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11-9-2017

November 9, 2017

The Daily Mississippian

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The Daily Mississippian, "November 9, 2017" (2017). *Daily Mississippian (all digitized issues)*. 224.
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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDOnline.com @thedm_news

Baptist Memorial Hospital unveils new building



PHOTOS BY: RACHEL ISHEE

TOP: The Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi offered a tour and served refreshments to the public at the new location after a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday. BOTTOM: Bill Henning, administrator and CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi, speaks at the ceremony.

RACHEL ISHEE
NEWS EDITOR

Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi unveiled its new location with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday.

The five-story, 602,831-square-foot facility is set to open at 5 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, on Belk Boulevard in Oxford. The \$300 million hospital will include larger patient rooms, an expanded emergency department, additional surgical suites and operating rooms and advanced technology and equipment.

“We were able to make some changes that reflect new technology but also increase the comfort of our patients and their families,” Bill Henning, administrator and CEO of Baptist North Mississippi, said. “We’ve increased the size of the emergency room and the (intensive care unit), and we’ve improved the design for the access to outpatient services and procedures.”

He said the hospital has increased its number of operating rooms and introduced new technology.

“So much of the technology is really designed around patients’ needs going forward, particularly information technology, infrastructure and the ability to really

expand our capabilities,” Henning said.

Henning, whose role was to oversee the project and facilitate decisions that would keep the project on time and in budget, said the ability to build a new building from the ground up offered the opportunity to build a hospital Oxford and the surrounding area truly needed.

“Ten years ago, our current hospital was dealing with the challenge of being landlocked, with no room to expand and operating in a facility that was designed 30 years ago,” Henning said. “But sometimes challenges bring unique opportunities.”

Increased privacy for patients and their families is also an aspect that the 217-bed hospital is proud to have updated.

“Our hospice rooms now include adjoining private family rooms so the patient’s family can be with their loved ones in a more comfortable setting,” Henning said.

Although the patients and physicians will be moved to the new hospital by the end of November, the hospital’s current building, located on South Lamar, will not be left vacant. The university purchased the current hospital building to address

SEE HOSPITAL PAGE 3

Local food pantries prepare for holiday season

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

As the holidays approach, food pantries on campus and in the Oxford-Lafayette County community seek increases in donations. The Pantry, located on Molly Barr Road, serves many citizens during the holidays — around 1,500 people during November and December.

Volunteers are the only people responsible for stocking the pantry with food and distributing the food items to those in need.

Churches from all denominations and religions and other philanthropic organizations take turns volunteering each month, working Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. November and December are The Pantry’s busiest months.

The volunteers don’t receive any payment or benefits other than enjoying helping out their fellow neighbors and citizens during a time of need.

“We welcome volunteers,” said Carol Wedge, co-manager of The Pantry. “At

least 12 people volunteer at the pantry every day, and it helps a lot.”

Wedge started volunteering 16 years ago, when she realized her church was involved with the local mission project. Ever since, Wedge has continued to donate her time to The Pantry.

“I started working with my church on days off from my job,” Wedge said. “Volunteering is just how my parents raised me.”

Sometimes, the food pantry recipients are senior cit-

SEE FOOD PANTRY PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: XINYI SONG

The Ole Miss Food Bank provides food to students in need, hoping to decrease hunger on campus. It relies on volunteers and donations to keep it running. The bank is located in Kinard Hall 213, and there are grab-and-go bags at the front door for students to pick up when it’s closed.

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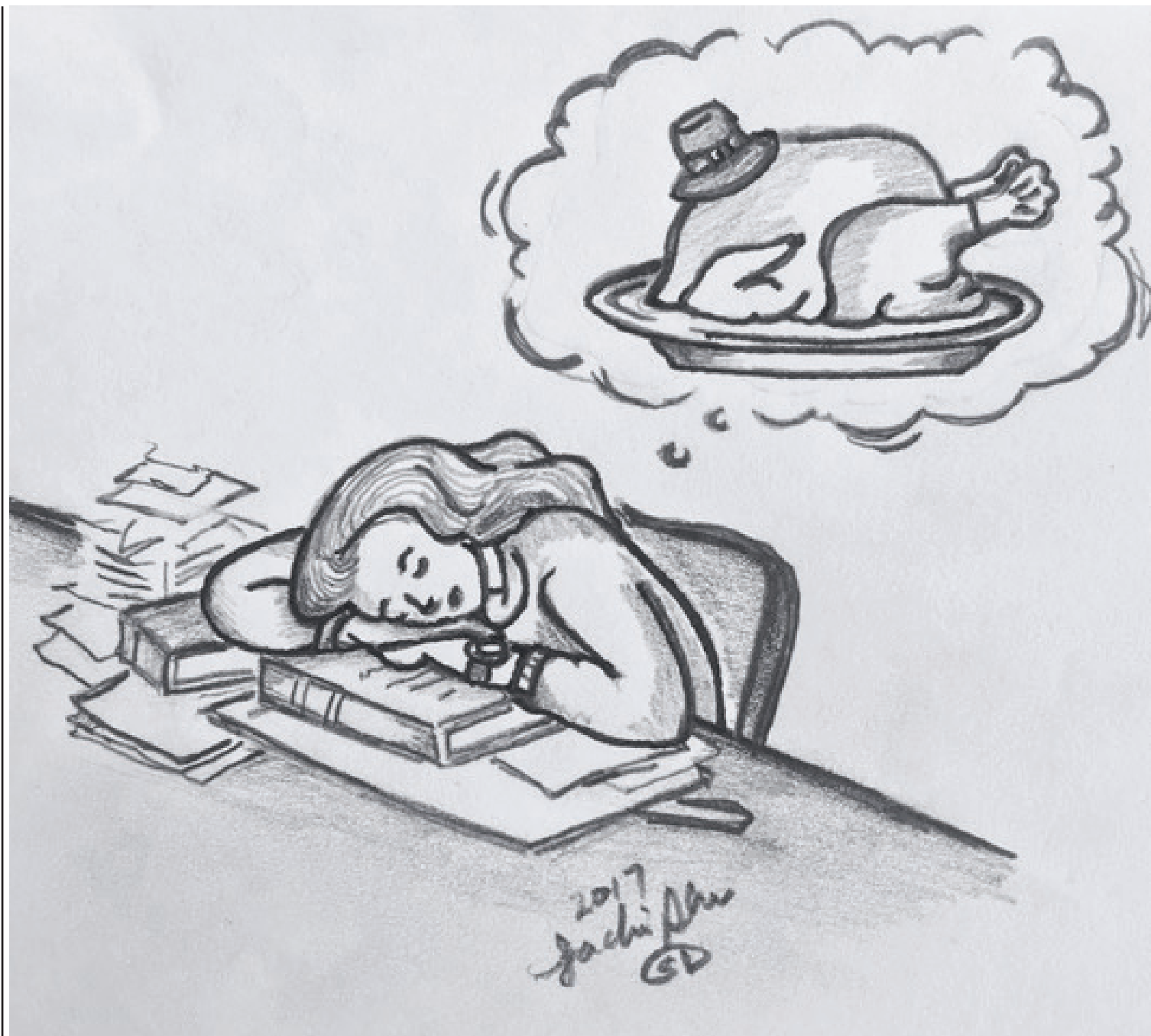
Food, food, food

Find a new favorite with our resident podcast expert
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Football relies on youth against ULL

Underclassmen will lead the way for both teams Saturday as the season winds down
SEE THEDMONLINE.COM

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The opinion piece titled “This Reformation Day, keep reforming” was primarily about problems the author saw with beliefs and practices of different Christian groups. While I agreed with some points and disagreed with others, I think it is beneficial to have discussions and to think critically about important issues, such as religion.

However, there was a portion of the article that does not encourage those discussions. The article stated:

“The majority of Christians and the overwhelming majority of white evangelicals voted for Donald Trump, therefore signaling at least some approval of his morally repugnant policies that discriminate against differences, disregard the common man and ignore those dependent on the government to simply survive.

“You don’t have to be a New Testament scholar to realize this isn’t in line with the philosophy of a biblical Jesus.”

These statements are akin to saying, “If you voted for Trump, then you are a bad person and not following the Bible.” These types of comments seek to silence people of opposing views, not encourage thoughtful discussion. This is one of the greatest problems in our political discourse today. How can we have discussions about tough issues where we disagree when each side accuses the other of being bad people? Why should I look for common ground with a bad person? Instead, it’s better to assume people are decent human beings who have bad ideas if we are hoping to change their minds about something.

The author calls for people to “ask hard questions,” and I think that is good advice. I just think people might be more open to asking those hard questions if they’re not first accused of being bad people.

Weston Locastro is a civil engineering graduate student from Collierville, Tennessee.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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P.O. Box 1848
University, MS
38677-1848

Main Number: 662.915.5503
Business Hours: Monday-Friday,
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

ISSN 1077-8667

The Daily Mississippian is published Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays in print during the academic year, on days when classes are scheduled. New content is published online seven days a week.

Columns do not represent the official opinions of The University of Mississippi or *The Daily Mississippian* unless specifically indicated.

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



PHOTOS BY: RACHEL ISHEE

The Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi offered the public a tour through the new hospital Wednesday.

HOSPITAL continued from page 1

space allocation challenges and projected growth needs. The recent growth in Oxford and Lafayette County is one of the primary reasons why the new hospital was needed.

“As growth has continued to go, this facility was just the next iteration of what was necessary to take the best care of the community,” Jason Little, president and CEO for Baptist Memorial Health Care, said.

While the town’s growing

population proved it was necessary to expand the hospital, Larry Little, the president of the Board of Directors for Baptist North Mississippi, said the building would not have been possible without the strong leadership in the Oxford community.

“We are part of a community that moves forward in a manner that is not typical of other communities of our size,” Little said. “We’re not a confluence of any great waterway like the Mississippi River. We’re not at any great railway crossing like in Memphis. We’re not at the crossroads of any major in-

terstate system, but what we lack in geographical location we gained in leadership.”

Mayor Robyn Tannehill said she believes the new hospital will be a great addition to not only the Oxford community but also the rest of north Mississippi.

“In my opinion, Oxford is the crown jewel of Mississippi,” Tannehill said. “Oxford, Lafayette County and the University of Mississippi are leaders in state growth, in quality of life, in public educations and certainly in healthcare.”

She said she sees the hospital as a gift to the community, and that it will bring

a new era of patient care to Oxford and the region.

“(The hospital) represents the single largest economic development in Oxford and Lafayette County ever,” Tannehill said. “It represents job opportunities, expanded care for all of our citizens, and it represents a commitment by Baptist Memorial Hospital to provide the best health care there is to offer our citizens.”

Jeff Busby, the president of the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors, shared similar admiration for the new building.

“This hospital will be a great asset to Oxford and

Lafayette County for many years to come,” Busby said. “It will be the new standard for health care in our region and a vital economic development component that we will all benefit from.”

The new hospital will also be used as a tool to bring more physicians into the area.

“It’s going to allow us to recruit additional physicians and provides the ability to provide better access for patients,” Henning said. “This really provides the infrastructure to be able to meet the needs of the community as health care changes over time.”

FOOD PANTRY continued from page 1

izens who are on fixed incomes and may not be able to afford groceries on a regular basis.

“They have to choose between a prescription and food some weeks, and we don’t want them to go without their medicine,” Wedge said.

In addition to in-person volunteering, The Pantry needs donations of healthy canned goods.

Wedge said peanut butter, soup, pasta, canned fruit, canned meat and spaghetti noodles are the things most

needed right now. These items are among the most requested and are often some of the first to run out.

Mike Williams, a member of Oxford Church of Christ, has been donating time and resources to The Pantry for as long as he can remember, and said he loves it. Every November, Williams and his team of volunteers help with The Pantry.

“We try to make (The Pantry) as much like a grocery store as possible,” Williams said. “I really enjoy interacting with different people and serving others and seeing a smile on their face.”

Williams said contributing to local causes is extremely important.

“The most important thing I can tell people is to volunteer and donate in whatever way you can,” Williams said. “Whether that be with a fraternity or sorority, a church or on your own, please volunteer.”

On campus, the Ole Miss Food Bank in Kinard Hall serves around 75 students a month. It also seeks donations for the holidays.

The food bank works to ensure students use the bank, but it also makes certain to protect their identities. The only requirement is that students show their student IDs, but their ID numbers and names are not recorded.

While on-campus events

and initiatives benefit the food bank, they are often not enough to fulfill all of its needs.

“We almost always have people doing canned food drives, which is good, but we do need other things,” said Kate Childers, co-director of the Ole Miss Food Bank.

The food bank puts together grab-and-go bags with meals for students to get when the food bank isn’t open.

Childers said the Ole Miss Food Bank is currently in need of frozen meals, cereals, pasta and peanut butter.



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'IX' explores student experiences with Title IX

MADDIE BECK
STAFF WRITER

Organizations and movements, such as Rebels Against Sexual Assault and the It's On Us campaign, help shed light and share information on the topic of sexual assault. Adding to the narrative is the student-run theatre organization Ghostlight Repertory Theatre.

Senior public policy leadership and theatre arts major John Brahan's original play "IX" discusses the issues of consent, rape and the Title IX process. The show's name comes from Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in any educational institution receiving federal funding.

The play features students' views on an incident of sexual

assault and their experiences with the Title IX office. Their stories are told in flashback as the characters recount the evening with their friends and search for the facts in their inebriated memories.

As part of his enrollment in the Honors College, Brahan had to write a thesis, and said his experiences on campus led him to this topic.

"Around my junior year, I decided to write a play, but I was really struggling with what to write it on," Brahan said. "Through my experiences as vice president of standards of the Interfraternity Council and getting introduced to Title IX, I noticed the differing views of what consent is, according to policy and according to cultural perceptions. I knew then what to write my play on."

Brahan, an alumnus of Sig-

ma Chi Fraternity, was an active member during the Derby Days controversy in 2016. Several members of the fraternity had reportedly asked inappropriate questions and made crude comments in the interviews of sorority queen contestants during its annual philanthropy event.

Additionally, Clay Wooley, a senior mechanical engineering major who was president of Sigma Chi during the events, designed the show's sets.

"This play is really a culmination of my experiences and the experiences of my friends here at Ole Miss in a lot of different facets," Brahan said.

Junior theatre arts major Kaelee Albritton, who plays the female lead, Claire, attests to the idea of personal connection with the script.

"It's interesting playing this character, because she's so much like us," Albritton said. "The things she's gone through and some of the things she's experienced are things I and others have gone through."

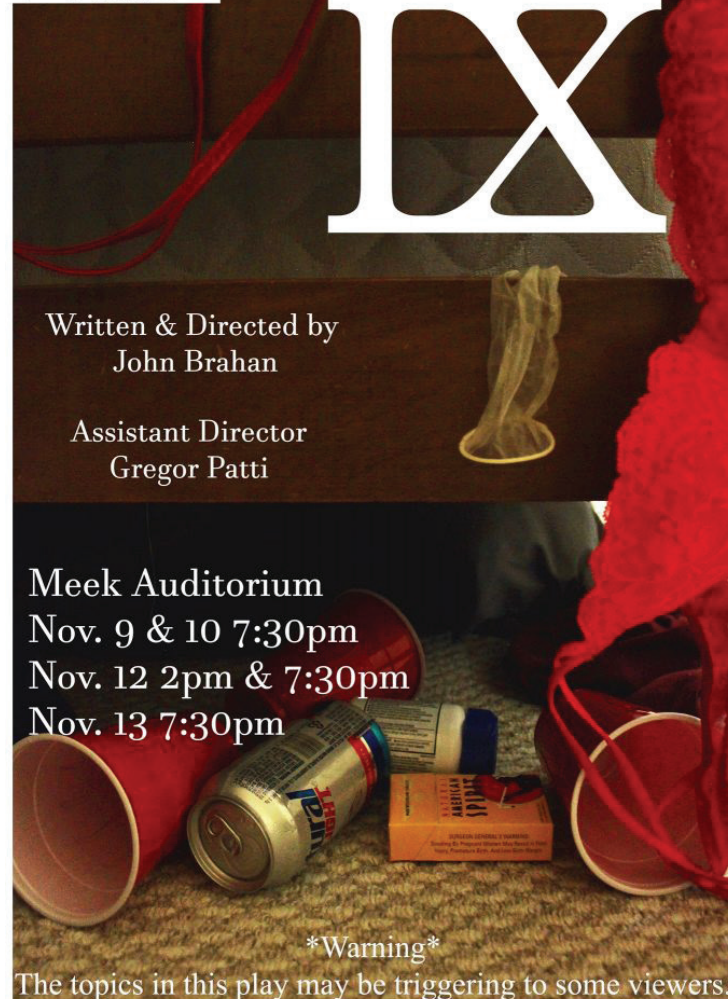
Despite the character's relatability, Albritton said she still finds her role challenging.

"It's still hard sometimes to get in touch with those feelings because we tend to put up those walls when we're on this topic," she said. "I have to break those down and really reach the audience by re-experiencing those emotions."

Scotty Givhan, a junior English major, plays Jake, the best friend of the person accused in the show.

"The lines between what consent is and what it isn't are blurred in culture and law," Givhan said. "In California, they just passed a law

ghostlight
repertory
theatre



Written & Directed by
John Brahan

Assistant Director
Gregor Patti

Meek Auditorium
Nov. 9 & 10 7:30pm
Nov. 12 2pm & 7:30pm
Nov. 13 7:30pm

Warning

The topics in this play may be triggering to some viewers.

PHOTO COURTESY: FACEBOOK



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that if you have any sort of intoxication, it's rape, but in other places, it's up for debate. So it's a real spectrum countrywide, and I think that's an important discussion."

Sexual assault on college campuses has been a recurring national discussion for the past few years, with cases like the settled lawsuit of a rape allegation against former Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston and the 2016 case of *The People v. Brock Turner* looming large in the news.

So far, there have been five reported cases of sexual assault on Ole Miss' Oxford campus this semester. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), statistics show that only 20 percent of those assaulted file a report, suggesting that instances of sexual assault this semester may have been underreported on the Ole Miss campus.

This past September, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos did away with a government policy that concerned college sexual assault, saying that getting rid of the policy gives universities more liberty in deciding how to manage sexual assault cases and provides more rights to the accused students.

Conversations regarding issues with laws and processes are things Brahan wants to amplify through "IX."

"The purpose of the play is to explore legal definitions of consent and incapacitation and the Title IX pro-

cess," Brahan said. "There's a core policy component to the show. I want people to see what happens if you go through Title IX. They can see the effect, see what can happen when you have drunk sex with someone."

Although the play integrates policy and process deeply into its writing, "IX" also intends to evoke emotion and provide insight some audiences may not have considered.

"It starts a lot of conversation that needs to be talked about," Sabastian Burks, a sophomore theatre arts major who plays the Title IX coordinator, Mr. Williams, said. "Sexual assault is something happening often, and it should be discussed, I feel as though especially in Southern culture."

Alexis Simon, a senior theatre arts major who plays Sydney in the show, said she hopes the play helps people understand sexual assault and how much work went into the creation of "IX."

"I also want those who might be triggered by the play to know that there are people they can talk to and that people are there to support them," Simon said.

The show runs Thursday through Sunday in the Meek Auditorium. Showtimes vary, and tickets are available for purchase on the Ghostlight Repertory Theatre website.

"In a nutshell, I want people to see the show and see themselves in it," Brahan said. "I want them to check their actions."

PODCASTS of the week

ETHEL MWEDZIWENDIRA
DESIGN EDITOR

For those interested in stories surrounding the food culture, the foods we consume, recipes to try for the holidays, how certain cultures have affected regions in the U.S. and across the world or what they served during Franklin D. Roosevelt's time in the White House, prepare to turn into a foodie with this list. Grab a fork – I mean headphones – and get ready to feast:

GRAVY



PHOTO COURTESY: SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

"Gravy," presented by the Southern Foodways Alliance, showcases the evolution of food in the South through new and old traditions. The biweekly podcast takes on a dynamic form of storytelling through the foods we eat in a broad, cultural perspective. For people who may not live in the South or be immersed in Southern food culture, "Gravy" examines ways food has shaped Southern culture by giving a voice to people who serve these Southern meals, like immigrants, farmers and food scientists. It's thought-provoking and original, digging into how race,

faith and sexuality affect not only the region but also the entire U.S. Whether the episode shares tales of the best barbecue spot or how Korean restaurants have shaped the South, this series will leave you appreciating Southern cuisine and its diversity.

BURNT TOAST



PHOTO COURTESY: BURNT TOAST

My British grandma used to go on rants about why the British loved burnt toast and how it's good for you, and when I discovered this podcast, I thought it would do just that – reiterate everything my grandma told me. But, in fact, the podcast, hosted by James Beard Award-nominated producer Kenzi Wilbur, is a conversation of stories for foodies about cooking topics and everything about the food culture. It also gives history lessons within the food industry, like the history of the rotisserie machine known as the Roto-Broil

400 or what they served for dinner in Franklin D. Roosevelt's

White House. The content is interesting, and it's not your typical food podcast about recipes; it tells stories, and the host makes it interesting and informative. Make sure to listen to my personal favorites: "Meet the Inventor of the Roto-Broil 400" and "The Worst Food in White House History."

GO FORK YOURSELF



PHOTO COURTESY: TWITTER

Andrew Zimmern is the guy you call whenever you want to try something out of your comfort zone. You can expect a discussion on the scale of a TED Talk, with Zimmern giving countless descriptive details about the best snail caviar in town. His advice does not disappoint – most of the time. He's a chef, author and host of "Bizarre Foods," so it's obvious he knows what he's talking about. In his podcast with co-host Molly Mogren, the two talk about the impact food and travel have on the world today. They interview the most prominent chefs and travel experts in the food

industry and provide hilarious insight. Though the two have not

released an episode in more than two years, the podcast is classic and timeless. I've always been a fan of Zimmern, and the podcast shows his spunky personality. The podcast is essentially synonymous to watching the Food Network, and it shows both hosts' knowledge surrounding international food.

SPILLED MILK



PHOTO COURTESY: SPILLED MILK

Every week, comedians Molly Wizenberg and Matthew Amster-Burton give the right amount of expertise and humor about all things food-related. Through their constant jokes, the podcast entertains listeners with food history, recipes and cooking tips. You'll probably spend half of your time listening to the podcast laughing, but it will have you thinking about what makes gingersnaps crunchy or molasses chewy. It may also give you good recipes to try out for the holiday season, like roast chicken, or cocktails to make, like Bloody Marys. In all honesty, this show has reminded me why I enjoy baking and trying new recipes – though I may get frustrated doing so at times.

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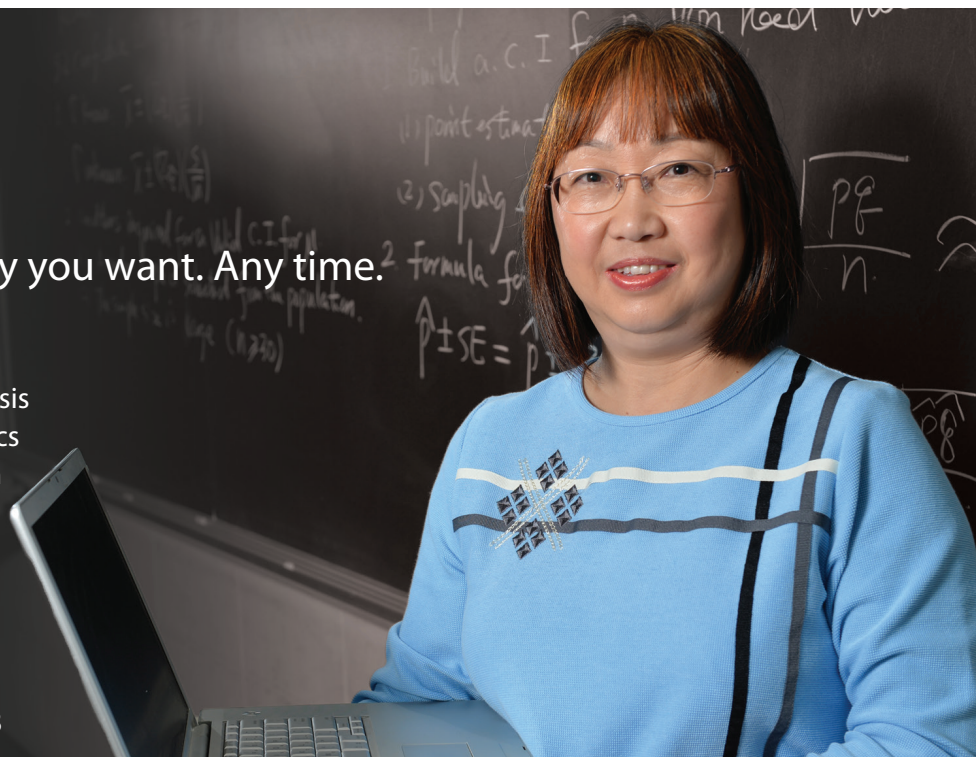
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COLUMN

Ole Miss football: Potential comeback in sight

JOHN MACON GILLESPIE
STAFF WRITER

Why did you come to Ole Miss? Was it because of a scholarship, the campus or an area of study? Could it have been the location, the athletic traditions or tailgating?

Whatever the reason, something brought you here.

It's no secret that the University of Mississippi sells itself not just to students but also to student-athletes. It's not hard to imagine someone wanting to come to Oxford to play a Division I, SEC-caliber sport. Consistently named one of the most beautiful campuses and tailgating locations in America, offering a solid education and superb athletic facilities, it sounds like a nice setup.

However, with the cloud of controversy that has sur-

rounded Rebel football for the past couple of seasons, it is not uncommon to feel uneasy about the state of the program and its ability to recruit. Of course, an NCAA investigation is tough to sell, especially when there is the possibility of another year of postseason ineligibility coming down the pipe.

The mainstream opinion is that when the investigation concludes, the Ole Miss football program will be forced to endure more than it already has. Coupled with the inconsistency of the Rebels' play this season, that is a tough hole to dig out of right away.

But what happens if things play out differently and the Committee on Infractions determines the program has suffered enough?

If a mass exodus of players is not brought on by NCAA sanctions, one could conclude



FILE PHOTO: TAYLOR TEEL

Breeland Speaks celebrates after sacking Arkansas' quarterback in a game earlier this season.

that Ole Miss could be poised for a comeback on the grid-iron sooner rather than later. The Rebels are graduating a mere 12 seniors this season, and a large majority of team talent (especially on offense) comes from underclassmen. Sure, some of the Rebels' games have not been pretty, and this team is not the best the campus has ever seen, but what is often overlooked is the lack of the team's experience.

Ole Miss is currently led by a JUCO-transfer quarterback in Jordan Ta'amu, and before that, it was led by true sophomore Shea Patterson. None of Ole Miss' five leading receivers are seniors, and although running back Jordan Wilkins

exhausts his eligibility this season, he is backed up by capable rushers Eric Swinney and D'Vaughn Pennamon.

While the offense is poised to keep rolling, the majority of Ole Miss' problems come from the defense. Although the Landshark D is losing key pieces like senior leaders Marquis Haynes and DeMarquis Gates this season, other leading Rebel tacklers still have at least one year of eligibility remaining. That being said, a lack of successful position recruiting is what led to the decline of the Ole Miss defense, and there are glaring holes that need to be filled. With the right personnel in charge of the program, that trend could change quickly.

As the search for the next head coach continues, an emphasis needs to be placed on the ability to recruit. Whoever steps into this uneasy situation in Oxford has a lot of material to lure athletes to the program, and — barring harsher penalties from the NCAA — that person will already have a lot of maturing talent to work with.

The foundation for success has been built, but the question lies in whether it is strong enough to weather the storm. If athletics director Ross Bjork can successfully right the ship and hire a talented head coach with the ability to recruit, Ole Miss football could get brighter in a hurry.

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19 Gillette razors
20 Writing above a letter
23 Ovid, e.g.
24 A really big shoe?
25 Hot tub
28 Pollen producers
31 Summer drink
34 Killer whales
36 Granola bit
37 Approved
38 In spite of
42 Bacchanalian cry
43 Dawn goddess
44 Spine-tingling
45 Sun. speech
46 Treating very gently
49 Mornings, for short
50 Univ. aides
51 ___ d'etat
53 County in central England
60 Freshen, as a stamp pad
61 Side
62 Suffix with buck
63 Beetle Bailey's boss
64 Pond organism
65 In a minute
66 Cornered
67 Film spool
68 Tolkien tree creatures

DOWN
1 ET transports
2 List from which to choose
3 Alka-Seltzer sound
4 Throat bug
5 Hunting dog
6 Spewed matter
7 Roseanne, once
8 ... ___ saw Elba
9 Declares
10 Bandleader Shaw
11 Poi source
12 Volunteer's words
13 Some MIT grads
21 Big name in vermouth
22 Five: Prefix
25 Loudness units
26 Establish as the truth
27 Thespian
29 Like rocks in a stream
30 Use, consume
31 Director Kurosawa
32 Fabric of jeans
33 Perimeters
35 Feeling of being overwhelmed
37 Form of poem, often used to praise something
39 Poke fun at
40 Fireplace shelf
41 Old Ethiopian emperor
46 Financed
47 Glacial period
48 Usual
50 Slight trace
52 Aspect
53 Cordelia's father
54 Land of shamrocks
55 The closest one to us is the sun
56 Prefix with conference
57 Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9
58 Dig like a pig
59 Ages and ages
60 They appear before U

SOLUTION TO 11.8.2017 PUZZLE

1	R	E	B	A	15	L	A	S	19	S	W	A	M						
2	A	L	L	S	16	H	O	S	20	T	A	R	A						
3	N	A	O	S	17	E	S	S	21	D	R	E	G						
4	I	N	C	O	18	C	O	M	22	M	A	E							
5					19	R	O	T	23	E	A	V	E						
6	20	E	N	T	24	R	A	P	25	A	R	M	A	D	A				
7	21	A	A	U	22	E	D	E	23	N	S	24	E	R	O	D	E		
8	25	E	T	T	26	A	S	E	27	A	T	S	28	Y	V	E	S		
9	29	S	A	C	30	R	A	D	31	K	E	E	32	P	S	33	E	L	S
10	34	T	R	A	35	D	E	S	36	P	I	E	37	R	E				
11	38	A	T	A	39	T	A	T	40	D	A	H							
12	41	E	T	C	42	M	A	K	43	E	B	E	44	L	I	E	45	V	E
13	46	D	U	K	47	E	T	A	48	S	E	R	49	N	C	A	R		
14	50	I	N	E	51	S	S	L	52	A	T	S	53	A	R	I	L		
15	54	T	A	R	55	P			56	E	I	S	57	L	U	N	E		

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

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

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

CFP rankings face another season-shaking weekend

LOGAN CONNER
STAFF WRITER

We were introduced to the first College Football Playoff rankings of the year last Tuesday, and now, a week later, we're digesting the chaos that followed. After a huge win against Penn State (then-No. 2 CFP), Ohio State was obliterated on the road against Iowa 55-24 and was eliminated from the playoff race, and Penn State failed to bounce back and took a loss at Michigan State 27-24. Alabama survived a challenge against LSU, Clemson and Oklahoma battled their ways to victory on the road and each of the remaining undefeated teams kept its perfect season intact.

For the second consecutive week, Georgia remains atop the CFP rankings and is followed by Alabama, Notre Dame, Clemson and Oklahoma, who round out the top five. After defeating Texas at home, TCU jumped up two spots to No. 6 CFP. After being ranked below Wisconsin, Miami jumped three spots and the Badgers to find itself sitting at No. 7 CFP. Meanwhile, Wisconsin only moved up to No. 8 CFP. Sneaking back into the playoff conversation are Washington and Auburn, who moved up into the top 10 for the first time this year.

With a plethora of season-defining matchups this weekend, the playoff outlook will either become clearer or be flipped upside down.

In what are arguably their

biggest tests of 2017, Georgia travels to Auburn, Alabama, for a potential SEC championship precursor, and Miami (No. 7 CFP) will host Notre Dame (No. 3 CFP), whose only loss came by one point to the top-ranked Bulldogs. The third top 10 game of the weekend will see TCU face Heisman-frontrunner Baker Mayfield's Oklahoma team for what could be a Big 12 Championship preview. For all six teams, a loss could be lethal to their playoff hopes.

Other big movers in the most recent playoff rankings are USC, who jumped six spots to No. 11 CFP; Michigan State, who leaped an incredible 12 spots to No. 12 CFP; and Washington State, who moved from No. 25 CFP to No. 19 CFP. Ohio State dropped seven spots and fell out of the top 10 to No. 13 CFP, and Penn State followed suit, landing at No. 14 CFP. Iowa State was also amongst the fallen, dropping six spots after its loss to West Virginia. Iowa State will have a chance for redemption at home against Oklahoma State (No. 15 CFP) in what could be a "winner advances to the Big 12 Championship" matchup Saturday.

In other stiff tests for top 25 teams, an injury-plagued Alabama team travels to Starkville to face Mississippi State (No. 16 CFP), and undefeated Wisconsin hosts Iowa (No. 20 CFP), who is coming off of a home-field massacre of Ohio State. Hoping to bounce back from their deflating defeat, the Buckeyes host a surging Spartan team,



PHOTO COURTESY: AP PHOTO | JOHN BAZEMORE

Georgia defensive back Malkom Parrish (14) wears the "Dawg Spikes" as he is carried off the field after intercepting a pass in the closing moments of the team's 24-10 win over South Carolina in Athens, Ga. on Nov. 4, 2017. Georgia, Alabama, Notre Dame and Clemson held their spots in the top four of the College Football Playoff rankings, and unbeaten Miami moved up three spots to No. 7 before its showdown with the Fighting Irish.

who sits at No. 12 CFP, in a game likely to determine the Big Ten East.

With the matchups this weekend, nothing is certain, and the top 25 is a couple wins and losses away from complete insanity. For now, all the playoff committee can do is enjoy the weekend slate and await the pandemonium.

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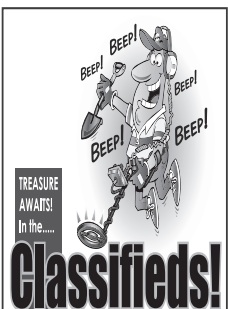
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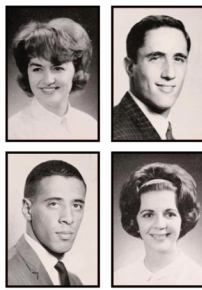
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Soccer begins NCAA Tournament play Friday

ETHAN WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year for Ole Miss soccer as it kicks off NCAA Tournament play with Friday's head-to-head at Florida State. The Rebels' seventh tournament appearance in team history marks the third time they've duked it out on the national scale in the last five years.

The last time Ole Miss appeared in the tournament saw the Rebels make a historic run to their first-ever Sweet 16, where they fell in a heartbreaking loss to Texas A&M. That 2015 performance helped push the Rebels' all-time tournament record to 3-5-2, a number they will try to improve upon with their first-round matchup with the Seminoles on Friday.

Florida State, who finished at No. 7 in the ACC, with a 5-4-1 conference record, owns the series lead with a commanding 4-0-1 record and has shown Ole Miss the door in NCAA Tournament play twice — in 2002 and 2013.

Ole Miss, despite a respectable 10-6-3 overall record, went an underwhelming 3-6-2 in SEC play, and the talent-

ed squad dropped to No. 40 in the final RPI report — 24 spots behind FSU.

In contrast with its disappointing late-season dropoff, capped by a first-round SEC Tournament defeat at the hands of a middle-of-the-pack Arkansas team, Ole Miss boasts a plethora of highly touted and proven playmakers. Led by All-SEC selections CeCe Kizer (first team) and Channing Foster (second team and all-freshman), the Rebels have one of the most dangerous attacks in the country, ranking No. 3 in scoring offense (2.84) and total goals (54), and No. 5 in total points (150) and points per game (7.89).

Kizer and Foster, who rank No. 1 and No. 3 in the SEC in goals on the season, must be in full offensive form to counter the sensational play of Florida State's Deyna Castellanos, who is not only a star in the NCAA but also a standout in international play. The sophomore forward has been phenomenal for the Venezuelan national team and in September was one of three finalists for the 2017 Best FIFA Women's Player Award. The defensive nightmare sits one spot ahead of Kizer at No. 2 in the nation in goals per game.



FILE PHOTO: WILSON BENTON

A Georgia defender tries to block CeCe Kizer's kick during a game earlier this season. Ole Miss won 4-1. Kizer led the SEC in scoring with 16 goals and 39 points. The Rebels are playing against Florida State in the NCAA Tournament on Friday in Tallahassee, Florida.

Castellanos is joined by other talented playmakers, including junior midfielder Dallas Dorosy and her seven goals on the season, but it is undoubtedly the Venezuelan sensation who will give Ole Miss head coach Matt Mott the most concern. While stopping Castellanos entirely is near impossible, limiting her

output is doable, however difficult it may seem.

Just as important for Ole Miss as lessening Castellanos' devastating attack will be creating a formidable counterattack of its own. Even with perfect defense, Castellanos or one of her talented peers may still find the net, so a focus on getting Kizer and Foster shots

on goal will be of paramount importance, especially late in the match.

The first-round match will kick off at 6 p.m. Friday, and see the winner advance to the second round and face either TCU or Arizona, while the loser's season will come to a close.



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Keller Boston
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Sara Caroline Bridgers
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