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The Daily Mississippian

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# MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDMonline.com @thedm\_news

## OPD charges UM student with rape, kidnapping

LANA FERGUSON

THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

One mother is speaking out in hopes of helping others after her daughter, an Ole Miss student, was kidnapped and raped last week.

The woman's mother, who requested The Daily Mississippian not release her name, spoke with The DM in a phone interview Tuesday evening.

"My hope is that eventually other women won't feel shame when things like this happen to them and will un-

derstand through eventually the voice of my child – at the moment, she's not in the position where she can identify herself – but understand through myself or other people who have made public comments regarding these circumstances that it's OK to step forward and abuse of this nature should not be something a victim finds to be shameful at all. It's not," the mother said.

She said she and her daughter are pleased with how the on-campus resour-

es, including Title IX and the Dean of Students Office, have handled the situation, but thinks it's important to talk publicly about what her family is going through to raise awareness and education, which are important in preventing this from happening to other people.

"I likened it to if someone shoots you in the foot, you're going to press charges against them for shooting you in the foot, and you're not going to be even remotely ashamed to do so," the

mother said. "If someone holds you against your will, beats you black and blue, and proceeds to rape you by every definition of the law in the state of Mississippi, then you need to step forward, and you should not be ashamed to do that."

Both women hope that this will never have to happen to someone else and that her story can help with that.

"My daughter has said repeatedly, so I will summarize her own words. She has repeatedly said she's aware

that this #MeToo Movement exists, but for her, it is #NeverAgain and #NotYouEither. She is a very, very strong person for stepping forward. She is now the bravest person I know."

Ole Miss student Dustin McGee, a 20-year-old theater arts major from Brandon, was charged with kidnapping and rape last week. He was taken into police custody last Wednesday and transported to the Lafayette

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## New UPD chief reflects on career



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Ray Hawkins stands in front of a University Police Department vehicle. Hawkins was recently named the newest Chief of Police.

BLAKE ALSUP

THEDMNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Ray Hawkins has worked closely with students at Ole Miss as a member of the University Police Department for more than two decades and has now transitioned to his new position as UPD chief.

After a hiring search spanning nearly two months, the university announced April 1 that Hawkins had been selected for the job.

He began his career with UPD as a patrolman in December 1996 and several

years later graduated from Ole Miss in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in public administration with an emphasis in criminal justice.

"I started here years ago. I left school, had a family and got into law enforcement and decided it was a good time to go back to school," Hawkins said. "The opportunity presented itself to come here, so I came here. Of course, the university has some educational benefits that were really helpful, so I was able to utilize those benefits to finish my degree."

Having worked and been a part of

the Ole Miss community for 22 years, Hawkins has seen plenty of innovation at the university.

"I've been here for a long time, so I've had the chance to see a lot of different things here on campus and see the university grow not only in facilities but in the student population," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said he has seen new buildings like the Gertrude C. Ford Center, The Pavilion and the Robert C. Khayat Law School go up and other buildings like

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## UM hosts 8th annual magazine conference

TAYLOR VANCE

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The Magazine Innovation Center is hosting the eighth annual ACT Experience Conference at the University of Mississippi, which started yesterday. ACT, which stands for amplify, clarify and testify, was first designed to promote the future of print journalism and the magazine industry in a digital age of journalism and communications.

Industry leaders such as magazine editors, publishers and professors of media will descend on the Ole Miss campus to meet students and deliver presentations throughout the conference. Samir Husni, the organizer of the event, said the conference was started in 2010 as a way to innovate the print industry. His aim is "creating an experience that would combine the future industry leaders with the current industry leaders."

Husni said the event has garnered so much attention from the magazine industry that this year's conference has the most sponsors and speakers of any ACT Experience Conference so far. The conference has enough sponsors

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**COLUMN**

# Exam time: The importance of rest



**DANIEL PAYNE**  
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The steady approach of finals week can be seen both in the dread-filled eyes of students around campus and in the dark bags under their eyes.

The weeks leading up to finals usually mean finishing a few more tests and projects before final exams themselves. This is stressful enough, but it must be coupled with studying months' worth of material for huge tests that are quickly approaching.

For many students, this means a lot of work. Hours of caffeine-fueled work with breaks only long enough to change locations overtake the normal flow of student life.

There is little time for socializing and even less time for sleep.

Is this the right approach, though? What if rest is actually the key to productivity?

That is Alex Soojung-Kim Pang's theory in his book "Rest: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less." Pang, a sociologist and historian, states that the technological age's promise of less work through more efficiency has actually been replaced by the nightmare of never leaving work behind.

This is especially true for college students. Most work is done in dorms, apartments and coffee shops. There is almost no physical or temporal separation between work and the rest of life.

Under the guise of convenience and comfort, working from any place and at any time has caused students to work long, distracted hours. These hours often replace healthy sleep schedules and free time.

Resting entails more than just sleeping, according to research. Walking, meditating, traveling or spending time

with friends can all give the brain much-needed space to decompress and enjoy other aspects of life.

This is why the Harvard Business Review concluded that giving employees vacation time offered a positive return on investment 94 percent of the time, given the vacation was moderately relaxing.

The same can be said for the relationship between an individual's rest and productivity, according to Pang.

A short walk in the middle of studying, for example, may give the brain new surroundings and stimuli, allowing it to explore new ideas and solutions to problems that previously seemed impossible. This boost in creativity is a notable advantage for any student.

Meditation, though it takes a different approach, is also a beneficial form of rest. Psychologist Marc Wittmann has even shown that higher rates of meditation correlate positively with a person's perception of time. In other words, stopping to focus deeply on the present moment can

make your day seem longer.

Enjoying life in a way that does not pertain to normal work can be considered rest in itself. Spending time with friends or family or taking time to experience something new can both make exam weeks more bearable and help improve one's performance.

It seems counterintuitive to spend valuable work time relaxing to gain more creativity or presence, but research supports the claim that people's rest is valuable to their productivity.

However, rest can be more than just a tool to increase productivity. It can also be a part of enjoying life as it happens instead of always looking to the next goal or accomplishment.

Feeling that there is more to life than tests or one's GPA and enjoying the journey itself as much as one's successes can lead to more life satisfaction. This exam season, don't forget to rest up.

*Daniel Payne is a sophomore journalism major from Collierville, Tennessee.*

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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  
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

**HAWKINS**

*continued from page 1*

Miller and Guess Hall go down. One event that sticks out in his mind is a Hurricane Katrina fundraiser on campus in 2005. "Right after Katrina, another sort of big event was Mississippi Rising, which was a concert held at the Tad Smith Coliseum," Hawkins said. "It was a relief concert for Hurricane Katrina, so that event drew a lot of big stars to our campus. I can remember Faith Hill and Samuel L. Jackson."

Another notable event Hawkins witnessed and assisted with was the first presidential debate of the 2008 election between former President Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain on the Ole Miss campus.

"I was assistant chief during that time, and we were transitioning between chiefs, so I volunteered to serve as the security liaison for the university and sort of coordinate security in conjunction with the Secret Service for the presidential debate, so that was a big one," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said the best part of his job is working with students and helping them grow and develop.

"That's the thing about our population - the faces change, but they're still going to be between 17 and 25, with some even older," Hawkins said. "So they're going to be young adults, and they're still going to bring the challenges that young adults bring. And, of course, they're going to bring the successes that young adults bring."

He said UPD rarely has to deal with bad student behavior and that only a small percentage of students fall into that category.

"For the most part, the interactions that we have with our students, they're good," Hawkins said. "I would say that 95 percent of our students are devoted to their studies, and they don't really have an encounter with UPD."

Hawkins is from Water Valley and still lives there near his family with his wife of almost 30 years, Kathleen. They have twin sons who are in their 30s and a 17-year-old daughter. One son, Brandon, is a barber and the other, Raymond, is the assistant vice president of operations at Mechanics Bank. Hawkins' daughter, Ta' Nia, is a junior at Water Valley High School.

Having worked for the Water Valley Police Department for five-and-a-half years before joining UPD, Hawkins has seen the ways law enforcement functions



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Ray Hawkins talks about his life prior to being named the Chief of Police at Ole Miss. Hawkins served four years in Water Valley before moving to Oxford.

in a small town versus on a university campus.

"I guess both sides have their benefits and rewards," Hawkins said. "You can really see the impact. There was a time maybe 15 or 16 years ago when I was supervisor of our housing unit, so every night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., I was in the residential halls."

He still hears from some of those students all these years later. Several former students even called Hawkins to congratulate him when they found out he had been promoted to chief.

"Those are the relationships that you can build by being in this environment," Hawkins said. "And I know because they still have and affection for me and they still check on me. I know that at some point, some way, somehow, I impacted them."

He said one of the challenges that comes along with working with young people on a college campus is helping officers understand the dynamic between themselves and students and how they fit in with the university's overall environment. "Our officers, they go to the same police academy, receive the same certification as an officer anywhere in the state of Mississippi, but the way we police is a little bit different," Hawkins said. "We're so focused on community policing and relationship-building that you have to really understand what our objective is here."

Hawkins uses the phrase "education before enforcement" as a way to explain to officers that students do make mistakes, but while they're receiving an education inside the classroom, they can also be educated outside of it. Hawkins said that outside education is what UPD can contribute to by helping students understand the ramifications of their behavior and giving them information to make better decisions moving forward.

He said the department is

hoping to increase its social media presence in an effort to reach students and keep them informed about what UPD is doing in the community.

"I have a 17-year-old daughter," Hawkins said. "She doesn't call me to tell me anything. If she wants to talk, she texts, so in order to communicate with students, you've got to use the same medium that they're using to communicate."

The most rewarding part of the job for Hawkins is and always has been the ability to help people.

"Police work is about a life of service, and when you devote yourself to wanting to serve the community, then you really want to know that, at the end of the day, you made a difference," Hawkins said. "Some officers don't really experience it their whole career, but I can see it almost daily. (You see it) when you come in contact with students and you have conversations and see how they light up and interact."

**ACT CONFERENCE**  
*continued from page 1*

this year that the university doesn't have to provide any money for the event.

"The important thing about the entire event is we make money from this event," Husni said. "We raise enough money for the event that it does not cost the university a penny. In fact, we make enough money to run the entire program for next year."

Husni said the event has become recognized throughout the nation and has brought a more positive connotation to Mississippi by transforming how people view the state.

"One of the people in New York told me that when they used to talk about Mississippi in the media circles, the first thing that came to mind was always about race and integration," Husni said. "Now whenever they hear the word 'Mississippi' in the media circles in New York, the first thing that comes to mind is magazines."

President of Precision Media Group Bo Sacks is a speaker at the conference and said the conference is something he always looks forward to because he has made many friends and new connections at the conference.

"As a man who attends a dozen media conferences a year, I always think Husni's ACT Experience at the University of Mississippi is among the best," Sacks said. "There is no other event that mixes students and professionals in such an intimate

and thoughtful environment." Senior integrated marketing communications major Aja Bell is pursuing an optional specialization in magazine management. She is volunteering at the conference and also picking up two of the ACT Experience speakers from the airport.

"This is my first experience with the ACT Experience, and I'm really excited about this," Bell said. "I'm looking forward to interacting with magazine industry leaders."

The Samuel Talbert Silver Em Award, named after a former chair of the journalism department, is awarded annually to either a native Mississippian with a distinguished journalism career or to a journalist who has excelled in journalism in Mississippi.

This year, the recipient of the award is Newell Turner, editor-in-chief of the Hearst Design Group. Turner earned his bachelor's degree in journalism and Southern studies with advanced work specializing in magazine design from the University of Mississippi in 1982. He is a current member of the American Society of Magazine Editors and a trustee on the board of the New York School of Interior Design.

The calendar of events for the conference will conclude Thursday, April 19, when participants will travel to the Mississippi Delta to tour the Delta Blues Museum and sit down for dinner at the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Patrick Pierce Boddie**  
B.A. IN BIOCHEMISTRY  
*"Purification Protocol Development and Analysis of Binding Properties of Calmodulin Collagen-Like Protein"*  
Directed by Susan Pedigo  
Wednesday, April 18 at 9:00 am  
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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Margaret Anne Rousseau**  
B.S. IN BIOLOGY  
*"The Role of Cannabinoids and Terpenes in Cannabis Mediated Analgesia in Rats"*  
Directed by Mahmoud Elsohly  
Wednesday, April 18 at 1:30 pm  
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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Sarah Elizabeth Fischer**  
B.S. IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS  
*"Speech Language Pathologists and Prosody: Knowledge and Clinical Practices"*  
Directed by Kara Hawthorne  
Wednesday, April 18 at 2:30 pm  
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# SEXUAL ASSAULT

*continued from page 1*

County Detention Center. His bond was set at \$20,000 by a judge, made up of \$10,000 for the rape charge and \$10,000 for the kidnapping charge. He has since posted bond.

Oxford Police Department tweeted McGee's mugshot last week, saying the department took a report regarding a kidnapping and rape April 10 and he was arrested April 11 after investigation. The survivor provided investigators with McGee's name.

The survivor's mother reached out to media outlets, telling the publications the bond set for McGee was extremely low and she worries about her daughter's safety.

The mother told the Clarion Ledger her daughter did not know McGee well, but they were leaving a party at

the same time Monday night and he offered to share a ride with her and have it reroute through campus to drop her off.

The mother said her daughter didn't realize where she was until the Uber arrived at the suspect's house, and he told her to come inside and wait for another Uber there.

He then locked her daughter inside and "beat, bit and raped her," according to the mother, who provided a medical report showing her daughter had bruises and hematomas on her neck, breasts, abdomen, genitals, legs and knees and was bitten on her left breast.

The mother said the attack lasted an hour, until the suspect passed out and her daughter was able to escape. She then hid behind a car until she could call an Uber and went to a doctor first thing in the morning.

OPD later tweeted again about the case, "We have al-



Dustin McGee's mugshot

PHOTO COURTESY: OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

ready had other people reach out with information or past encounters with McGee."

OPD Maj. Jeff McCutchen said the department has had at least two other people reach out.

"I don't believe any of those at this time are Oxford cases, but we are still working with the victims to be sure," he said in an interview with The Daily Mississippian on Monday morning. "We have also helped get them in contact, if they wanted, with the appropriate agency. There have been some conversations where we just gave advice or we listened, but there were others where they wanted to proceed further, and it just wasn't our case, but we helped them get in contact with who they needed to."

He said he thinks this is only the first or second time the department has had other alleged survivors come forward through social media platforms. OPD and other agencies are learning that a lot of times when dealing with sexual assault cases, there are often more survivors of assaults committed

by the same suspect who have yet to come forward.

"Because of that, we're trying to look at avenues to give victims an opportunity to speak," he said. "I think as great as social media is, we've got to use that tool to give people that opportunity. Them speaking with someone could be the door that leads to them later on coming forward to address that criminal activity. We can't close the door on that - we've got to give them an opportunity to speak."

McCutchen said this case will be heard by the grand jury in May unless any new evidence or circumstances arise.

"It's very fortunate that a case like that, it can be heard, then the process can begin," he said. "It's great for us if we can get that on the docket in May and go ahead get that in the grand jury's hands; we can get that ball rolling."

McCutchen said that when a sexual assault case arises in Oxford and involves a student, the protocol is to contact someone in Title IX and Violence Prevention Office.

The Title IX Office deferred questions to the University Communications Office.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc said she cannot speak to what point the case is at within the university's process. She said a lot of the process can be dependent on what the complainant involved wants, but the university does have the option to move forward with cases without the complainant if the Title IX investigator and others involved with the case feel it warrants that.

"Really, at that point, it's reported with the university, the students (both complainant and respondent) are educated on resources and options and it's really up to the complainant as to where they want to take it from that point."

"We take any report of sexual misconduct seriously, and we offer support and guidance for individuals involved and impacted by those situations," Hephner LaBanc said. "I'm really thankful for Oxford Police Department. They take these reports very seriously, and I think we have good law enforcement partners in our community with Lafayette County as well as Oxford."

Anyone with any further information is asked to call the Oxford Police Department at 662-232-2400.

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\*Double Decker Arts Festival and City of Oxford are not responsible for any towing fees\*

### MORE RESOURCES

The University of Mississippi's Title IX Office number: **662-915-1059**

Violence Prevention Office number: **665-915-1059**

National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline number: **1-800-656-HOPE (4673)**

**UMSAFE.OLEMISS.EDU** has more resources for the Ole Miss campus.

### SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Elizabeth Hocevar

B.A. IN PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP

*"Higher Education and Labor Standards: Adapting to Overtime Regulations at the University of Mississippi"*

Directed by Dr. Melissa Bass

**Wednesday, April 18 at 3:00 pm**  
**Odom Hall Conference Room**

The defense is open to the public. If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

# Oxford food trucks face growing competition

JUSTIN DIAL  
ROBIN BRETT  
THEDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

YoknapaTaco has been serving Ole Miss students along the right field wall at Swayze Field since 2015, but the steady growth of food trucks' popularity in Oxford has resulted in increased competition.

LB's Meat Market now operates a truck, Fergndan's has a truck that sets up on University Avenue and the YoknapaTaco truck has become a staple for students at Rebel baseball games.

LB's Meat Market has been in Oxford since 2008, and since then, it's gotten new ownership along with recently obtaining its own food truck.

"We've had to get permits and work with the city of Oxford to try and get set up," said Greg Jones, owner of LB's. "We've had the food truck open for about eight months. We usually set up between Soulshine and Abner's."

While LB's has experienced success in the past few months with its food truck, it is looking to expand even further. It currently sponsors the Ole Miss baseball and softball teams and has for a few years now. However, despite its close relationship with baseball, the truck is not allowed to set up alongside the YoknapaTaco



PHOTO COURTESY: MEDIUM

truck in right field.

"Of course we would love to set up in right field," Jones said. "We've had a lot of people ask why we haven't set up. That's not our call. That's Centerplate's call."

Ole Miss Dining Services is responsible for the dining services provided on campus, such as the Student Union, The Pavilion, Rebel Market, P.O.D. Markets and Starbucks. However, Centerplate provides food services for all Ole Miss sporting events, including baseball. It works with the university to determine what food trucks, if any, will be allowed at Swayze. It currently has an agreement with Yoknapa-

Taco that runs through the 2018 season.

"Baseball is really important to us because we've established a good relationship with all the players and coaches," Jones said. "Is it hard for me to sit here, watch the taco truck set up in right field whenever there's the fourth-largest crowd at the stadium? Yeah, that's real hard for me."

YoknapaTaco is currently the only food truck permitted to operate in right field, even though Ole Miss already experimented with multiple trucks prior to 2015.

"When we had multiple food trucks out there three

years ago, no one company made money. When we first started doing it, we had three or four trucks. It's not a big enough market to sustain more than one truck," said Darren Hubbard, regional general manager of Centerplate.

Jones said he feels a two-truck system would work to improve the fan experience, especially considering the outstanding attendance the Rebels have been getting this year.

"I know they're redoing right field, and there's not a lot of room," Jones said. "We've been told that having two trucks out there would be too much, and we've also

been told that we would be selling similar products to the concessions."

Jones said he will continue to pursue a spot for his truck in right field and is hopeful that his relationship with the baseball program will benefit him in doing so. LB's won't be at Swayze this year, but its status for next season and beyond is still up in the air.

"I'm more than willing to look at other options next year," Hubbard said. "Every year, we go into the review process with Ole Miss Athletics and look at what we want to do differently. At that moment, YoknapaTaco was still interested, and they've been a very good partner to us for three years now."

In most places, food truck regulations are a lot less strict than in Oxford. In Austin, Texas, for example, one could see 10 food trucks within a square mile. Oxford also places food trucks under restaurant regulations, rather than food truck regulations, which makes it harder for food truck owners to operate.

"There's just so many rules and regulations you have to go through here," Jones said. "We had to put in an \$1,800 suppression system, and we don't even need it, but they're going by restaurant guides instead of food truck guides."

# Film delivers message of love, acceptance, courage

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High school romantic comedies have been a tired and overdone genre for decades. A film has been desperately needed to come and breathe new life, authenticity and heart into this godforsaken space. "Love, Simon" does just that.

Simon has the perfect life. He has a great family, amazing friends and good grades. There's just one thing: Simon is gay and struggling to come out to the world.

However, Simon's life comes to a complete halt when an anonymous writer posts to the school's "Gossip Girl"-style website and announces that he, too, is gay. Simon is immediately enamored, both identifying with the mysterious "Blue" and longing to find someone like him in his hometown.

As Simon corresponds with Blue, detailing growing up knowing he was gay and slowly putting together the pieces of Blue's identity, he finds the



PHOTO COURTESY: NPR

safety of his own secret threatened.

This movie tackles the tried-and-true genre of coming-of-age stories by implanting a timely and important topic into the center: a high school boy struggling to come out.

What sets "Love, Simon" apart from other gay films in the last few years, such as "Call Me by Your Name," is its attention to the sole issue of coming out, not the journey of discover-

ing one's sexuality.

Simon already knows that he is gay, which the movie briefly explains in a hilarious montage and leaves it at that. No other mention of it comes up for the rest of the movie.

Even more importantly, the movie handles Simon's coming out perfectly, making necessary points to the audience along the way: the unfairness that only non-straight individuals have to "come out," that many times

people are forced to come out, and the desire to just "ride out" the secret until it gets easier and the intricacies of the possible repercussions that coming out presents.

However, the movie never preaches to the audience. It presents these ideas and points through the characters' dialogue, voiceover and the actors' expert performances.

"Love, Simon" is both a movie with a message and so much more at the same time. It is a hilarious, heartwarming and endearing movie that moves you in the deepest parts of your soul. It manages to pull empathy from the audience, something that even expert filmmakers struggle with at times.

It is not a movie that sits you down and screams a message at you. It takes you on a journey, a metaphorical Ferris wheel ride, that lets the audience find the message in the story and characters.

It doesn't tell you – it shows you. It makes you feel what Simon feels. It makes you identify

and experience, something that could potentially change an audience member's understanding of what it means to be gay.

Although Simon is extremely privileged – he comes from white suburbia, has amazing friends, ultra-liberal parents, a storybook sister and is relatively popular – the movie manages to prove a very important point.

Even when everything is perfect and the repercussions aren't that drastic, the pressure of holding onto such a big secret can feel like the end of the world, especially when it all comes out – pun intended. It's a very teenage theme. Many people, gay or not, feel that, and the movie makes you experience it with Simon, which is what makes the ending feel entirely deserved.

"Love, Simon" is a triumph – it's as simple as that. It is a landmark film, showing that movies with lead characters who are gay and exclusively about the gay experience are acceptable and, most importantly, necessary.

# Rebel softball hopes to bounce back against ULM

**BENTON DODD**

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Ole Miss will look to bounce back after narrowly avoiding being swept at home against 19th-ranked Mississippi State, losing two of a three-game homestand earlier in the week. The Rebels will host the University of Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks today at 6 p.m.

After a hot start, Rebel softball struggled mightily in the middle of the season, dropping eight of 10 at one point, relegating the once-top 10 team to last in the SEC. With only the top 12 teams getting an invitation to the SEC Tournament, the defending-champion Rebels look to build mo-



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Players cheer on a batter from the dugout during the Rebels' win over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the fall ball game last year.

mentum and displace the 12th-place Kentucky Wildcats in order to make the mid-May trip to Columbia, Missouri.

With a 6-4 record so far in the month of April, the Rebels seem to have stopped the bleeding, after having gone 6-12 in March. They must improve upon this mark, however, if they have any hope of making the SEC Tournament.

Getting on the scoreboard early will be essential for the Rebels today, as they are 0-3 on the season when trailing after one inning and 0-5 when trailing after two.

Offensively, the Rebels will have to rely on junior Kylan Becker and senior Elantra Cox to pull them out of their recent slump. This season, they have 40 and 39 hits, respectively, and production from them

will be crucial.

Becker will look to continue her five-game hit streak, having just gone one hit for two at-bats on Monday, scoring two runs. Becker improved her on-base percentage to .400 on the season and continues to enjoy a great period of success. She was selected to the USA Softball team earlier this year for the Japan All-Star Series roster and continues to be one of the best players in her position in the nation.

ULM has struggled against SEC opponents this season, losing to LSU 10-0 in February. While the Rebels dropped two of three in the series at LSU just a couple weeks ago, Ole Miss was competitive in every game. Both losses came by a single run, including a 2-1 loss in the 19-inning marathon April 6.

Despite seemingly being a mismatch for an opponent from a powerhouse conference like the SEC, ULM has excelled this season in numerous areas but especially in team batting average. This season it is hitting .323, good for 10th best in Division I.

However, ULM has lost three of its last four games, and is looking to turn things around. It is currently seventh in the Sun Belt and only one game behind sixth-place Georgia Southern. The top four teams get a bye from the single-elimination round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, so every game is crucial.

The game may be streamed on WatchESPN or SEC Network+ starting at 6 p.m.

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### ACROSS

- 1 Spouse
- 5 Rock concert venue
- 10 Pasture
- 13 Goddess of discord
- 14 Roof of the mouth
- 16 Business abbr.
- 17 Lady
- 19 IBM products
- 20 Cowboy display
- 21 Come out
- 23 Land in la mer
- 24 Actress Vima
- 28 Aviator Earhart
- 30 Strict disciplinarian
- 32 Hose
- 33 Roma's land
- 35 Ave. crossers
- 36 Write down
- 38 Curd stuff
- 42 Ball belle
- 43 Walk with long steps
- 45 Helix
- 49 Submissive
- 53 Japanese mat
- 54 Gal Fri.
- 55 Actress Gardner
- 56 Capital of Zambia
- 58 Dislike, plus
- 60 PBS benefactor
- 61 Undersurface of a

### DOWN

- 1 Caprice
- 2 Ring of color
- 3 Fire starter
- 4 Italy's Villa d'
- 5 King Kong, e.g.
- 6 Inexperienced
- 7 "Evil Woman" grp.
- 8 Appoint
- 9 Cossack chief
- 10 Cosmetic for the lips
- 11 Pregnant
- 12 Cooling units, for short
- 15 Foe
- 18 Humbert Humbert's obsession
- 22 Fam. reunion attendee
- 25 \_\_\_ the finish
- 26 Tennis's Monica
- 27 "Lord, is \_\_\_?":

### SOLUTION TO 4.16.2018 PUZZLE



# Women's tennis prepares for SEC Tournament

MAGGIE CROUCH

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Ole Miss, who defeated Mississippi State last Friday 4-1, hopes to continue this winning streak as it heads into the postseason Southeastern Conference Tournament on Thursday in Knoxville, Tennessee.

"They've figured out a way to win," head coach Mark Beyers said after the Ole Miss women's tennis team defeated Mississippi State in its final conference game of the season last Friday.

This victory against the in-state rival Bulldogs added to the Rebel team's season wins, contributing to its overall conference record of 9-4 and earning it the No. 5 seed in the tournament. This marks the first time since 2015 that Ole Miss has entered the tournament ranked in the top 10.

The Rebels' seven-match win streak has impressed Coach Beyers.

"In this league, I don't care who you are or what you are ranked – that's an impressive feat," Beyers said courtside after the win over Mississippi State. "Of those seven, five were on the road. It shows how hard our ladies have worked and battled against some hostile crowds and tough teams."

Senior Natalie Suk confirmed after the match that the crowd noise was a factor when playing on the rivals' court.

"The Mississippi State crowd was loud at times, especially in the doubles and the end of the singles," Suk said. "Every team in the SEC is tough and loud in a way, and Mississippi State was no different."

The Rebels are determined to continue their battle against SEC teams this weekend, according to

junior Allie Sanford.

"We can expect the competition to be very high on every single court, and I think we all have done extremely well in the close matches," Sanford said. "I think we also have a lot of confidence going into the SEC Tournament. After our win against Georgia and our No. 6 national ranking came out, I think we all really believe we belong at the top."

The team has undergone a complete transformation from last year's season, in which it ended with a conference record of 3-10 and lost to Kentucky in the second round of the SEC Tournament.

The Ole Miss Rebels will take on the winner of the No. 12 Tennessee/No. 13 Alabama match, at 6 p.m. Thursday. Ole Miss handily defeated both of those teams in regular season matches this year, winning 4-2 against Alabama and 4-0 against Tennessee. It has only gotten hotter since those wins.

Although the Rebels came out on top against these teams in regular-season play, it is always a challenge seeing them again, according to Sanford and Suk.

"At this level, you can never underestimate any team or player," Sanford said. "I think we all understand that how we did against certain teams in season really means nothing once we show up on match day."

"The thought process really is that we have beaten a lot of the teams and to just try and do it again," Suk said. "It's important for us to build on our success."

After the SEC Tournament, the Rebels will also have the chance to compete in the NCAA Tournament.

"I think we all are really determined to go all the way this season," Sanford said. "This team has so much passion and fight, and we all be-



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSHUA MCCOY | OLE MISS ATHLETICS

No. 3 Ole Miss women's tennis defeats Lipscomb 4-0 earlier this season.

lieve in one another so much. We are just going to continue doing what we are doing and represent the Ole Miss Rebels the best we can."

As for Suk, a graduating senior, she hopes she has left her mark on the tennis program.

"I have had great four years at Ole Miss, and graduating with us being ranked top 10 in the nation is just a bonus,"

Suk said. "I think the years I have been here, we have had success, especially this year, and that is great for the program."

The SEC Tournament and

potential subsequent NCAA berth will be an exceptional opportunity for Suk to further etch that mark and give Ole Miss tennis something to truly be proud of.

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# Ole Miss baseball returns for Arkansas State matchup

**SAM HARRES**  
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Ole Miss baseball finally returns home Wednesday night for a midweek matchup with Arkansas State. After eight straight away games, including four losses, the No. 11 Rebels are hoping to regain some momentum after dropping six spots in the NCAA's rankings.

Last weekend, Ole Miss dropped a series to Vanderbilt after back-to-back 8-7 losses Sunday. Offensively, the Rebels played well, scoring 25 runs over the three-game stretch. But it was the pitching staff that ultimately cost them the doubleheader.

Brady Feigl got the first start Sunday, allowing four runs in just over five innings pitched. He was later relieved by Parker Caracci and Dallas Woolfolk, who each conceded two runs. Greer Holston closed out the final batters of the abbreviated seven-inning game, but it wasn't enough. Though right-fielder Ryan Olenek extended his hit streak to 14 games and knocked in two RBIs, the Rebels fell a run short. The Commodores scored two in the eighth inning — the clincher coming from a

wild pitch — and sealed the deal without another extra inning.

Quickly shifting their focus to the day's second contest, the Rebels sent James McArthur to the mound but were quickly overwhelmed. While McArthur threw eight strikeouts through 3.1 innings of work, he also conceded five runs before making way for Will Ethridge. Ethridge did not fare much better, facing nine batters and conceding three runs of his own. Closer Austin Miller held three batters scoreless, but the Rebel bats were unable to rally and ended up dropping their eighth game of the year.

In what was perhaps the game's high point for the Rebels, Olenek reached base again and extended his hit streak to 15 games. In doing so, he tied slugger Thomas Dillard for the team's longest streak of the season.

The Rebels are now 29-8 on the year and an impressive 19-2 at home. While seven of those eight losses were in conference play, Ole Miss is still third in the SEC West, behind LSU and Arkansas. Wednesday night's bout with A-State could provide some much needed momentum ahead of this weekend's series with No.



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Ole Miss baseball defeats East Carolina University 3-2 on Sat., Feb. 18, 2018.

19 Georgia.

The Red Wolves have lost eight of their last nine games. Three of those losses — two to Georgia State and another to University of Texas at Arlington — featured nine-run deficits. Overall, Arkansas State sits at 12-20 on the year. In the Sun Belt conference, the Red Wolves have won just four of 15 games.

On Sunday, they fell 11-2 to the UT Arlington Mavericks. Center fielder Drew Tipton went 3-4 on the day, driving in half of Arkansas State's runs. First basemen Kyle MacDonald drove in the team's other RBI, capping off a bleak 33 at-bat outing for the Red Wolves.

While the Rebels have not had a problem scoring runs, they will need to limit the Red

Wolves' bats if they hope to escape Wednesday night with a win. Head coach Mike Bianco has a strong corps of starters to choose from but may offer Feigl or McArthur the chance to redeem themselves after poor performances Sunday.

First pitch is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night at Swayze Field. The game will be broadcast on SEC Network.

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