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MISSISSIPPIAN

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

Protesting the protest: Students respond to rally

**DEVNA BOSE
GRACE MARION**
THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Students and community members have organized a counterprotest against the rally planned by Confederate 901 and the Hiwaymen. The counterprotest's leader plans for the march to be just as large as the pro-Confederate protest on Saturday.

Will Pipes, the organizer of the counterprotest and a senior marketing major, said the counterprotest will occur in the Circle on campus from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

"I understand the ideal of

'Don't give them a reaction. Don't give them the attention. Don't give them the satisfaction.' But I think, after a point, (the neo-Confederate groups) are doing this not necessarily to get a reaction or to get a rise out of people," Pipes said. "They're doing this because they feel safe."

There are currently 59 people marked as planning to attend the counterprotest on the event's Facebook page and 195 marked as interested in attending. There are 89 people marked as planning to attend the Confederate 901 protest and 352 marked as interested.

"Once you give people the infrastructure to offer up a voice and counterargument, they'll jump on," Pipes said.

He said the counterprotesters and protesters will be separated by a 150-foot "buffer zone" and that the counterprotesters plan to leave the Circle in an orderly manner.

"We designed the staggered exit to avoid actual physical contact with them," he said.

Other student organizations have scheduled similar events ahead of both the neo-Confederate rally and

SEE **PROTESTS** PAGE 5



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

The monument honoring Confederate veterans was dedicated by citizens of Lafayette County and installed on the UM campus in 1906.

Honors College Convocation



PHOTO: PARKER GALLOWAY

Ole Miss professor of Southern studies and sociology Brian Foster delivers the keynote speech at the Honors College spring convocation last night. Foster sought to encourage an informal atmosphere and concentrate on remembering the past and the present.

MASON SCIONEAX
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"Fill up your jukebox with the right songs and just let it play," Brian Foster said.

Foster, a university Southern studies and sociology professor who graduated from the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College in 2011, served as keynote speaker for the Honors

College spring convocation last night at the Gertrude C. Ford Center. He asked students to think deeply about their memories, and his Jukebox-themed speech followed his doctoral and current research on the Mississippi Delta.

Foster began his speech by reminiscing about his childhood, growing up in Mississippi, his adolescence

and his college years.

He ended each refrain with, "I remember. I promise I do," before challenging audience members to keep track of their own memories.

"Always remember how things are now," he said. "Never forget how they used to be. I'm here to say one thing, just one thing: that

SEE **HOCO** PAGE 3

Students Against Social Injustice relocates conference

GRIFFIN NEAL
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Circumstances surrounding the relocation of Students Against Social Injustice's "United Students Against Sweatshops" national conference have shifted considerably in the last week.

SASI officers initially planned to host a conference at the Jackson Avenue Center this weekend in coordination with the national group USAS, at which attendees would "build organizing skills, connect with student organizers and workers and support (their) campaign against confederate iconography," according to SASI.

Student officers originally said the conference was being moved because of disagreements with the University of Mississippi's restrictions on the event, but university officials later said SASI officers did not file the proper paperwork in

time to adhere to university policies.

In a phone call with The Daily Mississippian on Monday afternoon, SASI secretary Em Gill said the organization had been planning the event since August 2018 and that it was only recently canceled after the university placed "limitations" on the group's event.

"Two weeks ago, the (university) administration placed some last-minute limitations on our group that would prevent the convention from proceeding as planned," Gill said.

However, in a phone call late Monday night, SASI president Quay Williams attributed the cancellation and subsequent relocation of their conference to a logistical error.

SASI started advertising their event on the USAS web page in mid-November. However, they never officially registered

SEE **SASI** PAGE 4



FILE PHOTO: SEMAJ JORDAN

Members of Students Against Social Injustice march on campus Nov. 28, 2018, demanding that administration remove the Confederate statue in the Circle.

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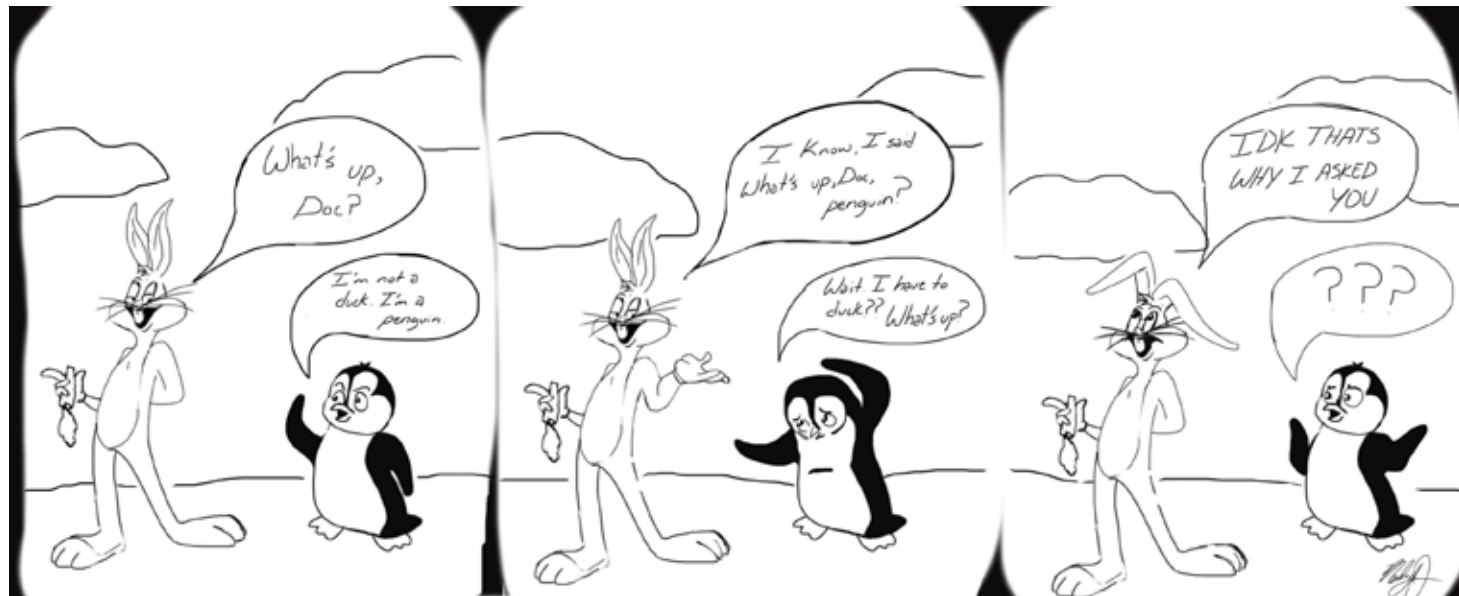
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COLUMN

We must counterprotest in support of justice



JAZ BRISACK
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This article is in response to 'Let's wait for this storm to pass' published on Feb. 18.

Have you ever wondered what you would have done during the great conflicts of history? Whether you would have gone to Harpers Ferry with John Brown or urged “law and order?” Whether you would have marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge or read about it later in the papers? Whether you would have walked a picket line with the United Farm Workers or eaten lettuce and grapes despite the boycott?

This weekend, neo-Confederates will march in Oxford. What you do or don't do this weekend is as defining as what others did or didn't do

at other critical moments.

The idea of “waiting out the storm” is reassuring and relaxing. However, it is based on an inaccurate premise. Counterprotesting on behalf of justice, equality and solidarity does not endanger our community's safety; that safety will be violated the second the groups come, whether counterprotesters are present or not. They will certainly not “pass quietly and quickly.”

Rev. William Barber, architect of the modern Poor People's Campaign, has said that we are in the midst of a “Third Reconstruction.” The first two periods of the Reconstruction — the period following the end of the Civil War and the civil rights movement of the 1960s — were met with eruptions of backlash and violence from white people afraid that African-Americans demanding rights would result in the loss of white power and privilege.

Similarly, the white supremacists who will march on Saturday are protesting increased rights and representation. They are invested in their own incorrect perception of history, a history in which, they believe, they rightfully come out on

top. They are willing to use violence to protect their self-image as well as their privilege. They are afraid of being exposed as impotent and incorrect.

Therefore, it is especially important that they be exposed. Allowing them to march unchallenged means forfeiting the opportunity to directly confront their hatred. In Washington, D.C., Atlanta and elsewhere, anti-fascist resistance to fascist rallies has resulted in low or even no turnout among the latter groups. Thus, protesting is not “giving them what they want;” rather, it has been proven to deter them.

I urge those debating whether or not to counterprotest to consider the words of Lerone Bennett Jr., a Mississippian and editor of Ebony Magazine, written in 1964. He was urging white people to take radical action rather than hemming and hawing, which he called the “liberal” course of action.

“The white liberal is the man who was not there in Montgomery and Little Rock and Birmingham; the white liberal is the man who was never there,” he said. “The liberal, as Saul Alinsky,

the brilliant white radical said, is the man who leaves the meeting when the fight begins. ... Empathy: it is this that divides radicals and liberals. Radicals suffer with the oppressed. They feel the blows, they weep, they hunger, they thirst. ... They try in words that are 'half-battles,' to quote Wendell Phillips, to force good people to recognize their complicity in systems of evil.”

We are complicit in the evil of the Hiwaymen and Confederate 901 if we do not confront them. It is not enough to hide. It is absolutely necessary to take a stand.

Because if this is neither the time nor place to fight, what is? You can't hide from Nazis and KKK terrorists today and then somehow emerge tomorrow to “fight against white supremacy” once the white supremacists have gone home. In this context, the words of Hillel (aptly used in the 1960s by John Lewis) seem particularly appropriate: “If not us, who? If not now, when?”

Jaz Brisack is a general studies major from Oxford.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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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



PHOTO: PARKER GALLOWAY

An Honors College student asks keynote speaker Brian Foster a question after his speech last night at the Honors College spring convocation.

He wanted to find what set these people apart and what motivated them.

Following his graduation from the University of Mississippi, Foster began pursuing his graduate degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In the summer of 2014, his research gave him the opportunity to live in Clarksdale and study the ways in which the blues influences and is influenced by the culture of the Mississippi Delta.

“We have to be able to tell who people are to tell who we are,” he said.

Foster’s career brought him back to the University of Mississippi, where his research on the blues continues. After interviewing 316 people for more than 1,000 hours in a variety of settings — from bars to clubs to backyards —

Foster said he is learning how to tell a story.

“Coming back to Mississippi, as a man of color, takes purpose,” he said. “I want to remember just so I can forget, so I can tell stories ... that tell what you’ve done and what you want told.”

Foster then circled back around to his original point: remembering. He remarked that in remembering people find their purpose and told the audience never to cease remembering the past.

Mya Woods, a sophomore biology major, said she loved the authenticity of his speech.

“Convocation isn’t always like this,” Woods said. “It’s normally more formal, more polished. Tonight was raw. It was awesome.”

HOCO

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...y’all will remember the story.”

Honors College Dean Douglas Sullivan-González introduced Foster by speaking about his time as a student and emphasizing the Honors College’s commitment in preparing the next generation of leaders.

“We must continue to cul-

tivate the mind and commit ourselves to the common good,” Sullivan-González said. “Rare is the occasion when I get to see the Barksdale dream come full circle and watch our leaders grow up and come back to the state.”

Foster, who transferred to Ole Miss in 2009, travelled across North Mississippi to meet young black men with hip-hop aspirations for his Honors College dissertation.

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SASI

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the event with the university. Additionally, they did not become a registered student organization on campus until February.

“We didn’t know all of the logistics that was required to do all of this,” Williams said. “We didn’t know we would have to do all of this paperwork to register through the university.”

SASI’s Twitter account sent out a tweet Monday afternoon that read, “The university placed some last-minute restrictions on our group specifically that would prevent our convention from proceeding as planned. Rather than submit to these, we decided to hold the majority of our programming in Memphis with the support of our local allies there.”

According to Stephen Steenwyk, a SASI member, the “last-minute restrictions” placed on SASI’s event concerned the time, place and manner in which they could congregate.

“We were not allowed to demonstrate for any longer than an hour. We had a very strict route we would have had to follow. We weren’t allowed to raise our voices above a certain point, and we couldn’t leave from the sidewalk,” Steenwyk said. “Any violation of these designated rules would have meant we were at risk of immediate termination of our entire convention, which clearly didn’t seem worth the risk.”

Erica McKinley, chief legal officer and general counsel to the university, disputed SASI’s claims on Tuesday. She said she had neither heard of nor received any documents regarding SASI’s conference until Feb. 1.

“I learned the first time then (Feb. 1) that this convention, a USAS convention, had been advertised sometime late November up until current day,” McKinley said.

McKinley said that although SASI was not yet a registered student organization at the time and had not filed the necessary paperwork to hold an event on campus, she was willing to work with the group to help schedule their conference.

“I’m a reasoned person, so arbitrarily saying ‘no’ because they failed to comply with university policy — while it would have been the right thing to do — I was trying to respond to the realities of where we are. Simply put, somebody dropped the ball,” McKinley said.

McKinley met with Quay Williams, Troy Nethers from USAS, UPD chief Ray Hawkins and event planners from the Jackson Avenue Center to facilitate the scheduling of the event, but the attempts were eventually unsuccessful.

“I explained to them it’s not about their viewpoint. I don’t want to get into their messaging,” McKinley said. “I wanted to talk time, place and manner. And we reached agreements about the time they would be in the Jackson



FILE PHOTO: SEMAJ JORDAN

Students protest the Confederate monument in the Circle on Nov. 28, 2018.

Avenue Center, the time they would be on campus for their walking demonstration. (We discussed), literally, water, coffee or tea, and if they needed a laptop or not.”

“We treated USAS no differently than we treated anyone else,” McKinley said.

McKinley said the university offered USAS and SASI a reduced rate for booking their event and agreed to extend dead-

lines in hopes of going forward with the event.

In an email sent from Nethers to McKinley on Friday, Feb. 15, Nethers informed the university that they would no longer be moving forward with their conference in Oxford.

According to their Twitter page, SASI still plans on holding a protest of “Confederate Glorification” at 3 p.m. Friday in Lamar Hall.

The Daily Mississippian ob-

tained a letter Tuesday morning drafted by three university faculty members calling for the university administration to explain why SASI wasn’t allowed to host their conference on campus.

“We demand clarification as to why the university has made it easier for white supremacists to hold a rally on our campus on their own terms, while making it nearly impossible for our own students to host a national conference centering economic, gender and racial justice,” the letter reads. “The students planning the anti-Confederate march for Feb. 22 are our students. They are guided by our faculty and staff.”

The letter additionally calls for the university to cancel the Confederate rally.

UPD coordinated with leaders from both sides of the protest to ensure elevated law-enforcement presence along the route of the march and in the Circle, according to a statement from Chief Hawkins on Monday, Feb. 18.

“UPD has met with organizers of the groups who are preparing for the marches in an effort to create and maintain a safe environment for all,” read the statement. “In addition, we have shared with leaders of each group the university’s expectations concerning the time, place, and manner of their marches, and university policies addressing conduct and weapons. This includes a list of items prohibited on our campus and university policies regarding weapons.”

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PROTESTS
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the counterprotest on Saturday.

Student minority groups are organizing a Black History Month March on Thursday to address the Confederate symbols on campus.

“(The march) will be a pertinent reminder of the work that still needs to be done to move our university forward,” an email sent from the Black Student Union to its members read.

Students Against Social Injustice is organizing a protest against “Confederate glorification” on Friday at 3 p.m. starting at Lamar Hall.

The university announced Monday afternoon that it will hold a “Community Conversation” on Wednesday to address the protests planned for later in the week. Several university administrators officials and administrators will answer students’ and faculty members’ questions at the forum regarding the protest.

“It is an important educational moment for our university community to address challenging issues in a manner that respects freedom of expression,” a statement about the event reads. “Further, we know these events are causing anxiety and concern among members of our uni-

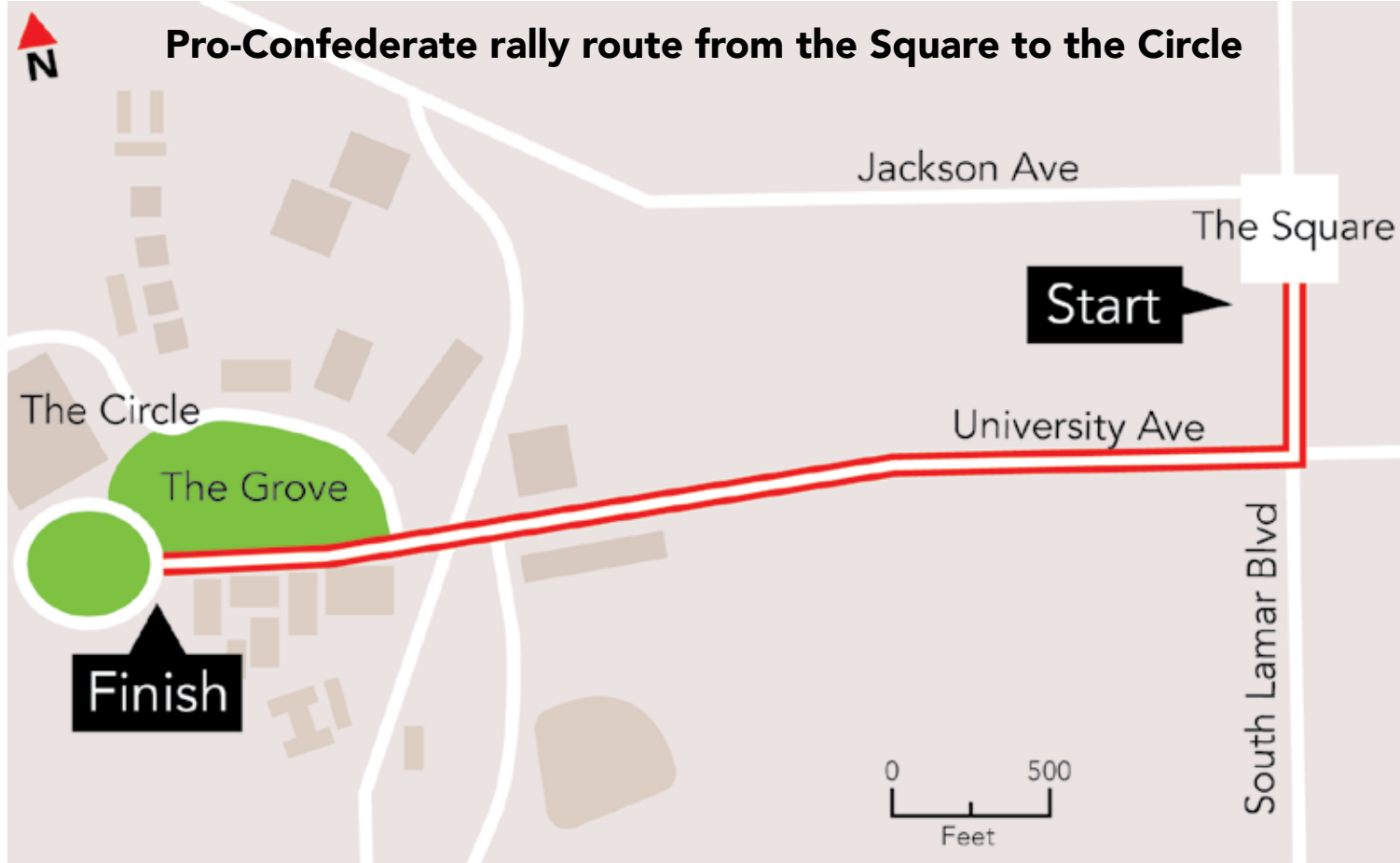


ILLUSTRATION: MACKENZIE LINNEEN

versity community, and we want to provide a supportive community environment to address those concerns.”

The University Police Department has made preparations with local and state law enforcement agencies in advance of the events and marches.

“The best thing you can do to help keep our campus safe is to stay away from this area of campus on Saturday,” UPD

chief Ray Hawkins said in an announcement on Monday.

There are several events scheduled for Saturday in addition to the protests. Vice Chancellor of Intercollegiate Athletics Ross Bjork will be speaking at a town hall event at The Manning Center at 12:30 p.m., the Ole Miss men’s basketball team will play Georgia at home at 2:30 p.m. at The Pavilion and Junior Preview Day, which

typically brings hundreds of prospective students to campus, is scheduled for the same day.

Oxford Mayor Robyn Tannehill expects that the weekend will be peaceful, considering all of the planning that has gone into preparing for it, but still encouraged those present to be mindful of their actions.

“People are watching to see how we respond in these types of events,” Tannehill said.

“I’m not sure that the light that Mississippi is painted in is always correct or flattering, but I do think that Oxford has the opportunity to show the rest of the world how great Mississippi can be.”

The Oxford Police Department and Lafayette County Sheriff’s Office could not be reached for further comment about how they are preparing for the rallies on Saturday.

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FOOTBALL

Luke adds Nix to staff; Sumrall departs for Kentucky

JOSHUA CLAYTON
 THEDMSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

It's one in, one out for the Ole Miss defensive coaching staff. Linebackers coach Jon Sumrall is reportedly leaving Ole Miss to return to his alma mater, Kentucky. Sumrall spent three seasons at Troy and Tulane before being hired at Ole Miss last season. He coached Mohamed Sanoogo, who finished fourth in the SEC in tackles as a sophomore. Sumrall played middle linebacker at Kentucky and led the Wildcats with 72 tackles in his senior season, in 2005.

While the loss of Sumrall will be felt, Ole Miss could be replacing him with a familiar face with plenty of experience.

Former Ole Miss defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix will return to Oxford and join his brother, Derrick, on the coaching staff, according to multiple reports that first surfaced on Monday. Ole Miss has not officially announced

the hire, but Virginia Tech confirmed the report on Monday morning with a tweet including a statement from head coach Justin Fuente.

"We appreciate the contributions that Tyrone Nix has made to our program at Virginia Tech. Our staff wishes Coach Nix and his family the very best as he returns to the state of Mississippi, a place where his family owns very deep ties," Fuente said in the statement. "I certainly understand his desire to return to a place he considers home as well as the opportunity to once again coach with his brother at Ole Miss."

Tyrone Nix spent one season in Blacksburg, Virginia, serving as the safeties coach for the Hokies in 2018. Before that, he worked under Houston Nutt as Ole Miss's assistant head coach, defensive coordinator and linebacker coach from 2008-11. His other stops include his alma mater Southern Miss, South Carolina, Middle Tennessee and Texas A&M.



Head coach Matt Luke greets fans during the Walk of Champions on Oct. 6, 2018. Luke recently hired Tyrone Nix, who previously worked for Ole Miss football from 2008-11, to serve as a defensive coach.

FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

In his first season as the Ole Miss defensive coordinator, Tyrone Nix had the defense ranked 20th in points per game (19.0), 19th in yards per game (307.2), and 4th in rushing yards per game (85.5) behind stand-outs Peria Jerry and Greg Hardy. The team went on to go 8-4 and beat Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl. The next year, after Tyrone Nix was promoted to assistant head coach, the team was 15th in points per game and 20th in yards per game.

He was dismissed along with Nutt in 2011 when Hugh Freeze took over.

Tyrone Nix's brother, Derrick Nix, has served as the running backs coach for the Rebels since

2009 and has coached some of the most productive rushers in Ole Miss history, including Dexter McCluster, Brandon Bolden and Jeff Scott.

Tyrone Nix will help out on the other side of the ball, as he's likely to serve specifically as the outside linebacker coach. With the departure of Wesley McGriff and the hire of Mike MacIntyre as the new defensive coordinator, the Rebels will switch from the 4-3 defense to a scheme based around the 3-4.

Ole Miss let go of co-defensive coordinator and safeties coach Jason Jones last week after employing him for six years. Since the new defensive coordinator, MacIntyre, has a background with coaching defensive backs, he'll

likely take over those duties while Tyrone Nix fills Sumrall's place to convert some of the current backers and defensive ends to more of a stand-up pass-rushing role.

The Ole Miss defense is just one of the many question marks in Oxford for the 2019 season, and it was the overwhelming weakness a season ago. The Landshark defense went hungry last season, ranked No. 121 out of 129 in total defense in the FBS. The Rebels allowed 36.2 points, 261.7 passing yards and 220.7 rushing yards per game in 2018.

Ole Miss now has one more spot on its defensive staff and will look to bring in a coach that can help revive a defense that was once so dominant.

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- 1 Author Harte
 - 5 Emulates Eminem
 - 9 Commoners
 - 14 Country singer McEntire
 - 15 Beige cousin
 - 16 Eagle's nest: var.
 - 17 Strong as
 - 18 Moderately cold
 - 19 Nabisco's _____ Wafers
 - 20 Scarlet bird
 - 22 Dog-houses
 - 24 Young rabbit
 - 26 Eggy drink
 - 27 Lucky charm
 - 30 Toothless
 - 35 Palm fruits
 - 36 Carson's predecessor
 - 37 Pearl Buck heroine
 - 38 Burma's first prime minister
 - 39 Songbird
 - 42 Approved
 - 43 Currency of Turkey, and formerly of Italy
 - 45 _____ Misbehavin'
 - 46 Sleep issue
 - 48 Substantial
- DOWN**
- 1 German sausage
 - 2 Actress Sofer
 - 3 Black, to Blake
 - 4 Subject to tax
 - 5 Of late occurrence
 - 6 Squirrel's prize
 - 7 Major-leaguer
 - 8 Remain sullen
 - 9 Tapered flag
 - 10 Deceiving
 - 11 Author _____ Stanley Gardner
 - 12 Beak
 - 13 Oceans
 - 50 Soundless
 - 51 Night school subj.
 - 52 Research deeply
 - 54 Window over a door
 - 58 Teased
 - 62 Veda devotee
 - 63 Cornerstone abbr.
 - 65 Bestow
 - 66 Radii neighbors
 - 67 Puppeteer Tony
 - 68 _____ go brag!
 - 69 Glaze
 - 70 _____ sow, so shall...
 - 71 Snakelike fishes

SOLUTION TO 2.18.2019 PUZZLE



- 21 Surmise
- 23 January, in Juárez
- 25 Longed for
- 27 Not for kids
- 28 Craze
- 29 One-eighty
- 31 Slender missile
- 32 Unaccompanied
- 33 Captivated (by)
- 34 Conclude (by)
- 36 Bucket
- 40 Picasso or Casals
- 41 Forgo
- 44 To-do lists
- 47 Promise recipient
- 49 Flows out
- 50 Heavy hammer
- 53 Diary bit
- 54 Ruffian
- 55 Small brook
- 56 Part of A.D.
- 57 Small plateau
- 59 Italian bread?
- 60 Heinous
- 61 Reading rooms
- 64 Airline to Oslo

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

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
NOVICE

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

TRACK AND FIELD

The story of Waleed Suliman, from Jordan to Oxford

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As he crossed the finish line at the David Hemery Valentine Invite, Waleed Suliman may not have realized it, but he had just broken the Ole Miss record for the fastest mile ever run. His time of 3:56.78 is the fastest mile time in the entire NCAA this season.

Suliman has been making strides in the track and field world since his move to the United States in 2014, though not without his share of hurdles.

Suliman's family is originally from Sudan in Northern Africa. His father, raised in Darfur, came to know a world that wouldn't accept him. Racial discrimination made it difficult for the elder Suliman to make a name for himself in his home country.

Suliman's father eventually settled in Jordan and filed for protection with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2006, hoping to secure documentation for himself and his family to move to either Australia or the United States.

"The main reason my dad actually did that is he wanted us to have a better education," Suliman said.

Suliman attended a Jordanian high school and eventually left after his sophomore year to start his career at Douglas S. Freeman High School in Richmond, Virginia, running for the Freeman Rebels.

"(In Jordan) we had (English) classes in high school, middle school and elementary school, but we honestly didn't care about it," Suliman said.

With only a basic knowledge of the English language at his disposal, Suliman came to the U.S. and found it difficult to make friends due to the language barrier.

"I joined a cross-country team, and I realized I actually could not communicate with any of them," Suliman said. "As a foreigner who doesn't speak the dominant language, it's really hard for you to make friends or actually establish yourself within the community."

Before he arrived in Virginia, Suliman had never thought of running either track or cross-country. He was approached by the coach of a local cross-country club team five months before he and his family left for the U.S.

"I was playing soccer," Suliman said. "A club coach came up to me and said, 'You seem like you're pretty good, and you have really good form. Why don't you try and run with me in the club — I'll be your coach,' and I was like, 'I'll try it out. I've got nothing to do.'"



PHOTO COURTESY: TOM CONNELLY

Waleed Suliman runs in the David Hemery Valentine Invitational in Boston. He broke the Ole Miss record for fastest mile time.

From that day forward, Suliman's life wouldn't be the same.

Suliman said he is thankful that he joined the cross-country team. Without it, he may not have ever learned English. The team pushed him to learn English, and this led him to take English as a second language class in school.

"During runs, we would talk, and I would learn a word or two," Suliman said. "We'd always joke about me messing up something, and it always stayed in my mind like, 'Alright, I cannot make that same mistake again, or I'm gonna get roasted.'"

While in high school, Suliman won 10 state meets, was recognized as a high school All-American twice, secured a position as a Foot Locker Nationals finalist twice, was named Gatorade State Runner of the Year in 2017

and broke the Richmond-area records for the mile, the 1,600-meter and the 5K, all of which he still holds.

All of this recognition created quite an interest in his talents, and by his junior year, Suliman was a highly sought after athlete. After the Foot Locker Nationals, Suliman said, programs began to reach out.

Initially, he was interested in North Carolina State University, citing a personable coach and a cohesive team of friends as major factors in his decision.

"Then senior year came," Suliman said. "Things just got different."

Once Suliman was eligible to receive calls from NCAA coaches, his phone rang constantly, driving him to question his solid positioning with NC State. One of these calls was from Ole Miss coach

Ryan Vanhoy.

Vanhoy invited Suliman to Oxford, took him to a football game and gave him a tour of the town.

Following the visit, Suliman went on an official visit to NC State, and the magic was seemingly lost. He didn't like the way the team ran on the streets, and he noticed the culture of the team just wasn't what he expected.

Suliman knew that Ole Miss would be the best fit for him, but his parents thought otherwise.

Given Mississippi's dark past of racial tension, Suliman's Sudanese family did not think Ole Miss would be the place for him. They told him he wasn't allowed to go to Ole Miss after he said he would commit in the coming months.

He called Coach Vanhoy, who visited Suliman's Richmond home to speak to his family. They still were not convinced.

Suliman told his parents he was going to Ole Miss despite their skepticism. Thirty minutes after their conversation, he committed to run for the Rebels, and he does not regret it.

"Honestly, I got things here I actually never thought I would be able to get," Suliman said.

He mentioned that he has had no issue with race relations at the school and said that he has experienced nothing but friendship within the Ole Miss Cross Country program.

"He's a really funny kid," his teammate Mark Robertson said. "He is really good, and he always had been, but he's so down to earth, which I didn't expect when he first came in."

Much like his decorated high school career, Suliman continues to make a name running for the Rebels. Suliman has been named to the SEC All-Freshman and second team All-American teams during his short time in Oxford.

"There were a lot of things that he had to do. A lot of hoops to jump through just to get to campus here," Vanhoy said. "As great of a story as he has had here so far, it almost never happened."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rebels stumble down stretch, fall to Gamecocks 79-64

FLINT CHRISTIAN

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Ole Miss men's basketball lost to the South Carolina Gamecocks 79-64 on Tuesday night in Columbia, South Carolina, putting the Rebels at 18-8 (8-5) on the year with five games left in the regular season.

The Rebels began the game on a 13-2 run before the Gamecocks responded with a 16-0 run of their own. After staring down 40-32 halftime deficit, Ole Miss slowly and surely chipped away at the distance before tying the game at 61-61 with 6:15 to play thanks to a string of critical jumpers from Blake Hinson and Breein Tyree.

South Carolina went on a 14-2 run in the next 3:27 to put the game away for good, with Hassani Gravett hitting a dagger three-pointer to put the Gamecocks up 75-63 with just under three minutes to play.

Ole Miss dropped to 8-5 in conference play and is fifth in conference standings after the loss. South Carolina moved to 14-12 overall and 9-4 in the conference, now holding sole possession of fourth place in the SEC standings — a position the teams were tied for before their matchup last night.

Ole Miss struggled from deep throughout the game, making just



Ole Miss guard Terence Davis dribbles the ball during the game against the South Carolina Gamecocks last night. Davis scored 18 points over the course of the game.

5-of-23 shots from beyond the arc while South Carolina knocked down 9-of-19 three-pointers.

Ole Miss struggled down the stretch, not scoring a field goal in the final six minutes of the game. Ole Miss's only points came from the line, courtesy of Tyree and Dominik Olejniczak.

The Rebels were led by Terence Davis and Tyree with 18 and 17 points, respectively. K.J. Buffen led the team with eight rebounds while shooting a perfect 3-for-3

from the field.

Devontae Shuler had a cold night in his return to his home state, as he only put up six points on seven shots from the field. Shuler did, however, contribute seven rebounds and high energy on the defensive end.

South Carolina forward Chris Silva led the Gamecocks with 18 points and three blocks, as he began to outmatch the Ole Miss big men to lead the Gamecocks' late-second-half run. The Ole

Miss big men struggled with fouls all game, as Olejniczak fouled out and Bruce Stevens and Hinson each had four fouls.

Freshman guard A.J. Lawson played a crucial role throughout the game for South Carolina, putting up 15 points, nine rebounds, six assists and three steals. South Carolina guard Hassani Gravett also dropped in 15 points and four three-pointers off the bench.

South Carolina played patiently in the face of Kermit Davis's zone

defense, which the Rebels have relied on throughout the year to create turnovers and offense. Ole Miss was on the wrong side of its normally positive turnover margin. South Carolina forced nine steals to the Rebels' three, although the overall turnover margin was only -1 for the Rebels.

The Rebels will look to continue building their resume for the NCAA Tournament selection committee when they play Georgia on Saturday at The Pavilion.

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