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An uncertain starting lineup

a look at the team heading into the first game

JAMES MINZESHEIMER AND RUBY DRAAYER
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Going into his first game week as head coach of Ole Miss Rebels football, Lane Kiffin has left plenty of question marks where fans expected to see a set starting lineup. As of now, the Rebels plan to move forward with committees at multiple positions, including quarterback and running back. Here is everything Kiffin and the team have released so far regarding who will be on the field against the Florida Gators on Saturday.

Quarterback

The quarterback situation is very similar to that of last season, with Kiffin saying that it is likely that fans will see John Rhys Plumlee and Matt Corral used throughout the first game, regardless of who is starting.

SEE LINE-UP PAGE 6



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSHUA MCCOY VIA OLE MISS ATHLETICS

John Rhys Plumlee (left) and Matt Corral (right). Lane Kiffin has not announced who the starting quarterback will be for the season opener against the University of Florida.

OPD prepares for home opener

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The Oxford Police Department and University Police Department plan to maintain regular gameday procedures for the season opener against Florida on Saturday.

“We’re gonna treat it like we would every other home game weekend, like we have in the past,” Public Information Officer Breck Jones said. “We’re gonna work intersections and prepare just like we would before and then we’ll make adjustments as we see fit going forward.”

The department is expecting a population increase to coincide with the 25% stadium capacity rule signed by Gov. Tate Reeves in late August. This means Saturday will show the arrival of roughly 16,009 fans rather than the typical 64,038.

Social distancing rules and mask ordinances will continue to be enforced in accordance with Oxford regulations. This includes bars, restaurants, and any attempts to tailgate from home.

“As far as home viewing, home gating, or whatever people have been calling it, the Covid restrictions for how many people are allowed to gather still apply,” Officer Jones said.

There will also be no off campus gameday parking unlike previous seasons.

“There’s not going to be any parking for the games in the city,” Officer Jones said. “Any gameday parking is going to be on campus since there’s such a limited capacity.”

University Police Department will be operating as they have in previous seasons with minor tweaks to accommodate for Covid-19 regulations.

“While certain aspects of our planning have changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our ultimate goal remains the same – to keep our campus safe,” UPD Chief Ray Hawkins said.

Executive order 1519 prohibits all gatherings outside the stadium, be it for tailgating, picnics, or fanfare.

What you need to know for home games

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Ole Miss football kicks off the 2020 season against the Florida Gators this year, but with no Walk of Champions, no tailgating and 25% limited capacity, fans and students are bound to the rules and regulations set by the university for safety precautions.

Here’s a list of guidelines students need to know for game days:

Stadium gates will open two hours prior to kickoff. Fans will have assigned gates

and instructions on their tickets.

Fans and students must wear a face-covering and practice social distancing at all times while in the stadium. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the venue.

The clear bag policy remains the same.

All students must sit in the student section — the north end zone (N1-N10) — due to social distancing guidelines.

Student tickets for the opening game against the Florida Gators went on sale Monday, Sept. 21, and tickets for the rest of the season will

SEE HOME GAMES PAGE 7



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

UM student dies of drug overdose

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Jack Holiman, a senior mechanical engineering major from Jackson, died on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi after being hospitalized Sunday night for an suspected apparent drug overdose.

Holiman had postponed his senior year to pursue a research internship with the Department of Energy at the university this year. He was also a member of the Center for Manufacturing Excellence and Engineers Without Borders.

Holiman's mother, Paige Cascio Holiman, announced his death via Facebook last Friday. Hundreds of friends and family members commented to share their condolences.

"He was funny, stubborn, brilliant, honest and kind ... among many other traits. His relationships were his most valuable asset. He helped people find their place and purpose with no judgement," Paige Holiman wrote. "He was an encouraging example to others of the importance of being your authentic self. He loved without holding anything back."

Senior integrated marketing and communications major Kendall Causey, a lifelong friend of Holiman's, went to the hospital on Sunday after a call from her mother informing her of Holiman's overdose. Causey stayed there until Holiman's family arrived from Jackson.

According to Causey, Holiman and his roommates were awake until 4:00 am on Sunday at their home. Holiman's roommates did not discover he was unconscious until late Sunday afternoon.

"They thought he was asleep that whole time because he stayed up so late," Causey said. "He was losing oxygen to his brain. There wasn't much hope when they took him (to the hospital)."

Paige Holiman issued a statement to The Daily Mississippian which said she learned that her son died after taking a pill that he believed was OxyContin, but was actually a counterfeit drug laced with Fentanyl. Paige Holiman said that her son was not an addict "without any air of judgement" because a significant number of college students have and will experiment with drugs.

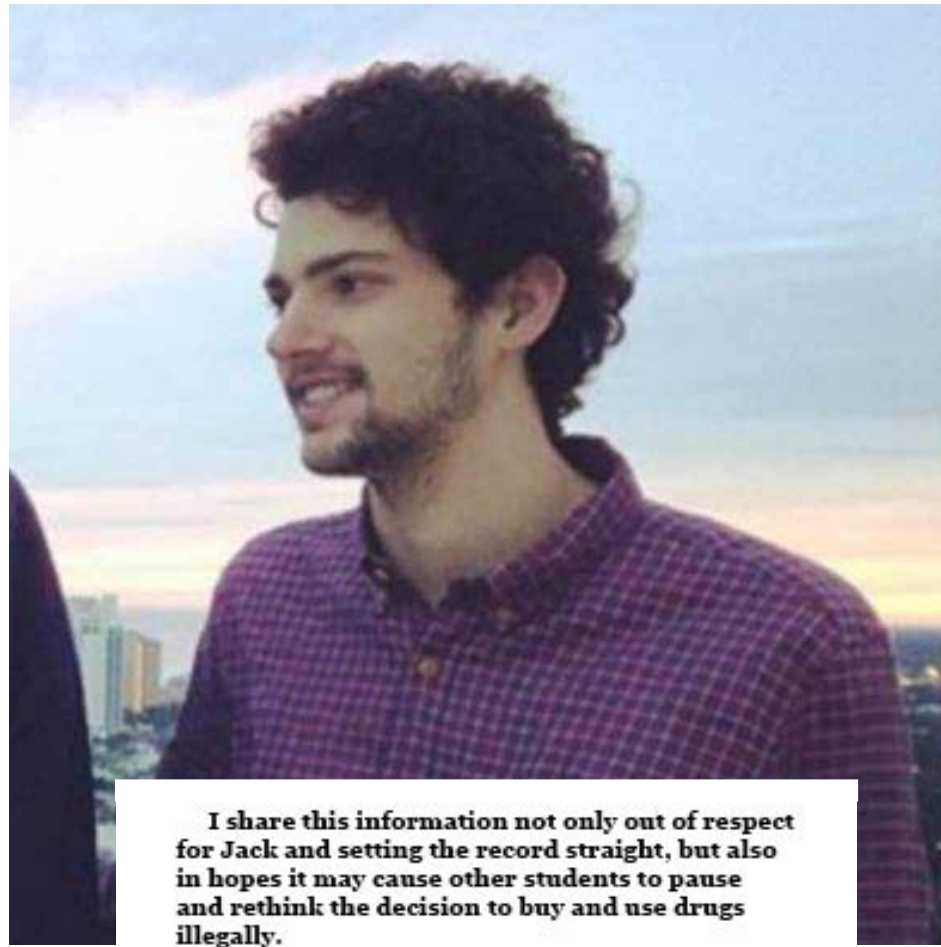


PHOTO COURTESY: JACK HOLIMAN'S FACEBOOK

I share this information not only out of respect for Jack and setting the record straight, but also in hopes it may cause other students to pause and rethink the decision to buy and use drugs illegally.

Our son was not an addict. I don't say that with any air of judgement. I say it because I am aware that a significant number of college students have and will experiment with drugs and/or use them recreationally. I hope this story will hit close to home for them.

We have a pretty clear picture of the events leading up to his death. He made a bad decision to buy pills from a local dealer. A few days later, after pulling an all-nighter listening to music, watching a movie with a roommate, having a beer, texting family and friends, he took a pill. He took it for fun, maybe to relax and fall asleep... the pill was not OxyContin as he thought, but a counterfeit drug containing fentanyl.

He was a very smart guy. And he, more than anyone else, would've been the maddest at himself for making such a mistake--a deadly one.

-Paige Holiman

"I hope this story will hit home with them," Paige Holiman wrote in the statement.

Paige Holiman said that her son made a bad decision to buy pills from a local dealer. A few days later, he stayed up late with his roommate watching movies, drinking beer, texting friends and family members and took a pill shortly before he went to sleep. Paige Holiman believes he may have taken the pill as a sleeping aid or for fun.

"He was a very smart guy. And he, more than anyone else, would've been the maddest at himself for making such a mistake -- a deadly one," Paige Holiman wrote in the statement.

On Wednesday, Oxford Police

Department (OPD) issued a press release in response to a Facebook post referencing the presence of dangerous narcotics in Oxford. The widely shared post, written by April Brown, the distraught stepmother of a Northwest Community College student who died of an overdose in Oxford on Sept. 5, circulated among university students and parents.

The press release said that

to be laced with other substances, but have yet to receive results from the crime lab.

"Know that there is a risk that what you're taking came off the dark net, came from overseas, who knows where, and contains who knows what all is in it," Fauver said.

Fauver added that some narcotics are gaining popularity because their prices are drastically getting lower on the dark web, making them even more threatening to communities.

"It's not coming from a factory or a pharmaceutical factory, so there's no telling what's in it," Fauver said. "You're seeing a lot of synthetic stuff, and like I said, just about all of our ecstasy has been coming back from the crime lab as methamphetamine."

In response to the recent increase in drug overdoses, The William Magee Center for Wellness Education is teaming up with Lafayette County Metro Narcotics, the Oxford Police Department and the University Police Department to address the concerns of the community.

David Magee, father of William Magee who was a UM student who died in 2013, said his most important role is being committed to making a change after losing his son to an accidental overdose.

"As a community built around higher education, we have the opportunity to lead and create change," Magee said. "Speaking openly and honestly about the realities faced can make all the difference."

Holiman, who was a talented musician and who regularly performed around Oxford with his band Subcontra, posted a YouTube video of himself playing Debussy's "Clair De Lune" on piano in April. After news of his death, several friends posted in the comments. One of them read: "I miss you Jack. I loved this back in April and I hope I expressed that to you fully. I still love it now. I wish I could see you again. You were one of the most creative and talented people I have ever met. Kindest and funniest too."

Community members can attend the 'Disrupt the Culture Hot Topic' virtual discussion at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23, via Zoom.

Alex Fauver, commander of the Lafayette County Metro Narcotics Unit, confirmed the threat of "dirty dope" in Oxford is real.

"A lot of ecstasy has come back (from the crime lab) as methamphetamine, and we've had some different pills, some Percocet and OxyContin that have come back with fentanyl," Fauver said.

According to Fauver, the Metro Narcotics Unit has also recently intercepted Xanax they suspect

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Oxford police speak out against medical marijuana

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Lafayette County Sheriff Joey East and Oxford Police Department Chief Jeff McCutchen took a stance at a press conference on Tuesday against ballot Initiative 65, which will legalize medical marijuana in Mississippi if passed in November.

Some members of the medical community also spoke at the press conference, which State Sen. Nicole Boyd and Rep. Clay Dewesse helped organize.

Initiative 65 will appear on ballots on Nov. 3 alongside a similar initiative, 65A. Voters will have the option to vote if they think a medical marijuana program should exist in Mississippi, and then they will also vote “yes” or “no” on Initiative 65 and 65A.

“When you look at the ballot, it will say, ‘Are you for or against any kind of medical marijuana program,’ and you can vote against — I hope everybody votes against — but as a safeguard, you can vote for 65A so if the vote (for a medical marijuana program) passes, then you’ll get 65A instead of 65,” Beth Hamilton, member of the State Executive Committee for the Mississippi Republican Party, said at the press conference.

Initiative 65, if passed, would create a system of self-funded medical marijuana growing operations and dispensaries administered by the Mississippi State Department of Health for patients who qualify by having one of 22 listed conditions and a consultation with a medical doctor. Patients would be allowed to possess up to 2.5 ounces at once, and a sales tax rate of 7% would be placed on medical marijuana sales.

Initiative 65A would only allow terminally ill patients to smoke marijuana and does not have specifications for qualifying conditions, possession limits, sales taxes or administering agencies. Funds for medical marijuana would come from the state under 65A, rather than a self-funded system.

Under Mississippi law, the state legislature can propose an al-



KENNETH NIEMEYER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Above: Oxford Police Department Chief Jeff McCutchen expressed his dissent with Initiative 65.

The bill, if passed, would create a number of medical marijuana growing facilities and dispensaries administered by the Mississippi Department of Health.

Right: Lafayette County Sheriff Joey East speculated that a patient would need to smoke around ten joints per day every two weeks to keep up with the 2.5 ounces they are allowed to possess through Initiative 65.



ternative to any initiative that the public decides to put on the ballot. Jamie Grantham, communications director for Medical Marijuana 2020, said the state legislature introduced Initiative 65A as a means to confuse voters and take away votes that would help get Initiative 65 passed.

Grantham noted that the state legislature has blocked over 20 bills that would have created a medical marijuana program from reaching the floor for a vote over

the past 10 years.

“They have robbed the voters of a fair, up or down vote — a fair yes or no vote — they robbed the voters of that,” Grantham said. “More than 228,000 signatures were gathered to put Initiative 65 on the ballot. We did everything fair and square.”

Initiative 65 would allow medical marijuana users to possess up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana at a time. One study from the National Institute of Health found that the average joint contains .66 grams of marijuana. By this metric, 2.5 ounces of marijuana would equal around 107 joints.

McCutchen speculated that

a patient would need to smoke around ten joints per day every two weeks to keep up with the 2.5 ounces they are allowed to possess through Initiative 65, which he believes would lead to the unused joints making their way into the community.

“In Oxford, just a couple of years ago, we were seeing a spike in prescription drugs and it falling into the hands of kids,” McCutchen said. “The state then put together a program and dropbox so that you could come in and give your unused medication and put it in these boxes. What’s going to happen with 2.5 ounces of marijuana every two weeks?”

Dr. Ed Hill, a member of the Mississippi Board of Health, said that Initiative 65 was not about making actual medicine available to Mississippians because there are already four drugs available that contain derivatives of the THC and CBD components in marijuana.

“You can get these from a physician by prescription, and scientific research has shown that each one of these four drugs is safe and would work on this specific symptom it was designed for,” Hill said.

Grantham said most drugs that contain derivatives of THC and CBD are used to treat nausea in cancer patients, but they aren’t used very often because they are synthetic drugs that patients have to take orally, which often does not help with nausea.

“They’re not widely used because they just don’t work that well,” Grantham said.

East said that Initiative 65 is “about addiction for profit,” money and power.

“Those that support it are under the belief that money sowed from this medical marijuana will go back to help health care, to help us with mental health, help with addiction, our education system, our roads and our bridges; this is absolutely false,” East said.

Although Initiative 65, if passed, would create a 7% sales tax on all medical marijuana sales, the businesses would still be self-funded.

“65 was written in a conservative way so that the program is self-funded,” Grantham said. “65A, however, the burden is on the taxpayers to pay for the whole thing, but that’s not consistent with other medical programs.”

Grantham said she was frustrated that the medical marijuana debate in Mississippi has taken what she sees as a political turn when the conversation should be more focused on critically ill patients’ healthcare.

“This is not political; these are people’s lives,” Grantham said. “I talk to people every day who say they would do anything to help their loved one, anything.”

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Woodward speaks at honors college convocation

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Dr. LouAnn Woodward, vice-chancellor at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, spoke at the first of three Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College convocations on Sept. 22.

Douglas Sullivan-Gonzalez, dean of the honors college, and Chancellor Glenn Boyce hosted the convocation where Woodward discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and how UMMC has handled it on a state level.

“I have never been more proud to be in the position I’m in than in these last six months,” Woodward said.

Woodward said the medical center has been able to accomplish multiple feats in recent months, including making their own ‘in-house’ COVID-19 test, models of ventilators and pioneer research in the state of Mississippi. Since UMMC is the only university-operated medical center in the state, Woodward said she felt responsible when it came to the development of a plan for how Mississippi would handle the pandemic.

“The thought process is: ‘If we don’t do it, will it happen in Mississippi?’” Woodward said.

When discussing the research that led to the development of an in-house COVID-19 test, Woodward specifically mentioned the pathology team and how quickly they were able to develop a test. She said the process would normally take eight to nine months.

“Our research and pathology team really showed up, you would not expect teams like these to save the day,” Woodward said.

The medical center has been in contact with national organizations such as the Center for Disease Control and the Mississippi Department of Health about the novel coronavirus since January,



PHOTO COURTESY: UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

and Woodward said the medical center has had certain programs and departments preparing since then.

The center started its own Incident Command Center and also developed regular communication with different medical centers across the United States.

When discussing the early stages of the pandemic, Woodward said that there were many unanswered questions about what would happen if the virus spread to the United States. Despite this, she emphasized how prepared she wanted to be.

“If people say we overreacted, we will have been successful,” Woodward said.

After the medical center began communicating with national health organizations, it was involved in a total of 19 clinical trials with other medical professionals as the virus

reached the United States.

“We are very proud of that, you can’t be involved in something like this without the proper research,” Woodward said.

Woodward also commended the students at the medical center who wanted to help when the United States began to feel the impact of the epidemic in March. Students from across programs signed up to assist at the hospital in a variety of ways.

“The attitude here has been ‘What can I do?’” Woodward said.

Woodward said that students have been doing everything from helping to administer tests across the state or small jobs around the medical center for the staff in Jackson. Because of the outpour of support and willingness to adapt shown by students, the center gave class credit to those who

wanted to help, so we created a credit where students who wanted to be in the field could get credit as a part of their educational experience,” Woodward said.

She also discussed how hard the center has worked in attempting to increase the number of graduating students. As of 2019, 853 received degrees in health sciences.

“We all have been working really hard to increase the class size so the person sitting in my chair in 20 years is not singing the same song,” Woodward said.

Woodward encouraged students to pursue medicine, and said that they are needed now more than ever.

“In light of a pandemic, young people may think about if it’s worth the risk, but there has never been a better time for you to be in medicine,” Woodward said.

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Student groups push for voter registration

HADLEY HITSON

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With the deadline for voter registration in the state less than two weeks away on Oct. 5, student organizations are ramping up their efforts to encourage students across the University of Mississippi campus and members of the Oxford community to register themselves to vote.

“There are so many reasons why it’s important to vote, but I feel like it’s particularly important for young people to register to vote because we make up a significant part of eligible voters, but then we don’t actually do it,” said Kaitlin Bethay, president of the UM law school’s American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) chapter.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in 2018 that only 45.7% of citizens in Mississippi aged 18-24 years old were registered to vote, compared to 49.1% of this age group nationwide.

While preregistration — the

procedure that allows individuals younger than 18 to register to vote — varies in each state, Mississippi allows citizens to register if they will turn 18 by the next election.

“If your birthday is Nov. 2, and you’re 17 right now, you can still register to vote,” Bethay said. “This is where we live, and work and learn. We can’t just be upset about stuff. We have to make sure people know what we want, and the way we do that is by voting.”

The first day to vote in person in the state is Nov. 3, but should an individual need an absentee ballot, the U.S. Postal Service recommends requesting one by Oct. 19. The state also requires a reason other than COVID-19 concerns to request an absentee ballot.

In addition to the presidential election and local elections this year, hot-button initiatives like the new state flag and the legalization of medical marijuana will appear on the November ballot in Mississippi.

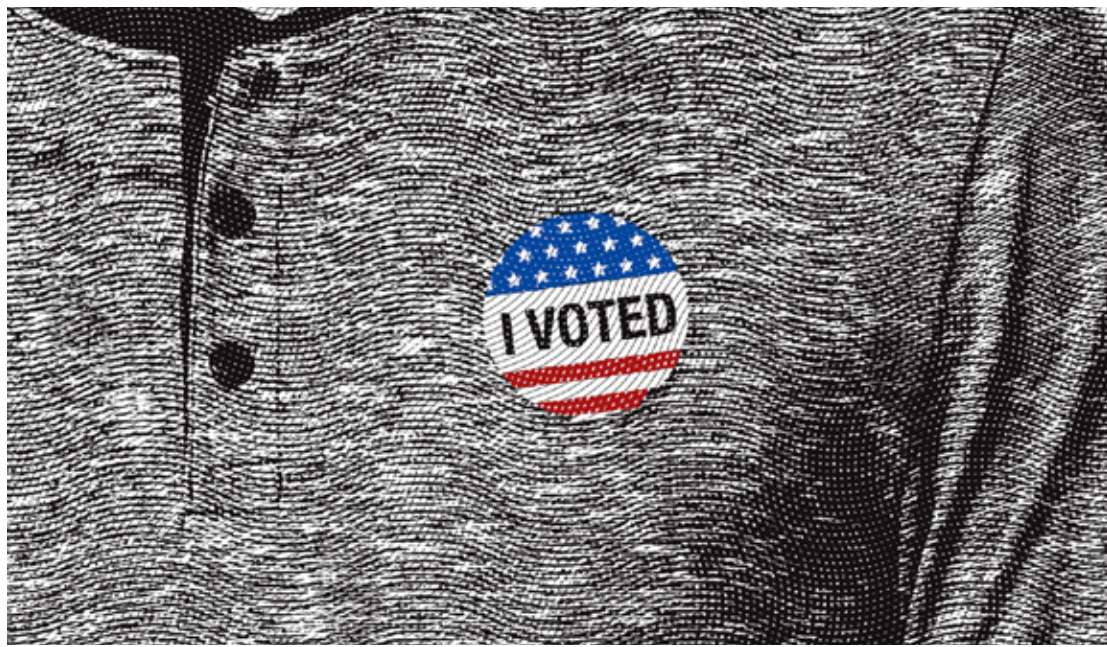


ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

While campus organizations are currently restricted from hosting in-person events, the UM law chapter of the ACLU plans to make voter registration applications available in residence halls and in the student union.

Other organizations like the UM chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the Black Student Union (BSU) are also advocating for voter registration among students.

“Since my freshman year, I have primarily seen the push for

voter registration come from the NAACP, but I think with the state of the country and the election coming up, everybody is hopping on board with NAACP taking charge,” BSU president Nicholas Crasta said.

Former NAACP chapter president Jalien Grant said the organization has held voter registration and participation as one of its core values since its founding.

“This semester, we’re focusing on voter registration, voter engagement and voter empowerment, so making sure that people are registered to vote and actually able to vote in November,” Grant

said.

Grant also said the UM chapter of the NAACP plans to hold virtual events to encourage and educate students on how to vote.

To register to vote in Lafayette County, citizens can go to the circuit clerk’s office in the Lafayette County courthouse or to city hall. No documentation is required, but citizens must provide either the last four digits of their Social Security Numbers or their driver’s license numbers.

Mail-in registration can be completed by filling out the application on the Mississippi secretary of state’s website.

C-19 Ambassadors make efforts to keep campus safe

AALIYAH GOLDMAN

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If you’ve been on campus this semester, you may have noticed certain people bustling around campus stationed at various buildings, giving out masks and hand sanitizer to anyone who needs it while also providing guidance on the new protocols that must be followed.

They are the C-19 Ambassadors. To ensure the safety and well-being of the university community, they were created as part of a new initiative by the university, with Natasha Jeter, vice chancellor of wellness and student success, and Joshua Tucker, Jeter’s graduate assistant.

“Unfortunately, in March, the university had to close due to the pandemic,” Tucker said. “Understanding that, we did not want this to happen again. In the fall, Dr. Jeter suggested that we strategize on how to ensure that the individuals on campus adhere to the protocols, and that we continue with what we consider the college experience.”

The process of making C-19 Ambassadors a reality was not something that happened overnight, according to Tucker. It started in May and is continuing to develop.

Tucker said that he wrote about 10 different drafts proposing on how to introduce the idea of the ambassadors to the administrators. He said

that they contacted many offices and organizations on campus — including the office of the chancellor and some Greek organizations — for feedback and support on this initiative.

Ambassadors have a flexible work schedule, which is entirely voluntary. They sign

up for time slots each week if someone has other engagements to attend to.

People are welcome to join the C-19 team throughout the academic year.

“I know that we had a big push at the beginning of the semester,” Tucker said. “But let’s say if (a student or any-

one) wants to join (and) become a C-19 Ambassador today, I can definitely get them trained and ready to go.”

Tucker said that as of right now, they have around 160 C-19 Ambassadors, including faculty, staff and students, but that number continues to rise.

Sara Archer, a junior psy-

chology major and C-19 Ambassador, said that she thinks people should act more cautiously.

“I would see a lot of people still just hanging out as if this wasn’t going on. You still see people having parties that have 10 or 20 people and not social distancing, and I think that you should have your small group that you can hang out with,” Archer said. “So, I think that would be a very big challenge that we’re still facing.”

Micaela Shields, a sophomore biochemistry major and C-19 Ambassador, said she thought joining the group would be a good opportunity to represent the hope of other students on campus.

Shields said she also believes that the campus could be more transparent with the students about the events going on around the campus and community without causing panic.

Jeter said she thinks the pandemic as a whole has tested the resilience of the human spirit.

“I think that it let us know that we have to be prepared to expect the unexpected that could happen in our culture and in our society. I think that it’s been one of those tests,” Jeter said. “I think it speaks to the fact that as a culture and as a community we’re resilient, and that we can make it through most anything if we work together as a team.”



ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

PREVIEW*continued from page 1***Running Back**

Carries will be split between four different running backs, but the majority of snaps will be taken by returning sophomore and freshman all-American player Jerrion Ealy and new-comer Henry Paris Jr.. It is also likely that Snoop Conner will be in the mix for the Rebels as well.

Offensive Line

This season, his Rebels' offensive line is younger than usual. With more than one freshman starting and offensive line veteran Eli Johnson opting out of the season, pundits across the SEC are unsure of how the core will perform on Saturday against Florida.

Wide Receivers

While the ever-pressing issue of who will be playing QB remains, the Rebels hope that their receiving core can capitalize on some of their success from last year.

Elijah Moore, now a junior, is set to handle slot receiver duties, and Johnathan Mingo, the sophomore out of Brandon who started all 12 games last year, is posed to be out wide alongside senior Dontario Drummond, who also started all 12 games last season.

With these experienced wide receivers and the strong backfield, the offensive could resemble that of the Hugh Freeze era in Oxford.

Defensive Line

The defensive line has zero starters returning this year. Benito Jones, Josiah Coatney and Austrian Robinson were key factors in the Rebel defense during the previous season, and they will be hard to replace. Luckily, there will be quite a few returners that will be expected to step up and make a difference.

Tariqious Tisdale, Ryder



PHOTOS COURTESY: JOSHUA MCCOY / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Lane Kiffin has not announced who the starting quarterback will be for the season opener against the University of Florida.

Anderson and KD Hill will likely fill those roles this season. All three were able to make big plays last year, but they will also have help from four redshirt freshmen.

Tavius Robinson will get the start at the buck position with Sam Williams as a backup. Robinson has yet to take a snap as a NCAA player. However, the 6'7" Canadian proved his ability to adapt to defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin's defense, and will start on Saturday. Williams, a starter last season, had to take off a significant amount of Fall Camp time because of a suspension looming from sexual battery charges that were



dropped a few weeks ago. He will likely see significant time this weekend, but will back up Robinson against Florida.

Linebackers

The linebackers are the best returning position group for Ole Miss, and this is good news for the Durkin. Durkin said he believes strongly that

these players will need to continue to step up as leaders in order for this team to be successful.

Jacquez Jones and Lakia Henry were named the starters against Florida, according to the depth chart released on Monday. Ideally, they will continue to put up big num-

bers after they dominated the field last season. In their last 12 games, Jones made 71 tackles, and Henry made 88 tackles.

The backups for this position will also play a key role in this defense's success. Momo Sonogo and Ashanti Cistrunk will help to bring fresh legs and energy into the game.

Defensive Backs

With a position group full of fresh faces, the defensive backs will have their hands full with the Florida offense. Going into week one, the two starting corners will be Keidron Smith and Jakorey Hawkins. Smith had three forced fumbles and one interception last season, along with 33 tackles. While Hawkins is a lesser-known name, he was able to prove himself to the new coaching staff and earned the starting job.

Along with Keidron Smith, Jaylon Jones is one of the veterans of the group. The new Chucky Mullins Award recipient will be one of the starting safeties, Jones is in his fifth year of football after overcoming injuries in two consecutive years. Even when dealing with the injuries, Jones managed to have an impact on the defense year after year.

Returning for his true sophomore season, A.J. Finley will earn his first start this Saturday. He appeared in all 12 games last season and managed 12 solo tackles while also recovering two fumbles on special teams. His role last year was predominantly special teams, so this starting role will allow him to make even more of an effect for the defense.

With Otis Reese still not being given eligibility, Daylen Gill will step in to play star — a hybrid that combines linebacker and defensive back positions. Gill, the Jones County Community College transfer, was originally expected to play linebacker.

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Ealy and Parish lead the charge for Ole Miss running backs

BARRETT FREEDMAN
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Finally, after several delays, it's game week. Sporting the new powder blue jerseys, Ole Miss hosts Florida to kickoff the SEC's shortened season of 10 games on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Days before the first kick-off of the season, Ole Miss announced its official depth chart for the first and second string package of running backs, and it is filled with unexpected choices.

At RB1, the team revealed that either sophomore Jerri- on Ealy or freshman Henry Parish Jr. will take the position. The entirety of the SEC is on notice because of Ealy's explosive talent from last season. The Jackson Prep alum performed in all 12 games last season, racking up 722 yards off of 104 carries for six touchdowns. Expectations are high for Ealy as the back has continued to show improvement in both his ability and leadership, and there is no reason not to think Ealy could explode for a big season.

The surprise at the running back position comes at the second RB1 listed as the potential starter on Saturday: Parish Jr.. The true freshman out of Goulde, Florida, has the potential to catch opposing teams off guard this year, as he put together a statistically impressive career at Columbus High School. The lean 5'10", 190-lb running back rushed for 4,653 yards in 4 years, averaging 9.3 yards per carry and almost 130 yards per game. Nearly half of those yards were in his senior year, where he put up 28 touchdowns for the season. Parish is poised to be a key component of the offense's running attack this season.



PHOTOS COURTESY: JOSHUA MCOY VIA OLE MISS ATHLETICS
Jerri- on Ealy (9) evades a tackle in a scrimmage on Sept. 9, 2020. Ealy was announced as one of the starting running backs for the 2020 season.

The depth chart also revealed the RB2 position for Saturday as sophomore Snoop Conner or junior Tylan Knight. These familiar faces have both seen action on the field before the 2020 season. Conner played a crucial role in the offense last

season, racking up 512 total yards for 5 touchdowns. His ability to punch the ball straight up the middle last season was pivotal for the team in short yardage situations. Knight only carried the ball seven times for 38 yards, but Knight and Conner are

expected to play a more important role this season.

Whether it's buck sweep to the right sideline, a pitch in the backfield or right up the middle, the running backs are ready to set the pace for an electric season on the ground.

TICKETING *continued from page 1*

be available on a weekly basis, going on sale every Monday before each home game. Only 2,200 student tickets will be available each home game. Tickets will only be available digitally and will be sent via mobile delivery then added to a person's Apple Wallet or Google Pay.

Students can park at the Jackson Avenue Center (JAC) on a first-come, first-serve basis, where a shuttle will bring students to and from campus on gameday.

Last month, Gov. Tate Reeves issued an executive order that prohibits tailgating and other game day activities, which means no Walk of Champions — the longheld tradition where the Ole Miss football team walks through the bricked pavement in the Grove toward Vaught-Hemingway surrounded by Ole Miss fans.

All points of sale for concessions in the stadium will use a cashless transaction system. Concession stands are required to provide grab-and-go meals and will also offer in-seat delivery. No water fountains will be available for use; it is recommended that fans bring one unopened water bottle.

In addition, as established last year, beer will be available.

The Ole Miss Student Union will be closed to the public on game-days.

Ole Miss against Florida will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

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SEC to use technology for COVID-19 contact tracing

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The Southeastern Conference (SEC) announced Tuesday that it will use KINEXON SafeZone technology, which includes wearable proximity devices, to help the COVID-19 contact tracing process during the upcoming 2020 football season.

These lightweight devices called SafeTags will be used at all 14 institutions during practices and games and in team facilities. The device is the size of a watch face, and it can be worn on a wristband, lanyard or installed on equipment for on-field use. The SafeTags can also enforce social

distancing by flashing a red light when people come within six feet of each other.

“Through this new relationship with KINEXON, the SEC is committed to using innovative technology to provide solutions for use by our member institutions as we all work to support a healthy environment for student-athletes,” SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said. “KINEXON provides the SEC with a modern and effective solution to meet the unique contact tracing challenges associated with football.”

The SafeZone technology has been used by the NFL and is being implemented in the SEC because of the large number of student-athletes and the complexities

contact tracing entails, especially during a high-contact sport like football.

The devices use ultra-wide-band to calculate proximity between individuals using the distance and length of time. This allows them to perform accurate contact tracing after someone becomes symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19. In the event that there is a positive test, the contact data is logged and can be accessed through a secure system for contact tracing.

“SafeZone was created to meet the unprecedented challenges teams and leagues were facing while identifying solutions to return to play safely,” KINEXON Executive Vice President Jim Ga-



PHOTO COURTESY: KINEXON

rofalo said. “By adopting our technology, the SEC remains at the forefront of innovation in college athletics. SafeZone will provide

student-athletes with a proven modern approach to contact tracing.”

Reese cites racist events as reason for leaving UGA

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Ole Miss defensive back Otis Reese took to Twitter on Tuesday night to make a statement on the “devastating mental toll” his time at the University of Georgia had on him and plead with the NCAA to allow him eligibility to play for the Rebels this season.

“From the first moments I stepped on Campus, it was not what I expected,” Reese wrote. “The Racist events that I kept experiencing weighed on me heavily and seemed never ending.”

After playing for two seasons at UGA, Reese transferred to the University of Mississippi in January, and he is currently seeking waivers from the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Southeastern Conference to be eligible for play with the Rebels this season.

In his statement, Reese said he submitted to the NCAA a text message from himself to UGA head coach Kirby Smart on Oct. 4 documenting his intent to leave the team. Reese also claimed that Smart “manipulated” him to “play the very next day” when he was at his “darkest moment.” On Oct. 5, the Bulldogs beat the University of Tennessee Volunteers 43-14.

“I have learned recently that UGA has opposed my waiver, which is unfortunate considering what I was told when I attempted to leave last year,” Reese wrote. “When I chose to leave the team, I was led to believe by Coach Smart that if I finished the season and not ‘Let my team down’ as he requested, he would support both my decision to transfer and my request to be immediately eligible.”

Reese also described in his statement being harassed by



PHOTO COURTESY GABRIELLA AUDI / THE RED AND BLACK.

police officers in Athens, hearing racial slurs and witnessing a group of white students mocking slavery and pretend-

ing to whip each other.

“I didn’t want to be part of a campus where my classmates held that kind of hate in their hearts. None of these

things were ever addressed by the coaches at UGA. There was literally nobody to speak to about these types of things without having fear of losing your position on the team.”

Reese said that his experience at UM thus far has been far different from his time at UGA, and he commended the football team and head coach Lane Kiffin for their dedication to equality.

“Coach Kiffin and Ole Miss have been strong advocates against racism and have put in the work to change perceptions. I’ve seen first-hand what genuine commitment to change looks like in Oxford, and I’m excited to be a part of this program.”

While the NCAA has yet to announce its decision on Reese’s eligibility, the Georgia Athletic Association made a statement to ESPN on Wednesday disputes any suggestion that UGA “maintains an unsafe, unsupportive, or racially insensitive environment.”

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Ole Miss cross country places second at SEC preview

JAMES MINZESHEIMER
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The Ole Miss men's and women's cross-country teams opened up the season on Saturday by placing second at the Louisiana State University's Southeastern Conference (SEC) preview.

The men's team had a great day running in the 6K as three Ole Miss runners finished in the top 10, including Mario Garcia Romo in first, Waleed Suliman in fourth and Cole Bullock in fifth place.

Even with these strong finishes, Ole Miss was not able to collect the points they needed

to defeat the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Ole Miss women's cross country had five runners finish in the top 12, including Anna Elkin in sixth, Skylar Boogerd in seventh, Victoria Simmons in eighth, Ryann Helmers in eleventh and Nicole Rice in twelfth place. The women also finished a few points short and fell to Arkansas. This competition seemed to be a rematch of the SEC women's cross-country championship last season in which Arkansas took down runner-up Ole Miss en route to a national championship.

"It was really nice to get back in the competitive arena this weekend. We got a chance

to see where we are as a team and an opportunity to preview the SEC Championship course," associate head coach Ryan Vanhoy said. "We look forward to continuing to build over the next six weeks and returning here on Oct. 30."

When Ole Miss returns to Baton Rouge on Oct. 30, the stakes will be much higher than those at this early season meet. The male runners will look to defend last year's SEC championship while the women will look for a title.

The Rebels' next race is set for Oct. 3 at the Greater Louisville Classic in Louisville, Kentucky.



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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss soccer falls to Texas A&M in 2020 season opener

KELBY ZENDEJAS
 thedmsports@gmail.com

Ole Miss soccer lost 3-0 to Texas A&M in the first game of the 2020 season on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Ole Miss Soccer Stadium.

After a scoreless first half, the Aggies scored the starting goal in the 50th minute with a goal from Addie McCain, who scored again eight minutes later. Giving no time for the Rebels to respond, the Aggies hit another ball in the net from forward Laney Carroll in the 60th minute.

Rebel goalkeeper Ashley Orkus kept the Aggies from scoring in the first half by contributing three saves. The goalkeeper contributed seven total saves during the game. Orkus also saved ten goals the last time the Aggies faced the Rebels in 2019. Last season, Orkus was ranked sec-



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSHUA MCCOY VIA OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Molly Martin fights for the ball with a Texas A&M defender. Ole Miss lost to Texas A&M 3-0 on Saturday in the season opener.

ond in the SEC during the regular season with 86 saves.

The Rebels missed several opportunities in both halves despite the brutal score with shots on goal from midfielder Haleigh Stackpole, forward Lonnie Mulligan, forward Madisyn Pezzino, and defender Taylor Radecki. With six total shots on goal, the Rebels could not capitalize on the chances in the final third, leaving the Aggies to secure the win.

The match marks one of the first competitions played since March at the Ole Miss campus. The Rebels will have a seven-day stretch until the second conference match against Louisiana State University on Sunday, Sept. 27 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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

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 INTERMEDIATE

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

CROSSWORD

- 1- Frees;
- 5- Cooked in oven;
- 10- Wish for;
- 14- Home solo;
- 15- Antagonist;
- 16- "Hard ___!" (sailor's yell);
- 17- Clothes;
- 18- Scoundrel;
- 19- Catalog;
- 20- Amazes;
- 22- Best of a group;
- 23- For whom the bell tolls;
- 24- Saab model;
- 26- Chilean pianist Claudio;
- 29- Pimenta dioica;
- 33- Express mirth;
- 34- "South Pacific" hero;
- 35- Arrest;
- 36- Doing nothing;
- 37- Bring to mind;
- 38- Bushy haired;
- 39- Cedar Rapids college;
- 40- Peace goddess;
- 41- Segment of the body of an arthropod;
- 42- Lasting;
- 44- San Marino surrounder;
- 45- City on the Skunk;
- 46- Pakistani tongue;
- 48- Sri ___;
- 51- Biennial;
- 55- Killer whale;
- 56- Endure;
- 58- Drink to excess;
- 59- "The Lion King" villain;
- 60- Connected series of rooms;
- 61- Gymnast Korbut;
- 62- Pad ___;
- 63- Pave over;
- 64- Be a mother to;

SOLUTION TO 9.17 PUZZLE

S	E	T	V	A	R	D	V	A	L	E	A	B	A	B
D	E	N	C	E	P	E	T	I	O	B	B	O	L	B
O	E	T	A	V	C	A	C	B	O	L	B	O	L	B
T	N	E	M	E	V	A	B	A	B	A	V	A	B	A
A	V	A	R	V	A	R	H	C	O	M	S	S	O	M
O	R	I	O	D	D	S	H	C	O	M	S	S	O	M
S	O	T	S	O	I	S	N	O	I	S	A	V	E	T
O	I	O	I	O	E	A	D	A	V	A	V	A	V	A
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R	E	L	E	R	A	S	T	A	R	S	T	A	R	S
N	E	N	E	V	A	R	S	T	A	R	S	T	A	R
N	E	N	E	V	A	R	S	T	A	R	S	T	A	R
N	E	N	E	V	A	R	S	T	A	R	S	T	A	R
N	E	N	E	V	A	R	S	T	A	R	S	T	A	R
N	E	N	E	V	A	R	S	T	A	R	S	T	A	R

- 27- Radioactive gas;
- 28- Governed;
- 29- Encompassed about;
- 30- Prefix with red;
- 31- Christmas song;
- 32- D. ebenum, a tropical tree;
- 34- 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.;
- 37- Cleveland's lake;
- 38- Servomechanism;
- 40- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer;
- 41- White House staffer;
- 43- Naked-faced Amazon monkey;
- 46- Utah's ___ Mountains;
- 47- U-Haul competitor;
- 48- Missing;
- 49- Foot part;
- 50- Final Four org.;
- 51- Enticement;
- 52- It may be landed;
- 53- Annika Sorenstam's org.;
- 54- Age unit;
- 56- Georgia, once: Abbr.;
- 57- Calendar abbr.;

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15									16	
17					18									19	
20					21									22	
			23					24	25						
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33							34							35	
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39					40									41	
42					43									44	
			45					46	47						
48	49	50					51						52	53	54
55							56	57							58
59							60								61
62							63								64

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

OPINION

Change at UM should not come at the costs of students' lives

JOHN HYDRISKO

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Last week, an anonymous group of current and former housing workers published an open letter to the university detailing a series of demands. These demands — hazard pay, personal protective equipment, mandatory free testing, food and housing security in the event of campus closure — are necessary to protect student housing workers during the pandemic. You might be forgiven if you were surprised to learn that such safeguards aren't already in place. These demands are neither unreasonable nor impractical. Taken together, these demands constitute the bare minimum.

As basic as these demands are, they rest on a still more fundamental plea. The phrasing of many of these demands follows a certain pattern.

Consider the second demand: "University Admin must acknowledge their failure to provide adequate PPE to housing workers and immediately begin to provide extra masks and face shields to all housing workers."

At one level, the demand asks the university to remedy the harm it caused, but it first asks the university to reckon with that harm. That student-workers must beg the university for personal protective equipment during a pandemic is shocking. But the fact that student-workers must beg the university to acknowledge the suffering on our campus should come as no surprise.

The recent history of the university reads as a story of willful ignorance played off as incompetence. As crises have emerged, the university has bent to the wishes of well-con-

nected outsiders while disregarding the people who actually live and learn and work here. The university easily finds the money to pay the chancellor \$500,000 a year, to consider building a \$1.15 million Confederate shrine, to award the football coach a \$16 million contract and to fund a \$32 million recreation-center-turned-vanity-project. But when it comes to anything beyond or against the interest of its benefactors — face-masks, living wages, disposable gloves, delayed football seasons — the university tells us that times are tough.

These mishandled responses — rushing the improper installation of Glenn Boyce, fumbling the removal of white supremacist symbology from campus, failing to prioritize the health and safety of the community — have been met with widespread frustration

from students, faculty and staff. But in the face of such protests, the university has offered half-measures at best. The default approach of the university has been to ignore a problem until it goes away, and this approach has largely worked.

The conditions threatening the lives and livelihoods of the campus community are too dangerous to ignore. And yet, if the university can ignore those conditions, it likely will. In the spring, one case in Mississippi forced the administration to close campus. In the fall, after almost 100,000 cases in Mississippi, the same administration has not even specified the number of student infections it will accept before closing campus. The university might dispense more press releases about "unprecedented times," but more serious change will not

come easily.

Assuming you are neither exceptionally powerful nor staggeringly wealthy, your interests and the university's interests are not the same. This is the insulation that lets the university ignore you. It does not matter how you — the student, the professor, the worker — measures the health of this university. Your problems are not the university's problems unless you make your problem the university's problem. Such was the goal of those who chose to write the open letter, and such must be the goal of anyone who wants this community to change.

John Hydrisko is a senior English, Philosophy and History major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Education has always been political. Let James Thomas keep his tenure.

KATIE DAMES

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Last Monday, Sept. 14, Mississippi state auditor Shad White recommended the firing of tenured UM sociology professor James Thomas, citing a law banning strikes. Thomas had participated in #ScholarStrike, a nationwide call to professors to bring awareness to racial violence and justice. Thomas was not the only professor at the university to strike last week, but his presence on social media has resulted in enemies at the local and state level. The recent threats to Thomas's job by the state auditor and threats to his life by his online antagonists exemplify the political nature of education and the fraught landscape of campus free speech.

Professor Thomas, a self-proclaimed "Sower of Discourse," does not shy away from voicing his beliefs. When Professor Thomas was un-

der consideration for tenure last summer, the IHL Board of Trustees nearly refused to grant it to him, with a vote of 7-5. The divisive vote can be tied to a sardonic tweet about conservative professors at the university.

A commitment to academic freedom protected his tenure track, but the politics of higher education almost intervened. The IHL Board consists of those appointed by the governor, and the board that barely approved Thomas's tenure was fully appointed by Republican former Gov. Phil Bryant. Shad White's recent actions reflect a longstanding attempt at the state level to silence Thomas for his progressive opinions.

Despite making tenure, Thomas has faced continued outrage because of his publicly voiced opinions. Although the university has not yet spoken out in defense of Thomas's rights and denounced the threats made against

him, university administrators were quick to send letters about him to politicians before. Thomas's criticisms of Mayor Robyn Tannehill's COVID-19 response elicited a hand-written apology letter by the university's Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Governmental Affairs, calling him a "cold and timid soul" and an "embarrassment to the university."

Let me be clear, the Confederate monument is an embarrassment to this campus and its values, not a professor who posts satirical tweets using his guaranteed academic freedom.

Professor Thomas's subject matter, sociology and race studies, makes people face uncomfortable truths about the history of our university. Under a presidential administration that called a subset of the social sciences, critical race theory, "divisive, anti-American propaganda," it is no surprise that people have

begun to attack Professor Thomas for simply doing his job — engaging his students in his subject matter's discourse in real-time.

Perhaps what is most ironic about the tirades against Thomas is that freedom of speech on campuses, though a bipartisan issue in nature, has been adopted as a critical issue by conservatives claiming persecution. A professor's speech, so long as it does not contradict the university's mission to "create, evaluate, share, and apply knowledge in a free, open, and inclusive

environment of intellectual inquiry," should be protected. The attempt to remove Professor his tenure in response to his strike blocks his right to profess his truth and advocate for the better interest of his students, and the university should protect any professor that fights for his or her students despite such opposition.

Katie Dames is the opinion editor from Saint Louis, Missouri, majoring in international studies.

Opinion Policies:

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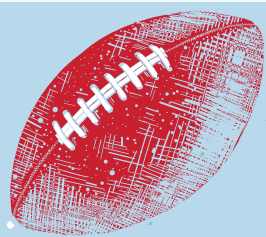
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Good Luck.

REBELS!