mississippi State and Georgia. Ole Miss was also the only SEC school to have three players with 300 kills, as sophomore Emily Stroup joined Thompson and Gibson in reaching the milestone. It was also the only SEC school to have three players record 300 digs, as junior Caroline Adams also joined Thompson and Gibson.

Despite the multitude of individual accolades, the team fell short of greater success. While not entirely out of the question, the Rebels are projected to miss the end-of-season NCAA Tournament. The possibility remains they will be invited to play in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship, where Ole Miss could finish off the season with some hardware. Ole Miss did, however, set an attendance record this season: 10,716 people made their way to the Gilom Sports Center over the past few months to support the Rebels.

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 - 11 Mac ___-tung
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 - 15 Deep cut
 - 16 Flee
 - 17 Not susceptible
 - 18 Person engaged in a lawsuit
 - 20 Abandonment of faith
 - 22 Baile ___
 - 23 Storage container
 - 24 Star Wars letters
 - 25 Constituent of blood serum
 - 27 Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"
 - 29 Freelancer's end.
 - 31 Nuisance
 - 32 List of corrections
 - 35 He ran from Iran
 - 37 Wide shoe size
 - 38 Capital of Israel
 - 41 Cookie fruit
 - 44 Fail to win
 - 45 Hams it up
 - 49 Let's just leave ___ that
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 - 3 Social worker in a hospital
 - 4 Asset
 - 5 Camp sights
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 - 7 Unattractive
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 - 11 Apprentice
 - 12 Morning
 - 13 International accord
 - 19 Yucky stuff
 - 21 Bra's sibling

SOLUTION TO 11.17.2017 PUZZLE

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25 Dept. of Labor div. 46 Two wrestlers on the same side

26 Norman Vincent ___ 47 As a group

28 ___ Mahal 48 Began

30 Beasts of burden 49 French actor Jacques

33 Business card abbr. 50 ___ Paulo

34 "___ by any other name..." 52 Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"

36 Skirt stitching 57 Slumbered

39 Drew on 58 Hostess Mesta

40 Cut down grass 61 Ancient Briton

41 Stoker 62 Dagger

42 Repeat 64 Circle segment

43 Noblest knight of the Round Table 65 Get a move on

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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.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

CHALLENGING

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

COLUMN

Arduous year ends in golden bliss with Egg Bowl win

JOHN MACON GILLESPIE
STAFF WRITER

After defeating No. 14 Mississippi State in the 90th Egg Bowl game, head coach Matt Luke joined the Ole Miss faithful in the Hotty Toddy chant, and Starkville native A.J. Brown yelled "This is my city."

Though the Egg Bowl is always more than "just a game," it carried more weight than usual after an exasperating season for Ole Miss, and the win was greater than a victory on the scoreboard — it was a moment of healing and revenge for a hurting program.

Coming into the annual matchup, very few analysts thought the Rebels had a chance to top the Bulldogs. A rollercoaster of a season full of controversy and heartbreaking losses had presumably left the Rebels depleted and war-weary going into a game against a team that, on paper, was much more talented.

But as Luke has said all season, the Rebels got up off the mat and fought.

Additionally, this game was personal for the Ole Miss locker room and its fanbase. They have been on the receiving end of copious amounts of pain and controversy in 2017, which rivalries often magnify. Rivals like to kick each other when they're down, and the Egg Bowl has certainly seen its share of that over the years.

This year was no exception, and Ole Miss had enough.

The Rebels dominated the Bulldogs and forced five turnovers on the night, including an interception from starting quarterback Nick Fitzgerald before he left the game with an ankle injury. Though the Ole Miss offense was not as sharp as in past performances, Jordan Wilkins and A.J. Brown both accumulated more than 100 yards in rushing and receiving, respectively, and the performance was more than enough to put the Bulldogs down in the second half.

Many onlookers believe the Egg Bowl rivalry has gotten too heated, which may be true. But the vit-

riol made the victory even sweeter for Ole Miss.

Sure, the Rebels may not be able to go to a bowl game in 2017, but they reached six wins on the season, which is one more than last year's total. To reach that mark against an in-state rival is monumental, and regardless of what is ahead, this win cannot go away.

Now, the Egg Bowl is just one game, and Ole Miss had visible problems this season, indicative of a young team in a coaching upheaval. But this Egg Bowl was more than a game to close out the Rebels' season. Ole Miss still doesn't know who will be its next head coach or what the NCAA's Committee on Infractions will hand down in the form of additional penalties, but that didn't matter on Thanksgiving.



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

TOP: Wide receiver D.K. Metcalf escapes a defender as he runs for a touchdown during the Egg Bowl at the Davis Wade Stadium in Starkville on Thursday. BOTTOM: Head coach Matt Luke kisses the Egg Bowl trophy after Ole Miss' 31-28 win over MSU on Thursday.

It was a win for the football player from Starkville who chose to attend Ole Miss over Mississippi State, for the Oxford High School graduate who grew up living the rivalry, for an interim head coach who has been an Ole Miss Rebel his entire life and for a wounded fanbase and student body who needed a reason to smile.

Forget the coaching search.

Forget the NCAA.

Ole Miss won a game that avenged a lot of pain that has come over the last calendar year, and it felt good.

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After long season, Rebels upset No. 14 Bulldogs

GRAYSON WEIR
SPORTS EDITOR

At the end of a 2017 season full of turmoil and triumph for Ole Miss football, a chilly Thanksgiving evening at Davis Wade Stadium set the scene for the 90th Battle for the Golden Egg against No. 14 Mississippi State.

With an interim head coach at the helm, a self-imposed postseason ban in place, lawsuits being thrown back and forth between the two in-state rival programs and an NCAA investigation looming, the Rebels took the field for the final time with vengeance and a point to prove.

"This wasn't my 14th Egg Bowl. This was my 41st Egg Bowl," Luke said. "And to the people of the state of Mississippi, this is the most important game of the year."

After just missing DaMarkus Lodge down the sideline on the first play of the game, quarterback Jordan Ta'amu found Starkville native A.J. Brown for a 58-yard catch-and-run on the very next play.

"I felt like our biggest advantage was our receivers versus their defensive backs," Luke said. "We wanted to take advantage of that early, and anytime they played one high, we wanted to take advantage of that."

Hustling to the line, running back Jordan Wilkins scampered up the middle and put Ole Miss up a touchdown, just three plays into the game.

With nine minutes remaining in the first quarter, the Bulldogs took over on offense. Faking the handoff to running back Aeris Williams, Fitzgerald kept the ball and ran around outside the tackles, where he was met by 285-pound defensive end Bree-land Speaks.

Fitzgerald dislocated his ankle, was carted off and did not return to action. In his absence, freshman Keytaon Thompson was unable to move the chains, and he gave the keys back to Ta'amu.

Though the ensuing Rebel drive ended in a punt, a 17-yard reception by Brown.

"I knew I had a lot of eyes on me," Brown, a Starkville High School graduate, said. "I was try-



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Wide receiver A.J. Brown runs for a touchdown during the Egg Bowl in Starkville on Thursday. This game put Brown at 1,169 receiving yards, surpassing the single-season school record held by Laquon Treadwell. Ole Miss defeated MSU 31-28.

ing to just keep my cool and play my game. All week, I heard they were trying to keep me out of the game and all of this and that, but I didn't let it faze me."

Subsequently trading possessions for a moment, the craziness continued as Ole Miss took over with 2:08 remaining in the first quarter. Anchored by 12- and 19-yard runs from Wilkins and Ta'amu, the Rebels found themselves with a fourth-and-1 at the Mississippi State 36-yard line. After electing to go for it, offensive guard Jordan Sims jumped the snap and moved the Rebels back 5 yards, forcing Will Gleeson to punt. The Australian's effort was blocked by Jeffrey Simmons and recovered by the home team.

With great field position at the Ole Miss 42, Thompson dropped back for the Bulldogs and floundered a pass in the direction of C.J. Moore. The 5-foot-11 cornerback snatched it out of the air and returned the interception 48 yards into Mississippi State territory before being met with a late

hit that added 15 yards to the play and put Ole Miss inside the red zone. Kicker Gary Wunderlich converted from 33 yards out and gave the Rebels a 10-0 lead.

Mississippi State answered with three of its own after eight consecutive running plays allowed Jace Christmann to find his range. Just before the half, Christmann tacked on three more, and the Rebels went into the locker room ahead by only four.

Following two punts to begin the second half, Mississippi State's second possession was met with great field position at the Ole Miss 40-yard line. Driving to the 18, Thompson attempted a draw play but was clobbered by Josiah Coatney and lost the ball. Scooped up by A.J. Moore, the defense forced yet another turnover.

Two plays later, Brown chased down a pass from Ta'amu that seemed just out of reach and ran 77 yards for a 17-6 Ole Miss lead.

"I was kind of nervous that he

overthrew me," Brown said. "I got a burst out of nowhere, and it just fell in my hands. I don't know how I caught the ball. I just stuck out my hands, and the ball just stuck."

The big plays for the Rebels did not stop there. With just over two minutes left in the third quarter, Ta'amu found D.K. Metcalf for a 63-yard touchdown catch that put the Rebels ahead 24-6 and saw the maroon-and-white faithful begin to head for the door as the quarter came to a close. Following the catch, Metcalf stepped out of the end zone, dropped to his hands and knees, lifted his leg and mimicked the action of a dog urinating on a fire hydrant.

"I let my emotions get the best of me in the game, and what I did is not a reflection of my coaches or the university," Metcalf said after the game.

However, the Bulldogs were not ready to give up the fight and scored with just over nine minutes remaining in the game.

Less than a minute later,

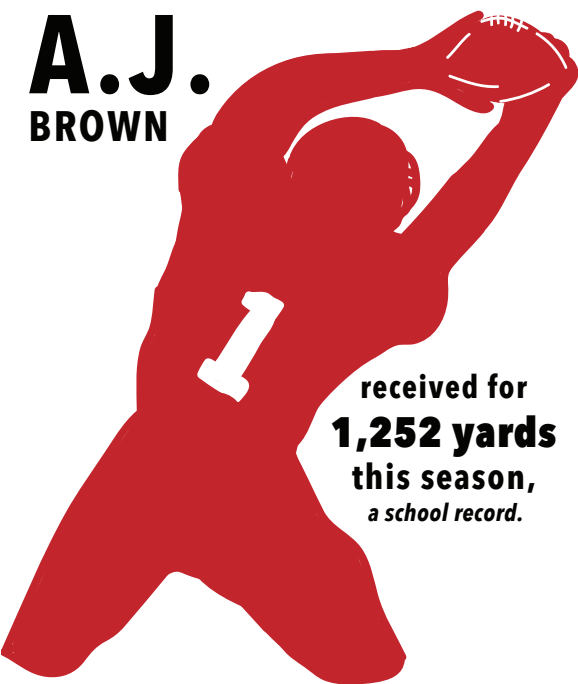
Wilkins found a hole and ran 46 yards for a touchdown.

Amid a long fourth quarter, Speaks was charged with unsportsmanlike conduct and was ejected from the game. On the way out, Speaks waved goodbye to Mississippi State fans and asked them to get louder, as he raised his hands above his head and waved goodbye, much to the displeasure of the Bulldog faithful.

Though Mississippi State was able to add 10 more points, Ole Miss' lead was insurmountable and coach Luke was met with two Gatorade baths and chants of his name as the team stormed the field and engulfed the Egg Bowl trophy.

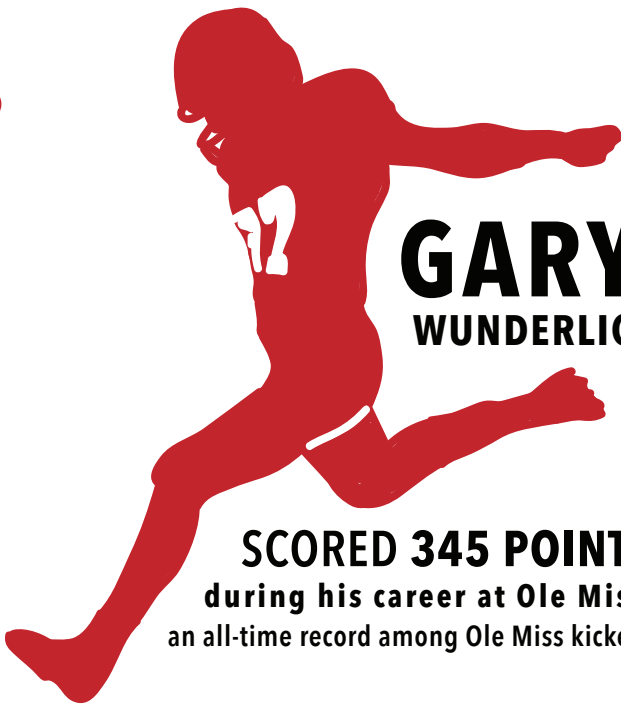
"I'm going to enjoy this night and enjoy these players," Luke said. "I don't have any regrets. I'm grateful for this opportunity. It's a dream of mine, and I'm thankful for the chance to do it and finished with this win."

A.J. BROWN



received for
1,252 yards
this season,
a school record.

GARY WUNDERLICH



SCORED 345 POINTS
during his career at Ole Miss,
an all-time record among Ole Miss kickers.

JORDAN WILKINS

ran for
1,039
yards this season,
the first Ole Miss
RUNNING BACK
to run for more than
1,000 yards since 2009.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION: EMILY HOFFMAN