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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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

Oxford braces for limited parking this weekend

BY KYLIE MCFADDEN
thedmnews@gmail.com

The 19th Annual Double Decker Arts Festival this Friday and Saturday is expected to bring in 50,000 visitors to the Square over two days. Therefore, the city of Oxford is bracing for heavy traffic and limited parking options close to the center of town.

Madison Featherston, Double Decker event coordinator, said that with the high volume of people who will be attending, the chance of finding parking near the Square is going to be very slim.

The Oxford Downtown Parking Advisory Commission's

Mary Allyn Hedges spoke about the parking limitations.

"All parking on the Square will be closed the day of the festival as well as the north and south city lots," Hedges said.

Thomas Sharpe, another member of the Oxford Downtown Parking Advisory Commission, also commented on the lack of parking.

"The Double Decker Arts Festival brings a lot of people to Oxford, and of course, there is not sufficient parking around the Square to accommodate all those attending," Sharpe said.

He also said parking around the Square will have the same three hour limit in premium

See **PARKING**, PAGE 4



THOMAS GRANING | The Daily Mississippian

A flier warning of parking regulations for the Double Decker Arts Festival is seen on a vehicle on the Square Wednesday.

Oxford City Market reopens for spring and summer season

BY EMILY BEENE
emilyabeene@gmail.com

The Oxford City Market reopened Tuesday, Earth Day, for its 2014 spring and summer season. The market is a community marketplace that focuses on locally grown produce and homemade food and products that started last year.

Katie Morrison, the market's director, said the market's goal is to provide opportunity for members of the community to access local fruits, vegetables and other food.

"We also created a opportunity for new business opportunities for our vendors, allowing them to start a business without having to buy their own store," Morrison said.



CADY HERRING | The Daily Mississippian

Hannah and Sarah Gwen Rigby shop at Native Son Farm at Oxford City Market Tuesday.

See **MARKET**, PAGE 4

UM Cinema Festival begins this evening

BY ANNA MCCOLLUM
aemcoll@go.olemiss.edu

This year's University of Mississippi Cinema Festival, presented by the Ole Miss Department of Theatre Arts, will be held April 24-26 in the Overby Center Auditorium.

The annual festival is in conjunction with the UM Cinema Competition that was held during the fall. All Ole Miss students were eligible to enter the competition by turning in a screenplay and pre-production materials by early November. A jury then selected winners from three categories: narrative, experimental and documentary.

In the narrative category, the winner of the 30 minutes or less subcategory was T.S. Cooper's "Know." Hai-

ley Knight's "The Fierce, the Famed and the Hamster" won in the 15 minutes or less subcategory, with Alex Thiel's "One Big Joke" and Logan Little's "Pals" as runners-up. The experimental category was won by "Animal Farm, Veins and Earth" by Dana Echt, and the documentary category prize went to Olivia Rearick's "Untitled."

As well as being invited to screen their completed projects at the UM Cinema Competition, winners received \$750, \$500 or \$250 depending on category and length of production. The prize money is awarded to the student filmmakers as an incentive and aid to follow through with their projects.

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KINDLY STOP TEXTING AND DRIVING

BURDENED BY DIVISION

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COLUMN

Kindly stop texting and driving



BY ANNA RUSH
akrush1@gmail.com

Growing up, I was never allowed to use the word “stupid.” The “S” word was the worst thing you could call someone at our house.

I say all that so that you may fully understand the gravity with which I say texting and driving is stupid.

While I made the seemingly never-ending journey to Oxford from my parents’ house over this past Easter weekend, the sun set halfway through my drive. It was then that I noticed nearly every car was being driven absentmindedly by a driver who was absorbed in the glow of their phone.

The closer I got to Oxford, the worse it became.

I assume this would have something to do with the fact that most other drivers at that

time would be college kids on their way back to school.

Stopped at the traffic light on Highway 6 and Jackson, I took time to observe the cars around me. A glow from a cellphone could be seen in every car at the light.

One SUV filled with college-aged girls had five phones lit up.

How stupid could you be to text while you are driving? And at night no less.

Traveling on an interstate at night in rural North Mississippi with average speeds around 80 miles an hour or a Mississippi Highway with traffic lights and residential drive ways intersecting – and people are texting.

It outraged me.

People think they can multi-task and use that as an excuse, but the honest truth is you cannot.

Just consider the last time you tried to have a conversation with someone who was texting. Did they hear what you said? Did they offer up a timely response? Would it

even register with them if you stopped talking and walked away?

It wouldn’t.

Now, picture that same situation with a minor alteration — the distracted person is in control of a two-ton (the average weight of an American car) mass of metal being hurled down a stretch of road. That’s only the tip of the iceberg on how deadly texting and driving can be.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 18 percent of all fatal crashes in 2010 occurred because a driver was occupied with their phone while driving, causing 3,092 fatalities.

Just think how much we, collectively, have increased our phone use in the past four years.

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute finds that text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted.

So whether it is the chilling “it can wait” public service announcements, Dexter Mc-

Correction:

Associated Press photographer Rogelio V. Solis was incorrectly identified as a DM staff photographer in the April 23 edition of The Daily Mississippian.

Cluster rapping about “staying alive” or me calling you stupid, hopefully something will stick before you have to learn the hard way, at the cost of someone’s life, to never text and drive again.

Anna Rush is a third-year law student from Hattiesburg. Follow her on Twitter at @akrush.



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
press
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Burdened by division



BY CHRISTINE DICKASON
cdickas@go.olemiss.edu

As you may have heard, Oxford Mayor Pat Patterson made some offensive and absurd comments this week about diversity on the Square.

Patterson told NewsWatch 99: "If there were Dollar Generals and Family Dollars out there, you'd have a different demographics [sic]."

He went on to say, "There's a big diversity, 'diversity,' push right now, that I think is, for the most part, silly."

There are a lot of "silly" things in this world, but working to increase diversity is definitely not one of them.

Diversity — in every sense of the word — is inherently good. It allows for individuals to realize people see the world through many different lenses. It teaches us to respect others' opinions, and more importantly, to learn from them.

As a public policy leadership major, diversity in policymaking ensures legislators consider how a new bill might impact different groups. Diversity is more than a buzzword: It is an integral part of our society.

Yet, many times, diversity seems to be feared.

When the Oxford City Council passed a diversity resolution several weeks ago, a man who spoke against the document said he worried about the day his wife would have to use a transgender bathrooms.

Seriously — the first thing that comes to your mind when you see "diversity" is transgender bathrooms?

I think there is some truth behind Mayor Patterson's words.

The Square is exclusive in many ways because of the types

of shops there. I, along with many other students, cannot afford to shop at the high-priced boutiques.

But there's more about the Square than just cost that is prohibitive. There's a sense, I think, that only certain people are welcome.

This phenomenon is not limited to the Square, however.

Walk around the Grove during football season, and you'll be hard-pressed to find much diversity.

Personally, I have never felt comfortable in the Grove because I never have a tent where I can spend much time. I think this is partly because I am not a legacy, and I have no family members who attended this university. I'm not trying to cast a negative light on those who are legacies or have strong family connections here. We simply must be cognizant of the fact that, for many students, this type of legacy is not even a possibility for them, as their grandparents were barred from entry into this institution because of the color of their skin.

Go to the Union at lunchtime. Sit in an Honors College class. Look at the yearbook photos of

the fraternities and sororities. In all of these situations, barriers divide, dissuade or completely bar some students from inclusion.

There have been steps taken by ASB and other groups to remedy some of the issues listed above, though.

This past football season, ASB introduced "Everybody's Tent," which was a great step at making those without a home in the Grove feel more included. If you were a student a few years ago, you may remember the Two + 2 program, started by former ASB President Taylor McGraw. Basically, the program matched you and a friend up with two random people every week, and the four of you would go to coffee or lunch. It was a great opportunity to meet students and faculty from all areas of campus, and I still have friends that I met during that program.

But Two + 2 is now gone, and there's more that can, and should, be done.

The most memorable class I have taken was in Fall 2012 on the integration of the university. Never have I engaged in such open, honest dialogue with my peers, challenging each other in ways I never imagined possible.

statue this semester to the homophobic slurs used during the performance of "The Laramie Project" to the incendiary reactions on campus after the reelection of President Obama.

In the 21st century, diversity is not a thing to be feared.

Until we — students, faculty, staff, community members — wholeheartedly embrace diversity, this university and city will remain burdened by these divisions.

Christine Dickason is a junior public policy leadership major from Collierville, Tenn.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Neal McMillin

B.A. IN SOUTHERN STUDIES

"Developing the Marine Energy Sector in Scotland: A View from the Islands"

Directed by Dr. Andrew Harper

Thursday, April 24 at 4:00 pm

Barnard Observatory Conference Room

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Orion Wilcox

B.A. IN ECONOMICS

"Payday Lending in America: Do Laws Banning Payday Lending Improve Consumer Welfare?"

Directed by Dr. Joshua Hendrickson

Thursday, April 24 at 4:00 pm

Holman Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Nichole Ross

B.ACCY. IN ACCOUNTANCY

"Fraud and its Relevance to the Hospitality Industry"

Directed by Dr. Victoria Dickinson

Thursday, April 24 at 3:00 pm

Conner Hall Dean's Conference Room

The defense is open to the public.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Meagan Henry

B.A. IN ENGLISH

"A Joy Observed: The Study of Transformation through the Life and Literature of C.S. Lewis"

Directed by Dr. Elizabeth Spencer

Thursday, April 24 at 4:00 pm

Honors College Room 107

The defense is open to the public.

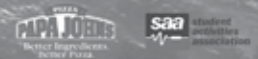
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PARKING,

continued from page 1

parking areas. These will be marked by signs. There will be no limit in off street lots.

Because of the lack of parking in downtown Oxford, Featherston said there are other options offsite that should be able to accommodate the extra traffic. The Mississippi Department of Transportation lot, or MDOT lot, at the intersection of Highway 6 and Old Taylor Road will provide a shuttle to downtown Oxford at a fee of \$5.

"We would suggest that visitors use the MDOT lot on campus on Old Taylor where we will have a shuttle service from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.," Featherston said. "I highly doubt that the MDOT lot will fill up. The reason it's being used is because

of the large size."

Sharpe noted that Visit Oxford and the University of Mississippi collaborated to provide the offsite overflow parking.

No public lots will be closed on Friday. However, North Lamar will be closed to accommodate the stage for musical performances.

Handicapped parking spaces are available in the north parking lot behind the University Club and can be accessed from Jefferson Avenue.



CINEMA,

continued from page 1

"They are able to use the department credit card or be reimbursed to buy crucial elements for their productions," said Alan Arrivé, director of cinema for the department of theater arts.

Competitors were also advised by Arrivé, Brooke White or Andy Harper through the production process.

"I don't like to hold the students hands too much as they go through (the production process)," Arrivé said. "For one, they may have better ideas than I have for their particular project."

Once completed, the films are shown at the UM Cinema Festival along with films submitted by professors. In

addition, other non-winning students are encouraged to submit.

Arrivé said extra submissions are welcome because students can still learn a lot from independently making films.

Christina Huff, a sophomore art major, is a prime example. She and her crew, who were not winners of the competition, submitted "Clowns," a tragic drama short film.

"The main thing that I learned is just how to be patient with the people that you are working with," Huff said. "We spent about three or four weeks just filming everything alone, and I spent more than five or six hours every day just editing. It was a very long process for us but very worth it."

Freshman Kelly Loggins said she is excited about attending the festival.

"I am a cinema minor and broadcast journalism major; therefore, I have always been very interested in the production that goes into these films," Loggins said. "I know how much work it takes to put something like this together, so I feel like I can appreciate all of the films regardless of which ones won in the UM Cinema Competition and which ones didn't."

The films will be shown Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. as well as Saturday at 2 p.m. Question and answer sessions will be held afterward with members of the film crews. Tickets are free to cinema minors and theater majors but \$9 for other students, \$12.50 for adults and \$8 for seniors and children. Tickets are available at the UM Box Office.

MARKET,

continued from page 1

With a big white tent covering 15 or more vendors each Tuesday, visitors are able to shop for a variety of products such as homemade baked goods, fresh produce and herbal remedies. Many vendors are returning businesses from the previous year of the market, but there are a few that are new this year that have decided to see what the market is all about.

Lizzy Graves, owner of Lizzy's Creative Kitchen, is one of the vendors that has been able to form her own business through the market with the help of her daughter.

"This is my business, I don't have a regular location by

choice. It allows me to do other things but still be able to have my own business," Graves said.

Graves and her daughter make all of their baked goods by hand, from cinnamon rolls to Mediterranean focaccia loaves.

Mandi Sanders, co-owner of Sweet Gum Apothecary, is another returning vendor at the market that sells natural products and herbal remedies that appreciates the small community aspect.

Sanders compared the differences between a customer and a store and a customer and the market.

"You get a relationship with the person through this kind of situation that you just can't get at a big box store," said Sand-

ers. According to Sanders the market has really connected with the community.

"Any movement towards local businesses and small operations is a very positive effect on the community," Sanders said.

Oxford City Market is located at 2650 W Oxford Loop, just off of Jackson Avenue. The market is open every Tuesday from 3-6:30 p.m. For more information about the market or volunteering, visit their website, www.oxfordcitymarket.com.

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Matthew Kiefer

B.A. IN PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP

*"Legal Education Reform?
An Analysis of the Current
State of the American Legal
Education System Post
MacCrate"*

Directed by Dr. John Czarnetzky

Thursday, April 24
at 2:00 pm

Odom Hall - Trent Lott

Institute Conference Room 101

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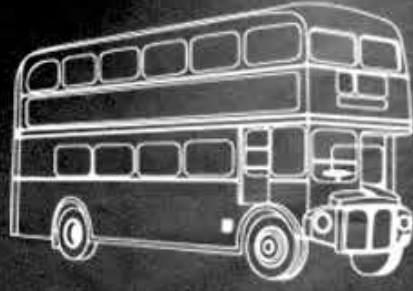


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Double Decker Arts Festival



Double Decker

Schedule of Events

Friday's Events

- Noon - Mark and Janet Barnes - Basketry and Watercolor
- 1 p.m. - Red Byrd, assembly of toys
- 2 p.m. - Debbie Meyers, assembly of toys
- 3 p.m. - Oxford Artist Guild, Plein Air Painting
- 4 p.m. - University Museum Children's Program
- 6 p.m. - Rosco Bandana
- 7 p.m. - Thacker Mountain Radio Show
- 8 p.m. - Bo-Keys

Saturday's Events

- Pre-Festival Events:
- 7:30 a.m. - Spring Run 10k Start
 - 7:45 a.m. - Spring Run 5k Start
 - 9 a.m. - Spring Run Kids Fun Run Start
- Festival Opens:
- 10 a.m. - Morgan Pennington
 - 11:30 a.m. - Garry Burnside
 - 1 p.m. - Dent May
 - 2:30 p.m. - T-Bird and The Breaks
 - 4 p.m. - The Infamous Stringdusters
 - 5:30 p.m. - The Wild Feathers
 - 7 p.m. - Preservation Hall Jazz Band
 - 8:45 p.m. - Charles Bradley
 - 10 p.m. - Festival Closes



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

What is Double Decker?

BY MIKEY PRESTWICH
maprestw@go.olemiss.edu

The Double Decker Arts Festival is hard to put your finger on.

Is it a musical festival or an art gallery? Is it a food fair or a block party?

As someone who has been coming to Double Decker sporadically for most of my life and all of my college years, I still haven't quite figured it out.

The Double Decker Arts Festival was started in 1994, inspired by the gigantic, red busses that Oxford

had recently imported from England in order to live up to its European namesake. It was, and still is, intended to be a showcase for the abundance of creative talent that resides in Mississippi and the Southeast region.

The festival has evolved into something much, much bigger, however.

Through the years, it has grown from a few booths and a band playing on a flatbed truck into a sprawling mass of people, art, food, drink and music.

During the daytime, the Square is dominated by row upon row of canopy tents housing creative works from all over the Southeast. This year's festival will feature 174 artists who work in a variety of different mediums. Jewelry, paintings, pottery, woodworkings, mixed media and a host of other types of artwork come together to form an extensive outdoor art gallery.

One of the best things about Double Decker is that there is no need to take a break from the festivities to get a bite to eat. Food vendors from Oxford and the surrounding areas set up booths around the courthouse, offering abbreviated versions of their menu to hungry patrons.

You really can't talk about Double Decker without mentioning the music.

What was once an afterthought for the festival has evolved into a

See **DOUBLE DECKER**, PAGE 3

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at 1:00 pm

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Institute Conference Room 101

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DOUBLE DECKER,

continued from page 2

sort of pseudo-music festival. The festival shifts gears from the artsy booths that dominate the daytime festivities, into a raucous party, alive with the strains of rock, blues, country and some combinations of all three. There is music all day, but nighttime is when Double Decker comes to life.

Come Saturday night, the front of the stage will look like the floor-level seats of a Bruno Mars concert. This year's lineup, while not as high profile as in some past years, still brings the musical heat in true Oxford fashion. Double Decker does a fantastic job of incorporating out-of-state talent in the festival, while staying faithful to Mississippi artists. Acts include Garry Burnside, Dent May, Morgan Pennington and Rosco Bandana who all hail from the magnolia state.

I guess the most amazing thing about this festival is its transcendent nature. Drunk hippies and flower children spilling over from Sigma Nu's Woodstock mingle with wealthy alumni. You can munch on a greasy corn dog while discussing the compositional elements of a thousand-dollar painting with the artist who created it.

Outside of football season, it's probably the one event where Oxford and University, Mississippi collide. For one brief, shining weekend, Oxford bridges the barriers between town and college.

It's no secret that in Oxford good food is not hard to find.

Not only known for its rich art and culture, Oxford is packed with restaurants that serve mouth-watering cuisine. If you are a foodie, the 19th annual Double Decker Arts Festival is the place to be this Friday and Saturday.

While the music and art aspects of the festival have always been a major focus and attraction for festival-goers, in recent years the Double Decker Festival committee and the Tourism Council have worked towards raising the food component to an equal level.

Increasing the food aspect of the festival is an easy way to bring a fresh perspective and feel to the atmosphere of the weekend, according to the Event Coordinator for the Double Decker Festival Madison Featherston.

"As the caliber of the music has grown with bigger names and recognition, the art has grown," Featherston said.

The committee wanted the food aspect to do the same.

Growing Oxford

A PUSH FOR LOCALITY IN DOUBLE DECKER FOOD

BY: JOAN SANDERS | JGSANDER@GO.OLEMISS.EDU



Vegetables are seen from Native Son Farm at Oxford City Market Tuesday.

CADY HERRING | The Daily Mississippian

That is why last year, the Tourism Council and Double Decker committee made the decision to require vendors to incorporate local ingredients into their dishes. Restaurants apply to participate in the festival and have to provide information regarding the food they will be serving and the ingredients they will be using.

For some companies, this was no problem because they already used local ingredients. Other companies, however, were asked to re-submit their applications with a revised ingredient list.

Some restaurants resubmitted, but others chose not to because it meant they would have to change their menu too much. Many restaurants felt that their food was "local" and "unique" enough to Oxford, even if the committee didn't think so, and chose to opt

out of the festival.

The committee acknowledges that there was some negative feedback from these new policies, and while they wanted to take their innovative idea and run with it, they had to realize this change came as a shock to many and needed to slow down the process.

Featherston addressed that while she plans for the festival the entire year, locals and visitors only experience it once a year. The committee's "full-charge-ahead attitude," as she called it, did not match various members of the community's response to the rapid change.

"Last year, we made a lot of changes at once, and it was just really fast," Featherston said. "We don't want to get rid of the fair atmosphere but definitely want to see more growth and options,

which is really exciting."

Liz Barrett, founder and editor of EatingOxford.com, reminds the community that there were, in fact, many people who were excited about the new changes.

"If there's one thing I've learned from the readers, it's

that they love keeping things local," Barrett said. "Oxonians are proud of where they come from and the high-quality ingredients grown and produced here."

Not only does going local improve the food culture in Oxford, but it is a way to show off all the city has to offer.

"If I were going to another town's yearly festival," Barrett said. "I'd expect to walk away feeling like I got a sense of the community. I'd love to see more local ingredients and growers integrated into the food vendor list at the festival."

For this year's festival, the planning was much more transparent. There were four open meetings before the application process even began. The restaurant com-

See GROWING, PAGE 8

TONIGHT	TOMORROW	SATURDAY
<p>10 FREE KEG party on the upstairs patio. STARTS AT 6</p>	<p>Ole Miss baseball game @ 5:30. ----- Mustache the Band The Library 120 South 11th Street 662.234.1411 please drink responsibly</p>	<p>WHOLE BAR OPENS @ 11AM</p>

STREET CLOSINGS/TOWING

Please be mindful where you park your car beginning on **Thursday** evening as parking will be limited or closed in some areas.

On **Friday, April 25th** North Lamar and Monroe Ave. will be closed to traffic as the stage is being set up. Cars will be towed on North Lamar and Monroe Ave. beginning at 4am on Friday, April 25th.

On **Saturday, April 26th**, towing will begin at 4am on all streets on the Oxford Square.

Shuttles will be provided for the festival and will be available from the MDOT lot on campus off of Old Taylor Rd. From 10am - 10pm. Shuttles will cost \$5. Questions? Call 662-232-2477. Handicapped parking will be available in the parking lot directly behind the University Club and accessed from Jefferson Ave.

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For more information about the lodging, directions, or general information about the festival contact Visit Oxford at 662-232-2477 or doubledecker@visitoxfordms.com.

Home Grown

OXFORD MUSICIANS ON THE DOUBLE DECKER STAGE

BY: ASHTON DAWES | AEDAWES@GO.OLEMISS.EDU



JARED BURLESON | The Daily Mississippian

Dent May poses for a photo outside of Square Books.



CADY HERRING | The Daily Mississippian

Morgan Pennington poses for a photo outside High Point Coffee on the Square.

Dent May

Six years ago, Dent May performed for the first time on the Double Decker Stage. Instead of opening up with a song, however, May introduced himself by grilling hamburgers right there on stage. This act alone exhibits May's quirky and unexpected style.

Hailing from Oxford, May claims his inspiration comes from musicians like Lee Hazlewood and Serge Gainsbourg.

May began touring in 2008, but his love for music started much earlier.

"I've been playing music my whole life pretty much," May said. "I started taking piano lessons and guitar lessons when I was really young and singing in school and church choirs and performing in musicals."

For May, it seems that music was really the only viable option — nothing could fit him as well as being a musician does.

"I'm just kind of a musician by default," May said. "I've been writing songs since I was 12 years old."

When May graduated from The University of Mississippi, he was uninterested in a desk job and instead tried

putting his stuff out on the internet. This small step led to the successful musician he is today.

"There's a lot of really creative people in Oxford," May said. "It's easy to write songs here."

He also said Oxford is a great place for him to come home to after being busy on tours.

May considers himself a fan of classical writing, giving a nod toward his years of experience in choir and the influence that has had on him. He calls it "American songwriting."

May doesn't confine himself to those two decades, however. He likes to incorporate hip-hop, techno and even more experimental styles into his music. He is always wanting to try new things.

"I don't really consider myself a member of any particular genre," May said. "We live in a post-genre world where anyone can write anything. I think I'm more of an explorer than anything else."

May is excited to return to Double Decker this year. When he first performed at Double Decker he wanted to do something new, so he invited a friend to grill hamburgers on stage wearing a Michelangelo apron.

"I don't have any crazy plans yet for this year," May said. "But we'll see."

One thing is for certain: May is ready to bring his best to the festival.

Morgan Pennington

Oxford-based musician and University of Mississippi alumna Morgan Pennington will be making her first appearance at Double Decker this year.

Pennington may be new to the big stage, but she is ready to make her entrance as a true Oxford musician.

"I've always loved music," Pennington said, "It's only recently that I've been like let's get my stuff out there."

The South and Oxford are well-known for producing artists of all types, and Pennington is appreciative of this aspect of her hometown.

"One of the more inspiring things about Oxford is it's a super art-based town," Pennington said. "Everybody in Oxford is really supportive. It's a place you can really sing about."

Pennington has always been passionate about music, but she's just now been able to get her music out in the open. She learned to play the guitar about four years ago, and it led her to began writing and playing her own music. Those years of hard work have culminated in her new EP, "Wolves,"

which will be released April 26.

"I went into it expecting to do an acoustic EP," Pennington said of her upcoming release. "It has morphed into this synthesized, kind of '80s vibe. It's gone from folk to electronic pop."

Though the genre of music Pennington is producing may not be what she expected, it fits right in with the edgy title she has chosen.

"I wrote a song with the word 'wolves' in it, and I love that song," Pennington said. "So it became the title. I think it's a little trendy."

Pennington is hoping the EP will lead to a possible tour for her.

"My goal is to send it out to as many people as possible and go on tour," Pennington said.

She joked that she would set up her own tour by herself if necessary.

Double Decker will be the introduction of Pennington's true artistic self, and a chance for her to show her gratitude towards all the support she's garnered from the people around her in the Oxford Community.

"I'm waiting for Double Decker to really show people what I sound like."

She noted this is also a chance to give back to the people and celebrate the performances she has always seen at Double Decker.

"I've always gone to Double Decker and I've always looked at people and said I want to do that," Pennington said. "And now I am on the Double Decker stage."

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Luke Burnett

B.S.E.S IN EXERCISE SCIENCE

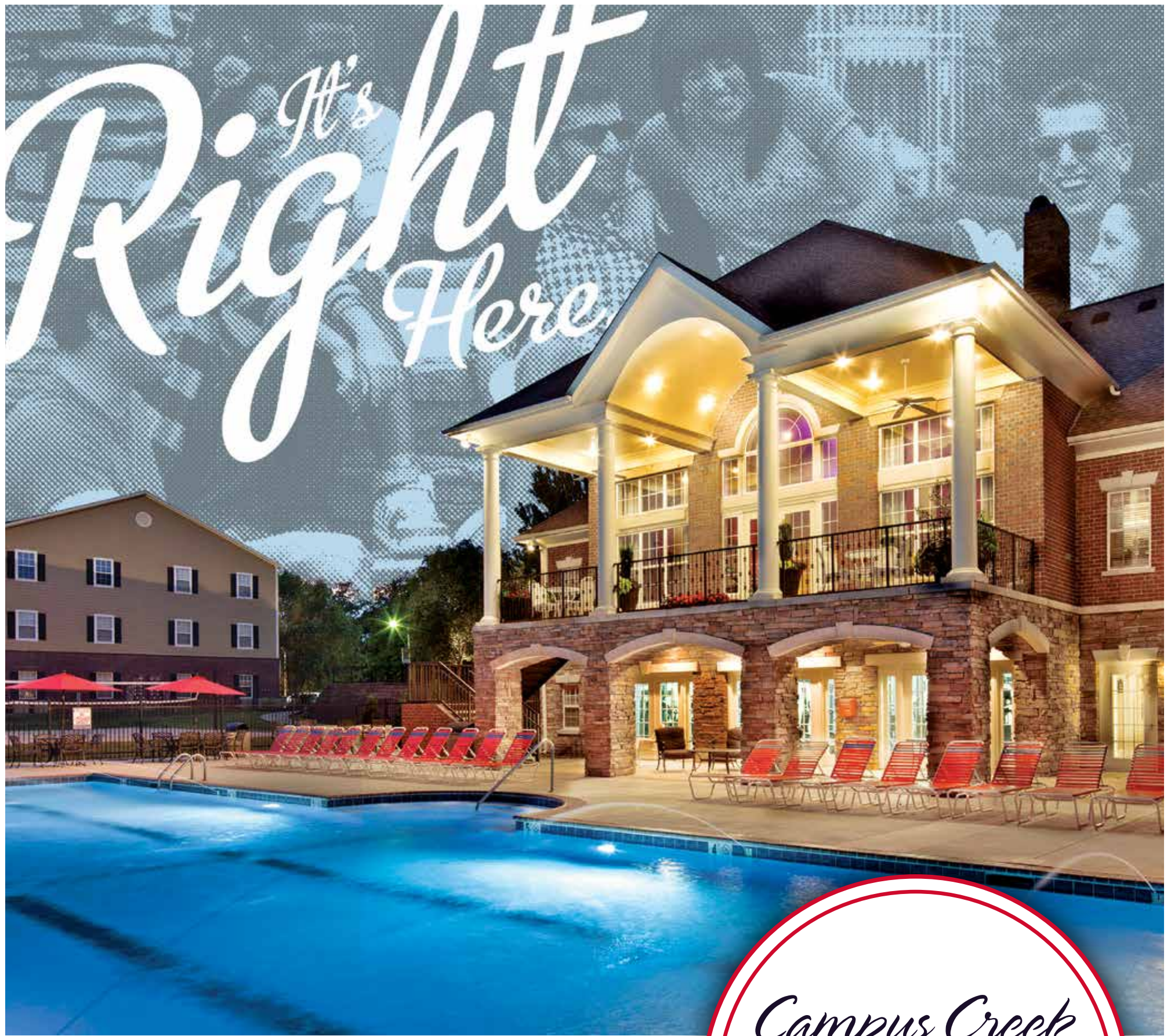
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 **EdR**

Old hats and fresh paint

BY MCKENNA WIERMAN
mckenna.wierman@yahoo.com

The Double Decker Arts Festival has, for many years, brought a wide variety of talented artists from all across the country to show and earn recognition for their work here in Oxford.

Drawing particular interest this year are two very different artists, print artist and Oxford resident Larry Wamble and impressionist painter Priscilla Cunningham of Memphis.

Though both Wamble and Cunningham will be featured in Double Decker, each comes from a very different yet equally enthralling artistic background.

Originally from Greenville, Wamble has attended every Double Decker Arts Festival since the program was started 19 years ago. Before becoming a prominent artist, however, Wamble taught at The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Wamble has also worked extensively in public speaking, traveling all over the country and meeting an exciting array of people. But, ultimately, it was the Oxford Square which led Wamble to a career as an artist.

His journey to becoming a recognized artist began one November night when Wamble's wife, Connie, suggested the idea of all their favorite places on the Square being on the same block. From that, Wamble's first print "Perfect



Festival goers browse vander booths during last year's Double Decker Arts Festival.

FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

Block," was born.

"My wife talked me into making a print, and before you knew it, a friend of mine had talked me into setting up a booth at the first Double Decker," Wamble said. "I had a stack of my first print and set up a card table out on the Square."

Wamble is proud to see how much the festival has developed over the years.

"It was a lot simpler back then, but now it's turned into this great event," he said. "It's just this good

day outside with good food and good music and good people. What could be better?"

Wamble is best known for his prints, which feature an imaginary city where all the landmarks or favorite places in a particular city or town are all on one block together. Wamble hopes his prints bring out the best qualities of a city or town.

"I want my art prints to make people feel good," he said. "These 'perfect blocks' — some of the places have been there for more

than 80 years. You know, these perfect blocks are our favorite places; they are where a lot of our memories are."

As a veteran of Double Decker, Wamble is looking forward to seeing old friends and faces who tend to pop up around his booth at the festival.

"I care about Oxford so much," he said. "I love getting to see all these devoted friends and relatives and customers who come from all over for this big event just once a year."

Priscilla Cunningham had an interest for art throughout her life. Unlike Wamble, this year will be her first trip to the festival, and she couldn't be more excited.

"I saw where they put me — right by Square Books on Lamar, facing the Court House, and I was so excited!"

Cunningham sees herself as a more impressionistic painter.

"I went to Italy two years ago, and I really love painting scenes from all the pictures I took. It really was just so beautiful, and I like the freedom to be creative and paint what I see," Cunningham said.

Cunningham also decided to pursue her artistic passion later in life.

"Before, I needed to raise my kids, make a living, but once I took some courses and really kept at it, I found this was the best job I've ever had," she said. "It's the most fun I've ever had — trying to be creative. It's really something."

Cunningham's art, brimming with vibrant and bold colors, aims to bring the elements of nature alive to her viewers.

"I want people to feel like they are within the scenes," she said. "I want my viewers to feel a breeze blowing, to experience the movement that happens."

These artists are only two amongst the plethora that Double Decker will bring to Oxford, but they represent the diversity and culture that will be found there.

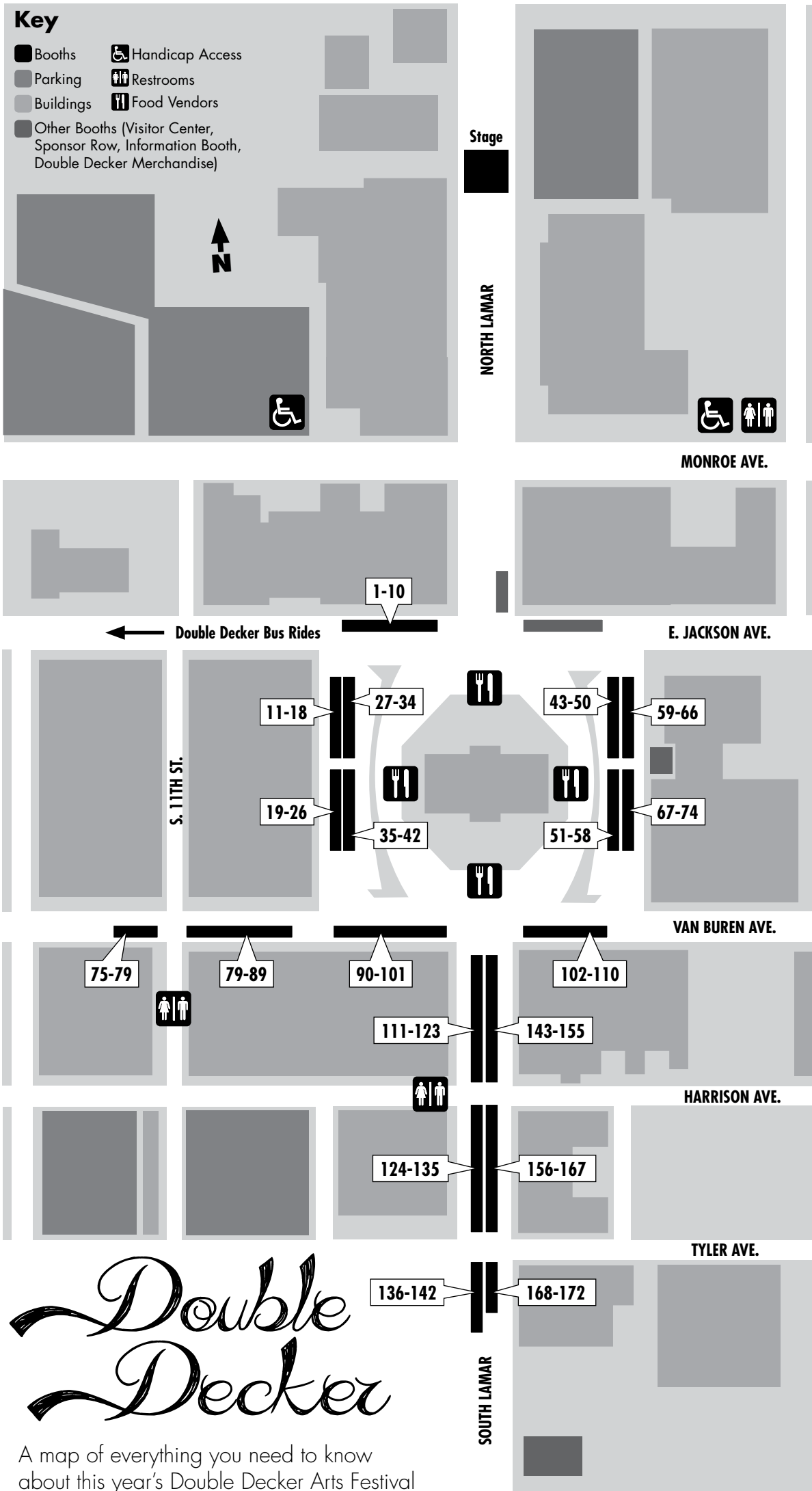
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|---------|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 -2 | Rodney Claxton | 89 | Lorrie Drennan |
| 3 - 4 | Larry Wamble | 90 | Anne Thompson |
| 5 | Jimmy Criddle | 91 | Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr. |
| 6 | Harry Day | 92 | Anita Hejtmank |
| 7 | Sandra Lorenz | 93 | Janee Easton |
| 8 | Banks Norman | 94 | Richard Jacobus |
| 9 | David Johnson | 95 | Carolyn Watson |
| 10 | Ann Seale | 96 | Robert Rundquist |
| 11 | Walter (Red) Byrd | 97 | Stacey Rathert |
| 12 | Jennifer Bates | 98 - 99 | Nicki Weaver |
| 13 | Kendra Bennett | 100 | Ryan Hollis |
| 14 | Helene Fielder | 101 | Gary Walters |
| 15 | Tim Pace | 102 | Bradley Gordon |
| 16 | Dan Bristow | 103 | Chad Mars |
| 17 | Kathleen Armour Walker | 104 | Natalie Moorer |
| 18 | Judy Vandergrift | 105 | Laura pennebaker |
| 19 | Carl Marascalco | 106 | Nicole Hinkley |
| 20 -21 | Dell Clark | 107 | Kevin Harrington |
| 22 | Lester Jones | 108 | Jo Smith |
| 23 | Leslie Smith | 109 | Marvin Smith |
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| 25 - 26 | Lois Arrechea, Katherine Reed, Sarah Robertson | 111 | Priscilla Cunningham |
| 27 | Charles Chapin | 112 - 113 | Connie Hulsey |
| 28 | T. Bowen | 114 | Frank Estrada |
| 29 | Jennifer Burford | 115 | Jude Landry |
| 30 | Lynn Dunlap | 116 | Summer Lewis |
| 31 | Nicole Gladden | 117 | Woody Smith |
| 32 | Lisa Hudson | 118 | Haley Yurkow |
| 33 | Ellen Langford | 119 | Joshua Zerbe |
| 34 | Patricia Bergman | 120 | Linda Lindale |
| 35 | Leslie Lockhart | 121 | Candy Cain |
| 36 | Jin Powell | 122 - 123 | Cindy Cail |
| 37 | Liz Landgren | 124 | Dorothy Collier |
| 38 | Lisa Robinson | 125 - 126 | Lauren Dunn |
| 39 | Paula Temple | 127 | Keith Aden |
| 40 | Shirley Cotten | 128 | Roger & Renae Poer |
| 41 - 42 | Joseph Eckles | 129 | Robbie Robertson |
| 43 | Douglas Lamb | 130 | Natalie Rodgers |
| 44 - 45 | Catherine Ann Davis | 131 | Sharon Ray |
| 46 | Cindy Aune | 132 | Jordan Clark |
| 47 | Kathryn Davis | 133 - 134 | Jeremy McMahan |
| 48 | Deirdre Uncapher | 135 | Karen Bryant |
| 49 | Tracy Wilson | 136 | Evie Davis |
| 50 | Ryan Merrill | 137 | Mary-Ellen Kelly |
| 51 | Marcia Shelly | 138 | Anne Darken |
| 52 | Greg Harkins | 139 | Linda Theobald |
| 53 | Marilyn Innman | 140 | Cortney Butler |
| 54 - 55 | Eddie Powell | 141 | Margaret Lauren Pigford |
| 56 | Jennifer Pace | 142 | Paula Mistretta |
| 57 | Sarah Dossett | 143 | Kristen Ley |
| 58 | Rick Anderson | 144 - 145 | Robert McCarroll |
| 59 | Sarah-Thorne Davis | 146 | Laura McCrory |
| 60 - 61 | Alexander Brown | 147 | Olivia Mitchell |
| 62 | John Catlette | 148 | Craig Riches |
| 63 | Laurie Fisher | 149 | Steve White |
| 64 | Lea Margaret Hamilton | 150 | Keith Gore Wiseman |
| 65 | Mike Thompson | 151 | Britton Yerger |
| 66 | Vicki Shipley | 152 | Nancy LaPlace |
| 67 | Raina Hampton | 153 | Holly Johnson |
| 68 | Steve Windham | 154 | Jayne Vinsant |
| 69 | Scott Davidson | 155 | Bubba Robinson |
| 70 | Randy Walker | 156 | Streater Spencer |
| 71 | Meg Sutton | 157 | Kit Barksdale |
| 72 | H.C. Porter | 158 | Beth Long |
| 73 | Melanie Munn | 159 | NMRC's Hopkins Arts and Crafts NMRC |
| 74 | Michael Schwade | 160 | John Sperry |
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Double Decker

A map of everything you need to know about this year's Double Decker Arts Festival

MAP BY NATALIE MOORE | The Daily Mississippian

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Hope Owens-Wilson
 B.A. IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
"How Do They Stay? An exploration of the factors contributing to college completion amongst African-American Women at the University of Mississippi in the 21st century."
 Directed by Dr. Kirk Johnson
Thursday, April 24 at 1:00 pm
Lyceum Room 110
 The defense is open to the public.
 If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Rachel Lowe
 B.S. IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
"Roles and Regulations for Pharmacists in Disaster Relief Efforts" to "Roles and Regulations for Pharmacists in State-Level Disaster Relief Efforts"
 Directed by Dr. David McCaffrey
Thursday, April 24 at 11:30 am
Faser Hall Room 217
 The defense is open to the public.
 If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Kim Allen
 B.S. IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
"Mississippi Pharmacists' Knowledge and Attitudes about Pharmacy Compounding Safety and Regulation"
 Directed by Dr. Erin Holmes
Thursday, April 24 at 9:00 am
Faser Hall Room 206
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GROWING

continued from page 3

munity's ability to work with the Double Decker committee this year has been beneficial for both sides.

"This is where the whole score card idea came about," Featherston said.

This year, vendor booth's will be scored in four categories, able to receive a total of 25 points (or 27 in the case of a tie). The categories include: quality, creativity, Double Decker/Oxford/Mississippi and uniqueness.

While the use of local ingredients was a rule last year, this year, the scorecard is meant to create more of an incentive rather than a requirement. This promotes innovative dishes that are unique to the festival and tied back to Oxford, Double Decker and Mississippi.

The committee wants to know the story behind the dish and where it came from that makes it more than your basic corn dog, pizza or cotton candy.

The committee is also encouraging three or four menu items per vendor rather than one main dish, so people can sample more things. This not only adds an element to the festival, upping the food portion, but allows restaurants to better promote their food and personal style.

The "grown here" and "eat local" mentality has been a big push.

Last year, the committee did not anticipate the massive quantities of food that would be needed from

the local farmers. It was hard for them to accommodate all of the vendors requesting local ingredients.

Many community members, including Betsy Chapman of Yokna Bottoms Farm, feel that supporting local growers is an ideal way for Oxonians to find out how their food is being grown and farmed.

"Buying local means that customers can shop their values: supporting sustainable agriculture farms, growing a strong local food economy, keeping dollars in their communities and creating good, meaningful jobs," Chapman said.

All of this has led to this year's goal to promote Oxford culture and bring a local feeling to the festival's food culture and atmosphere through suggesting, not demanding, the use of local products.

"While vendors might struggle to use all locally procured ingredients, creating a menu that highlights a few local, seasonal ingredients might be a more attainable goal for both growers and chefs," Chapman said.

"Oxford is a big food town in the eyes of most, and we need to showcase that aspect of Oxford's personality when out-of-towners come to the festival — some for the first time," Barrett said. "We want visitors to leave with the feeling of, 'Now I understand why everyone raves about the food in Oxford.'"

The food vendor booths will be located around the court house lawn on the Square. Be sure to come and sample each one.

The Top Ten

THE TOP 10 DOUBLE DECKER EXPERIENCES

BY: MIKEY PRESTWICH | MAPRESTW@GO.OLEMISS.EDU

- 1 **The People:** The Double Decker Arts Festival is one of those rare moments of transcendence between the citizens of Oxford and the students of Ole Miss. This unity between permanent residents and students is one of the best things about Double Decker.
- 2 **The Food Booths:** Encircling the entirety of the Oxford Square, multi-colored Grove tents house some of the area's best culinary creations that can't normally be found in town. The Taylor Grocery tent is a must-eat for anyone visiting the festival.
- 3 **The Double Decker Buses:** These two-story vehicles help transform Oxford into its British namesake. The iconic behemoths carry festival-goers on hour-long tours to points of interest on campus and in town. Stops include: Rowan Oak, St. Peter's Cemetery, the Lamar House and Cedar Oaks mansion.
- 4 **Square Books:** Consistently ranked one of the best bookstores in America, Square Books is essential to the Double Decker experience. Square Books is hosting a book signing on Friday. Drew Perry will be signing "Kids These Days," and Zachary Lazar will be signing "I Pity the Poor Immigrant."
- 5 **Get a Bloody Mary from Irie on the Square:** This may just be a personal preference of mine, but I've never found a better Bloody Mary anywhere in Oxford. Grab one of these early Saturday to help shake off the headache that you'll probably have after a rowdy Friday night.
- 6 **Balcony sitting:** In my four years at Ole Miss, I've learned that finding my way to a balcony on the Square is one of the best ways to enjoy Double Decker. Get away from the crowds, grab your preferred drink and watch the throng unfold beneath you.
- 7 **"Big-as-your-head" Ice Cream Sandwich:** There can be no exaggeration when talking about this decadent, dairy delight. Sugaree's Bakery (based out of New Albany) brings the homemade cookies and ice-cream by the truckload to cool off the sunburnt festival-goers.
- 8 **Thacker Mountain Radio:** Thacker is a pillar of the Oxford cultural community, and it's only fitting that they will have their season closer at the kick-off of Double Decker Arts Festival. The lineup includes Jim Dees, the Yalobushwhackers, Rosco Bandana, Drew Perry, Zachary Lazar and The Bo-Keys.
- 9 **The Art Booths:** The art booths are one of the quintessential features of Double Decker. This year's roster includes 174 different artists whose works include pottery, clothing, jewelry, painting, photography, mixed media art and a ton more.
- 10 **The Bands:** Last, but certainly not least, the music that emanates throughout the Square is one of the most amazing elements of Double Decker. The headliner Friday The Bo-Keys, and the headliner Saturday is Charles Bradley. Other notable acts include Garry Burnside, Dent May and T-Bird & the Breaks.

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UM Opera Theatre presents 'L'Elisir D'Amore'

BY MARY VIRGINIA PORTERA

mvporter@go.olemiss.edu

The UM Opera Theatre is set to perform Gaetano Donizetti's "L'Elisir D'Amore," also known as "The Elixir of Love" in Meek Auditorium this weekend.

The opera was popularized by Luciano Pavarotti, a prominent tenor. The performance will be an opera featuring both graduate and undergraduate students in the production.

Julia Aubrey, the production director, said that although operas are usually intimidating to those who do not know much about them, "The Elixir of Love" is a comic opera that all audiences will love.

Jacquelyn Skoog, who plays leading female character Idina, spoke to the attraction of this particular opera.

"'Elixir of Love' is a timeless story with enchanting music that is accessible to people of all ages," Skoog said.

Aubrey added the story line is a romantic comedy in which the leading characters are tangled in a love triangle.

"There are machinations of the male leading character thinking he is going to get the girl but with a

twist in the plot," Aubrey said.

"The Elixir of Love" is set in Bergamo, Italy, around the 1830s, and it is performed in both English and Italian. However, Aubrey said there will be supertitles in English and Italian so that it is audience-friendly and open to anyone.

Skoog affirmed Aubrey's statement of the universality of the opera as well.

"'Elixir of Love' is the perfect opera for people who have tons of experience with opera and for people who have never experienced an opera, because the music is gorgeous, the plot is comical — with a little heart break — and it is a story most can relate to," Skoog said.

Aubrey also commented on the logistics of the opera and how they have put it together in a way that is particularly audience-friendly.

"We have used technology to help us because Meek is a small theater. There are rear projector screens that will give you pictures of the background for the story without requiring a big set."

Aubrey said the set serves as a background for the story without being too overwhelming.

"There will be 25 people on stage with an emphasis on acting and singing, as well as an orchestra in the pit, made up of students,



PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian

The cast of "The Elixir of Love" perform during a dress rehearsal Wednesday.

faculty and community members," Aubrey said.

"Honestly I am simply looking forward to being on stage with wonderful people; allowing Donizetti's (the composer's) music come to life and take the audience on a

journey with me," Skoog said.

Meredith Dillon, freshman theatre arts major, spoke of the unique attraction of opera.

"Opera is one of the oldest forms of theatrical performance, and like with anything else, it's important to

appreciate the history to better understand the present," Dillon said.

The performances will be today and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., as well as Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are available in the UM Box Office or at www.olemiss.edu/depts/tickets.

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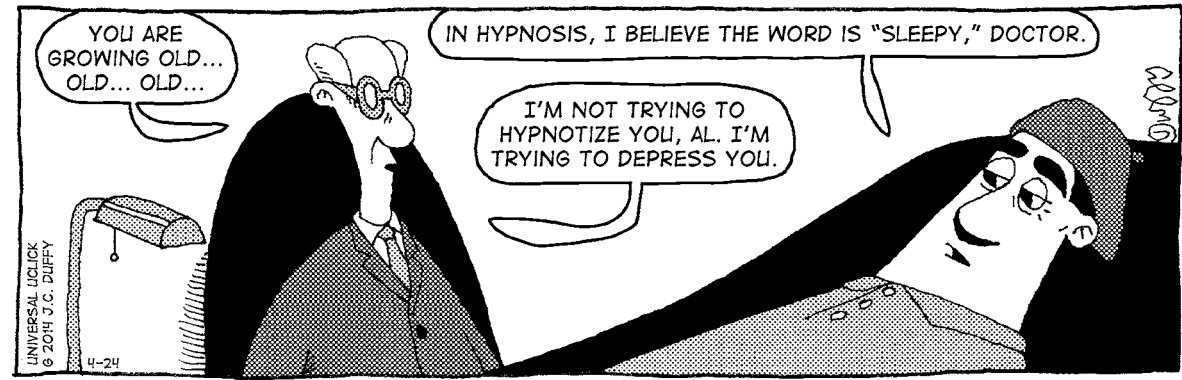
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



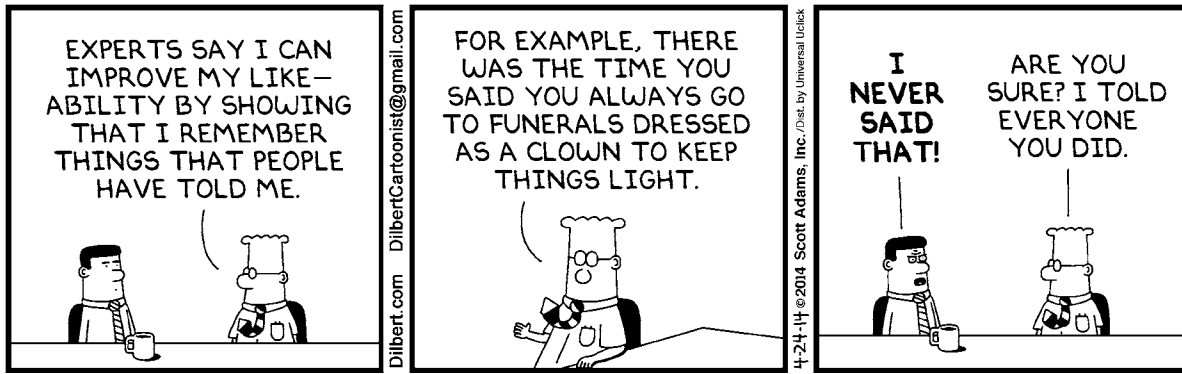
THE FUSCO BROTHERS

BY J.C. DUFFY



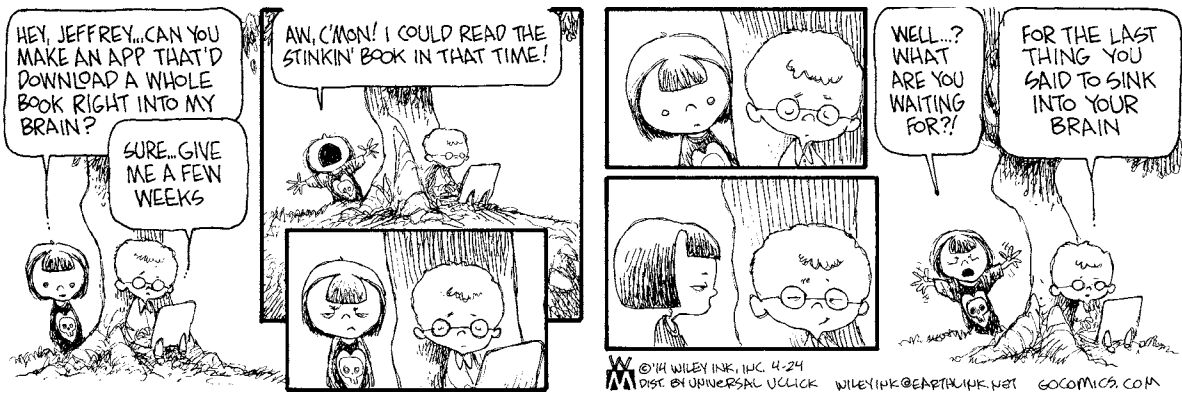
DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



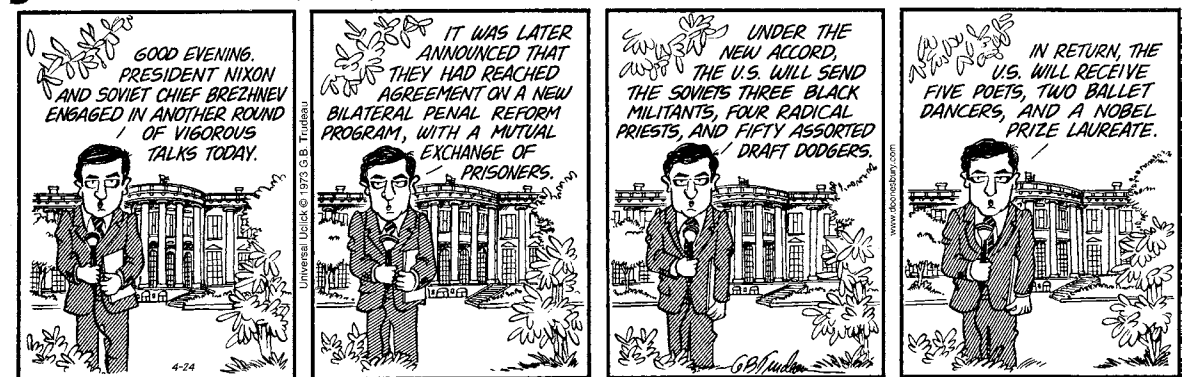
NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



DOONESBURY (1973)

by G.B. Trudeau



SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

HOW TO PLAY

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

SUPER TOUGH

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

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ACROSS
 1 — du jour
 5 Narrow squeak
 10 — fide
 14 Insincerely nice
 15 Falter
 16 Beehive State
 17 Percolate
 18 Hazard a guess
 19 Leaf veins
 20 Ready for the prom
 22 Fresco base
 23 Heirs, often
 24 Rider's command
 26 More secure
 29 Felt hats
 33 Ill-tempered
 34 Floor models
 35 Subject for Keats
 36 Diploma word
 37 Golfer's shouts
 38 Hudson Bay tribe
 39 Egg — yung
 40 Plains drifters
 41 Shipping box
 42 Not yet confirmed
 44 Grinding tooth
 45 Mother lodes
 46 Desktop symbol
 48 Take notes
 51 Fetid
 55 Mystique

DOWN
 1 Blog entry
 2 In — of
 3 Mr. Trebek
 4 Prepares for printing
 5 Faint
 6 Billowing garments
 7 Like some fans
 8 Stimp's buddy
 9 Previous to
 10 Chiffonier
 11 Redding or Skinner
 12 Grabs
 13 Mr. Moto's reply (2 wds.)
 21 Fishing boat
 22 Sailors
 24 "Little —"
 25 RN employers
 26 Incredible muddle
 27 Slugger Hank —
 28 35mm setting (hyph.)

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

Y	A	W	E	D	B	S	M	T	A	C	T	S
E	R	A	S	E	R	E	E	D	T	H	E	N
A	N	I	T	A	O	A	R	S	H	O	N	E
R	E	F	E	C	T	O	R	Y	M	E	N	S
R	O	A	D	L	O	U	N	G	E	D		
V	I	P	N	U	I	T	A	L	I			
O	L	E	S	T	E	W	T	E	A	B	A	G
L	E	A	D	R	A	E	N	I	C	E		
E	X	T	E	N	D	N	A	V	E	D	E	N
S	M	O	A	G	R	A	N	E	S	E		
S	P	L	U	R	G	E	T	S	A	R		
L	A	U	R	A	V	E	H	E	M	E	N	C
A	C	R	E	W	A	D	I	E	L	I	O	T
V	E	I	L	O	D	I	E	L	I	N	E	R
E	D	D	I	N	E	E	R	S	T	O	N	E

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20				21						22					
			23					24	25						
26	27	28					29					30	31	32	
33						34							35		
36						37							38		
39					40								41		
42				43									44		
			45					46	47						
48	49	50						51					52	53	54
55						56	57						58		
59						60							61		
62						63							64		

Make the DM part of your morning ritual

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN
 THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
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OLE MISS SPORTS INFORMATION

Ole Miss track hitting its stride as season ramps up

With less than a month left until the SEC Championships, Ole Miss will send its No. 11 nationally ranked men to the A-State Red Wolves Open in Jonesboro, Ark., and the women to the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, this week.

Only two weekends of competition remain before the SEC Championships are scheduled to begin. They will be held in Lexington, Ky. May 15-18, followed by the NCAA East Preliminary in Jacksonville, Fla., May 29-31 and the NCAA Championships in Eugene, Ore., June 11-14.

The A-State Red Wolves Open will take place Friday and Saturday on the campus of Arkansas State University. The meet begins Friday at 3 p.m. with the men's hammer throw. Events run throughout Friday evening and start back again at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Among the men's teams in attendance will be Ohio State, Southern Illinois and Memphis.

The college portion of the prestigious Drake Relays presented by Hy-Vee runs Wednesday-Saturday. Some of the world's top professional athletes will also compete in featured events at the historic Drake Stadium throughout the week. Senior Mary Ashton Nall will get things started for the Rebels in the heptathlon Wednesday and Thursday.

The 11th-ranked Ole Miss men feature some of the nation's top athletes and are coming off a strong performance at the Mt. SAC Relays last week. Freshman Sean Tobin provided one of the biggest highlights for the Rebels when he broke a 29-year-old school record in the 1,500 meters

with his time of 3:42.07 that ranks seventh in the nation this year. He was tabbed SEC Freshman of the Week for his effort.

Ole Miss men that rank among the nation's top 50 are freshman Jalen Miller in the 100 meters (18th, 10.24) and 200 (41st, 20.85), senior Mike Granger in the 100 (36th, 10.34), Tobin in the 800 (12th, 1:47.99) and 1500 (7th, 3:42.07), junior Robert Semien in the 110 hurdles (24th, 13.91), the 4x100 relay (25th, 40.06), the 4x400 relay (31st, 3:09.20), senior Ricky Robertson in the high jump (1st, 7-6), long jump (18th, 25-0.75) and triple jump (20th, 51-2.25), junior Sam Kendricks in the pole vault (1st, 18-8.25), junior Phillip Young in the long jump (32nd, 24-9.75) and triple jump (10th, 51-9.75), junior Malcolm Davis in the long jump (38th, 24-7.75) and sophomore Nathan Loe in the hammer throw (24th, 210-3).

Kendricks remains atop the world rankings in the pole vault since his season-best jump of 18-8.25 at the Texas Relays. Robertson ranks second in the world in the high jump (7-6 at the Texas Relays) and is the only NCAA athlete that ranks in the top 20 in the high jump, long jump and triple jump.

Within the SEC, Ole Miss has the league leader in the 1500 (Tobin), high jump (Robertson) and pole vault (Kendricks).

On the women's side, junior Kierra White currently ranks 18th nationally in the long jump (20-6.25), and Nall is 32nd in the heptathlon (5,278). They both rank top seven among SEC athletes in those events.



FILE PHOTO (IGNACIO MURILLO) | The Daily Mississippian

Ricky Robertson competes during a meet earlier this season.

CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION

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COLUMN

Golson's possible transfer not reason for bashing

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU
thedmsports@gmail.com

ing offensive lineman Austin Golson.

It's happening again. Some Ole Miss football fans are showing their asses on social media, embarrassing all of us. Usually, it happens around National Signing Day.

Media outlets reported earlier this week that Golson, who played in every game last season except for the Music City Bowl, is considering transferring from Ole Miss due to personal reasons.

Here's a very toned-down example of what a tweet may say.

In multiple interviews, Golson said he wants to be closer to his grandparents who live in Prattville, Ala., because they are going through what he called "some hard times."

"Hey (insert recruit's name here), come to our school. We really need you!"

In somewhat typical SEC superfan fashion, some Ole Miss fans decided to make this a big deal.

When that recruit signs with another school, the same person will often tweet something off-putting in response.

Prattville is a Montgomery suburb about an hour away from Auburn, and some Ole Miss fans assume this is a sly attempt by Auburn to steal one of our top offensive linemen.

"Hey (insert recruit's name here), you suck anyways. Hope (insert rival school's name here) cuts your scholarship before the season starts."

The NCAA allows players the opportunity to transfer and apply for a hardship waiver, which, if granted, would allow the transferring player to play at another school immediately. If the waiver

In the past couple of days, as I've scrolled through my Twitter timeline, I've noticed some similar rumblings. This time, it has nothing to do with a recruit. It involves current Ole Miss sophomore start-



FILE PHOTO (IGNACIO MURILLO) | The Daily Mississippian

Austin Golson is honored before the Grove Bowl.

isn't granted or filled in the first place, the player usually must sit out for one full school year before playing for a new school.

Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze told the media that he would "probably" not try to block a release of Golson to another school.

Social media and the sports message boards have been on fire since the story broke. Some fans, determined to believe that Auburn is behind all of this, have said and written some incredibly nasty things about Golson and the situation.

"This whole homesick excuse

is a load of horsesh**... F**k that (three-word expletive)," one poster wrote on an Ole Miss message board (which was then screen grabbed and tweeted word for word to Golson's Twitter account, so I'm not releasing any information Golson has not already seen).

"Now he is saying he isn't one-hundred percent sure he is transferring. Honestly, f**k this kid... and by God, do not f**king let this kid go to an SEC team," another poster wrote.

This was also tweeted to Golson.

Others on social media and message boards are being very civil, encouraging him to stay on the

team. Unfortunately, as is often the case with social media, the negative outweighs the positive.

I don't know Golson's situation.

I don't know him at all, and I've never had the pleasure of meeting him.

Does he really deserve this?

If his family is really going through a rough time and he truly wants to be in Alabama with them, I feel awful for him right now.

Even if this is a ploy by Auburn to get him to play for them, he still doesn't deserve any of what I'm seeing.

I'd like to think we as Ole Miss fans have higher standards than very publicly trashing our own players.

When it comes down to it, he is a student athlete trying to get an education while showcasing his football talents. He isn't trying to hurt Ole Miss in any way. He's doing what's best for himself.

As a college student myself, I would do the exact same thing.

Austin, if you're reading this, please don't take this hateful and hurtful stuff to heart. If you need to transfer, do it (although I know we would all like to see you in red and blue next season). If we aren't so fortunate, I wish you the best of luck no matter where you're playing.

On behalf of the seemingly mindless minority of Ole Miss fans out there that are saying some of this stuff, I'd like to apologize to you. We don't all think like that.

For those of you who think it is okay to hide behind your computer screens and taunt a college student for doing what he needs to do, please stop. You're making all of us look bad.