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Groups disagree on charter school legislation

BY MEGAN SMITH
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Sen. Gary Tollison introduced a bill to the Mississippi Senate this past week that would allow students to attend charter schools — both traditional and virtual.

Following the introduction of the bill, people voiced opposition, including many black Mississippians, according to Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Mike Sayer, senior organizer and training coordinator for Southern Echo, said his group firmly opposes charter schools.

“I am not a supporter of charter schools where there is no proven track record for the entrepreneur and no evidence that it will address the problems of the under-performing school,” he said.

Derrick Johnson, president of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP, said he supported anything that would improve the quality of education for children in the state, but he is not convinced that charter schools can achieve this goal.

“I don’t have enough infor-

mation to measure good or bad,” Johnson said. “Our position is we believe there should be quality education for our children, and that any institution that’s going to provide that should be held to the same standards.”

Rachel Canter, executive director of Mississippi First, said her group supported charter school legislation.

“We support high-quality charter schools in the state of Mississippi, and we are supporting charter legislation as it works its way through the Mississippi Capitol,” she said.

Canter said she thinks charter schools could help provide a higher quality of education to students in the state.

“We believe that charter schools can open opportunities for public school students who are not being served well in their current public schools to be able to go to schools that will be better able to meet their needs,” she said. “We’re very supportive.”

Canter acknowledged some of the fears other groups have concerning charter schools, but

CHARTER SCHOOL:
A self-governing, non-traditional public school created by a contract between a sponsor (local school district or corporation) and an organizer (group of teachers or community group).

MONEY GOES FROM:

STATE to SPONSOR to ORGANIZATION

Two Principles:

- They waiver from many of the procedural requirements of district public schools by acting as an autonomous, or independent, public school.
- Unlike private schools, they cannot charge tuition.

INFOGRAPHIC BY HEATHER APPLEWHITE | The Daily Mississippian

she said she hoped that once the bill was released, some of these fears would be assuaged.

One of the concerns Southern Echo has is the possibility of charter schools inadvertently leading to segregation.

Canter said she believes the language in the bill will prevent

this from happening.

“It will make sure that kids have equal opportunities to attend charter schools, that they are targeted toward areas that most need school options, that there’s not discrimination (and) that they follow all civil rights laws,” she said.

Sayer said he disagrees.

“What you’re going to have are charter schools which are designed to provide an escape for white students to get away from majority black, traditional public schools because they’ll

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21 days of good to host event to boost campus morale

BY ASHLEIGH DAVIS
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The Associated Student Body at the University of Mississippi is hosting the first “21 Days of Good” event this month to boost campus morale and happiness.

For 21 days the ASB will give a new challenge every weekday in February ranging from students introducing themselves to an employee they’ve never met to handwritten notes.

“This is what makes it interesting, there is no set goal, but the program emphasizes small achievable goals that will intern better our campus as a whole,” said ASB attorney general Evan Kirkham.

Kirkham said that even though students are the ones participating in the program, it has a great effect on faculty and the whole community.

“I spend a lot of time in the ASB office and a lot of unfamiliar faces come in asking about the program and hold themselves accountable for making this program successful,” he said.

“You realize how if you play a small part in someone’s day, it really does make a difference to them,” said senior class president Toran Dean.

Dean has been avidly participating and has already met a new friend and rekindled her relationship with her cousin.

“We had good conversation and it was nice to hear how happy she was to hear from me and it made me feel good,” Dean said.

Dean also thinks this will benefit this year’s seniors because it gives them a chance to get to know people in their class they might not have met yet and to leave a lasting impression on their university.

ASB president Taylor McGraw said he thinks its is a

fun idea and hopes to make it an annual event.

“We did it just to spice things up around campus, give people something to look forward to during the day, something to take their mind of school,” he said. “The desired outcome is 21 good acts multiplied by however many people participate.”

“The first day was to introduce yourself to someone you don’t know, so I introduced myself to this girl from Brazil in my class,” Dean said. “You learn the stories behind your classmates and come to find out she plays soccer and I found we share a love for that sport.”

A motivating twist to this is that students can turn in a reporting form by March 1 and be entered to win prizes for participating, according to the fliers on campus.

“We’ve gotten really positive feedback from the participants,” McGraw said. “I had a guy stop me on the sidewalk

and tell me thanks for giving him a reason to call a cousin he had started to lose touch with. We’ve gotten several of those type comments from people.”

Kirkham said he would like to see a way to get the Greek system heavily involved and help promote the publicity a little more, but other than those small changes he sees the program as a great success.

“Maybe in the future there can also be a set reward system so that ASB could show they appreciate involvement and help promote the event,” Kirkham said.

“I’ve noticed that the overall attitude of the campus has seemed more positive this month and have enjoyed the atmosphere more,” said anthropology major LeAnna Young.

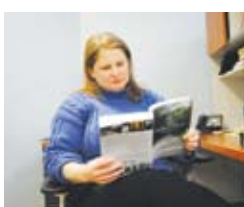
To find out how to participate, look for the daily challenges in the UM Today online bulletin or at www.olemiss.edu/asb.

“We did it just to spice things up around campus, give people something to look forward to during the day, something to take their mind off of school. The desired outcome is 21 good acts multiplied by however many people participate.”



Taylor McGraw,
ASB president

inside



Chisholm Foundation inspires a new generation of scholars

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Meet your 2012 ASB officer candidates

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No. 20 Rebels host Red Wolves in today’s home opener

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Let the work we've done speak for us



BY CORTEZ MOSS
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One cannot question the notion that this Black History Month is one to remember for Ole Miss.

Over the past few weeks, I've been more proud of the progress of our institution than ever before.

Without question, this place is far better off today than it was 50 years ago, and this month alone proved that. While this is not the only month, this month in particular we've seen significant progress in regard to every student's experience.

We saw our second black Miss University crowned on stage, and for the first time we have two African Americans,

one of each gender, competing as candidates for the highest position in student government: president.

For far too long, we as an institution have been criticized and judged based on our racist past, a past that prohibited people of color, specifically blacks, from being admitted to the university.

While we cannot erase our past, we can most certainly take the opportunity to address the challenges we as an institution have overcome. We can no longer allow our critics to perpetuate the idea of racism in an effort to reject our progress as an institution.

Not only that, we as African Americans can no longer allow our critics to characterize this place as unwelcoming for blacks.

Today, I cannot speak for every black student, but I believe this place is more welcoming now for students of color than ever.

I feel it is high time that we share a different side of history — a side of history that accurately articulates the progress we as an institution have made.

I will be honest; my family feared what my chances of success might be at a place like Ole Miss when I decided to attend. Sadly, this story holds true for many other students of color. Their families' minds are still drenched by the events that marked James Meredith's entrance to the University of Mississippi.

I am now proud to say, my grandparents' love for this place seemingly outweighs mine.

My grandfather pays more attention to Ole Miss sports than he does my grades.

This university has presented me with numerous opportunities to succeed, from studying abroad to running for the highest position in the student government and now,

leading one of the largest service events in our school's history.

This institution has not only provided me with leadership opportunities but also with a challenging academic component that will allow me to compete with students from any institution in the nation.

I believe any student can make it at Ole Miss if he or she tries.

I will not seek to paint my entire time here as glorious. There have been moments when I questioned this institution's commitment to educating all students, and there have even been moments where I questioned whether or not some administrators cared about the black experience.

But, I must admit, the good has outweighed the bad, and I am confident this institution is committed more than ever to ensuring all students have a successful experience at Ole

Miss, white or black.

Much of this is due to the work of two outstanding leaders: former Chancellor Robert Khayat and Chancellor Dan Jones.

While I am proud of the experiences this place has provided me, there's much more work to be done. Still today, there are immediate concerns for students of color that need to be addressed, and I challenge the administrators and students to seek to address those needs.

In an effort to make this place more inclusive for all students, of all walks of life, not just the traditional white/black binary, let's take this Black History Month to reflect on where we were, where we are and where we are going.

Cortez Moss is a senior public policy leadership major from Calhoun City. Follow him on Twitter at @Cortez_Moss.

Don't forget about you



BY ADAM BLACKWELL
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Well, our semester is now in full swing. Papers are due, tests are coming up and group presentations have been scheduled. If you're like me, you've also got multiple meetings scheduled during the week, dinner dates, interviews, sporting events, service projects and more meetings.

I'm not in a fraternity, so I can only imagine how crazy

my life would be if Greek life was thrown into the mix as well.

But in all of this madness that I call my life, I tend to forget about my own well-being. Whether I'm working to plan a fundraiser for Relay for Life or recruit projects for the Big Event, I get consumed by that effort and it becomes the priority in my life at the time. Often, I find myself starving at about 3 p.m., only to realize that I never ate lunch because I had a meeting between classes.

As college students, we are pushed to see how many committees, events and social functions we can fit into a schedule

that already includes a heavy academic load. Time management is of the utmost importance right now. If you can't manage your time somewhat efficiently, you're going to have some problems. With all the stress that comes with this time management, it's important to take some "me time" each day. We cannot forget about ourselves.

I urge everyone to find some time each day that you can devote to yourself. For me, I try to go to the gym every day, and while I'm there, I don't get on my phone to check email or respond to text messages.

I use this time to reflect on my day and to work on creat-

ing a healthier lifestyle. But maybe you don't have enough time in your day to devote to the gym.

Use that 15 minutes before you fall asleep at night to just compose yourself and think.

Lately, I've really wanted to start meditation. Now, I'm not talking about deep meditation on the mysteries of life; I just mean meditating on my day, calming my nerves.

The Episcopal Diocese in Mississippi is also beginning a Bible study/meditation during the Lenten season, which I've considered doing as well. Whether you are religious or not, you can use meditation or a book study to take time out

and renew yourself.

It's important that we take this time out for ourselves so that we can rejuvenate. I think college tries to push us to our limits so we have to have the strength to push right back. With Lent coming up (and if you don't celebrate Lent, then let's just say with the semester workload increasing), consider doing some type of meditation or daily "me time" to strengthen yourself so you can continue to conquer this challenge called college.

Adam Blackwell is a sophomore public policy leadership major from Natchez. Follow him on Twitter @AdamBlackwell1.

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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.



Citizens United: the suicide of American democracy

BY SEAN HIGGINS
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The movement to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission ruling and confront the idea of "corporate personhood" has never been as important as it is today.

During a Republican primary and with the general election just down the road, hundreds of millions of dollars have already been poured into the race, and corporations are already trying to buy the election.

A little over two years ago, Citizens United overturned parts of prior Court decisions that said independent corporate spending could be regulated.

Thus, it undermined a century-old precedent barring direct corporate participation in elections, elevating corporate political rights to the same level as those of citizens.

Essentially, the Court ruled that corporations are people, or individuals, and money equals speech — both of which are bizarre conclusions drawn by a Court that purportedly respects the Constitu-

tion. They might as well light the Constitution on fire.

Now, corporations can dig into their bank accounts, set up super PACs and spend an unlimited amount of money, without disclosure, on political advertising.

This gives the big-money interests even more power in Washington.

Citizens United makes it nearly impossible for the voice of the average American to be heard. The average American can't spend millions of dollars on political advertising; corporations can.

Let's look at this theoretically. According to NPR, Exxon Mobil's corporate profits were \$85 billion in 2008. The company's CEO can write a check from the corporate treasury account to spend on a partisan campaign — say, a super PAC — and if he only spent a modest 1 percent of those profits (\$850 million), it would crucify our democracy.

Our founding fathers would be rolling in their graves if they saw today's elections.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1816, "I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our moneyed corporations

which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength and bid defiance the laws of our country."

But the far-right court did not stop with Citizens United. Last June, it axed away at public financing laws and sided with Buckley vs. Valeo's protection of independently wealthy candidates.

In Arizona Free Enterprise Club v. Bennett, it struck down a matching funds formula in Arizona's public financing law that gave additional funds to publicly financed candidates if a rival personally spent more than a stated amount.

It's as if every branch of government is in bed with K-Street and the 1 percent. Does anyone serve the people anymore?

However, on Friday, two Supreme Court justices suggested that the court reconsider the controversial Citizens United decision.

The suggestion came as the court blocked a Montana Supreme Court decision upholding a century-old ban on corporate campaign spending in the state.

The Montana ruling is directly at odds with the court's

5-to-4 decision in Citizens United.

Justice Ginsberg wrote, "Montana's experience, and experience elsewhere since this court's decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, make it exceedingly difficult to maintain that independent expenditures by corporations 'do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption.'"

It seems as if Ginsberg was alluding to the incredible amounts of money spent by super PACs that have flourished in the aftermath of Citizens United and the deregulation of campaign finance laws.

Corporations and wealthy individuals have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to super PACs supporting candidates for the Republican primary this year.

In total, super PACs have spent twice as much on television advertising compared to the candidates' campaigns, according to estimates by Kantar Media/CMAG, an advertising firm.

Across the country, our cause is gaining momentum. More than a million people have signed online petitions.

Twenty-three states have passed measures demanding that Congress pass a constitutional amendment to protect the political speech of the individual and roll back the growing legal privileges of corporations.

By Jefferson's standards, we're a little late to crush corporate aristocracy in America.

But the Supreme Court could bring dignity back to the institution by overturning Citizens United.

Money does not equal speech. A corporation is not a constitutional person with voting rights. Corporations are not citizens.

The founders did not mention the word "corporation" in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution, and only a handful of corporations were even in existence at the time the Constitution was written.

I will believe corporations are individuals once Texas executes one.

Sean Higgins is a political science and journalism double-major from Brookings, S.D. Follow him on Twitter @seanhiggins.



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Chisholm Foundation inspires a new generation of scholars



QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippian
Angela Cooley reads a book about Southern culture. Cooley teaches a class called Food, Race and "The Help" in Southern History.

BY MARGARYTA KIRAKOSIAN
mkirakos@olemiss.edu

Visiting professor Angela Jill Cooley is using foodways to help students at the University of Mississippi understand home-based race relations.

Foodways are the cultural, social and economic practices relating to the production and consumption of food, according to Wikipedia.

The course, Food, Race and "The Help" in Southern History, deals with Katherine Stockett's novel "The Help."

"I chose 'The Help' because it is a recent novel and a film, which is based on (foodways) and grabbed a lot of attention," Cooley said.

The novel centers around a group of black maids who were responsible for buying and preparing food for white families.

"If we take a closer look at

their situation, we can put Southern Foodways in the historical context and see how race, class and labor relate to them," Cooley said. "But this book and this class are not only about food. We were talking about segregation and consumer behavior."

In the future, more courses like Cooley's will be possible thanks to a recent \$103,000 donation from the Chisholm Foundation to the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and to Southern Foodways Alliance. The donations will go into effect for the years of 2012-13 and 2013-14.

"People want to know why they eat this particular food and how it is related to class, gender, race and environment issues," said Ted Ownby, director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. "We are very happy about the opportunity to teach more classes about this interesting topic."

The Chisholm resources will support a postdoctoral fellow who will teach foodways classes.

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture teaches classes, publishes articles, shows documentaries and investigates the American South. The Southern Foodways Alliance has been described by The Atlantic Monthly as "this country's most intellectually engaged food society."

Cooley is also working for the Southern Foodways Alliance, and her dissertation topic is related to Southern Foodways.

"I see the Southern Foodways as a very diverse and dynamic process," she said. "The way people cultivate and prepare food is constantly changing, and for me, as a historian, it is also a history-oriented process."

Students are also appreciative of the opportunity to learn from Cooley.

"During this class we are talking about many things, for example, the consumers' behavior in the South," Hope Owens-Wilson, Southern studies and African American studies major, said. "For me it is a new and in-

teresting experience."

Cooley said this class should help students not only to be aware of economics and culture but also learn how to be critical readers.

"I hope my students will understand dynamics of foodways and how they are related to politics," Cooley said. "The way we eat food can tell us a lot about who we are and what our culture is like."

Ownby said he thinks now is a time when people see food as the clearest expression of their politics.

"The Chisholm Foundation is one of the leading charitable organizations in Mississippi, which supports education and arts, deals with some interesting health and justice issues in the state and beyond it," Ownby said. "We are pleased this foundation sees our project as something they want to support."

People interested in this topic are invited to follow the course on Twitter @FoodandRace.

Student Union Barnes & Noble renovation receives positive feedback

BY MARY KELLEY ZELESKEY
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The Barnes and Noble in the Student Union at the University of Mississippi has recently been remodeled. Members of

the staff of the bookstore decided to make the changes to give it a fresh and more updated look.

Before the changes were made, many customers were concerned with how long it

took to get through the Barnes and Noble Café line and that there was little space to sit. However, these concerns were quickly recognized by staff members.

"We have expanded our

café by adding additional seating," general manager Kristie Whitehead said. "We have also updated our machines to help speed up customer service."

The staff has made changes to the rest of the bookstore, as well, by expanding the clothing section downstairs and receiving new flooring and murals.

"I think they renovated the café in the Union because it was getting outdated, and since they put the Starbucks in the library, I think that might have made them decide to change the one in the Union, too," said John Jenks, a sophomore public policy and economics

major.

So far, the staff has been receiving very positive feedback from their customers about the new renovations.

"I think it looks really nice and there is a lot more room," said Eliza McClure, a sophomore English major. "It is not as cramped as it used to be."

Whitehead said she is satisfied with the changes and is happy about all the positive feedback.

"The changes have been great," she said. "We have had great feedback from our customers as well as students, faculty and staff."

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County roads to get \$1 million makeover

BY HOUSTON BROCK
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The roads in Lafayette County will have a new look following this summer, thanks to a \$1 million budget, which will be spent to pave and reshape over 100 miles of rural roads throughout the county. The Lafayette County Board of Supervisors is a unit system where each supervisor rides the roads in the county to see where the most work needs to be done, according to board president Jeff Busby.

Following the board's research, it formulates a four-year plan in which it prioritizes the roads in the most need of construction.

Lafayette County has nearly 600 miles of roads outside the city limits, and only about 50 miles of these roads can be paved every year, Busby said. This does not include patching and filling in potholes.

Busby said the roads and maintenance budget this year is right at \$1 million.

He also said the board will probably go over that budget because of repairing and fixing potholes.

Gravel roads add to the maintenance budget, and Busby said there are over 60 miles of gravel roads that need work in the county.

"It's hard for me to understand how, at this day and time, we still have homes on gravel roads," Busby said.

Busby said the No. 1 focus for this group is the roads be-

cause of the bad shape they are in.

Robert Blackmon, the board's vice president, said he agrees that a lot of work is in store.

"I can tell you we plan on doing a lot of roads; I know that," he said.

This summer will be busy on rural roads all over Lafayette County.

Sophomore marketing major David Lambert said he hopes the construction won't make getting to class any more difficult.

"I think they could definitely improve the quality of the roads," he said.

"Just as long as they don't make getting to school any more of a hassle."

Chad McLarty, District IV supervisor, said traffic should not be affected by the county's road construction.

"(County forces) do a good job at traffic control," he said. "There are going to be some inconveniences, but nothing major."

Each district member for the board of supervisors has his or her own agenda regarding which roads need to be finished for each district.

Taxpayers also have demands for their own local roads, which can cause friction between them and the board of supervisors.

"From a taxpayer standpoint, everybody wants a brand-new paved road, and we would love to give them that, but just economically, it's not feasible sometimes," McLarty said.

CHARTER, continued from page 1

be able to set up regional charter schools," he said.

The NAACP does not think the bill goes far enough to ensure that all students benefit from the schools.

"There is nothing in the bill to indicate that it will be in the best interest of providing quality education for all children," Johnson said.

Another concern is how funding such charter schools will impact funding for public schools.

Sayer said funding charter schools will leave traditional public schools with less money.

"It opens up the state to private entrepreneurs to battle traditional public schools for massive amounts of public funding for public education," he said.

Sayer also said that many under-performing public schools are already underfunded, according to the Mississippi Adequate Education Program formula.

When reviewed a year ago, the formula was deemed insufficient to provide the quality of education that students deserve. Since 2009, the program has been underfunded.

Under Gov. Phil Bryant's budget, the program will be underfunded by more than \$300 million, Sayer said. He said charter schools would cause traditional public schools to be even more underfunded because the money will follow students if they decide to go to a charter school in a different district.

Both Sayer and Johnson take issue with the fact that charter schools can be built anywhere in the state.

Canter recognized this as a part of the bill with which she

believed many entities would have a problem. She predicted that the debate would be centered around whether charter schools should be built in high-performing districts or only low-performing districts.

Sayer and Johnson said they do not think charter schools should be built in high-performing districts.

"It does not provide for confining the charter schools to remedying the problems in persistently under-performing or failing school districts," Sayer said.

Johnson used the Oxford School District as an example. He categorized the Oxford district as a high-performing district.

Johnson said that it would make no sense for funding to be taken from high-performing public schools in Oxford to fund charter schools that may or may not provide the same quality of education.

The bill also allows for the possible creation of virtual charter schools.

Johnson said virtual charter schools would take money from traditional public schools and send it to companies outside of the state. He also said they would be detrimental to the state economically and that the performance of virtual charter schools is worse than any other form of education in the country.

"Quality education should come before corporate profit,"

Johnson said.

Sayer said he thinks charter schools would fail to provide a quality education to students.

"The record of virtual charter school is horrendous in terms of under-performing traditional public schools," he said.

Canter took a different view on virtual charter schools.

"I think that digital learning and virtual learning are here to stay," she said. "The question is, 'Is there a way to put in the bill to make sure that virtual school providers have to meet rigorous standards and that they are held accountable for the education they provide?' so an outright prohibition on virtual schools, I think, is probably not the best way to go about it."

Canter said virtual schooling was already in Mississippi to an extent.

"We already have virtual courses in Mississippi, and we want to make sure that we're providing opportunity to kids who need it, especially if for whatever reason it's hard for them to get to a brick-and-mortar school every day," she said.

Sayer said statements claiming that Mississippi already had virtual charter schools were misleading.

"We have virtual courses, but we don't have cyberspace degrees," he said. "We don't have cyberspace schools."

The Mississippi Senate will vote on the charter schools bill this morning.

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Meet the 2012 ASB Presidential Candidates

Kegan Coleman junior, public policy leadership



“What really separates me from my opponent is my desire to work hard; my work ethic. I’m no stranger to politics and I’m no stranger to leadership. These things come hand in hand for an ASB president. I most certainly bring that to the table. This administration, I want it to be different. I want to connect the Ole Miss policy. Those qualifications make me a very capable candidate of serving the entire Ole Miss student body.

My platform is based off input of over 50 students on campus, because I believe you should do research on your constituents first before you enter a race. My platform is centered around what Ole Miss students want. First and foremost, departmental orientations. When someone first steps on the Ole Miss campus I more often than not find that students don’t really know what they really want to get in to. I’m proposing that we do host departmental orientations at least twice a semester to get students in contact with their alumni and professors and other students to make sure their major is right for them and something that they want to do. Something that I’m proposing is iPad rentals for the univer-

sity; partnering up with Apple to deliver digital textbooks, knocking down those \$130 textbooks to around \$15, making things more affordable for them. Also another, an Ole Miss alumni speaker series. Bringing in key alumni to engage the students, interact more with the students and continuing also to build a corporate sponsorship program that was started by me as chief budget officer. If ASB were able to partner with a corporation that would mean more events for students, more especially if you’re looking at concerts; more diversity events, more service projects that we can host. If we were to locate a corporate sponsor one thing I envision bringing to the table is an alternative break program that will work like a broad Intersession, like Maymasters. To get students to travel to study abroad, to perform in different service projects for the university is something that the honors college does and I would like to bring back to regular students, giving them the same opportunities. I’m a firm believer in the chancellor’s vision of service, service above self and incorporating that into the Ole Miss experience.”

Kimbrelly Dandrige junior, journalism



“I am qualified and so is Kegan. I feel like we’re both qualified. Anybody with a 2.75 GPA and 60 hours is qualified because those are all of the qualifications you need to run. I feel like it takes a hard worker to lead this position and that is where Kegan and I differ. Not only am I qualified, I’m a hard worker. I work hard and I’ve proven myself to be a hard worker on cabinet this past year. Students should vote for me if they want someone who’s actually going to do work and have an open door policy where they can come talk to me. And if they want someone to meet their needs. My theme is meeting immediate needs today. If students want someone who is going to meet their immediate needs today, not only am I going to be doing stuff that I think is better for the community but I’m going to be listening to what they want as well. I’m actually going to do those things, not just talk about them. I’m going to have a plan of action to get those things done.

One of the things that’s been a problem in the past years is that we elect new presidents and they forget

about what the past presidents have done. I think it’s important we remember the initiatives that Taylor has started. For instance, I want to continue the free Scantrons and the Two+2 program. I also have some initiatives of my own that I really want to start like free printing. I’m sick of paying Express on my card. I think that the university has enough money where they can pay for free printing and we pay enough tuition here for it. The next thing I think would be a great thing for us is to actually get clickers in the library. Say for instance you left your clicker at home and you were on your way to class, you could go to the library and check a clicker out. I also want to extend the C-Store hours in Martin and Stockard to 24 hours. This would give students on campus an eating option. A lot of students on campus don’t have cars or vehicles and we don’t have a place on campus that is 24 hours eating and this would be the easiest way because they are already open till 2 a.m. and open back up at 6 a.m.”

The Library

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Vice Presidential Candidates



Mary Margaret Johnson

“ I have held several positions within the ASB. I was a senator freshman year. Sophomore year, I was the elections commissioner. Now I’m the parliamentarian of the Senate. The role of the vice president is to mediate the Senate and to allow the students’ voices to be heard, so I have very good experience in making it a place where students could debate. As elections commissioner, I was able to learn the code like the back of my hand. You have to have knowledge of what the code was before so you can answer any questions. As a senator, I know how the Senate works, so I know how to direct the senators to write a piece of legislation. ”



Samuel McKay

“ I think you should vote for me because I’ve been inside the Senate chamber for three years — two years serving as a senator, (and) one year I served as legislation monitor for external affairs. So I was in touch with people who were higher up, so I know how to get in touch with them. I want to make the Senate more transparent because it seems like students think the Senate is lazy or ineffective at best. I’d really like to fix that. ”



Emily Rainey

“ Right now we’re representative of different schools. I want to make it where we have senators for different organizations, (and) that way you’re fighting for issues you’re passionate about. I also want to put in a chain of command, where after we pass something through the Senate, it doesn’t just sit and become a piece of paper on the chancellor’s desk, but that our students can go through and make sure it becomes an action. Pretty much my main goal is to make sure students are informed about the issues and giving them a voice to fight against or for issues they are informed about. Right now there is a huge communication gap within the administration and the students. ”

Secretarial Candidates



David Horton

“ I’ve had over three years experience with the ASB Justice Department. I was a minority affairs representative in the Senate. I’ve served on the Interfraternity Council as vice president of public relations and education. I know everything that is going on in ASB and what the students want from it. ”



Emily Rast

“ I’m the most qualified because of communication. I come from a very diverse background being from St. Louis. I went to a very diverse high school. I know a bunch of different types of people. I feel I’m very easy to communicate with. I feel as secretary, communication is key because I’m the in-between person. I take notes at the meetings and post them on the website. I would be willing to give my cell phone number out, and if anyone has any questions or complaints I’d be willing to help them out any way possible. ”

Treasurer Candidates



Garner Reesby

“ I was one of two people handpicked by current treasurer John James to be an assistant on his cabinet. Under the guidance of John James, we were able to get (the) organizations Campus Crusades, Black Student Union and Campus for Clean Energy. Black Student Union was the number one funded organization, and that’s a really big deal. I’m extremely familiar with the process. Our job as treasurer is to find organizations that really need money. I have basically already done the little things under James. ”



Rebecca Ruleman

“ I think I’m qualified because I’m involved on campus. I’ve been in many organizations, including being an orientation leader and (an) Ole Miss Ambassador. I really know the people. My accounting degree is separate. I think part of being treasurer is really getting to know the organizations and the people behind the additions rather than allocating funds because anybody can do that. It’s really going deeper. ”

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The downfall of Rebel basketball



BY BRAD ANDERS
Columnist
tjbander1@gmail.com

The Southeastern Conference is seen as one of the big basketball conferences and Joe Lunardi currently predicts five SEC teams making the NCAA tournament. He projects that Ole Miss will be looking from the sidelines again this season, and I agree with him for a number of reasons.

First, as in any sport, the games a team plays away from home are of vital importance. This is especially true for conference games. The Rebels have lost two double-overtime heart breakers to Alabama and Auburn. Alabama is projected to make the tournament as the SEC's fifth team, and losing to them on

their home floor is disappointing but not a tragedy. I can live with that loss. On the other hand, the loss to Auburn leaves Ole Miss fans shaking their heads because they are among the worst in the conference.

The Rebels also confusingly enough lost to LSU in Baton Rouge earlier this season in blowout fashion. At least in the LSU game, one can point to the absence of Murphy Holloway as a possible reason for the loss. Because of his absence, head coach Andy Kennedy had to dip a little further into his bench than he would have otherwise, playing guard Maurice Aniefiok and forward Steadman Short. Both only average around eight minutes on the floor a night and are not very good scoring threats.

The Rebels must, I repeat, must, get some road wins before the close of the season.

Second, the Rebels' bench is one of the most under-manned

in the SEC. Outside of the starting five of Reggie Buckner, Murphy Holloway, Terrence Henry, Nick Williams and Jarvis Summers, there are only two players who can come off the bench and produce, Demarco Cox and Jelan Kendrick. Of these seven players, two are freshmen. When someone needs a rest or gets in foul trouble, there is little or no answer coming from the bench in the way of production.

The shallow bench also hurts the Rebels' second-half production because their legs get tired and there are not enough bodies on the bench to rotate in and out. As a result, second-half scoring ends up way below first-half production, and any lead attained at halftime dries up very quickly.

Third, the youth for the Rebels perform pretty well until the pressure is on. Aniefiok's turnover at the end of the Florida game cost the Rebels a signature home win against a ranked op-

ponent. Jarvis Summers fumbled away an inbound pass on the way to a sure basket and a win at Alabama in overtime. Jelan Kendrick shot a three that Kennedy was obviously not happy with in overtime of the same game. I know they are young and they will learn, but the team needs them to be able to step up in big spots the rest of the way down the stretch.

Fourth, in the game against Vanderbilt, the team seemed like they didn't want to be there, and they played like the season was over and they didn't care. The motivation for the team disappeared, and, on top of that, they began fighting among themselves. When a team starts pointing fingers at each other, that is when they start to fall apart. With that kind of in-team division, did anyone expect them to go into Lexington and beat the No. 1 team in the land on Saturday? No. And that was the result,

another SEC loss.

Finally, the Rebels rank last in free throw percentage in the SEC at just around 60 percent. Most of the close losses this season could be attributed to the lack of free throw shooting.

Just a three- or four-point swing in the Auburn, Alabama or Florida games might have resulted in wins instead of close losses.

Maybe one or two practices should be totally dedicated to free throws. Once a player makes 10 in a row, he is allowed to leave practice, or maybe he should run if he is unable to make a certain percentage. There just needs to be some improvement.

It seems the Rebels on are their way to another NIT berth. But, even to get invited to that tournament, the team needs to grab a couple more wins. The two home games against LSU and Alabama are must-wins to even snag an NIT bid.

BASKETBALL,

continued from page 11

core will return intact next season. Five freshmen have seen minutes for the Rebels, including starting point guard Jarvis Summers.

"We have 11 scholarship guys left and more than half of them are new to the program," said Kennedy said in his weekly press conference Monday. "We are starting a freshman at the point (Summers). The guy (Jelan Kendrick), who is also sharing minutes at that position, is also a freshman. We are playing Aaron Jones up front as a freshman — those are our eight guys. LaDarius White and Maurice Aniefiok have had opportunities this year, and they will continue to have opportunities."

Kennedy also talked about using the two open scholarships, following the dismissals of Dundreous Nelson and



AUSTIN MCAFFEE | The Daily Mississippian

Head coach Andy Kennedy and the bench during Thursday night's loss to Vanderbilt.

Jamal Jones, to add scorers to next year's team.

"We're looking at all of the above," he said. "We obviously got to bring in an infusion of scoring. We have to have some-

body that can put the ball in the basket. It makes it very difficult to win without someone that can score consistently and it's one of the Achilles heels of this team."



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By JIM DAVIS

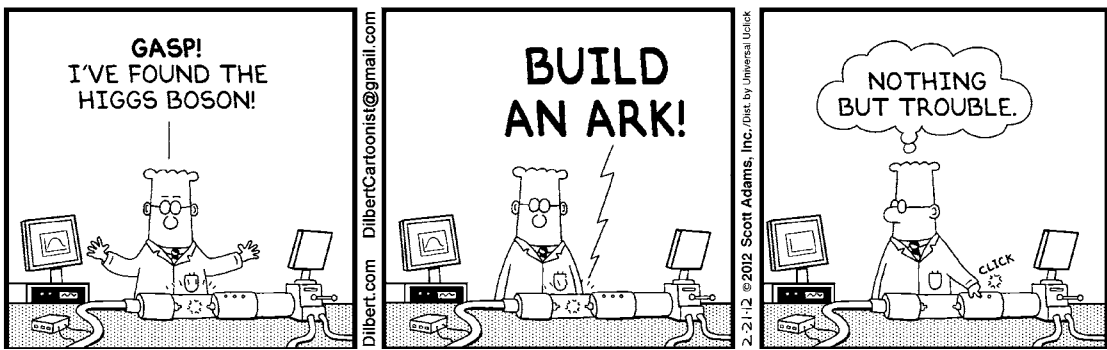
THE FUSCO BROTHERS

By J.C. DUFFY



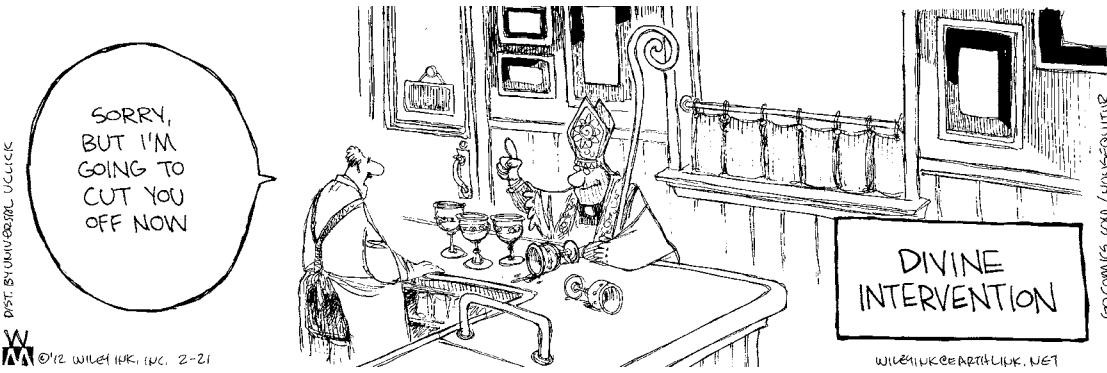
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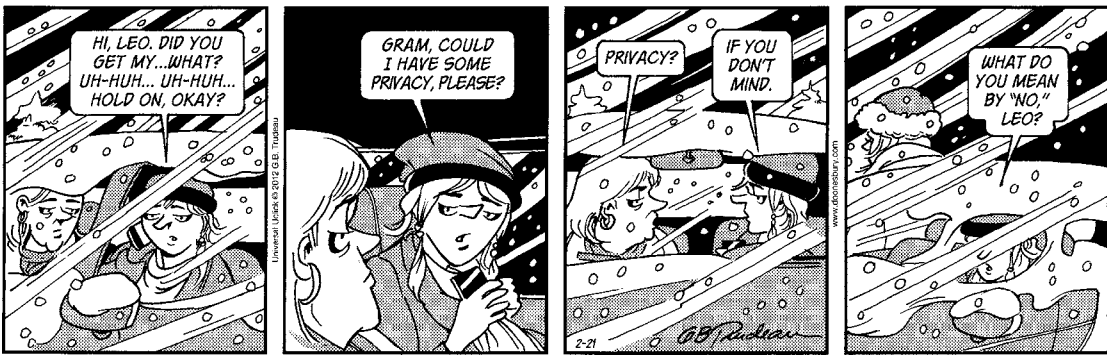
NON SEQUITUR

By WILEY



DOONESBURY

By GARRY TRUDEAU



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

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
IIIIII

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

ACROSS

- 1 Swing a sickle
- 5 Helicon
- 9 String quartet member
- 14 — mater
- 15 Ever's partner
- 16 Merger
- 17 "In Xanadu did —"
- 19 Small pleasure
- 20 Ancient Tokyo
- 21 Luau welcomes
- 22 Flat-tasting
- 23 Kind of computer
- 25 Golf hazard
- 26 Lightning by-product
- 27 Palmed off
- 30 Thunderclaps
- 33 Ocean's motions
- 34 Popeye's Olive
- 36 Be a party to
- 37 Bundle
- 38 Type of socks
- 39 Asphalt
- 40 Many a newspaper
- 41 — nova
- 42 Called from the Tyrol
- 44 Early jazz
- 45 Norse royal name
- 46 Charming
- 50 Illustrious
- 52 Sweetheart
- 53 Aunt or bro.
- 54 Modernize a yacht
- 55 Greek or Roman
- 57 Founder of sci-fi
- 58 Unadulterated
- 59 Cartoon chipmunk
- 60 Lost a lap
- 61 More, to some
- 62 Org.

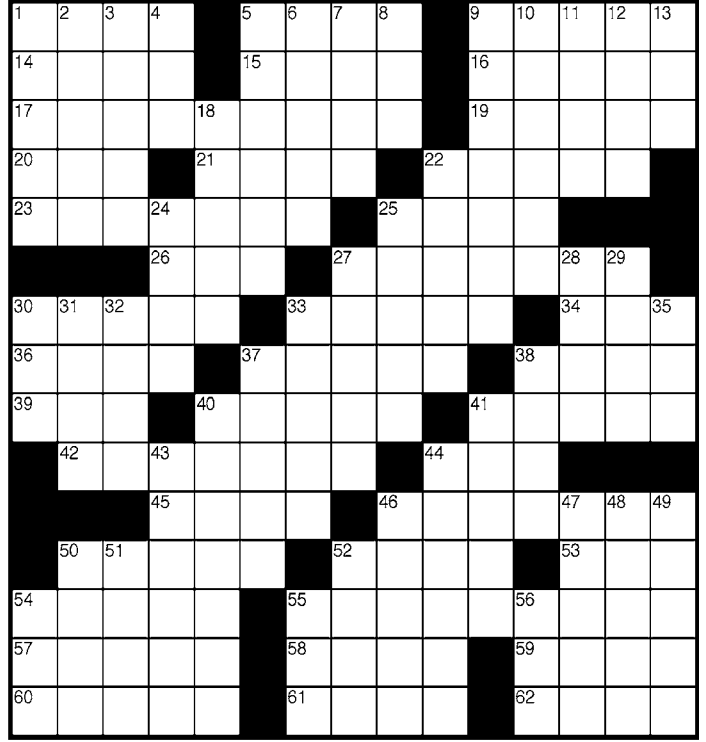
DOWN

- 1 Played croupier
- 2 Avoid capture
- 3 Pulpits
- 4 Close companion
- 5 Hire (2 wds.)
- 6 Square
- 7 Pythons or wraps
- 8 Abby's sister
- 9 Pirate's sword
- 10 Transported
- 11 Legal claim
- 12 Mutual fund charge
- 13 Sudbury's prov.
- 18 Choir members
- 22 Fleeting
- 24 Laird's attire
- 25 Currently
- 27 Handle, as questions
- 28 Long, long time
- 29 Tints
- 30 Greet Rover
- 31 Auction site
- 32 Flight prefix
- 33 Pilferer
- 35 Grassy expanse
- 37 Kind of bar
- 38 Keystone —
- 40 Struck out
- 41 Employee's reward
- 43 Hooded cloak
- 44 Prejudices
- 46 Holds up well
- 47 Black-and-white whales
- 48 Sit-down occasions
- 49 DeGeneres sitcom
- 50 Yard contents
- 51 Huge hairstyle
- 52 Visibly cold
- 54 Campers, for short
- 55 Mil. rank
- 56 NW state

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



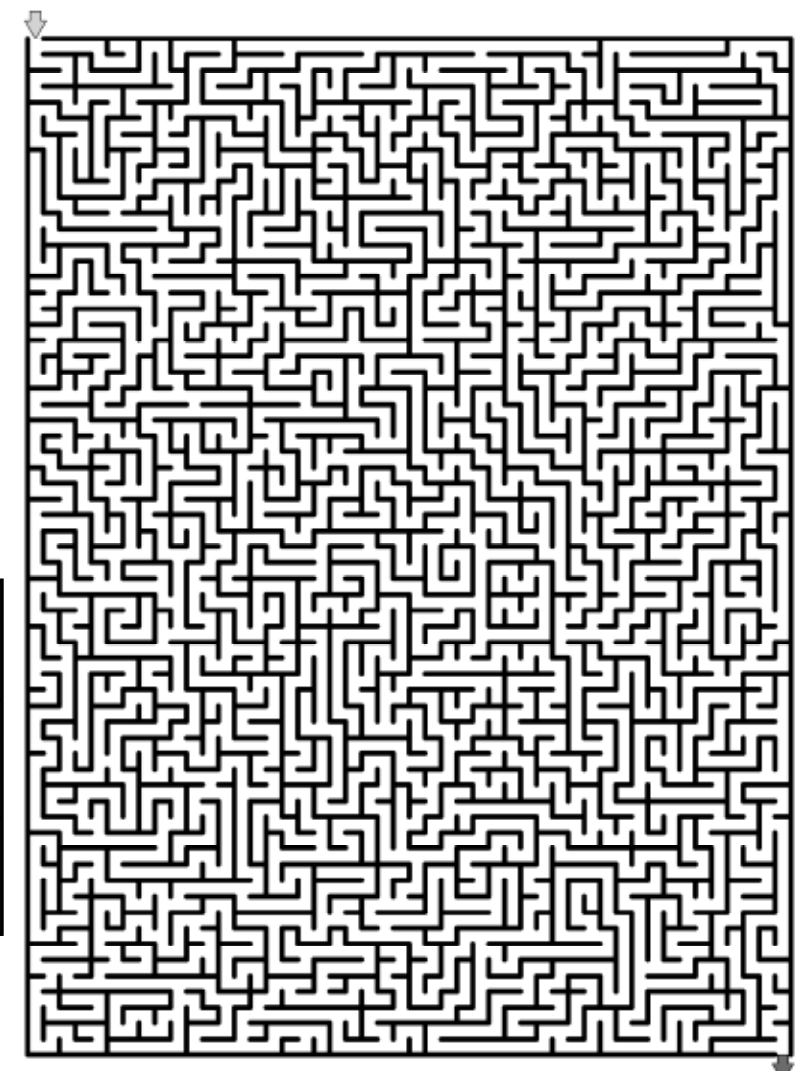
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No. 20 Rebels host Red Wolves in today's home opener



QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippian

Freshman right-hander Sam Smith will make his first career start in today's home opener against Arkansas State. Smith pitched 1.1 hitless innings against TCU Friday.

By DAVID COLLIER
dlcollie@olemiss.edu

Baseball head coach Mike Bianco announced Sunday that freshman Sam Smith will take the hill today as the Rebels (1-1) host the Arkansas State Red Wolves (0-2)

at 3 p.m. from Oxford-University Stadium/Swayze Field in their home opener.

"It could have been a slew of guys," Bianco said of Smith getting the start. "And we will pitch some more guys in that game, but we're trying to define some

roles. And after pitching a little on Friday, I think (Smith) is ready to start it."

Smith, who is set to make his first start of his young college career, is excited about the opportunity.

"It's an honor to get the start," the Lake Charles, La., native said. "We've got a really talented staff, so anyone could've gotten the job. But I'll be ready. I'm just going to pound the zone and let my defense work and get the win."

While this is his first start, it's not Smith's first appearance this season. He came into Friday's game against No. 10 TCU in relief where he pitched one and one-third scoreless and hitless innings with a strikeout.

"It was intense," Smith said of Friday's game. "I went in there just trying to pound the zone and get outs. I got out of a big situation there. It was fun."

With a game under his belt, Smith knows what to expect.

"I took away that you just need to simplify the game really," he said. "It doesn't matter who you're playing, you just got to make pitches. As long as you execute pitches, you'll be OK."

Bousfield solid all-around

in debut

Freshman Auston Bousfield was among three position players to make their Ole Miss debuts over the weekend, and all three made some key defensive plays.

Junior college transfer Andrew Mistone made a couple of tough plays at third in addition to a solo home run to extend the Rebel lead to three at 7-4 in Friday's season opener. Freshman Will Jamison made a spectacular catch against the wall in the same game. Bousfield ended two innings by throwing out runners at the plate and just missed a third outfield assist.

"The first one was me and Yarbrough," the freshman from Oakland, Fla., said. "I threw it to him, and he threw the guy out. There was definitely a lot of teamwork on that one. It was a lot of fun. The second one, that was exciting. All the crowd went nuts and stuff, so that was definitely a lot of fun to throw him out."

Bousfield has also shown that he can make some contributions with his bat. In Friday's game, Bousfield batted second and went 1-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored. In Sunday's game, he went 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored at the top of the Reb-

els' lineup.

"I felt good about it," Bousfield said of his first weekend at the plate. "I tried a lot of situational stuff just not trying to do too much — move guys over, get guys in. I'm just trying to stay within myself."

Wahl happy with first start

Sophomore Bobby Wahl didn't have his best stuff on Friday night, but he was happy to get the win.

"Early on, I probably wasn't locating my fastball well enough," Wahl said. "I was up in the zone and got hit a little bit. Later on, I kind of got in more of a groove. I wasn't really settled in the entire game, which was a little frustrating."

Wahl, now 1-0 on the year, gave up two runs on five hits with two strikeouts through five innings in the first weekend start of his career.

"I've got to thank my defense for everything they did," the Springfield, Va., native said. "It really helps me as a pitcher. It was pretty much all them on Friday. I just tried to do my job, make pitches and live in the zone. They made me look a lot better than I really did on Friday night."

The final stretch and looking ahead to next season

By DAVID HENSON
dahenson@olemiss.edu

Although the NCAA Tournament seems like a long shot now, the players and coaches are not giving up on the season.

"We have four games left; our goal is to win them all, just as it has been all season," said junior Murphy Holloway. "I think I speak for everyone on our team when I say basketball is what we came here to do. We are playing for ourselves and our school. I think everyone is still going hard."

Head coach Andy Kennedy, like his players, said he is aware of the missed opportunities this past week, but looks ahead to the final four games of the season, as teams battle for position in the SEC Tournament March 8-11 in New Orleans.

"I am not oblivious to the fact that there is some disappointment, and we have let some opportunities slip," Kennedy said. "The reality is we can't really do anything about that now.

We just have to focus on to Tennessee and the remaining three games after that and really try to garner some momentum going in to the SEC Tournament in New Orleans.

"We talked about it on the SEC Coaches' Teleconference today. Kentucky is ahead of everyone, but after that everyone is fighting for spots 2-12. There is a lot that will be determined in the next two weeks."

Youth movement

While the Ole Miss men's basketball team's NCAA tournament hopes were all but dashed after this past week's losses to Vanderbilt and Kentucky, there is a reason to be excited for the future of the program.

While the Rebels must deal with the graduation losses of starter Terrance Henry and the presence of Steadman Short off the bench, the Rebels

See BASKETBALL, PAGE 8

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vs UNC-WILMINGTON - SUN. NOON

WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs SOUTHERN MISS-FRIDAY, 1PM
vs TULSA-SUNDAY, NOON FREE PIZZA!



MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs LSU-SATURDAY, 12:30PM
HALFTIME ENTERTAINMENT BY THE RUSSIAN BAR TRIO!

OLE MISS RIFLE

GARC CHAMPIONSHIPS-FEB. 24-26
NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

