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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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

Newly elected ASB, SAA officers inaugurated



THOMAS GRANING | The Daily Mississippian

Chancellor Dan Jones, right, speaks with Emerson Geogre, left, and Davis Rogers.

BY ALLISON SLUSHER
thedmnews@gmail.com

The Associated Student Body and Student Activities Association officers for the 2014-15 school year were inaugurated into office Tuesday.

University administrators including Chancellor Dan Jones and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner LaBanc

spoke as part of the event. They both issued a congratulatory message to the newly inaugurated officers as well as a message to the outgoing officers.

Outgoing ASB President Gregory Alston said he was proud of the work he and his colleagues were able to accomplish while in office. He also said he looks forward to seeing what the newly inaugurated officers will do in the

coming year.

"I think we are going out on a good note," Alston said. "I'm really excited for the things we did and the initiatives we accomplished and the group I got to work with. I'm really confident with the leadership that is about to come in, so I feel very good about them."

See ASB, PAGE 6

5k organizers aim to raise awareness for human trafficking

BY JESSI BALLARD
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The Run to Rescue 5k run/walk will be held 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 8 in the Grove.

Run to Rescue is an organization that aims to raise money and awareness for the fight against human trafficking.

There are approximately 27 million people trapped in forced labor or sex traffick-

ing in the world today, according to the organization's website. That number applies to both foreign countries and the United States. There are 17,000 people trafficked across U.S. borders every year, and the slave industry makes about \$32 billion a year.

Meagan Henry, senior English major and co-leader of Run to Rescue explained that the money raised will go to the

International Justice Mission, which fights slavery through international legislation and rescue missions.

"Money is raised in a plethora of ways," Henry said. "Our team has been attempting to contact businesses as sponsors. We have been selling Threads of Hope bracelets, key chains, and bookmarks. We are also selling t-shirts for

See RESCUE, PAGE 4

Wheelchair basketball tournament to be held next week

BY MARY DANIEL SIMPSON
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The second annual Rollin' Rebels Wheelchair Basketball Tournament will begin Monday, April 7 as part of campus recreation's efforts to celebrate Disability Awareness month.

Each game will begin each day at 4 p.m. until a winner is declared. The double elimination tournament will end Friday, April 11.

The department of exercise science is hosting the event in order to raise funds for Student Disability Services and for more awareness of disabilities on campus.

"Students power a university. When change comes, it comes from the student body speaking out," said Robin Yekaitis, Student Disabilities Services specialist. Yekaitis believes that the Rollin' Rebels Wheelchair Event is the Exercise Science Department's way of raising awareness for disabilities and the

need for Student Disability Services on campus

Graduate Assistant Forrest Bryan, one of the event's coordinators, said all students can participate in the event, regardless of whether or not he or she is handicapped.

Alyssa Radtke, a junior English major with cerebral palsy, said she recently discovered the world of disability awareness days and months. Radtke thinks that on college campuses, "where fliers and emails are sent but ignored," true awareness is not achieved merely by the declaration of Disability Awareness Month. However, as a student with a disability she finds particular days such as National Cerebral Palsy Day and months such as April, Disability Awareness Month, a comfort.

"Disability dialogue should be—and is for me—an always open one," she said.

Radtke said months and
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NATHAN LATIL | UM Communications

Participants play in the Rollin' Rebels Wheelchair Basketball Tournament last year.

OPINION:

DISRESPECT FROM UNFULFILLED PROMISES
KAPPA ALPHA ORDER AND THE OLD SOUTH

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COLUMN

Disrespect from unfulfilled promises



BY ADAM GANUCHEAU
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Today marks six weeks from the date that every Interfraternity Council fraternity on campus signed and released a letter condemning the acts of the individuals responsible for the desecration of the James Meredith statue and promising efforts of inclusion.

As The Daily Mississippian editorial staff has planned and produced update stories on the incident, we have anticipated hearing plans from some of those fraternities about the inclusivity they preached in the letter.

We're still waiting, and we're growing impatient.

That letter was published in The DM Feb. 19. On Feb. 20,

The Los Angeles Times published it. That's some big-time exposure for a letter that everyone at the university commended. It cast some positive light on the fraternities for the first time in a while, and it has kept the media off their backs for the six weeks.

Personally, I was proud to see the fraternity leadership prove to the university and the world they are actually leaders. In the past few weeks, though, I have begun to question the leadership I initially saw.

That letter was absolutely not a get-out-of-jail-free card. We won't just coast into summer break and forget about it. Sure, it meant a great deal to many to read those words at the time. But the thing is, it was more than a letter — it was a signed promise not only to Ole Miss, but to the world. A vast responsibility now lies in the hands of every fraternity president on campus, and I'm not convinced they know it.

In the letter, the IFC presidents

wrote: "We feel compelled to ask ourselves how we can open our doors, become more inclusive, and take immediate actions in becoming part of the solution." Where are those immediate actions? Will they become more inclusive? Are their doors open? Some of the fraternities have already done many productive things in these areas, even before the letter went out. The sad truth is, most haven't, and the whole group must take responsibility for it.

Many of the fraternities might already have created specific plans to help alleviate some of the racial problems we have on campus, and it's possible those fraternities purposefully haven't shared those plans yet. I truly hope that is the case, and I'd love to hear about them. I'm not a hard person to get in touch with.

But as far as I can tell from social media and speaking with many fraternity members on campus, all that has been done the past six weeks is plan and

participate in spring parties.

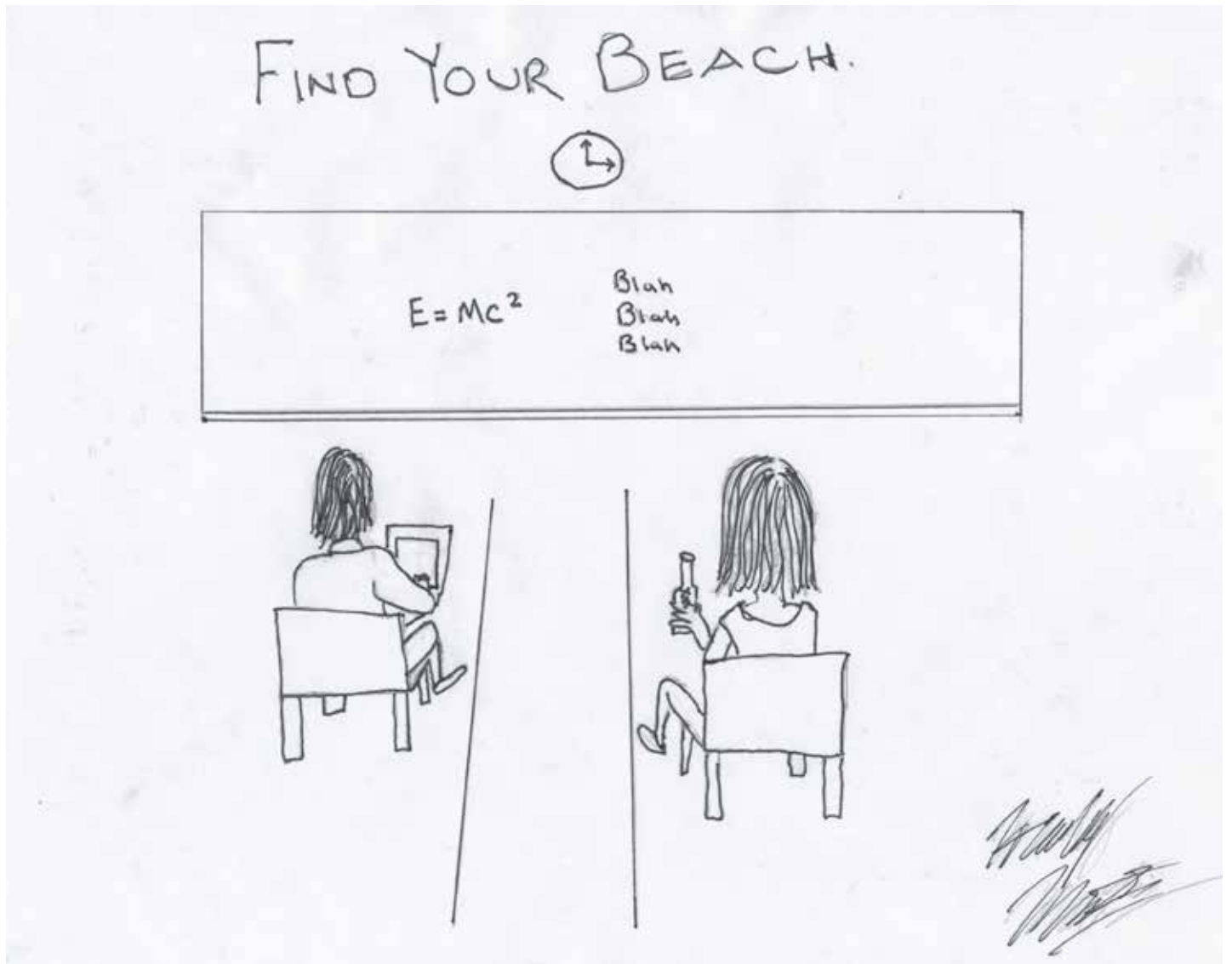
Let me assure everyone of this: The DM will hold these fraternities accountable until they produce specific plans. Until then, we will perceive their silence as an indicator that nothing will be done.

Some people might believe this column is unjustly targeting the traditionally-white fraternities on campus. This column, and future columns and articles The DM will pursue, became fair game when those president of IFC organizations signed their names on the letter.

It takes anyone with decent penmanship and public relations sense to write that letter, and it takes a fraternity president with half a brain to realize the letter needed to be signed. But it takes true leaders to put those promises into practice.

To me, one of the most disrespectful things a person can do is make a promise and ignore it.

See **DISRESPECT**, PAGE 3



**THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN**

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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

Kappa Alpha Order and the Old South



BY TIM ABRAM
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This past weekend I traveled home to spend the weekend with my two siblings for their birthdays. Some other members of our campus community did some traveling as well, namely the gentleman of Kappa Alpha Order.

The fraternity members and their respective dates traveled to St. Joseph Plantation to celebrate their annual “Old South” event. According to Kappa Alpha Law R16-113, Section B, “The Old South Ball and/ or Dixie Ball has evolved since 1920 as a traditional social function of the Active Chapters of the Order with the purpose to celebrate and to perpetuate the social attributes of courtesy, graciousness, and open hospitality, which are values of the Old South and were prominent in Virginia when (the) Order was founded in 1865.”

The aforementioned Kappa Law goes on to state, “These chapter functions have never been prescribed or recommended by the Order.” Coincidentally, the law states, “The chapter functions have been admonished by the Order since 1951 that if they sponsor an Old South Ball and/ or Dixie Ball, the event must be conducted with restraint and dignity and without displays of trappings and symbols which might be interpreted and objectionable to the general public.” To be fair, I never saw any confederate uniforms or flags in any of the pictures I saw on social media. But the antebellum suits and dresses remind me of a period of time in which African-Americans, particularly on southern plantations, were treated grotesquely inhumane.

During my formative thought process in writing this column, I questioned myself. I dwelled on the angle I would take.

Would I lambast KA for participating in an annual event that romanticizes the “Old South”? Would I point out the problematic elements of the event? Or would I simply try to seek understanding of why members of KA participate in this event?

I always find great value in understanding the unknown. It is unknown to me why some of my classmates wish to travel to a plantation (where scenes from “12 Years a Slave” were filmed) and dress in formal antebellum attire.

I considered several points of objection as well. Yes, the function takes place far from campus and it is not imposed on individuals who do not willingly attend.

Yes, it is just a costume and it is dangerous to place a moral thermostat in a person, let alone an entire group based off of one weekend. Before you say it’s just a tradition or heritage thing, I’d like to address that point. According to a PBS article, “the standard image of Southern slavery is that of a large plantation with hundreds of slaves. In fact, such situations were rare. Fully three-fourths of Southern whites did not even own slaves.” The article would later state that the non-slave holding white southerners “resented the wealth and power of the large slaveholders.”

So, statistically speaking, owning a plantation and dressing in the formal antebellum attire is probably not your “heritage or tradition.” And until now, few individuals outside of the Greek community probably even knew that this is an annual event. I’m assuming the old “what you don’t know can’t hurt you” logic was implied about the event. If Ole Miss students do not know that this happens, they cannot be possibly harmed.

My honest inclination is that these gentlemen do not attend the annual event with the primary motivation to become a physical embodiment of the Old South to harm black students. Conversely, I challenge each member of Kappa Alpha Order to consider if their annual event can be “objectionable to the general public.”

One of Kappa Alpha’s members, Joel Buck (Epsilon Nu - Georgia College ’08), wrote a short essay on the Kappa Alpha Order website titled “Party like it’s 1865.” (I wonder how a party for someone like me would go in 1865, but that is neither here nor there.) He asks the following question to his fellow fratern-

nity brothers, “If non-members see a large group of young men (and women) walking the streets in 1860s period costumes with alcoholic beverages in hand, what kind of message does that send?” Despite any intention of the members of Kappa Alpha Order, the image of young men in those antebellum period suits sends a message of insensitivity to me.

Buck goes on to say, “Take a second and think about how people perceive your charter on campus, and off. Is this perception something to be proud of and what your chapter wants to be known for?” I admittedly do not have a nuanced understanding of what goes on at Old South, so I’m sure that there are elements of which members of Kappa Alpha Order can be proud. I especially like the group’s devotion to women. But, the imagery of antebellum suits ON a plantation, is something I simply cannot look past.

Towards the end of Buck’s essay he says, “Image is everything these days and that is something to definitely think about during your formal week or weekend events.” Image is everything and I truly hope members of Kappa Alpha Order consider the image they project when posting images of men and women donning attire from a troublesome part of our country’s history. For me, I do not immediately see gentlemen who are uplifting hospitality and chivalry and this is perhaps a flaw on my end.

However, if I were to wear a hoodie or basketball shorts and a do-rag, people would not automatically see a person who will be a Honors College graduate and is a member of the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. They would probably see a miscreant. In my day

to day dealings, I unfairly have to take into consideration the perception of others when deciding my attire. Recent events have shown that certain attire can be deadly for black men.

Moving forward, I am not asking KA to cease their annual event, it seems like a good weekend to get away and have fun with your fraternity brothers. I just ask, like your fellow brother Joel Buck, is the perception you put forward one you can be proud of? If so, continue having the Old South event. If not, consider repurposing the event for a “New South” which is all-encompassing.

The president of Kappa Alpha Order signed the letter to The DM which stated, “We feel compelled to ask ourselves how can we open our doors, become more inclusive, and take immediate actions in becoming part of the solution.” I ask if a black man wanted to join Kappa Alpha Order, how is he supposed to react to the Old South event held on a plantation? So, if you want to become more inclusive, you gentlemen may want to start by looking at the annual event which romanticizes a period in time that may not be all about chivalry and hospitality, but rather oppression.

Tim Abram is the opinion editor of The Daily Mississippian from Horn Lake.

DISRESPECT,

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I hope that’s not happening here at Ole Miss, but it’s damn sure starting to feel like it.

One line of the letter really stuck out to me: “We commit ourselves to the tenets of the University Creed, specifically ‘respect and dignity for each person’ and ‘fairness and civility,’ to lead us through these times.”

If the fraternity presidents truly grasped and understood that sentence, they would let their actions prove their knowledge.

Respect your university and treat her people with dignity, and do what you said you would do. Be fair and civil to us, and live up to your word.

Until then, expect more of this.

Adam Ganucheau is the editor-in-chief of the Daily Mississippian from Hazlehurst.

Correction

On Tuesday, April 1, The Daily Mississippian ran a story about the Rebels’s Choice Awards that incorrectly stated that Assistant Athletic Director Jamil Northcutt will take a job with the Chicago Bears. Northcutt will be joining the Cleveland Browns team later this year.

Challenges American-Muslim-Women Face Every Day

By Lucrecia Guerrero

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RESCUE,

continued from page 1

\$10, and then, of course, we are advertising that people register for the run/walk.”

The event already has several local sponsors including Taylor Bend Apartments, Renasant Bank, Rotary Club of Oxford, First National Bank and Jim Johnstone - Attorney at Law.

Henry said the race will be similar to last year's race. She said the race this year, however, will have a theme.

“Registration is \$20, and with that, you get a t-shirt, race bag and free glow sticks. We have themed the race: ‘Shine a Light on Slavery’ and will have glow sticks for all participants. Registration price goes up Tuesday, April 1 to \$25. We will also take any and all donations towards our goal. Also, we are having a Chick-fil-A percentage night this Wednesday, April 2. Fifteen percent of their profit from dine-in orders, not drive thru, will go

towards Run to Rescue.”

The organization, in addition to fighting slavery, promotes Christianity. Lucas Jackson, staff intern at the Ole Miss Baptist Student Union and 2012 Ole Miss graduate, is also part of the planning team for Run to Rescue.

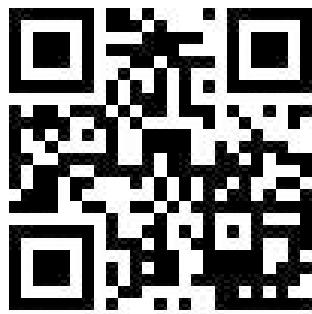
“This cause is important to me because the Gospel is important to me,” Jackson said. “We are not only promoting physical freedom, but also hoping to impact lives for a greater cause: salvation through Christ. We want to spread light on spiritual darkness and furthermore, we want to show what security in Christ can bring to everyone, whether we are physical slaves or college students in some other form of bondage. Whatever the circumstance, there is only One who can set us free.”

Lindsey Hardin, sophomore psychology and French double major, is also on the planning team. She said she likes the idea of all the International Justice Mission or-

ganizations supporting each other for Ole Miss Justice Week.

Hardin said there will be a concert held in the Grove the day before the race, and Stand for Freedom will occur on Tuesday.

“People take turns standing for 24 hours to raise awareness about slavery,” Hardin said. “On Wednesday, there will be a discussion panel with an IJM member, FBI agent, and a few other authorities. Last year, Run to Rescue made \$2000 over the amount needed to fund a rescue mission and sent that money to IJM. We are hoping to do the same this year.”



SPECIAL TO THE DM

Dixon takes BBQ back to the basics

BY CARTER HACH
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David Dixon first learned to cook with his grandfather in Georgia, roasting a whole hog from start to finish. Today, he is working to bring back a local barbecue monument in Oxford, the Rebel Barn.

“It was just an iconic building that needed to be brought back,” Dixon said. “There’s a ton of history here from being just a drive-thru beer barn, then a beer barn with barbecue, and then barbecue. It’s an iconic place - I wanted to revive the name and get it going again.”

Rebel Barn BBQ has been open on Jackson Avenue for about three months. Dixon is single-handedly running his

business, planning to make a name for himself in Oxford by way of his menu and its specialty items like “The Gambler” and “The Cross Dresser”.

He and his team, Big River BBQ, have already made a name for themselves at Memphis in May, placing 17th for rub in the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest.

“I love eating at establishments that take the time and have the patience to make their food, or any product for that matter, as great as it can possibly be,” Oxford resident Matthew King said of his experience.

The buzz amongst customers is a significant portion of barbecue culture, and no one knows that better than director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the university John T. Edge.

“Barbecue is the most historical food that we consume today,” Edge said. “It’s the food that connects us in a very primal way to our past.”

It’s more than just a product served on a plate; it’s a food with a sense of cultural identity.

See BBQ, PAGE 5

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Nicholas Platt
Former U.S. Ambassador
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Nicholas Platt, long-time China specialist, three-time U.S. Ambassador (Pakistan, Zambia and the Philippines), and author of the published memoir *China Boys*, will share his experiences and insights gained from a long and distinguished career in the diplomatic service and as President of the Asia Society in New York for 12 years. As a young diplomatic officer in the early 1960s, when Communist China was firmly closed to the west, Platt took the unusual step of studying Mandarin. This put him in a key position when U.S. relations to China suddenly opened. Platt was one of the State Department officials chosen to accompany President Nixon on his historic visit to China in 1973. The following year he and his family were stationed in Beijing with the opening of a U.S. Liaison Office, the forerunner of the U.S. Embassy in the PRC.

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BBQ, continued from page 4

"People are really proud of the place they come from, and they're really proud of the food of their hometown or their home state," said Sara Camp Arnold, publications editor for the alliance. "Barbecue is a big part of that."

As a food of both the past and future, today's chefs pay homage to barbecue's roots in preparation.

"I think there's a real growing interest in Mississippi, and throughout the South, really across the nation in barbecue cooks who cook with integrity," said Edge.

Phila Hach, current owner and chef of Hachland Hill in Joelton, Tenn., is working on her 17th cookbook at 87 years old.

She won the Food Arts Silver Spoon Award and The Catersource Lifetime Achievement Award, was featured in the Emmy-award winning documentary, "The Rise of the Southern Biscuit," and received The National Zenith Television Award as the first woman on TV in the South.

Barbecue has always been a specialty of hers.

According to Hach, barbecue first originated in early 1700s West Virginia with French explorers.

Hach said the explorers

would kill wild animals, scald the hair off, skin them, render the fat and barbecue the whole animal in a stone-lined pit with sweet potatoes, corn or whatever they had as packing.

"This is real pit barbecue," Hatch said. "They would cover it with leaves, put coals over the top of it, cover it completely with dirt, and let it stay there 18 hours usually. Once they cooked the meat, they could pack the meat into big jars and put the rendered fat on the top of it and it would stay all year without spoiling."

The tradition of having a backyard barbecue or cook-out also descends from the French explorers, Hach said.

"They would prop it up on forks and sticks and have a feast. Human beings have always feasted, and this would be a fall festival," said Hach.

Hach said that regional cooking techniques and ingredients have developed slowly over time.

"North Carolina, for instance, barbecue sauce will have Worchester sauce in it, it will have mustard, it will have tomato, it will have all kinds of things. North Carolina thinks they make the best barbecue in the world," Hatch said. "And Texas, of course, thinks they do and it's loaded. In the South, sometimes people put molasses on it. That's not real Southern barbecue. Vinegar, salt, black

pepper and red pepper was it."

Buck Cunningham, owner and manager of LBs. Meat Market said spice selection and preparation method matter in formulating unique flavor.

"The best cut of meat is usually the shoulder or the Boston butt," Cunningham said. "It's the most tender, it's got the most fat content, it's got a good grain to pull apart after it's cooked slow. Next best is probably the whole hog."

If your mouth is watering, you're not alone, according to Arnold.

"It's a food that seems to transcend race and class," Arnold said. "It's popular with poor people and rich people; it's popular, with black and white and Latino."

TOURNEY, continued from page 1

days for "awareness" can start conversations about disabilities, but the open communication should not conclude once the month or day is over.

All proceeds from the wheelchair basketball tournament will be used by Student Disability Services to provide programs and events that educate and promote inclusion, equity and equal access for people with disabilities, according to Yekaitis.

"The Rollin' Rebels Wheelchair Basketball Tournament is a fun way to raise awareness, challenge misconceptions and promote inclusion of people with disabilities," Yekaitis said. "We hope that this event will continue to grow bigger each year and allow us to provide more activi-

ties that foster an accessible and welcoming environment for people with disabilities."

Competing teams will be composed of seven to 10 players in wheelchairs. The event will be considered full once 12 teams have registered. Registration forms can be found online at IMLeagues.com/olemiss. The deadline to register is Friday, April 4, and the registration fee is \$10 per person.

Each player will be given a Rollin' Rebels Basketball Tournament t-shirt upon registration. The winning team of the tournament will receive a catfish dinner at Taylor Grocery. More information can be found at the event's Facebook page, Rollin' Rebels Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.



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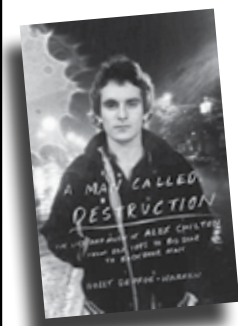
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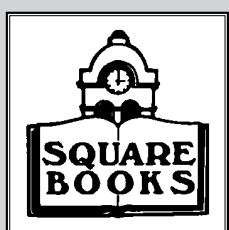
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THOMAS GRANING | The Daily Mississippian

Davis Rogers speaks after being inaugurated.

ASB,
continued from page 1

The ASB officers inaugurated were Davis Rogers as president, Emerson George as vice president, Madison White as treasurer,



THOMAS GRANING | The Daily Mississippian

New ASB officials pose for a photo after being inaugurated. From left are Heather Neilson, secretary; Emerson George, vice president; Davis Rogers, president; Madison White, treasurer; Kelly Savage, attorney general and Jared Akers, judicial chair.

er, Heather Neilson as secretary, Kelly Savage as attorney general, and Jared Akers as judicial chair.

Carly Eason was also inaugurated as Student Activities Association director. Christian Schloegel was inaugurated as co-director.

Alston spoke words of advice to the ASB officers for the coming year.

"It's very important that leaders stand up for what they believe in," Alston said. "I think it's very important that you stay true to your values. We all have values

that are instilled upon us, and I think it's our duty to follow those values and go with what our heart believes in. If we believe in something, I think it's very important that we follow our beliefs to make the right decisions."

Emerson George, ASB vice president for the 2014-15 school year, said he hopes to follow the example set by the outgoing officers.

"The ASB officers that are leaving had incredible leadership skills, incredible time management skills," George said. "They

took their beliefs and used them to make a huge difference on our campus. What Gregory said about holding true to your beliefs is really something that I'm going to try and make sure that I remember throughout the course of the next 12 months. I think that to stay on the right path, the best thing you can do is stay on your moral compass and listen to the students."

Davis Rogers, ASB president for the 2014-15 school year, said he is excited to begin working in this role and looks forward to uniting the student body.

"I'm nervous, but I'm really excited," Rogers said. "Greg set me up for a really good year, and I just have to follow his lead on that. I'm here to listen. I'm here to hear (the students' voices). I represent all of you, so please feel free to contact me whenever you can, and hopefully we can unite as a campus. Join me in that."

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SPECIAL TO THE DM

Supreme Court gives death row inmate new trial

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A death row inmate who prosecutors say recruited her son in a plot to kill her husband will get a new trial, the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled Monday in a rare order for a prisoner awaiting execution.

Michelle Byrom, now 57, was convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 2000 in Tishomingo County in the killing of her husband, Edward “Eddie” Byrom Sr., and for recruiting her son in the plot. Byrom Sr. was fatally shot on June 4, 1999, at the couple’s home in Iuka, Miss..

Byrom’s attorneys say they have new evidence in the case, and Byrom now argues her son committed the slaying. She argues in court briefs that her son confessed in conversations with a forensic psychologist. She argues the statements were discussed with the trial judge but were never revealed to Michelle Byrom or her attorneys before her trial. She also says the psychologist was not allowed to testify about them.

In the high court’s two-page order, Justice Josiah D. Coleman said the original trial judge, Circuit Judge Thomas J. Gardner, will not preside over Byrom’s re-trial. Coleman said the circuit court in Tishomingo County will assign another judge to the case.

The high court did not elaborate on how it reached its deci-

sion. Coleman said, however, the high court’s decision was “extraordinary and extremely rare in the context of a petition for leave to pursue post-conviction relief.”

Mississippi has one other woman on death row, but the state has not executed a woman since 1944.

State Attorney General Jim Hood said he will ask the Supreme Court to explain its decision.

“While we respect the Mississippi Supreme Court’s decision, it is important that the trial court know and understand the specific errors that were found by the justices so that the lower court knows the best way to proceed.

“It is unusual for an appellate court to reverse and remand a case for a new trial without stating the reasons for the reversal. Our office will be filing a petition with the state Supreme Court seeking its reasoning for the reversal,” Hood said in a statement.

David Voisin, a Jackson attorney working with Michelle Byrom’s legal team, said in a statement Monday that the decision gives Byrom “a fair opportunity to have her case heard in court.”

“Michelle suffered extreme sexual and physical abuse from an early age and throughout her marriage. We are pleased that Ms. Byrom will now have the opportunity to present the

overwhelming evidence that she is innocent of murder-for-hire,” Voisin said.

State and federal courts have in the past denied Byrom’s arguments that she should not be put to death because she was sexually and physically abused by her husband.

Hood asked in February for the court to set Byrom’s execution for this past week. The Supreme Court denied that request last Thursday.

Prosecutors said Michelle Byrom killed her husband of 20 years for money, and that she planned to pay a hit man \$15,000 with proceeds from the estate, estimated at more than \$350,000.

In a rare move, she asked Gardner, instead of the jury, to decide whether she should serve life in prison or be put to death. Gardner sentenced her to death.

Eddie Byrom Jr. testified against his mother during the trial as part of a plea bargain. He later pleaded guilty to several charges in the murder-for-hire scheme, including conspiracy to commit murder. Gardner sentenced him to 50 years in prison with 20 years suspended.

Joseph Dale Gillis, who was described in court documents as the hit man, pleaded guilty to lesser charges of conspiracy to commit capital murder and accessory after the fact. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.



Michelle Byrom, 57

Byrom Jr. testified that his mother asked him to talk to some of his friends about killing his father. He said she would pay \$10,000 in the murder-for-hire scheme with the money to come from an expected insurance policy.

Michelle Byrom argued her son told the psychologist that he had been physically and emotionally abused by his father and

that he shot his father for his own reasons.

Hood has said Michelle Byrom has run out of appeals. He said in court briefs that she was arguing that her attorney didn’t do a good job — an issue Hood said was addressed in past appeals and denied. The attorney general’s office said Byrom cannot argue issues that never came up at trial.

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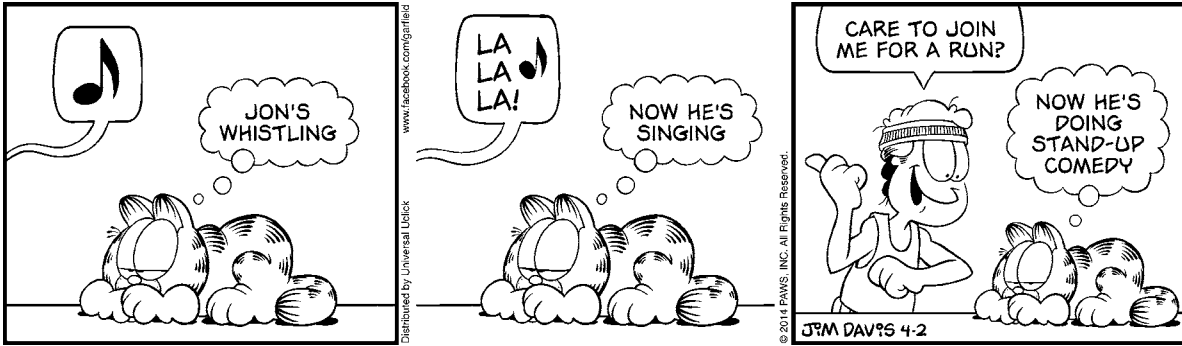
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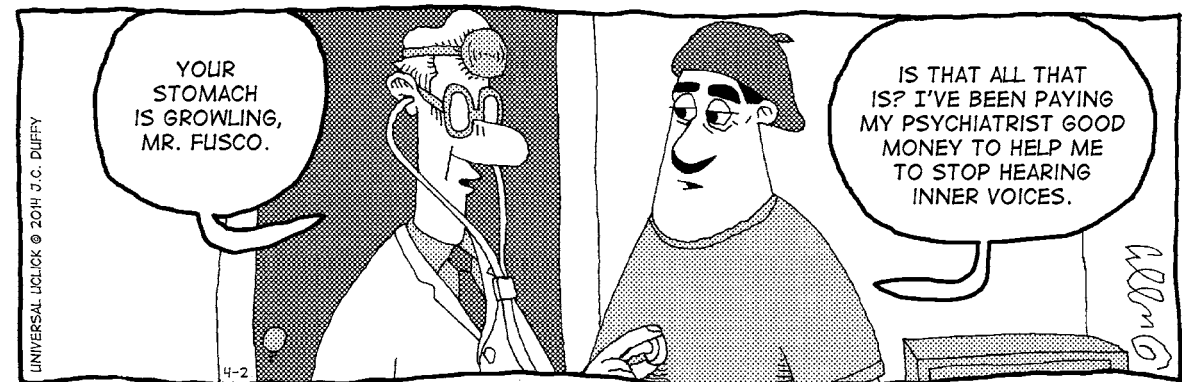
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By JIM DAVIS



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By J.C. DUFFY



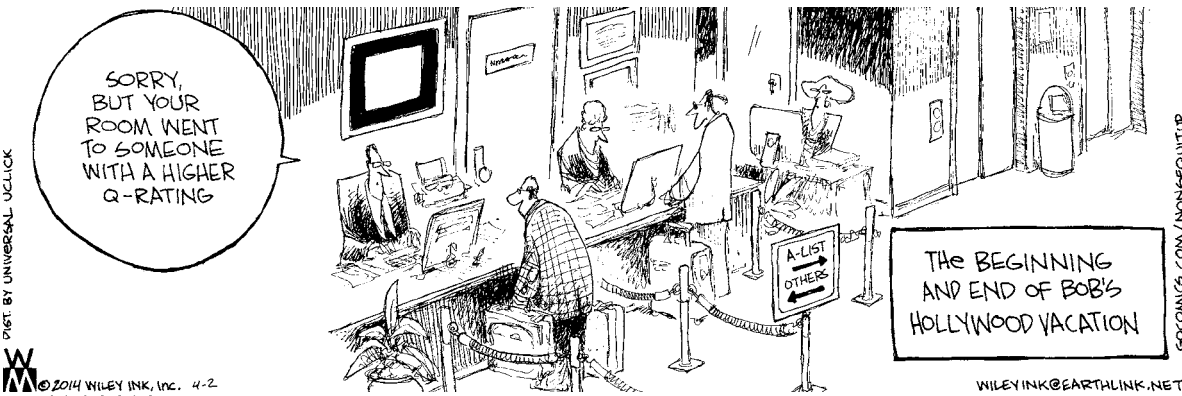
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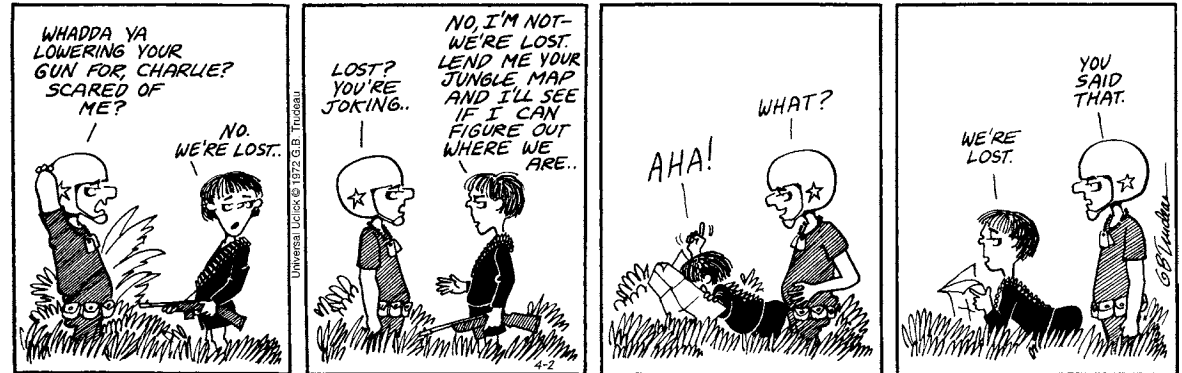
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HOW TO PLAY

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

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3	8	1	2	5	7	9	6	4
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- 6 Gather leaves
- 10 Sen. — Glenn
- 14 Adventurer — Quatermain
- 15 Mr. Trebek
- 16 Kind of rug
- 17 Chili pepper dip
- 18 "Holy cow!"
- 19 Show appreciation
- 20 Theatrical
- 22 Sedgwick of film
- 23 Unfrequented
- 24 Actress — Hagen
- 26 Pollen-bearers
- 30 Outstanding
- 34 Surfer slang
- 35 Finely sharpened
- 36 Baton Rouge sch.
- 37 Stoltz or Clapton
- 38 Request urgently
- 40 Dit partners
- 41 Vane dir.
- 42 Gull's perch
- 43 Night sky streaker
- 44 Nutty confections
- 46 Where Dresden is
- 48 Trendy meat
- 49 Casino city

DOWN

- 50 Board imperfection
- 53 Conspicuous
- 59 Jumps on one foot
- 60 Soup du —
- 61 Laconic
- 62 — spumante
- 63 Seine tributary
- 64 Take the dais
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- 66 Diner sandwiches
- 67 Tent dweller
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- 2 Jai —
- 3 Misfortunes
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- 7 Flared garment (hyp.)
- 8 Military cap
- 9 Performed
- 10 Wild dog
- 11 Paris airport
- 12 Eavesdrop
- 13 Wine valley
- 21 Lightning by-product
- 25 Decade number
- 26 Luster
- 27 Human trunk
- 28 Farewell

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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- 29 Laird's prefix
- 30 Mermaid's domain
- 31 Nash's two-L subject
- 32 Scared-looking
- 33 Corroded
- 35 Essential
- 38 Attempt to deceive (2 wds.)
- 39 — Lobos of pop music
- 40 — Perignon
- 42 Comic-book thud
- 43 Salad garnish
- 45 Sees the light (2 wds.)
- 46 Art categories
- 47 U2 producer
- 49 Heave from bed
- 50 Genghis —
- 51 Scent finder
- 52 Chooses
- 54 Make turbid
- 55 Orchid-loving Wolfe
- 56 Hit the books
- 57 Is, in Segovia
- 58 Legal document

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NewsWatch at 5 p.m.
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UM Museum's newest exhibit: "Blues @ Home"

BY SAMANTHA ABERNATHY
slaberna@go.olemiss.edu

"The thing about being from Mississippi is that blues is like air down here and you breathe, you going to get some blues."

This is just one of the sentences you hear from Zac Harmon's audio when you visit the UM Museum's new exhibit, titled "Blues @ Home: Mississippi's Living Blues Legends." The exhibit opened yesterday.

Painter H.C. Porter, in collaboration with Tena Clark, CEO of DMI Music & Media Solutions, and Lauchlin Fields, project manager, assembled a work of art that narrates and illustrates the history and music of some of the best names in blues.

"The exhibit has some really amazing concepts and overall is very interesting," said Marti Funke, collections manager at the museum.

Once inside the museum, a visitor has two options. The viewer can take a regular tour

or an audio tour of the exhibit. For the audio tour, the receptionist will ask for a form of ID in exchange for an audio player equipped with earphones and will then point the viewer in the way of the exhibit.

The exhibit stretches along one full room and two more walls. It is made up of 30 portrait paintings of artists such as B.B. King, Kenny Brown and Bobby Rush. The paintings are medium-sized square blocks of vivid imagery and portraiture.

Porter's process is explained on one of the information panels within the exhibit. First, a black and white photo is taken. Next, a high contrast copy is put on paper using a silkscreen, a stencil method of printmaking in which a design is imposed on a screen of silk or other fine mesh. Then, Porter hand-paints the silkscreen. The end result is a highly colorful photo of a great artist peering directly at you.

Each photo has an audio number that the viewer types into the



ANNA BRIGANCE | The Daily Mississippian

Lora Ellinwood looks at an exhibit at the UM Museum Tuesday.

audio player and each photo seemingly comes to life. While the viewer is looking at the portrait painting of the artist, the artist's voice is within the ear of the viewer. It is as if the interview between the artist and Lauchlin Fields is happening right beside you. The commentary from the individual artists is a very impor-

tant factor to the exhibit. It adds an element of emotion and liveliness to the photos.

"My work is a narrative, storytelling about day-to-day trials and tribulations and rejoicing in simple accomplishments of hanging laundry and shelling peas," Porter said of the exhibit. "I tried to capture in paint the

sense of place we call home."

The UM Museum recently acquired this traveling exhibit and it will be on display until Aug. 2, 2014. Afterwards it will be moved to the B.B. King Museum in Indianola. The museum welcomes visitors to come and see these pieces of Southern culture.

COLUMN

Arts in April

BY QUINTON SMITH
qosmith@go.olemiss.edu

April is a big month for the arts in Oxford, with Double Decker drawing thousands to the city to spend both time and money.

A summer 2013 reporting by The Oxford Eagle indicated about \$27,000 of tourism revenue was generated last April in collections of hotel taxes, and the amount is expected to increase.

Wayne Andrews, executive director of The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, said he believes the arts are vital to the economy and tourism in Oxford.

"If you want to look at towns that grow, towns that have low crime and high education and attract business, you look at towns that have art," Andrews said.

Local artists like Jade Genga, star of the recent Ole Miss pro-

duction of "Marisol," say the emotional impact of the arts community is also important.

"I really do think live theatre, especially because it's so visceral, you kind of force yourself to think about things that you wouldn't think or feel with a movie," Genga said.

While starting discussion on current events is important, student Rebecca Whatley said the impact of the arts is simpler than that.

"It gives us things to do on weekends," she said.

There will be plenty to do this month with events like the 19th Annual Double Decker Arts Festival being held April 25-26.

The two-day event is expected to draw over 50,000 people this year and produce more than \$200,000 in tax revenue this month.

Andrews said the success of Ox-

ford can be attributed to its vibrant arts community.

"You've got this constant influx of young talent that wants to create, but you also have a very supportive audience and capacity of wealth that is consuming the finer arts," Andrews said.

The state's creative economy currently employs 64,000 people, according to the Mississippi Business Journal.

Andrews said film and technology are the two fastest growing segments of art employment in Mississippi.

In addition to providing jobs, Andrews said getting kids involved in the arts can help society in many other ways.

"Truancy rates go down, crime rates go down, vandalism goes down," Andrews said. "Leadership skills, health skills all go up."



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COLUMN

SEC in the Final Four

BY TYLER BISCHOFF

tfbischo@go.olemiss.edu

So Florida and Kentucky have found their way into college basketball's final weekend. The two powerhouses of the Southeastern Conference have proven that all of the haters were wrong; the SEC isn't a weak basketball conference, right?

Well, not exactly. Florida and Kentucky winning four games en route to the Final Four says a lot about Florida and Kentucky. It does not say anything about the other 12 members of the SEC.

Everyone loves to get caught up in conference superiority, or inferiority, in all sports. Somehow, people think Aaron Harrison draining a contested three to beat Michigan in the Elite Eight made Ole Miss

better.

Ole Miss's frontcourt, Missouri's porous defense and Texas A&M's inept offense did not all suddenly get better because Florida's defense smothered Dayton. The SEC is exactly what we thought they were.

Florida has done what it is supposed to as the number one overall seed — and they are the only one seed left — and now the top-rated Gators get a rematch with UCONN in the Final Four. Kentucky finally put it all together to reach the national semifinal as an eight seed. But remember, Kentucky was the pre-season number one team after bringing in one of the best recruiting classes ever.

Everyone knew Florida was dominant and that Kentucky had the talent to play at that

level, too. Throughout the conference season, Ole Miss's only two chances at a quality win were against Florida and Kentucky.

The only thing that has made the SEC look stronger is the way Tennessee played. The Volunteers made it to the Sweet 16 and came up two points short of the Elite Eight. But that has everything to do with Tennessee and nothing to do with the rest of the SEC.

If Florida or Kentucky wins the national title, the name etched into the trophy will be of the team, not the conference. The SEC doesn't win games or championships; there is no SEC team.

So stop cheering for Florida and Kentucky — or Alabama in football — to win because you like the SEC. It won't

make Ole Miss better.

Florida's Redemption

The common denominator among the last four teams standing is Florida. The Gators are now 36-2, but both of the teams that beat Florida are in the Final Four, UCONN and Wisconsin.

The Gators lost both of those games on the road. In the meeting with Wisconsin, Scottie Wilbekin didn't play. Against UCONN, Shabazz Napier hit a jumper at the buzzer to give the Huskies a one-point win. Wilbekin, who would have been guarding Napier, got hurt earlier in the game and wasn't in for the final play.

Florida has a chance at revenge. Their Final Four matchup will be with UCONN. If Florida wins that, and

Wisconsin beats Kentucky, then Florida would have the opportunity to avenge both of its losses. It would make Florida 38-2, and the Gators would have beaten everyone on their schedule. It may be the closest we get to an undefeated team in college basketball.

The other possibility for Florida is Kentucky, the team Florida has played the most this year. If the two teams meet in the final, it would be the fourth meeting between them. Florida has won all three this season.

It would be a bizarre ending to college basketball season if Kentucky manages to beat Florida, because the Wildcats would be raising a national title banner, despite going 1-3 against the Gators.

OLE MISS SPORTS INFORMATION

Cantillo drafted by Chicago Bandits in National Pro Fastpitch Draft

OXFORD, Miss. — Ole Miss softball senior outfielder RT Cantillo has been a Rebel for each of the past four years. Now she will become a Bandit. Cantillo was selected by the Chicago Bandits on Monday evening at the 2014 National Pro Fastpitch College Draft in Nashville, Tenn.

The Santa Ana, Calif., native was taken by the Bandits with the fourth pick in the fifth round of the draft. Cantillo was one of three student-athletes from the Southeastern Conference selected in the draft, joining Madison Shipman of Tennessee and

Nicole Morgan of Texas A&M.

"We're all really proud of RT and her accomplishments," Ole Miss head coach Windy Thees said. "She's worked hard her whole career and she's having a great senior season this year. It's a great honor for her and for Ole Miss softball to have one of the 20 players drafted. We know RT will be a great representative of Ole Miss."

Cantillo currently ranks in the top 10 in the career record books at Ole Miss in batting average (2nd), hits (5th), doubles (6th), triples (7th), home runs (9th), RBIs (7th), runs (4th), walks

(4th), total bases (6th), slugging percentage (4th), on base percentage (1st), stolen bases (5th) and hit by pitch (2nd). She is one of just three players to rank in the top five in program history in career batting average, hits, runs and walks.

She broke the single-season program record with 42 runs scored during her junior season, and as a senior this year she has upped her production even further with a .495 batting average, the second highest in the SEC, including a .500 clip in league play.

There are four teams in NPF:

the Arkon Racers, Chicago Bandits, Pennsylvania Rebellion and USSSA Pride. College seniors are eligible for the NPF College Draft, which features five rounds of four selections for a total of 20 overall draftees in the 2014 class. Drafting an athlete gives an NPF affiliate team the rights to that athlete for two full seasons.

NPF is headquartered in Nashville, Tenn. The league, created to give elite female fastpitch players the opportunity to pursue a professional career in their chosen sport, has operated since 1997 under the names

of Women's Pro Fastpitch and Women's Pro Softball League (WPSL). NPF is the official development partner of Major League Baseball in the category of women's fastpitch softball since 2002.

Ole Miss (19-18, 3-9 SEC) takes the diamond again April 7 with a doubleheader at Southeastern Louisiana at 3 and 5 p.m. CT.

For Ole Miss softball news and information, go to OleMissSports.com and follow the Rebels on Twitter at [@OleMissSoftball](https://twitter.com/OleMissSoftball) and on Facebook at [Ole Miss Softball](https://www.facebook.com/OleMissSoftball).

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Diamond Rebs look to rebound against Arkansas-Pine Bluff



FILE PHOTO (ADITYA KHARE) | The Daily Mississippian

Will Allen hits the ball during a game against Missouri.

BY HAWLEY MARTIN
thedmsports@gmail.com

After getting swept by Southeastern Conference opponent Alabama last weekend in Tuscaloosa, the No. 16 Ole Miss baseball team will look to get back on track when they host Arkansas-Pine Bluff at 11 a.m. today in Oxford-University Stadium.

The Rebels (21-8, 4-5 SEC) lost three games by a combined four runs to the Crimson Tide, and it took extra innings to decide Saturday's game.

The Golden Lions (8-19, 5-2 Southwestern Athletic Conference) are coming off a weekend series loss to Texas Southern University at the Torii Hunter Baseball Complex in Pine Bluff, Ark. The Golden Lions picked up the win Saturday after losing the opener Friday, but they dropped the series in the Sunday loss.

Freshman left-hander Evan Anderson will get the nod for the Rebels. The southpaw has a blank record and has started one game on five appearances. He carries a

1.17 ERA on 7.2 innings pitched with 7 strikeouts. His opponents are hitting 1.20 against him.

Arkansas-Pine-Bluff will look to counter with senior right-hander Kyle Schwartz. Schwartz has recorded a 2-3 record in 8 starts. He has posted a 5.52 ERA with 11 walks and 29 strikeouts.

At the plate, Ole Miss ranks fourth in the SEC in batting average at .298, second in home runs with 20 and fifth in scoring with 170 runs.

Three Rebels rank in the top five in the SEC in hits. Austin Bousfield comes in at second, Austin Anderson is tied at fourth and Will Allen sits at sixth.

Allen continues to produce, as he is tied for the league lead in RBI with 33.

Offensively for the Golden Lions, Isias Alcantar leads the way with a team-high .293 average. He has belted two home-runs and has knocked in 18 RBI.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff as a whole is hitting at a .222 clip with four home runs, 95 RBI and 106 runs scored.



FILE PHOTO (THOMAS GRANING) | The Daily Mississippian

Ryan Buchanan looks to pass during Saturday's scrimmage.

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the fall."

Now, it's all about competition. Although Freeze said it will likely go down to the final week before the season starts, both quarterbacks want to get an edge on the other before spring practice concludes.

"It's on my mind," Buchanan said of the race. "I feel like I have to play great every day and do my best to impress to coaches. But they're going to decide that, so we'll see."

Now that they're taking valuable reps each day, they feel like they can really start to get better as quarterbacks.

"I think a lot of playing quarterback is experience, just getting out here and going live," Buchanan said. "There's a big difference in sitting behind the play when you know what to read and know where to throw the ball and actually placing the ball where it needs to be and picking up a blitz."

Although the competition will continue into fall camp, both Kincade and Buchanan don't let the race to be Ole Miss' backup quarterback effect anything off the field.

"It's a great relationship," Kincade said. "Ever since we came on our official visit, we've had a great relationship. It's been a lot of fun competing with him. We both go back and forth, back and forth. We help each other out,

pat each other on the back and tell each other our mistakes."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @DavidL-Collier and @thedm_sports on Twitter.

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Backup QB race to extend into fall camp

BY DAVID COLLIER
dicollier@go.olemiss.edu

The number of days for Ole Miss' spring practices is dwindling and so is the time for red-shirt freshman quarterbacks DeVante Kincade and Ryan Buchanan to separate themselves from one another in the race to be the Rebels' backup signal caller.

Kincade and Buchanan have separated themselves from junior college transfer Jeremy Liggins and early enrollee freshman Kendrick Doss, but neither one can seem to get a stranglehold on the backup spot.

"It goes back and forth every day," Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze said of the two quarterbacks. "It's going back and forth. It's going to take a while."

"That'll go all the way until probably game week. The good thing is they've both used their redshirts. I think if the opportunity presents itself, we could see both in situations that they're more geared to and let it play out that way. We'll see as it gets closer to time."

As for this spring, it's given Freeze and offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Dan Werner time to see them get reps with the first and second teams, especially with limited reps from senior quarterback Bo Wallace as he regains strength in his throwing shoulder.

Looking at both guys' skill sets, it's obvious that both will be utilized in different ways in the offense.

Kincade, a 6-foot, 200-pound Dallas native, is a true dual-threat quarterback and could be used in the Barry Brunetti role this fall. He's a guy that feels natural running the read-option with his experience in a similar offense throughout grade school.

"It's just comfortable," Kincade said. "I've been doing it since middle school."

Buchanan, a 6-foot-3, 201 pound Jackson native, is very reminiscent of Wallace. He is a pocket passer first, who also has the ability to pick up some yardage with his legs.

Both quarterbacks were red-shirted in 2013, and both think that helped them get ready to take on a bigger role for this



FILE PHOTO (THOMAS GRANING) | The Daily Mississippian

DeVante Kincade looks to pass during Saturday's scrimmage.

upcoming season.

"It was a good opportunity to learn the playbook," Buchanan said. "Sometimes, you do want to get an opportunity and you do want to get your feet wet, but we didn't really get that opportunity. But it

was honestly just a really good time for learning and to learn from Bo by watching him."

The redshirt year also made things a little easier for them this spring when they started taking more and more snaps with the first and second

teams.

"I feel like I'm coming along," Kincade said. "The game has slowed down since I know more things. I know a lot more plays than I did back in

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CONGRATULATIONS to our students who won Awards in the 2013 SOUTHEAST JOURNALISM CONFERENCE BEST OF THE SOUTH and onsite competitions

University of Mississippi students won 20 awards in the Best of the South contest, more than any other university. UM students were named grand champions for their overall performance in the onsite competitions. The SEJC has 51 member universities in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Tennessee. There were more than 400 entries in Best of the South. The Best of the South and onsite awards were announced at the SEJC conference at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.



Adam Ganucheau
Best of the South College Journalist of the Year, second place (\$500 cash award)
First place, Best of the South Special Events Reporter/Editor
Second place, Best of the South News Writer



Tim Abram
First place,
Best of the South
Opinion-Editorial
Writer



John Monteith
First place,
Best of the South
TV Hard News
Reporter



Virginia England
First place,
Best of the South
Magazine Page
Layout Designer



Phil McCausland
First place,
Onsite Feature
Writing



Phillip Waller
First place,
Onsite News
Photography



Thomas Graning
First place,
Onsite Sports
Photography

Other Best of the South and SEJC onsite awards were won by NewsWatch Ch. 99, theDMonline.com and the following students:



Sudu Upadhyay



Ignacio Murillo



Casey Holliday



Katy Cambron



Olivia Rearick



Katie Davenport



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