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EDITORIAL

ARE WE READY?

HELL NO.

What's the cost of coming back?

ELIZA NOE
KATIE DAMES

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When it comes to a global pandemic, there is no one guilty party. People will die from the decisions that are made, but it seems that to the University of Mississippi community — from students to administrators, athletics and Greek organizations — the worst thing that could happen is taking the blame for a shutdown.

The blame game will only result in loss, with people in Oxford ending up on a ventilator. And that's if they're lucky enough to access a ventilator or an ICU bed. The university distributed safety guidelines with ample room for fallibility, while students complain about the university's attempts to make the most money as they break the few rules that could prevent near-immediate havoc.

Now is not the time for best-case scenarios; we must all be realistic and accept that we are not an exception to the nightmare playing out across college campuses nationwide. UNC-Chapel Hill and Notre Dame closed just days

SEE **ARE WE READY?** PAGE 15

Welcome back to campus (for now).

UM says it will not be liable for COVID-19 deaths in dorms (see page 3) • Sports teams and Greek houses have active outbreaks (see page 4) • The Grove is cancelled (see page 9) • Without football, Oxford's economy will struggle (see page 10) • *Opinion: We should have mass testing* (see page 14)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Unforeseen, but unafraid

ELIZA NOE
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I think we can all agree that the word “unforeseen” is insufferable, so I apologize for the headline. Sometimes, though, overused words are truly the only descriptor that can encapsulate a moment like this.

For over a century, The Daily Mississippian has served the University of Mississippi and the Oxford community in the best way it could, and until the last decade, that way has been in print. However, as times and technology have changed, so has the DM. That being said, this year will mark

another change in the way the DM serves you.

Last year, our motto was “Digital First,” and that will continue to be our mission. With students and other community members unable to witness the university for what it is and what happens, The Daily Mississippian will become a window for them.

For this fall semester, the DM will print only one physical newspaper a week. Besides the first week of classes, papers will come out on Thursdays and can be found in the same places you would always find them. Though we do not know if this change will be permanent, we

do believe it is the best choice to keep our staff safe and still provide adequate coverage to Oxford and the university community.

It’s no secret that local newsrooms are struggling during the current pandemic, and The Daily Mississippian is no exception. In addition to cutting days we print newspapers, we have cut our staff numbers, which is probably the most difficult decision I have made as editor so far. However, this will allow our writers to build better relationships with sources and specialize in their field of choice.

Though the print paper

is no longer daily, The Daily Mississippian still is. We will post daily on our website, thedmonline.com, like we always have.

While I mourn the late nights in the Student Media Center with our entire staff, I am still very excited to share news with our audience in the way they want it: online. The pandemic has forced us to expand our thinking when it comes to telling the stories that keep the university accountable and reflect the students that make UM what it is.

Is it a hard task with a lofty goal? Yes. But the same can be said of the challenges

DM editors have faced for decades, and the 2020 staff is unafraid to approach the challenges that have been put before us. So I encourage you to follow along as we learn how to serve you the best we can.

Along with our weekly print paper, we — as always — can be found on Twitter (@thedm_news), Instagram (@thedailymississippian) and our daily newsletter subscription on thedmonline.com.

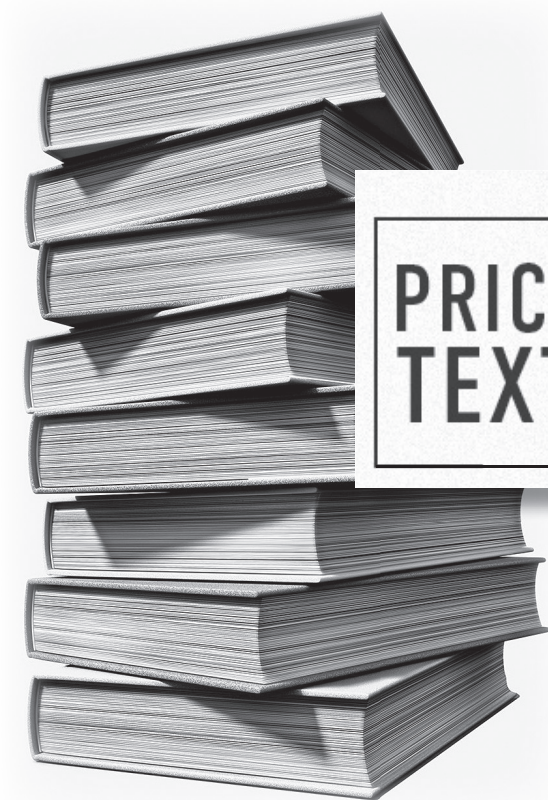
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UM has no plan for widespread testing

KENNETH NIEMEYER

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Students moved back onto campus last week for the first time since classes switched to an online format in March, but currently, the university does not have a publicly available plan to test its students for COVID.

Several community assistants (CA) told The Daily Mississippian that when asked if there were plans to test students living in residence halls, a housing official said student housing “does not have the capability to do that” and encouraged CAs to “monitor their residents’ symptoms.”

Also, student housing recently added a COVID-19 addendum to the housing contract that all students living on campus are required to sign. The contract asks students living on campus to, among other things, acknowledge that they are at risk of death by living in residence halls and that they are willingly living on-campus with the understanding of these risks without any undue pressure or coercion, though the university requires freshmen to live in residence halls.

Students whose classes are online for the fall semester can submit an appeal, but their class schedule has to be verified ten days after classes start and each appeal is looked at individually. Students who signed housing contracts can appeal for the fall semester, but will still be required to live on campus in the spring.

Sabrina Bower, an incoming freshman, said she decided to defer a year and attend school closer to home in Pennsylvania because she is immunocompromised.

“Ole Miss is such a big school, which I love, but with my immune system, being surrounded by so many people means a greater chance of contracting the virus,” Bower



KATHERINE BUTLER AND BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Above: Freshman move into the Dorothy H. Crosby hall on campus. The University has not announced a plan for mass testing yet. Right: A group of people cross through the square without masks on Aug. 22, 2020. There have been a growing number of cases of the coronavirus in Oxford before school starts.



said.

Traditionally, all freshmen are required to live in residence halls for their first year on campus, and despite the challenges of the coming school year, many in this year’s freshman class are determined to be on-campus, even if their classes aren’t in-person.

“I think we’ll do the best we can to follow protocol because I think most freshmen will want to be on campus because they want that college experience.” Oren Smith, a freshman with online and hybrid classes, said. “We’ve all been sitting on a computer since March, and of course, we don’t want to be doing that this year.”

The COVID-19 addendum

also says that student housing can terminate students’ housing contracts or close buildings because of the pandemic. It is unclear how widespread an outbreak on campus would have to be for student housing to close entirely like it did in March.

Smith said he would not consider re-enrolling at another university closer to home if student housing decides to close.

“The only option I would

have if housing were to close would be for me to come back home,” Smith said. “With me being from Texas, I would (still) be charged for out-of-state (tuition), and my parents would want me to postpone my term to go to school here.”

Student housing has implemented safety measures to reduce the spread of the virus, requiring masks in public spaces and restricting all visitation in residence halls. But housing also decided to not

longer have a 24-hour front desk in ten residence halls. Luckyday Residential College, Stockard Hall, Residence Halls 1 and 3, Stewart Hall, Deaton Hall, Pittman Hall, Burns Hall, Minor Hall and Hefley Hall will no longer have someone monitoring who enters the building from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Universities across the country are already feeling the impact of the pandemic after returning to in-person classes. The University of North Carolina decided to transition to online learning after four COVID clusters were found in residence halls, and Texas A&M University required a chapter-wide quarantine of two sororities where members tested positive.

With 15 positive cases confirmed among athletes before classes have begun, it’s unclear how long in-person classes and on-campus living will continue at the university. The Daily Mississippian has also confirmed at least two positive cases among women living in sorority houses on campus, but the university and College Panhellenic have yet to comment on the situation.

“If we cannot achieve full compliance with the protocols across our entire community and the university experiences a prolific spread of the virus, we will have no choice but to scale back on-campus operations and take more drastic measures to prevent further spread,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce said in a June 30 email to the university community.

Without a comprehensive campus testing plan, it will be difficult to know how many active cases there actually are on campus. The Mississippi State Department of Health releases positive case numbers daily by county, but students who test positive and do not have Lafayette County as their permanent residence are not included in the county’s total.

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When it is decided that The Daily Mississippian will take an editorial stance on an issue, the following positions will make decisions as the Editorial Board: editor-in-chief, managing editor, copy chief, sports editor and opinion editor.

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Outbreaks on campus begin

HADLEY HITSON

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Move-in for the fall semester began on Aug. 15, and since then, 46 students have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the university's confirmed cases report. Of these cases, six are specified as "not in Oxford" and "not on campus," and no hospitalizations have been reported.

Fifteen of the cases are student-athletes, and at least five members of Delta Delta Delta sorority tested positive. According to members of Delta Delta Delta who wish to remain anonymous, there are at least two instances of overlap in the student-athlete cases and the sorority cases.

The university conducted "a mass screening for student-athletes returning to campus" the week before school began, and all tested athletes were instructed by the university to quarantine until they received their test results.

While this is the only known instance of "mass" or required testing for university students, University Health Services will provide testing to any student, faculty or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19 or suspects that he or she has been exposed to the virus.

The university is also investigating positive cases affiliated with at least two Greek organizations on campus, according to a statement from Provost Noel Wilkin to The Daily Mississippian on Friday, Aug. 21.

"We are working to confirm the validity of those reports,"



KATHERINE BUTLER AND BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss has taken some preventative measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus such as reducing the number of in-person classes and requiring masks in buildings on campus.

Wilkin's statement read. "Any violations of our university COVID policies will be reported to Student Conduct. Further, if we discover that people violated the state health order to isolate when knowing that they were positive, those cases will be reported to law enforcement officials for appropriate action."

When contacted for a comment on the situation,



College Panhellenic (CPH) president Shelby D'Amico said she did "not have the information" requested and was not "required to gather it" in her role as president.

"I am also not informed of the

university's specific decisions for COVID guidelines," she said.

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Arthur Doctor and Delta Delta Delta chapter president Cameron Sadler were also contacted for a comment

but unable to be reached before publication.

Once the university confirms the positive cases, the university will direct the affected individuals into isolation, and the university's contact tracing process will begin. The university's contact tracing team consists of 21 volunteers from various departments who have completed COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course from Johns Hopkins University and have been trained for HIPAA compliance. According to a release from the university, the team plans to utilize information from the Provost's Office, classroom assignments and seating charts to trace contact with students who test positive.

To prevent further outbreaks, the university continues to encourage students to wear masks on and off campus, avoid parties and large gatherings and utilize the daily symptom tracker on its COVID-19 website.

On the first offense, students who refuse to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines while inside university buildings will be required to pay a \$150 fine, be placed on probation and receive additional training.

Upon a second offense, students will be required to pay a \$500 fine, be removed from the location of the offense for the rest of the semester or four months (whichever is longer) and receive more training.

See the full list of university consequences on the university COVID-19 Student Action Response Tiers webpage.

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How UM sped through relocation this summer

Getting IHL approval took two years, but moving the monument took two days

HADLEY HITSON

thedmnews@gmail.com

The last time students were on campus in March, the Confederate monument still towered over the entrance to the Circle, and the state Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board of Trustees had not spoken about relocation since its members delayed their vote on January 21. Much like almost every other aspect of life, a lot has changed since then. If you have been out of the loop or just out of Oxford for the past five months, here is everything that has happened with the Confederate monument in the meantime.

1. IHL unanimously voted to allow relocation.

After years of advocacy, several protests, at least four pieces of student and faculty legislation and thousands of signatures, the IHL Board of Trustees finally approved the university's request to move the statue from the Circle to the Confederate cemetery in their meeting on June 18.

"I feel relieved," Associated Student Body president Joshua Mannery said on the day of the vote. "It feels good to finally be able to think about other things. I felt a lot of pressure, and I'm sure a lot of people at the university did with getting this thing moved."

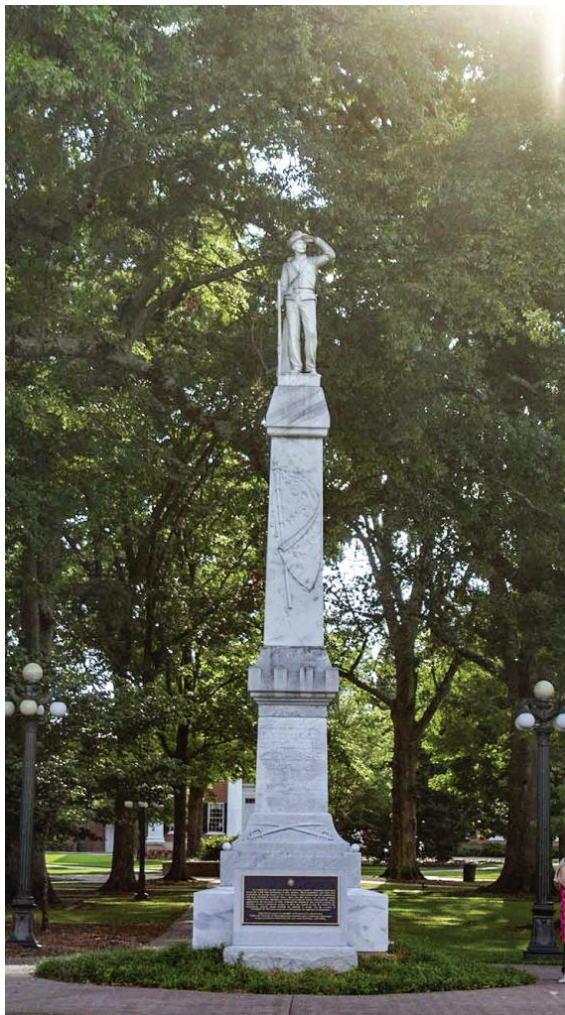
The IHL's approval came at a time when the nation was not only overwrought by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, but also filled with protests against racial inequality and police brutality after the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others.

These protests led to the removal of many Confederate monuments and memorials around the country, notably including three plaques at the University of Alabama that commemorate students who served in the Confederate army. The United Daughters of the Confederacy erected the University of Mississippi's Confederate monument in 1906 for similar reasons.

"I think this is a great learning opportunity for the community and all of Mississippi," Black Student Union President Nicholas Crasta said. "Honestly, we're tired of seeing symbols of bigotry, symbols of hate. It's 2020. It's a new decade, and with everything going on, people really have the time to think and to check their peers, their friends, their family members and change their mindsets and their implicit biases."

2. The community criticized the unofficial university plans as a "shrine to the Confederacy."

The feeling of success surrounding relocation was fleeting. Shortly after the state college board voted on June 18 to authorize the University of Mississippi to relocate its Confederate monument, students, professors and community members grew angry



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Until July 14, the Confederate monument had been in its location on University Circle since it was erected by The United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1906. After its relocation to the Confederate cemetery on campus, the former site of the monument was re-covered with brick to match the surrounding sidewalk.

and disappointed as details of the university's plans circulated.

Included on the last page of the 156-page proposal that Chancellor Glenn Boyce sent to IHL were two renderings of the renovated Confederate cemetery, which showed a newly laid brick path leading to the relocated monument, benches around the cemetery and intricate landscaping. These images fueled the outrage among community members who supported relocation and led to accusations that the university was turning the cemetery into a "shrine to the Confederacy."

The university's proposal listed the Associated Student Body (ASB), the Ole Miss Alumni Association, the UM Foundation, Ole Miss Athletics Foundation and all three university Greek councils among those who had provided "written endorsement" for the plan. However, ASB leadership later released a statement saying they were never made aware of these plans "to beautify the Confederate cemetery," and if they were, they would not have approved.

Carl Tart, the university's first homecoming king, was among the alumni who took to social media to express their disdain.

In a thread on Twitter that included the university's renderings of the updated cemetery, Tart said he could no

longer help the university recruit African American students if "this shrine commemorating the Confederacy is erected."

"I am not your token Black person, and I will not stand for the continued disrespect to Black and brown students on that campus, from statues, to leadership, to student organizations. Take that 168 page, \$1M plan, and BURN IT," one of Tart's tweets read.

At that time, a university

"I am not your token Black person, and I will not stand for the continued disrespect to Black and brown students on that campus, from statues, to leadership, to student organizations. Take that 168 page, \$1M plan, and BURN IT"

-Carl Tart

2019 Homecoming King

spokesman said the university's plans had evolved since the renderings were completed, but Boyce did not publicly address these concerns until nearly a month later.

3. As Black Lives Matter protests ensued across the country, locals and students who stayed in Oxford over the summer incorporated their opposition to the monument into their protests.

While university students,

community members and student-athletes organized multiple protests over the past several months, one student march against the plans to renovate the Confederate cemetery made national news and ultimately seemed to change the chancellor's mind.

On Monday, Aug. 29, a group that included undergraduate students like ASB president Mannery and ASB vice president Abby Johnston, alumni like Leah Davis and Arielle Hudson and faculty members like associate professor of sociology James Thomas marched from the Grill at 1810 to the Confederate cemetery chanting mantras of "Relocation, not glorification" and "Abandon the plan."

One part of the renovation that this group marched against was the addition of a new marker to recognize the men from Lafayette County as part of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War and the addition of new headstones for those buried in the cemetery.

"We are here today because in a time where people across our country are screaming Black Lives Matter, Chancellor Boyce has shown us that he doesn't give a damn about our voice," senior public policy major Tyler Yarbrough said at the protest. "By proposing to build a million-dollar shrine to white supremacy

in this very spot, Chancellor Boyce has blatantly disregarded the lives of Black students, Black faculty, Black staff and Black alumni."

Organizers used the phones of former Black Student Union president Arielle Hudson and ASB president Mannery to call Boyce and Provost Noel Wilkin while the protest ensued. Neither answered.

4. The monument actually moved, and Chancellor Boyce nixed the aspects of the Confederate cemetery renovations that people criticized.

Early on the morning of July 14, without notifying the public, university-contracted construction workers began disassembling the Confederate monument, and by noon, the monument in pieces was at its new location in front of the Confederate cemetery.

That afternoon, the chancellor sent a statement that said the university would not allow excavation within the cemetery, and Boyce said he was not willing to risk damaging the remains of the Confederate and Union soldiers who are buried there. Days later, on July 17, Boyce confirmed that this meant no headstones would be added to the cemetery.

Boyce also said in his later statement that he "takes responsibility and apologizes" for the concerns that have resulted from this and other portions of the relocation plans. This apology comes after many members of the university community — including nine leaders of various Black student groups on campus — criticized the plan as a shrine to the Lost Cause. The Lost Cause ideology advocates that the Confederate war effort was just and heroic.

Now, the only official university plans for Confederate cemetery renovations are to install sidewalks to be in ADA compliance and security cameras to monitor the monument.

5. Student-athletes did not want to see the monument from the football practice fields, so once again, the university changed its plans.

After continued criticism of the Confederate monument's placement on the University of Mississippi campus, the university installed "a temporary screen" on the side of the monument facing Manning Way and Hill Drive earlier this week. The decision stemmed from conversations between Chancellor Boyce and an unnamed group of student-athletes who did not want to see the monument from the football practice fields.

"In response, the university is installing a temporary screen around the monument until permanent, limited landscaping can be planted later this fall — the optimal time of year for the plantings to take root," university spokesman Rod Guajardo said.

SEE STATUE PAGE 6

STATUE

continued from page 5

Earlier this summer, student-athletes spoke up in support of monument relocation and the removal of Confederate iconography from the state flag in an unprecedented manner. After the state Institutions of

Higher Learning (IHL) Board of Trustees approved the relocation of the monument from the Circle to the Confederate cemetery in June, football players tweeted a video showing their support of the decision.

"This allows all students, faculty, staff and fans of the University of Mississippi to enjoy our beautiful campus without having to see a symbol of slavery,

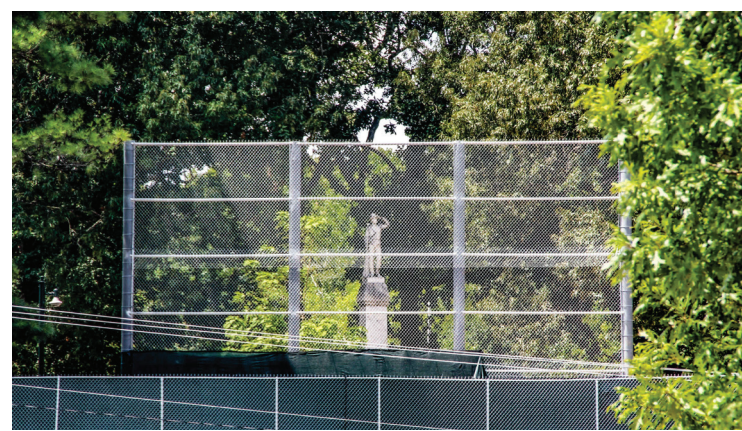
racism, hate and oppression," Tariquious Tisdale, a senior defensive end, said in the video.

ASB president Mannery said he had spoken to many football players who initially were not aware that the practice fields had such a clear view of the Confederate cemetery.

"They don't want (to see the monument)," Mannery said. "Student-athletes are taking a much more active role in decision making on campus, and they made it very clear that they weren't going to sit this one out."

Mannery also said that while he was not involved in the advocacy for or the decision to install the screen, he is glad that the university is "actively working to obstruct the view of the monument."

The newly installed screen also hinders the view of the monument from Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, where a limited number of fans will be able to attend games for the 2020 fall season pending further COVID-19 restrictions.



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The initial screen was put up to block the view of the monument on Aug. 18 and, the mesh net was added shortly after..

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The University of Mississippi Department of Parking & Transportation (DPT) in Oxford, Mississippi hereby gives notice of enactment of the University's Traffic and Parking Regulations for the 2020-2021 academic year. These rules and regulations are enacted by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi, and are effective from and after July 1, 2020. The full text of such rules and regulations are available at www.olemiss.edu/parking the website of DPT.

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Summer of change

KATHERINE BUTLER AND REED JONES
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Several community-led protests have taken place in Oxford since the murder of George Floyd earlier this summer. The protests were held in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and also in response to the university's proposed plans to relocate the Confederate monument from the Circle to the Confederate cemetery on campus. Students, alumni, faculty and community members participated in the protests.



Above: An officer kneels beside Black Lives Matter protesters. Below: A protester stands on top of caution tape torn down after it was placed by police.



Protesters hold a sign as they march around the square during a protest in support of Black Lives Matter in June.



SEC will allow fans to attend fall football games, but Gov. Reeves says no to tailgating

HADLEY HITSON
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While university athletics has yet to release the capacity at which Vaught-Hemingway will be filled, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) confirmed last week that it will still allow fan attendance pending future COVID-19 developments.

According to Ole Miss Athletics, there are 64,038 seats in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, making it the largest stadium in Mississippi. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) website currently states that “arena attendance” is limited to 25% or less of full capacity, so by that restriction, the university could allow a maximum of 16,009 fans into Vaught-Hemingway.

The SEC also released a set of guidelines for fan health and safety today.

“These fan guidelines have been adopted by the 14 member schools of the Southeastern Conference as baseline recommendations for the campus management of fan health and safety,” SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

in the release. “Although local and state guidelines will determine if and how many fans can attend games, these guidelines provide conference-wide expectations for protection of guests who are able to attend our games.”

All fans are required to wear proper face coverings as they move throughout the

stadium and when an individual cannot maintain the recommended six feet apart to someone who is not in the same household. Stadium workers and athletics staff should also wear face coverings at all times.

The announcement also said that each university in the SEC will decide how tail-

gating will work on their respective campuses, but Gov. Tate Reeves said in a press conference last week that there will be no Grove tailgating or game day activities like the Walk of Champions during the fall football season.

“I know this will not be popular. It’s no fun, and I’ll miss (game day activities)

terribly myself,” Reeves said. “But it’s better than being a state that’s prohibiting football altogether.”

This decision comes after the SEC’s announcement of its health and safety guidelines for football season. Stadiums can only have 25% capacity of fans and traditional game day activities can only happen if social distancing is possible.

Mississippi State had already canceled alumni tailgating by the time this decision was announced. LSU is discouraging fans without tickets from tailgating, and Alabama banned tailgating on Tuesday.

“I’d still rather be in the SEC with no tailgates than the Pac 12 or Big Ten with no football,” Reeves added.

Usually, thousands of fans gather in the Grove during football season, bringing an economic boom to Oxford. With this source of income gone, it is unsure where local businesses will stand financially.

At the time of publication, Ole Miss Athletics had not released a statement regarding the decision.

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'Football season is essential'

No football could cost Oxford millions and devastate local businesses

KELBY ZENDEJAS
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The fall season usually draws in Ole Miss football fans from all around the country every year to enjoy one of the greatest college football experiences in the South. With the coronavirus pandemic continuing to impact the United States, uncertainty surrounds the question of how one of the South's most beloved college football towns will handle limited attendance numbers, a major loss in revenue and the possible devastation of locally owned businesses.

As of now, the Ole Miss football season is set to kick off on Sept. 26. Still, the number of cases among student-athletes is growing, with the university reporting 15 positive cases among athletes and one staff member during the week that students returned to campus.

The city of Oxford is already bracing for impact as students have officially made their way back to campus.

What is not so easy to brace for, is the financial loss that local businesses will face and have been facing since the beginning of the pandemic.

"Small college towns like Oxford are going to be hurt significantly during the football season, regardless of whether it is played," Joshua Hendrickson, associate professor of economics, said. "The governor has already signed an executive order that limits stadium capacity to 25%."

Gov. Tate Reeves signed an executive order on Thursday stating tailgating is prohibited across the state, leading to a possibly significant impact on Oxford's economy if no Grove tailgating were to happen in the fall.

According to Visit Oxford, the overall financial impact of no football season could result in a \$70 million loss. Ticket sales alone bring in \$30 to 35 million in revenue.

"We are on so many people's bucket lists," Visit Oxford executive director Kinney Ferris said. "Honestly, one



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The SEC announced that fans will be allowed at sporting events but the Mississippi State Department of Health has limited capacity to 25%.

of the worst pieces of news would be the SEC pulling out just because the impact is so great. It's also the publicity and people wanting to get the

experience."

Local businesses located on the Square and scattered throughout Oxford started facing financial bur-

dens at the beginning of the pandemic, but owners don't think the toll is over quite yet.

Erica Barragan, owner of

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 11

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FOOTBALL

continued from page 10

Bim-Bam Burger and Wings, said her business relies heavily on football, basketball and baseball seasons to provide security when students have gone home during the winter and summer months.

“70% of my business revolves around football season,” Barragan said. “We depend really on that football season to carry us through.”

Barragan also said she thinks that Oxford would lose a lot of restaurants if football season were postponed to spring. Since the start of the pandemic, Soulshine Pizza, Fill-Up With Billups, Track 61, and Cups have closed for good.

“I think a lot of restaurants

are going to go out of business,” she said. “I think that the people on the Square are already on the verge of going out of business.”

Terry Warren, owner of Rebel Rags, emphasized the importance of having students present in the community for business. Last year, the University of Mississippi enrolled 19,421 students during the fall 2019-2020 semester, and there are not yet any official numbers on how many students will have in-person classes for the fall semester.

“Students not only bring students in, but you know, they all have mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, grandmothers and family members,” Warren said. “Most of them visit here and see their children and/or grandchildren, and that also creates

business.”

Almost all of Rebel Rags’s inventory is sports-related, and Warren said he has already suffered an “enormous loss” because of the store’s close ties to students and sports. All merchandise is ordered a year in advance, but the store has had to undergo many delays and cancellations.

Barragan said she understands that people’s livelihoods are on the line, and hers is no exception. She works a 70-hour week and knows of several other local business owners doing the same because of their inability to pay more workers.

“I just feel like football season is essential for Oxford; it’s a college town,” Barragan said. “We just have too many people that depend on it.”



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Soulshine Pizza Factory is one of several local businesses in Oxford to close down since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March. Others include Cups, Track 61 and Fill-Up With Billups.

Kiffin on new practice routine

KELBY ZENDEJAS
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The pandemic has altered sports with season delays, a new practice routine and mandated bubbles for sports teams. Ole Miss football, which began its 2020 preseason training camp last week, has committed to providing a safer environment for student-athletes.

Instead of meeting rooms, chairs are set up in the indoor practice facility to adhere to social distancing protocols.

Head coach Lane Kiffin said the most challenging hurdle the team faces is one they can’t control — how everyone outside of the program practices social distancing. Ole Miss football players have allegedly put themselves in their own bubble to control the virus in their own environment, but according to Kiffin, the challenge is the kids and adults who are not social distancing.

“Drive through downtown,” he said, referencing the masses of students and Oxford community members on the Square.

Kiffin said he thinks the teams that will be successful this season are the teams winning games and having healthy players.

“Everybody wants a fast (40-yard dash) time. Everybody wants to lift weights to get stronger so they can play better and win games. Well, this is going to be more important than the shape you’re in, how fast you are, how strong you are,” Kiffin said. “

The strict practice season will continue for the next few weeks, and Ole Miss football will kick off the season against the Florida Gators on Sept. 26.

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UM alum talks hopes for NBA

JAMES MINZESHEIMER
thedmsports@gmail.com

After a strong four years as a star player for Ole Miss basketball, Breein Tyree is looking to go pro.

The Daily Mississippian recently sat down with Tyree to discuss his invitation to the NBA combine

“(It’s) definitely big time for me,” he said. “It’s always been in my plan to build a resume, to get to the next level, and I think I did that with my college career. It’s great news, but I was kind of expecting it.”

Tyree also said he hopes to show coaches and scouts at the combine a different set of skills than they saw from him during his undergraduate career.

“I want to show that I can run a team. I didn’t really get to play point guard at Ole Miss my last three years,” he said.

“People mainly know me as a guy that just scores, but that was a role carved out for me at Ole Miss, and I could play a whole other role at the next level.”

The NBA combine invite list came out in late July, and Tyree said the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly impacted his ability to prepare himself for the combine.

“I couldn’t get in the gym for like the first month and

and a half, but honestly, it was a blessing just because I got to rest my body after four years in college.”

Now, Tyree has been set up by his agency to work out and do daily treatment in Atlanta.

Ole Miss head coach Kermit Davis said he is certain that Tyree will make it onto an NBA team.

“People mainly know me as a guy that just scores, but that was a role carved out for me at Ole Miss, and I could play a whole other role at the next level.”

-Breein Tyree
Former Ole Miss basketball player

“Breein is very deserving of the NBA combine invitation,” Davis said. “I know he didn’t get the NBA workouts like we all wanted because of COVID-19, but he has such impressive game film versus the very best teams in America by competing in the SEC. There is no question, in my mind, that Breein will make an NBA roster at some point in his career.”

Currently, Tyree is not projected to get drafted this year.

Last year, former Ole Miss Rebel Terrence Davis was in a similar position and ended up going undrafted. Tyree said Davis is a role model for Ole Miss players

“TD (Terrence Davis) really has been paving the way for me and everybody coming out of Ole Miss,” Tyree said. “He acts like a pro, and you know, I’m really thankful that he’s doing well because it’s really helping me out as I’m trying to go through this process”

Without a summer League, Tyree is trying his best to seize any moment he can, as this year the sometimes-obsolete NBA combine may matter more for players.

Only time will tell if Tyree is NBA ready. However, he did say that he was excited for the potential of this year’s Rebels, highlighting guys like Cal State Bakersfield transfer Jarkell Joiner, Devontae Shuler and Khadim Sy.

“Every time I talk to Shuler, he’s leaving the gym,” Tyree said. “Jarkell Joiner, after sitting out last year, is going to take on a large role when it comes to scoring... Khadim is a real talent and he can shoot the three, and as he gets more comfortable with Coach Davis and the guys around him, he will really take off.”



FILE PHOTO: REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Breein Tyree was a four-year starter at the University of Mississippi and is now preparing for the NBA combine.

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The funny flags that (unfortunately) didn't make it

STAFF REPORT
 thedmnews@gmail.com

Earlier this month, Mississippi released thousands of proposed state flag designs for public viewing on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) website — all of which included the phrase “In God We Trust” and none of which include the Confederate flag, as mandated by state legislators. People submitted nearly 3,000 designs for the open call, and there were definitely not a lack of hilarious options.

As a tribute to these pieces of art, The Daily Mississippian’s summer staff members have each picked their favorites among the funny line-up.

Eliza’s pick:



To be honest, I loved this flag because I was completely confused by it. I was very intrigued by the artist’s decisions in creating it; to me, there is a certain je ne sais quoi quality that I just can’t get enough of. Absolutely nothing on this flag screamed

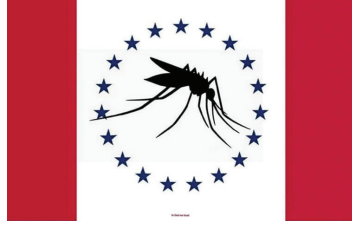
“Mississippi.” It doesn’t even whisper it. We have pink and yellow, an unsightly color combination. We have ducks, which — if I’m not mistaken — we can’t hunt until November or December. Are the ducks trusting in God? It’s up to you to decide. Finally, we’ve got the very faint border around the ducks that doesn’t exactly match the background. Overall, this is a winner to me.

Billy’s pick:



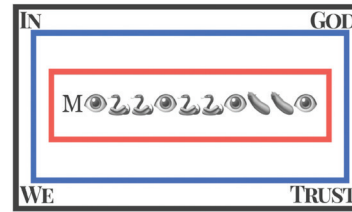
If there were a God who is truly right and just, when the long summer sun sets on August 14 and the white smoke bellows from the chimney of the capitol building, this would have been our new flag. It bears the things most iconic about this beloved state: the magnolia flowers, a phrase that has unified this country since its insertion into the Pledge of Allegiance in World War II and a beast whose roar rings across the velvety, kudzu covered hills. This is the art that needs to stand before our businesses and homes.

Kelby’s pick:



I applaud whoever sent this in. It encapsulated Mississippi’s beauty and struggle so perfectly. Our biggest enemy here in the great state of Mississippi: a mosquito. Of course, I’d want this insect waving on my front porch or flying over every major state-building. I would have loved to be reminded of an itchy, uncomfortable feeling every time I see our flag. Honestly, this contender should have been taken more seriously. It represents what we, as Mississippians, struggle every day to overcome: bug bites

Katherine’s pick:



The impeccable, flawless design of this flag made it the obvious choice to serve as the symbol of our great state. The genius use of emojis in this submission would have

brought Mississippi into the 21st century in the eyes of the rest of the country. This is a flag that I think every Mississippian would have gotten behind and been a unifying representation of Mississippi as a whole.

Hadley’s pick:



Here, we have what was, in my opinion, one of the most thought-provoking submissions: a goofy Jesus statue, simultaneously winking, giving the thumbs up and pointing at onlookers with the required phrase scrawled across his chest. The likelihood that this “design” was submitted in jest is high, but it still really got me thinking: was the “designer” trying to make a point? Was he or she attempting to mock the state legislators for requiring “In God We Trust” to be included on the selected design? Is this flag silently calling for a stricter adherence to the separation of church and state? Is the “designer” nontheistic and deeply offended that a reference to God will be waved around Mississippi? Or, is the design simply

meant for humor? Anyway, if you submitted this design, please email dmmanaging@gmail.com so that we can all get some answers.

James’s pick:



I felt the universe would not be in harmony if we did not talk about Mississippi football in this group of funny flags. There is an argument to be made that without the ruling about NCAA championships games, Mississippi’s flag would not have been voted out. This moment from the 2019 Egg Bowl is an all-time sports blunder. With the above celebration by Ole Miss wide-out Elijah Moore resulting in a 15 yard penalty, the two-point conversion was no longer an option, and the kicker would end up missing the 35 yard extra point attempt. The “In God We Trust” could be interpreted in multiple ways, but I like to view it as Lane Kiffin being referred to as God, and now with him at the helm, we can trust that this blunder will not be repeated.

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- Taught the Mississippi DUI Law and 5 different Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure courses each and every semester at the University of Mississippi for 29 consecutive years.
- A member of the Chancellor’s Trust at the University of Mississippi since 1981.
- Former Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for over 6 years.
- Former Municipal Court Judge for the City of Oxford, Mississippi for 8 years.
- Former Vice President and President of the Lafayette County Bar Association; member of the Mississippi Bar Association, etc.
- Appointed by the Mississippi State Bar to the Mississippi Commission on Attorney Ethics and Attorney Violations of the Canon of Ethics and All Mandatory Rules concerning the Practice of Law. Occupied the positions of Vice Chairman and Chairman and served for 18 years.
- A Founding Member of the National College for DUI Defense conducted at Harvard Law School.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 DUI Attorneys in Mississippi by the National Advocacy for DUI Defense.
- Selected as one of the Top 10 Best Attorneys of Mississippi in for Client Satisfaction Award by the American Institute of DUI/DWI Attorneys.
- Selected as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Organization.
- Recipient of the DISTINGUISHED AWARD OF MERIT for 1989 from the Mississippi State Bar given to one Attorney in the State each year for outstanding contributions to the practice of law.
- Voted “Best Attorney in Oxford, Mississippi” in the Grove’s Choice Awards.
- Member of the American Association of Premier DUI Attorneys
- Member of the National League of Renowned Attorneys - Top 1%
- Awarded the United States Congressional Medal of Distinction by RNCC.
- Member of the American Jurist Institute - Top 10 DUI/DWI Attorney for Mississippi
- Member of the American Society of Legal Advocates - Top 100 Criminal Defense Lawyers in the State of Mississippi
- Selected by the Attorney and Practice Magazine as one of Mississippi’s Top 10 Attorneys, et cetera.

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

OPINION

Mass testing should be the bare minimum

KATIE DAMES

thedmopinion@gmail.com

My return to Oxford looks different from what I imagined when I left. Behind my mask, I smile at familiar faces while walking in the Circle, despite obstructed views and a six-foot distance between us. I want to return to normal, but I am less than optimistic that the existing COVID-19 safety protocols will make that a reality. Mass testing for COVID-19 should have been the first step in the university's playbook, and for the sake of the UM community, hopefully, it's not too late to incorporate into existing plans.

My newsfeed is filled with headlines of schools like Michigan State, Notre Dame

and UNC-Chapel Hill shutting down after less than two weeks after classes started, interspersed with viral videos of college students partying in fields in Oklahoma and Georgia. College students should be held accountable for their own actions and how they impact those around them, but university administration should help facilitate a campus environment that limits the danger of the often questionable decision-making skills of people whose brains have not fully developed yet.

15 student-athletes already tested positive for COVID-19 before classes started, constituting an outbreak by the Mississippi State Department of Health's standards. The university mass-tested student-ath-

letes for COVID-19, but what about the thousands of students arriving on campus who aren't tested?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines COVID-19 testing as one feature of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the spread of the virus. The University of Alabama outlined that "Students cannot return to campus for any reason – attend class, workout at the Student Rec Center, take part in social or other organized events, etc. – until they submit a negative COVID-19 test result." UM has no similar requirements for testing.

The university's COVID-19 resource page features information on how to access free testing and instructs students to take their temperatures if symptoms develop. Early reports showed that as testing increased and expanded beyond those who were symptomatic, young people made up a significant portion of those testing positive for COVID-19. Without

a testing requirement like our peer institutions, the university is bound to face the consequences of community spread sooner or later.

Even requiring a negative test to return to campus does not insure the LOU community's safety. Auburn required COVID-19 screenings for all students on campus this fall, yet it already shut down a fraternity house and a floor of a sorority dorm because of outbreaks. The logistics of universal testing are extensive, and the process is nowhere near cheap. However, when considering the potential cost of shutting down dorms and sending students back home mid-semester, developing an effective testing plan sounds more efficient.

Greater than the financial expenses associated with testing is the mental and physical damage that the pandemic is inflicting on students. Yale administrator and psychology professor Laurie Santos wrote in an email to her students, "We all should be emotionally

prepared for widespread infections – and possibly deaths – in our community. You should emotionally prepare for the fact that your residential college life will look more like a hospital unit than a residential college." This horrific depiction may be a worst-case scenario, but the community should do everything in their power to prevent this from happening, beginning with mass testing.

It's hard to imagine the Grove empty this fall. But what brings me more pain is the thought of tailgating next fall, with a slightly less packed Grove, feeling the loss of the students, faculty, and community members who may die due to COVID-19. Require testing, or risk student, faculty, staff, and community lives lost. Better late than never.

Katie Dames is a senior International Studies major from Saint Louis, Missouri.

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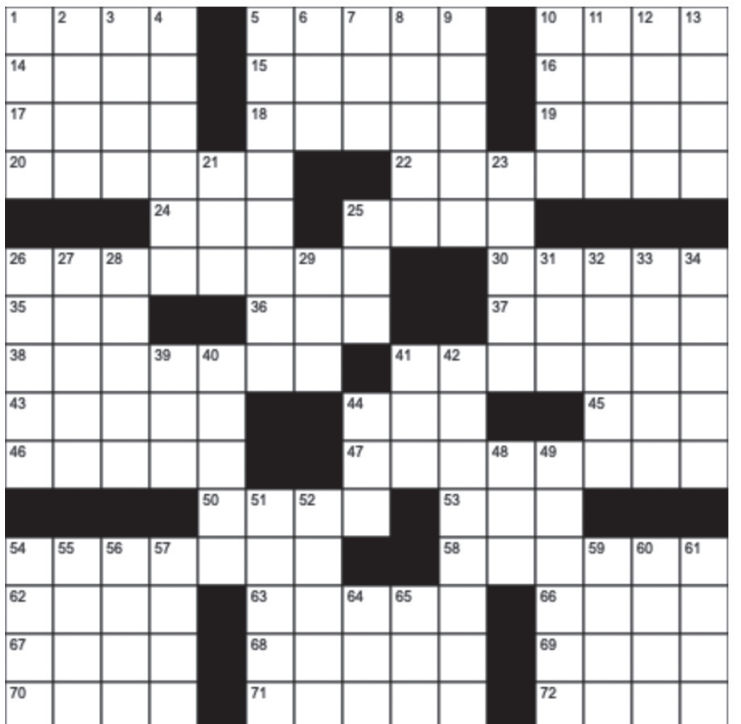
ACROSS

- 1- Bedouin;
- 5- Killer whales;
- 10- Old Testament book;
- 14- List heading;
- 15- Expanse of sand;
- 16- Low-lying area;
- 17- Affirm solemnly;
- 18- Carousal;
- 19- Author James;
- 20- "You ___ worry";
- 22- Mental strain;
- 24- Always, poetically;
- 25- Bang-up;
- 26- Capsize;
- 30- Stroll;
- 35- Fam. reunion attendee;
- 36- Coquettish;
- 37- Where there's ___;
- 38- Igneous rock;
- 41- Supposed;
- 43- Fall bloomer;
- 44- Flightless bird;
- 45- Sprint rival;
- 46- I ___ vacation!;
- 47- Tear roughly;
- 50- Polo of "Meet the Parents";
- 53- Chiang ___-shek;
- 54- Genuine;
- 58- In and of ___;
- 62- Buck follower;
- 63- Noted Civil War biography;
- 66- "Twittering Machine" artist;
- 67- Dress often worn by Hindu women;
- 68- Hot spots;
- 69- Charles Lamb's pen name;
- 70- Actor Connery;
- 71- Adjust to zero;
- 72- Sugar substitute?;

DOWN

- 1- ___ impasse;
- 2- Wander;
- 3- Zip-___-Doo-Dah;
- 4- Frontier;
- 5- To block;
- 6- Agt.;
- 7- Automobile; 8- Vinegary prefix;
- 9- Luster;
- 10- Gardner and others;
- 11- Wise men;
- 12- Muffin topper;
- 13- Witnessed;
- 21- Can be used to catch fish or surf!;
- 23- Sherpa's home;
- 25- At all;
- 26- Church instrument;
- 27- Piece of poetry;
- 28- Overjoy;
- 29- Fish eggs;
- 31- Wonderment;
- 32- 18th letter of the Greek alphabet;
- 33- Chosen;
- 34- Blast from the past;
- 39- Aussie outlaw Kelly;
- 40- Angry;
- 41- Doctors' org.;
- 42- Most fortunate;
- 44- Actor Wallach;
- 48- Consume;
- 49- Dared;
- 51- Slip;
- 52- Actor Christopher;
- 54- Back talk;
- 55- Dies ___;
- 56- "A Doll's House" heroine;
- 57- Fountain-bottom sight;
- 59- Vogue rival;
- 60- Sci-fi princess;
- 61- Extreme reverence;
- 64- French article;
- 65- Chemical ending;

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE



Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

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

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

NOVICE

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

OPINION



ARE WE READY? *continued from page 1*

after resuming classes, and there is no reason to believe that we will avoid the same fate.

To put it simply, no matter how much Greek presidents, university administration or C19 ambassadors want you to believe that everyone is following an imperfect set of rules while singing kumbaya in a socially distant circle, they are not.

They are here to protect an image, whether that be the name of their Greek organization, themselves or the UMF family narrative they have tried to force onto us. Apart from academics, the university relies on its marketable campus life—“We never lose a party”—an image that can only sell with false assurances of safety.

A Twitter PSA from student-athletes who have allegedly been spotted at bars and house parties does not instill hope; it demonstrates the hypocrisy from the administration and the student body and the refusal for both parties to admit fault.

There are already positive cases in Greek houses, masses of freshmen have been seen without masks and a faculty member has died of COVID-19. The state Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) wouldn't discuss the pandemic while tens of thousands of college students flood Mississippi. The university has even stopped sending mass emails every time someone tests positive. What is our breaking point? Who will finally hold some sort of accountability instead of passing blame?

Blindly saying “We are following health and safety guidelines” is not going to keep people safe. A BlackBoard quiz telling students to wash their hands is not going to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in crowded classrooms or bars. It is not going to magically cure the virus, and it is not going to prevent a student, faculty or staff member from having a breathing tube shoved down their throat.

Spoiler alert: wearing a mask doesn't mean you get to do whatever the hell you want.

Confronting reckless behavior isn't “COVID-shaming,” whatever that means. It's demanding transparency not just from the university, but from ourselves. Why would we set the bar so high for administration but have no bar at all for ourselves and our fellow students?

Last year, the DM published a staff editorial, titled “Are students the only adults in the room?”

At this point, there are no adults in the room.

It seems clear that this semester isn't going to end well. University administration and students are already prepared to say “I told you so,” but behaviors and policies remain the same.

Why would administrators — who have asserted that student health is of the utmost priority — make such irresponsible decisions? The only logical answer is money.

We firmly believe that finances are one of the deciding factors that have brought us back to campus. Student fees, tuition, housing and meal plans are the backbone of the university, the “lifeblood,” as described by a former interim chancellor. There is no way university administrators would slaughter the cash cow. Over half of the budget comes from us, the students.

Residential students have to sign a contract that says they know they could die from living in a dorm, but these are the same dorms that the university has claimed for years are not the reason students get sick. The university claims that it isn't forcing or coercing them into signing, but if all freshmen are still required to live on campus unless granted an exception, what are they supposed to do?

The phrase “unprecedented times” is overused and untrue. We saw students catching COVID-19 on Spring Break, scrambling to leave campus and facing financial hardship. The university rightly sent students home in the spring even with no confirmed cases on campus. As the confirmed cases total 160 and clusters spread, it makes little sense to go forward with in-person instruction. Like putting a Band-Aid on a broken leg, we're slapping on masks and pretending everything is fine.

We know our senior year is ruined. We've known that since March. However, we are not willing to risk the safety of community members to live out whatever fantasies we had about our last year of college, and other students shouldn't either.

So what's the magic number? What's the tipping point, or more bluntly, death toll, that's going to send us away from campus, where we should have been in the first place? In the meantime, how many house parties or nights on the Square are worth friends, neighbors and family dying?

All we can do is encourage everyone to follow the rules. Hopefully, we can reduce as much damage as we can, but make no mistake, the choices already made are going to cause damage we can't stop.

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