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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

ON CAMPUS: CONCERT TO WELCOME STUDENTS BACK TONIGHT

The American Authors will headline the 8 p.m. show, which will also include a performance by Ole Miss alumnus Sam Mooney.



SEE PAGE 6

REBEL ROLL CALL: OFFENSIVE LINE RELIES ON 'BIG UGLIES'

During the 2018 campaign Jordan Ta'amu will rely on the big names and big bodies of Greg Little, Javon Patterson and Sean Rawlings to keep the high-flying offense rolling.



SEE PAGE 8

Welcome Week continues on campus

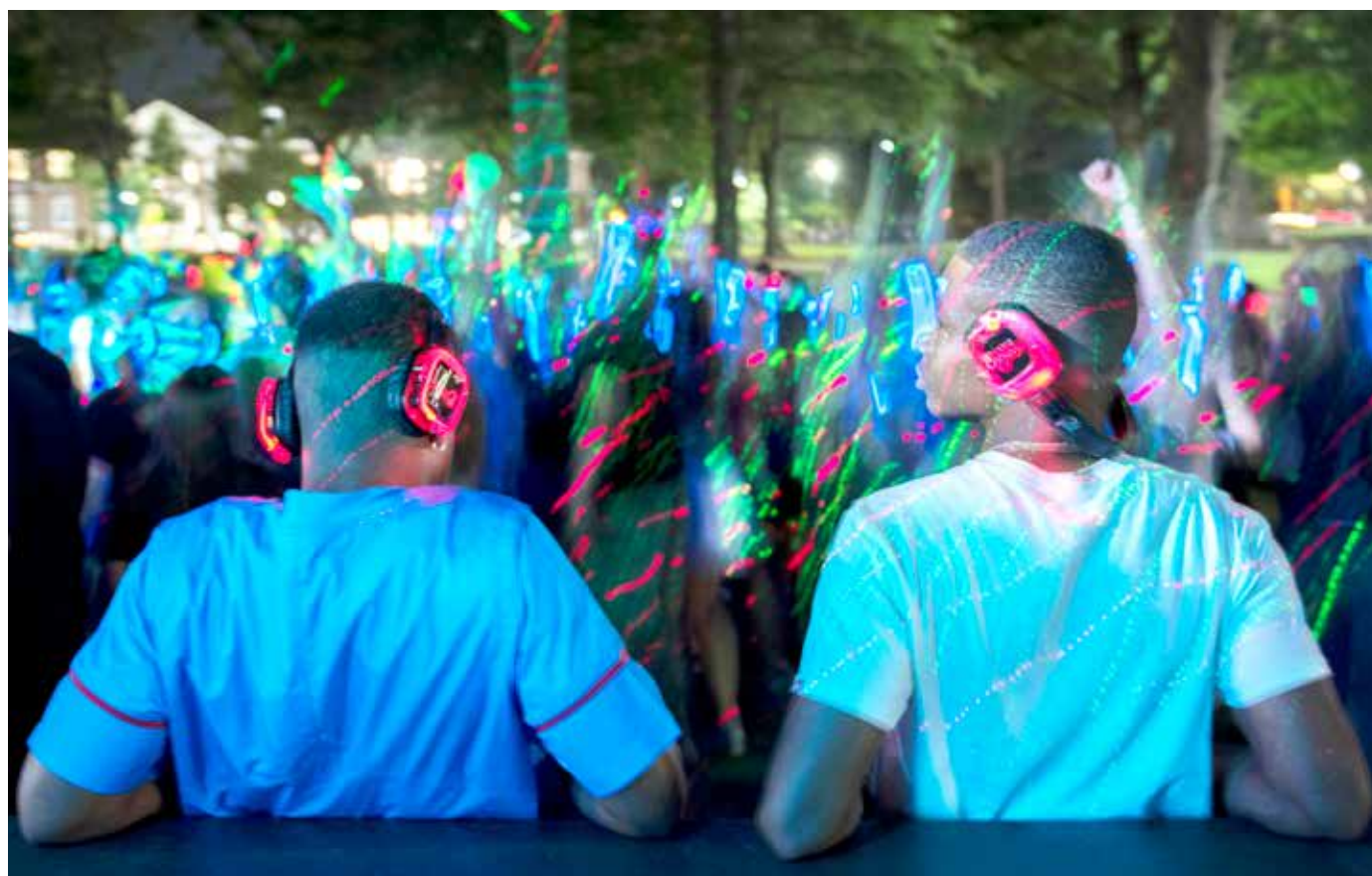


PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

The Ole Miss Student Activities Association hosted several days of back-to-back events for the university's annual Welcome Week as students returned to campus. The week's activities included a bungee trampoline, laser tag in the Student Union Ballroom, Silent Disco in the Grove, a "Cards Against Hypnosis" interactive comedy hypnosis show and much more. The 2018 Welcome Back Concert featuring American Authors and Ole Miss alumnus Sam Mooney is scheduled for Friday, and the week will end with a color run at The Circle.

SEE **WELCOME WEEK** PAGE 4 FOR MORE PHOTOS

OPD warns students of ordinance violations

JOSH ROBINSON
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

The Oxford Police Department will warn new and returning students about city ordinances they should be aware of as they arrive for the fall semester.

Officers said they have noticed in previous years that each fall, as students leave dormitories for off-campus housing, they usually aren't familiar with city rules.

For several weeks at the beginning of the fall 2018 semester, code enforcement will visit areas with high student population percentages and post notices of ordinances likely to

affect students.

"Most of the ones on the flyer we give out are the main ones students have a problem with," code enforcement officer Johnny Sossaman said.

The code flyer that officers post lists violations pertaining to junk appliances and vehicles on property, outdoor furniture and parking in front yards. The flyer also reminds residents to turn their vehicles' wheels to the curb when parking on the street.

Of these ordinances, the most expensive fine is for litter and accumulation of garbage. Excessive amounts of filth of any kind — including cans, paper and other rubbish — on residential properties will cost violators

\$484 plus assessment costs.

The least-expensive potential fine, which amounts to \$195, would be for failure to remove a garbage can or recycling container from the curbside.

"The requirement is that you can put it out at 5 p.m. the day prior to pickup. It must be in by midnight the day of pickup," Sossaman said. "We don't like to write a lot of those tickets, but we will."

If tickets aren't paid to the city municipal court within a certain time frame, residents may receive additional fines and/or possible jail time.

These codes are enforced uniformly throughout Oxford, and officers said students are

not targeted but must follow the same rules as permanent residents.

"We like to talk and make sure everyone understands, but if there are people that we come in contact with several times, it's pretty much going to be an automatic citation," code enforcement officer Jeff Edge said.

Officers plan to be lenient for the first couple of weeks as students learn and become acclimated to the ordinances.

Sossaman and Edge are the only two code enforcement officers for the city of Oxford. Currently, they receive supplementary support from Matt

SEE **ORDINANCE** PAGE 4

Uber Eats launches in Oxford

BLAKE ALSUP
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Uber Eats launched in Oxford on Thursday, offering food delivery from local restaurants and establishing itself as a direct competitor to Landshark Delivery, a locally owned delivery service.

The Oxford launch comes in the same week Uber Eats began offering services in two Alabama college towns, Auburn and Tuscaloosa, according to Uber spokeswoman Evangeline George.

"Whether it's scheduling a meal to arrive after class or ordering during a late-night study session, we've seen a great response from college students to Uber Eats," George said. "Uber Eats is available in more than 200 cities, and we're expanding to more and more colleges."

George said she can't share the specific number of Uber drivers on the road in Oxford but said that "similar to giving people rides through Uber, delivering food through Uber Eats offers drivers another flexible earning opportunity."

"With a vast network of Uber driver-partners already on the road in Oxford, Uber Eats customers can count on fast delivery," George said.

Johnathan Deschepper, general manager at Landshark Delivery, said that at any given time, the company has about 25 people available to deliver food.

"We're currently selling about \$3 million a year worth of food," Deschepper said. "I do about 175,000 orders a year, which provides substantial tax revenue for the local economy."

Landshark Delivery was cofounded in Oxford by Alabamians Robert Bettis and Tanner Thompson in May 2015 after working for a similar

SEE **UBER EATS** PAGE 4

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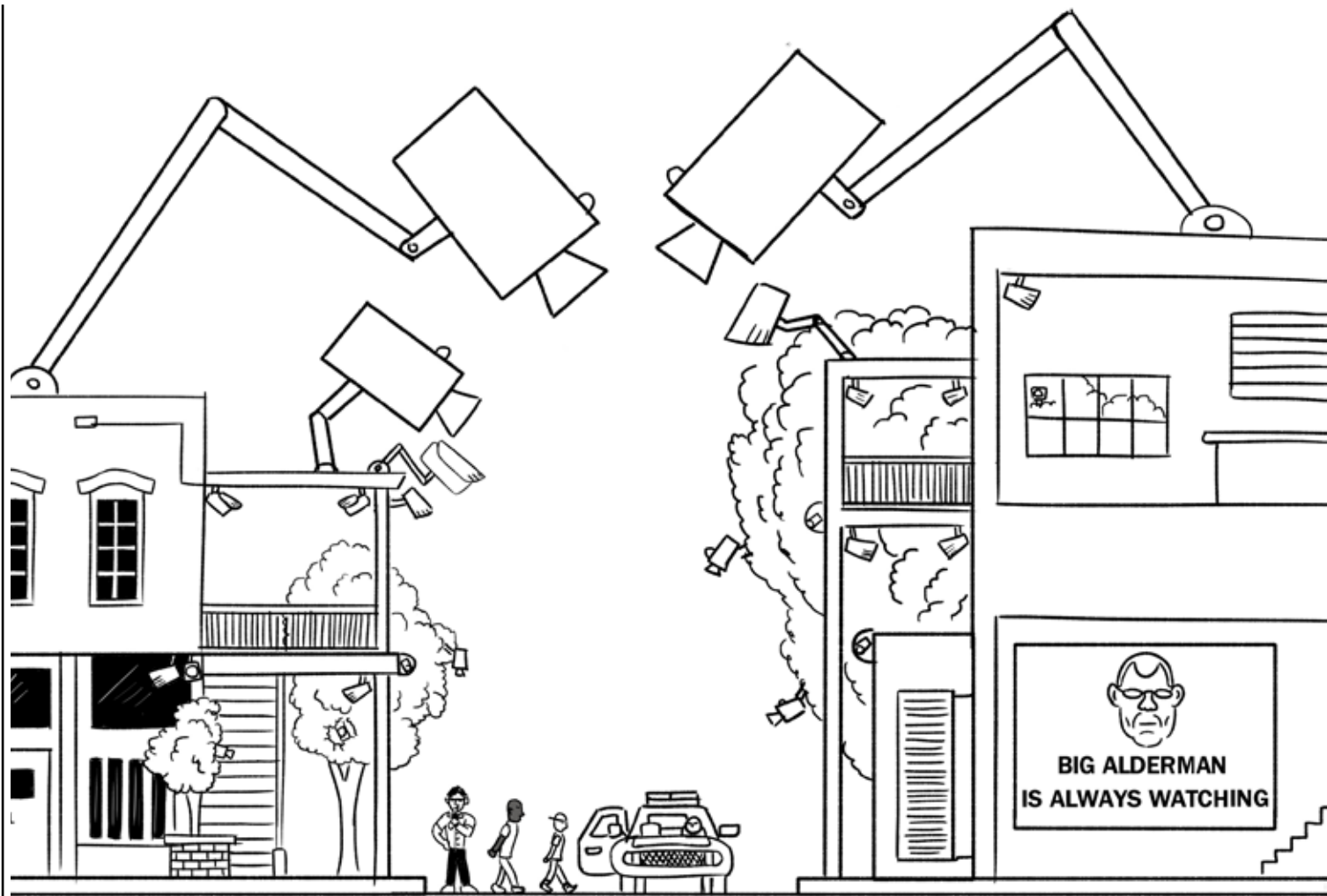
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It was terribly dangerous to let your thoughts wander when you were in any public place or within range of a bar.
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COLUMN

Humane society is closing for the right reasons

ALYSSA MONCRIEF
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

On Aug. 9, the Oxford Lafayette Humane Society announced it would not be renewing its management agreement with the city of Oxford and would be closing its doors officially on Sept. 30. The animal shelter, a pet adoption center for Lafayette County, has been open for 36 years and has housed roughly 4,500 animals yearly. The shelter cited overpopulation – the leading cause of crowded animal shelters nationally, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – as its reasoning behind closing. On Sept. 30, pets that have yet to be adopted will be dispersed to alternate care.

Although the shelter will be shutting down, its board stated this is not the end of the OLHS. The shelter will be transitioning into an affordable spay and neuter service

to combat the absurd number of animals that are left homeless each year because of excess population. Funds from the city of Oxford and private donors that were previously allocated to the shelter will go towards implementing this new service. Many locals have spoken up about their disdain for the decision to close the animal shelter, most noticeably through social media. However, this new idea is the most successful way to combat the root of the problem in the Oxford area: a lack of control of overpopulation. By closing the shelter, the safety of the remaining animals is guaranteed, as they will be put in the hands of shelters with space for them.

It is safer and healthier for the pets to find alternate homes rather than stay in a cramped and crowded environment. This solution also solves the problems associated with the question of excessive euthanization, a topic that came up at an Oxford Board of Aldermen meeting in 2017.

Six former employees claimed that the OLHS Board’s president was approving unethical practices to reduce the number of animals at the shelter, according to *The Oxford Eagle*, though the aldermen could do little else other than assign an alderman to the board.

This decision was not made lightly.

Extensive research and studying of success stories from other communities and organizations – such as Mississippi Spay and Neuter, which spayed and neutered 65,000 animals from 2005-2016 – have shown the success that a spay and neuter clinic provides to control the animal population. According to MS SPAN, over 100,000 animals in Mississippi end up in shelters because neither of their parents were sterilized, and nearly 70,000 do not make it out of their shelters alive. Reducing the number of strays will gradually lead to reduced numbers at local

animal shelters, keeping them as efficient, clean and safe as possible for animals. This allows for safe, spacious and loving atmospheres for animals later, ultimately benefiting both pets and future pet owners. This is an economically good decision as well, as taxpayers’ money will not go towards the development of the service.

Alyssa Moncrief is a freshman political science and journalism major from Jackson.

CORRECTION:

A graphic in yesterday’s DM misrepresented recent parking pass increases. A commuter parking pass cost \$95 in 2013 and \$210 this year. A residential pass cost \$115 in 2013 and \$325 this year.

**THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN**

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to dmlatters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



**MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Response: In half-hearted defense of our new mascot

CONNOR HARPER
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The Aug. 23 column by Will Hall titled, “On the mascot issue: Ole Miss jumped the Shark” struck me as worthy of rebuttal.

Let me start with a disclaimer: Mascots are not to be taken seriously. They are cartoon characters designed to represent schools and sports teams and are equivalent in importance to state birds. The only exception to this unimportance is when they are used as a platform for casual racism. Say, for example, a school’s mascot were a racial caricature or a reference to some period in a state’s history during which the depicted mascot happened to own other people and fight a war for the right to do so, legally. In such cases where the basic decency of other people is offended, it is fair to raise complaints

about a school’s designated dancing costume person.

I, for one, fail to see how our friend Landshark Tony offends anyone at all. He is silly because he is a fish – we have a university that is landlocked for miles – but mascots should be funny. To me, yesterday’s piece vaguely claims that the vote for the new mascot was unfair to groups that preferred either no mascot or to return to our more problematic mascot. However, I cannot remember being asked if I was “a liberal” before I voted. My understanding is that the referendum was available to everyone – regardless of how much their opinions about the state of U.S. culture do or do not resemble their great-grandfather’s.

Conspiracy mongering is typical of modern conservatives. They see themselves losing a culture war, and it scares them.

So they rally themselves around their fear of cultural erasure. The mascot (or maybe Confederate statue, rebel flag...) is their history, and as we well know, it is a great crime to sever the connection between a people and its history. I’m sure that American slaves would have agreed.

If only we went to the universities that organizations like Turning Point USA and many Republicans think that we do – dens of leftist sympathy that are ideological monoliths fashioned by feminism and Marxism and Black Lives Matter sympathizers. That would be cool and good. Unfortunately, we have a community of people who are “right-leaning” or “classical” liberals who parrot right-wing talking points and call it “intellectualism” and “fairness” – the kind who blow an ahistorical conservative dog whistle over a

guy dressed like a football shark.

I don’t know what “Southern tradition” Mr. Hall refers to, but the only ones I acknowledge are sweet tea and hospitality. I can’t imagine how our current mascot violates either of these ideals. In fact, the political correctness that Hall despises is rather in line with the Southern tradition of hospitality. One can only wonder what tradition Hall is worried he will lose. Hall assures us that “this issue is

not about voicing support for one mascot or another,” but I get the impression that he has a preference.

So to answer his challenge, I like the new mascot. I think it will achieve the only goals for a mascot that matter: It will be funny and inoffensive.

Connor Harper is a sophomore English major from Tupelo.



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WELCOME WEEK

continued from page 1



PHOTOS: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

LEFT: The Ole Miss Student Activities Association hosts the annual Silent Disco on Wednesday night. The silent disco this year brought the largest crowd that has ever attended. RIGHT: An Ole Miss student takes a photo of her friend while she bungee jumps in front of Weir Hall on Tuesday during Welcome Week.

UBER EATS

continued from page 1

company in Tuscaloosa. Ahead of Uber Eats' launch in Oxford, the company worked to partner with local restaurants and bring them onto the platform, George said. She said the average delivery time for Uber Eats orders will be around 35 minutes. According to Deschepper, the average delivery time for Landshark Delivery is between 30 minutes and an hour. Deschepper said he is sure the introduction of Uber Eats will affect Landshark Delivery to an extent but touted the positive aspects of ordering delivery via a local company. "I think that we provide high-paying jobs for our local community, and we're also cheaper to the restaurant and our customers," Deschepper said. Deschepper declined to comment when asked how Landshark Delivery plans to compete and whether or not they will make any changes to the way they operate. "We have certain things in place, but we don't necessarily want to share all of our competing efforts ... for operational safety's

sake," Deschepper said. He pointed out some of the differences between using the services of the Oxford-based company and those of the Silicon Valley tech giant. "Whenever you call up here to Landshark, it's really easy to get in touch with a person," Deschepper said. "You know, we add a very personable experience to the delivery aspect, whereas you're just dealing with some random person from Uber." Several Oxford restaurants are available on both Uber Eats and Landshark Delivery, including Moe's Original Bar B Que, Grilled Cheese City, Pita Pit, Old Venice Pizza Company, Pick Thai, Square Pizza and Phillips Grocery. Prices for the same items at some restaurants vary between the two services. For example, an order of "redneck nachos" from Moe's Original Bar B Que costs \$13 from Uber Eats versus \$11 from Landshark Delivery. At Old Venice Pizza Company, a large "great white" pizza is \$19.99 from Uber Eats versus \$21.99 from Landshark Delivery. Bettis said Landshark Delivery isn't too worried about Uber Eats. "Of course, we shouldn't underestimate the competition," Bettis said. "However, we're more suited to the market due to our

loyal customer base, knowing the delivery process inside and out and (being) less expensive than the competition on most restaurants offered." Senior education and classics major Cole Durrett said he used Uber Eats to order some fast food to his house on the day it launched. He received an email notifying him of the launch because he uses the Uber app. He said he has used Landshark Delivery before and believes Uber Eats is faster. "Uber Eats definitely took less time, so I like that," Durrett said. "(I'm) more familiar with Landshark, obviously, and the interface. I'll probably slowly transition to Uber Eats, honestly." Senior integrated marketing communications major Rachel Lane said she was excited for the launch and called it a "game-changer." "One of my best friends lives in Philadelphia, so I used it there and have been dying for it to come here because other competitors in Oxford are a little expensive for my budget," Lane said. Lane added that she orders food through Landshark Delivery "all the time" but said the cost difference between the two services will determine which service she uses in the future.



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

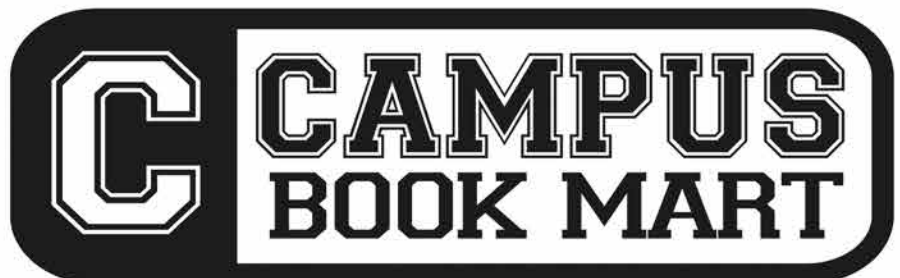
Oxford Police Department closes Jackson Avenue in front of Boure last week. The road will now be closed to through traffic from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

ORDINANCE

continued from page 1




Davis, Oxford's director of parking. Because of Oxford's steady growth, the department has requested an additional officer for the next fiscal year. In addition to their daily monitoring duties, these officers approve event and parade permits as well as enforcing building, advertising and fire codes. Sossaman said the depart-

ment wants students to understand that Oxford has a family atmosphere. "A lot of students are living in family homes in family neighborhoods, and we want them to be good neighbors," Sossaman said. "We want you to have a good experience. This is our home and your temporary home. Be proud of it, and let's have a good school year." The full list of ordinances, along with their associated fines, can be found at OxfordMS.net under the "government" tab.



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New film paves way for Asian representation in Hollywood

IVANA NGUYEN
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

As an Asian-American, my expectations for Jon M. Chu's new film, "Crazy Rich Asians," were crazy high, and the movie did not disappoint. The film did a phenomenal job portraying a race not well-represented in the Hollywood industry.

Based on a 2013 novel by Kevin Kwan, this romantic comedy centers around professor Rachel Chu meeting her boyfriend's family for the first time in Singapore. While she's there, she realizes that her boyfriend, Nick Young, is extremely wealthy.

However, with this wealth there comes a price. Rachel has to learn to deal with Nick's judgmental mom, jealous ex-girlfriends and the duties that come with being "royalty," or else their relationship might not last.

"Crazy Rich Asians" is the first all-Asian cast movie since 1993 and currently holds a 93 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The film did a great job representing elements of Asian culture, including the family dynamic and the value of food. It broke stereotypes while staying true to Asian culture.

The movie opens with a powerful scene depicting racism. As the Young family is trying to check into an upscale hotel, which they will later own, the workers refuse to let them stay because of their race.

Instead of walking away and finding another hotel to stay in, the Young family stands its ground. After making a couple phone calls, they are able to stay.

The Asian community is stereotypically known as a "model minority," staying quiet and avoiding conflicts. How-

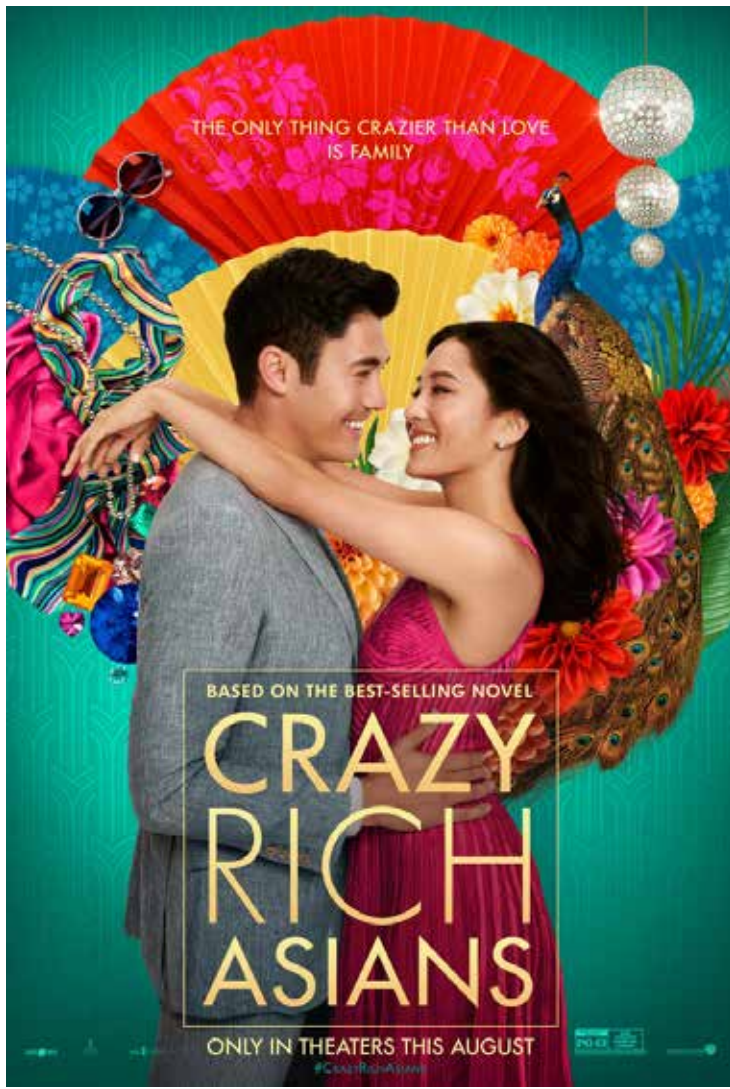


PHOTO COURTESY: "CRAZY RICH ASIANS" FACEBOOK

ever, this scene shows Asians fighting back. The Young family knows its worth and fights for its right to stay. This idea of self-worth becomes a major theme throughout the movie.

The film also smashed stereotypes about Asian men, such as assumptions that Asian men are unattractive, nerdy and not appealing to women. "Crazy Rich Asians" does not show Asian men as the typical stereotype but instead as the elite characters.

There literally was a 30-second scene in which Chu chose to only show Asian men's

abs, and there are many shirtless scenes featuring Nick and his attractive pals.

Food is another huge facet of Asian culture that brings friends and family together, and it plays into the film. When Nick and Rachel first arrive in Singapore, for example, their friends immediately take them to eat. The food is the focus of the gathering and brings the characters together.

In another scene, Nick and Rachel make dumplings, but this conveys more than just cooking – the act of cooking is a bonding experience with Nick's mother

and grandmother. During the dumpling scene, Nick's mother, Eleanor, tells Rachel she is not good enough for her son. She tells Rachel she does not have what it takes to be a Young. Eleanor wants a traditional Chinese girl – born and raised in China – for Nick.

Afterward, Rachel questions her self-worth, a theme that continues throughout the film. Eventually, she comes to the conclusion that she is worthy. She knows she is good enough for Nick, no matter what Eleanor thinks.

A side-plot in the movie involves Nick's cousin Astrid finding out that her husband is having an affair. Astrid was not perfect in the marriage; she frequently went on extravagant shopping sprees and hid her posh purchases from her

husband.

However, she never cheated on him. He continuously blames her for the reason he had an affair. She realizes she does not need to coddle someone because they are too insecure about themselves. Astrid finds her self-worth and knows she deserves better.

Thank you, Jon M. Chu, for recognizing and believing in this film's worth and releasing it in theatres rather than taking the large lump sum of money that Netflix offered for it. This film is a must-see. It is fun, vibrant and emotional.

"Crazy Rich Asians" will create a pathway for Asian representation in Hollywood. As an Asian-American, all of my expectations for "Crazy Rich Asians" were more than met.

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Any person, firm, association, or corporation, claiming that the granting of the above applications will be truly detrimental to their rights to utilize the waters of said source, may protest in writing to the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi, ATTN: Chris Hawkins, PO Box 2909, Jackson, Mississippi 39225, setting forth all reasons why said applications should not be approved. Letters of protest must be received within ten (10) days of this publication. If not protested, permits will be issued on or after ten (10) days following publication date.

If protested, the applications will be taken for consideration by the Permit Board of the State of Mississippi in its offices at 515 East Annie Street, Jackson, Mississippi, on or after, Tuesday, the 11th day of September 2018, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard by the Permit Board.

OFFICE OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES
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 Chief, Permitting, Certification, and Compliance Division

Pop-rock band, UM alumnus perform in Grove tonight

TAYLOR WELCH
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

The Student Activities Association's annual Welcome Back Concert is set for 8 p.m. Friday in the Grove and features the American Authors and Ole Miss alumnus Sam Mooney.

"The SAA is excited to host both American Authors and Sam Mooney in the Grove on Friday night," Director of SAA Rosa Salas said. "Starting in late spring and early summer, the SAA began planning for the concert by nailing down a date and selecting an artist."

The American Authors is a pop-rock band, known for its hit single "Best Day of My Life," which spent months on the Billboard Hot 100 chart after its 2014 release. Based out of New York City, the four-piece group's most recent album is 2016's "What We Live For."

Mooney will join The American Authors in the Grove for Friday's

concert. Mooney has played at numerous events on campus, including at a summer 2018 show in the Grove, where he played songs from his album "Find My Way."

"It's always super exciting to get to play a show at Ole Miss," Mooney said. "So much of the music I've written in recent years was inspired here, so it's really special to get to play the songs in the place where a lot of them began."

This year's event comes after the controversy surrounding the 2017 Welcome Back Concert artist, well-known rapper Wiz Khalifa.

Known for songs such as "See You Again" and "We Dem Boyz," Khalifa was a popular choice among students. However, alumni voiced concern about the university allowing Khalifa to perform on campus because of the content of some of his songs and videos.

One of these voices was that of prominent alumnus Ed Meek, who



PHOTO COURTESY: AMERICAN AUTHORS

wrote a Facebook post urging people to tell the university to cancel Khalifa's concert. The post was met with mixed reactions from both alumni and current students.

"Wiz's music touts abuse of women (and) minorities by using the 'N-word' and clearly promotes drug abuse," Meek said in a 2017 interview with The Daily Mississippian.

Despite the controversy, the concert — which many students attended and enjoyed — went forward as planned.

"Although I am not a self-proclaimed fan of Wiz Khalifa, I did enjoy

the concert last year," sophomore international studies major Tori Gallegos said. "It was a really fun atmosphere, and it felt really cool to have a private concert with such a well-known artist."

Other students enjoyed the concert but agreed with alumni that some of Khalifa's views violate the University Creed.

"The concert was a fun event, but the values of the University of Mississippi are conveyed through the Creed," sophomore biomedical engineering major Johnny Yang said. "When directly regarding Wiz

Khalifa's views on women, I would say they violate some tenants of the Creed — specifically the line that says, 'I believe in respect for the dignity of each person.'"

Regardless of the pushback regarding the previous concert, planners of the 2018 event, as well as university students, are looking forward to welcoming American Authors.

"This year's selection, American Authors, is definitely a different type of music," Gallegos said. "It'll definitely be a different kind of vibe, but I'm really looking forward to it and am excited that it'll be in the Grove."

As the first week of class ends, SAA members see the concert as a way to bring new and familiar faces back together again — all while appealing to different students' tastes. Past concerts have welcomed artists from Dierks Bentley to Jason Mraz.

"During students' time at Ole Miss, we aim to appeal to their musical taste with our popular outdoor concerts," Salas said. "We have been very successful in hosting concerts in the Grove, and we feel that this concert will be no different. Regardless of what type of music is played at our Grove concerts, there's something extremely special about hanging out with your friends and listening to music in the heart of the most beautiful campus in the country."

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Ole Miss volleyball: Perennial underdogs

OFFENSIVE LINE
continued from page 8

JAKE DAVIS
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Coming off of a victory in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship last year, the Ole Miss Volleyball team faces higher expectations than ever, and coaches are encouraged by the steady progress the team made in the preseason.

“We’ve shown things early in these first 2 1/2 weeks of practice that (show) we will be a better program,” head coach Steven McRoberts said.

The Rebels are ranked No. 11 in the SEC Preseason Coaches’ Poll, but coaches are quick to point out that the team has exceeded expectations in each of the past four seasons.

“We have (taken a step forward) every year,” McRoberts said. “If you look at where the coaches voted us every year, we’ve never finished at or below where the coaches voted us.”

Assistant head coach Ronaldo Pacheco also expressed optimism for the coming season, adding, “I am very excited for these first few games. I think we had a very good spring, and all the players were very engaged in the summertime.”

Outside hitter Emily Stroup, who was key to the Rebels’ success in the NIVC last year, said she feels that the team can surprise many people outside the program.

“I think because of the way we finished last year, we’re all really confident,” Stroup said. “We had a great preseason, so I think this year we would like to accomplish making it to the NCAA Tournament.”

Senior defensive specialist Caroline Adams, who in 2017 set the school single-season record for digs (522), said she was also



FILE PHOTO: MARLEE CRAWFORD

The Ole Miss Volleyball team celebrates after its game versus Mississippi State during the 2017 season. Ole Miss won 3-1.

confident in the team’s ability to exceed expectations.

“Our end goal is, ultimately, making the NCAA Tournament,” Adams said.

Coaches and players alike say that the depth of this year’s team can help push them past other middle-of-the-pack SEC teams and possibly even garner an NCAA Tournament berth.

“We have a lot of young players that are stepping up ... We have four really good players in that (defensive specialist) spot,” McRoberts said.

“Both of our setters are back, and our three middles ... it’s nice to have three quality players in that spot.”

In practice on Wednesday, the

Rebels engaged in three-on-three, four-on-four, five-on-five and full six-on-six drills, and several players pleased coaches with big plays. Audrey Fischer and Emily Engelken, both of whom are coming off injury, had powerful kills in the six-on-six matches and looked ready for game action.

Sophomore Bayleigh Scott was imposing in the middle blocker position and seemed to get a hand on every shot, including a sequence of three powerful blocks, each of which caused Coach Pacheco to cheer his approval.

“I say, ‘Have fun,’ because it’s fun to play against teams and beat

good teams,” Pacheco said. “I think the motivation to play against good programs helps (our players) grow as players and as people, as well.”

Coaches are confident in the team’s ability to win big games this year but realize that playing a tough SEC schedule, which includes two games against both No. 5 Kentucky and No. 7 Florida, allows for few mistakes to be made.

“They’ve got the athletes, the coaching ... we’ve had some opportunities (in the past),” McRoberts said. “You just can’t give them an opening because once you do, they kick the door open, and you’re gone.”

The Rebels open the 2018 season with a doubleheader versus Virginia at 10 a.m. Friday and versus No. 21 Iowa St. at 6 p.m. at Iowa State.

entering his fourth season as an Ole Miss Rebel. The senior started in all but one game (because of injury) during the 2017 season. His play as the signal-caller for the O-line landed him on the Rimington Trophy watch list, an award denoting the top center in the country. The trio of Little, Patterson and Rawlings will be a force whose talent and ability are matched by few.

Former right guard Alex Givens is the fourth returning starter for Coach Bicknell. Givens will slide outside to the right tackle position to replace NFL draftee Rod Taylor.

“I think (the O-linemen are) tougher than we were in the past,” Little said.

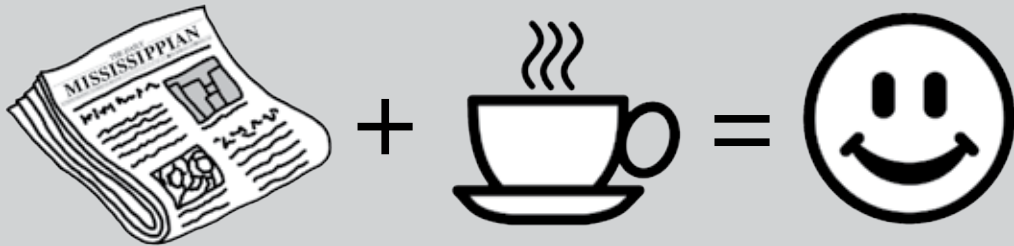
The one position battle that is taking place in this group is for the right guard position. Jordan Sims has experience as a starter on the Ole Miss O-line. However, a bright spot in camp, so far, has been Sims’ competition, Ben Brown. Brown has less experience than Sims, but he has a real shot to win the job.

Other than these six players, the O-linemen are a very young and inexperienced group. Bryce Matthews, Eli Johnson, Tony Gray, Chandler Tuitt, Royce Newman and Michael Howard round out Coach Luke’s line.

This is an offense-driven team. With the “Nasty Wide Outs” returning to join breakout tight end Dawson Knox and quarterback Jordan Ta’amu, the points will flow. Replacing Jordan Wilkins’ production out of the backfield is the largest task still looming for offensive coordinator Longo, but Scottie Phillips and Eric Swinney give him versatility.

“I think we’re going to surprise a lot of people,” Little said. “We have high goals for ourselves. We have every week to show what we can do.”

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CeCe Kizer honored as National Player of the Week

BEN MILLER
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Following an incredible opening week of play for CeCe Kizer, the senior forward and midfielder was named the National Player of the Week by the United Soccer Coaches poll. She is the first player in Ole Miss history to receive this honor.

She received the same recognition from TopDrawerSoccer, which now has her ranked as the No. 9 player in the country after becoming the university's first ever United Soccer Coaches poll All-American in 2017. She has also been named to the 2018 MAC Hermann Trophy watch list, which is the most prestigious individual award in college soccer.

The Overland Park, Kansas, native catapulted her way back into national headlines after netting four goals and an assist in just 89 minutes of gameplay through two matches. Her production began right off the bat, as she assisted freshman Haleigh Stackpole for the first Rebel goal of the 2018 season less than two minutes after the opening kickoff against

Louisiana-Lafayette.

Before leaving the pitch, she knocked in her own goal to seal the 6-0 victory over the Ragin' Cajuns. Just two days later, Western Kentucky arrived in Oxford to take a punishing defeat at the feet of Kizer, who notched three goals in the 4-0 win for Ole Miss and recorded the second hat trick of her career at Ole Miss.

This level of play warrants national recognition, and the National Player of the Week is high praise. While a week may sound like a short period of time, only 12 players receive this award in a season of Division I women's soccer. By the end of a season, this tends to gather a superstar cast of players that garner countless All-American nominations, National Women's Soccer League roster spots and even U.S. Women's National Team trials and caps.

The National Player of the Week award often sees repeats over the course of a season, and being the best player of the 2018 season thus far on a national level is a tremendous start for Kizer. Countless top-shelf players have opened takeoff seasons with this honor



FILE PHOTO: WILSON BENTON

A Georgia defender attempts to block CeCe Kizer's kick during the 2017 season. Ole Miss won the game 4-1.

— most notably, 77-cap, 35-goal forward Sydney Leroux of the U.S. Women's National Team, who was given the award in the opening week of the 2010 season for UCLA.

While Leroux competes for her second straight Women's

World Cup title next summer, Kizer will be coming off of her final college season and looking to show out in trials for the national team. A roster spot, at least on the under-23 squad, is a distinct possibility if Kizer keeps up her level of production.

Kizer and Ole Miss Women's Soccer will resume at 6 p.m. Friday, when the Rebels face off against the 2-0 Minnesota Gophers in the Twin Cities. The home campaign will return on Sunday versus Murray State.

Rebel Roll Call: Offensive machine relies on 'big uglies'

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Rebel fans can expect more of the same from Phil Longo's offense this year and more shootouts in which Ole Miss will need to rely on scoring more than 40 points. The offense will be high-octane and up-tempo. Records are in danger. But the gaudy numbers should not overshadow the spine of the offense. The "big uglies" are going to power the machine.

The engine to the Rebel offense is the offensive line. As a former center and O-line coach, head coach Matt Luke's specialty is O-line, and the talent that the starting five possess is special. Offensive line coach Jack Bicknell Jr. returns 103 career starts to his line.

"(Coach Luke is) a great O-line coach, and I can see he misses coaching the O-line," left tackle Greg Little said. "He just loves coming in here and spending time with us. He's still an O-lineman at heart."

The left side of the O-line is littered with nationally recognized talent. Little, a junior, has protected Ole Miss quarterbacks' blind sides during every game he has played since he arrived with the 2016 recruiting class. The top-5 recruit has played his way



FILE PHOTO: CAMERON BROOKS

Offensive lineman Greg Little throws his hands up to pump up the crowd after a touchdown during the 2016 season.

into consideration as one of the first few offensive tackles picked in the 2019 NFL Draft. Little's athleticism, size and experience will make him attractive to NFL scouts.

very tough football team."

Once again, Javon Patterson will fill the left guard position. Patterson was one of the eligible players to transfer as a result of the NCAA investigation of the Ole Miss football program, but he quickly denounced any and all transfer talk. He'll finish the job he came to do at Ole Miss.

Patterson is a true leader, not only for the offense but for the team as a whole. He finds himself on the Wuerffel Trophy watch list, an award that honors the player that excels on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

Center Sean Rawlings is

SEE OFFENSIVE LINE PAGE 7

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"It's going to be kind of a new identity from the team we had (before Luke was promoted to head coach)," Little said. "Coach Luke is really focused on being a