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SEE MONDAY'S DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OUTPLAYED BY SOUTH CAROLINA, LOSES 76-42

The Rebels traveled to South Carolina to take on the No. 12 Gamecocks on Thursday looking to break their four-game losing streak.

SEE THEDMONLINE.COM FOR FULL RECAP

NPHC organizations displaced by union construction



Members of Delta Sigma Theta's Lambda Sigma chapter "step" in front of the Ole Miss Student Union on Feb. 26, 2016.

FILE PHOTO

DEVNA BOSE

DMMANAGING@GMAIL.COM

Music echoed throughout the University of Mississippi campus every Tuesday and Thursday during the fall of 2016. Synchronized claps, shouts and stomps permeated the damp Mississippi air, from the Paris-Yates Chapel to the Gertrude C. Ford Center. Blurs of vibrant pinks, reds, yellows, greens and blues captivated passersby traveling to and from class.

But when students returned from break in the spring of 2017, the campus was silent — save for the perpetually reverberating hum of construction equipment.

Seven out of nine nationally recognized historically black fraternities and sororities are currently represented on campus in UM's National Pan-Hellenic Council community — Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Sigma Gamma Rho and Zeta Phi Beta — and the Ole Miss Student Union, the hub of student life of campus since its creation, meant so much more to the Divine 9, as they are affectionately

dubbed, than just a place to eat between classes.

"It was a home, a safe haven," said Tommy Knight, president of the Eta Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma.

All of that changed when construction closed the student union in December 2016. The project broke ground in 2015, but "Union Unplugged," performances every Tuesday and Thursday at the front of the building that often included NPHC "stepping" — traditional percussive dances performed by historically black fraternities and sororities — only halted when "Phase Two" of the expansion project began.

Construction on the union was initially scheduled to be completed earlier this year. It has been delayed yet again while going over its projected \$60 million budget. The union is now set to open later in the semester and is "nearing completion," according to a university press release issued on Monday.

Since construction on the union put a stop to "Union Unplugged" events, NPHC members have had to find new spaces on campus, like The Pavilion. However, there is a consensus that a feeling of unity and visibility has been lost.

"The prolonged construction has impacted NPHC organizations by taking away one of the venues that we could call our own, even if for only 45 minutes out of a week," said Sumayia Young, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha's Theta Psi chapter at Ole Miss. "Since 'Union Unplugged' was moved to The Pavilion, it lost a sense of community."

She said the central location of the union was vital to the success of NPHC organizations and allowed everyone to take part in the "various festivities."

Jarvis Benson, president of the University of Mississippi Black Student Union, isn't a member of an NPHC organization, but he has noted that the "Unplugged" events are just not the same at The Pavilion.

"The Pavilion is far away from many parts of campus, so many are not able to make the trek to attend," he said. "Keep in mind that NPHC organizations do not have houses on campus, so the spaces and times that they are able to gather on campus are few and far between."

The lack of black spaces on campus is starkly clear when paralleled with the thick, white columns and deep red brick of Fraternity Row and Sorority Row, where decades-old man-

sions line the streets.

Knight said the lack of black fraternity houses makes him want to work harder for equal opportunities.

"It makes you envious, but at the same time, it makes you want to work," he said.

Though it doesn't compensate, the university completed construction on an NPHC Greek Garden in the spring of 2017. It is intended to serve as a symbolic space for the

SEE **STUDENT UNION** PAGE 4



PHOTO: DEVNA BOSE

Tommy Knight, president of the Eta Beta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, said that growing up in Oxford and seeing NPHC members "step" in front of the union encouraged him to become a member of the NPHC community.

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CARTOON: ELI MORGAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Re: "Hands off Venezuela"
(Jan. 31)**

Earlier this year, I was sitting next to a Venezuelan man on a flight. We struck up a conversation about the turmoil going on in his country. The situation he described was dire — inflation had risen so high that his family was unable to afford a single chicken and had to subsist on what he referred to as the "Maduro Diet," consisting mainly of flour boiled in water.

In Venezuela, the everyday needs of the people are not being met.

The column published Jan. 31 by Jaz Brisack puts Maduro as the rightful president of Venezuela, but Maduro's term as president has ushered in

massive poverty and inflation in his country. In response to this social upheaval, Maduro has not acted like a democratically elected leader; instead of accepting his defeat he started an authoritarian crackdown on the people of Venezuela.

Under this pressure, Maduro has led mass arrests, attacks on protestors, police executions of individuals, and has arrested and expelled journalists. Maduro was not elected by the people and rigged his own election.

Jaz Brisack alleges that Maduro is being toppled in a coup. In actuality, Juan Guaido was elected as an interim president by the National Assembly so that he might hold elections in the process clearly outlined by the Venezuelan

constitution.

Yes, the criticism the article presents that Brazil and its authoritarian president are backing Guaido are true, but this is not the whole picture. Out of the 12 South American countries, only two (Bolivia and Suriname) support Maduro's government. The international consensus backs Guaido's process with 49 countries backing Guaido and another seven backing the National Assembly, which recently elected Guaido Interim President.

In response to his election, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans have been taking to the street in support of his interim presidency and the election he promises to bring.

Morgan Dignowity, senior philosophy major from Olive Branch.

Addison Morton, senior public policy major from Clinton.

Bailey Morton, senior Arabic major from Clinton.

EDITOR'S NOTE

An article on page 4 of yesterday's Daily Mississippian detailing a meeting between SASI members and campus administrators may have left the impression that Quay Williams was in attendance at that meeting. Williams was not in that meeting.

**THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN**

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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
press
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Food pantry raises funds, fills empty bowls in Oxford

BRIANA FLOREZ
 THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

The Oxford Food Pantry welcomed hundreds of guests to the Oxford Conference Center yesterday afternoon for its 16th annual Empty Bowls Lunch.

Attendees purchased home-made craft bowls for \$20 and filled those bowls with their choice of soup provided by local restaurants or vendors at the event. The proceeds from the pottery sales go to Oxford Food Pantry, which provides food to those in need.

Ron Dale, one of the event's organizers, said the luncheon has grown substantially over the years and is the pantry's main fundraiser.

"We started out much smaller of course, and it's grown to this," Dale said. "We need more pots and soup actually because we're running out of everything."

Each bowl is hand-crafted and donated by the Ole Miss Mud Daubers, a group of advanced student ceramicists, and other local potters.

"No matter what is on the bowl or the shape of the bowl, that just reflects the person who made it," Dale said.

Dale said the purchased bowls can serve as a reminder that many people in Mississippi suffer from food insecurity.

Many local restaurants, including Boure, City Grocery and McEwen's, served their signature soups.

Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill greeted guests at the door and volunteered as a server. She said the annual event brings out the best in the Oxford community by encouraging service to others in a creative way.

"I appreciate the investment in the community that these restaurants and volunteers have made," Tannehill said. "What makes Oxford unique, in my opinion, is that so many people care. We're really blessed to be part of a community that understands what giving back looks like."

Empty Bowls got its start in 1990 as an art project at a Michigan high school. Its purpose was to raise money for a food drive. Students created ceramic bowls to serve soup and bread in, and now, the idea has expanded internationally, helping to feed the hungry and support the arts.

The luncheon raises an average of \$15,000 every year for the Oxford Food Pantry, which provides for up to approximately 40,000 meals a year for local residents in need.

Donna Patton, the University of Mississippi Foundation stewardship coordinator, said she



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUTLER

Several iconic Oxford restaurants served up a variety of soups for the fundraiser yesterday. Hundreds of guests picked out their bowls which were hand-crafted by local ceramicists.

attended the event because she enjoys having a good time while supporting a good cause.

"It's such a great event. You see all kinds of people that you know, and you can have this wonderful food, and the wonderful, beautiful bowls that you get," Patton said. "But most of all, it's just a great cause."

The Oxford Food Pantry is open from 8:30 to 11 a.m. to Lafayette County residents under 65-years-old on Wednesdays, and residents over 65 on Thursdays.



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STUDENT UNION

continued from page 1

campus's NPHC organizations, but many complain that it is too small and far away to occupy. "It seemed as if (administration) tried to pacify us with the Greek Garden," Young said. Benson agreed that administration needs to put more effort into being inclusive of NPHC organizations and "make adequate steps to accommodate"

them, while Knight wishes these groups had a "bigger space." "It seems the black community here is pushed to the side a little bit, even with the Greek Garden. 'Be happy and have it,' they said, but it's all the way across campus," Knight said. "With this being a predominantly white school, it's important for us to know we have a voice, to know that we're included." When Brian Foster, professor of sociology and Southern studies at the University of Missis-

sippi, "crossed," or was initiated, into Phi Beta Sigma's Eta Beta chapter in 2009, he remembers the student union as a place where the black students of Ole Miss could build community. "It was the epicenter, a central place for black Greek letter students socially and organizationally," he said. "The union has been our 'yard,' where we do any number of things that are really vital parts to who we are, on a campus where that space has not always been promised."

That's not a coincidence, either. According to Foster, black people have had to construct their own spaces to exist throughout history, making those spaces more meaningful to the people that inhabit them. "We have had to move in and out of certain spaces to find community, to guard against the possibility of oppression, and to try to overcome inequality," he said. "Creating a space where I can be whole, where I can be human, where I can laugh, where I can have fun, where I can build community — that is what 'placemaking' is, that's what black people do. The Great Migration accomplished that, and at the micro level, the union accomplished that for a lot of NPHC members."

to engage with fellow students, while also providing venues for them to demonstrate pride in their organizations." However, Foster says the "construction is affecting (NPHC members) more than members of other Greek organizations." "The history of this campus manifests in the very terrain of the campus itself — what the campus looks like and the actual spaces and places that students have access to. We look on Fraternity Row, and we don't see any housing or spaces for NPHC organizations," Foster said. "Sigma Nu can do whatever in their house. NPHC members don't have those same alternatives." Foster believes the way the NPHC organizations on campus have adapted to the union construction, though they shouldn't have to, speaks to their resilience.



FILE PHOTO

Members of University of Mississippi NPHC organizations in front of the the union on Sept. 22, 2014.

Arthur Doctor, director of Fraternal Leadership and Learning and active member of historically black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, said that it was expected that the union construction project would impact the "entire student population, not just one particular group."

"The Student Union staff and other campus partners have been instrumental in working with the NPHC to continue traditions... to ensure that NPHC organizations can maintain a campus presence," he said. "I believe our NPHC students are excited about the endless opportunities that the student union renovations will bring for them

"I think the fact that we've shifted this space is an example of how, no matter what the terrain looks like, no matter what the environment is like, we will always find a way," Foster said. "Y'all gon' make it hard for us, but we're still going to do our thing."

The student union is the heart of every campus, and ours used to thud with the steps and strolls of black Greeks. For the foreseeable future, though, the only beats the campus will hear will be those of construction crews.

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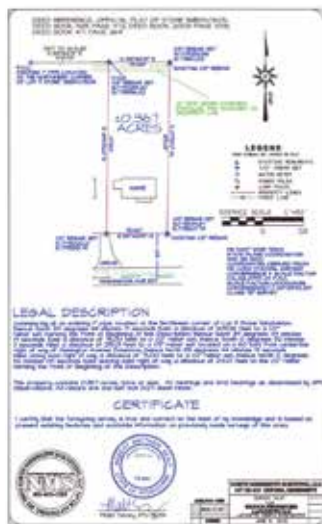
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MOVIE REVIEW

Always funny McCarthy proves drama chops in new film

SAVERY RUTH
THE DM FEATURES@GMAIL.COM

Though the film “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” has quietly made its way into theaters nationwide, it has rightly earned recognition for its outstanding acting and writing.

Set in New York during the 1990s, this movie is a biopic about Lee Israel (Melissa McCarthy), a struggling author who turns from her writing to forging signed celebrity letters and selling them with her eccentric friend, Jack Hock (Richard E. Grant).

These two actors give performances for the ages and are well-deserving of their Oscar nominations.

Israel explains her character best in the film when she says she “likes cats better than people,” and nobody but Melissa McCarthy could have nailed the role of this often cold-hearted author. The dramatic role was well-played by McCarthy, proving that she is more versatile of an actress than her comedies may show.

While not the lead, Hock makes his presence known every time he is on the screen and captures the audience’s attention as he buoyantly flows through his scenes.

Grant and McCarthy’s on-screen chemistry is immediately noticeable. Their first meeting



PHOTO COURTESY: IMDB

is particularly masterful since it’s the first time viewers see how well these two characters connect.

The film’s close-ups are stunning, and McCarthy knows how to dominate every single one. The close-ups linger on her more than any other character, and she helps the audience understand what emotions Israel is feeling through her expressions. Her motivations develop in a single shot, which is a rare display of talent as the editing typically tries to hide an actor’s inability to do this.

The editing of “Can You Ever

Forgive Me?” effectively brings out the best performances from Grant and McCarthy.

During conversations, the camera slowly brings us closer to the characters, emphasizing the deepest parts of the conversations. Though the close-ups are nearly perfect throughout the whole movie, the camera operator’s work overall was not impressive — sometimes the camera movements were too shaky.

Even so, cinematographer Brandon Trost made up for these mishaps by directing the lighting and camera placement for each

scene very well. We are put in numerous interior locations that are warmly lit, providing a contrast to the snowy exteriors. Ultimately, Trost makes decisions that make the picture look beautiful despite a handful of bobbly camera movements.

Director Marielle Heller impresses in just her second feature film. She shows great potential as a director by giving us two lovely performances by the lead actors. However, some of the supporting cast members leave forgettable performances compared the leads. This is where Heller can

improve the most.

Since Grant and McCarthy deliver spotless performances, the slips of the supporting cast are forgivable. I’m excited to keep up with Heller in her directing career to see if she continues to produce award-worthy films in the future.

The story of Israel is a beautiful one, and “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” is a well-written and well-performed telling of that story. Watching this movie gives me hope that McCarthy will pursue further serious roles, but for now we’ve got her performance as Israel to keep us optimistic.

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ALBUM REVIEW

American Authors shifts sound with third album 'Seasons'

ADAM DUNNELLS
 THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

American Authors released its third album, "Seasons," last Friday. Not much was known about the album ahead of release, and the lead singles "Deep Water" and "Neighborhood" were fairly different from each other and the sort of music they usually make.

Their 2016 album, "What We Live For," was a major success critically and commercially, with songs being used in video games, the NBA and the 2016 World Cup of Hockey. This newest album had a lot to live up to, but does it?

There is really no short answer to that question, as the album feels like a mish-mash of styles. That is not to say that this is a bad thing, but the album feels almost like 2 distinctly different albums as opposed to one cohesive collection. This could be due to the track order or just a general darker tone than previous American Authors albums.

"Seasons" seems to break up

nicely into two sections, with the first half and the second half feeling very different from each other. The opening song, "Stay Around," feels a little more pop-y and different from the rest of the album. It feels repetitive and manufactured in a way that is unlike the rest of the band's catalog.

All of the first four songs feel very upbeat, with the third track, "Calm Me Down," even having an almost hip-hop vibe. The fifth song, "Neighborhood," prompts the mood shift and is the first time that the album's pace really slows. This song feels most like previous music from American Authors.

With the sixth track, "Can't Stop Me Now," the album hits a string of pop ballad tracks. "Can't Stop Me Now" was the song that stuck with me the most after listening to the album, as it is very catchy and will likely be the most popular song on the album. "Can't Stop Me Now" and "Bring it On Home" both feel very uplifting, with the former even



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- 15 Santa _____, California
- 16 Code of silence
- 17 Investigate
- 19 Musical dramas
- 20 Milk cows
- 22 Guggenheim display
- 23 Rocky debris
- 24 Hairy
- 26 Most strange
- 29 Bullring cheer
- 32 Shoe ties
- 33 Otic
- 37 In spite of
- 40 Like Georgia Brown
- 41 Caught congers
- 42 HST's successor
- 43 Refuge
- 45 Spanish hunter's cap
- 48 Syrian president
- 53 Source of iron
- 54 Squire of Don Quixote
- 58 Some sculptures

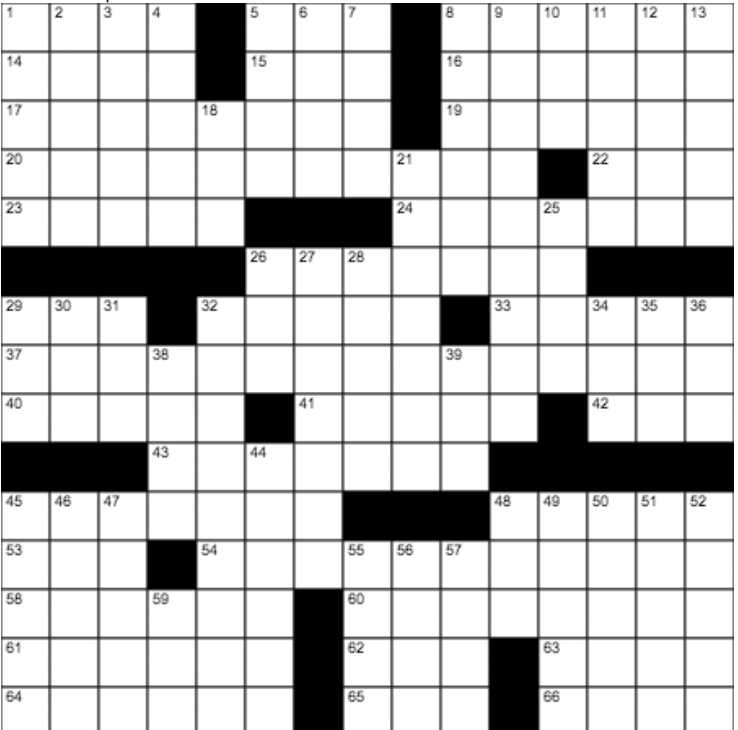
DOWN

- 1 Flax refuse
- 2 Pertaining to the small intestine
- 3 Polite denial
- 4 Caterpillar rival
- 5 Pusher pursuer
- 6 South American Indian
- 7 Monetary unit of Thailand
- 8 Chinese laborer
- 9 Symbol for and
- 10 Majors in acting
- 11 Chilean pianist Claudio
- 12 Begin
- 13 Urgency
- 18 Answer to a sea captain
- 21 Prickly plant
- 25 Collar fastener

SOLUTION TO 2.7.2019 PUZZLE



- 26 Attack a sub?
- 27 Level of command
- 28 Bowling alley button
- 29 Switch positions
- 30 Fan setting
- 31 Riviera season
- 32 Lissome
- 34 Relieve (of)
- 35 Besides
- 36 Bigger than med.
- 38 Sunset direction
- 39 _____ Lingus
- 44 Rubber
- 45 Engine
- 46 Town near Bangor
- 47 Dra!
- 48 GI's address
- 49 Tortilla chip dip
- 50 Villain's look
- 51 Sky blue
- 52 Titled women
- 55 What you're reading right now
- 56 Strikes
- 57 Till bills
- 59 Take a load off



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

being reminiscent of fan favorite "Superman" from their album "What We Live For."

However, it also marks a turn in the album, where the following tracks have a more emotional, visceral feeling. The song "Deep Water" feels like it comes from a very emotional place — no doubt due to vocalist Zac Barnett's intertwining of his emotions into his unique singing voice. The song "Real Place" ends the album, and it is also a very powerful song, ending the second

set of five songs in the same introspective, slow-paced way that "Neighborhood" ended first set of five.

While the album feels slightly disjointed, there are some themes that carry across the entire album. The band still seems in touch with their religious side, shown in "Real Place," "Deep Water" and "Say Amen," with the latter even featuring Bear Rinehart of NEEDTOBREATHE, a band with strong Christian roots. There is also a theme of re-

membering your past and staying anchored to your home, shown in the songs "Neighborhood" and "Bring it Home."

It is hard to recommend "Seasons" as a must-listen for American Authors fans. The album is definitely darker than previous albums, and, on the whole, the songs are also much more emotional than previous singles.

There are some songs that fans will love: "I Wanna Go Out" is stylistically similar to the bangers that gained the band their popularity; "Neighborhood," while sentimental, is still a great song; and "Can't Stop Me Now" will likely be the stand-out from this album. With the stylistic differences from their previous work and even within the album, the album as whole is a hard one to recommend. Treat it like a buffet: take the stuff you want, skip the rest.

WELCOME STUDENTS AND STAFF

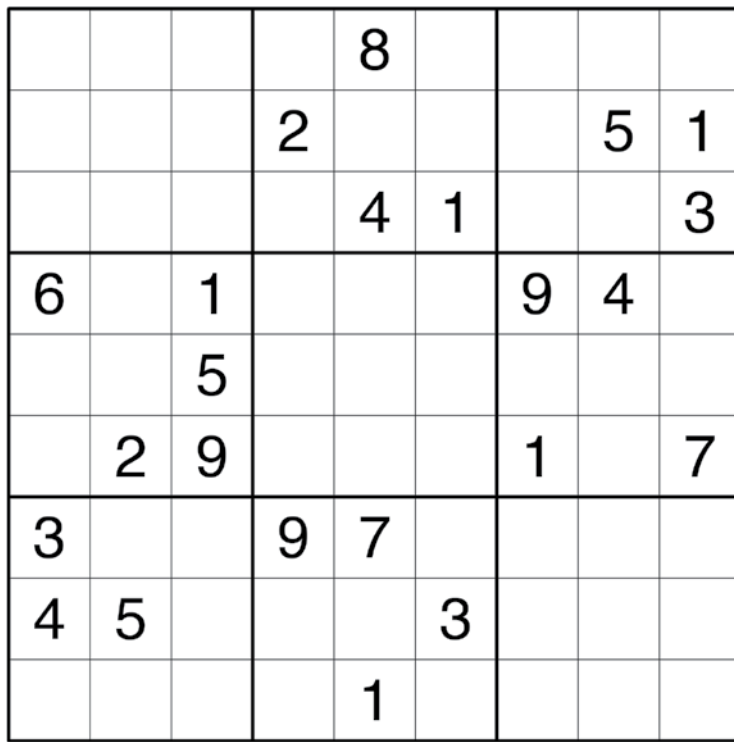
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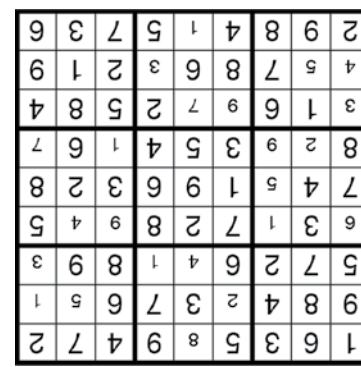
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DIFFICULTY LEVEL
INTERMEDIATE



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ole Miss heads to Georgia in search of consecutive wins

JACK GENTRY
 THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Nothing comes easy in SEC basketball, and as the conference slogan goes, "It just means more."

Ole Miss, 15-7 (5-4), found that out Wednesday after squeaking by a dismal Texas A&M team, 8-13 (1-8), with a score of 75-71 and snapping a four game losing streak. The Rebels will make the journey to Athens, Georgia on Saturday, where another basement dweller in the SEC will be awaiting their arrival. The Bulldogs sit at 10-12 (1-8) headed into the matchup.

Ole Miss scratched and clawed its way to a victory at home versus Texas A&M through stingy defense and timely scoring. With the win, the Rebels put a halt to their worst stretch of the season after losing four-straight and five of the last six.

Senior guard Terence Davis played with a sense of desperation on Wednesday night, finishing with 19 points and eight rebounds. He also had an outstanding performance on the defensive end with a career-high of seven steals.

"We'd just lost four in a row," Davis said following the win against Texas A&M. "I told the guys that it's always hard getting the first win after you go on a losing streak. But once you get the win, it kind of relaxes you. But you've still got to be in that attack mode."

Georgia is in the midst of its own struggles. After dropping a contest Wednesday on the road at Alabama 89-74, the Bulldogs have now lost three games in a row. Georgia matches up surprisingly well with the Rebels, however.

Ole Miss will be tested inside with Georgia, who ranks eighth in the country in rebounding. Nicolas Claxton, a 6-foot-11-inch sophomore, is the catalyst of the unit, scoring 12.3 points per game while also leading the SEC in rebounds at 9.3 and blocks per game with 2.7.

The tandem of big men for



Ole Miss guard Breein Tyree runs down court during there game against Mississippi State on Feb. 3.

PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

the Rebels in Dominik Olejniczak and Bruce Stevens has struggled with rebounding the ball as of late. In the last two games, the duo has combined for just eight boards while logging a combined 80 minutes. The Rebels need to improve on their rebounding if they intend to take care of business Saturday afternoon.

Claxton isn't the only potential problem for Ole Miss. Georgia has a quartet of players scoring in double figures. The 6-foot-8-inch sophomore forward, Rayshaun Hammonds, leads the Bulldogs with 12.6 points and will be paired with Claxton in the frontcourt. Derek Ogbeide and Tyree Crump will check in on Saturday averaging

a hair over 10 PPG each.

Ole Miss has not won a road game in nearly a month, with the last win coming on Jan. 12 at Mississippi State. However, good teams find ways to win on the road, especially against teams in the bottom tier of the conference, which is exactly the position Georgia finds itself in.

In order to continue plugging away at the SEC, the Rebels have to capitalize on a soft spot in their schedule against Georgia, who sits at No. 105 in the ever-so-important NET rankings. While a win will not impact the Rebels' standing in the eyes of many, a loss would be devastating for the Rebels' prospects at a respectable seed in the NCAA.

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COLUMN

THE ONE-THREE-ONE BREAKDOWN

Welcome to the 1-3-1, my weekly college basketball column. 1-3-1 is a hat tip to Kermit Davis' defensive scheme, but will also serve as the natural breakdown of how I'll split up sections. Each week, I'll deliver one big idea regarding the college basketball landscape, three notes on Ole Miss hoops, and highlight one Ole Miss thing to look ahead to.

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One National CBB Thought

Each year, the John R. Wooden Award is given to the nation's top college basketball player. It isn't given to necessarily the most talented player, but the player who had the best season.

Last year it went to Jalen Brunson of Villanova — a second round NBA draft pick. The year prior? Frank Mason, second round draft pick. Two years before that, it was Frank Kaminsky — who was aggressively shopped at this year's NBA trade deadline and will likely end up selling cars or playing video games professionally before the freshmen on Ole Miss's campus have time to graduate.

However, the award does occasionally recognize pure, unbridled greatness. Anthony Davis won in 2012, Kevin Durant in 2007 and Tim Duncan in 1997. They were all No. 1 picks, destined to have their name enshrined in Springfield, Massachusetts at the

Naismith Hall of Fame someday. This year's runaway favorite, freshman Zion Williamson, is cut from the same cloth.

Williamson is averaging 22 points, 9 rebounds, 2 blocks and is shooting a ridiculous 75 percent from shots inside the three point line. He's on pace to obliterate the previous record for PER (player efficiency rating), which measures a player's positive accomplishments, subtracts the negatives and gives the player a rating per-minute based on a deeply-convoluted mathematical formula.

Before this season, the highest recorded PER in NCAA history was 36.9 in 2015 from John Brown of High Point. Zion Williamson is averaging a PER of 42.5! The Wooden Award is his. This is the season of Zion.

Three Ole Miss Things

1) Ole Miss's struggles on the offensive glass are teetering on the brink of disaster. Against Texas A&M, the Rebels lost the offensive rebounding battle 13-9, and were outscored 15-8

in second-chance points. In last week's matchup with Mississippi State, Ole Miss gave up 15 offensive rebounds and trailed in second-chance points by a margin of 19 to 6.

Against Mississippi State, neither Dominik Olejniczak nor Bruce Stevens registered a defensive rebound. It's impossible to convey how unexplainable of a statistic that is. The two players on Kermit Davis's roster whose primary concern is to corral missed shots weren't able to snag one in a regulation basketball game.

2) Breein Tyree seems to have turned a corner. In his last four, Tyree has averaged 22.3 points per game, knocking down an average of 3.2 three-pointers per game at a 45 percent clip. Against Texas A&M, Tyree played 37 of 40 possible minutes, and scored a highly efficient 22 points. Tyree is one of the best half-court scorers in the country, but his ability to expand his game well beyond the line and in transition has opened up Ole Miss' offense greatly. Kermit Davis has actually encouraged

Tyree to continue to line it up from beyond the arc, and with good reason. He's shooting 40 percent from three on the season.

3) As Ole Miss has slipped since their 10 game win streak earlier in the season, their free throw percentage has not. The Rebels cracked the top-20 nationally in free throw percentage this week, shooting nearly 77 percent as a team from the charity stripe.

It's easy to fall in love with the three point shot because it's a sexier way to play basketball, but when you have three guys who can drive to the rim, get fouled and knock down free throws at a high percentage, it's an easy decision on how to play; get to the line.

One Look Ahead

ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi actually moved Ole Miss up in his mock tournament bracket following the loss to Mississippi State. And even after a four-game losing skid, Kermit Davis's squad is still receiving votes in the AP poll and sits just outside the top 40 in the NET rankings.



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Ole Miss forward Bruce Stevens is blocked from making a layup by a Mississippi State defender on Feb. 3.

The double digit losses that defined Ole Miss's losing skid will certainly hurt the Rebels in March, but in the eyes of the national media, this team is still tournament bound.



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