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Brandon reads from Civil War novel at Drinko

By MATTHEW EPLION

The A.E. Steiger Visiting Writers Series at Marshall University had a public reading event Tuesday by author Brandon in the John Dover Drinko Library.

Brandon read passages from a novel he is working on and said it is 50 percent finished.

The book takes place in the aftermath of the Civil War around the year 1865. The pages he read detailed the main character Gusy. In the story, Gusy’s mother passed away. Her money was kept with another man, but when Gusy attempts to claim it, the man refuses, scaring to keep it for himself. Gusy later attempts to break into the bar the man owns and steal back his inheritance.

Brandon answered questions from the audience after the reading that lasted about 45 minutes.

When asked why Brandon chose the passages to read, he said he was looking for a section of the book without much character introduction needed.

Brandon said he specifically chose to place the setting of the book after the Civil War instead of during it. If the setting had been during the war, the story would have been constrained to historical events. He said by setting the introduction needed.

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**AWARD WINNING ACTIVIST TO SPEAK ABOUT SEXUAL IDENTITY THURSDAY**

By CAITLIN FOWLKE

**THE PARTHENON**

Award-winning activist Robyn Ochs will be the speaker Thursday as part of the monthly Tuesday Tour. Marshall students and Huntington residents follow clues throughout the museum to win the prize.

On Feb. 25, 2015, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the O’Charleys’ Shawkey Dining Room of the Memorial Student Center, award-winning activist and editor of the "Bi Women Quarterly," Robyn Ochs will be discussing her views on identity and sexuality.

**OPINION**

By MERCEDEZ SPEIGHT

**THE PARTHENON**

Pipe burst causes flood in Twin Towers East

By MERCEDEZ SPEIGHT

FREEZING WEATHER WREAKS Havoc On City Water Pipes

By WILLIAM IZZO

***THE PARTHENON***

THE WORKSHOP WILL FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING THE Bisexual community on campus. A reception will take place before the interactive discussion at 6 p.m.

**TOP LEFT:** The teams for the Huntington Museum of Art scavenger hunt assemble in preparation for the hunt, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2015. Award-winning artist and educator Robert Rauschenberg presents the trophy to the winning team. The event is free and open to the public.

**TOP CENTER:** Students Jeremy Chon Jon Chu, Jessica Cain, Kelli Akers and Luke Nelson pose with their trophy.

**TOP RIGHT:** The Huntington Museum of Art presents a scavenger hunt as part of its monthly Tuesday Tour. Marshall students and Huntington residents follow clues throughout the museum to win the prize.
The team is adamant that the past year is not over, according to junior sprinter Shanice Johnson.

"I think it’s a big confidence booster for everyone going into conference," Dyer said. "That’s when you can’t play in your home court, you have to do it. Everyone’s going to be up. I can see the consistent development thanks to the coaching staff, and I’m excited for the future of Marshall’s swimming and diving team.

Senior Lauren Ward, who helped break the school’s 400-yard relay record in the C-USA Championships, said the program has come a long way since her freshman year.

"The team’s definitely heading in the right direction," Hard said. "The coach we had my freshman year was a good coach, but he didn’t really make the best decisions. I think that experience actually helped get the team to where it’s at now."

Tramel said despite losing four seniors, he doesn’t expect the team to take a step back next season.

"We’re obviously going to miss their leadership," Tramel said. "But there’s just so much to look forward to with the group we have coming back."

Malcolm Walton can be contacted at walton47@marshall.edu.
Don’t take advantage of your favorite author's death

By BRI SHELTON

COLUMNIST

A few weeks ago, Harper Lee made a major announcement that she is releasing a sequel to her famous and only novel, “To Kill A Mockingbird” this summer.

The new book will be called “Go Set a Watchman” and takes place in the same town from Maycomb, 20 years after Mockingbird ends. Scott Fitiz, the former protagonist, will narrate the story, as well as feature many of the old characters in her new town. She will travel back to her hometown from New York to visit her aging father and confront some of her own personal and political beliefs.

The main reason for my concern about the new book is the suddenness of its publication. Lee was nearly 88 years old when she finished “Mockingbird” but chose not to release it. And now, after her sister’s death, the manuscript has been found and set to release in July.

Her sister used to care for her and keep an eye on the novel, but now that she is gone, the book has been discovered and put in shelf. Excited as I may feel, this whole situation seems a bit off to me. How could Harper Lee be persuaded to release the book so quickly after her sister’s death? A publishing contract or something like that?

As much as I love “To Kill A Mockingbird” and want to read more of Lee’s work, I worry the famous author may have been taken advantage of. The woman is ill and has not been in the best health for many years. Recent reports have also discussed her memory loss and how it has affected her interactions with fans. If the woman has suffered this much, how is she really sound enough to sign a publishing contract or even negate? It seems like a realm of selling a star’s name. But, this is the one she has kept through the years.

I really don’t want my favorite author to be taking something she doesn’t want to do. There must be a reason why Lee chose to never publish. Watchman before. Maybe it’s in the public’s best interest to keep the novel away from her name. Whatever the case may be, I won’t buy the novel. Let it be an open question.

This May 19, 2015 photo provided by Penny Weaver shows author Harper Lee, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "To Kill A Mockingbird." It’s official: Harper Lee, the author of "To Kill A Mockingbird," is deceased.

COLUMBUS

Editorial: Don’t take advantage of your favorite author's death

The manuscript of Harper Lee’s only novel, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” has been rediscovered and will be released this summer.

The decision to publish the manuscript was made by Lee’s estate, which is managed by her sister, Acuff Lee. The estate has been working to publish a sequel to the novel for many years, but Lee had always resisted the idea of releasing a second book.

In her upcoming novel, Lee explores the life of a young lawyer named Atticus Finch, who defends a black man accused of raping a white woman. The novel explores themes of justice, race, and the power of empathy.

The manuscript was found by Acuff Lee, who had been caring for her sister. Acuff Lee said that she had always been aware of the manuscript, but had never thought to publish it until recently.

The novel is expected to be released in July 2015, and is already generating a lot of buzz among fans of the original novel. Many people are excited to see how Lee has expanded her original story, and how she has explored new themes in her new novel.

Some critics, however, have expressed concerns about the decision to publish the manuscript. They worry that the novel may not be ready for publication, and that it may not live up to the high expectations that fans have for the original book.

But Acuff Lee said that she is confident in the quality of the manuscript, and that the novel will be worth reading. She said that Lee had always been committed to telling the story of Atticus Finch, and that she had worked hard to ensure that the novel was ready for publication.

Overall, the decision to publish the manuscript is a big event for fans of “To Kill a Mockingbird.” It will be interesting to see how the novel is received, and how it compares to the original book. Whatever happens, it is clear that the decision to publish the manuscript has been long overdue, and that fans of the original novel will be excited to see how Lee has expanded her original story.
Early exposure to peanuts prevent allergies in kids

By JON L. MOORE and JACLYN HADDEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP) — A former Marine was convicted Tuesday in Stephenville, Texas, in the 2013 killings of a Navy SEAL and his friend, who were shot at a Texas shooting range.

The trial of Eddie Ray Routh ended when the defense stopped presenting its case, dropping their argument that he was insane.

Routh, 27, of Lancaster, is charged with the 2013 deaths of Chris Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield.

"At least we’re able to have the verdict that we have about hell walking on earth," Littlefield’s mother, Judy Littlefield, said at a news conference outside the Erath County, Donald R. Jones courthouse. "We’re so thrilled that we have the verdict that we have.

Routh, who grew up in nearby Grand Saline, was found guilty of capital murder. Based on that verdict, a judge will decide whether Routh will spend the rest of his life in prison or face execution.

"It’s a relief," said Lindsey Sabine, a friend of both men. "It’s a relief that we’re driven by the fact that he was found guilty. It’s a relief that there is justice for them and it’s a relief for their families and our community as well.

The case hinges on whether Routh was legally insane when he killed the two men.

Defense attorneys argued Routh's mental illness, which included paranoia, led him to think that he was being watched by the government.

Prosecutors said Routh, who was shot at a shooting range two years ago, was faking his illnesses to escape justice.

"I don’t know if it’s fair," said Carol Austin, a friend of the victims.

Routh was found guilty of capital murder and is facing the death penalty in a Texas death row case.

He was convicted of the murders of Kyle and Littlefield in 2013.

Fuentes reported Howard Bryan testifies during the capital murder trial of former Marine Cpl. Eddie Ray Routh at the Erath County, Donald R. Jones Justice Center in Stephenville Texas, Tuesday. Routh, 27, of Lancaster, is charged with the 2013 deaths of Chris Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield at a shooting range near Olive Glen, Texas.

Brandon continues from page 1

Brandon was not on the battlefield. Brandon would have been on the mission.

At the end of the trial, Routh was on hand to sign copies of his book, which were also available for purchase.


Mathew Epplin is an assistant professor of English at Marshall University.

Brandon is also a visiting assistant professor at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, where he teaches in various creative writing programs.

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A tragic night for an Oscars stan

By KELSIE LIVELY

Gill Landry graced the stage of the V-Club Tuesday along with Justin Townes Earle.

Landry, the Old Crow Medicine Show and Earl, son of legendary folk and country singer Steve Earle, disarmed their singer-songwriter styles.

Coming from a non-musical family, Landry said he found his passion for music through the song he felt, as he listened to his favorite musicians.

“Something drove me to music, and I don’t know what it is, I really don’t know,” Landry said. “I’ve thought a long time about it. I know what it makes me feel, and what drives me to it, it is a feeling.”

Landry said the wide range of musical inspirations weighed on him through the lyrical ability of his music.

“It’s very broad,” Landry said. “Mostly I would say song writers across the board, certainly the American ones and some English ones, but the real wonderfulness of song writing.”

Transitioning from a band to performing solo comes with its own set of difficulties. Landry said if he could, he would prefer to sing his own material with a band backing him up.

“What my dream band is, is 11 piece band,” Landry said. “If it was just one person it would be Nina Simone.”

Landry began playing guitar at 5-years-old and first performed at 17, starting his more than, 20-year, music career.

Kelsie Lively can be contacted at lively37@marshall.edu.

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Audible. Gill Landry of Old Crow Medicine Show plays a set at the V-Club Tuesday, RIGHT: Justin Townes Earle, son of folk and country singer Steve Earle, plays at the V-Club Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY KATHERINE SPENCE | THE PARTHENON

A column about random pop culture stuff, mostly Beyoncé

CODINUDRUM

By Codi Mohr

For anyone who knows me, it’s a common knowledge that Oscar’s night is a religious experience. It’s like my birthday, Christmas and the Fourth of July put together. To me, it is the ultimate expression of our cultural consumption. But the best night of the year must have its flaws—predicting a tragic night for an Oscar’s stan.

If Neil Patrick Harris can’t host the Oscars, who can? He’s the best funny man we have. If there was any hint of life throughout the show, Common, John Legend and Julie Andrews were it. A thirty-minute debut performance of “Glory” from “Selma” was just one person it would be Nina Simone.

So here’s to film, and here’s to 2016 Oscars.

But the Oscars aren’t about music. The Oscars are about movies. For next year I genuinely hope the Academy and the producers can find a way to make the film shine and maybe encourage more at-home viewers to see movies.

I’m a sucker for a good montage. The most creative, talented people in the industry combined with the Academy’s graphics team—the real MVP of the ceremony—the show has the ability to knock me off my feet.

So here’s to film, and here’s to 2016 Oscars.

Codi Mohr can be contacted at mohr13@marshall.edu.