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THE DAILY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2012 | VOL. 101, No. 2

MISSISSIPPIAN

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

STUDENT DEBT CRISIS A BIG-TICKET ITEM

With rising tuition costs and the highest unemployment rate for young college graduates in recent history at 9.1 percent, students at Ole Miss are considering the student debt crisis and the respective positions of President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney in the November election.

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU
amganuch@go.olemiss.edu

The student debt crisis is shaping up to be a major platform agenda of Presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney for the upcoming November election. Students across the state of Mississippi and the country are feeling the pressures of student loan debt even before they graduate from college.

President Obama and Gov. Romney are fully aware of the dire student debt situation, and though both candidates are against any increase in student loan interest rates, each is making strides to win voters with his own strategies to cope with the crisis. In late June, the United States Senate passed the appropriate measures to avoid the doubling of interest rates on new subsidized Federal Direct Stafford loans for undergraduate students from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. If action had not been taken by July 1, students across the country would have

been forced into a more expensive situation.

Each candidate had his own take on the close call with the interest rate increase. "Congress [had] time to fix this for months," Obama said according to a CBS News article. Many political analysts believed that the President was firing shots at Republican lawmakers to increase his own stock for re-election. The Republican-led House of Representatives argued that they had already passed a bill that struck down the increase long before the bill was passed by the Democrat-led Senate.

Gov. Romney had also publicly opposed the interest increase, and supporters seemed to bank on the idea that the student debt crisis is a result of President Obama's failure to deliver on promises he made before he was elected in 2008.

At the University of Mississippi, students are breathing a sigh of relief after the close call with the interest increase. Students in Oxford, like all college

students, will carefully consider this issue when deciding which candidate to vote for in November.

"I definitely want a leader who will fight for me and other students to make our futures better," business management junior Bill Sullivan said. "In November, I will vote for the candidate that best represents my ideas on this issue."

The Office of Financial Aid at Ole Miss deals with thousands of students who have taken out student loans to help pay for their education. Though it is not uncommon for college students to consider student debt issues when deciding which political leader to vote for, it is especially important during this election cycle considering the statistics students are facing.

The cost of a college education has been rising by about 9 percent per year over the last ten years, according to the Department of Education. The University of Mississippi's tu-

See DEBT, PAGE 5

The Student Debt Crisis

With tuition increasing steadily every year and student loan interest rates rising as well, both presidential candidates have plans to reduce student debt, which will be a very important topic of discussion in the upcoming election.

What are they going to do for **you?**



Mitt Romney

"Given the bleak job prospects that young Americans coming out of college face today, I encourage Congress to temporarily extend the current low rate on subsidized undergraduate Stafford loans. I also hope the president and Congress can pass the extension responsibly, that offsets its cost in a way that doesn't harm the job prospects of young Americans."



Barack Obama

"In America, higher education cannot be a luxury," Obama said in his weekly address. "For some time now, I've been calling on Congress to take steps to make higher education more affordable - to prevent these interest rates from doubling, to extend the tuition tax credit that has saved middle-class families millions of dollars, and to double the number of work-study jobs over the next five years."

GRAPHIC BY WILL STROUTH | The Daily Mississippian

Landscape Services keeps Ole Miss 'America's Most Beautiful Campus'

The university manages landscaping finances more efficiently than many of its peer institutions, including Mississippi State. While Landscape Services employees said the return of students have not affected their work, construction has had a significant impact.



FILE PHOTO (PHILLIP WALLER) | The Daily Mississippian

BY ADAM FLAHERTY
gaflaher@go.olemiss.edu

The University of Mississippi's beauty is well-known, but how it is kept that way is more than a mystery to most. Holding on to Ole Miss' "Most Beautiful" title is a complex financial and logistical operation.

The campus grounds is maintained by The University of Mississippi Landscape Services Department, which operates under the Office for the Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance.

The mission statement of the

department sums up its role well: "Our Mission is to provide professional services to the University which ensure that its natural splendor is well maintained, environmentally sensitive, and aesthetically pleasing to our customers. Our objective is to expand the beauty of the campus in order to attract, support, and increase a healthy, safe learning background."

Financing such operations is a complex endeavor, but one the university manages more efficiently than many of its peer institutions. The Grounds Costs Survey, conducted by the Uni-

versity of South Carolina several years ago, looked at the lowest cost per acre for universities in Mississippi.

At the time of the survey, The University of Mississippi spent an average of \$1,089.00 per acre on landscaping for 43,560,000 square feet of land which were maintained by 24 full-time employees, with the entire landscaping budget coming to \$1,089,662.00. Mississippi State University spent \$1,729.00 per acre on landscaping for 52,272,000 square feet of land

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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN EDITORIAL STAFF:

EMILY ROLAND
editor-in-chief
dmeditor@gmail.com

AUSTIN MILLER
managing editor
dmmanaging@gmail.com

HOUSTON BROCK
city news editor
thedmnews@gmail.com

JENNIFER NASSAR
campus news editor
thedmnews@gmail.com

PHIL MCCAUSLAND
opinion editor/copy chief
thedmopinion@gmail.com

DAVID COLLIER
sports editor
thedmsports@gmail.com

MADISON FEATHERSTON
lifestyles editor
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

CAIN MADDEN
photography editor
thedmphotos@gmail.com

TISHA COLEMAN
design editor

IGNACIO MURILLO
lifestyles design editor

LEANNA YOUNG
sales manager
dmads@olemiss.edu

MICHAEL BARNETT
RYAN HERGET
MEGHAN JACKSON
account executives

JAMES HULL
creative staff

S. GALE DENLEY STUDENT MEDIA CENTER

PATRICIA THOMPSON
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COLUMN

'Legitimate rape'



BY MEGAN MASSEY
memassey1848@gmail.com

It had to be done; let's talk about "legitimate rape."

In case you haven't heard, Missouri Republican representative Todd Akin made a controversial statement this weekend about his views on abortion. At first, his views, stated in an interview with KTVI-TV on Sunday, were nothing surprising. He said that while he is pro-life, he has no problem with abortion if the child has no chance of survival and the health of the mother is at risk.

But then he shot himself in the foot.

When asked about abortion in the case of rape, the representative said, "From what I understand from doctors, (pregnancy caused by rape) is really rare. If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that

whole thing down. But let's assume maybe that didn't work or something. I think there should be some punishment, but the punishment ought to be on the rapist."

Inconsiderate doesn't even begin to describe this statement. The word "legitimate" reeks of victim blaming, and Akin is full of bad science. What do you say to the women who have been "legitimately" raped and became "legitimately" pregnant as a result?

Akin might have misspoken, but if that is the case, the representative would do well to be more careful. His party is already under fire for comments about women, particularly after all of the debates about birth control earlier this year. This conversation can be had without being offensive and without insulting people who are already victims.

Akin is pro-life, which shouldn't come as a shock to anyone considering his party membership, and he is entitled to his own opinion on abortion. But he doesn't get to make statements on whether or not a rape is legitimate or

COLUMN

The appalling achievement gap in Mississippi



BY TIM ABRAM
toabram@go.olemiss.edu

This summer I immersed myself in researching the achievement gap between black and white students in Mississippi schools. What I found was disturbing; I'd take it a step further and say it was utterly appalling. According to the most recent data available from the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Research and Statistics (2010-11), black students lag behind their white counterparts in every single area of scholastic comparison. To me the question is no longer whether or not there is an achievement gap, but

rather what can we do about it?

I believe the first step in ameliorating the achievement gap is to illuminate the issue to our policymakers and the Mississippi citizenry in general, especially the black families. Why? If one isn't aware of a leaky roof, how can he fix it?

The same principle applies to the academic plight that black students in Mississippi face. I fervently believe that if more people were aware that only 59.4 percent of black students passed the biology subject area test (2010-11 school year) compared to the 87.2 percent of white students, they would feel compelled to do something about it.

It is important to note that graduating from high school in Mississippi is contingent on passing each of the four subject area tests. However, my strong

belief could be blinded by my own passion for this issue.

Sounding the alarm to policymakers and the citizens of Mississippi alone will not make a difference in the achievement gap. It will require some personal initiative from the students, an environment at home that fosters academic achievement and a voice for the voiceless.

Although I cannot speak on this issue definitively, I would guess that most black kids that lag behind whites on such a large scale are unaware of it. Former Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige described the achievement gap between whites and minorities as the "civil rights issue of our time." The difference between the civil rights issues of the 1950s and 1960s and the current civil rights issue as proclaimed by Paige is blatantly obvious: The 1950s

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was very surprised to open my DM this morning before class and find a timeline of events from the summer including the tragic deaths of two students in bullet points next to a blurb about tuition increase and dining options. First, I should address the horrible demise of my sorority sister Caroline Bartley. She was a beautiful person and a cherished member of our sisterhood. About three hundred of us within your readership had a sincere relationship with her. Secondly, his name is Brad, and he died on the 10th. He was one of my dearest friends. I have known him my entire life, and it absolutely breaks my heart that his memory is reduced to a picture from Facebook and a mislabeled bullet point on a timeline. I am disappointed and hurt that the staff of this publication would be so inconsiderate. There are many people still grieving over these terrible incidents.

Rachel Clark
Senior, English and Parks and Recreation
ryclark@go.olemiss.edu

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The University of Mississippi
S. Gale Denley Student Media Center
201 Bishop Hall

Main Number: 662.915.5503
Email: dmeditor@gmail.com
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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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
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Reading between the lines



BY BILL PHILLIPS
wphillip@go.olemiss.edu

We are in a time of anniversaries. Since 2010 the nation has been honoring the sesquicentennial – or 150th anniversary – of the Civil War, and 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the integration of The University of Mississippi.

As the campus community reflects on this monumental moment in our history, it will be imperative that we remember to read between the lines.

What exactly do I mean by reading between the lines? Perhaps the most poignant example is hidden in the ellipses that interrupt James Meredith's quote as inscribed in the Civil Rights Monument in the quad behind The Lyceum:

"Always, without fail, regardless of the number of times I enter Mississippi, it creates within me feelings that are felt at no other time... Joy...Hope...Love. I have always felt that Mississippi belonged to me and one must love what is his." –James H. Meredith, 1966

Most of this quote appears at least twice in Meredith's writings, in "A Mission From God: A Memoir and Challenge for America" and "Three Years in Mississippi," which appear to be the ultimate source of the monument's citation. The apparent sense of the inscription is that even the man who had to deal with death threats and mass protests against his attendance at the university – after serving nine years in

the U.S. Air Force, no less – looked upon his home state, and the university that eventually accepted him, with a thoroughly affirmative sentiment.

However, as was recently pointed out in an academic presentation I attended, the ellipses in the quote indicate a desire to whitewash a violent struggle. Read in their entirety, Meredith's words reveal a man at war with himself and his place in the world. The feeling of "Joy" ("because I have once again lived to enter the land") testifies to the precariousness of life for a black man in Mississippi in the 1960s. The "Hope" is a fighter's hope ("because where there is life there is also a hope, a chance") and the citation of "Love" is actually preceded by a feeling of sadness ("because I am immediately

aware of the special subhuman role that I must play, because I am a Negro, or die").

On one hand, reading Meredith's words at greater length frustrates me. What could have prompted such a misrepresentation of this struggle in those who assembled the monument for its dedication in October of 2006? Shouldn't a Civil Rights Monument preserve the messy memory of trauma and oppression?

On the other hand, these ellipses serve as a reminder that we are always in danger of repressing those elements we wish to forget. This occurs in our own households: There is an argument, the lovers or family members retire to their respective rooms, later we go for ice cream and tell jokes, but if the conflict remains unexamined, it ran-

kles.

As we enter this season of remembering and celebrating integration on our campus, these ellipses call on us to read between the lines of saccharine orations and easy sentiment to understand a more complete historical and contemporary picture of race and other minority interactions in order to more productively move forward.

Reading between the lines means questioning our own personal, often unconscious, assumptions about race and a slew of minority concerns: For instance, the sort of silent segregationist traditions that still maintain so many spots in Oxford as whitespace.

It means asking these questions from both sides of a silent color line that radiates in various directions: Horizontally across a wide racial spectrum between black and

white, at diagonals across a multiplicity of historical ethnic presences in the South (Asian-Americans, Latin-Americans and others) which our attention to a white-black dichotomy can often obscure, and along different lines to realize how prejudice still runs deep on campus in matters of economic class and sexual preference.

Additionally, reading between the lines means going beyond the canned PC rhetoric of tolerance to honestly ask ourselves why we should accept the other.

Until we honestly ask such questions, we remain always in danger of repeating history's mistakes and propagating new forms of oppression.

Bill Phillips is in his second year of Doctoral studies in English at Ole Miss. He is from Augusta, Ga.



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New drum majors aim for perfection

The Pride of the South prepares for this year's football season and a special New Orleans Saints performance with their new drum majors, Kyle Hickey, Brandon Hughes and Chaz Rasco.

BY RYAN GROVER
drgover@go.olemiss.edu

Under the leadership of band director Bill DeJournett, The University of Mississippi Pride of the South plans to continue their tradition of striving toward excellence.

Less than two weeks from its first football game, the band has been out on the field marching and practicing their half-time and in-the-stands performances since last week with their new drum majors, Kyle Hickey, Brandon Hughes and Chaz Rasco.

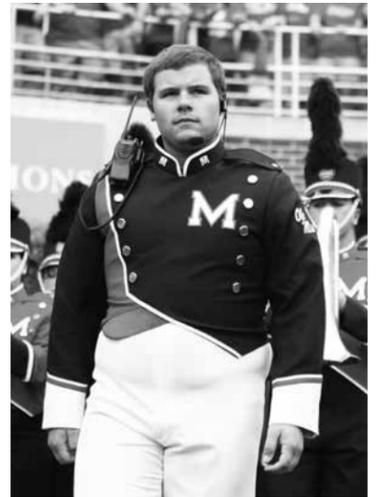
"This is a big year for Ole Miss with a new coach and a new athletics director. There's a lot going on, and we've got a lot of momentum," Hickey said. "Personally, I want to see the band execute everything

with perfection and really try to provide fans with the whole Ole Miss experience."

Hughes is especially excited about the freshmen, as the transition for them has been made easier through the Big Brothers, Little Brothers outreach program in which every incoming member is paired with another, more established member who is in their section.

"Everyone in the incoming class is really awesome," Hughes said. "They play well, they march well, they are all focused and have a great attitude. This year will be a great year for the Ole Miss band."

This year's halftime show will include three programs. The first is an "in-your-face" latin music ensemble, the second is a Styx theme featuring songs such as "Come Sail Away" and the



LEFT/CENTER: QUINTIN WINSTINE; RIGHT: FILE PHOTO (ALEX EDWARDS) | The Daily Mississippian

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Kyle Hickey, Brandon Hughes and Chaz Rasco (pictured last year at the BYU Football game) conduct during this past week's band camp. The three are the band's drum majors.

last is a river concept show with a "House of Rising Sun" and "Can't Help Falling in Love" medley.

The band is also focused on

supporting the athletes by maintaining their spirit and relaying that to the fans.

"We are working on keeping people from getting burned

out," Rasco said. "In previous years, towards the end of the season, our band members get tired. We are working on preventing that."

The band will be at every home and away game, with the exception of the Georgia game. In addition to the regular season games, The Pride of the South was asked by the New Orleans Saints to perform at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome when they play the Kansas City Chiefs on Sept. 23. The band directors and the athletics department worked together to make this opportunity happen.

"I am so excited about going to the game," said junior elementary education major and third-year band member Meribeth Malloy. "I've never gotten to perform at something like that. It's going to be amazing. We've got an incredible band this year, and it's going to sound and look great in that stadium."

"I'm so happy they decided to take the whole band. Being on color guard, I don't get to go to away games with the band, so it will be a new and exciting experience that I've always wanted

See BAND, PAGE 5

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BAND,

continued from page 4

to take part in," she said.

The drum majors relayed similar sentiment.

"I've been a Saints fan all my life and it's definitely an unreal experience to be able to go to a Saints game and perform as a band," Hughes said. "From

friends there, I've heard that they're ready for us to go."

The Pride of the South invites everyone to come watch their practices and check out the behind-the-scenes action that takes place every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the band hall. Like their Facebook page (Ole Miss Band) and follow them on Twitter at @Ole-MissBand.

"We tell the band members to be the biggest fans and the biggest supporters because if we stick around and keep up our winning attitude we can relay that spirit to the fans and get them to stick around until the end of the game no matter if we are winning or losing," Hughes said.

DEBT,

continued from page 1

tion is increasing by 8.5 percent starting this fall.

On average, one year at a public university now costs more than \$15,000. While the yearly in-state tuition rates at Ole Miss fall well below that

mark, students in Oxford are still dealing with financial uncertainty in a shaky economy.

According to Project on Student Debt, two-thirds of college seniors graduated with loans in 2010, and they carried an average of \$25,250 in debt. In addition to having the weight of thousands of dollars on their shoulders in the

future, students also face the highest unemployment rate for young college graduates in recent history at 9.1 percent.

Employment is another platform that many students are eyeing for the upcoming election. "It's really hard knowing that I will have to repay tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt when I will probably

struggle to find a job in this economy," graduate student Sarah Dreary said. "Even with a masters degree, I know nothing is guaranteed."

Dreary said she is still uncertain who she will vote for in November, but did mention that the student debt crisis would be one of her major concerns.

LANDSCAPE,

continued from page 1

which were maintained by 33 full-time employees, with the entire landscaping budget coming to \$2,074,536.00.

Landscape Services' budget is financed through a combination of student fees, private donations and state allocations, according to the the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. However, it would be difficult to analyze exactly what percentage of the budget is comprised of each funding source due to Landscape Service's budget coming from a fund used for many

campus necessities.

Fiscal efficiency has not reduced the quality of the work Landscape Services provides for Ole Miss. In 2011, Newsweek ranked The University of Mississippi as the number one most beautiful campus in America.

The return of students has not diminished the morale or the work quality of Landscape Services employees.

"Increased traffic hasn't really affected our work," Freddie Braxton, a groundskeeper with the department, said.

Braxton said construction had a larger impact than increased pedestrian traffic.

"The delays construction

causes usually slow down travel time," he said. "Our actual work isn't effected. We're just trying to keep this place beautiful."

Keeping the campus well-maintained is difficult work. In the fiscal year of 2010, over 1,053 trees, 10,381 shrubs and 8,760 yards of sod were planted.

The labor of Landscape Services is certainly not without challenges. Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Larry Sparks said the growth of the university has had a mixed impact on Landscaping Services.

"The growth of Ole Miss has certainly impacted the work of Landscape Services," he said.

"Sometimes, as we grow, new facilities reduce the acreage of the campus and thus the need for landscaping labor. Other times expansion necessitates a higher level of maintenance and care for the campus."

Sparks also said that, despite the challenges, the work Landscape Services does is "vital to the environment of the university."

"I definitely think the aesthetic of the university fosters a better learning environment," he said. "When we are recruiting students, we know that if we can get them on campus we will have made up their mind. It's a place students want to learn and live."

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WELCOME WEEK AT OLE MISS

Photos by Cain Madden | thedmphotos@gmail.com



ABOVE: Students get lunch at the Union on Move-in Day; RIGHT TOP: A couple of students get acclimated to campus via the campus map Friday; RIGHT MIDDLE/TOP: A student strikes a pose on Move-in Day; RIGHT MIDDLE/BOTTOM: A student and her father move a kayak up to her dorm room Friday; RIGHT BOTTOM: A student volunteer spins for a chance to get a free box of Pizza from Domino's Friday.

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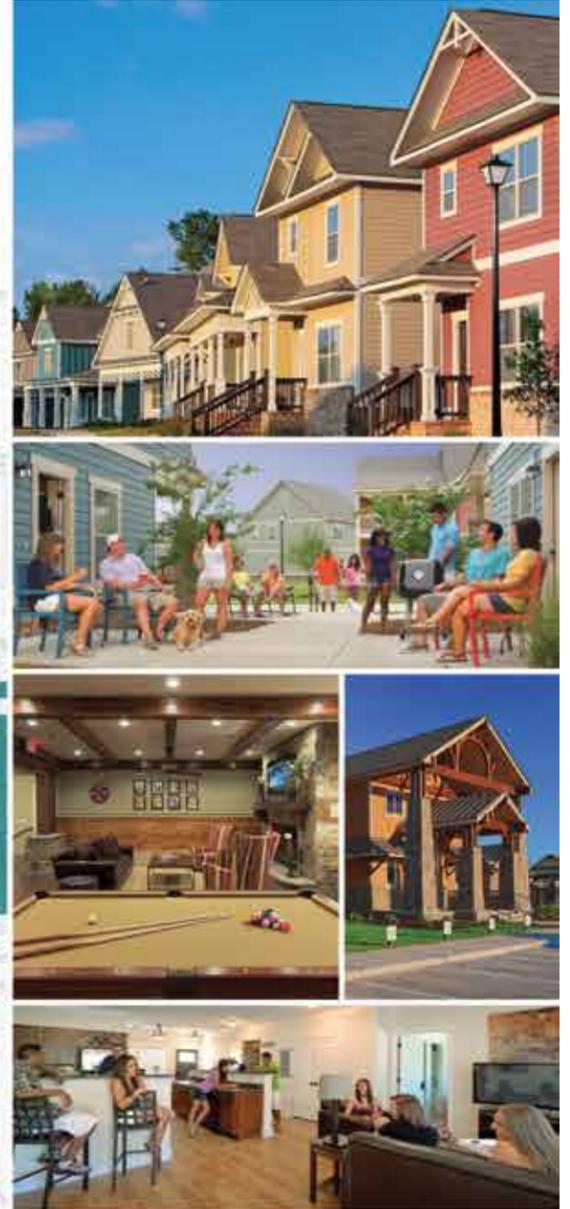
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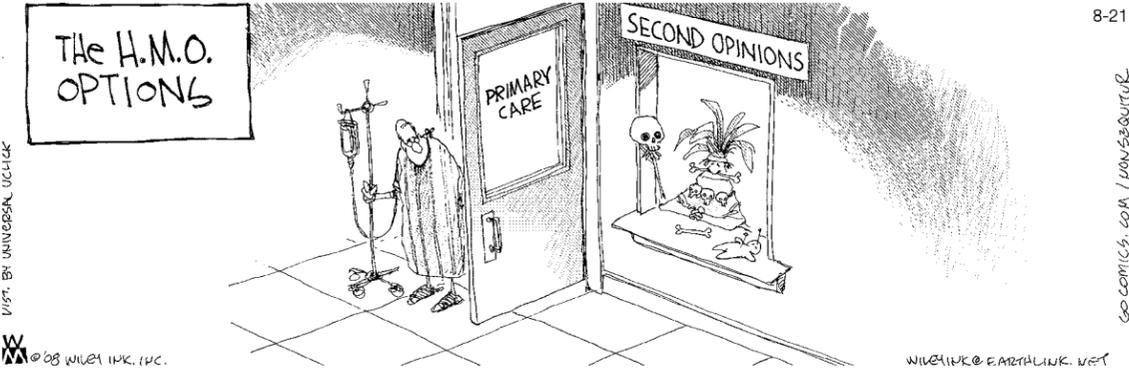
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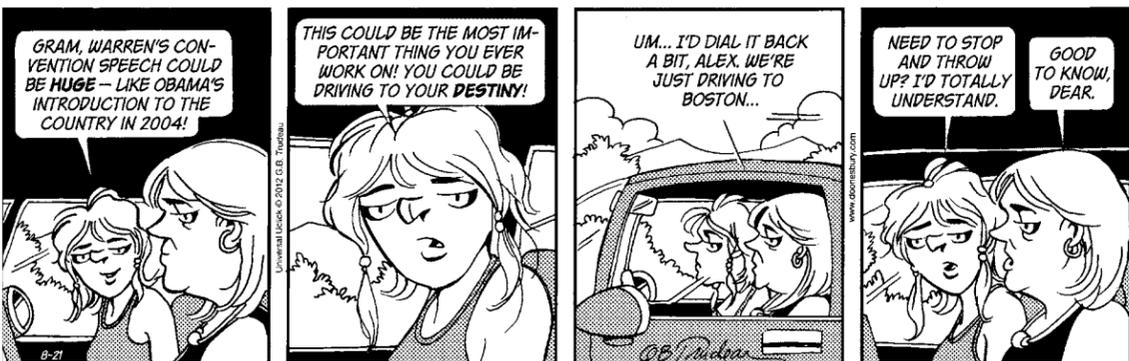
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	2			4		5	
7			5		9		2
		6		8			4
8	1				3		
4						1	
	5				7		8

HOW TO PLAY

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

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INSANE

8	6	7	1	2	7	8	5	9
5	1	8	8	7	9	2	6	4
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- Free
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- City near Vesuvius
- Steppe
- Pause fillers
- Furtive whisper
- Deviser
- Strides along
- Color
- Academic stat.
- Give a home to
- Naval officers
- Lack
- Role seeker
- University of Utah athlete
- Web suffix
- "Goodfellas" Oscar winner
- Tennis gear
- Mend a heel
- Purview
- Likes instantly (2 wds.)
- Most unusual
- dunk

DOWN

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- Bear in the sky
- Lowest high tide
- Short sock
- Math symbol (2 wds.)
- Oversaw
- Sluggo Mel —
- Makes meringue
- Psychics
- Sasquatch kin
- Route for Ben-Hur
- Sanskrit dialect
- High-fashion mag
- Be off-base
- Reference book
- Kiddie's ammo
- Of poor quality
- Pint fraction
- Twig-and-mud homes
- CEO aides
- Type of poem

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MACE	TBSP		JAG
YELL	WREAK	SULU	
TRIO	EATIN	KNOT	
HOPPERS	DUBIOUS		
	IMPS	CCI	
URANUS	WAKENING		
LEGGS	TALL	GOON	
NAE	GRIME	TIA	
ARNE	OAFS	TOAST	
SMASHUPS	REUSES		
	CAL	DIRT	
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AUTO	SOLES	AVID	
SLOW	HOYLE	CABS	
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42 Summoned
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48 Proof ender
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54 Romanov title
55 In addition
56 Green Hornet's valet
57 Throw off heat
59 Zeal
60 Trig function
61 Carryall
64 Hearty laugh
65 Sourdough's strike

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Fall Camp Report: Defense

As part two of a three-part series, The Daily Mississippian football beat writer Bennett Hipp will give a report on Ole Miss' fall camp, concentrating on the defense.

BY BENNETT HIPPI
jbhipp@go.olemiss.edu

DEFENSIVE END

The end position got a big boost when highly touted 2012 signee Channing Ward was cleared by the NCAA on Friday. Ward will practice for the first time with the Rebels this afternoon and will more than likely be in an exclusive pass-rushing role early on.

Junior Cameron Whigham and senior E.J. Epperson, a converted fullback, worked at one end spot during the fall. Whigham worked with the first team for most of camp, while Epperson made a quick transition to the position and had a couple of days with the first team as well.

Sophomore C.J. Johnson manned the other end spot and was clearly the best player the Rebels had at the position during camp. While he's still undersized for a Southeastern Conference defensive lineman, Johnson's quick first step and improving pass-rushing abilities have made him much more comfortable at the position.

Senior Jason Jones and junior Carlos Thompson will also provide depth at the position. Sophomore Ralph Williams and true freshman Temario Strong will play in a hybrid defensive end/linebacker role, adding even more versatility to an already versatile scheme.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE

The surprise of fall camp was freshman Issac Gross from South Panola. Even though he's undersized at 270 pounds, Gross possesses an elite first step and high motor that allows him to make up for his smaller stature. He'll play as a freshman for the Rebels.

Senior Gilbert Pena lost 30 pounds during the offseason, and it showed on the field during fall camp. He's quicker and also able to stay on the field longer thanks to better conditioning. Former Madison Central products, sophomores Bryon Bennett and Carlton Martin, had productive springs as well.

Senior Uriah Grant is set to return to full action shortly from offseason labrum surgery, adding to Ole Miss' depth at the position.

LINEBACKER

Ole Miss will primarily use a 4-2-5 defensive set, but they have worked on some 4-3 sets as well. Junior Mike Marry is still the guy at middle linebacker, but he has struggled transitioning to the new defen-

sive scheme that is tailored to smaller, quicker linebackers. Sophomore Keith Lewis is back after missing the spring with a shoulder injury and provides depth at all the linebacker positions while pushing Marry for playing time in the middle.

Senior Aaron Garbutt, a safety last year, is now at his correct position of linebacker. He ran with the first team for all of camp and will be used in multiple ways in Ole Miss' new defense.

Senior Joel Kight, sophomore Serderius Bryant and redshirt freshman Denzel Nkemdiche are among others that provide depth at the position.

SAFETY

The loss of junior Charles Sawyer for 4-6 weeks due to a torn quadricep is a big blow for Ole Miss, but the Rebels do have some depth.

Sophomore Cody Prewitt has emerged as the front-runner at one safety spot and recorded an interception in Saturday's scrimmage.

Redshirt freshman Chief Brown looks to be the guy at the other safety spot until Sawyer returns. Paired with Prewitt, they give Ole Miss a pair

of physical, athletic safeties to work with.

True freshmen Trae Elston and Quintavius Burdette both impressed during camp and will contribute in their first season in Oxford. Both are raw, but Ole Miss likely does not have the depth to redshirt either one.

Senior Tanner Burns gives Ole Miss a veteran presence in what is an incredibly young secondary.

At the hybrid "Husky" position, junior Dehendret Collins has received a look, as has junior Brishen Matthews.

CORNERBACK

Sophomore Senquez Golson and senior Wesley Pendleton both had good camps, although Pendleton missed the last part of camp due to an injury. Coaches said Golson is still working on technique and learning the scheme since he missed the spring due to baseball, but he made up for it with great athletic ability and instincts.

Redshirt freshman Abdul Bangura and sophomore Cliff Coleman received lots of reps during camp, but depth remains an issue. Coleman was banged up toward the end of



TYLER JACKSON | The Daily Mississippian

Sophomore defensive end C.J. Johnson (10) ran with the first team defense.

camp as well, and corner is maybe the one position that Ole Miss most needs to avoid injury at.

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @thedmsports and @bennethipp on Twitter.

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27345

Current and former Rebels impress in Olympics

Brittney Reese and Jennifer Gillom won gold in the XXX Summer Olympic Games. Isiah Young and Mahesh Bhupathi also represented Ole Miss.

BY TYLER BISCHOFF
ffbischo@go.olemiss.edu

Ole Miss was well represented in the 2012 Olympics, as three former Rebels and one current Rebel competed in London.

Brittney Reese had the most success, winning the gold medal for the United States in the women's long jump. Reese leaped 7.12 meters in the final, which gave her gold by .05 meters.

"It's a surreal moment," Reese said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I got very emotional. You do when you're representing your country."

Reese – a five time world champion at the USA Outdoor Championships -- was one of the favorites in the long jump. At the 2012 World Indoor Championships, Reese posted a jump of 7.23 meters, the best mark in the world this year. The impressive jump is also the third longest jump ever by an American woman.

Only Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Marion Jones have produced further jumps.

The London Games was Reese's second Olympics. She placed fifth at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, which was the summer after she finished her career at Ole Miss.

Reese competed from 2006 to 2008 for Ole Miss. She won the NCAA Championship in the women's long jump at the Outdoor Championships in 2007 and was named the SEC Women's Field Athlete of the Year the same year.

The 25-year-old Olympic gold medalist intends to be a threat for a second gold in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"I feel like this is just the beginning," Reese said. "I am going to train four more years and come back and hopefully defend my title."

Jennifer Gillom joined Reese as a winner in the 2012 Olympics when the USA women's basketball team



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Former Ole Miss track and field star Brittney Reese

walked away from London with the gold medal. Gillom – an assistant coach of the WNBA's Washington Mys-

tics – served as an assistant coach for this year's Team USA squad. She won her first gold as a player on the 1988 USA basketball team.

It wasn't the first time Gillom had achieved the highest Olympic success. She won her first gold medal as a player in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Gillom began her professional career after putting up big numbers in the record books as a Rebel before graduating from Ole Miss in 1986. She is currently second all-time in Ole Miss women's basketball history in points and third in rebounds.

The only current Rebel to compete in London was senior Isiah Young. In his first Olympics, Young represented the United States in the 200 meters. In the first round, he ran the 12th fastest time with a run of 20.55 seconds to qualify for the semifinals.

Young -- the SEC outdoor champion in the 200 me-

ters last season -- posted a time of 20.89 seconds in the semifinals, but that was not good enough to qualify for the final heat.

The only former Rebel not to compete for the United States was Mahesh Bhupathi, who represented India in men's tennis doubles. This marked the fifth straight Olympics that Bhupathi has participated in.

This year Bhupathi was paired with Rohan Bopanna. They won their first match against Belarus 7-6(4) 6-7(4) 8-6. In their second match, they fell to the French team of Julien Benneteau and Richard Gasquet, who went on to win the bronze medal.

In Bhupathi's final season at Ole Miss, he and Ali Hamadeh won the 1995 NCAA Doubles Championship.

Ole Miss has had 11 Olympians all-time. They have won five gold medals and one silver medal. Gillom is the only former Rebel to win multiple medals.



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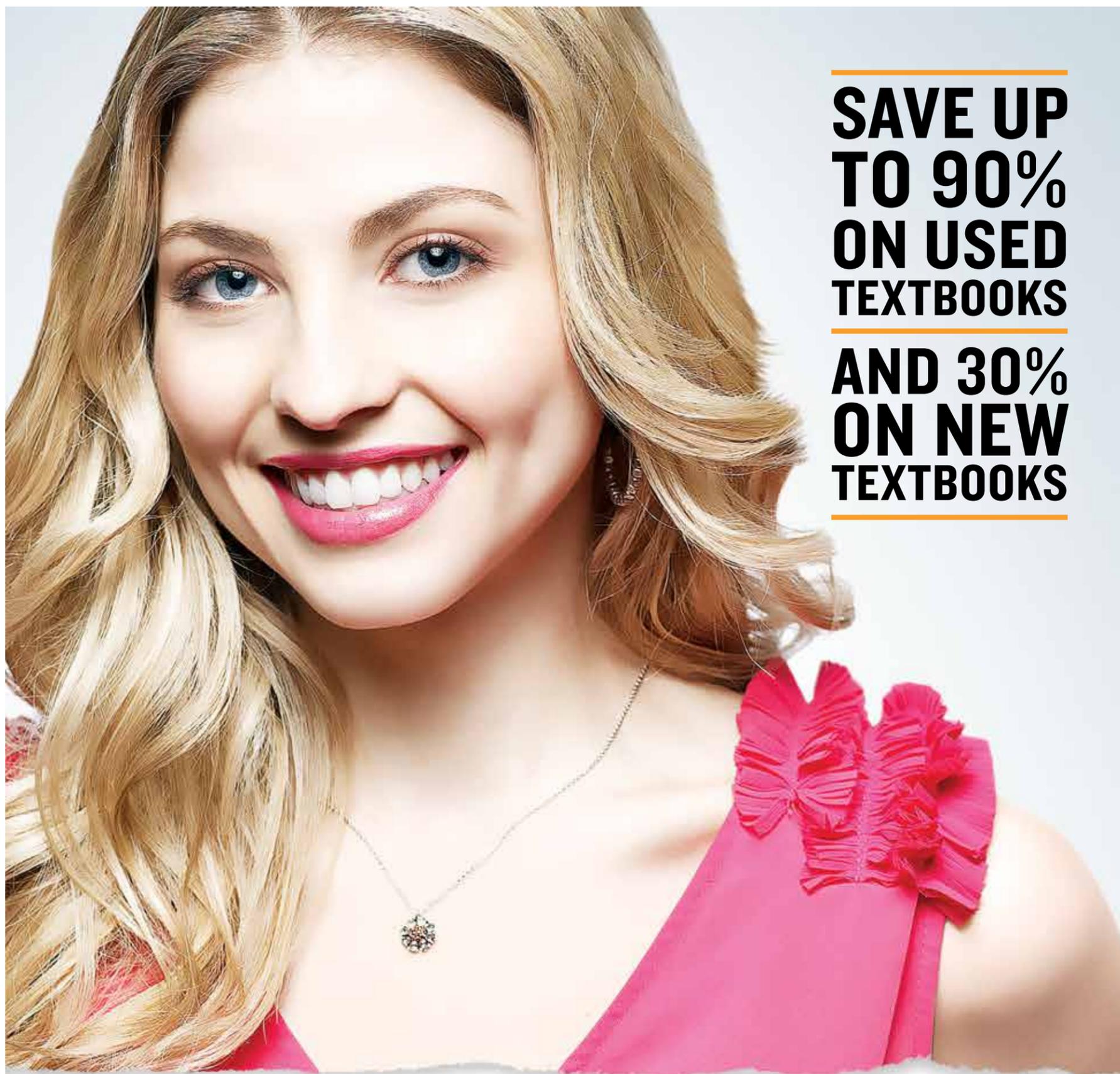
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