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The Daily Mississippian

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The Daily Mississippian, "June 13, 2012" (2012). *Daily Mississippian (all digitized issues)*. 449.
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SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: "DINING WITH THE STARS" P. 4



YOUNG LEADS REBELS TO SUCCESSFUL SEASON P. 8



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THE DAILY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012 | VOL. 100, No. 306

MISSISSIPPIAN

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

Ole Miss welcomes home new track and field coach Brian O'Neal

The Ole Miss track and field program welcomed new head coach and alum Brian O'Neal Tuesday afternoon. O'Neal was a middle-distance runner in his career as a Rebel.

BY MATT SIGLER
mcsigler@olemiss.edu

On Tuesday afternoon the University of Mississippi track and field program introduced its third head coach in program history.

Brian O'Neal, a former Rebel and Mississippi native, leaves a University of Florida program that he helped lead to four national championships in the past four years. O'Neal also received national assistant coach of the year honors in 2009.

"We sat out and developed our profile, and said OK who is the ideal candidate. We scoured the country and got different names, but one name kept popping up," Ole Miss athletic director Ross Bjork said. "That one name was Brian O'Neal. Brian is

the total package. He is a winner on the track. If you look at an ideal profile for what we need for this track program to get us to compete for and win championships, Brian is that perfect candidate."

The Rebel track and field team is coming off a year in which they finished in the top 25 in the rankings and also had three men place in the top 10 in the country.

"I'm excited to say that I am home back here at Ole Miss. Not for a homecoming, but to compete and win championships," O'Neal said. "That is the goal, year in year out. I think the student-athletes here are on board with that and we are going to continue to bring in bright student-athletes that are in that championship mode."



CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

Former Ole Miss student athlete Brian O'Neal, who was recently named as the team's new track and field head coach, shakes Athletics Director Ross Bjork's hand. O'Neal was most recently an assistant coach at the University of Florida.

O'Neal is bringing an 18 year coaching career to Oxford, with time split between Ole Miss and Florida. O'Neal has been able to produce many well known athletes and also numerous

SEC and NCAA champions along with Olympians.

During O'Neal's first tenure at Ole Miss, he was able to coach 12 Rebels to top-four finishes at the NCAA Championships. He also was

able to help 18 athletes earn 39 All-American honors, including seven SEC champions. His first campaign at Ole Miss lasted 14 years.

See O'NEAL, PAGE 7

Faulkner's trail gets national recognition

Bailey's Woods, the trail behind Rowan Oak that Faulkner used to use to trek to the campus or the Square, was named a National Recreation Trail this year.

BY CALLIE DANIELS
cadanie2@gmail.com

On June 5th the U. S. Department of Interior endowed federal recognition to the wooded trail in the Bailey's Woods between the University of Mississippi Museum and Rowan Oak.

The winding trail, which William Faulkner trekked onward to the Ole Miss campus or the Square, was named a National Recreation Trail. It is the only Mississippian trail to receive the distinction this year.

"I'm not sure how I feel about that," said Jay Watson, Howry professor of Faulkner studies, "a part of me wants the woods and that wonderful trail through



PHILIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian

Students walk the trail that connects Faulkner's Rowan Oak to the campus.

them to remain our secret here in Oxford and at Ole Miss!"

Watson went on to explain the importance of the Bailey's Woods to the writer.

"The woods were clearly very important to him for his privacy and for their beauty," Watson said. "On several occasions he bought additional land in the woods to increase the size of the holding he could protect, so that by the time of his death, I have heard, Bailey's Woods was the largest tract of undeveloped land in the city of Oxford."

In the early 1900s, young Faulkner played in Bailey's Woods, often dressed in a military jacket. It would be decades later in 1930 that Faulkner would buy his Rowan Oak, placed right next to the woods he played in while still a child.

See TRAIL, PAGE 5

Volunteer Oxford continues

Volunteer Oxford received a continuation from last year's grant at \$40,000.

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU
aganucheau24@gmail.com

The Volunteer Oxford organization has received a \$40,000 grant to continue operation in the Oxford and Lafayette county area. The grant, which is a continuation of the grant that was awarded to Volunteer Oxford last year, was approved by the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service (MCVS) this

See VOLUNTEER, PAGE 5

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BY JOSH CLARK | @dm_toons | The Daily Mississippian

COLUMN

Don't give me a book, give me a bracelet?



BY ANGELA ROGALSKI
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Bill and Melinda Gates have apparently run out of worthy ways to spend their money when it comes to education. Buying new books, building computer labs, maybe even a fund that helps schools pay their monthly expenses, comes to mind, but those thoughts were not evident in the brains of Mr. and Mrs. Gates when they donated approximately \$1.1 million to develop a way to physiologically measure how engaged students are by their teachers' lessons.

Their idea: "galvanic skin response" bracelets that students would wear so their engagement levels could be measured. From a recent article in *The Washington Post*, "\$1.1 million-plus Gates grants: 'Gal-

vanic' bracelets that measure student engagement," these ridiculous pieces of educational jewelry are explained.

A team with the catchy name of MET (Measuring Effective Teachers) will work with the chosen schools to measure engagement physiologically with GSR (Galvanic Skin Response) bracelets (always worry when there are more than one set of abbreviated titles which you've never heard of and make absolutely no sense), which will determine the feasibility and utility of using such devices regularly in schools with students and teachers.

Excuse me, what? Wait, there is another definitive explanation provided by the article: using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging and GSR to determine correlations between each measure and develop a scale that differentiates different degrees or levels of engagement. According to Susan Ohanian, a long-time teacher, and now a freelance

writer and editor, "it's part of an emerging field of neuromarketing, which relies on biometric technologies to determine a participant's emotional and cognitive response to certain stimuli."

Oh, okay, now I get it. They're going to slap a bracelet on a kid's wrist and measure his/her's response to what is taught in the classroom. What happens if the kid comes to school upset over something that happened at home the night before? Would the bracelet be able to tell which emotional responses were from the classroom versus other contributing factors?

The article is a reminder that we have become a data-obsessed, determined-to-measure-everything-that's-remotely-measurable society that may be going a little too far with our ideas of technology. There are too many outside factors that could color the data that would be measured by these bracelets. Even if the student enters

the classroom with an emotionally-clean slate, who is to say that a fellow student won't elate, upset, or run the bracelet-wearing student's blood pressure straight up, thereby hindering the measurements. And of course, the student causing the blood pressure's rise will be wearing a bracelet, so their readings will also be off.

I want to go on the record here and say none of this sounds very scientific to me. To Bill and Melinda, I'd like to add: Think about it. There are better ways to spend \$1.1 million dollars when it comes to helping education. Why not call in a panel of teachers and students and ask them what they need in this time of economic education crunching?

I bet their ideas wouldn't include galvanic skin response bracelets.

Angela Rogalski is a print journalism senior who lives in Abbeville. Follow her on Twitter @ abbeangel.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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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 of Mississippi 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.



MISSISSIPPI
press
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Attention freshmen



BY TRENTON WINFORD
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Dear incoming college freshmen,

Congratulations on getting to this point in your life. To those who are from Mississippi, I'm glad you decided to stay in the state that I love. To those from elsewhere, welcome home, and I know you will come to love this place nearly as much as I do.

I rarely get personal with my articles, usually wanting to voice my opinion without the use of "I," but this one I intend to be an exception. In fact, I want you to hear this as if coming from a friend you have known your whole life.

I graduated from a very good private school, having been with over 90% of my class since first grade. I graduated in a class of 85 students, a far cry from the number I would enter Ole Miss alongside. Most of my friends decided to go to college elsewhere, so I was primarily on my own.

I don't exactly remember what my expectations were when I began my freshman year, but I do know they were mostly proven to be incorrect. I'm sure you have many expectations yourself, and maybe with a better understanding than I thought I had. So, with that in mind, I would just like to give you a few pointers or tips to hopefully help you prepare for the next step in your life.

First, don't bite off more than you can chew. 18 hours might seem like something you can easily handle, and for some people that is true. However, for the vast majority of people, 18 hours is too much for their first semester. It isn't just about classes though. Sometimes taking 12 hours with too many extracurricular activities can be

just as daunting. All in all, be wise when determining how to divide your time and attention.

Second, GPA isn't everything. I know it seems like it is. Pressure to maintain GPA requirements for scholarships is high. You will be told that only 4.0s get considered for jobs. And you will hear of people with "easy majors" that only have to show up and breathe to get better grades than you. Trust me; it isn't as important as society tells you. Your first employer could very well be the only person who cares about your GPA once you graduate. Do your best to get the grades you are capable of, but don't freak out when you miss the mark in some classes. In 20 years your kids, mortgage, and career will all be vastly more important than your final grade in Random 101.

Third, just be you. There will be pressures from every side to join group X because it looks good on your résumé or to try to get into frat A or B because your friend, brother, or uncle wants you to. But if it isn't you, then don't do it. When it comes to those decisions, ultimately, you matter most. It's okay to be selfish at times.

Fourth, stand up for what you believe in. College is a place where the collective of ideas is more diverse than any other. Inevitably, you will have a class where you disagree with a teacher or student's viewpoint. It's okay to challenge their beliefs, and it is okay if they challenge yours. Do so respectfully, and the possibilities for knowledge and experience are endless.

Finally, rest assured that you are exactly where you need to be. Whether you are from Oxford, MS, or Oxford, UK, or any place between and beyond, there is a reason you were drawn to Ole Miss and the University of Mississippi.

Trenton Winford is a junior public policy leadership major from Madison.

COLUMN

Label less and love more



BY ADAM BLACKWELL
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Stereotypes: those pesky labels we place on people before we truly know them. Every day, we are constantly stereotyping people and placing them into defined groups based on simple presumptions and characteristics. Even when we don't intend to, our mind still stereotypes every person we encounter.

Often, we are the victims of stereotyping as well. Others label us and form opinions about us before they have gotten to know us. Personally, one label I find that is most incorrectly used in Mississippi is: Democrat. I am a liberal Democrat, and I am very proud of my beliefs; however I do not appreciate people forming negative opinions of me solely based on my political beliefs. Furthermore, I don't appreciate people assuming they know all of my beliefs, simply because I identify with the Democratic party.

In Mississippi, the Democratic label has an especially negative connotation. Most conservative Mississippians seem to believe that if you are a Democrat then you are either old and crazy or

young and naïve. I realize that I am also making general assumptions about the beliefs of conservatives in this state. I don't intend to group these opinions under one label, I only wish to convey my experiences. I am a Democrat, and I am proud. If you are a Republican, you should be just as proud of your beliefs. We need to work across the aisle and break down these unnecessary labels.

Another label that we are all too familiar with is the stereotype that every Mississippian faces when leaving our beloved South. "Yankees" see us as unintelligent, redneck and obese. I was born and raised in Mississippi, and (hopefully) I don't fit any of those labels. I visited D.C., Chicago, and other cities above the Mason-Dixon line, and people immediately judged me because of my deep southern drawl. While I do get upset that people consider me unintelligent because of my accent, at other times, this presumption can be used as a strength. My intelligence is underestimated because of my strong Southern accent, so I can surprise people with my intellect.

While there are negative Southern stereotypes, there are also some positive ones. For example, Southerners are seen as extremely charming and hospitable,

and we are often considered amazing cooks. Now, I think all of these things are wonderful, and I certainly want people thinking this about me. Some of you may say that this isn't a stereotype; it's an absolute truth. I, however, have definitely met Southerners who were not charming, and there are plenty of Southerners who can barely boil water.

Stereotypes are both positive and negative; however the majority of stereotypes hold negative connotations. Our stereotypes can keep us from truly caring about someone or giving them the respect they deserve. Our society has been labeling people and objects for so long that it now seems like a natural process. I wish I could tell myself to stop stereotyping, but it's not that easy. It takes discipline and determination. Imagine a society where we didn't generalize or label people. Maybe, we would have more friends than enemies; maybe we could have fewer complications and things would be simpler in life. Here, I challenge myself to label less, love more, and get to know people before making presumptions about them.

Adam Blackwell is a junior public policy leadership major from Natchez. Follow him on Twitter @AdamBlackwell1.

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New Beginnings, a chance to make a change

Ole Miss' free new health program focuses on students and faculty wanting and needing a healthier life

BY ALEX DEJOY
abdejoy@gmail.com

Getting healthy and staying in shape is something that seems to be constantly in the minds of college students across the nation, especially here at Ole Miss.

The freshman fifteen. Everyone has heard of it, and some people are having a difficult time overcoming dreaded college weight gain.

Changing your diet and mentality can be hard on your own. If you are looking for some guidance in becoming healthier, look into Ole Miss' new program, New Beginnings.

With the health center constantly busy controlling student illness, this program began in order to better serve students who needed more one on one time to focus specifically on their weight.

"My idea was that we would have a weight loss or a normalization program, every year, every semester, every summer," said Dr. Barbara Collier, director of Student Health at Ole Miss. "So if you are a freshman and you come and you want to lose weight and after a few months you stop, you can plug yourself back in whenever you want."

New Beginnings is a free program available to students and employees at The University of

Mississippi.

With the help of Mary Amanda Haskins, a doctoral candidate here at Ole Miss, losing weight and changing your lifestyle may be easier than you think.

"My undergraduate degree has nothing to do with health, but I found that it was something that I was really passionate about," Haskins said. "I wanted to go back and make a difference in my home state, the most unhealthy state and the state in the most need."

In order to become involved with New Beginnings, students need to be referred by the health center on campus. For some students, this is possible through visiting the health center once they are ill and for others this is possible by going to the health center and asking to be referred to the program.

The health center will do some basic lab work in order to find out if you are healthy enough to join the program. They check blood pressure, BMI, good and bad cholesterol, triglycerides and blood sugar.

Students and employees with a BMI over 30 are considered in the overweight range and receive a card that lists helpful resources, including New Beginnings, to aid them on campus.

Haskins contacts each person who is referred to her from the

health center, whether or not the individual is interested in joining the program.

"We meet on a weekly basis, every week for about 30 minutes, but as time goes on they need less and less time with me," Haskins said.

New Beginnings is very individualized in order to adjust to the specific needs of the person.

"Whether it is an 18 year old who is here for the first time, or someone who is in her mid life and taking care of both of her children, what's the same is we start from the beginning," Haskins said. "Most people want to use the d word, diet or want to start an exercise program right away. For some people all they need to do is focus on getting enough sleep or just planning their meals."

When an individual first begins meeting with Haskins, she goes over the basics and teaches what the person needs to change in order to be successful. Haskins recommends that individuals really focus on the quality of the food rather than the quantity.

"It's taking the food and learning some principles, and we're your cheerleaders," Collier said. "And that's the accountability part. People who do that lose weight. It didn't take you 3 months to put this weight on.

It's not going to come off. Look at long terms of 6 months to 1 year and see where you want to be."

Haskins also goes by the Guidelines for American College and Sports nutrition and she recommends 30 minutes of physical activity per day on most days.

"You can make a difference by just making one change a week," Haskins said. "Start small without radically changing your philosophy on food, or your lifestyle, or your budget."

Through just four or five meetings, students can learn valuable skills that they otherwise would not have known.

"She makes little changes," Collier said. "It may be adding water or walking. It is like a weight watcher idea in that you've got the cheerleader. It's our effort to try and impact students and employees."

For students in the average weight range who would like advice on ways to improve their health and lifestyles, Haskins is still available to sit down and go over healthy changes that can be made.

"This sounds like a really interesting program and getting healthy is something that students here always need and are interested in," said general studies senior Jessica Martin.

COLUMN

Keeping the pride alive

BY JARED BURLESON
jaredburlesonphotography@gmail.com

At a football game, my favorite thing is the atmosphere – the feeling you get when you are in a group all hoping for the same thing and fighting for it together.

School spirit is definitely among the most important perks of going to college, both on and off the field. Some students, however, just do not know why or how to cheer.

Last week I was asked to help photograph a wedding in Pontotoc of a house divided. The groom is a spirited Ole Miss alum while his new wife is well, exactly the opposite. The ceremony went smoothly without any school rivalry interruptions, and the reception was not too bad, just some Ole Miss decorations on the groom's table. Finally, when it was time for the newlyweds to run out the doors to their getaway car, the rivalry outbreak began. Ole Miss fans stood on the left. The other fans stood on the right. Each side held onto school-colored pompoms ready to shake and yell when the couple came outside. I felt the need inside to yell "ARE YOU READY?" but as a hired professional who prides himself on being journalistic during a wedding ceremony, I felt it would alter the scene from its natural state and thus taint the photographs with my input.

Luckily, another Ole Miss alum standing nearby said it for me, and, of course, the Hotty Toddy chant came roaring across the line. You could barely hear those other fans saying whatever it is they say. Standing there at the end of a wedding reception I got the same feeling as I had when Ole Miss beat the Southern Illinois Salukis early last season.

Sometimes it is not easy to cheer. Some people are just plain old shy and cannot work up the gumption to get really loud. For those people, it will take time to feel the Rebel pride that sets this school apart. Admittedly, sometimes it is the scoreboard that poisons their Rebel spirit. Those are the most crucial moments when fanship is needed the most.

While I am a proud Rebel fan who yells the chant every time at the games, I can tell that sometimes we are not doing our best. Some of us have not found the Rebel pride yet, and we seriously need to. If at an alumni wedding the Ole Miss fans cheer louder than those other fans, how much louder should current students yell with pride for their team?



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian

TOP: Theater goes bid on items during a Shakespeare Festival Silent Auction Saturday evening. BOTTOM LEFT: Actors in "The Sound of Music" perform the song "16 going on 17" at the fundraising event. BOTTOM RIGHT: Joe Turner Cantú, who is directing "King Lear," speaks at the event. "All's Well That Ends Well" will kick off the Shakespeare Festival this weekend at the Ford Center starting Friday at 7:30 p.m. For more information, including showtimes, visit shakespeare.olemiss.edu.

TRAIL, continued from page 1

Before the national recognition of the trail, a few people who knew Faulkner well enjoyed walking through the woods. English professor Mildred West was one such person. On bright days, regardless of the season, she took her classes through the 20-minute trek to Rowan Oak.

"The students love it," West said. "For once they can leave the classroom, the books, the demands of sitting for an hour or more, especially hard when the weather is warm and the sun is shining. For the most part, though, it is one of our favorite days of the year."

Bill Griffin, Rowan Oak curator, awaits the visitors to the trail. Now that the trail has been named one of the National Recreational Trail, Griffin has put up the signs and landmarks to individualize the trail. The trail, before the signs, was hidden from plain sight, winding behind the bushes by Rowan Oak and shrouded by shrubs next to the University Museum's parking lot.

He gave thanks to the VISTA volunteer, Alyssa Yeun, who has worked tirelessly to bring national attention to the old trail.

"It was wonderful to work with Alyssa Yeun," Griffin said. "VISTA is a great program. We could have not done this without VISTA and Alyssa."



PHOTO COURTESY VOLUNTEER OXFORD

Ole Miss student volunteers paint a city of Oxford curb during the Big Event.

VOLUNTEER, continued from page 1

past Friday. MCVS wrote the grant in an effort to increase the rate of volunteerism by building infrastructure for volunteer centers.

"Receiving this grant is huge," Volunteer Oxford director Kelly Shannon said. "It will help us pay salary, conduct our operating budget and allow us to keep the software on our website up to date. It will help us continue to serve the community in a positive way."

"Volunteer Oxford has been very, very successful in their efforts," Krista Estes, Senior Volunteer Generation Officer of the MCVS, said. "That group is truly one of the shining stars of Mississippi, and we are very pleased for them."

In addition to the \$40,000 grant awarded by the MCVS, Volunteer Oxford also received \$3,500 each from the University of Mississippi, the Oxford Board of Aldermen and the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors.

"We are so thankful for all the funding that we have received," Shannon said. "If they weren't so gracious, we would not be able to help the

community this way."

Volunteer Oxford, which was established in August of 2011, matches volunteers to service in the Oxford area, according to its website. The group allows access to many different volunteer opportunities in the community, and will be starting its second year of existence in August. In its first year of existence, the group established 44 total partnerships with individuals, groups and businesses in less than one year to match volunteers with the best possible service opportunities. That mark nearly doubled the projected amount of partners for the first year. Among the group's partners are the City of Oxford, the Oxford Park Commission, the University of Mississippi Volunteer Services/Office of the Dean of Students, the University of Mississippi's College of Liberal Arts, College Corps and the North Mississippi VISTA Project. The group has worked with over 4,000 volunteers since its establishment.

"We are like the hub for volunteerism in the area," Shannon said. "It's like the one-stop shop for volunteers and people looking for volunteers."

The group focuses on the

two national days of service: the 9/11 Day of Service and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Last year on those two days combined, Volunteer Oxford placed 280 volunteers throughout the community, and \$24,000 was the estimated monetary value in community service.

Volunteer Oxford also partnered with University of Mississippi's Big Event this year, serving on the UM Big Event planning committee and helping secure 15 community service projects for the March 31 project. About 3,000 Ole Miss students participated in the UM Big Event.

"Volunteer Oxford was very instrumental in helping us find specific projects for students to help out with," former director of UM Big Event Cortez Moss said. "They helped us out greatly with the coordination between volunteers and projects."

In addition to the larger volunteer events held by Volunteer Oxford, volunteers can find other opportunities throughout the year as well. For more information about volunteering through Volunteer Oxford, visit the group's website, blog or social media outlets.



PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian



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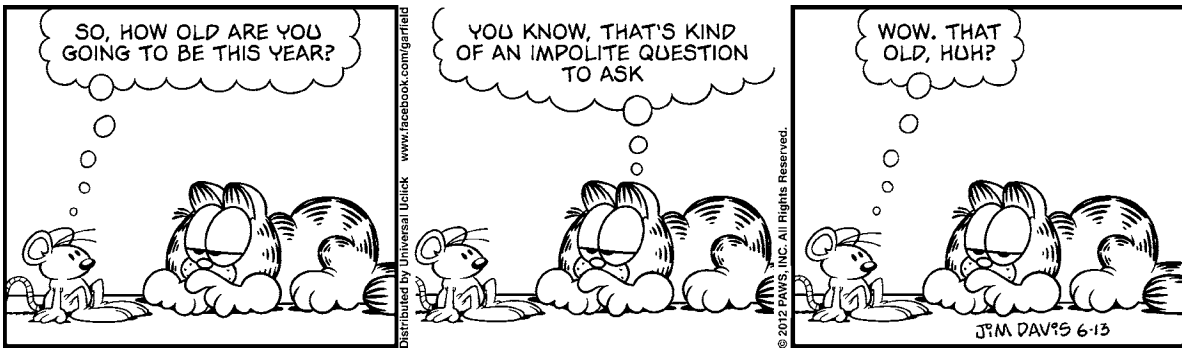
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Ole Miss
Campus Recreation

GARFIELD

By JIM DAVIS



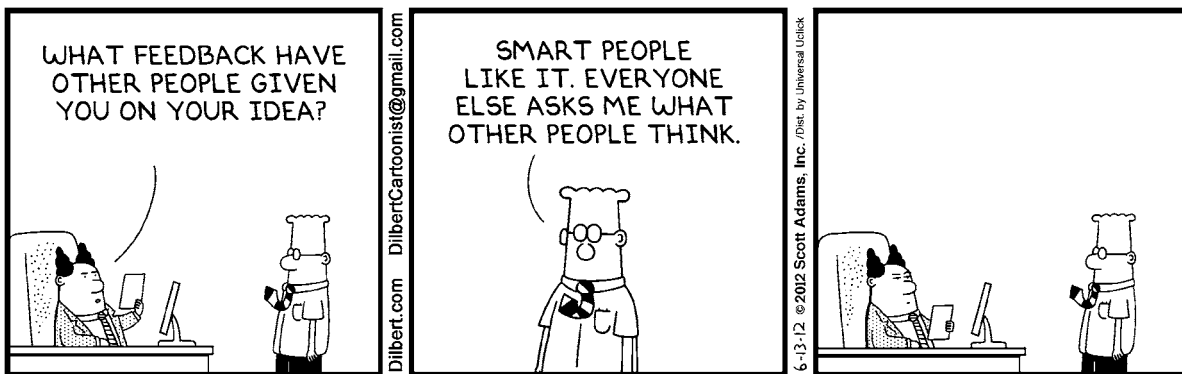
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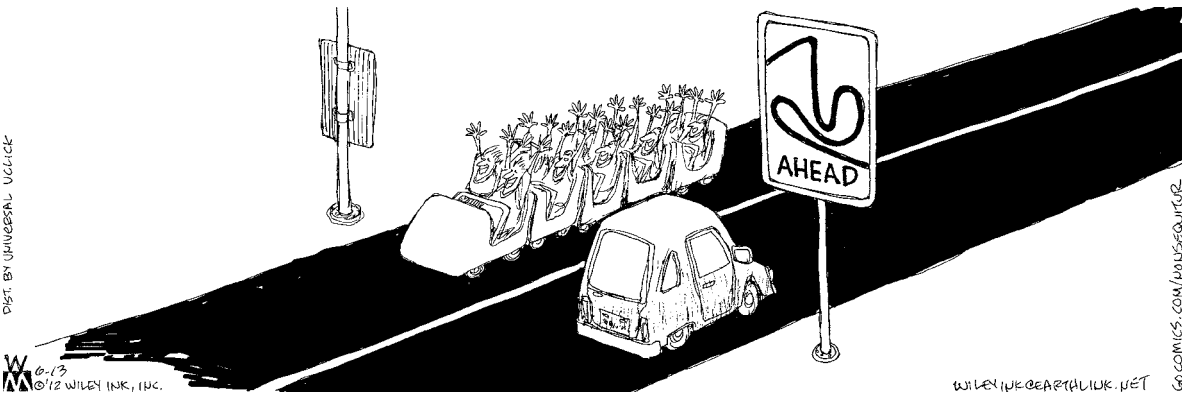
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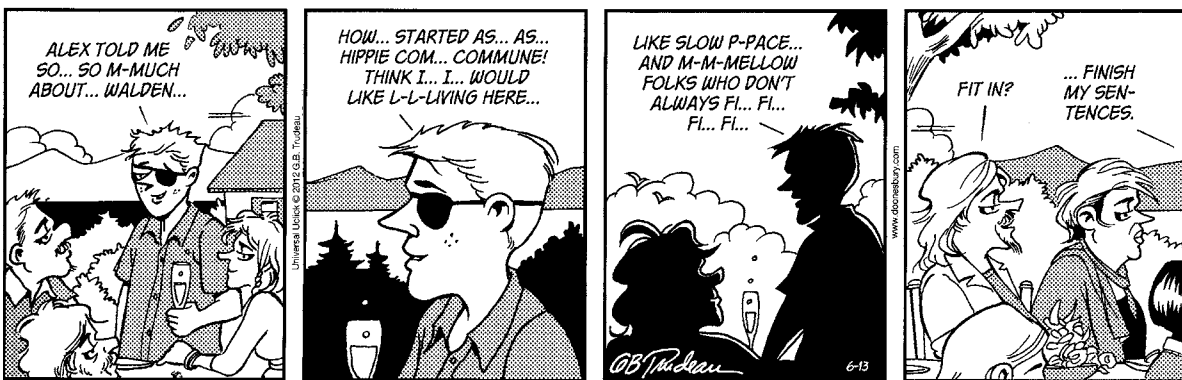
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HOW TO PLAY

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

EASY

6	2	8	9	4	1	5	7	3
7	6	3	8	2	5	4	9	1
4	5	1	9	3	7	8	2	6
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- 9 Historical period
- 14 Brigitte's friend
- 15 Couple
- 16 Pago Pago locale
- 17 Mia — of soccer
- 18 Colleen's home
- 19 Embezzler
- 20 Bargain hunter
- 22 Bar sing-along
- 24 Henry VIII's house
- 26 Cut timber
- 27 Main road
- 30 Eastern hemisphere (2 wds.)
- 35 Women on campus
- 36 Decoy
- 37 Word form for "nerve" (var.)
- 38 "Yuck!"
- 39 Manuscript fixers
- 42 "I" trouble
- 43 Look after the hens
- 45 A Walton daughter
- 46 Models' stances
- 48 Kind of slip
- 50 Travelers on foot
- 51 GQ or SI, e.g.

DOWN

- 1 Derisive snorts
- 2 Mem Sahib's nanny
- 3 Prom rental
- 4 Enticed
- 5 Fast
- 6 View from Giza
- 7 Oxygen source
- 8 Go on safari
- 9 Trust account
- 10 Model of excellence
- 11 "Typee" sequel
- 12 Make dinner
- 13 Ocean fish
- 21 Clutch or tote
- 23 Birch-family tree
- 25 Commonplace
- 27 "Wabash Cannonball" singer

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L	A	S	H	A	P	E	D	R	E	C	O	N
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- 28 Toon rabbit
- 29 Giggle (hyph.)
- 31 — Hubbard of sci-fi (2 wds.)
- 32 Ms. Witherspoon
- 33 German pistol
- 34 Slag
- 36 Coin in the Trevi
- 40 Condescend
- 41 Tanker mishap
- 44 Mannequins
- 47 Artist Georgia
- 49 Small and delicate
- 50 Up-front
- 53 Whey
- 54 Pokes
- 55 Slugger
- 56 Beach cover
- 57 Red-waxed cheese
- 59 Field
- 60 European coal region
- 61 Toss
- 64 Oklahoma town

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69								70						71		

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CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

New track and field head coach Brian O'Neal

O'NEAL,

continued from page 1

O'Neal now takes over a program that was run by Ole Miss legend Joe Walker. Walker concluded his final year as leader of the Rebels this past weekend at the NCAA Championships. Walker led the program for 30 years.

"Ole Miss is my dream job," O'Neal said. "It always has been from the moment I set foot on this campus in the fall of 1989. This is always where I wanted to be."

During his time away from Oxford, O'Neal said that he learned many things about what it takes to lead a program and to become a national power.

"The thing I found out was that you have to have the intense desire to be the best," he said. "It starts with the head coach, but you have to have the total support from the administration, the student-athletes, staff, and we

will accept nothing less than our absolute best. That is what is going to be required from each of our student athletes."

The Ole Miss track and field program has seen its fair share of success, however it has mainly been on the individual level. O'Neal said he plans to change that.

"There are some advantages other schools have, such as different structures, whether it is state sponsored scholarships or lotteries, but there are a lot of great things here about Ole Miss," he said. "That is what we are going to continue to accentuate is the absolute positives, and we are going to get it out from coast to coast, around the world, we will find the best athletes on this planet and we will bring them here to Ole Miss."

O'Neal is also seeing a bright future in the recruiting process for the Rebels, especially in state.

"The athletes are here within the state," he said. "My job is to lock down this state, and

guarantee that all of them know the flagship school in this state is Ole Miss and if your from Mississippi, you need to be on this campus, because we are winners."

O'Neal is still in the process of completing his staff for next season, but he said he has received plenty of interest from candidates.

"Resumes have been pouring in," O'Neal said. "I woke up to 118 text messages, so their is definitely some excitement about coaching here at Ole Miss."

The Rebel family is happy to have O'Neal back and feel that he will be a strong addition to the sports program and will be able to continue the legacy Walker left.

"He has a plan, but the best thing about him is he is a great person, and he cares about our athletes," Bjork said.

"So we couldn't be more excited to bring an Ole Miss Rebel back home and welcome him and his family back here to Oxford, and back here to Ole Miss."

PROS

continued from page 8

home in Oakland, and has become more of a full-time player for a struggling Athletics team.

So far in 2012, Smith has started 44 of 54 games for the Athletics, who sport a record of 26-35, nine games back of division leading Texas.

The six-foot-three, 210-pound Smith, who swings left-handed, has always had a platoon split in

the big leagues. At the age of 29, that is probably here to stay, meaning Smith will always have a role as a left-handed batter who can really hit right-handed pitching, but struggles against lefties.

This season, he's hitting .259 with a .372 on-base average and a .405 slugging percentage. A slugging percentage of .405 is very low for Smith, and possible explanations for that are leaving Coors Field of the Rockies, and playing in the massive Oakland Coliseum of the Athletics for his home

games.

As always, his numbers against right-handers are good, as he's hitting .265 with a .792 OPS (on base-average plus slugging percentage), four home runs (has five total), 23 walks and 31 strikeouts against them in 2012.

He'll likely never be a star, but Smith will always have a role on a team needing a good, left-handed bat.

At Ole Miss, Smith was a freshman All-American and played for Team USA in the Pan-Am Games.

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Young leads Rebels to successful season

Junior Isiah Young has very lofty goals, especially for someone who started running track just three years ago.

BY TYLER BISCHOFF
ffbischo@olemiss.edu

During his first season at Ole Miss, Young raced to an SEC championship in the 200 meters. He went on to finish fourth at the NCAA Outdoor National Championships in the same event. However, Young was expecting results like this.

"I planned on winning the SEC (championship)," Young said. "Then I was going to try to win Nationals for Ole Miss."

This wasn't a childhood dream for Young.

Growing up in Junction City, Kan., he didn't play any sports except for football, which he only played during his senior year of high school. Then Young attended Allen Community College in Iola, Kan. During his freshman year, Young started competitively running track, where he ran the 60, 100 and 200 meters.

After his two years at Allen CC, Young was ready for something bigger. Ole Miss head track and field coach Joe Walker was able to sell Young on Ole Miss.

"Coach Walker was the best thing for me coming out of junior college," Young said.

Once at Ole Miss, Young immediately made his mark on the program. In addition to his 200 meters success, Young also qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the 100 meters. This event, however, would not be as kind to Young as the 200 meters.

In the qualifying heats



PHOTOS COURTESY OLE MISS ATHLETICS (JOSHUA MCCOY)

Track and field junior Isiah Young recently earned a first-team All-American honor.

for the championship heat, Young posted a time of 10.09 seconds, which put him in a tie for the final spot in the championship heat. To break the tie officials had to check to the thousandths

of a second. Young came up unlucky, as he was .006 seconds too slow, but Young doesn't attribute it to bad luck.

"That was disappointing, but it just means I need to

run faster," Young said.

For next season, Young doesn't want to lose a single race in the 200 meter, which would ultimately bring him a national championship.

Young cited his coach, Walker, as being his main reason for attending Ole Miss, but Walker has been more than coach to Young.

"He's a father figure to me," Young said. "I look up to him. He has helped me come a long way."

The next step for Young is the Olympics. This summer Young will attempt to qualify for the 100 meters, 200 meters or one of the relay teams America will send to London for the 2012 games. Young was at a loss for words when trying to describe the possibility of being an Olympian.

"It'd be a feeling that I wouldn't even be able to explain," Young said.

COLUMN

Rebels in the pros: Seth Smith



COURTESY OLE MISS SID

Former Ole Miss outfielder Seth Smith has found a place in the pros in Oakland. He is hitting .259 with a .372 on-base-percentage and a .405 slugging-percentage.

BY BENNETT HIPPI
jbhippi@olemiss.edu

After debuting for the Colorado Rockies in 2007, Seth Smith carved out a role for himself as a useful bench player and then occasional starter. The Rockies drafted him in the second round of the 2004 MLB draft.

Thanks to an off-season trade after the 2011 campaign, Smith has a new

See PROS, PAGE 7

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