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3-10-2011

March 10, 2011

The Daily Mississippian

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The Daily Mississippian, "March 10, 2011" (2011). *Daily Mississippian (all digitized issues)*. 350.
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1911 THE DAILY 2011 MISSISSIPPIAN

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Spring break may bring pain at the pump



QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippian

Gas prices have increased nearly 33 cents in the past two weeks, the second largest two-week jump in history.

BY ELAN LLOYD
The Daily Mississippian

Whether going to the beach, the mountains or simply just hanging out at home, those planning to travel for Spring Break may be shocked by what they see at the gas pumps.

Gas prices have increased nearly 33 cents in the past two weeks, the second largest two-week jump in history.

While California has been making headlines recently, paying over \$4.00 per gallon of gas, Mississippi is actually the state hit hardest by the increase in prices, due to the economic situation most of the state suffers.

According to a CNN report, Mississippi has seen a 13 percent price surge at gas pumps during the last month.

Junior Lee Treadway went home last weekend for her debutante in New Orleans and said she was very surprised by how much she spent on gas.

"I drive a Nissan Sentra, and usually spend around \$35 to completely fill my tank when it's on empty, but this weekend I paid nearly \$50," she said.

The most recent Lundberg Survey results taken from about 2,500 filling stations across the continental United States show that the average price per gallon of unleaded gas-

line at a self-serve station was \$3.51. This is a 32.7 cent increase from the survey taken two weeks earlier.

The only two-week increase in history larger than this is the one between August and September of 2005 due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

"Thirty dollars last March could completely fill my gas tank; now, that same \$30 can only get me to about three-quarters of a tank," said junior Connell Knight, who drives a Honda Accord.

Families in Mississippi are the lowest paid in the country — yet they spend the highest portion of their income on gas — data from the Oil Price Information Service says.

Mississippi families earn a median household income of about \$37,000, the lowest in the country, but spend a whopping \$402 per month, or 13.2 percent, on gas, according to the CNN article.

According to the Lundberg survey, gas prices have risen nearly 82 cents since September 2010. This time last year, gas was 78 cents cheaper than it is now.

The Lundberg Survey also shows rising per-gallon prices in other cities with Charleston, S.C., averaging \$3.32. Houston hit \$3.36 per gallon and Atlanta reached \$3.43.

Oxford is averaging about \$3.47 per gallon.

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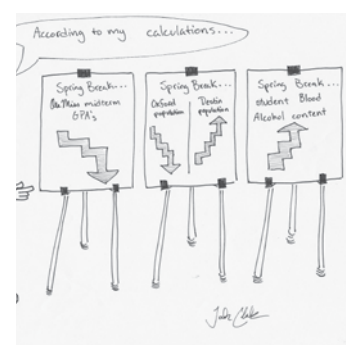
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inside

OPINION

SPRING BREAK



LIFESTYLES

A GUIDE TO MUSIC FESTIVALS



SPORTS

SOWELL READY TO WIN



Arabic language students share reactions to Libya conflict

BY MOLLY DYAL
The Daily Mississippian

The political events unfolding in Libya have received a great deal of media attention worldwide, but several Ole Miss students agree that they would like to see more interest generated on the Oxford campus.

Senior public policy major Alex McLelland and Cullen Coker, a sophomore Liberal Arts major — both Arabic students — said they have been following the transformational events abroad closely.

Both students take Arabic 312, where professor Allen Clark encourages them to think about why these revolutions are happening now.

"We've been reading a lot of articles about the situation in Arabic in class," McLelland said. "I'm just so happy to be study-

ing here now because it is such an opportune time to be doing it. Everything that is going on in the Middle East right now is huge, and it really is a watershed moment in our history."

McLelland and Coker said they believe the Libyans are in many ways misunderstood by the American people. Middle Easterners are protesting because they want democracy, a freedom that Americans are accustomed to having.

"Often when people think of the Middle East, they think of problems, but I think this perception is going to change drastically once people realize that (Libyans) want what Americans have," Coker said. "They're no different than us. They want progress and to move forward."

See LIBYA, PAGE 5

Sigma Chi welcomes Miss America to campus

BY JAKE THOMPSON
The Daily Mississippian

Newly crowned Miss America Teresa Scandlin was given yet another title — Honorary Sweetheart of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

She joined the fraternity brothers at their house for a dinner and presentation last night.

The event was put together by Tyler Ellis of Sigma Chi and Sam Haskell, a former Sigma Chi brother and Ole Miss Alumnus. Haskell is currently chairman of The Miss America Organization.

"I am a member of The National Board for Sigma Chi," Haskell said. "I like combining organizations I work with for the betterment of both."

Scandlin, the 90th Miss

America, was crowned on Jan. 15, and is the first Miss America to be named the Honorary Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.

The Eta Chapter at Ole Miss is the third oldest chapter in the nation.

Miss America arrived at the Sigma Chi house with a rousing welcome from the fraternity. She was presented flowers and dinner quickly followed.

After dinner, the Sigma Chi brothers serenaded Scandlin with "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" song and presented her with the Miss Sweetheart plaque.

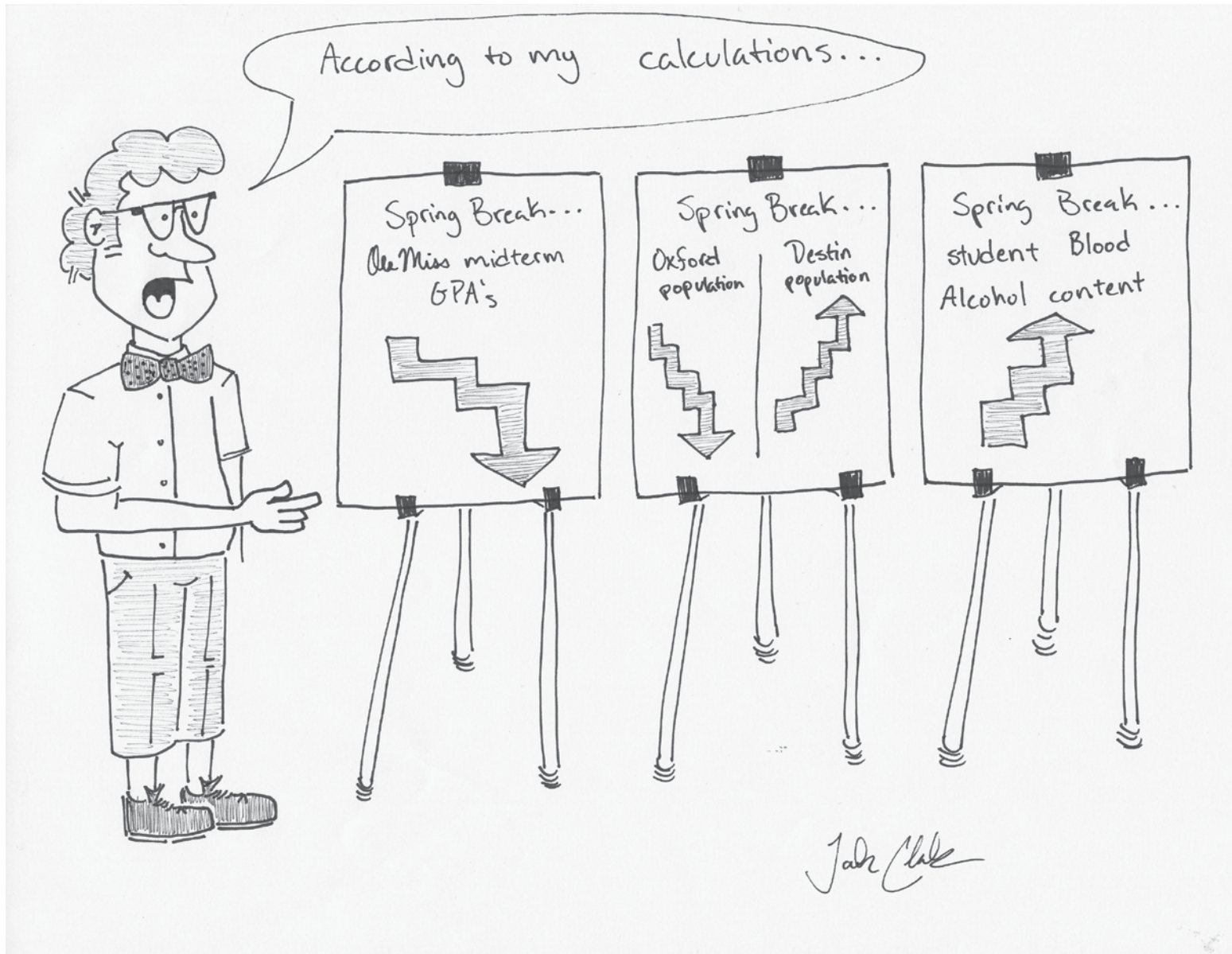
"What better way to honor Miss America and the Sigma Chis than by bringing Teresa to the Sigma Chi house for dinner, the presentation and the

See MISS AMERICA, PAGE 4

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BY JOSH CLARK
Cartoonist



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BYU and the basketball honor code



BY JON STEPHENS
Columnist

Last week, Brigham Young University (BYU) basketball star Brandon Davies was suspended from the Cougars basketball team for violating the university's honor code.

After seeing what rule he broke (to me, it seemed ridiculous that the nation's third-ranked team dismissed its third leading scorer and leading rebounder for violating it), I decided to research the BYU honor code and see what other rules that thousands of college athletes surely break every season.

No BYU student can wear sleeveless shirts, curse, consume alcohol, smoke tobacco, or drink coffee or tea.

Also, students must be clean shaven, attend church regularly and "live a chaste and virtuous life."

Reading BYU's honor code made me question how the university consistently delivers outstanding football and

basketball seasons, since most of the top recruits violate at least one of the rules every day.

Furthermore, as a student living in the mischievous college town of Oxford, I found it hard to understand how nearly 34,000 students attend BYU and choose to uphold the university's honor code.

Then, I remembered that BYU is a private institution whose student body primarily consists of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. BYU students choose to attend BYU because the university is in line with their faith, and it is easier for them to uphold the honor code than one would think. They would live by the honor code as a member of the LDS church if they had chosen to attend another university.

In any college town, practicing members of the Mormon church would abstain

from the temptations present. Since it would be much harder to do so at other universities, many go to BYU in order to uphold their faith.

With fewer distractions, students can concentrate on their religion and academics much more easily than they could here in Oxford.

It also allows student-athletes to concentrate on their respective sport.

This helps explain why the BYU Cougars seemingly always have a USA Today Top 25 team in football and basketball.

In the past five years, BYU's football team has 50 wins and only 15 losses. BYU's basketball program is among the top 25 NCAA programs in overall victories.

Although BYU's dismissal of Brandon Davies has certainly been controversial (especially when one thinks about the high number of NCAA sports

scandals occurring these days, with the most recent involving the high profile Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel), the university made the right decision.

If BYU had not upheld its honor code, it would have sent the wrong message to its student-athletes.

In order to attend BYU, prospective students must pass two interviews in which they promise to adhere to the honor code, and sign that they will respect and uphold it.

If BYU had not punished Davies, then not only would the religious institution be hypocritical in its own belief system, but it would also tempt other top student-athletes to violate the honor code.

Despite making a Cougar basketball run to the NCAA Final Four much more difficult, BYU should be commended for its decision.

THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN

The University of Mississippi
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201 Bishop Hall

Main Number: 662.915.5503

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Daily Mississippian is published daily Monday through Friday during the academic year.

Contents do not represent the official opinions of the university or The Daily Mississippian unless specifically indicated.

Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity, space or libel.

ISSN 1077-8667

The Daily Mississippian welcomes all comments. Please send a letter to the editor addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, University, MS, 38677 or send an e-mail to dmeditor@gmail.com.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. 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.

Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



Editorial Board: Get out of your box and pay attention

The Daily Mississippian Editorial Board consists of Caroline Lee, editor-in-chief; Emily Roland, managing editor; Cain Madden, campus news editor; Lance Ingram, city news editor; Mia Camurati, opinion editor; Emily Cegielski, lifestyles editor; Paul Katool, sports editor; Austin Miller, assistant sports editor; Victoria Boatman, enterprise editor; Katie Ridgeway, design editor; and Addison Dent, photo editor. The board meets weekly to discuss city and campus issues.

The rest of the world has its eyes open to the revolutions in Libya and throughout the Middle East as students here remain sequestered in a town that breeds ignorance.

For three months, the world has observed revolutions emerge across Arab nations that are forever changing the structure of governments.

The most recent uprising belongs to the country of Libya from which more than 215,000 people have fled.

Libya has since been stripped of its United Nations Human Rights Council representation due to the massacres and atrocities committed against the Libyan people.

For the average student at this university, concern only presents itself when they are

directly affected, such as gas prices going up. There are a host of other reasons students should care beyond their own interests.

The most important reason lies in our country's core values of democracy and human rights.

If students feel that our foreign policy should reflect our own core values, then they should care about the injustice happening in Libya.

People are being murdered because they are protesting against the despotic government that has been ruling for 42 years. During the years under Muammar Gadhafi's rule, the Libyan people have witnessed government corruption, poverty and brutal suppression.

The total death toll is unknown due to media restrictions, but some reports suggest more than 2,000 lives have been taken by Gadhafi's troops.

Gadhafi's government is pointing fingers at foreign forces for trying to destabilize the country.

Libyan television airs arrests of foreigners who have been sent by their respective countries to bring down the Libyan government, according to Gadhafi's troops.

These claims are fabrications in a poor attempt to devalue the Libyan people's protests. For now, the United Nations and the United States remain indecisive on handling the Libyan uprising.

Students who care about in-

formation technology (particularly Facebook and Twitter) should be familiar with all new developments as they happen. Updated information is readily available, especially for those with Twitter accounts.

Information technology is how most of the revolutions were organized and how protesters keep the rest of the world abreast of new developments.

Keeping up with new developments is key in students making decisions for themselves.

The conclusion of the Libyan uprising has yet to be determined and no one has any idea what lessons can be learned, but students should pay attention while it's happening. One conclusion we can draw

for now is that democracy has a better chance of survival when it is brought upon by the people and not the barrel of a gun.

There is an exceptionally high disconnect between Oxford and the rest of the world. If students here are the future leaders of this nation, then they need to have an understanding of what goes on in the world. Students should make an effort to educate themselves before the next election because they will have to determine if Obama is qualified to handle foreign policy based on his experience with Libya.

Students are going to have to make decisions about politics for themselves, and it all starts with paying attention to the world around them.

Welcome to the dark side



BY JONECE DUNIGAN
Columnist

If I could time warp to the beginning of the year and write down the phrase I heard most often it would be, "Ah! Why all the freshmen?"

Of course, the number has gone down a little bit due to transfers and dropouts, and everyone has adjusted to the big crowd of new faces.

Freshmen have been initiated into a sorority or fratern-

ity, they have done all the religious football traditions and they have partied on the Square.

We can all say that the class of 2014 has been welcomed to the Ole Miss campus without chastisement.

Yet, when the whole campus gets news of Ole Miss increasing the incoming freshmen population more next year, even the freshmen eyes become wide in amazement.

A bigger class? We are a huge bunch already! Who will suffer the consequences of this demand?

Not the people who actually bring about the change.

They have a parking spot

right outside their office and have their pretty-little-minimansions to live in.

It's the students and the faculty that will have to reap the consequences.

Not all students on this campus can afford the expensive rent that Oxford's apartments and condos are going for.

Most of us don't have the time to work for that money nor do we have parents that own the bank.

I'm guessing we are just going to be homeless and set up a pretty little tent in the Grove for ourselves.

This housing problem is just the beginning.

You can't fool me, Universi-

ty of Mississippi. As much as I love this place and the opportunities it gives me, I must say you love your money so much that it becomes harder to stay here.

Being a freshmen means more money. After the \$200 flex money added to Bursar accounts each semester, students have to cover housing, meal plans, lab fees and these Ole Miss special edition books that prevent you from buying the same edition for a cheaper price online.

The school will get paid for sure. Yet, whoever thought of this idea hasn't thought about the dark side of all these changes.

By the beginning of the next school year, I predict that there will be a lot more complaints about where to park, how crowded the Student Union is at lunch time and how many late classes there will have to be because those already scheduled aren't enough for this big of a student body.

A population explosion means an increase of resources must happen as well.

If we do not have an increase in resources, then we will have a major problem on our hands that could result in drastic measures.

Ole Miss needs to understand this, or else they will see more problems next year.

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MISS AMERICA, continued from page 1

serenading of our world famous song, which will be sent out across the nation virally with the Ole Miss Sigma Chi's front and center," Haskell said.

Scandlin has only been Miss America for 52 days, but her schedule is busier than a senior taking 18 hours, she said.

"We're back in a plane every two or three days usually," Scandlin said. "We are all over the place; we travel about 20,000 miles a month."

She was recently at the Super Bowl to help promote "Tastes of the NFL," then headed to Hawaii for another event sponsored by Amway.

Along with getting to travel the country, Miss America is awarded scholarships for winning the competition.

Scandlin said she has her entire undergraduate degree and part of law school paid for

already with the help of her scholarships.

When it becomes time for her to begin college, Scandlin said she feels confident the adjustment from being Miss America to college freshman will be a smooth transition, but she said she is not sure what to expect.

"I think it will be very fun to have this real live experience, to have so much traveling and experiences, and then go back to school and start learning more about things I can apply to the rest of my life." Scandlin said.

Miss America said she wants a career in government and also has aspirations of becoming a judge and ultimately seeking the office of President of the United States.

Teresa will tour Ole Miss today and then head over to Tupelo with Haskell in the afternoon.



HOUSTON COFIELD | The Daily Mississippian

Tyler Ellis stands with Teresa Scandlin, Miss America 2011.

Blind singer wins seventh annual Ole Miss Idol



KATE ANTHONY | The Daily Mississippian

LaTonya Herron won the seventh annual Ole Miss Idol last night, stealing the audience with Mariah Carey's "Hero" and "Summertime" from the Broadway musical Porgy and Bess. Herron plans on putting her \$500 prize toward purchasing a Braille printer.

BY MADISON FEATHERSTON
The Daily Mississippian

Every year, students bring their best to the stage in the hopes of winning the annual Ole Miss Idol.

The last round was held at 7 p.m. last night in the Ole Miss Student Union food court.

There, the crowd gathered to hear the talented finalists sing their hearts out in hopes of winning the title.

The singers had stiff competition coming from the six finalists: Tiffany Boyte, LaTonya Herron, Britney Helmick, Jacob Hickman, Lovetta Oguhebe and Lawrence Walker.

Since the competition started with almost 40 applicants, the finalists were excited to be performing in the final round.

Each performer sang two songs of their choice, which included Michael Buble, Tina Turner and even some Broadway hits.

"I wanted to bring a different vibe to the audience, and let them be influenced by different genres," Walker said.

The audience went wild as each contestant sang a new

song.

"The audience interaction is my favorite part," sophomore audience member Alexis Davis said.

The final round named Herron the winner of the seventh annual Ole Miss Idol.

Herron won over the audience with her moving rendition of "Hero" by Mariah Carey. In the second act, she brought them to their feet with the Broadway classic "Summertime" from the musical Porgy and Bess.

With the title comes a \$500 reward, along with the opportunity to perform at various events on campus throughout the year. Herron, who is blind, said that she would be putting the \$500 reward to purchasing a Braille printer.

The five judges for this competition were Jennifer Taylor, Katherine Burkett, Neal Ann Parker, Ryan Upshaw, Norm Easterbank and David Steele.

Taylor, the director of Student Programming, was pleased with this year's Ole Miss Idol outcome.

"This is a great way for students to showcase their talent," she said about the competition.

Judges were also pleased with the large audience turnout.

Each contestant was judged in five separate categories that were worth various points according to how important the judges thought they were.

Vocal performance topped this list being valued at 15 points. Next, at 10 points, was stage presence.

Then, the following three categories were each worth up to five points: appearance, crowd response and knowledge of material.

"The final round is difficult because there is so much talent," Upshaw said. "It really comes down to song choice."

No matter what aspect they thought was most important, it was obvious that every judge enjoyed the show.

"I enjoyed getting to watch contestants instead of be judged," Burkett said.

This is the seventh consecutive year that Ole Miss Idol has been a part of the Ole Miss community.

It is put on by the Student Programming Board, which is in charge of coordinating many events for students throughout the year.

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Barbara Fields lectures on 'racecraft' in America



AMBER HELSEL | The Daily Mississippian

Columbia University history professor and author Barbara Fields spoke to a crowd at the Overby Center last night. Fields challenged the audience to try to distinguish between race and racism as two separate concepts.

BY MOLLY DYAL
The Daily Mississippian

Racism is not a permanent thing, according to Columbia University's Barbara Fields.

Fields, history professor and author of "Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland during the 19th Century," first asked audiences to try to distinguish between race and racism as two separate concepts during the inaugural lecture for the Gilder-Jordan series last night at the Overby Center.

"Some people consider race and racism as interchangeable, which is a mistake," Fields said.

Fields defines race as a mere physical identity and racism as a practice that often takes the form of a double-standard.

Fields examines the ways that these practices become part of our social culture, which often happen through a process she calls "racecraft."

Fields illustrates racecraft by telling the story of a New York police officer that accidentally killed another police officer who was off duty. The victim happened to be black and armed, and the first police officer acted on impulse.

"For a split second that police officer thought his fellow officer must be a criminal because he saw an armed African-American man," Fields said. "It wasn't the man's race that killed the man, but the racism of his fellow officer. Racecraft is the process that makes racism invisible to people."

She said that racism was invisible in this particular case because the man did not evaluate his actions before doing them. According to Fields, he developed these instincts because of the social construction of race rather than its biological make up.

Fields also suggested the concept of racecraft was present at the founding of the country. The Constitution is a representation of democratic principles, but a segment from the infamous three-fifths clause suggests otherwise.

"This clause talks about slaves without actually using the term," Fields said. "The presence of slavery in our country defined freedom for those who actually had freedom. But it limited the

scope of democracy for those who did not share these (liberties)."

Fields believes that it is hard to eliminate racism because people often cannot recognize when it is going on around them. Fields also said that people have become susceptible to the structure of inequalities.

This susceptibility, Fields said, has been created by racecraft. The process of racecraft creates an illusion that is permanent and she believes that everyone in society is constantly pulled into its force field.

"What we need to do is use every device we can to estrange ourselves from the familiarity of the racecraft dynamic," Fields said. "Otherwise we will just stumble around it forever."

LIBYA,

continued from page 1

The students said Clark asks his class to think about why the Middle Eastern revolutions are happening at this time in history.

"Anytime a people feels suppressed, they are going to lash out and demonstrate it," McLelland said. "I think that starting with (the ousting of) President Mubarak in Egypt, Libyans have felt encouraged, and now there are several Arab countries that have followed suit in the form of public protest."

Coker said Libyans live in fear of their own government when they ought to be able to seek protection from it. They have reached the point of revolt because their leader, Muammar Gadhafi has refused to grant them liberties that they feel they deserve.

"There is a great deal of disapproval from the citizens," Coker said.

"Many don't have simple things like running water, and their government is doing nothing to get them out of these situations. I think that is a big factor as to why the revolution is happening now."

The future of Libya is still somewhat unclear at this point, but McLelland said he is confident that there will be a transfer of power in some form.

He said he feels very passionately that the drastic changes happening in the Middle East will undoubtedly shape world history forever.

"What is Libya going to do? We don't exactly know what will come about from all this," McLelland said.

"They are going to have to figure it out and hopefully create a government that works for everyone."

"What we need to do, as Americans and as students, is to promote peace for them in any way we can."

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FARIJAD KHAN | The Daily Mississippian

Life of Pi author Yann Martel speaks to honors 102 students at Off Square Books. Life of Pi is being read by all Honors 102 students this semester.

Poetry workshop hosted on campus

BY MADISON FEATHERSTON
The Daily Mississippian

The English department will bring in a working poet as part of the Oxford Conference for the Book to help aspiring poets in the Oxford community.

Joshua Davis, a MFA creative writing student, selected Richard Tillinghast as the judge for this workshop because he wants to reach out to poets in the community who may not have other opportunities to have their work reviewed by a professional.

Tillinghast is a native of Memphis who currently resides in Ireland. With successful careers as both a poet and teacher, Tillinghast is familiar with the Ole Miss community. With so much experience he is well qualified for this workshop, and Ole Miss is happy to have him here for this conference, Davis said.

"I'd really like for members of the wider community, not just the University community, to take advantage of the opportunity," said Davis, who is in charge of the workshop, about the potential applicants

for the program.

There can be a maximum of ten participants. The event is open to people of all ages. The deadline for submissions is March 16.

Anyone interested in participating in this workshop should email three to five poems to joshuadavis28@gmail.com.

The University of Mississippi, along with the Oxford Conference for the Book, will soon host the poet at the Overby Center.

Tillinghast is just one of many literary guests who will soon be in Oxford for this event.

"Oxford is a literary town," said Davis, one of the coordinators for the conference.

The Oxford Conference for the Book is a three-day event, and will include different talks, panel discussions, readings, signings and lectures.

"It's a convergence of enthusiasms," said Davis, when speaking of the different activities planned for the Conference for the Book.

For general information on the Oxford Conference for the book, visit www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com.

Oxford University School now offers transitional program

BY HANNAH VOHRA
The Daily Mississippian

Oxford University School has started a first grade transitional program to provide children the opportunity to have a smoother and more successful transition into the first grade.

The Transitional First Grade, also referred to as T-1, is a program that reiterates key principles and concepts that are vital for children to understand before entering the first grade. It is a full day program, with a curriculum that is literacy based.

"When the students are not able to fully grasp all the concepts of kindergarten that require you to move on to first grade, this program will help them transition into first grade," said Lauren Zimmerman, Oxford University School Publicity Coordinator.

The program improves children's confidence because the curriculum reviews past material from kindergarten and introduces the fundamentals that are taught in the first grade. This is especially helpful to children who have birthdays late in the year because they may have a more difficult time grasping concepts because they are younger.

This program is not designed for children who are failing or

who cannot fully comprehend first grade material yet.

It is rather a program that allows a child to be more successful in the first grade because they have a better comprehension of important concepts.

"We do not want to come across as a program created for students who are failing because it is not that they are not understanding the material, but the learning process is a little slower because they are younger or whatever the case may be," Zimmerman said.

The students that participate in this program are not entirely prepared to enter first grade, but at the same time do not need to repeat kindergarten, nor would they benefit from it. Teachers will be able to work with the child individually, by spending one-on-one time with them.

The T-1 program is the only one in Lafayette County and in the surrounding area.

The Oxford University School is currently accepting applications for the T-1 program which will begin next year.

There will be an open house on March 25 at OUS.

For more information on the T-1 program, visit the website at www.ouschool.com or call 662-234-2200.



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"Women Behaving Badly" A one-woman performance piece

at Hinton & Hinton On the Square 236-1381

Thursday, March 10
Friday, March 11
6:30 p.m.

Meek Hall Auditorium

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

Teenage Wasteland: A guide to music festivals in the South



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

BY ANDREW DICKSON
The Daily Mississippian

The time of the year when music and camping festivals from across the country begin announcing dates and band lineups is here again, and this year's festival season promises to be quite the trip.

For those new to the field, festivals range from large open spaces with multiple stages for bands to perform simultaneously (e.g. "Memphis in May") to others focusing on appreciating all of the arts (such as the local Double Decker Festival).

Each state bordering Mississippi will host a music festival in the upcoming months. Tennessee will host Bonnaroo (June 9-12) and the aforementioned Memphis in May festival (April 29-May 1).

The Arkansas Ozarks are home to the Wakarusa Camping and Arts Festival (June 2-5). Alabama's Orange Beach hosts The Hangout Music Festival (May 20-22) and, last but not least, New Orleans will host its Jazz & Heritage Festival (Jazz Fest) from April 29 to May 8.

The 2011 lineups offer several opportunities to see some of today's best artists live.

Arcade Fire will take the stage at Bonnaroo and Jazz Fest. The Flaming Lips and Widespread Panic will make stops in Orange Beach and Memphis. Wakarusa offers an opportunity to catch some great acts including My Morning Jacket, STS9, Lotus, Bassnectar and Ghostland Observatory.

Oxford's 16th annual Double Decker Festival, complete with innumerable art vendors and two stages of music, will be held on the Square April 29-30 — an experience freshmen and locals alike cannot afford to miss.

Though the full lineup has not yet been announced, the North Mississippi All Stars have already accepted a spot in the show.

But a short drive out of Oxford will lead to this columnist's favorite music and arts festival — The Fool's Ball, located in Holly Springs.

The Fool's Ball, held from April 1-3, has a distinct atmosphere that is less focused on big name perform-

ers (FreeWorld will headline) and more focused on cultivating a fun and peaceful culture. Festivities include musical acts, concessions and a community bonfire held each night once darkness falls.

Twice a year (there is a "Fall Ball" later in the year as well) the ball serves as a happy hollow for those in search of fire sales, bike rides, fun guys and fun girls, much like the other festivals mentioned in this column.

At the Fool's Ball, though, everyone in the field knows they have to fight for their meals.

From an outsider's perspective, these festivals appear to be organized chaos at best.

But those of us who love and respect this culture see it for what it is.

True, some may find a teenage wasteland full of barely coherent denizens who just want to sit by the fire and listen to the show, but the brilliance of festivals is that they do not have racism, sexism or bigotry of any kind.

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New bakery makes spring break weight-loss hopes hard to achieve

BY ALEX DEJOY
The Daily Mississippian

Looking for a sweet treat to take your mind off of midterm exams?

Pretty Sweet is sure to fix any sweet tooth craving.

The new cupcake shop is located in the Oxford Galleria shopping center between Smoothie King and High Point Coffee.

Cousins Lashunda Terrell and Audrina Lester were inspired to open their shop by the Food Network's show "Cupcake Wars."

Born and raised in Oxford, the two ladies decided it was time for something different to open in Oxford.

The cousins prepare these

not-so-ordinary cupcakes from scratch themselves every day. The customer favorite so far has been the Ooh La La cupcake, made from pound cake with cheesecake filling and topped with cream cheese icing and graham crackers.

Another popular seller has been the Heaven cupcake, made from chocolate cake with a marshmallow filling, chocolate icing and caramel and chocolate drizzle.

"Their cupcakes are delicious — way better than the store-bought kind," customer Carey McCall said.

The two have been cooking together since childhood and have always been inspired by their grandmother's cooking.

Pretty Sweet is not just about

cupcakes, though. The bakery also specializes in muffins.

On Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., Pretty Sweet puts a twist on happy hour with its "Muffin Hour."

"Muffin Hour is for people who are looking for a healthier option," Terrell said. "We have been working with Smoothie King and High Point coffee to create specials for the mornings."

So far "Muffin Hour" has been a hit with older Oxonians and with contractors on their way to work.

The muffins range from a cream cheese muffin to apple cinnamon muffins, and they also sell juice and coffee in the mornings.

And the baking does not stop there.

"We're here to do wedding cakes and cakes for all occasions," Lester said. "Anything you can think of, we can do. We can pretty much do anything but install a motor."

Pretty Sweet will donate a cake to the Rebel Man Sprint Triathlon that will take place later this month.

The ladies opened their store with the mindset that they wanted to accommodate their customers as much as they could.

Any requests the customers have, they do their best to make it happen. Pretty Sweet is here for the community and wants to involve them as much as possible.

The shop also plans to introduce different activities for kids. They want to have birthday parties and other themed parties where customers can make their own cupcakes as well as decorate them.

Another idea the two cousins want to bring to their shop is an icing bar — a bar where icing in a small glass is served with cupcakes crumbled on top.

Terrell and Lester plan to open another Pretty Sweet in another town after the bakery in Oxford has some time to grow.

Pretty Sweet is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and stays open until 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Now that is pretty sweet.

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The Weekly Top Zen: Westboro Baptist Church

BY ANDY PAUL
The Daily Mississippian

I love Twitter, and boy, does it feel good to finally say that out loud.

I have alluded to my burgeoning interest in the social media tool in past articles, particularly regarding the tweets of one Mr. Kanye West, but in recent weeks my admiration for Twitter has reached trending topic levels.

Do I follow celebrities? Sure, I like to know what Vin Diesel bench-pressed this morning.

Do I follow friends? Of course. How else am I to know what they are doing when they aren't on Facebook, Google Chat, Skype or Tumblr? But these aren't the reasons I use Twitter.

I use Twitter to solidify my spot in eternal damnation, and I know this thanks to helpful tweets from the Westboro Baptist Church.

It comes as no surprise that with the amount of American excess manifested in various Tweeters' tweets (I think a part of me just died typing that), there will be some form of backlash by the conservative religious right. And by "conservative religious right," I mean the loud minority of

crazed, cultish gadflies bent on stirring up publicized controversy for an easy dollar.

Hey, it's surprising to me, too.

I thought members of the "God Hates Gays" WBC would think that any glowing objects other than candles were possessed by homosexual demons. However, somehow they have worked past their fear of electronics and have gotten themselves a Twitter account.

I know what you might be thinking: "Hey, Andy, isn't following them online just adding to their own sense of entitlement and self-worth, thereby promoting their hate-filled rhetoric and biased filth?"

To which I would reply: First off, I prefer Mr. Paul, and secondly, well, maybe it does a little. But man, isn't it fun to send them messages when you are bored?

The thing to understand about members of WBC is that they seem to take themselves seriously.

Like, really seriously. Black Swan seriously.

For a religious studies major such as myself, the WBC represents a comedic gold mine of absurdist theology.

And with the right approach, you can be shaking your head and chuckling to yourself alone in your room at three in the morning in no time. Just like me. Hey, stop shaking your head right this instance and save it for the middle of the night. Might I suggest tweeting members about how cute you think they are?

Nothing makes these lovely specimens of human progress more uncomfortable than blatant sexuality. Tweets such as "You looked so hot at your protest at the Lady Gaga concert last week" are sure to both rub them the wrong way (take that as you will) and assure you a place in Hell alongside yours truly.

I also like asking them for theological perspectives on things such as "This hotdog I just bought looks really phallic. Will God be angry if I eat it?"

It's important to note that this week the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the WBC's right to picket military funerals.

Members of the church have often shown up at memorial services for fallen soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan to tout the claims that God's righteous anger is what killed them, America is a doomed modern-day Sodom, and so on and so forth.

Despite WBC possessing about as much tact as, well, I have no comparison — they simply have no tact, it was extremely important that the court system rule in their favor.

America is all about this thing called freedom of speech, and to deny that to even the dumbest, loudest of citizens goes against what this whole country is about.

So let them picket funerals, concerts and the Super Bowl (I would have probably joined in the latter myself).

Their opinions are just too utterly ignorant to care about, so why get worked up about them?

Meanwhile, you can support freedom of speech yourself by tweeting to WBC, "Does this Bible make me look fat?"

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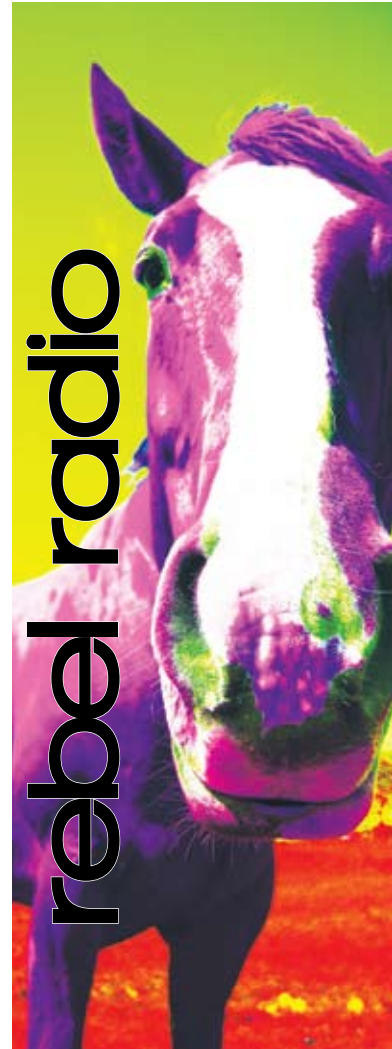
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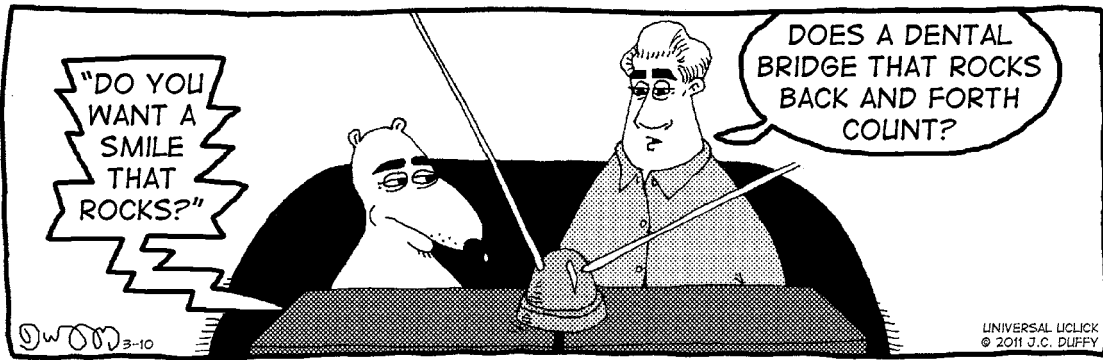
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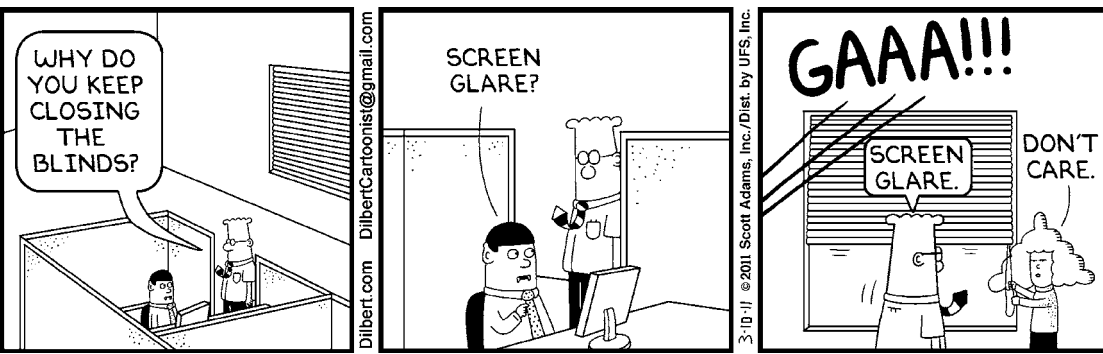
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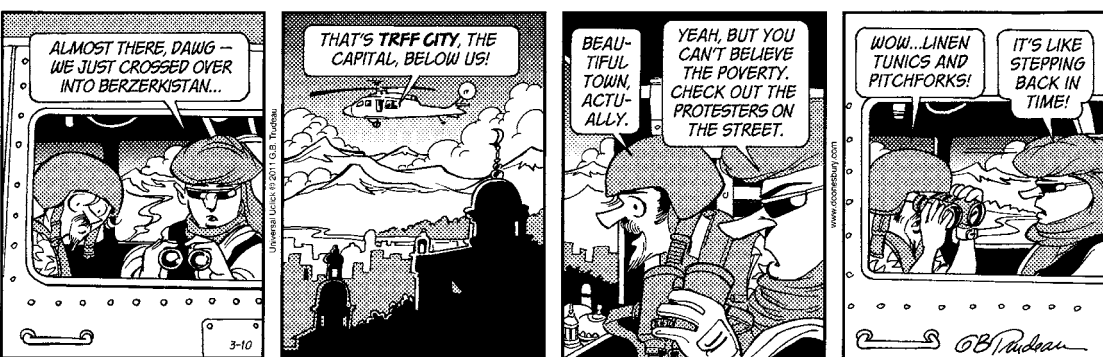
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NON SEQUITUR



DOONESBURY



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ACROSS

- 1 Hieroglyphics bird
- 5 Nibble
- 9 Ground corn
- 13 Party handout
- 15 —tat-tat
- 16 Brand for Bowser
- 17 Type of jacket
- 18 Dots in "la mer"
- 19 He gave us a lift
- 20 Mantra chants
- 21 Siesta
- 23 Long-legged waders
- 25 Sushi ingredient
- 26 Carpentry job
- 27 Uneven
- 30 Feel grateful
- 31 Out in front
- 32 Amigo's sandal
- 37 Sharp
- 38 Hazy
- 40 Rapper Moe Dee
- 41 Herb tea
- 43 Staff members
- 44 "— Daba Honey-moon"
- 45 Cat breed
- 47 Infant's wear
- 50 Earthenware jar
- 51 More suggestive
- 52 Ploy
- 53 Film speed no.
- 56 Two fives for —
- 57 Debtors' letters

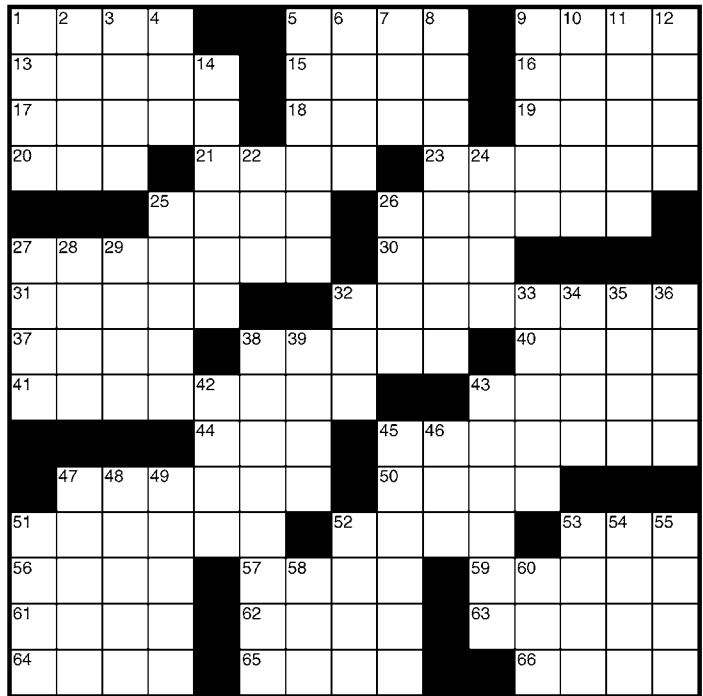
DOWN

- 1 In that case (2 wds.)
- 2 Oz penner
- 3 "Blue Tail Fly" singer
- 4 Turf
- 5 Like celery
- 6 Cease
- 7 Riviera summer
- 8 Erode (2 wds.)
- 9 Kiwi language
- 10 Rocker — John
- 11 Mocking
- 12 Sports setback
- 14 Go over again
- 22 Wapiti
- 24 Pitcher in a basin
- 25 "The Matrix" name
- 26 Arab bazaar
- 27 Munro's pen name
- 28 Later on
- 29 Shoal
- 32 Sweetie-pie
- 33 Curly-tailed dog

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



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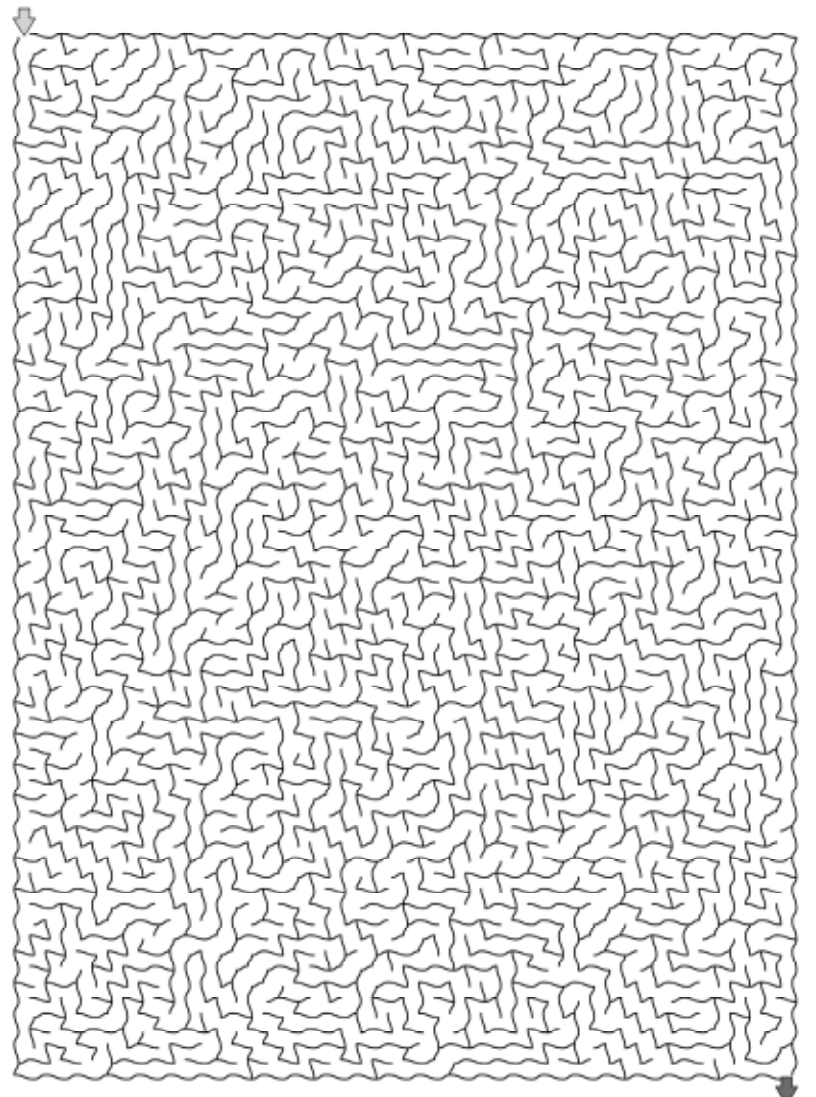
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TODAY'S MAZE



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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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
IIIIII

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



Sowell eager to return to winning days

BY PAUL KATOOL
Sports Editor

Bradley Sowell had his best year as a member of the Ole Miss football team this past fall, but it was not good enough for the Rebels' starting left tackle.

Ole Miss struggled to a 4-8 season and once again lost the Egg Bowl to in-state rival Mississippi State.

After back-to-back nine-win seasons and a pair of Cotton Bowl victories, the Rebels were left at home while every other team in the Southeastern Conference (besides Vanderbilt) made it to the postseason.

"I did OK (in 2010), but the most important thing to me is winning," Sowell said.

"I really want to go to a bowl no matter what you do. Being 4-8 isn't fun, even if I would have made All-American or something. That's not a fun season. I want to spend time at a bowl with my teammates, and that's what's important to me."

Sowell and the Rebels have made a diligent effort to turn things around in 2011.

Talk to any member of the Ole Miss football team these days and the word accountability is used liberally in conversation.

The word means a lot of things for the Rebels. It means a buddy system, and a rule where if one

Ole Miss player gets in trouble, then every Rebel has a problem.

Because of this, Sowell said there's been a manifestation of other, more positive words during the offseason: motivation, hard work and improved attitudes to name a few.

"We're going back to the little things, and then the big things start happening," Sowell said.

While the Rebels have been hard at work removing the "bad taste" in their mouths from last year, Sowell has also worked on personal improvement.

The 6-foot-7, 315 pounder won the Jeff Hamm Memorial Award for the team's most improved offensive player a year ago, and has other plans for this spring.

"I want to be a little more consistent and a little more of a leader," Sowell said.

"I have to be a little more vocal. I'm not a big talker. I don't do all the screaming, I'm not a rah-rah guy. I want to speak up a little bit this year and really help my team out and win. It's been a bad offseason with a bad taste in our mouths"

Sowell will help to anchor an offensive line in 2011 that struggled at the onset of last year. Several new faces — including freshmen Patrick Junen, a walk-on, and Jared Duke — were inserted into the lineup at different points in the fall, and by season's end the

unit was among the strengths of the team.

In the fall, Sowell said he expects the early bumps the offensive line experienced last fall to pay dividends.

The Rebels will return all of their starters from last year, and are being looked upon to help lead an offense that has yet to name a starting quarterback. A trio of rising juniors — Nathan Stanley, Zack Stoudt and Randall Mackey — along with rising sophomore Barry Brunetti will compete for the spot.

First-year offensive coordinator David Lee looks to name a starter this spring, which will determine the direction of the Ole Miss offense.

Sowell said he's been impressed with all four of the Rebels' potential quarterbacks thus far, especially with the caliber of their arm strength.

Stanley had some kind words for Sowell as well when he recently met with the media.

"Brad is doing real well. We are fortunate to have Brad on our team as far as he's been here a while and he knows stuff," Stanley said.

"Brad always does everything right. I think guys on the (offensive line) and even guys that don't play O-line are responding (to his leadership). He definitely has a good impact on our team."



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

BASKETBALL,

continued from page 12

A number of the locals may leave after the Georgia vs. Auburn game at noon and there may be some disinterested Kentucky fans scouting their opponent (the Wildcats get the winner), but I expect the Ole Miss and South Carolina fan contingents to be minimal. Couple that with the cavernous Georgia Dome, and there should not be much in the way of a crowd factor.

That kind of environment can really work for or against a team, but I think the Rebels are the type of team that can excel in an arena that will be about as loud as a non-evangelical church on Sunday morning.

In December 2006 I was at Madison Square Garden covering Virginia Tech vs. Seton Hall in the appetizer of the Aeropostale Classic, which featured Duke vs. Gonzaga as its main course.

Apparently Duke's alumni purchased all the tickets and didn't bother to show up until the second half of the Virginia Tech game.

The Hokies beat the Pirates, after which Virginia Tech head coach Seth Greenberg said that "it was like a morgue in (The Garden) early on."

He wasn't kidding — there were easily less than 1,000 people there and it was quiet. But his seniors

took care of business and downed the Hall 80-61.

That is what seniors do, and it's why I expect Chris Warren and Zach Graham to play well this afternoon. The Rebels rode Warren in Columbia to the tune of

33 points, but Graham and others were not on their respective games.

I've got to think that with five days to prepare, Warren and Graham will be ready to roll this afternoon, which is important because

the Rebels' success starts with those seniors.

If they're on their respective games, their play will rub off on the rest of team. If not, Ole Miss will head home before the SEC Tournament really gets started

and begin preparing to hit the road in the NIT.

But my gut tells me that the senior duo will come ready to play and lead the Rebels on to a Quarterfinal date with Kentucky in Friday's SEC Quarterfinals.

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Mistakes doom Rebels against Western Kentucky

BY AUSTIN MILLER
The Daily Mississippian

The Ole Miss baseball team (10-4) fell behind early and made too many mistakes late in a 7-3 home loss to Western Kentucky (7-5) on Wednesday night for the Rebels first mid-week loss of the season.

The Hilltoppers pounded out seven runs on eleven hits, but it was a wild pitch by sophomore right-hander Brett Huber in the seventh and an error by freshman shortstop Austin Anderson in the eighth – both with two outs in the innings – that stretched the lead from 4-3 to 6-3.

“It was just a bad game,” Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco said. “It was bad effort all the way around. Today was really disappointing in the sense that I thought we gave ourselves no chance to win. And, then, even with that – even playing as poorly as we did – it was a 4-3 game in the seventh and we had a shot, but then we let that slide.”

Western Kentucky scored three in the second off senior

left-hander Matt Tracy. The big hit in the inning from junior second baseman Ivan Hartle, who hit a two-out, two-RBI double down the left-field line past Ole Miss freshman third baseman Preston Overbey.

“We need to pick up our sense of urgency,” sophomore second baseman Alex Yarbrough said.

“Even the past few weeks in the games that we won, we’ve still fallen behind early in the game – it’s tough for us to get started.”

The Diamond Rebels got a run back in the third with Yarbrough’s two-out, RBI single to score Anderson from third. With runners on first and third, senior outfielder flied out to right field to end the inning.

Tracy was chased from the game in the fourth after giving up four runs on six hits, while walking three and striking out six.

Freshman right-hander Mike Mayers came into the game with runners on second and third and one out and limited the fourth-inning damage to one run on back-to-back

groundouts. For the game, Mayers went two shutout innings and allowed only one hit, while striking out four.

Freshman first baseman Will Allen and junior catcher Taylor Hightower hit back-to-back double in the fifth. Allen scored on a RBI groundout by sophomore outfielder Tanner Mathis and Yarbrough came through with another two-out, RBI single to drive in Hightower.

The Diamond Rebels threatened again in the sixth, but pinch-hitting senior first baseman Miles Hamblin flied out to right, stranding senior outfielder Jordan King and Anderson. After Western Kentucky extended the lead to 6-3 in the eighth, Ole Miss had runners on first and second with one out, but King struck out and Anderson grounded out to end the eighth-inning rally.

The Hilltoppers took the lead out to 7-3 in the ninth when junior shortstop Logan Robbins homered to left-center.

The Rebels next host a three-game series with Lipscomb starting Friday with first pitch set for 6:30 p.m.



ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippian

Alex Yarbrough takes a bat against Western Kentucky during Ole Miss’ 7-3 home loss to Hilltoppers on Wednesday night. Yarbrough had two RBIs to lead a Rebel offense that has been anemic during Ole Miss’ current three-game losing streak.

Rebs have reasons for success against Gamecocks in SEC Tourney

BY REID BARRINEAU
Columnist

The Ole Miss Rebels are in Atlanta this afternoon for the first day of the 2011 Southeastern Conference Basketball Tournament.

Thanks to Ole Miss’ 84-74 win

over the Arkansas Razorbacks on Saturday afternoon in Oxford, the Rebels 19-12 (7-9 SEC) earned the No. 3 seed out of the West and will take on the South Carolina Gamecocks, the No. 6 seed out of the East, at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The bad news for the Ole Miss

Rebels is that they have to play today (they did not receive a bye), but the good news is that coach Andy Kennedy’s team is playing the East’s cellar dweller.

While the Gamecocks beat the Rebels 79-73 on Feb. 22 in Columbia, S.C., the Rebels have reason to believe that they will prevail this afternoon at the Georgia Dome.

First, it was close last time around with South Carolina. In fact, the Rebels tied the game at 73 in the final 90 seconds before the Gamecocks ultimately scored the final six points to win the game, three of which came at the charity stripe following empty Rebel possessions.

Second, this game is on a neutral floor. I’m of the mindset that if a team can play another as tight as the Rebels did the Gamecocks in a true road environment, then there is no reason to expect that the team will not do the same or better at a neutral site.

And, believe me, I expect the Georgia Dome to be pretty neutral Thursday afternoon.

See BASKETBALL, PAGE 11

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