

The English Channel

**Save
(and Celebrate)
The Date!**

Volume17
Special Edition

EXTRA! EXTRA!

September 5th, 1957

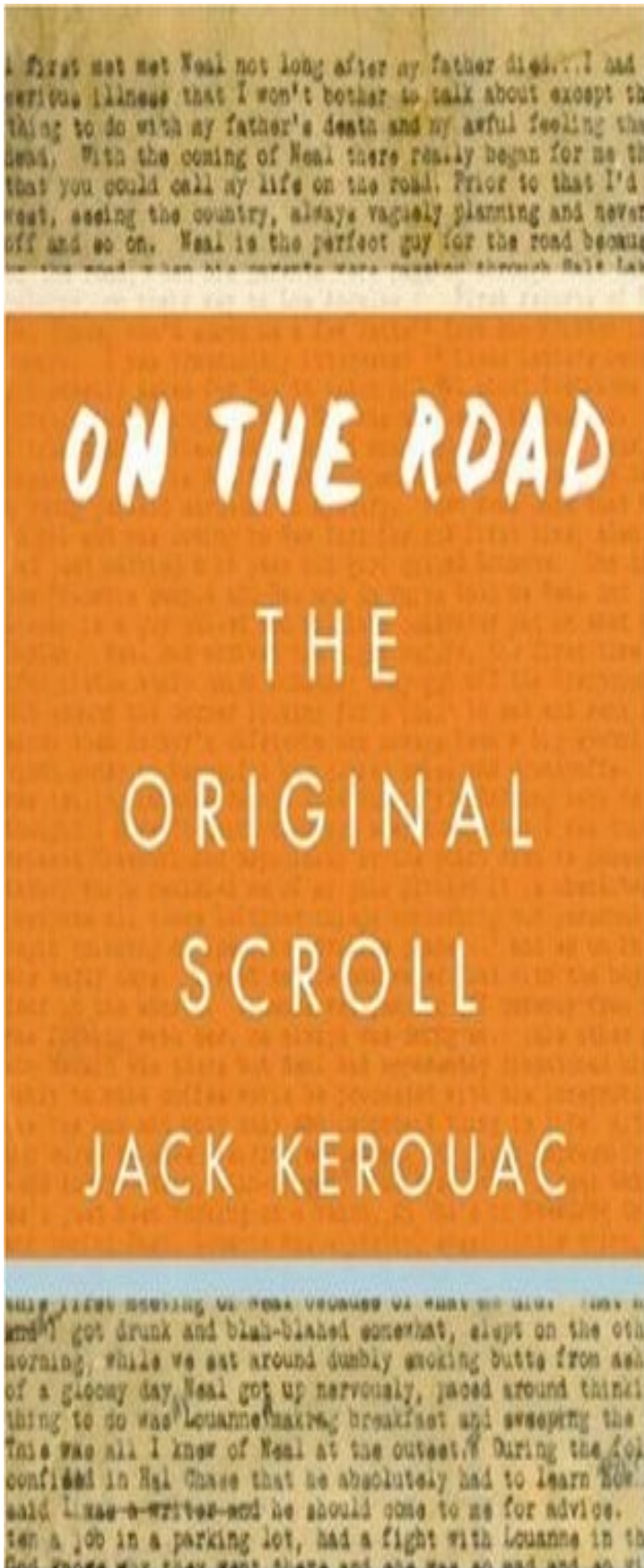
On the Road, by Jack Kerouac,
is published.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "the most beautifully executed, the clearest and the most important utterance yet made by the generation Kerouac himself named years ago as 'beat,' and whose principal avatar he is."

Reports vary as to the exact amount of time Kerouac spent working on his novel. According to some he began drafting it in 1948 after an epic road-trip (perhaps the most literary outcome of a 'What I did on my Summer Vacation' essay ever!). Others have it that he completed the novel, in the form of a scroll, with no margins and the single-spaced pages taped together, in three weeks.

Scholars have not come to a definitive conclusion on which of these accounts are more accurate, but do seem to concur that one can easily believe both the 'It took nearly twenty-one years' and the 'I had a deadline, so I wrote this in only twenty-one days' versions.

Rest assured, we'll keep looking into this developing story—and sharing it with our students....



World Without Ice

The [World Without Ice](#) installation will be on display from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. in the Lab Theatre, Varner Hall. Admission is Free and Open to All.

Nobel Prize-winning Henry Pollack will give the Opening Lecture, “Confronting Climate Change: What Are The Challenges?” and participate in a Q&A from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5th in the Varner Recital Hall. Admission is Free and Open to All.

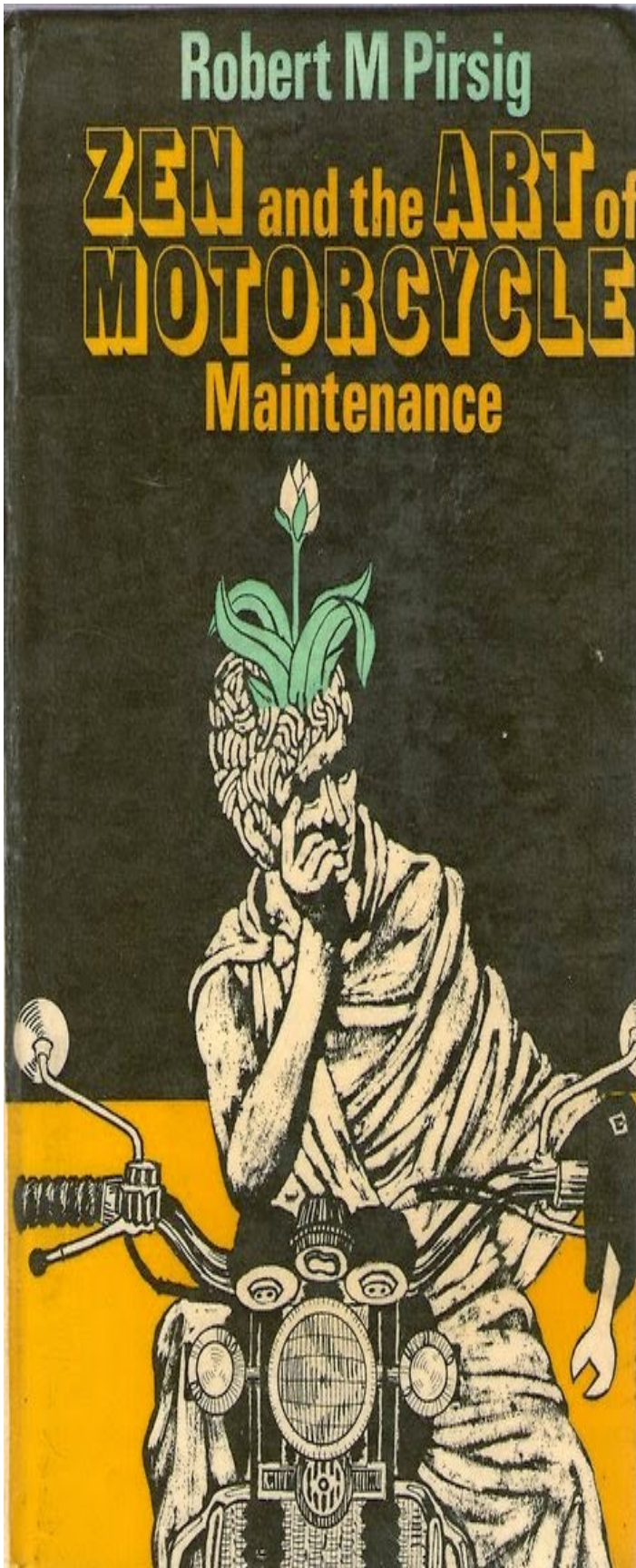
Michael Gould, multi-percussionist, and Stephen Rush, pianist/multi-instrumentalist will present a concert (created in collaboration with Marion Tränkle) of improvised and composed music together with narration by Henry Pollack from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. in the Varner Recital Hall. WSG Oakland University physics professor/singer/guitarist Alberto Rojo. Admission is \$14 general, \$8 students.

This series of events has been made possible by the efforts of Oakland University English Department faculty Andrea Knutson, and Jeff Insko, who received 2017–18 Judd Family Endowment Awards in collaboration with Mark Stone, Jessica Payette, and Alberto Rojo.



September 5-9, 2017

EXTRA! EXTRA!



September 6th, 1928

A number of 'Inquiries' were born today as Harriet Marie Sjobeck and Maynard Pirsig welcomed their son,

Robert Maynard Pirsig,
into the world.

It is predicted that this precocious child will go on to publish novels like *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values* and *Lila: An Inquiry into Morals*. It is almost as certain that any English Major, Minor, book-lover, or person of 'Quality' will have these seminal texts on their shelves.

And, yes, the first is again, perhaps, *another* contender for the most literary outcome of a 'What I did on my Summer Vacation' essay ever.

The second is definitely the all-hands-on-deck hands-down winner of the most literary outcome of 'What I did this Fall' essay ever—and not just because, as we all know, that isn't a real essay.

Though, by attending the Fall events planned and offered by the Oakland University English Department could offer *you* the same opportunity to improve *your* 'quality' of life....

Graduate Student Open House

Please join us at this informal getting-acquainted gathering between Oakland University English Department Faculty and Graduate Students, from 5 p.m. until 5:45 pm in the Conference Room (544A) in O'Dowd Hall.

September 6, 2017



EXTRA! EXTRA!

September 12th, 1943

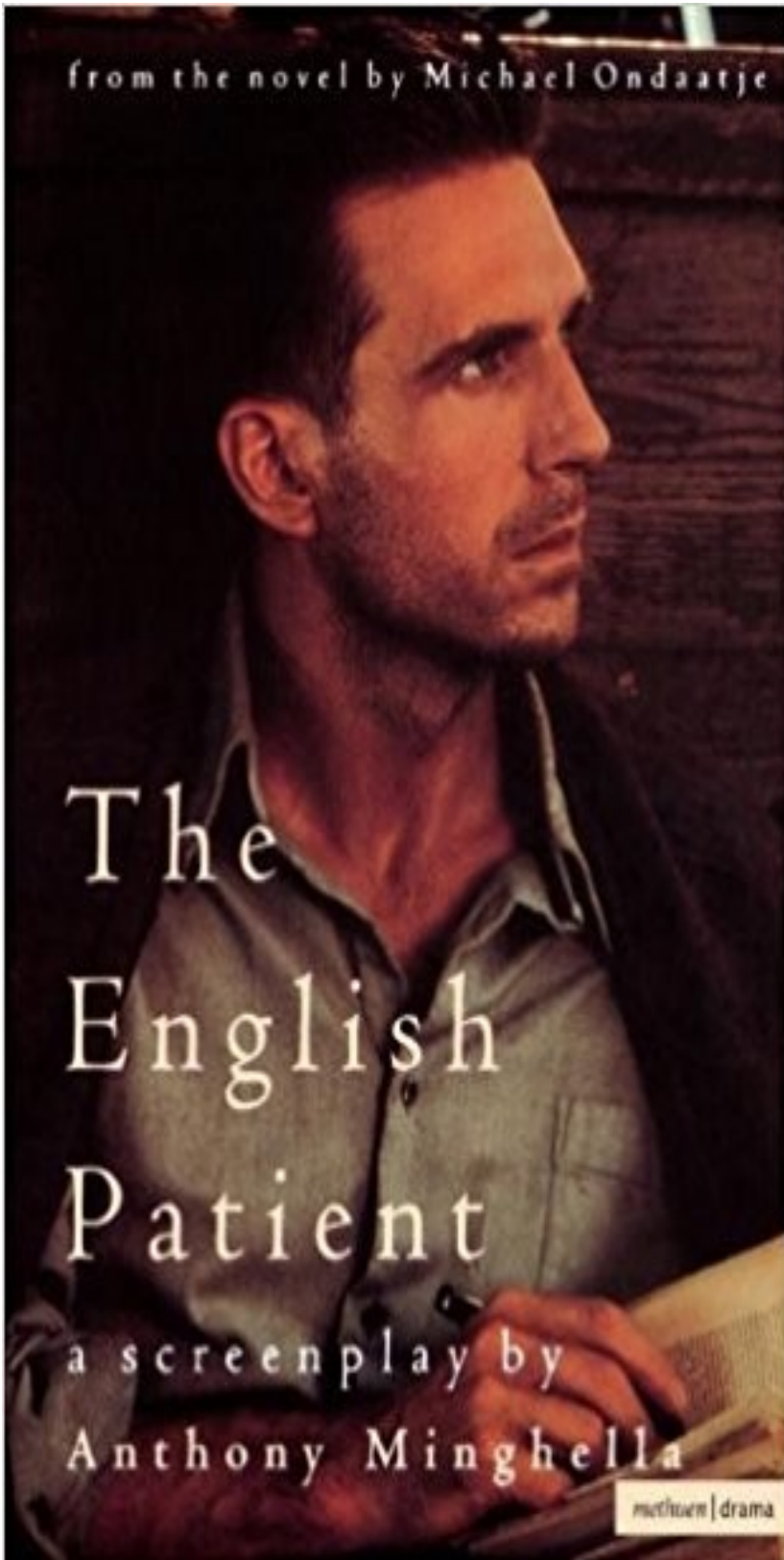
A hospital in Ceylon (which will become Sri Lanka) welcomed a VIP (Very Important Patient) today:

Michael Ondaatje.

Nurses report Baby Ondaatje already appears to know and recognize his name and is happily exploring his crib and the nursery, seemingly with the intent to 'plot' them out.

The hospital plans to discharge the young patient soon, and anticipate he will go on to England (though probably not for another 10 years) before emigrating to Canada.

One Nurse, who while also knowing her name prefers to be referred to as Nurse H. says, "I think his stay here has really made an impact on him. I can see him revisiting the setting, perhaps as an English Patient, as that is where his mother will be living. He doesn't have much hair now, but he looks Fiennes [sic]...."



Fiction Reading

Karen Dionne, author of *The Marsh King's Daughter*, a “psychological thriller about abduction, survival, and family in the Upper Peninsula” will give a Craft Talk from 12 p.m. until 1:30 in the Lake Superior B Room at the Oakland Center. Admission is Free, but please contact Jeff Chapman at chapman4@oakland.edu to reserve your seat.

Dionne will read from her work and participate in a Q&A from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center's Oakland Room. Admission is Free and Open to All.

September 12, 2017

Oakland University Creative Writing Department presents a
fiction reading and Q&A with International Bestselling Author

KAREN DIONNE

Author of new psychological thriller *The Marsh King's Daughter*, about abduction, survival, and family in the Upper Peninsula

Craft Talk

from 12-1:30, Oakland Center, Lake Superior B
(contact Jeff Chapman at chapman4@oakland.edu
to reserve a seat for the craft talk)

Reading and Q&A

from 5-7 PM on September 12, 2017
Oakland Center, Oakland Room

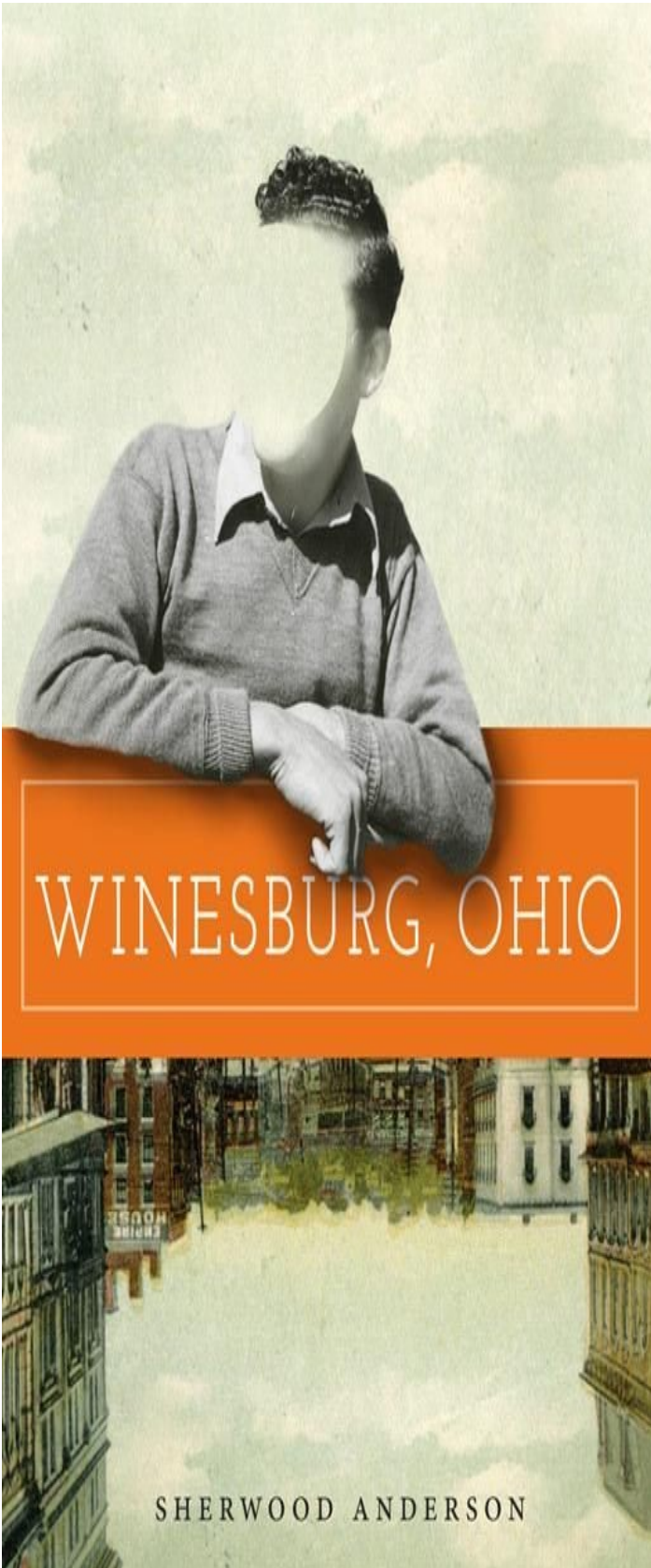
EXTRA! EXTRA!

September 13th, 1876

City officials in Camden, Ohio are looking into future legal action—with the town of Clyde, Ohio possibly joining them in their suit—against **Sherwood Anderson**, who was born in this small farming town today.

If you are unable to find Camden on the map, that may be because it—along with Clyde—will never be a locus of literary interest.

A resident of Winesburg, Ohio suggested that before bringing suit, Camden and Clyde officials “actually read the ‘fine print’.” Pausing in a struggle to communicate his feelings, he went on, “Look, it’s a great story. There are lots of great stories. I could name about 22 off the top of my head—but then I spend a lot of time alone. With nothing to do.” When asked if we could name him in this story, he scanned the town center, where people appeared to be going about their own business, or just going about by themselves, with no real business, or even an aim, in sight. “Sure. Heck, name me whatever you want. It’s not like people will care about stuff like that 100 years from now....”



SHERWOOD ANDERSON

“How to Succeed as a Creative Writing Major”

Please join us as a panel of professors and students talk about various issues facing students in creative writing, both those just starting out in the major, and those who are further along in their track. (The talk will be followed by a Q&A session.) From 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center, Room Lake Superior A.



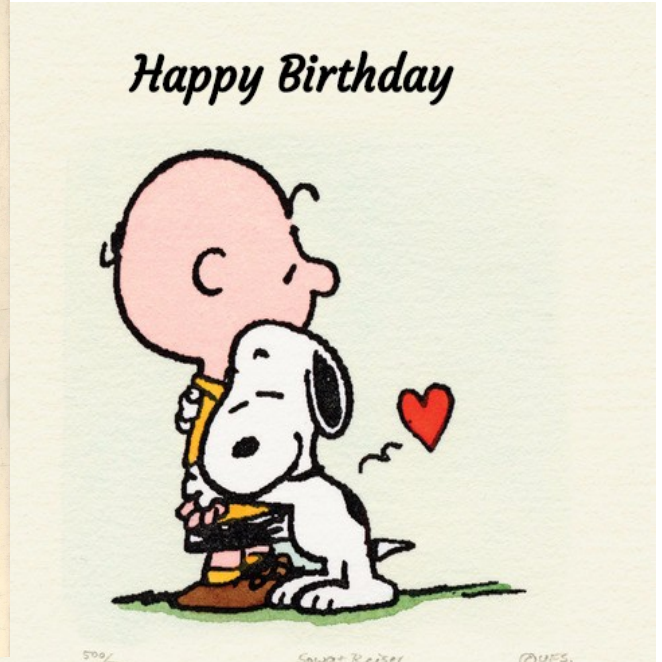
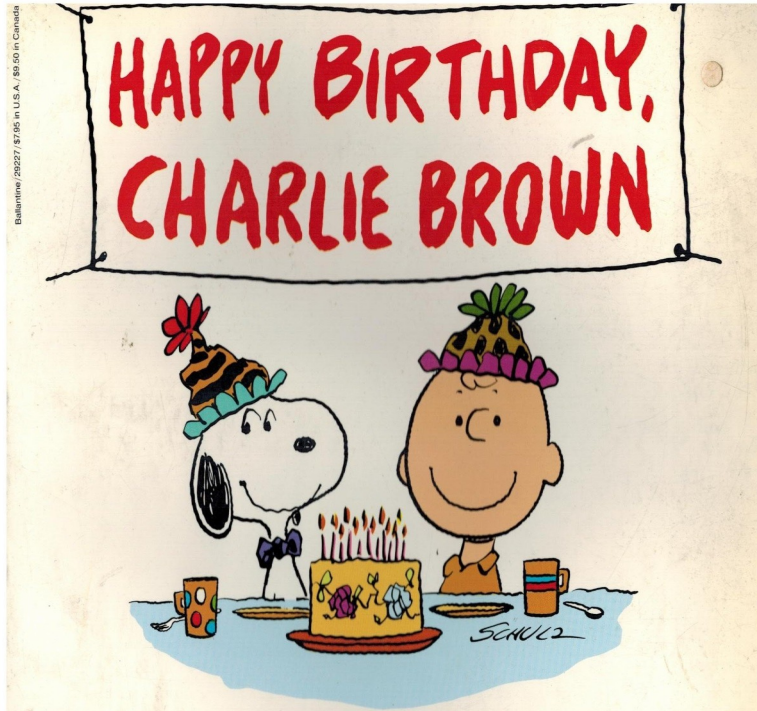
And, because today is also
Roald Dahl Day...



September 13, 2017

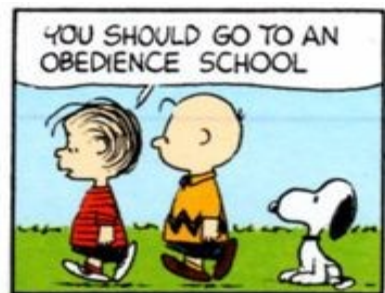
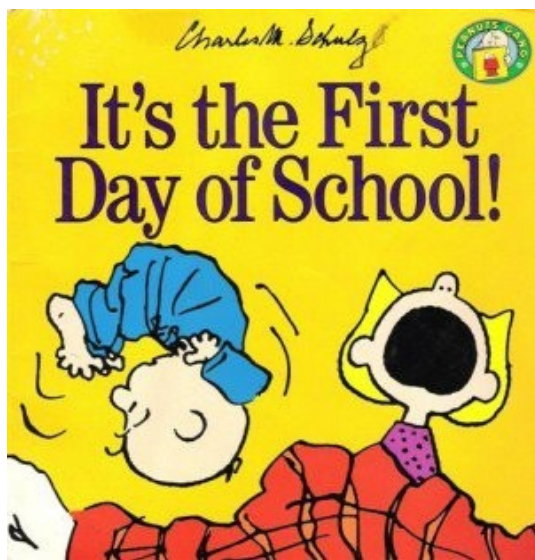
EXTRA! EXTRA!

October 2nd, 1950



Applying to Graduate School

Please join us as faculty describe the application process to Graduate school – for all majors, from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., in the Gold Room C in the Oakland Center. Admission is Free and Open to All.



October 2, 2017

EXTRA! EXTRA!

October 13th, 1962

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, by
Edward Albee,
premieres in New York.

How could a play set on a college
campus not go on to become an
award-winning film?!?!

Disclaimer: This play and film
are in no way representative of
Oakland University's campus or
faculty.

MAIL ORDERS NOW FOR NEW YORK'S

**MOST PRAISED
MOST TALKED-ABOUT
MOST EXCITING
PLAY OF THE YEAR**

"IT MUST BE SEEN!" "NOTHING SHORT OF TREMENDOUS!"
—Kerr, N.Y. Herald Tribune —Taubman, N.Y. Times

"TOWERS OVER THE COMMON RUN OF CONTEMPORARY PLAYS!"
—Watts, N.Y. Post

EVERY EVENING AT 8:00 SHARP!

UTA • ARTHUR • BEN
HAGEN • HILL • PIAZZA

in EDWARD ALBEE'S

**WHO'S AFRAID OF
VIRGINIA WOOLF?**

with Melinda Dillon directed by Alan Schneider

Mats Wed. & Sat. at 2:00 with **KATE • SHEPPERD
REID • STRUDWICK**

BILLY ROSE THEATRE 212 W. 41st St., N.Y. 36

**ELIZABETH TAYLOR
RICHARD BURTON**
IN ERNEST LEHMAN'S PRODUCTION OF
**EDWARD ALBEE'S
WHO'S AFRAID OF
VIRGINIA WOOLF?**



ALSO STARRING
GEORGE SEGAL / SANDY DENNIS
SCREENPLAY BY ERNEST LEHMAN
DIRECTED BY MIKE NICHOLS

Golden Grizzly 24 Hour Filmmaking Challenge

Showcase your creative skills and test your endurance in this around-the-clock filmmaking project, in which teams of four will shoot and edit an original short film in 24 hours.

October 13-14, 2017

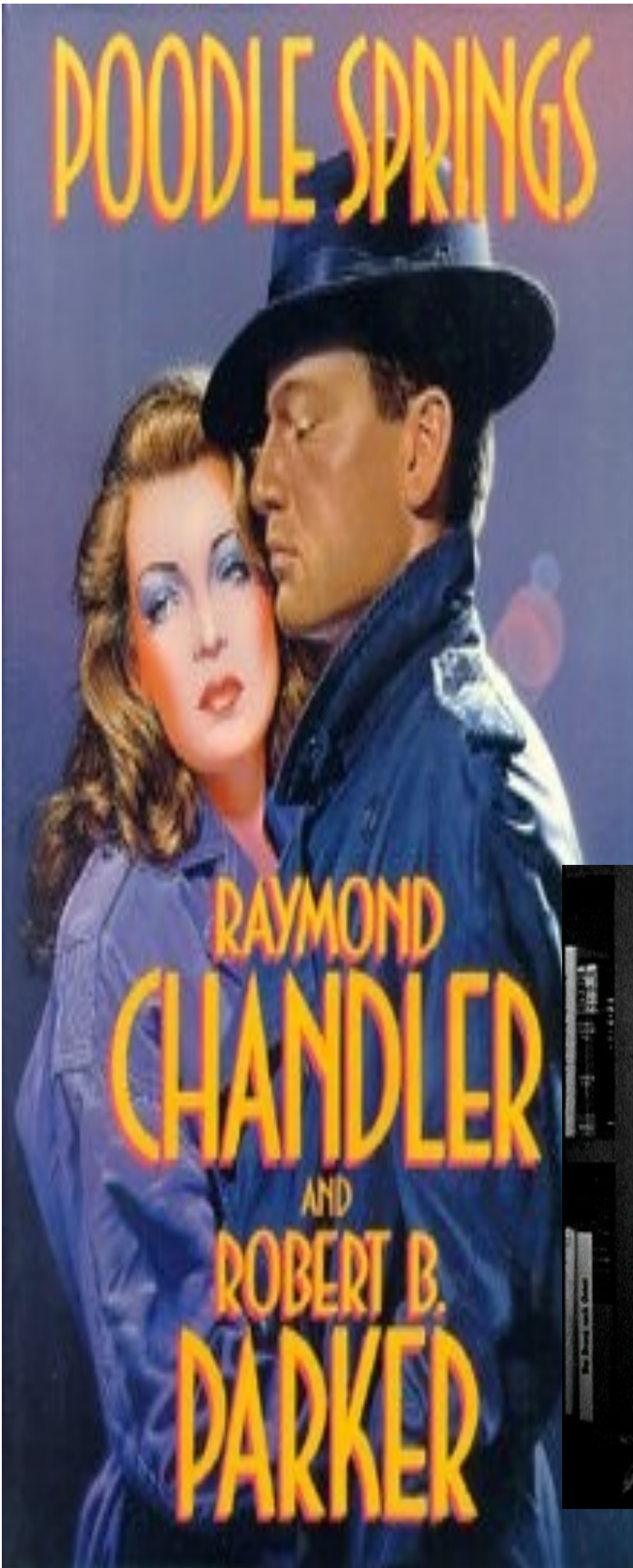


Director Mike Nichols
& Elizabeth Taylor

Nichols & Cast



EXTRA! EXTRA!



October 24th, 1958

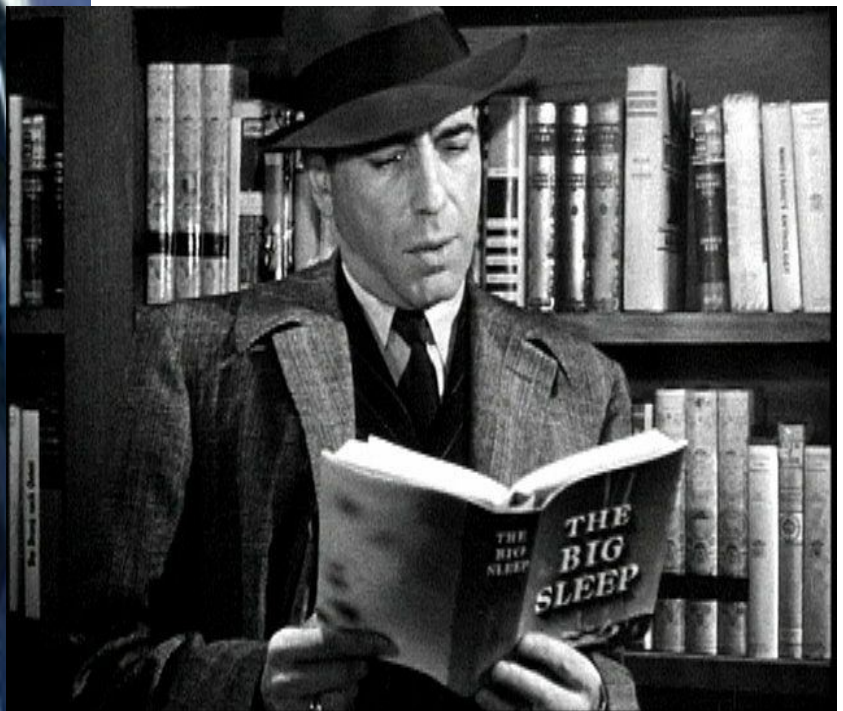
Raymond Chandler begins work on his final novel, *Poodle Springs*.

Spoiler Alert: Someone dies.

Unexpected Twist: It's the author.

Poodle Springs was finished by a pen-for-hire, Robert B. Parker (known for the protagonist of his detective series, Spenser, who was apparently also for-hire—and possibly even more appealing for the fact that he frequently quoted poetry).

Scholars are still investigating the pressing question of 'How did Raymond Chandler like his eggs?'



Uncover the original film Trailer by clicking the image above...

Maurice Brown Poetry Reading

Poet Laureate of Jamaica, Lorna Goodison, will read her award-winning poetry at the 30th Annual Maurice Brown Poetry Reading, an annual series named for a beloved professor who taught at OU between 1969 and 1985. Admission to this event, which begins at 5 p.m. in the Oakland Room in the Oakland Center, is Free and Open to All.

Lorna Goodison will also give an Honors College Lecture, “The Single ‘I’ Is Not Enough”: A Craft Talk* from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in Oak View Hall, Room 208. Admission is Free and Open to All, but please email Professor Hartsock at hartsock@oakland.edu to reserve a spot .

Along with the generous and ongoing support of Dr. Judith Brown, this year’s event has been made possible by the efforts of Oakland University English Department Professor Katie Hartsock, who received a 2017–18 Judd Family Endowment Award.

October 24, 2017



The 30th Annual Maurice Brown Memorial Poetry Reading

Lorna Goodison

Poet Laureate of Jamaica

Tuesday October 24th 2017

Honors College Lecture

“The Single ‘I’ Is Not Enough”:

A Craft Talk **

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Oak View Hall Room 208

Maurice Brown Memorial

Poetry Reading

5:00 PM

The Oakland Center

Oakland Room



Admission to the poetry reading is free and open to the Oakland community and general public. Refreshments will be served.

** Please email Professor Hartsock hartsock@oakland.edu to reserve a spot for the craft talk.
Sponsored by Oakland University’s Department of English and Creative Writing program,
in memory of Professor Maurice Brown.

With special thanks to Judy Brown for her continued support of this reading series.
This year we are pleased to receive additional support from The Judd Family Endowed Fund.
ww2.oakland.edu/english

EXTRA! EXTRA!



October 26th, 1984

The Terminator is released in U.S.
Theatres.

Having travelled back in time from 2029, one has to wonder if Terminator could have some advance knowledge of who will be elected as Governor of California in 2003. Perhaps this is what he means by “I will be back”?

James Cameron directs this science-fiction film starring Linda Hamilton, Michael Biehn, and some other cast member so unimportant they don't even bother to send him to wardrobe. Or maybe he was just too busy hitting the Craft Services table after getting ‘pumped up’ at the gym....

Reports have it that Orion Pictures does not believe the film will perform well at the box office and they fear a negative critical reception—which means, of course, there will be no franchise, no sequel, and no reboot for this [obviously bootless] cyborg.

We feel his pain.

#ObviouslyAOneOff

Cinema Studies Professionalization Workshop

Please join us for the Cinema Studies Professionalization Workshop, where students learn about the broad array of professional opportunities available through the Cinema Studies BA and key skills and training needed to excel in these fields, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Oakland Center, Lake Superior A Room.

October 26, 2017



EXTRA! EXTRA!

November 14th, 1851

Harper and Bros. publishes

Moby Dick,

by Herman Melville.

This whale of a tale is sure to keep scholars busy for years (which is what it takes to read the etymology and epigraphs that open this novel—if you even bother).

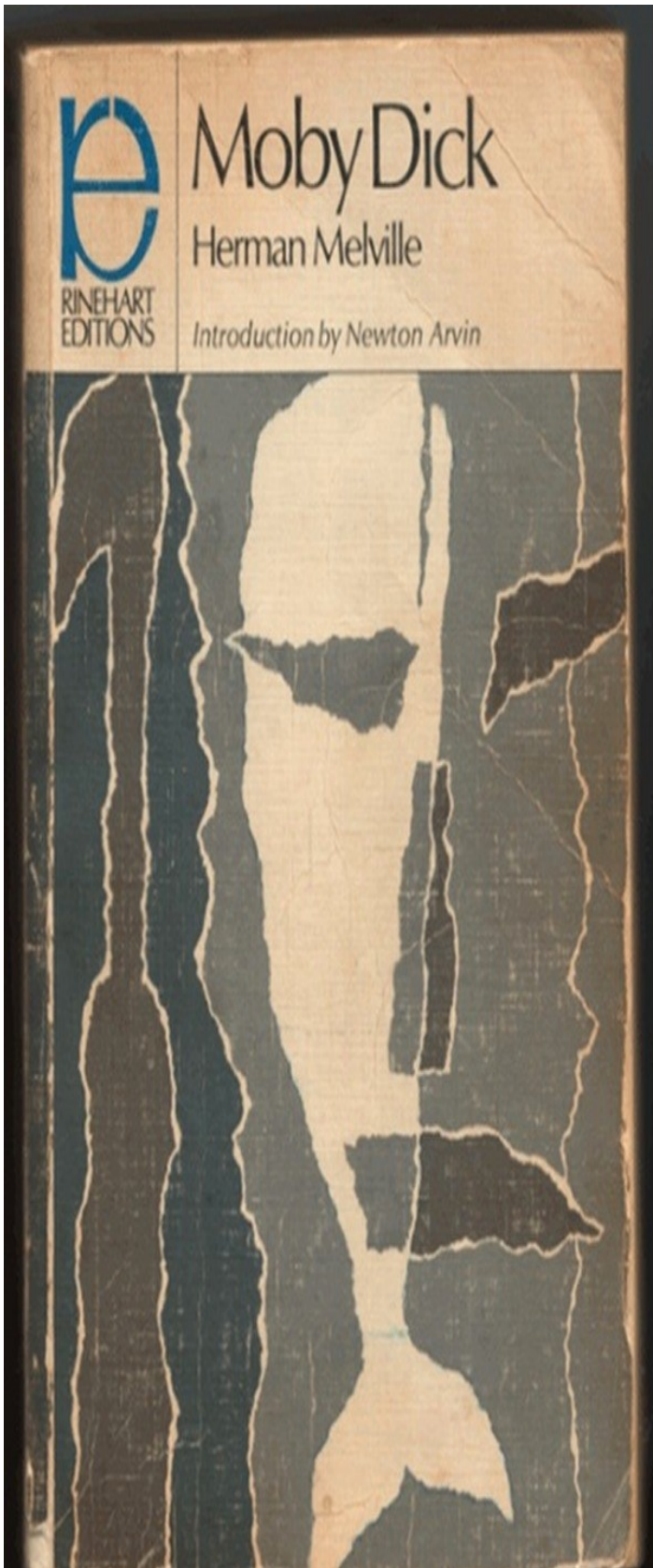
The story then disappointingly starts with a line no less original than something overheard at any dinner party.

“Call me Ishmael.” Really? That’s the best Melville could do? It’s like reading bad Emily Post.

We are confident no English Major would pad their paper like this in an obvious effort to meet some minimum word count requirement.

Thus, English Departments everywhere, including OU, are officially shipping this text off to the Psychology Department.

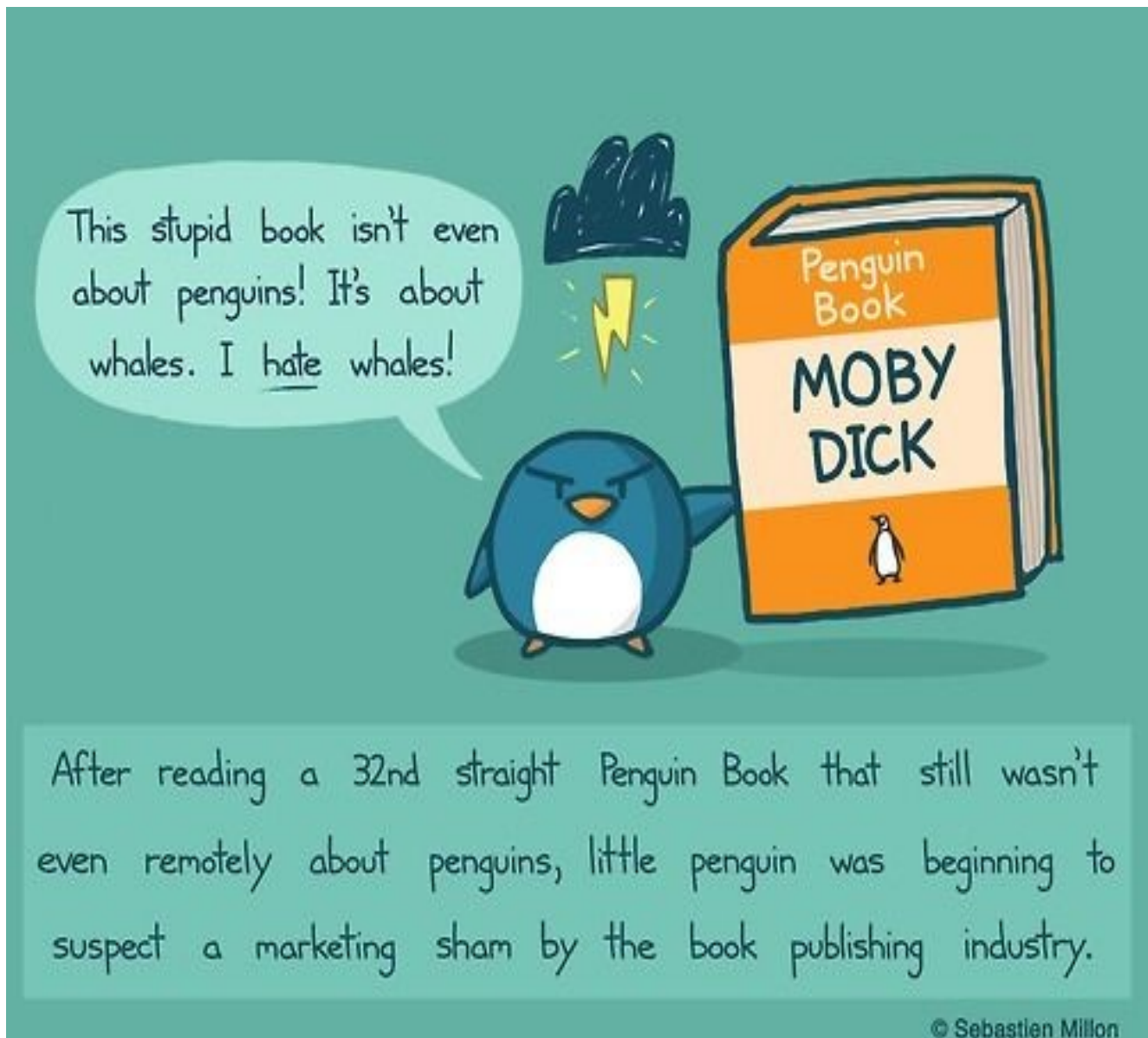
One Professor, preferring to be referred to as Ink-so, has been reputed to say, “We’re at sea as to why anyone would read this. Quite personally, I would rather Taylor [sic] my scholarly efforts toward ‘Swift-er’ channels.”



Career/Internship Fair

Please join us for the Career/Internship Fair for English and Creative Writing majors, an informational meeting to discuss possible job opportunities and internships in the field. Learn about career choices, practical advice, and important steps to be taken that can make a difference from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Oakland Room in the Oakland Center. Admission is Free and Open to All.

November 14, 2017



EXTRA! EXTRA!

November 20th, 1820

The Essex sunk!

By Whale!

The search for any surviving crew of the Essex, sunk by an 80-ton Sperm Whale, will continue for 90 days.

It is suspected that the 20-man crew are adrift in three small boats after their whaling ship was rammed by the whale.

While as of yet there are no eye-witness, or first-person, accounts of the incident, authorities have put out a BOLO on the Sperm Whale, which they emphasize are well-known to be 'a dark, brownish gray'—“False sightings of the perpetrator keep coming in,” complains one official. “They all seem to be from people associated with English Departments, and pertain to a ‘white’ whale they all seem to know and suspect. I don’t understand what the problem is. Our Wanted Posters clearly state ‘Sperm Whale: No identifiable scars. Dark, brownish gray.’ Can’t these people read?” If there are any new developments to this story, we will report them; however we suspect this is the last we’ll hear of this unfortunate incident.

Monomania: increasing insanity's coverage in a town near you.



shmoop

Captain Ahab

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
Sane behaviors, just a monomaniac (no biggie)	Insane motives, vengeful, ungodly

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Be a rainbow fish in a sea full of minnows.



shmoop

Queequeg

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
Resourceful, reasonable, a loyal friend	Was a cannibal, but besides that, he's a cool guy

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Call me, maybe...let's go with Ishmael.



shmoop

Ishmael

Strengths:	Weaknesses:
Smart, accepting of Queequeg, dynamic	Stuck up, unreliable, gullible, contradictory

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Read-in

Please sign up to read a segment or just come to hear the selected novel, which will be read in its entirety throughout the day! This event will be ongoing throughout the day in the Oakland Center's Gold Room B.

For more information please contact Rob Anderson at r2anders@oakland.edu

November 20, 2017

abridged classics

Dist. by Universal Uclick



Everyone is sad.
It snows.



Farming sucks.
Road trip!
Road trip sucks.

© John Atkinson, Wrong Hands



Guy attacks
windmills.
Also, he's mad.



Lost generation
gets drunk.
They're still lost.



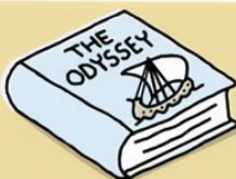
Man vs. whale.
Whale wins.



Dublin, something,
something, something,
run-on sentence.

(more) abridged classics

Dist. by Universal Uclick

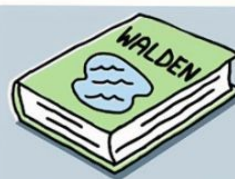


War veteran takes
forever to get home
then kills everyone.



A sort-of brother
and sister fall in
love. It's foggy.

© John Atkinson, Wrong Hands



Man sits outside
for two years.
Nothing happens.



Murderer feels bad.
Confesses. Goes
to jail. Feels better.

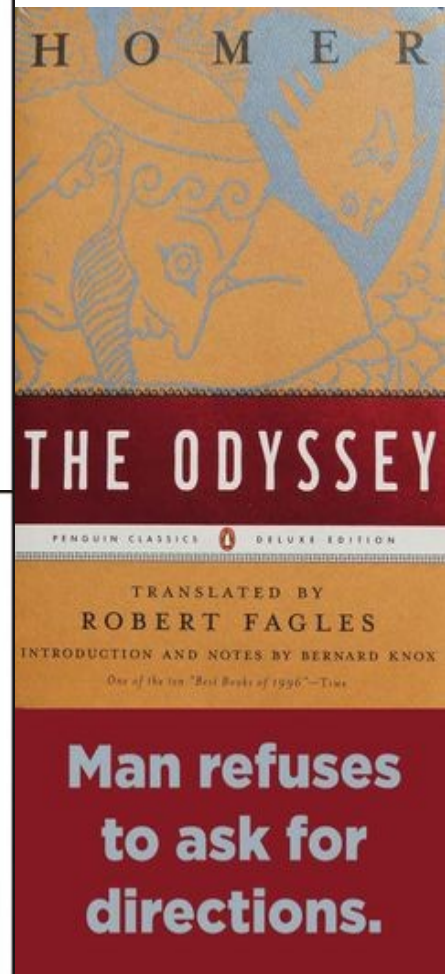


Hero kills monster.
Blah, blah, blah, blah.
Dragon kills Hero.

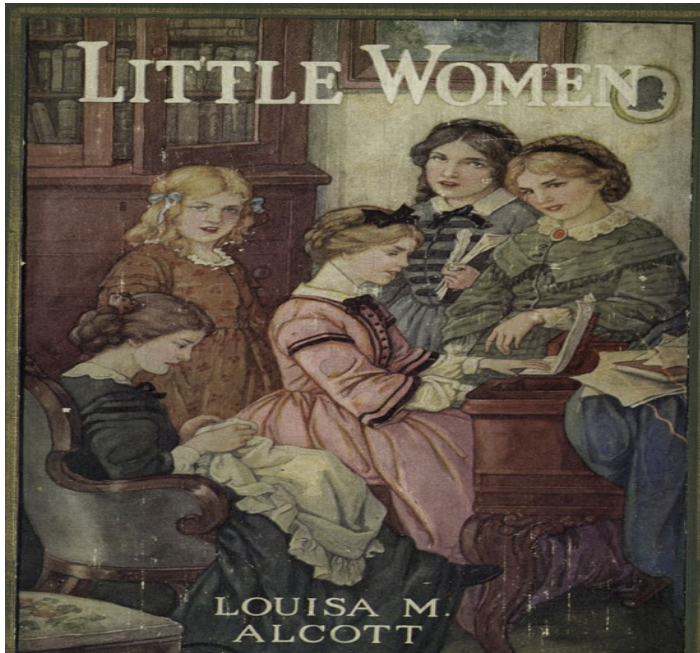


All hell breaks
loose.

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

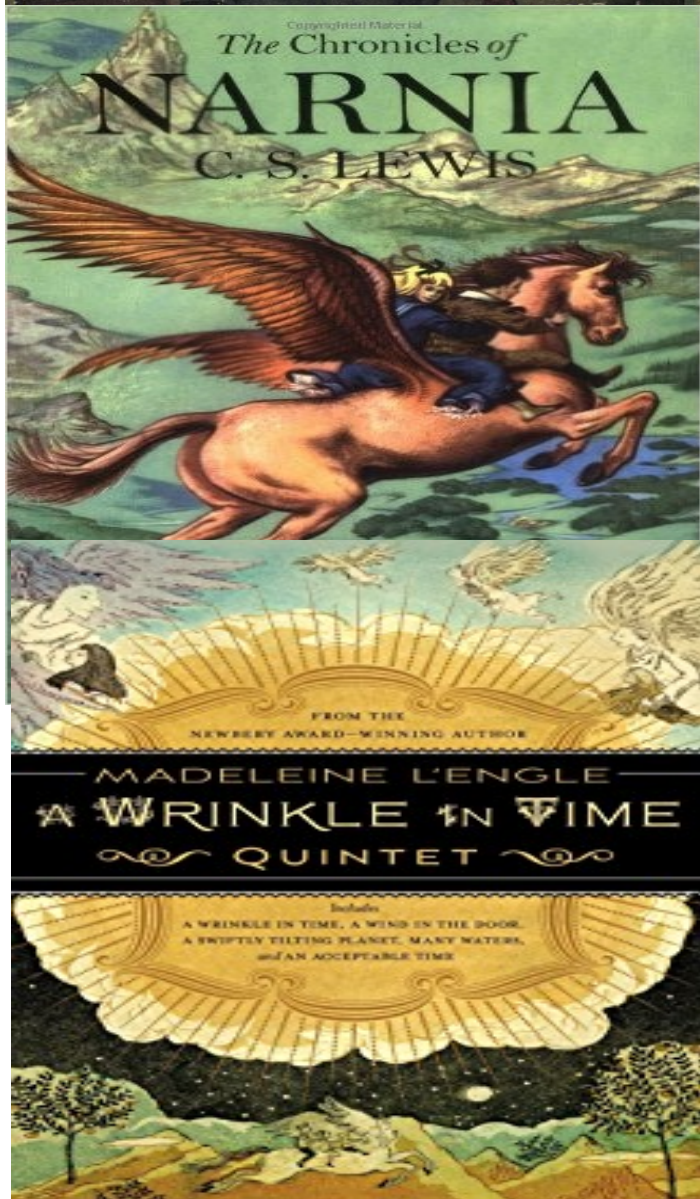


November 29th, 1832

A New
Little Woman
is Welcomed to the World Today!
Louisa May Alcott,
born in Germantown, PA.

November 29th, 1898

A New Addition was Added to
Our Chronicles Today!
C.S. Lewis,
born in Belfast, Ireland.



November 29th, 1918

Albeit with a Wrinkle
or Two or even Five,
Madeleine L'Engle,
is born in New York City.

And, thus, we end.
Essentially where many of us
began...

...as children, discovering new
worlds, making new friends, and
finding ourselves by getting lost in
a good book.

More Great Stories to Come.

STEP Day

Please join us for an important informative day for all students interested in majoring in STEP. Students will learn about completing the major, intern teaching, and hear voices from within the profession.

Time and Location TBA.

November 29, 2017



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**Or Visit Us on
Our [Website](#)**

