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**April 27, 2011**

The Daily Mississippian

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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

## Mississippi experiences decline in catfish

BY BETSEY JONES  
Special to The DM

Imported catfish is casting the blues on catfish producers in the South, putting Mississippi's top agricultural product at risk while decreasing acreage in the catfish industry.

In Mississippi in 2005, catfish production used 99,000 acres. That number is now down to 60,000, said Taylor Webb, spokesperson for the Catfish Farmers of America and editor of the Catfish Journal.

The number of catfish farms in 2005 for Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas combined was 793. That number has dropped from 613 in 2009 to 459 by 2010, Webb said.

The decrease in catfish acreage is from the imported basa and tra fish that are almost identical in appearance and taste.

In 2010, 16.9 million pounds of basa and tra fish were imported into the United States from Cambodia, Mexico, China, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

The catfish industry's major threat is Vietnam. The United

States is the second largest market for Vietnam's fish, which shipped 12,820 tons of basa and tra fish in 2010.

"Vietnamese basa and tra make up about one third of what is often served as 'catfish' in restaurants and grocery stores," Webb said. "The U.S. is losing ground to these imports because they use cheap, harsh labor in Vietnam."

This makes producing basa and tra cheaper than American farm-raised catfish. According to the Catfish Farmers Association of Arkansas, Vietnamese can sell basa for \$1.75 to \$2 per pound, while U.S. farm-raised catfish is \$3.50 per pound. Catfish fillet sales are losing ground to imported catfish. Webb said Mississippi's top export for the United States is at risk.

"The basa and tra are a low gross margin product, and it's being attacked by an even lower cost," Michael Harvey, chair of global business at the University of Mississippi, said. "We need to think of what we can do with these catfish ponds that makes it more attractive. Growing something with a higher gross margin makes it more attractive."

Water surface acreage used



ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippian

Imported fish from Asia are starting to put Mississippi's top agricultural product at risk. American catfish sells at \$3.50 a pound, where as Vietnamese basa sells for \$1.75.

for catfish production was down 13 percent as of January. When compared to the same date in 2010, the 2011 acreage sits at 99,600 acres compared to 115,000 acres in 2010, a 13.5 percent decrease.

In the U.S. during 2010, catfish producers had sales of 403 million, with 94 percent of sales coming from Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and

Texas. This production of catfish is not enough for the United States to compete internationally.

"It means the farmers are not competitive, so they are cutting back on their acreage and then raising prices when they are already at a price disadvantage," Harvey said.

See CATFISH, PAGE 5

## Ole Miss journalism students win national award

BY JACOB BATTE AND  
CAIN MADDEN  
News Editors

A group of journalism students went to the Delta more than a year ago to study one of the poorest regions in the country.

Together, Meek School of Journalism and New Media writers and photographers combined to create the Delta Project, and their efforts produced the magazine The Roads of Broken Dreams: Can a new Delta arise from the rot of the Old South?

The magazine recently received the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism award in college print.

The RFK award was created by journalists who covered Robert Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign to recognize the efforts of journalists who focused on human rights, social justice and the power of individuals to

make a difference, according to a press release from the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

A panel of 60 judges select the individual winners, and from those winners a grand prize winner will also be selected.

Bill Rose, adjunct journalism professor, said he is proud of how hard the students worked on the magazine.

"They had to give up their intersession for winter, and they had to give up their spring break," Rose said. "They went to the Delta in the intersession once, and they spent their whole spring break in the Delta reporting. They frequently went back and forth to the Delta on weekends during the school year, so there is a lot of extra work involved in this, and it showed in the final product."

Rose said he believes that re-

ceiving the award is great not only the students but for the University as well.

"It's a great award to win because the RFK award has been around for a long time," Rose said. "Journalists, newspapers and colleges all across America compete in its various divisions, so a lot of prestige goes with it."

The award can help students receive additional attention from potential employers, Rose said.

"There is a large bust of Robert F. Kennedy that is traditionally given to the winners, and it becomes a matter of pride to display that bust," Rose said. "It is good for the students because it gets their work out in front of employers all over the country. When you say you have been part of an RFK award, editors and employers sit up and listen. They'll give you a second look."

"Also, when a University is

producing national award winners with its students it draws attentions to the University and it helps it get its reputation out to the nation, so this can only be good for Ole Miss."

Journalism instructor Garreth Blackwell, whose photography students took the pictures for the magazine, said that winning the award says more about the students than the faculty.

"If we had not had the raw talent of the students, this would have not have been possible," Blackwell said. "It shows what they are able to do if we give them time in class to focus on a particular subject and go in depth with it, rather than bounce around, story to story."

Blackwell said the award shows that journalism's roots are still valid.

See AWARD, PAGE 6

### this week

BARNARD OBSERVATORY

#### SOUTHERN STUDIES BROWN BAG LECTURE

Join Allison Collis Greene, assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University, as she discusses "Man's Extremity is God's Opportunity?: Religious Responses to the Great Depression in Memphis and the Delta." The lecture will be held in Barnard Observatory's Tupelo room.

12-1 p.m., Free

OVERBY CENTER

#### DIVERSITY ROCKS

Diversity Rocks events will take place in the Overby Center throughout the day. For more information, visit [diversityrocksonline.org](http://diversityrocksonline.org).

### inside

OPINION

#### HALEY BARBOUR



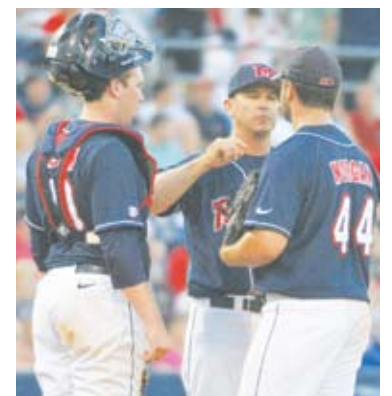
LIFESTYLES

#### OLE MISS LIBRARIAN ACCEPTS AWARD



SPORTS

#### MORGAN RETURNS



Tickets now on sale for 2011 Oxford Shakespeare Festival

Ole Miss faculty and staff receive a 10 percent discount on adult single tickets. There are also special rates for seniors (60+) and youth (17 and under). Call 662-915-7411 or visit [shakespeare.olemiss.edu](http://shakespeare.olemiss.edu) for more information.







BY JOSH CLARK  
Cartoonist



## Here comes the bride



BY ANGELA ROGALSKI  
Columnist

On April 29 at Westminster Abbey, Prince William and Catherine Middleton will tie the knot, giving the world another glimpse into the lives of the royal family.

As I was glancing over the guest list on the website, officialroyalwedding2011.org (no, my name was not on it...and yes, I live vicariously through famous guests lists), I was in awe of all the premiers, prime ministers, chief ministers, emirs, crown royals, sheikhs of this or that and kings and queens. Unbelievable!

Now I always knew there were quite a few nobles that attended this sort of thing, and Westminster can draw a crowd, especially if it's a "royal" affair, but until I actually saw the list of names, I never really understood the vast ar-

ray of folks expected to obey protocol and show up.

The Crown Prince and Princess of the Netherlands, the King and Queen of Norway, and Prince Seeiso Bereng Seeiso and Princess Mabereng Seeiso of Lesotho (Who? And from where?) will all be in attendance.

And that's just a tiny sample of the names on the list. I wonder if Will and Kate even know any of these people? I realize that Prince William's position offers him little control over who witnesses he and Kate "doing the deed," but you have to think he might be looking at the list himself and asking his grandmother, the queen, one question: "Seriously?"

Is it really important, in the grand scheme of things,

if Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand watches while the Prince and his lady say "I do?" And did the princess from Thailand just not have anything better to do on Friday?

Well, of course not.

I know why all these people are being invited and, God permitting, showing up. That one word that has fascinated people for generations when it comes to humans of the "royal" persuasion: protocol.

Even after generations of supposed progress, even after William's mum, Diana, took the word "obey" out of the vows she exchanged with his dad, Charles, people of the upper crust believe in protocol.

That all-important factor says that on Friday morning when the Grand Duke and

Duchess of Luxembourg roll over in bed and groan aloud because they can't just fritter away the morning with breakfast and maybe a rousing episode of "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Instead, they will catch a plane bound for London to appear at a wedding they might wish they could skip if for no other reason than pure laziness. Due to appearances and good will, they can't.

At least something tangible will come from all these folks showing up at the wedding: Will and Kate have decided that in lieu of wedding gifts, they would rather guests donate to the 26 charities they have selected.

Kudos to the Prince and Kate! Now that's protocol to be repeated.

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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.





# Barry's constitutional blunders



BY ALEC JONES  
Columnist

Barack Obama is respected for his scholarly knowledge of the Constitution, but apparently our nation's founding document is nothing more than a piece of paper to the man.

Our president blatantly ignores the backbone of American law to serve an agenda destroying the country as we know it. Obama's negligence with our sovereignty and liberty is reason to enrage both republicans and democrats, and for that matter, anyone else who claims to have an ounce of patriotism.

The Constitution was written by our Founding Fathers to ensure liberty and avoid a strong executive branch like those seen in European monarchs.

As you read this, however,

Obama and other tyrants aim to rewrite the Constitution and distort America's liberty.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is collaborating with Obama to reconsider the use of Article 2, Section II, the portion requiring the Senate to confirm Executive Branch appointments. The "Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act" would take away the authority of Congress to review hundreds of Obama's appointments.

The bill would purportedly make government more efficient but would actually strip America of its checks and balances. If the confirming of appointments is so burdensome, shouldn't it just be a sign that the government is too big?

For the republican readers, you should be enraged that there are senators in your own party who support this, such as John Kyl from Arizona and Lamar Alexander from Tennessee. Democrats, however, should question how they would feel if Bush had this much unchecked power.

Would you still support the Obama administration's tyranny if it came from the right? Both sides of the aisle should pledge allegiance to the Constitution before their party because the Constitution is the only permanent piece of protection for America. With that said, it's hard to judge who or what Obama pledges his allegiance to.

When Obama cannot redefine the Constitution, he simply ignores it. Maybe he thinks it is easier to ask forgiveness than beg for permission, as we see through the Affordable Health Care for America Act and his hawkishness with Libya.

While we're bickering over birther bills and a few hundred million dollars to Planned Parenthood in a \$14 trillion debt, this is what's actually happening to our liberty.

Invading Libya is in direct violation of Article 1, Section VIII, which requires Congress to approve acts of war unless America is directly threatened. Obama said it was OK to invade Libya without speaking to

Congress because he consulted the U.N., but since when does the U.N. take precedence over our representatives? I know Americans vote for the Congress and Senate, but I don't recall us ever voting for the members of the U.N.

Stepping on the Constitution to ignore Congress is one thing, but the healthcare bill takes it to the extreme of violating our individual liberty. The law perverts the Commerce Clause of the Constitution by compelling people to purchase health insurance. Although people are forced to pay taxes and get drivers licenses, it is because they choose to earn an income or operate an automobile. The health care bill requires people to get health insurance simply for being alive.

While the Constitution permits regulating commerce, it doesn't allow anyone to force us to engage in commerce. This is partly why I consider mandatory flex dollars unfair, but I digress.

When dealing with the Constitution, the debate shouldn't

be reduced to the merits of universal healthcare. The argument is that violating the most supreme law of the land turns the entire healthcare bill into a sham, even any good parts. The Supreme Court has said that the Constitution gives states the right to offer further protections to their citizens, but while many states try to fight federal coercion, the White House simply threatens to withdraw funding to them.

Under Obama's rule America is turning into a country which hands the control over its military to the U.N., turns the authority of Congress into nothing more than a theory and makes every American the subject of federal bureaucracies. I could be wrong, but this isn't the definition of liberty that Thomas Jefferson and other Founding Fathers had when composing the greatest legal document ever written.

It may seem like common sense, but if Barry can't do something constitutionally, it probably shouldn't be done in the first place.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

For the benefit of those like myself, I must express my distraught concerning Mr. Clark's cartoon in the April 21 issue of your periodical.

While at once an insightful critique of the dismal state of spiritual devotion in our blessed nation, the cartoon grievously misrepresents the gentleman with the right hand on his left arm as who seldom worships the most glorious father of our creation.

I fear that this portrayal has its roots firmly planted in the malicious stereotype of we individuals suffering from Switched Hand In-

herited Teratogenesis being an ungodly group. It is believed that we "lefty-righties" hold God accountable for the immense adversity that we are forced to overcome.

We hold no such sentiment.

We instead thank God everyday for the strength he has bestowed upon us and appreciate the patience and wisdom we have gained from coping with the unfortunate condition.

My sincerest wish is this episode not be forgotten, but that it shall open doors to an honest discussion of the problems associated with Switched Hand Inherited Teratogenesis.

I offer Mr. Clark my right hand

in friendship and brotherly love and implore him to discover the difficulties inherent to a lefty-righty life.

Hopefully, he will understand why the gentleman in the cartoon would not be able to tie a neck-tie or button a shirt.

If Mr. Clark should take such an initiative, he will be greeted by the hearty sound of my two backhands clapping together.

Sincerely,

Stephen Morgan  
Sophomore, Biology  
President  
Ambidextrous Student  
Society



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## Second gubernatorial candidate visits Ole Miss

BY MADISON FEATHERSTON  
The Daily Mississippian

Mississippi will host its second gubernatorial candidate today when Dave Dennis visits the Ole Miss campus.

Dennis will be on campus for a governor meet-and-greet. This event is scheduled for 6 p.m. in room 134 of Brevard Hall, formerly known as the Old Chemistry Building.

Dennis, a republican primary candidate, is running for governor in 2011.

He will be discussing his campaign along with his thoughts on the need for private sector business experience for Mississippi's next chief executive.

Currently residing in Pass Christian, Dennis has been involved in various business projects throughout the state.

Casey Stafford, the executive director of the Mississippi Federation of College Republicans, said it is her job to help the different chapters throughout the state host events such as this and to help other members who want to get involved in the elections.

"Students are facing rising

tuition costs and a bleak job market," Stafford said. "In this election, I think students will be most interested in how each candidate addresses the economic future of Mississippi and what solutions are available in terms of job creation."

Dennis, who spent Tuesday campaigning in Jackson, is accustomed to the Ole Miss community. His two children, Kate and Padrick, are both recent graduates of the Ole Miss School of Law.

Also joining Dennis tonight is Jeppie Barbour, the former mayor of Yazoo City and brother of current Governor Haley Barbour.

Barbour will cover topics of voter registration, absentee voting, poll watching and the Voter ID Initiative, which will be included on the ballot in November.

"We encourage all students, faculty and the Oxford community to attend this event," Stafford said. "It is not only a great opportunity to meet a gubernatorial candidate, but one to learn about the Voter Identification Initiative, voter registration, and absentee voting."

## Forty-year library vet honored



ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippian

Laura Harper, a librarian at the J.D. Williams Library, was the recipient of the 2011 Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award. The Founders Award is presented to an individual whose contributions have benefited the individual's institution and the profession.

BY CAROLINE DANIELS  
The Daily Mississippian

Teachers and administrators are often the folks who top the lists of who people think are important in a school system. A system's staff can work just as hard.

Librarian Laura Harper was recently recognized for that kind of effort.

Harper, head of government information services and regional depository at the J.D. Williams Library, is this year's recipient of the 2011 Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Founders Award.

"I just couldn't believe it,"

Harper said. "It was a complete surprise."

The award recognizes librarians who have made significant contributions to the field of state, international, local or federal documents.

The Founders Award is presented to an individual whose contributions have benefited not only the individual's institution, but also the profession.

Harper, who said she was always reading and in public libraries from a young age, worked at the public library in Monroe, La., fresh out of high school.

After a summer of working at the public library, Harper attended Louisiana State University, earning her master's degree in the librarian program.

"I liked the atmosphere of libraries and the idea of helping people find what they needed," Harper said.

Harper relocated to Oxford while her husband was studying at Ole Miss.

It was at this time that she began working as a librarian for the University.

In September of 2011, Harper will have worked for the University of Mississippi for 40 years.

Part of Harper's duties in-

clude being in charge of government documents, updating the website for government documents and making herself available as a backup resource for complex questions with government documents.

Outside the Ole Miss library, Harper serves on the steering committee of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries Collaborative Federal Depository Program.

Harper, who was nominated by her coworkers, said she was completely unaware of her nomination until an awards committee member contacted her.

"I feel almost unworthy...I'm very overwhelmed and very surprised," Harper said. "I feel extremely honored and grateful for this award."

Harper said that as she continues to work at the University, she hopes that the government documents will be current and updated on a continuous basis.

One of Harper's goals is to pass on the knowledge she has gained as well as increase the amount of government documents available online.

For more information on the Bernadine Abbott Hoduski Award, visit [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).



**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Haley Hill**

**"Making a Difference Through Design"**

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COURSE**

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
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Honors College  
Room 311

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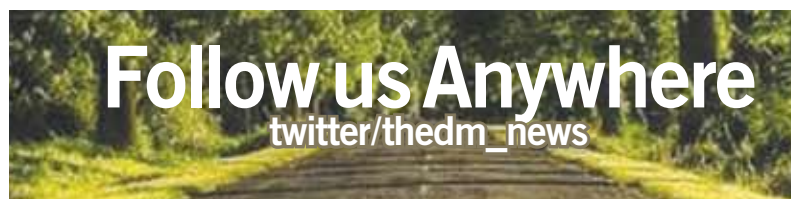
**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Matthew DiGiusto**

**"The Role of the Cerebellum in the Zebra Finch Song Circuit"**

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COURSE**

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 p.m.  
Shoemaker Hall  
Room 303

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# Standing water near campus may be harmful

BY KATE NICOLE COOPER  
The Daily Mississippian

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality issued a temporary water contact advisory last week for Burney Branch and an unnamed tributary near the University of Mississippi campus.

University officials said that the waste water treatment plant experienced an accidental release of sludge from its clarifiers into the stream.

"It is possible that these releases may have contributed to the high levels of bacteria," said Ashton Pearson, interim director for the UM Physical Plant Department.

It begins at UM's wastewater treatment plant, and extends down an unnamed tributary to Burney Branch, which runs to the Yocona River, but this advisory does not apply to the Yocona River.

The University's treatment plant is located just east of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, and the unnamed tributary flows under the new parking lot on Old Taylor Road, then under Highway 6 and to the confluence with Burney Branch.

This advisory extends downstream to Burney Branch, which also flows under Highway 7 near Industrial Park Drive, to the confluence with the Yocona River.

MDEQ has recommended that people avoid contact with this water in any manner, including swimming and wading in these areas.

Eating fish from these waters should be avoided as well until further notice.

The University was in the final stages of a project to upgrade its existing plant when the release of the bacteria-containing sludge occurred.

Prior to the start of the new facility, the University was al-

ready running its existing plant, which is separate from the city of Oxford.

MDEQ and the University are working together to correct the problem as soon as possible, Pearson said.

"Efforts were immediately taken to halt and limit the releases," he said.

"The University is diligently monitoring the plant to avoid future spills. MDEQ has been on-site at the University's wastewater treatment plant and is monitoring the actions being taken by the university staff."

Pearson also said that MDEQ will continue to monitor bacteria levels and water quality and will revise the advisory as needed.

The advisory will remain in effect until MDEQ is satisfied that the University's outflow meets the requirements of the University's permit and that downstream pollutants are within acceptable limits, Pearson said.

"The MDEQ will be the

agency to revise or to rescind the advisory," he said.

As far as the safety of students is concerned, Pearson said this should not bother students on the University campus in Oxford.

"Domestic water for drinking and showering is produced from wells and is not affected by the quality of surface water runoff," he said.

Most students do not feel the need to be too concerned about this issue yet, including Anna Kate Robbins, a junior English major.

"Waste from the University shouldn't affect the school or community negatively," Robbins said. "The University should do its best to contain its waste in a way that is safe for both the environment and the people using it for recreation."

The advisory warned to avoid recreation. However, Michael Lundy, sophomore music major, said he does not think the

students should be concerned about it.

"Most people don't do a whole lot of water sports or activities in places other than a pool, aside from fishing," Lundy said.

Conversely, Robbins adds that this issue may have a negative impact on the campus' recent efforts to go green.

"This does not give a good impression of a university that is going green," Robbins said. "Students should be aware of the external affects of the University's facilities in the community."

Simsie Shaw, junior elementary education major, said that while the leakage has yet to develop into a major issue, it could potentially.

"It could not only affect students, but also the community," she said. "Our student body is as active off campus as they are on, so the University should take precautions so that this does not develop into an issue."

## Church group looks to help Nicaragua

BY JOE DOOLITTLE  
AND LILLIAN ASKINS  
The Daily Mississippian

Each year, approximately 1.6 million Americans travel overseas to lend a helping hand.

Kymberly Van Every, a family nurse practitioner and the owner of Allcare Mississippi in Oxford, will travel to the impoverished Central American country of Nicaragua this summer for a mission trip.

Pine Grove Baptist Church of Hickory Flat will lead the trip of more than 50 people. The trip will be from July 9 to July 16.

As the owner of Allcare, Van Every said she is used to handling everyday aches and pains, but now she hopes to put her expertise to further use.

"I hope to feel like I have provided care to someone who otherwise could not get that

care," Van Every said.

The amount of money spent on healthcare in Nicaragua was cut down following a 1996 World Bank and IMF directive that emphasized lower government spending on nonprofit sectors in order to strengthen the private sectors, according to Maps of the World, an online global information site.

The government slashed its healthcare budget, and 250 doctors were dismissed immediately, according to the site.

The website said that the escalating effect of all such measures was that two-thirds of the population were left without any healthcare facilities.

While there, Van Every's primary responsibility will be to administer aid to those in rural communities. For her, the mission trip will be an entirely new experience.

"This is the first one I've ever

gone on, and I've wanted to do this for the last three years, but I've always had a job where I've worked for someone else," she said.

Jason Van Every, Kymberly's husband and the manager of Allcare, said he believes the zeal his wife has for her patients at home will translate into passion for those abroad.

"That (passion) will help with whoever comes before her," he said. "She's going to want to help them."

Van Every said the mission of the trip is to provide medical and spiritual assistance simultaneously.

"Hopefully we can maybe plant a seed, as far as in someone's heart or someone who maybe has not found Jesus," Van Every said. "That's what I hope to get out of it — that after we leave maybe something will carry on."

## CATFISH,

continued from page 1

Catfish farmers are getting out of the business every year and beginning to raise other commodities, Webb said.

"The farms that closed were all family farming operations," said Chat Phillips, owner of Phillips Brothers Farms.

The dumping of Vietnamese products into the U.S. market not only damaged the image of U.S. farm-raised catfish but also caused significant economic hardship to the domestic industry, Harvey said.

The imported fish is an increased competitor. There is a bigger volume of fish coming in every year, and people are not discriminating between homegrown and foreign, he said.

"It's not only going to hurt

the catfish farms, it's going to kill them because the price differential is so great," Harvey said.

"The product is not being passed on to the consumer right now, but it can be. The wholesalers and peoples that are bringing it in are keeping a good margin, but if they ever want to pass us, some of that margin will cut the price of catfish in this state by 40 percent."

Even though the USDA does not consider basa and tra to be catfish, the imports are restricting Mississippi and the other producing catfish regions to decrease in sales.

"Our family farm is definitely being impacted by the imports," Phillips said.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Ashlei Evans

"The Chromatographic Purification of Reverse Gyrase: Immobilized Metal Affinity Chromatography versus Phosphocellulose Chromatography"

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.  
Coulter Hall - Room 422

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

Ryan Parsons

"The Urbanization of Chinese Citizenship: A Case Study of Shanghai and Suzhou"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 p.m.  
Croft Building Boardroom

The defense is open to the public.  
If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.



## AWARD,

continued from page 1

“With all of this talk about the future of media and technology, it is easy to forget that long-form journalism like this, that is highly visual and heavily photo, is the bread and butter of what we do as journalists,” Blackwell said.

Blackwell said his favorite part of the process was watching the students’ progress from start to end.

“From the photo side with something like this, you get to see students develop individually, which is a neat thing to see,” Blackwell said. “Also, you get to see the skills they learn in the classroom and how they apply it to a real world situation.

“With projects like this, they can see that it is not a huge jump from the classroom to the workforce.”

Blackwell said it is a huge honor to see the project win an award named after Robert Kennedy.

“It has not really set in how big of a deal this is, yet,” Blackwell said. “What Robert Kennedy stood for in his life, the social justice, and the fact that work our students did is deserving of that. I can’t express it yet.”

Lillian Askins, a senior broad-

cast journalism major and a photographer for the Delta Project, said she looked for the brighter moments amongst the Delta.

“I like to look for the happiness,” Askins, who wrote the article “The Guardian Angel” for the magazine, said. “And even though it might look really sad, I like to photograph children riding bikes and playing. It was so touching because they are extremely poor, but they are still so happy and having fun. It was so neat being able to really see another part of Mississippi, even though most of the time when we see poverty we want to get out, but it made me look at things in a different perspective.”

Joe Williams, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree of journalism from Ole Miss in 2010, wrote six articles including “The Delta Seeks Salvation.” He said that working in the Delta was a lot different than working in Oxford.

“The Delta is one of the poorest regions in the country, and Oxford is one of the more wealthy, so there is a stark contrast in the lifestyle,” Williams said. “Transportation is bad, there are no jobs in the Delta. Anybody that

works, works 30 minutes or more from their homes. A lot of people don’t even work — they can’t get to work. If you go around during average hours on a regular day, there are people just hanging out. It looks like stray dogs and stray people.”

Williams said he was impressed by the citizen’s spirit despite their poverty.

“On the other hand, there are a lot of people there trying to rally around this spirit of the Delta,” Williams said. “That might be dying, but it is quite strong and quite invigorating.”

Williams said he was excited but wasn’t surprised that the Delta Project’s efforts were awarded.

“I think the Delta Project falls right in line with what the RFK award is doing, and we put a lot of work into it,” Williams said. “The result speaks for itself. We wrote about something really unique, about a topic that is under reported in the national media at the least. It’s a great affirmation to have our name with that award.”

The award will be presented by Ethel Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy’s widow, during a ceremony at the United States Institute of



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

# Mikhail V. Margelov: The Voice of Russia

APRIL 28, 2011 · 2:30 P.M. · OVERBY CENTER

Join us as Mikhail Margelov addresses issues pertinent to global current events, such as the situation in the Arab world, Russian modernization and U.S.-Russia relations.

Margelov is chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation and chairman of the European Democrat group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He has worked as consultant to President Vladimir Putin’s electoral headquarters, director of the Russian Information Center, head of the Public Relations Department of the Presidential Administration, chief coordinator for advertising under Boris Yeltsin and project director for Video International Group.

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# Music lovers find paradise at Beale Street Music Festival

BY TAYLOR KAMNETZ  
Columnist

Several top charting artists, including Ke\$ha, Cake and Jason Mraz, will be in Memphis this weekend.

These artists, along with 60 others, make up the musical line-up of the 2011 Beale Street Music Festival from April 29 to May 1.

The Beale Street Music Festival serves as the kickoff event for Memphis in May, a month-long celebration that brings a stronger sense of diversity to Memphis and promotes tourism on a large scale.

There are a large variety of musicians, ensuring that everyone will enjoy more than one set.

Diane Hampton, executive vice president for Memphis in May, said the diversity included in the musical guests does not throw off the balance of the festival.

"It is a rock-and-roll festival that's part of the Memphis music heritage," Hampton said. "When you start talking about specific genres of music, you try to put the acts on the same stage that will compliment one another."

Friday includes performances by Manchester Orchestra, Cage

the Elephant and Cake. Jason Mraz and Stone Temple Pilots are two of the four closers for the day.

"Stone Temple Pilots, what's not to love?" said Bianca Smith, an applied sciences major. "Everything about their music is everything I love about music. The lyrics, the music - it all flows together miraculously."

Saturday's line-up features earlier starting times, with local legend Jimbo Mathus and the Tri-State Coalition taking the stage at 3:50 p.m., showing Tennessee what Mississippi has to offer with songs like "Who'll Sop My Gravy?" and "Little Hand Big Gun."

Later in the evening, Mumford and Sons, a band from West London, will take the stage.

"I would love to see them play 'The Cage,' 'Blank White Page' and 'Little Lion Man,'" Tyler Penny, English sophomore, said. "They're my favorite songs by them, and they really capture the musical passion that they try to portray."

Ke\$ha and John Mellencamp are two artists closing the day.

There is no doubt that Ke\$ha's show will be a cluster of glitter and dancing, which is a pretty good time regardless of her natural skills.

Those interested in solid mu-

sic, including classics like "Jack and Diane," should make sure to check out John Mellencamp. There will be dancing at this show, but expect to be surrounded by an older crowd.

Sunday brings a mixture of well-known artists and those who have been under the radar, such as Amos Lee.

His music is pure, passionate and deserving of anyone's time. The emotion within his songs, like "Arms Of A Woman", can be felt by the exaggeration of notes and words throughout the entire song.

Cee Lo Green will take the stage in the early evening, after having to reschedule his festival performance to make time to sing for President Obama.

"He performs so extravagantly, and it's clear that he just enjoys singing and having fun on stage," Jessica Gradolf, English major, said. "He knows he is good, and that's what I like about him: his confidence. It would definitely be worth the wait to see him, without a doubt."

No matter what your musical preferences are, there is something awaiting you at the 2011 Beale Street Music Festival.

Three-day passes are no longer available, but single day passes may be purchased for \$30 online, and \$37 at the gate.

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## Don't forget your poolside etiquette

BY MARY B. SELLERS  
Columnist

We have all been there. You've just gotten out of the pool and are headed back to that fabulous trashy romance novel that has sucked you in, despite your best efforts. You dry off, lay out under the sun, pick up your book and marvel at the complete silence, and then... Rihanna's voice begins to blare near our right ear. She couldn't possibly be here at our pool. And low and behold, it's the seventh grader with her fancy iPhone on its loudest setting. Her bathing suit is sticky, she crams food into her mouth, and she is disrupting our alone time with Jack, the handsome next-door neighbor, and Lucy, the brave veterinarian.

We have worked and waited all year to be able to read our beloved romance novel with absolutely no merit, boasting a reading level suited for fourth graders. It's this kind of stuff that really sets me off in the summer. We are expected to be tan, healthy humans without a care in the world. We are expected to doze languidly by the pool, catch up on reading and be absolutely worthless. But how can we when no one has any manners? There is a set of unspoken rules when one visits a public (or even private) pool. Just because no one talks about them does not mean that they don't exist. First, there is this cool new invention called headphones. They come in all shapes and sizes, and one can even customize them to suit his or

her favorite colors. They aren't hard to put in, and one will find that the people around them are much more pleasant and amiable. I definitely don't want to diss anyone's music taste, but really people, we don't need to be converted. If I wanted to listen to Rihanna, I would in the privacy of my own ears, thus protecting the surrounding people from my choice of tunes. It's common decency. Also, clean up after yourself when leaving the pool. It has happened more times than I care to admit: I've stepped in ketchup, tripped over a tray of half-eaten, water-clogged French fries and knocked over a watery coke that consequently ruined my magazines. It is unfair to the rest of the guests

to be tormented by someone else's litter. Do not think I forgot to incorporate a little fashion in here somewhere. One of the problems I have with the pool is the constant (and often unwanted) audience of onlookers. We all look at one another, sizing up the suits and tan lines, or lack thereof. It's natural and often times even subconscious. However, this doesn't make it any easier to strip down to the bare essentials in front of a gaggle of guests, completely at ease with the critical glances, imagined or not. The pool strips one down to their most vulnerable state, literally. Maybe it has something to do with the UV rays or the excessive amounts of SPF 75 sunscreen that is slowly seeping into our brains, but I find myself much more para-

noid when baking in the sun. So, to boost one's confidence, make sure that the suit fits. It is probably one of my worst nightmares to realize after my jaw-dropping dive into the pool, that my bathing suit has somehow come loose and is floating toward the ladder. Let's not be a sideshow act for the three high school boys smirking in our direction. To avoid a spectacle, there are two things to remember: Loose-fitting is not better in terms of swim wear, and the amount of fabric the suit actually consists of does matter, especially if one is planning on actively swimming and participating in pool-side activities. Keep the fabric amount to a reasonably decent portion, and please don't decide to do a cannon ball into the water near my beloved novel.

## Social networking with a 'Zing'

BY BOWE PARTIN  
The Daily Mississippian

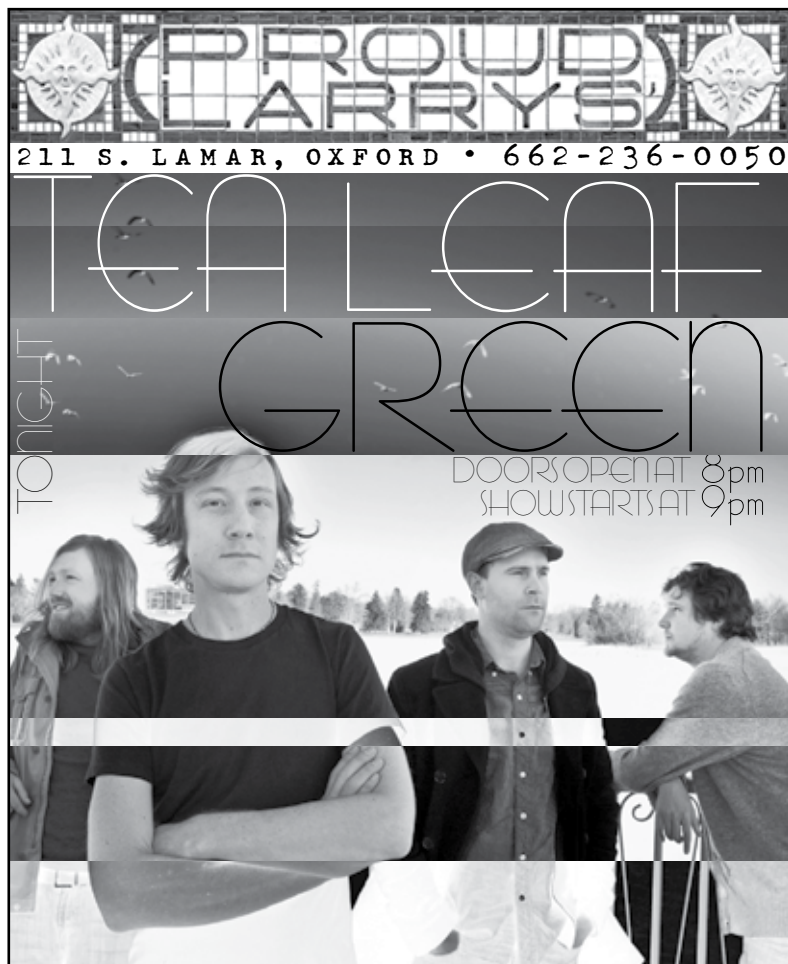
In a world where technology is growing at ever-increasing speeds, social media has become a vital resource for consumers worldwide. Political candidates and pundits alike have embraced the services of Facebook and Twitter to connect with their audience. Just this year, these outlets have been cited for their roles in the "Arab Spring" revolutions. So where does Ole Miss fit into the growing social media phenomenon? The answer to this question may be as easy as one, two, "Zing."

Two years ago, Jim Ebel joined University Brand Services to take over as chief marketing officer. At the time, the University had no social media in place, and Ebel soon learned that the "official" Ole Miss Facebook page was not run by the University. Nonetheless, Ebel was more than willing to take on the challenge. As outlined by the USB mission statement, Ebel's general task was to "create a broader and deeper awareness of Ole Miss through clear and consistent communication that conveys what is unique and amazing about the Ole Miss experience." For this communication to be successful in the growing

world of social media, Ebel realized that his methods and ideas would have to be as multifaceted as the technological platform he was targeting. To facilitate this effort, he assembled a marketing and public relations team and brought in various consultants with national brands including Pringles and Old Spice on their resumes. Ole Miss social media was officially up and running, and improvements were seen almost immediately. The Ole Miss Facebook page, now run by the University, went from a couple thousand fans to over 14,000 in a span of nine months. Ebel said he was not done yet. He recognized that the problem was not creating interest in the University, but rather creating a "rich center of engagement" where pre-existing interest could grow into a vast social

network. "People want to know more about Ole Miss, and others want to share what they love about Ole Miss," Ebel said. "They just need a place to sort it all out." Say hello to the brainchild of the University's social media initiative: Ole Miss Zing. The new social networking platform is based around what Ebel describes as dynamic engagement. "Ole Miss Zing is a virtual way of keeping up with what's going on with the University," Ebel said. "People are constantly pitching stories, so we bring together outside media and inside media about Ole Miss, and then get the word out." The site had a six-month soft launch before its official hard launch last month. Zing's homepage features local and national news, sports and alumni updates, plus a Facebook

widget to link users to outside social media. The website also features a video feed and links to Ole Miss-related blogs, spanning a wide range of topics from sports to law. The key to Ole Miss Zing is networking a diverse array of media outlets in order to engage a culture that understands multi-platform media, Ebel said. In addition, technology is forever changing, and Ole Miss Zing must match its pace with innovation. While Ebel is proud of the site he calls "pioneering," he realizes the nature of social networking revolves around limitless possibilities. "The goal is to provide an ongoing, consistent face for the University community and try to wrap a brand around the story people are trying to tell," Ebel said.



**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Macey Baird**

**"Covering the Social Scene: Two Publications and the Use of Social Networking Sites within the Magazine Industry"**

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 p.m.  
Honors College  
Room 309

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**  
**Kelli Beard**

**"Have You Put on Weight? A Study on the Effects of Certain Factors on the Increased Presence of Eating Disorders in Modern Chinese Women"**

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.  
Croft Building  
Boardroom

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**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Elizabeth White**

**"Viridis: Green Living in the South"**

Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m.  
Honors College  
Room 311

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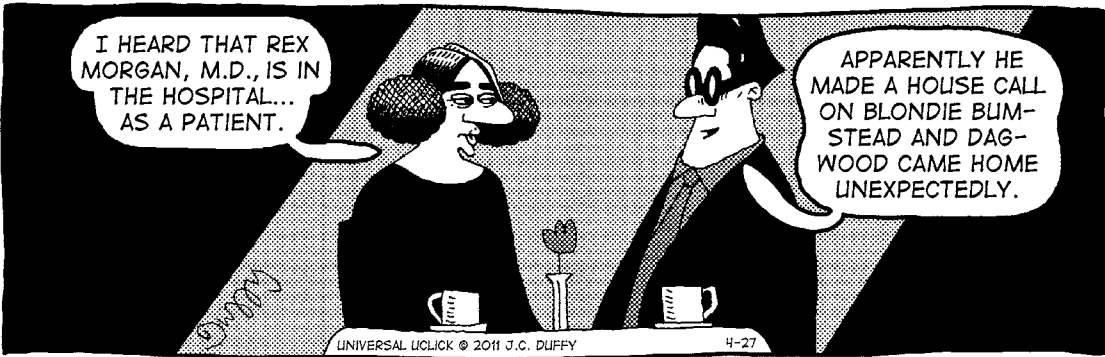


**GARFIELD**



BY JIM DAVIS

**THE FUSCO BROTHERS**



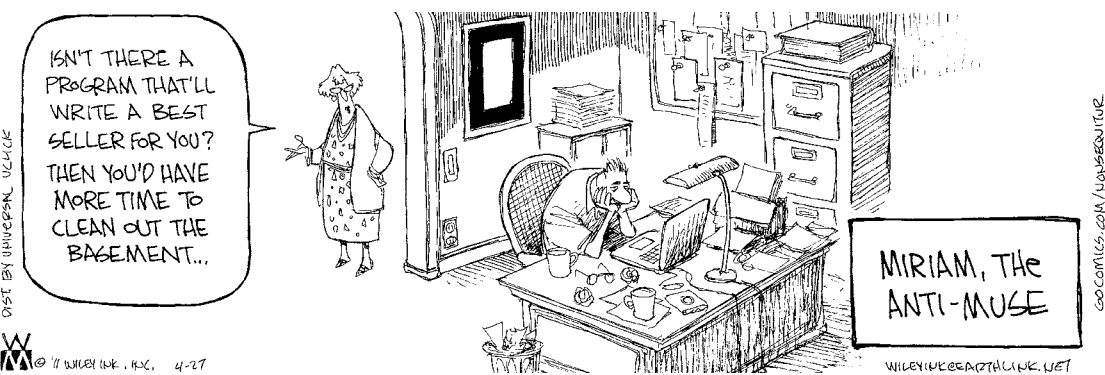
BY J.C. DUFFY

**DILBERT**



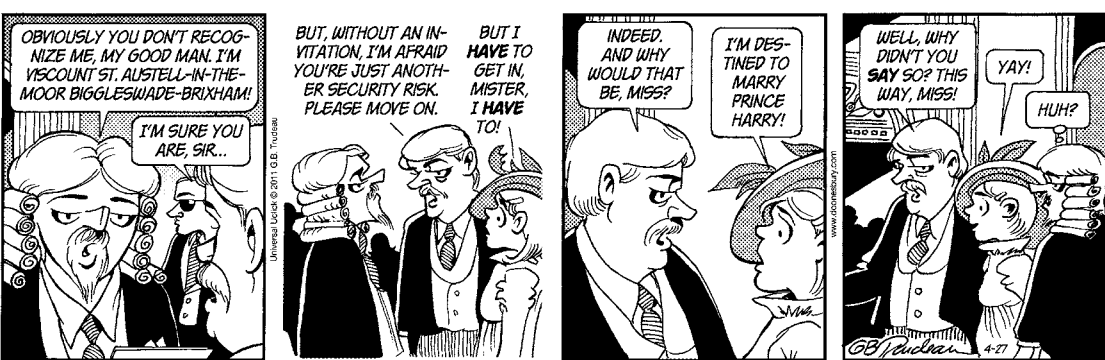
BY SCOTT ADAMS

**NON SEQUITUR**



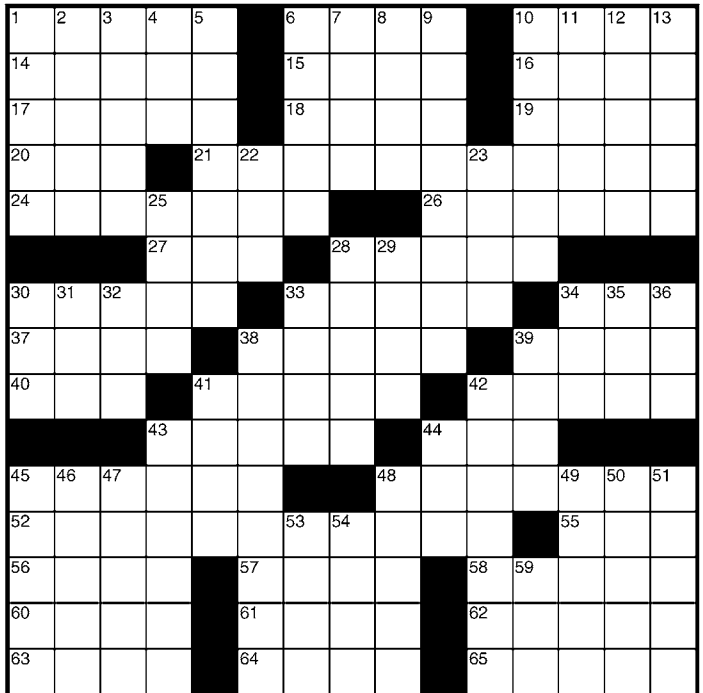
BY WILEY

**DOONESBURY**



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Trooper's aid
  - 6 Fellow
  - 10 Genuine nuisance
  - 14 Helen, in Spanish
  - 15 Pacific island
  - 16 Choir member
  - 17 Breezing through
  - 18 Europe-Asia range
  - 19 Wept over
  - 20 Item in a tent
  - 21 Mammalian
  - 24 Farmer's attic
  - 26 Only
  - 27 Hockey great
  - 28 Stood petrified
  - 30 Moon track
  - 33 Waiting line
  - 34 Toothpaste type
  - 37 In the sack
  - 38 Charred
  - 39 Warrior princess
  - 40 Narrow inlet
  - 41 Clan leader
  - 42 Nudges
  - 43 Impulsive
  - 44 Pro vote
  - 45 Fuse unit
  - 48 Cobble together (hyph.)
  - 52 Coffee additive (hyph.)
  - 55 Job-ad letters
  - 56 Latin I verb
- DOWN**
- 1 Scope
  - 2 Bauxite giant
  - 3 Goddess
  - 4 Dear Abby's sister
  - 5 Yellow wildflower
  - 6 Tennis venue
  - 7 Injure
  - 8 Crazed captain
  - 9 Departs (2 wds.)
  - 10 Early release
  - 11 Dodge
  - 12 Tough alloy
  - 13 Winter quaff
  - 22 Carthage loc.
  - 23 Move like lava
  - 25 Burglar's "key"
  - 28 Like a kitten
  - 29 Split
  - 30 Thole filler
  - 31 Diamond stat
  - 32 "Luck — — Lady"
  - 33 Go cold turkey
  - 34 Earth, in combos
  - 35 Wrap up
  - 57 Skater Heiden
  - 58 Reckon
  - 60 Nursery rhyme trio
  - 61 Mope
  - 62 "Final answer?" asker
  - 63 Nut, actually
  - 64 Bane of pvt.s.
  - 65 Chop fine
- PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**
- |           |           |         |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| LEAST     | ROSS      | BLTS    |
| ENDOW     | ONTO      | RARE    |
| ISSUE     | BUMBLEBEE |         |
|           | PALEST    | OASES   |
| CRACKED   | EST       |         |
| HEROES    | CAPEHORN  |         |
| ELAND     | BUYER     | LEE     |
| RIBS      | MAPLE     | TINA    |
| UNI       | ATRIA     | FEVER   |
| BECKONED  | ALLEGE    |         |
|           | IRS       | STEERED |
| YEAST     | REPEAT    |         |
| MARMALADE | BYFAR     |         |
| CREE      | AVEC      | APART   |
| ASST      | PINK      | GENIE   |



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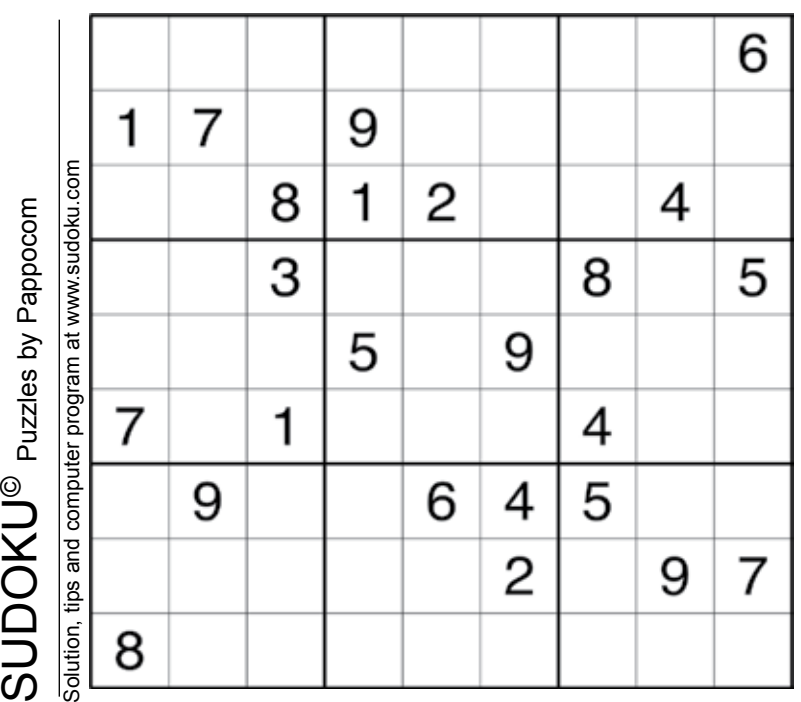
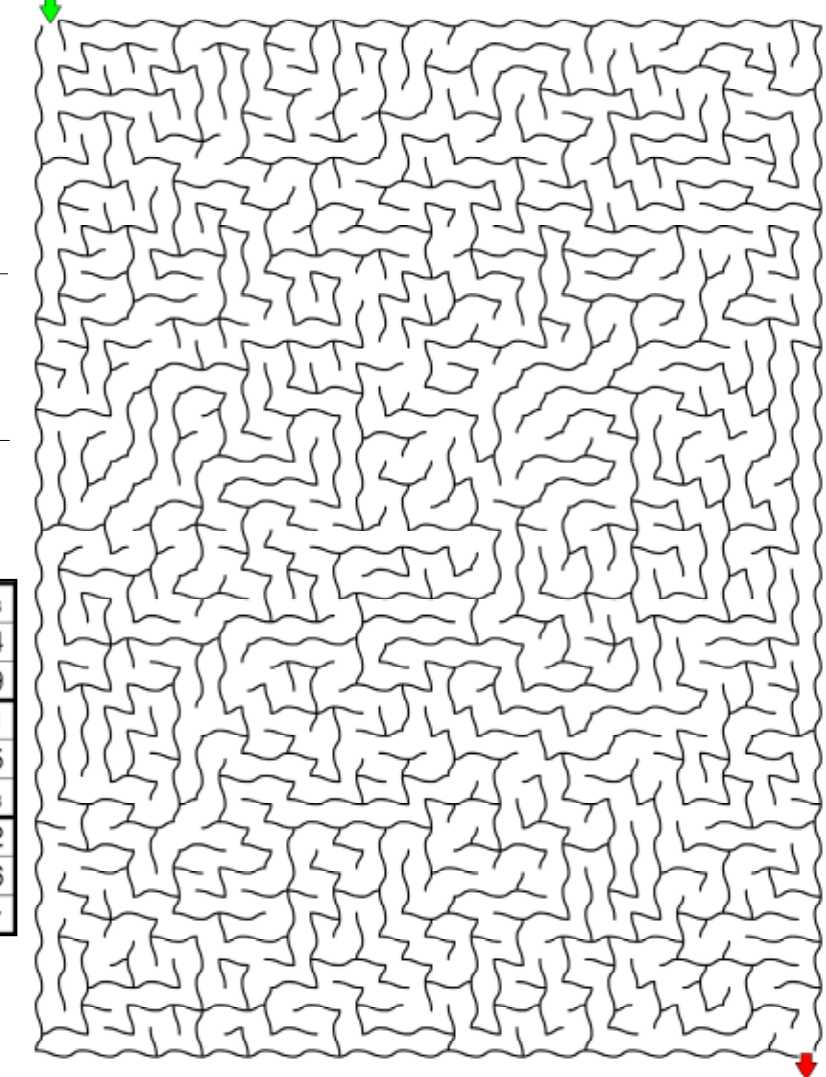
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9	8	3	2	6	1	5	7	4
2	5	4	3	7	8	6	1	9
5	7	9	6	8	3	4	2	1
8	4	6	7	1	2	3	9	5
3	2	1	4	9	5	7	6	8
7	6	5	1	3	9	8	4	2
4	9	8	5	2	7	1	3	6
1	3	2	8	4	6	9	5	7



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ASSOCIATED PRESS

# NFL players struggle through lockout limbo

Lockout has turned into limbo for NFL players and owners, and everyone is stuck there for the time being.

"It drives me insane, that's what it does," said Chicago rookie J'Marcus Webb, who was told he and a handful of other Bears couldn't use the team's weight room Tuesday. "I'm trying to eat healthy and work out, do my job, and right now I'm just stuck at home working out and watching cartoons all day.

"What's up with that? Let me get back to what I do best."

That could take a while. The 2011 season, and the business between 32 teams and their thousands of anxious players, is in a holding pattern. With more court fights and appeals expected, the NFL said it needed "a few days to sort this out" and provide some rules for everyone to follow.

"We are in the process of determining throughout the league as to just how we'll proceed and when we'll open the new year across the league, the new football year," Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "We have not done that."

At least the draft will be held this week, even if free agency and personnel swaps are up in the air.

In one of the oddest days in NFL history, players showed up at their team headquarters and most were told that they were welcome to come inside as long as they didn't participate in any sort of "football activities."

Most left in a matter of minutes with more questions than answers about where the \$9 billion business is headed. And there was no consistency—some teams allowed players to work out (Giants) while others turned them away altogether (Bills).

No rules, not yet. Just uncertainty.

In a question-and-answer memo distributed by the NFL-PA and obtained by The Associated Press, free agents were told they can contact teams and shop their services, putting pressure on the NFL to set up a free agency system that complies with antitrust laws.

The document also told players that teams are responsible for care of any football-related injury, meaning it's "safer for players to work out on club property."

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson lifted the 45-day lockout late Monday, but that did nothing to clear this up.

The NFL asked her to put her order on hold, and she agreed to weigh the request after the players' response is filed Wednesday.

That means the questions will linger at least another day and if the NFL loses again, it will place its hopes with the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

With Nelson's decision pending, NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash said it was too soon to tell exactly when free agency would begin and which players would be eligible.

"What we need to do is let the dust settle for a day or two and see if the stay is put in place, and then we'll all know more and go from there," Pash said.

Green Bay Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy said the owners were concerned about restarting league operations—and then perhaps having another "un-start" in two months.

"One of our lawyers described it as trying to unscramble an egg," Murphy said. "I think that's what we all want to avoid."

Little was clear Tuesday as both sides seemed to make up

the rules as they went along. And the vast majority of players simply stayed away.

"It's very chaotic for the teams right now," agent Drew Rosenhaus said.

"It's not chaotic for the players. Our position is the lockout is over, free agency should begin, signings should begin, offseason workouts should begin, everything should be going on. The longer the NFL doesn't do that and drags this out, the more there are concerns of collusion and violations of antitrust laws."

Cleveland wide receiver Josh Cribbs and a small group of Browns players showed up at the team's training facility and were greeted by Lew Merletti, senior vice president and director of security. Merletti handed them an official letter.

"It basically told us to be patient," Cribbs said.

"It let us know we can't go upstairs and can't have any personal contact with coaches or staff. It was kind of awkward because we don't talk to our security staff unless there is a security issue, so the security issue was us."

Buffalo cornerback Leodis McKelvin(notes) said he was turned away at the security gate, told to expect a call from his coach for clarity on when he could return.

One concern, particularly for teams with new head coaches such as Tennessee's Mike Munchak, is lost time for players learning the new schemes. Titans right guard Jake Scott(notes) left his team's headquarters after 10 minutes, told no staff was available to meet with players.

Then there is the issue of offseason bonuses built into existing contracts. Redskins linebacker Lorenzo Alexander(notes) is in that position, one reason he joined

Armstrong in showing up for work.

"I wanted to make sure I took full advantage to come up here and work out because I don't want some technicality to happen later: 'You didn't show up. You didn't come.' And then I'm out of my workout bonus," Armstrong said.

Lawyers and leaders for the players accused the league of essentially fostering the confusion by not being clear or consistent about how players could use the facilities.

"It was a little weird," Washington Redskins wide receiver Anthony Armstrong(notes) said after a brief stop at team headquarters.

"It felt like you were sneaking into the club or something like that, and they knew you weren't supposed to be in there but they hadn't done anything about it yet. Just a little awkward."

NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah blamed the league for "chaos."

"The owners didn't seem to have a plan in place for an injunction. We were in a situation today where there were no uniform rules across the league," Atallah said.

Said New York Jets defensive lineman Mike DeVito(notes) after a fruitless visit to his team's facility: "It was like a ghost town in there."

"I think it was a little bizarre today, given the fact that the players couldn't work out, but that's apparently what the NFL decided to do," said James Quinn, a lawyer for the players from Weil, Gotshal and Manges in New York.

"They will set up the rules, and if we think they're reasonable and legal, then God bless. If not, then we'll keep fighting about it in court."

Pash said the league had "some dialogue" with lawyers

about the question of which rules would govern the launch of a new league year if the lockout remains in place.

If Nelson's injunction is upheld—by the judge herself or the appellate court—the NFL must resume business in some fashion.

It could invoke 2010 rules requiring six seasons of service before players can become unrestricted free agents when their contracts expire. There also was no salary cap in 2010, meaning teams could spend as much—or as little—as they wanted.

Seth Borden, a labor law expert at McKenna, Long and Aldridge in New York, said he thinks the chaos could help the owners' cause for a stay.

"The confusion, about trades, free agency, signings, workouts, possibly provides the league with an argument that until the appeals can be heard, it doesn't make sense to go forward with a new league year," Borden said.

Owners imposed the lockout after talks broke down March 11 and the players disbanded their union. Nelson ordered the two sides into mediation. The owners and players, who failed to reach consensus after 16 days of mediated talks earlier this year, met over four days with a federal magistrate without any sign of progress.

They are not scheduled to meet again until May 16, four days after another judge holds a hearing on whether players should get damages in their related fight with owners over some \$4 billion in broadcast revenue.

With appeals expected, the fight seems likely to drag on through the spring. The closer it gets to August, when training camps and the preseason get into full swing, the more likely it becomes that regular-season games could be lost.

## BASEBALL,

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in the 4-0 win.

However, he might not immediately return to his role as the Rebels' primary closer.

With the emergence of freshman right-hander Bobby Wahl and sophomore right-hander Brett Huber and senior right-hander Eric Callender more than capable of also handling the late-inning responsibilities, Bianco hopes to and likely will ease Morgan back into the closer's role.

"I don't know if we would put him at the end," Bianco said. "It would help us navigate a little

better at the end, I think, than we have done. I don't know if he's Jake Morgan where you can bring him in the sixth and he can throw three and one-third against Tulane or three innings against Alabama."

However, as tough and competitive as Morgan has shown himself to be, pitching three scoreless innings to earn the win in a 4-3 Super Regional victory over Virginia in 2009, all the while with a broken and bloodied nose, shows he's probably not far off from being the Jake Morgan of old.

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FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

Junior right-hander Jake Morgan meets with Ole Miss baseball coach Mike Bianco on the mound during the 2009 NCAA Regional. Morgan injured his right shoulder earlier this season and looks to return this weekend at No. 4 Florida.

# Morgan poised to return

BY AUSTIN MILLER  
The Daily Mississippian

Since his right shoulder injury, described as AC joint irritation, on March 20 against Alabama, junior Jake Morgan has gone through the all-too-familiar rehab process. He left the game in the ninth inning of the 6-4 loss after experiencing shoulder pain and neck discomfort.

After the injury and subsequent MRI, which revealed the AC joint irritation, Morgan tested the injury with long tossing and flat ground work before being shut down for two weeks on April 7. Since the two-week shutdown, which also included physical therapy, he started back playing catch and long tossing over the weekend and threw his first bullpen session on Monday.

In the bullpen session, Mor-

gan said he was able to throw all pitches at full speed and that he felt good pitching. He described what he felt as a pull, like when you have a really tight muscle, but neither discomfort nor pain. He played catch and long tossed again on Tuesday and will throw another bullpen session on Wednesday.

"If it continues like this, he will be ready to pitch in some capacity on the weekend," Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco said.

Having missed the entire 2010 season due to off-season Tommy John surgery on his right elbow, Morgan returned this season and led the team with five saves and a perfect 0.00 ERA with two walks and 13 strikeouts in 18 and two-thirds innings before the injury. His most impressive performances of the season came in the Diamond Rebels' only wins over Tulane and Alabama.

Entering the game in the sixth inning after a rain delay against Tulane, he gave up only two hits, while striking out two in four scoreless innings to earn his third save of the season in the 5-1 win.

In the conference opener against Alabama, he combined with junior left-hander Matt Crouse for a complete game shutout as he went two and one-third innings and allowed only four hits, while striking out three to earn his fifth save

See BASEBALL, PAGE 11

# Diamond Rebels have few chances left

BY ALEX LAKE  
Columnist

It's not easy to watch, but it's simple to figure out.

This Ole Miss baseball team just doesn't have it. When I say "it," I mean they don't have much of anything. There are way too many issues to address, but there are some that make this team almost unbearable to sit and watch.

Sure, this team is young and lacks a true star. Maybe the future looks bright, but this team makes you want to pull your hair out.

It's not just mistakes a young team makes that makes you never want to come back to a game — it's mistakes that prove that the team just isn't focused enough.

I wish I could go back and figure out how many base-running errors there have been in only the Southeastern Conference portion of the schedule.

I'll take the Auburn series as a prime example. Ole Miss could have easily swept the series but instead lost two out of three to the Tigers because of mental mistakes.

The Rebels led Saturday's rubber match 5-1 early, only to lose 9-7.

If you look at Ole Miss' conference record, it doesn't look all that bad. The Rebels are 9-9 in the SEC, and tied with Arkansas and Auburn atop the West.

What that doesn't tell you is that the Rebels' best chance to make progress in the conference has passed.

The five teams that the Rebels played in the first half of SEC play totaled 37 wins with 53 losses. The last four teams that are left on the schedule? 44 wins to 28 losses.

That includes a trip to Gainesville this weekend to face the Florida Gators (14-4 in the conference), and a visit from the defending national champions, the South Carolina Gamecocks.

Arch-rival Mississippi State then visits Oxford. The Bulldogs have already defeated the Rebels once — at last week's Governor's Cup in Pearl.

The schedule is rounded out with a trip to Arkansas that could determine whether or not the Rebels will make the trip to Hoover for the SEC Tournament.

I suppose this team has a chance to make that tournament if they cut out the mental lapses on the field and when running the bases. But there's been nothing that would lead to me to believe that will happen.

This team has blown most or all the chances they've been given, and with the remaining schedule, there aren't many chances left.

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See BASEBALL, PAGE 11

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