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1911 THE DAILY 2011 MISSISSIPPIAN

CELEBRATING OUR HUNDRETH YEAR | THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 | WWW.THEDMONLINE.COM

OLE MISS VISIT ENDS IN TRAGEDY



PHOTO COURTESY JOEL MCNEESE | CALHOUN COUNTY JOURNAL

A violent crash involving a Choctaw County school bus and an 18-wheeler has left numerous injured and three confirmed fatalities. The Mississippi Highway Patrol has confirmed that no students are among those killed.



STEPHEN QUINN | The Daily Mississippian

DM STAFF REPORT
The Daily Mississippian

Three adults were killed and at least a dozen high school students were hospitalized after an 18-wheeler collided head-on with a bus yesterday afternoon around 2 p.m. on a highway bridge in North Mississippi.

There were 62 students on

two Choctaw County school buses returning from a tour of the University of Mississippi when the crash occurred. The driver of the 18-wheeler scraped the side of one bus and then hit the second head-on on Mississippi 8 near Mississippi 9, about a mile outside of Calhoun City, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol trooper Ray Hall told the

Clarion-Ledger.

Calhoun County Medical Examiner Jerry Fleming confirmed three dead at the scene of the accident: Phyllis Graham, a teacher at Ackerman High School, 37-year-old Steven Moss, the bus driver and assistant football coach at Ackerman, and 54-year

See BUS, PAGE 4

UM continues to plan for future

BY JAKE THOMPSON
The Daily Mississippian

The long-term strategic plan that helped bring Phi Beta Kappa, the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, the Croft Institute for International Studies and the Lott Leadership Institute is back, and Chancellor Dan Jones said he hopes to surpass the University's previous success.

In 1994, former Chancellor Robert Khayat started the multi-year planning process called the Commitment to Excellence Campaign.

Jones' version of the planning process is called UM 2020: A Bold Vision Forward.

"A key to emerging as a stronger university will be engaging the broader university community in a collaborative and inclusive strategic planning process as we explore new,

innovative ways to improve teaching and learning," Jones said in a press release issued by the University.

Jim Morrison, director of strategic planning and campus sustainability, said Jones is in a good position to lead that plan.

"Chancellor Jones spent his first year just watching the processes of the school and listening in meetings to everyone to help him better understand the needs of the University," Morrison said.

Morrison and Associate Provost Noel Wilkin have been assigned to oversee the University Strategic Planning Council. Wilkin, chair of the council, will be joined by a representative of academic affairs, student affairs, multicultural affairs and research.

"This is a great opportunity to look forward and identify critical areas of need in our university,"

Wilkin said.

Advancing technology is a main focus, as the University wants to better supply its staff with the top equipment and research materials available, Wilkin said. This would in turn greatly improve each department and respective undergraduate and graduate programs.

The first step in this process is the survey that goes online today. Students, faculty, staff and alumni can log onto the UM 2020 website, www.olemiss.edu/2020 and participate in the survey.

"With the world living in the Web 2.0 era there are multiple ways to have alumni, students and faculty get involved and help us plan the future of our school," Morrison said.

Once data is collected and processed the council will have "Vision" forums open to the public. Wilkin

said these forums will discuss outside group needs and community engagement.

"It is important to show the community that they are important and can contribute good ideas," Wilkin said.

After all the forums have been held and ideas collected from the forums and the surveys, working groups will be formed with the task of creating strategic priorities for the school.

The council is aiming to unveil their plan in July.

For anyone wanting to stay updated on the process, visit the UM 2020 blog, which can be found on the same website as the survey. The blog will have reports regarding the progress of the campaign.

The blog will also highlight the many programs on the campus that contribute to the community.

this week

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OPINION

RAIL PLAN



LIFESTYLES

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SPORTS

REBELS TAKE ON LSU



Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. MSU

Thursday 7pm



BY JOSH CLARK
Cartoonist



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Sunday Sales can help decrease alcohol crimes



BY ANDREW
DICKSON
Columnist

As a protest against fate for placing my 21st birthday on a Sunday in Oxford, I considered penning a sarcastic retort to the keep-the-Sabbath-dry crowd from Satan's perspective, but I was concerned that my target audience would take me seriously.

It's no secret that the Oxford Board of Aldermen and the state of Mississippi have recently approved alcohol sales for restaurants on Sundays after home football games, Mother's Day and Father's Day and a handful of other holidays when they happen to fall on the last day of the weekend.

So now grown-ups get to drink six days out of the week and on the occasional nine or 10 Sundays out of the year that would be the most profitable. Beer is still sold warm to prevent it being ready to consume when bought, but we still have plenty of liquor stores open six days a week that allow you to get hammered exponentially faster.

The decision will help Oxford contend for more conferences and tourism dollars with cities like Tupelo, Starkville and Columbus, which have all recently legalized Sunday sales to some extent.

Detractors have expressed con-

cerns about the future of Oxford and our national perception. While no one can be sure what the repercussions will be until we try, we should keep a close eye on how similar legislation has been received in other cities.

Consider the statistics unearthed by NEMS Daily Journal reporter Emily Le Coz recently in her January feature on Sunday Sales in Tupelo, published last month:

Le Coz found that alcohol-related crime on Sundays in Tupelo had diminished since the town partially lifted its ban of Sunday sales just a year before.

Public drunkenness arrests were down 26 percent, DUI arrests fell 22 percent and open container offenses dropped 13 percent, according to Le Coz's article.

"I really believed it would be a nonevent," Jack Reed, mayor of Tupelo, said. "And I haven't heard one word from anybody in a year."

While those numbers come from a small sample size and short time frame, it does appear safe to say that Tupelo residents have taken their new responsibilities quite seriously. And that's what alcohol use should boil down to — respon-

sibility.

Allow me to be clear: Responsible alcohol users do not harm themselves or anyone else, and we can even put a time frame on it — ever. Responsible alcohol users do not drink and drive, do not get plastered in public and know the laws well enough to obey them.

But we have a responsibility too, as a community and a university, to look at ourselves from a very critical standpoint and see if we are setting the correct example for the rest of the state. I understand the notion of keeping the Sabbath holy, and as a religion major, I say with the most sincerity possible that I hope this town becomes a diverse and infinitely fascinating and diverse religious community.

However, under no circumstance is it the place of religion to restrict trade. Furthermore, it is of the utmost importance that governing officials do not allow an interest group to enforce its regulations on the whole — especially when that interest group restricts trade.

The city and the University have done an excellent job with stricter enforcement and educating students via programs such as AlcoholEdu.

City officials and citizens alike approached this issue with rationality and civility and turned an old idea whose time had come into a reasonable compromise.

I applaud the decision for a couple of reasons.

First, I'm a full-time student working two jobs and I don't have time to relax Monday through Friday — in fact, Sunday is but one of two days I really have to myself.

Secondly, three in five restaurants close or change ownership in their first three years of operation, but remember that more than a building is being shut down: cooks, bartenders, waiters and hostesses — these people are your friends and neighbors, not strangers.

More than 15 bars and restaurants have closed in Oxford in the last year alone — they need as much support as possible, and even the option to have a beer with lunch will bring out the crowds and their wallets.

Do not confuse religion with morality: God granted me the ability to relax, watch football and responsibly enjoy the occasional drink — all on the same day.

Now that I think about it, it would be a sin not to.

THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN

The University of Mississippi
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Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity, space or libel.

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

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Third party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

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



James Meredith is walking backward



BY ADAM GANUCHEAU
Columnist

Racial issues are always a topic of great controversy at Ole Miss.

Whether you admit it or just avoid the situation in general is up to each individual, but there are definitely still some racial issues that are not addressed on our campus, in the South and across the country.

We all know about the Civil Rights era and what our school went through during those times. James Meredith is one of the most well-known alumni to ever graduate from this University.

All the great work done by Martin Luther King, Jr. and his predecessors in that era is slowly being diminished as we speak, and it is an absolute disgrace.

McCaskey East High School in Lancaster, Penn., is experimenting with segregation — again.

For six minutes a day and 20 minutes once a week, 11th-grade students are separated by race and sex. The idea, proposed by instructional coach Angela Tilghman, was created to be a solution for the black students' low academic performance.

To clarify, black males, black females, white males and white females are all put in different rooms so that the black students' academic performance will rise.

Wait, excuse me?

The concept is designed to raise black students' scores to where the white students' scores are currently.

Basically, by separating black males, black females, white males and white females, black students' scores are supposed to increase.

The administration at McCaskey says that every student "volunteered" to participate in this outrageous experiment.

In other words, the administration proposed the idea to the students and maybe half of them agreed.

The other half is most likely sitting back not saying anything about the experiment out of either fear or bashfulness.

If I were a student at this high school, there is no way I would participate in anything like this. I am white, but just because I'm white does not make me smarter than any black person in that school.

That is the main problem in the situation — the school is generalizing students by race and sex — something that I thought our

country forbade about half a century ago.

I know many academically-inclined black students here at Ole Miss. I can name about 50 off the top of my head that are smarter than I could ever pretend to be, and there are certainly many more than that.

At McCaskey, the administration has it all wrong. What are these students doing in this situation?

They are being used as robots to society. They are being forced to sit in a room with people of their same sex and race who may or may not be as intelligent as the person they're next to. If they want to raise scores, they should come up with a more effective method.

Instead of separating the students by race and sex, separate them by their levels of academic intelligence so the students with lower scores could focus on their problems

without hindering the learning experience of the more intelligent students.

I guarantee that if they did that, they would have both black and white students, male and female, in every room.

Since we live in the South, we have experienced our fair share of racial tension. The Civil Rights era led to some sense of equality, but we all know that there is still not a full sense of equality between whites and blacks, and some will argue that there never will be.

Regardless of what we think today, situations like the one going on right now at this Pennsylvania high school are completely ruining how far we actually have come in regard to racial segregation.

That walk James Meredith made in 1962 is being made backward now, and something must be done to get him going forward again.

Eliza Listens

Each week, advice columnist Eliza answers your questions about college life: classes, relationships and anything else you can think of. Have a question of your own? Submit it to elizalistens@gmail.com.

Dear Eliza,

The other night I ran into my ex at the bars, and seeing him brought back a lot of memories.

I don't want to get back with him, because nothing would change. It would be all about him, and I would still be there waiting for him.

But we did have a lot of good times, too, and I miss the times when we were happy together - before all the arguments and lies.

I try and talk to my friends about this, but I know they're so sick of hearing me talk about him and just want to see me happy again. What would you suggest I do?

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It takes time for people to heal and to move on from heartbreak, but you have to remember that you parted ways for a reason. While the past may be full of great memories, chances are the bad memories start to outnumber the good by the end

of the relationship, even if the bad ones are harder to remember.

Change is a difficult concept for most of us, but over time it will get better. You have to remember that you will be happy again and that you will find someone who loves you and wants the best for you.

As cliché as it sounds, if you stop looking and focus on the other aspects of your life, someone will come around. It might not be Mr. Right, but at least it will be Mr. Right Now.

While there is nothing worse than keeping emotions bottled up, sometimes people don't know how to respond to their friends in distress, and that's OK. If your friends don't have anything new to say, go buy a journal and start writing.

You'll be able to focus on what exactly the problem is and how to figure it out in a way that's best for you.

This way, you get your emotions out and have more time for fun when you're with your friends.

Hope this helps!

xoxo,

Eliza

Dear Eliza,

Two of my friends have been talking to me about each other, and at first, I thought it was harmless and it was just the little things they needed to get off their chests, so I was always there to listen.

However, lately it is getting to me. I feel like I'm stuck in the middle between two of my best friends and each of their issues and it is driving me crazy.

I have also mentioned things they have told me not to mention. Not on purpose — it just slips out, and then they question me like I've betrayed them.

I love my friends, but I don't want to hear them talk about each other either. What do you suggest I do?

Nicole

Dear Nicole,

I understand what you are saying, but sometimes people just want to be heard.

They probably don't realize they are putting such a strain on you because you are their friend, but there comes a point where they need to direct their comments at each other instead of a mediator.

It sounds like they've reached that point, and now it's your turn to do the talking. It will not do any of you good to continue to play telephone.

If you don't want to listen to them complain about each other, tell them. Explain to them separately that you care about each of them, but their behavior is destroying

your friendship.

An important thing to be clear on is that you're not annoyed by their complaining, but about the subject of their complaints.

This very well might hurt their feelings, but the situation will only escalate if it's not dealt with and could be the end of your friendships altogether.

Confronting friends is a difficult task — that's why they're talking to you in the first place. But for the benefit of all of you, this needs to be remedied before more things are said and it becomes gossip.

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City accepting proposals for Square parking issue

BY KATE NICOLE COOPER
The Daily Mississippian

Oxford is accepting proposals from qualified consultants who may be able to alleviate the need for more parking on the Square.

As the result of ideas and possible projects discussed by the planning department, the city will use the consultant's ideas for the development and implementation of a parking management plan for the downtown area of Oxford, according to a press release.

Currently, there are approximately 700 free on- and off-street parking spaces, but during heavy traffic weekends, such as football weekends in the fall and the Double Decker Festival in the spring, those spaces aren't enough for the many visitors the city hosts.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) document, which entails what these companies are expected to examine as possible solutions to the parking issue, was submitted for

potential consultants to consider.

According to the press release, proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria: qualifications of the team's key personnel, the firm's experience with similar projects, the team's ability to respond to specific needs and schedules, innovation and responsiveness.

Tim Akers, head of the planning department, said in an e-mail, the RFQ enlists that a parking garage is just one of many ways this issue can be resolved.

However, nothing will be acted on until a consultant is selected.

Other ideas will be examined as well, and many factors will aid in making the best decision for the city, Akers said.

Some of these factors, described as the scope of work in the RFQ, include: reviewing past parking studies and strategies in cities similar to Oxford, examining opportunities for shared parking, utilization of transit and improved enforcement, preferential parking, includ-

ing separating long and short-term parkers and developing overflow parking strategies.

As for the selection process for the potential consultants, a selection committee will evaluate and rank the submissions, based on said evaluation factors.

While price is excluded from the selection process, negotiations are conducted with the most qualified firms only, according to the press release.

The selection committee's recommendation will be submitted to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for final consideration and approval.

A selection of terms and conditions may also be found in the RFQ for interested firms to consider.

The deadline to submit a proposal for this project is Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.

Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk and include 10 copies and a digital copy of the proposal in a sealed envelope.



ADDISON DENT | The Daily Mississippian

Oxford is looking to hire consultants to find a solution to the limited amount of parking on the Square.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN QUINN | The Daily Mississippian

BUS,

continued from page 1

Three adults were killed and at least a dozen high school students were hospitalized after an 18-wheeler collided head-on with a bus yesterday afternoon around 2 p.m. on a highway bridge in North Mississippi.

There were 62 students on two Choctaw County school buses returning from a tour of the University of Mississippi when the crash occurred. The driver of the 18-wheeler scraped the side of one bus and then hit the second head-on on Mississippi 8 near Mississippi 9, about a mile outside of Calhoun City, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol trooper Ray Hall told the Clarion-Ledger.

Calhoun County Medical Examiner Jerry Fleming confirmed three dead at the scene of the accident: Phyllis Graham, a teacher at Ackerman High School, 37-year-old Steven Moss, the bus driver and assistant football coach at Ackerman, and 54-year old Gary Bailey, the driver of the 18-wheeler. Bailey was from Guntown. The three bodies were sent to a funeral home and then to Jackson for autopsy.

Fleming said he wasn't aware of any previous medical conditions the driver had that could have caused the accident.

Choctaw County Emergency Management Director Brent

McKnight confirmed that the bus was carrying seniors from Ackerman High School that were returning from a senior day field trip in Oxford, according to the Clarion-Ledger.

"They were a very eager and lively group," said Ryan Felder, an Ole Miss Ambassador who helped in giving the tour. "They were extremely excited to be on campus and asked a lot of questions, a lot of which kept me on my toes and made me think a lot."

The group arrived on campus around 10:30 a.m. for the information session, which the tour started at 11 a.m., according to Felder. The group stopped at the

Johnson Commons for lunch at noon and left campus at 1 p.m.

Students on the two buses were transported to area hospitals with non-life threatening injuries and one injured student was airlifted to the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo according to NEMS360.com.

Less than nine students were being treated for non-life threatening injuries, according to the Clarion-Ledger.

Seventeen people from the wreck were admitted as walk-ins at a hospital in Eupora after refusing treatment at the scene, according to a report by the Calhoun County Journal.



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Three writing contests for February

BY CAIN MADDEN
Campus News Editor

The University of Mississippi English department is hosting three creative writing contests for the spring semester.

"We run several contests each spring, designed for different populations, from freshman

students to graduate students," said Beth Ann Fennelly, associate professor and director of the MFA program. "The contests are easy to enter and free, so we encourage all students to apply."

The Evans Harrington Creative Writing Scholarship is a competition for a \$500 tuition waiver open to freshmen and

sophomores. The scholarship goes to the student who displays the most promise in creative writing.

The Ella Somerville Award is for juniors or seniors who submit the best work of short fiction or poetry. Two winners will receive a \$100 award.

The Bondurant Prize is award-

ed to graduate students who write the best fiction or poetry. There are two \$150 awards.

"Winning students are always thrilled to get the news and say that the encouragement and validation are as important as the money," Fennelly said.

Entrants should include their name, title of works, address,

phone number and e-mail addresses on a separate cover sheet. Students are to place their works in English lecturer Blair Hobbs' mailbox, which is 135B in the English mail room in Bondurant Hall.

Contact Blair Hobbs at vhobbs@olemiss.edu for further information.

Miss University: Katherine Barkett

BY MARGARET BURGE
The Daily Mississippian

The third time's the charm. Katherine Barkett has been first alternate for Miss University two years running, and in her senior year, she was finally crowned.

"I almost didn't compete this year, but I knew I would regret not having tried one more time," said Barkett, a broadcast journalism major from Flowood. "I never wanted to grow up and look back with regrets."

Barkett is no stranger to the ultimate goal of Miss University — the Miss Mississippi Pageant.

She began competing in preliminary pageants for Miss Mississippi during her senior year of high school.

"I won my first local preliminary pageant during my freshman year of college," Barkett said.

She said she became inter-

ested in pageants when she was younger and started competing in them when she was 15 years old.

"I started doing them because I watched a friend compete in a local Junior Miss program and decided that I wanted to be in it when I got older," Barkett said.

Barkett's platform is to promote volunteering to young people.

"I chose the platform because I grew up volunteering at several different organizations," Barkett said. "It played such a huge role in my youth, and I was thankful for that."

Being able to promote the University of Mississippi was also special to her, Barkett said.

"I have been to Miss Mississippi before," Barkett said. "But this time it's different because I'm representing the entire University and that is such an amazing feeling."

She said the title will come

with a lot of pressure, but the pressure will help by giving her the determination to succeed.

"I am representing a huge group of people, and I want to make my school proud," Barkett said.

Barkett said she could never have made it without the many people who helped her get to this point in her life.

"I owe a huge thank you to my family and friends," Barkett said. "There have been so many special people who helped me get to where I am today."

"I can't explain how much this means to me. I need to thank God for all his blessings."

Barkett will represent the school in the Miss Mississippi pageant June 29 through July 2 in Vicksburg.

"I would love to see lots of people there screaming Hotty Toddy and cheering me on as I represent our university that week," Barkett said.



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

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Contact Rachel Willis, Director of Communication,
at rewilli5@olemiss.edu for questions.

Man on the Street

What do you like to do?



Andrew Couillard
Major: Finance
Class: Freshman

Andrew Couillard spends his time helping his fraternity and since they have an upcoming event, Couillard's downtime has been dedicated to promoting it. "I actively participate in Pi Kappa Alpha," Couillard said. "Right now we're trying to promote philanthropy through the upcoming Powder Puff Football game."



Shira Sax
Major: Management Information Systems
Class: Senior

Instead of lounging in the Union, Shira Sax likes to be active. For fun Sax likes to get involved with sports on campus. "I love to play intramural volleyball," Sax said. She also enjoys spending time at the Baptist Student Union.



Cory Lamb
Major: Liberal Studies
Class: Junior

When asked what he liked to do for fun on campus Cory Lamb laughed and said, "Really, I just like to go home." When he's not home, however, Lamb likes to meet new people. "I hang out with the international students quite a bit and I'm involved with the RUE," Lamb said.



Amber Goodwin
Major: Management
Class: Sophomore

Amber Goodwin just enjoys being on campus. "It's nice to walk around when it's not raining," Goodwin said, "like during Christmas break when there were lights up." She also attends different sporting events for fun and likes to relax with her friends for lunch.



Cade Clanton
Major: Finance
Class: Senior

Cade Clanton devotes his spare time not to having fun on campus, but to picking up litter he sees while on his way to class. "I like feeling like I'm doing something useful," Clanton said. "Keeping the campus beautiful is important to me."

Ole Miss women's Ultimate Frisbee team takes home title

BY CAROLINE DANIELS
The Daily Mississippian

Hard work and dedication are paying off for the University of Mississippi women's Ultimate Frisbee team.

The Ole Miss women's Ultimate Frisbee team traveled to Tuscaloosa, Ala., in January to compete in the T-Town Throw-down tournament held by the University of Alabama. After six games of play throughout the tournament, the Ole Miss ladies found themselves with their first ever championship win.

"Winning was a great experience for the whole team because everyone played really hard, and you could tell everyone really

wanted it," sophomore Francis Gonzalez said.

This was the first tournament win for the Lady Rebels, who were awarded a wooden Frisbee trophy.

The tournament was set up in pool play throughout the day on Saturday. On Sunday, the teams played according to their ranking from the previous day.

The Ole Miss women had a rough start on Saturday with losses to Huntsville club team, Birmingham club team and Vanderbilt University's Ultimate Frisbee team. However, the ladies managed to pull out a win in a final game against Alabama with a score of 11-5.

On average, the Ole Miss women's Ultimate team com-

petes in 4 to 5 tournaments each school year. This was the second big accomplishment for the team following last year's B-bracket first place at the Mardi Gras tournament in Baton Rouge.

"We are a really close team," Gonzalez said. "Sometimes, we just have a light practice and go grab dinner, you know, something like that."

Gonzalez said the upperclassmen have stepped up their leadership roles this year.

"There are a lot of rookie players this year, and the three seniors have done a great job in leading the team," Gonzalez said.

Things have not always been easy for the team, as becoming

registered with the department of campus recreation isn't easy. "It's a two-year process," said Traci Meredith, coordinator of intramural sports and sport clubs.

"The group must first become a registered student organization, establish officers and players, find a faculty member adviser and then after displaying a sense of organization and commitment the group is recognized as a university club sport."

The women's Ultimate Frisbee team became official in 2009.

After becoming a club sport, teams can expect benefits and privileges. Teams are able to reserve practice fields, compete

with other schools and are allowed a budget for expenses, such as equipment and travel.

The Ole Miss women's Ultimate Frisbee team practices three times a week at the intramural fields on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. A typical practice starts with throwing, then progresses toward drills that help increase momentum with catching, throwing and running. The ladies usually scrimmage the last half to gain a sense of a real game situation.

Assistant professor in the department of political sciences, Susan Allen, is the women's Ultimate Frisbee faculty adviser. Allen played college Frisbee and possesses a lot of knowledge regarding drills and technique.

For a complete schedule of the women's Ultimate Frisbee team or for more information contact Katy Fuqua at knfuqua@olemiss.edu.

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Ole Miss Spiderwoman: Gail Stratton

BY MIRIAM TAYLOR
The Daily Mississippian

I followed the petite woman up the stairs of Shoemaker Hall. We stopped on the 4th floor, and she lead me down a hall to a thick wooden door.

"This is the spider lab," she said as I pulled the handle.

The room contained thousands of spiders.

Each one was bottled, labeled and stored in a thin plywood box, each sorted into rows of shelves. The room was small but neat, and she busied herself pulling out different jars of spiders, each with a handwritten tag labeling genus and species.

"This is one of the wolf spiders we're studying," Gail Stratton said.

Stratton is the coordinator of laboratory programs in the biology department, but her work goes beyond that. As an active member of the American Arachnological Society, her real passion is a creature most people fear.

"It's funny, if you think about it," Stratton said, commenting on people's fear of spiders. "How many times do you think people have died in car wrecks in the past 10 years?"

I shuddered at the number.

"And how many times do you think people have died from spider bites in the past 10 years?" she asked.

I shrugged my shoulders and waited for her answer.

"Zero," she said, holding up a fist to reiterate the number. "It's truly an irrational fear."

Stratton pulled herself up onto a stool, pulling down a box of what looked like dirt and straw.

"See these elongated tubes?" She motioned towards a particular set of dirt and straw. "These are casts we've made of the wolf spiders' burrows."

"No webs?" I asked as she rattled off information about how the wolf spider burrows, hunts, mates and sees and then repeated my question.

"No, no webs," Stratton said

She adjusted her glasses on her face and put the boxes back on the shelf, ambling off the stool. She continued to circle the room telling me the history of the spider lab (it got its first collection in the 1960s) and the history of her own studies with spiders (the oldest she ever studied had been bottled about a hundred years ago).

She placed the last bottle on the table, a curled up tarantula that would have been fascinating to see alive, and reflected on her past.

"I remember when I was younger, I was in a bookstore and was told I could get any book I wanted," Stratton said. "I went and picked out one on insects. It was the one I wanted the most."

Back in her office, a wonderful professorial type with wooden shelves bulging with books and a large photograph of three wasps caught in a spider's web, she pulled out an extra chair and placed it in front of her computer.

"Would you like to see some films of the spiders?" she asked.

The question was unnecessary: Stratton's passion is contagious.

I lost track of time as she played films that she and a colleague in New York had made of spiders spitting venom, performing mating rituals and creating sounds with their palps (those little arms by their fangs). She explained what was happening in each video, and I got lost in what she described as "the beauty of life."

"I love to study life – living things. There's nothing more fascinating," Stratton said. "It's a new lens to the world. Studying spiders is a gateway to seeing your environment in a completely different way."



ADDISON DENT | The Daily Mississippian

Biology lab coordinator Gail Stratton studies a Tarantula molt in her laboratory. Stratton oversees one of the largest collection of spiders in the Southeast with over 15,000 specimens.

"I wish I had more photographs to show you," she said, gesturing to the three beautiful photographs that sit atop one bookshelf.

I glanced at the time and realized I had been listening to her tales and facts about spiders for well over an hour and a half. It is easy to see why her students always ask her to discuss her favorite topic.

"They know once I get started talking about spiders, there goes the class," Stratton said.

She smiled, and I realized that is only half the truth.

Sure, any student loves to let the teacher talk to avoid doing real work, but with the energy and passion that Stratton speaks of spiders, it is hard to imagine any student that does not get caught up in the tales.

I glanced at the clock again and realized that it was time for me to leave but not without one last question.

Stratton laughed and shook her head, "No, I've never been bitten, and I hope to keep it that way!"

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“Sexting” in Oxford

BY ANNA ELLINGBURG
The Daily Mississippian

Everyone sends text messages. Some of us send hundreds every day.

But what happens when that text goes to someone for whom it was not intended?

In the film “Sexting,” a misguided text intended for a man’s wife is wrongfully received by his mistress, played by Julia Stiles.

According to co-director Tim Harms, this “contemporary tale” tells the story of a young woman who is fully aware of her boyfriend’s infidelity from the beginning, but she has been lead to believe that his marriage lacks romance and will soon end.

Once the text is received, the

mistress realizes that the text message is not the only thing that she has been misled about.

“Ninety five percent of the film is just her (Julia Stiles),” Harms said.

Harms said contrary to the norm, this all black and white film is “shot like a conversation, like you’re sitting at a table and she’s looking at you. In this case, she spent her whole time looking right down the camera.”

Writer and co-director Neil Labute found his inspiration for the film through one particular source.

“One of the thank you credits is for the playwright, August Strindberg, writer of ‘The Stronger,’” Harms said. “The similarity is the fact that it is about a mistress and a wife in a

conversation, and the question is which of the women is the stronger of the two.”

In “Sexting,” the expected scenario has been flipped. The mistress will confront the wife.

There are many comedic twists within the film, but the ending challenges the expected understanding of what has actually happened within the love triangle.

This darkly comedic drama, recently shown at Sundance Film Festival, will appear at this weekend’s Oxford Film Festival.

The eight-minute film is intended for an adult audience and will be shown in two separate screenings at the Malco Studio Cinema: one at 7:40 p.m. Friday and another at 1 p.m. on Sunday.



RYANNE FLANDERS | The Daily Mississippian

Richard Lou’s installation “Stories On My Back” can be found in Meek Gallery 130.

Richard Lou’s ‘Stories On My Back’

BY RYANNE FLANDERS
The Daily Mississippian

The art department is hosting “Stories on My Back,” an on-campus mixed-media installation by Richard Lou.

According to the artist, the exhibit includes photographs and videos, as well as “ceremonial columns covered in corn husks.”

Lou, professor and chair of the art department at the University of Memphis, has presented his work in more than 100 exhibitions around the world in the last 25 years.

“Richard Lou is a well-known artist, internationally known,” Philip Jackson, assistant professor in the art department, said.

“He came to jury a student show about a year ago. When someone juries a show we generally give that person a show. That’s how he came to be here.”

Lou, born to a Chinese father and a Mexican mother, says his cultural background shapes his work and is the reason for his race-influenced installations.

The art addresses how his community was influenced by the idea of white privilege.

“Each semester, we have one to two outside visiting artists that come to mount an exhibition in our gallery, and this semester it happened to be Richard Lou,” Sheri Rieth, chair of the University art department, said. “Richard is a really interesting man with a very interesting heritage. The work that he does is photography, and it documents installations or performance.”

The art department also hosted a reception for the installation which included a lecture from Lou and a performance by Aztec dancers, Danza Az-

teca Questzalcoatl.

“(The dancers) had fabulous headdresses and outfits they had made,” Rieth said. “It was a very interesting performance, and I don’t know if many people have seen a performance like that before.”

The stories on Lou’s back come from the artist’s Chinese father, who thought he was born in Coahoma, but came to discover that he was actually a “paper son.”

“A paper son is when you use someone else’s papers to bring someone in from China,” Lou said, “Some people would use someone else’s birth certificate to bring in children.”

“One of the stories that Lou told me is that his father held a stone in his mouth and read stories, so he could lose the Chinese accent and acclimate more to the U.S. and not be called an immigrant,” Rieth recalled.

According to Lou, his father would tell the children stories of class, power, race and assimilation, and it’s now the responsibility of Lou’s children to carry on their grandfather’s stories as part of an oral tradition.

“You can see in the exhibition the images of his children,” Rieth said “And if you stop and look at the video playing, those are all his children, and they were telling stories they remember. They remember stories of their grandfather.”

“The ‘Stories On My Back’ articulate the desires, goals, dreams and struggles of my family,” Lou said. “The stories are told to my children, and they become stories of those stories which become lessons.”

The “Stories On My Back” installation will be on campus until Feb. 10 in Meek Hall Gallery 130.

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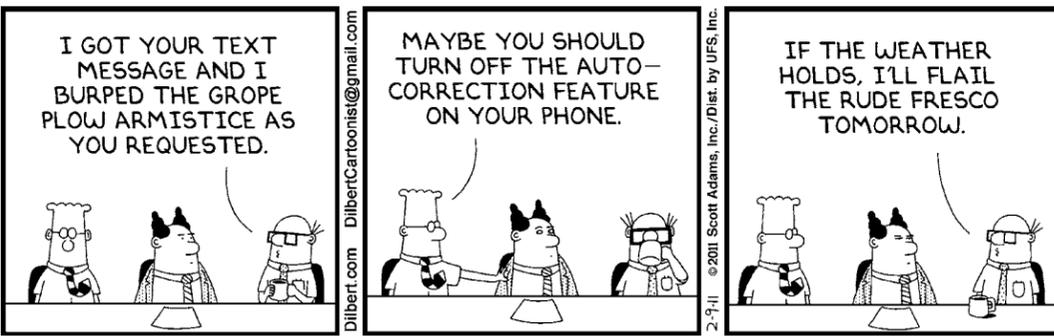
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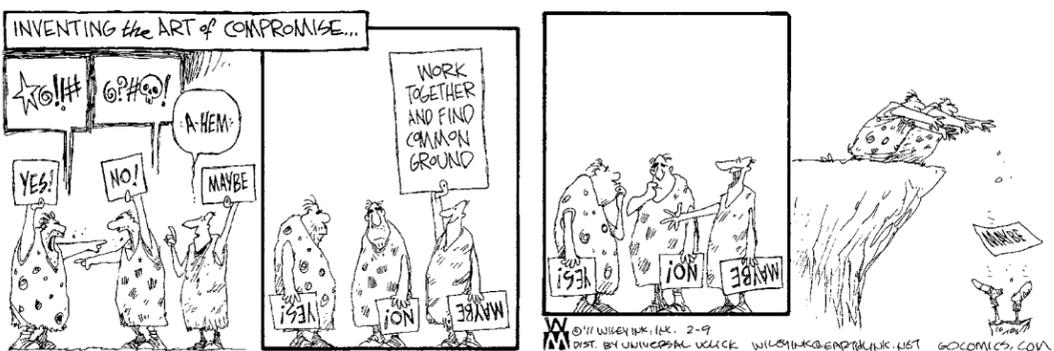
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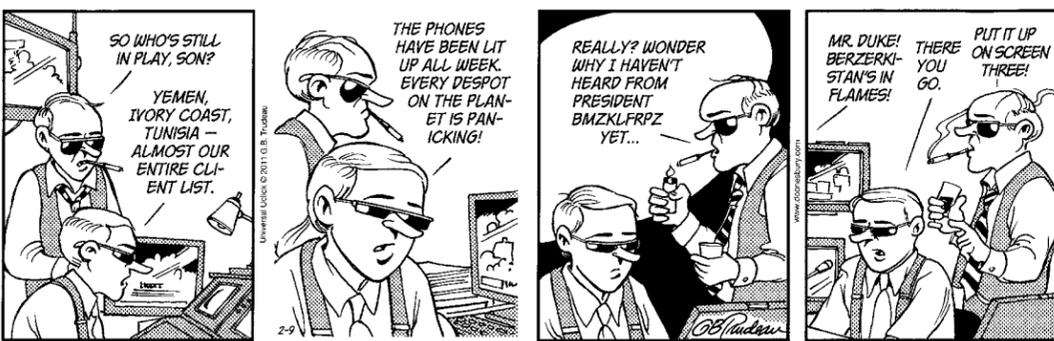
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ACROSS

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- 10 Uncommon
- 14 Gives form to
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- 16 Designer Cassini
- 17 Straw mat
- 18 Vive le —!
- 19 Eye shade
- 20 Abrupt changes (2 wds.)
- 23 Happen
- 26 Sighs of distress
- 27 Physicist Mach
- 28 Big name in soccer
- 29 Mexican Mrs.
- 30 Come to the plate
- 31 — kwon do
- 32 Paramedic's skill
- 33 Bar sing-along
- 37 NASA counter-part
- 38 Latin trio
- 39 Monsieur's wine
- 40 Koan discipline
- 41 Notices
- 43 Overhead rail-ways
- 44 Mare's tidbit
- 45 Film director Spike
- 46 Alps, for short
- 47 Murray or Baxter
- 48 Dark yellow

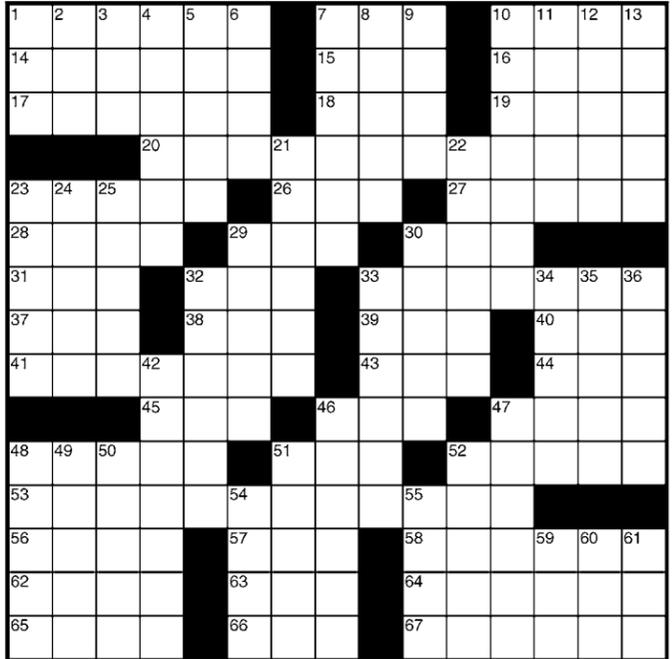
DOWN

- 1 West Coast hrs.
- 2 I knew it!
- 3 Hood's weapon
- 4 Impervious to light
- 5 Express doubts
- 6 Three oceans touch it
- 7 Zany — Raye
- 8 Monklike
- 9 Forbidding
- 10 Singer Flack
- 11 Poe's middle name
- 12 Enlists again (hyph.)
- 13 Discharge
- 21 Martial-arts star
- 22 Films out
- 23 Decided on
- 24 — and desist
- 51 Winter Games org.
- 52 Flower, to Yvette
- 53 Sentry's chal-lenge (3 wds.)
- 56 Butterbean
- 57 Powdery residue
- 58 Blended together
- 62 Level
- 63 Prompter's hint
- 64 Shooting star
- 65 Dry run
- 66 That girl
- 67 Judge

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

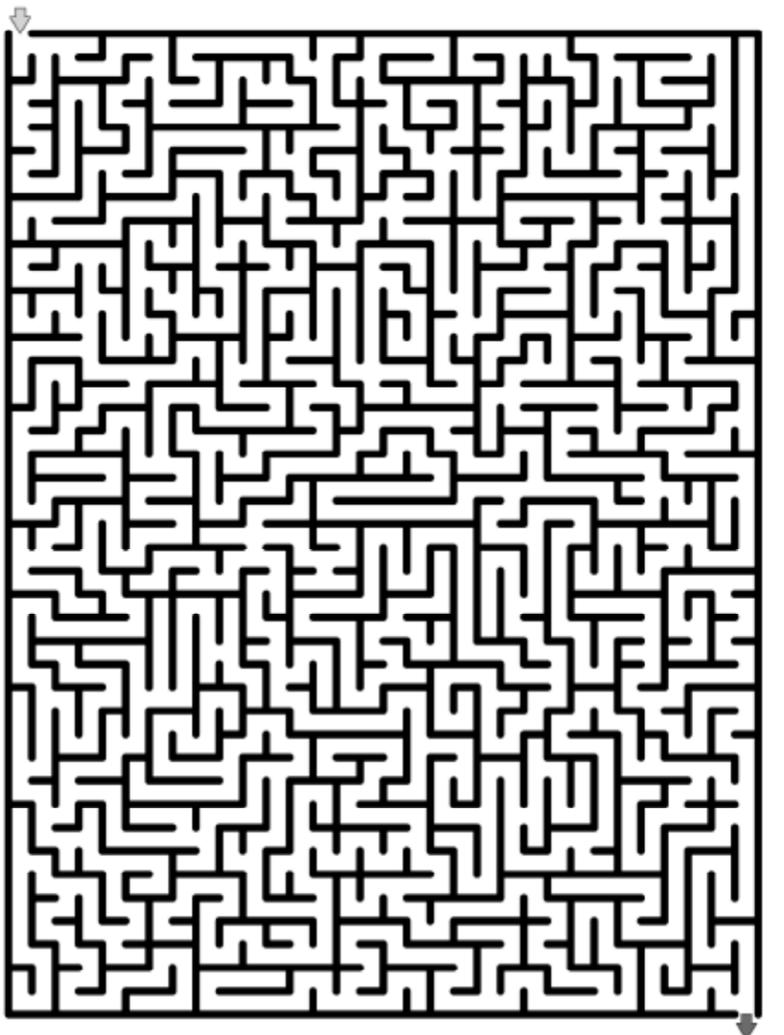


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7	9	1	8	4	5	3	2	6
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6	3	8	2	5	7	4	9	1
8	5	6	4	9	1	2	3	7
2	1	7	5	8	3	9	6	4
9	4	3	7	6	2	5	1	8



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PITCHING,

continued from page 12



ADDISON DENT | The Daily Mississippian

the mix to start on the weekend. Goforth excelled in his relief role as a freshman and started last year in the bullpen, but moved into the rotation after a win in the Governor's Cup against Mississippi State.

If Saturday's alumni game is any indication, junior left-hander Matt Crouse may get the start on opening day Feb. 18 against Wright State. A spot-starter last year, Crouse's best performances came in relief.

At the SEC Tournament against No. 13 Auburn, he struck out eight in four innings of relief. Senior left-hander Matt Tracy, another spot-starter from last year, is expected to either figure in the weekend rotation or continue to provide middle relief.

Against top-ranked Virginia in last year's Regional, he worked a season-high 4 1/3 innings and allowed only two runs on six hits.

Of the newcomers, junior Austin Wright, who also appeared in Saturday's alumni game is most likely

to start the season in the weekend rotation. The left-hander, a 23rd-round draft pick in the 2010 draft, signed with Arkansas out of high school.

Junior right-hander R.J. Hively, another junior-college transfer, signed with Cal State Fullerton out of high school and was drafted in the 26th round of the 2010 draft. Right-hander Bobby Wahl is the freshman coaches and players have raved about and is the most likely of the incoming freshman to contribute immediately.

"We have a lot depth," Goforth said. "We have a lot of new guys in. The pitching staff is one of the deepest we've had here in a while. That's the thing. We have four or five guys that can pitch on the weekend and replace some of the arms we lost."

"It's hard to replace a guy like Drew (Pomeranz). That's what's exciting about this team. We have some guys that can come in, step up and take that role."



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Rebels face "trap game" in LSU

BY REID BARRINEAU
The Daily Mississippian

There's a big game tonight at the Tad Pad.

No, I'm not kidding. Tonight's 8 p.m. game between the Ole Miss Rebels, 15-8 (3-5), and the LSU Tigers, 10-13 (2-6) has the potential to be one of the most pivotal games of this season.

I know the Rebels won by 27 in Baton Rouge last month and will be favored in this evening's game, but that doesn't change the fact that it is a big one for Andy Kennedy's team.

It looks like the Rebels have begun to turn things around in Southeastern Conference play by beating Kentucky at home and Arkansas in Fayetteville. With the Tigers in town, Ole Miss has the opportunity to make it three in a row and pull closer to .500 in conference play.

The Rebels need to win so they can ride a three-game win streak into Tuscaloosa on Saturday. Win-

ning, like losing, is infectious. Winning can build a team's confidence and increase its collective focus and effort, all of which lay the foundation for more winning.

I know I'm on record as saying one game doesn't affect the next, and it doesn't.

That is, it doesn't as long as a team doesn't allow it to. But college players are subject to highs and lows, and it's better to be riding a winning streak than a losing streak.

Ole Miss will need a good all-around team performance if it is going to beat the Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa this weekend. Alabama is a good team — one on the NCAA Tournament bubble — and will require the Rebels' best practice and play.

While winning can lay the foundation for future success, losing can have the opposite effect. This is especially true when a team is upset at home by a substantial underdog.

Ole Miss is better than LSU this

season, and showed as much last month. Losing to an SEC cellar dweller at home, especially one you already beat handily on the road, could undermine the Rebels' turnaround.

As far as the Rebels' tournament resume is concerned, a home loss to LSU might be a greater liability than a win over Kentucky is an asset. That is, the major step forward Ole Miss took last Tuesday would be nullified if it takes a major step back with a loss this evening to a team with an RPI in the 200s.

That said, tonight's game is one big trap.

The Rebels already thumped LSU on the road, so how could the Tigers have any chance in Oxford?

If Ole Miss can simply avoid that mindset, it'll avoid the trap.

If not, tonight's game could take a turn for the worse — and the Rebels' season along with it.

The key to tonight's game, as far as the Rebels are concerned, is simple: Avoid the LSU trap, and move on to face Alabama.



ADDISON DENT | The Daily Mississippian

Pitching depth strong despite loss of Pomeranz

BY AUSTIN MILLER
The Daily Mississippian

Huber, Morgan lead improved bullpen

Last year, Drew Pomeranz and Aaron Barrett anchored the Ole Miss pitching staff as the Friday and Saturday starters, respectively, in the weekend rotation.

This year, the strength of the

staff rests in the bullpen with sophomore right-hander Brett Huber and junior right-hander Jake Morgan, both of whom were recently named to the preseason watch list for the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association Stopper of the Year.

With Huber and Morgan, Ole Miss is the only school in the nation to have multiple players

named to this list, which honors the top relief pitcher in the nation.

"Like coach (Mike Bianco) said, we're not going to have a closer-type player this year," Huber said. "So having me and him back in the bullpen, if we can get the lead in the seventh or eighth inning, we can put it away."

Huber, a freshman All-American, recorded 12 saves last year, one shy of Stephen Head's single-season record in 2003. He burst onto the scene against nationally ranked No. 8 Louisville, striking out five in 4 1/3 scoreless innings.

He earned his first of 11 saves in conference play against No. 20 Kentucky, but proved clutch in a 3-2 win over No. 2 Florida while striking out the game's final batter with the bases loaded.

Morgan had off-season Tommy John surgery on his elbow and returns this season after posting a team-leading nine saves and an 8:1 strikeout-to-walk ratio (55 strikeouts and seven walks) in the 2009 season.

Against Western Kentucky in the Regional, Morgan pitched two scoreless innings to earn the save that sent Ole Miss to the Regional

Championship. In the Super Regional opener against Virginia, Morgan entered the game to start the 10th inning with the score tied at three and picked up the win after giving up only one hit in three scoreless innings, despite a broken and bloodied nose.

"I think on paper the bullpen is much better than it was last year with the addition of Jake Morgan, back after a year of rehab on his elbow," Bianco said. "And some of the other guys — (Eric) Callender and (Trent) Rothlin — have an extra year of experience under their belts, pitching here as juniors (last year) and now seniors. But, if you rely on your bullpen that much, to me, you're going to struggle in the SEC."

Wide-open competition for weekend rotation

Junior right-hander David Goforth, last year's Sunday starter, is among the six pitchers — three returnees and three newcomers — in

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The King's Speech	R	4:35 7:25 10:00
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