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# THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIA

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

# CMSE provides education for teachers

BY AMANDA WARD News Editor

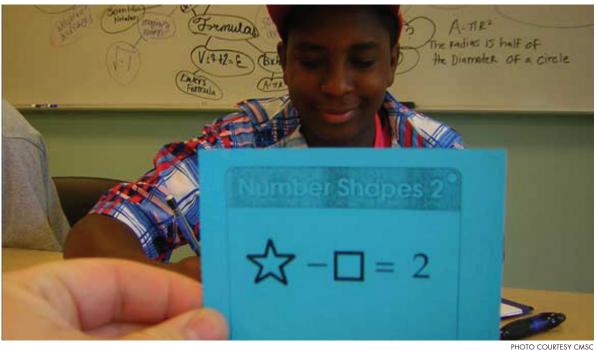
Fall semester will prove to be a brand new year for north Mississippi students in regard to mathematics.

The University of Mississippi's Center for Mathematics and Science Education (CMSE) recently conducted a two-week training course for middle school teachers.

CMSE received a grant in the sum of \$1.5 million from the Mississippi Department of Education. Through this grant money, CMSE was able to develop the summer program, Project PrIME (Promoting Innovation in Mathematics Education). Project PrIME was developed to help teachers in furthering their content knowledge.

This year was the first year for the program and had teachers representing 60 middle schools from north Mississippi. The program took place at Della Davidson Elementary School in Oxford.

In an interview with Ole Miss Newsdesk, Angela Barlow, co-principal investigator for Project PrIME said "Research shows that teacher-led instruction inside the classroom with a couple of practice problems neither meets the need of all of our students nor does it prepare students to be successful in the



workplace."

According to Barlow, the program was set in place to help the teachers better in engage their students.

A follow-up on the summer program will begin during the school year by way of a virtual learning community and visits to the school sites. The instructors are UM faculty from science, engineering, mathematics and technology departments.

Project PrIME organizers have made plans to incorporate local industries through producing podcasts. The idea is that businesses will demonstrate the ways in which mathematics is used in their fields.

The concept behind Project PrIME is to help students better appreciate having math skills through enjoyment while gaining confidence. This will be achieved by getting teachers to rethink how they teach mathematics.

Sixth-grade teacher, Brian Buckhalter, told Newsdesk, "Engaging students with true problem-solving and true thinking is key, and believe it or not, they are receptive to that approach."

Buckhalter said that earning his students' trust is on of the hardest aspects of teaching.

"I tell my students that math will be challenging and difficult but it's not impossible," said Buckhalter. "I try to make math not so dreadful and have them trust me."

According to Barlow, Mississippi ranks last or next to last, traditionally, in mathematics assessments.

"Regardless of where the country stands in the world, we're not doing our job here in Mississippi. It's really unfortunate," Barlow said. "When you can improve a student's disposition towards mathematics, then they are set to gain in terms of achievement in mathematics."

## this week

THE POWERHOUSE

#### PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH FELIPE MACIAS

Theatre Oxford, in cooperation with the UM Department of Theatre Arts, offers this opportunity for the interested public to learn easy techniques for creating brick, marble and wood grain effects that can be used in theatre set design or elsewhere. Macias, professor of theatre at Eastern New Mexico University, most recently designed the sets for Oxford Shakespeare Festival. A \$30 fee covers materials and instruction; scholarships available for UM theatre majors. Visit www.theatreoxford.org or go by The Powerhouse for an application. Enrollment is open to anyone over the age of 13; no experience required.

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\$30, discounts available for University of Mississippi theatre majors

## inside

OPINION MEET OUR NEW MASCOT: LEBRON?



#### LIFESTYLES MUSIC FOR GROWN-UPS



## **UM ALL-SPORTS PASSES** SELL OUT

#### BY CAROLINE LEE Editor-in-Chief

Last Thursday, the Uni- when the group classification versity of Mississippi ticket will be lifted. The remaining office sold out of all-sport tickets will be available to tickets. The tickets, which any student on the Ole Miss include entrance for students to all home football games, basketball games and baseball games, is the first package made available to students for online purchase. The all-sport tickets went on sale July 1. Upon purchasing the pass, the tickets included will be put on the student's ID card. The card will be scanned upon entering each sporting event. For the students that did not get an all-sport pass in time, football season tickets will go on sale August 2. The remaining 5,500 student football season tickets will be allotted to the following groups: freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, law and graduate. They will be on sale until August 27,

Sports website, at olemisssports.com. The tickets will get students into the student section, and will be put on their ID cards. An option to later transfer unused tickets to other students' ID cards, and potentially into general admission tickets, is available on the Ole Miss Sports website as well. The online ticketing system and use of student identification cards marks a large change in Ole Miss sports ticketing. This change is similar to the systems used at the University of Alabama, Louisiana State University, Auburn University and many other schools, both in the SEC and across the country.

## ASSOCIATED PRESS VIDEO SHOWS BP GETS NEW CAP ON LEAKING GULF WELL

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Coast marinas and town halls, all Undersea video showed BP robots landed a new, tighter-fitting cap on top of the gushing Gulf of Mexico oil leak Monday, raising hopes that the crude could be kept from polluting the water for the first time in nearly three months. Placing the cap on top of the leak was the climax of two days of delicate preparation work and a day of slowly lowering it into akin to building an underwater Lego tower — is just a temporary fix, but the oil giant's best hope yet for containing the spill. Around 6:30 p.m. CDT, live video streams trained on the wellhead showed the cap being slowly lowered into place, 11 hours after BP Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles said the company was close to putting the seal in place. Company officials did not comment on the operation Monday evening or say how long it would take to latch the cap permanently in place. From the White House to Gulf

eyes were on the slow, deliberate process unfolding a mile below the sea. President Barack Obama is getting repeated updates, his adviser David Axelrod said. Residents on the coast were skepti-

cal, though, and know that even if the gusher is contained, the disaster will be far from over.

The 18-foot-high, 150,000-pound metal cap will be tested and monitored to see if it can withstand pressure from oil and gas starting Tuesday morning for six to 48 hours, according to National Incident Commander Thad Allen. The cap will be tested by closing off three separate valves that fit together snugly like pairs of fists, choking off the oil and blocking it from entering the Gulf. BP doesn't want the flow of oil to stop instantaneously, said Don Van Nieuwenhuise, director of Professional Geosciences Programs at the University of Houston. Shutting the oil off too

See WELL, PAGE 4

#### SPORTS

#### WHY THE SEC WORKS/ WHY THE BIG XII WON'T







## COLUMN Southern barbecues and summer

### ΒY Columnist

Someone asked me recently why we ANGELA ROGALSKI as southerners barbecue so much, especially in the summer. Of course I told them that it doesn't have to be summer for us to throw down and have a major cookout.

At my house, we've been known to start the grill and the bonfire at the same time, the first for food and the second for warmth.

Still, there is something about summertime that brings out the slabs of pork and beef in all of us. What is it that makes us want to break out the grill so much?

I mean, just what does make southerners the ultimate grillers that we are? Is it the fact that we can make those little charcoal briquettes burn even without starter fluid? Or is it that nobody knows how to use a bottle of Dale's the way we do? Do they even sell Dale's anywhere but in the South?

Why would anybody want to stand out in 98-degree weather with the humidity running a stifling 110 percent and cook large quantities of red meat over an open flame?" Hmm... why would they?

Well, here goes. To the best of my knowledge, the stoves and ovens in the South cease to function on June 21. That's just it, plain and simple. We, being the upright southerners that we are, feel bound by this linear phenomenon and take it as a sign from above. We are the chosen grillers and have no choice but to fire up the charcoal. I mean, I could have told this person that reason and they wouldn't have been anymore mystified. What I actually said was very short and very succinct: because we can. "Because we can" sums up all of our reasons in a nutshell. However, since I'm long-winded and it appeared that my interrogator wasn't satisfied with that, I couldn't let it go there. Oh no.

to stand outside and sweat off yesterday's slab of ribs before we consume today's. We do it because we like communing with nature, which of course includes the mosquitoes-on-steroids that seem to be our only other reason for existing (we nourish as we are being nourished, you see).

Oh yes, the large quantities of beer are, unfortunately, a necessary evil. We'd hate to be accused of not being hydrated and leading an unhealthy lifestyle. Now, I didn't mean to lose my southern manners and grace as I addressed this person, but I fear I was fairly spitting fire by the time my tirade was over. I mean, don't call us 'plain crazy'! We may be crazy, but we are far from plain. Southerners are, without a doubt, some of the most colorful and interesting folks you're ever going to meet. Transplanted ones included.

DONICA PHIFER

MIA CAMURATI opinion editor

LANCE INGRAM lifestyles editor

ADDISON DENT photography editor

The mission of The Daily Mississippian is to consistently produce a bold, bright and accurate daily news source obligation to the truth and maintaining our loyalty to the public

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Whatever the reason, the question that was proposed to me made me stop and think. The exact words of my inquisitor were, "You people are just plain crazy!

I followed with something a little like this: We do it because we like the taste of charcoal in our food, because we like

So in short, to my disbelieving acquaintance, southerners stand over a hot grill in 98 degree weather and produce some of the best food you're ever going to taste because we're darned good at it!

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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.





## COLUMN HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE CYBER-BOMB

### BY MATTHEW HENRY

Columnist

There are many scary things that exist in the world. One only has to turn on the evening news to hear some horrible story and spend the rest of the night cowering in the corner. Many news outlets have turned to this morbid sensationalism in order to drive more viewers to it.

While some might think this would cause Americans to be afraid of the slightest threat, what is happening is quite the opposite- we are becoming jaded and indifferent to the emerging and changing threats that we face today.

One such threat that is only recently been seriously discussed is cyber-terrorism/cyber-warfare. I use the term terrorism loosely, and while I hate throwing the word terrorism around like it is the new coined phrase, it is the best word I can think of to describe the acts. The use of cyber attacks to render critical systems inoperable would instill a form of "terror" in the affected people, so please do not think that I am simply another media sensationalist.

While there has not been a significant cyber attack on the U.S., it is only a matter of time. The danger stems from the fact that everything from our communications infrastructure to the power grid is vulnerable to attack. The very foundations of our livelihood depend on these fragile systems. Every year, our technological capabilities increase, but so do the would-be attackers. The next attack could very well start with a "click" instead of a "boom."

So, why should you be worried? Cyber-warfare seems like something out of Tron or Star Trek; why should we care now?

The fact is that cyber attacks are already happening. In Estonia in 2007, crucial government systems and banking institutions were taken offline during a scuffle with Russia by a distributed denial of service attack, which is basically an overloading of the servers that store and process the information. Russia denied being officially involved (seriously, you're going to play dumb Russia?), but the attack was quite beneficial to Russia.

While the United States has safeguards in place, we are still woefully under-prepared. I was recently watching a 60 Minutes special where they proved it was possible to hack into a power plant and overload one of the super-generators, causing millions of dollars of damage and cutting off power. It takes around two months to replace these large generators. A large enough attack could take out the power to a huge section of the country.

Simply put, we have to step up our game when it comes to protecting our necessary technological infrastructure from cyber attacks. Secretary Gates just oversaw the creation of the U.S. Cyber Command a few weeks ago. According to its mission statement, "conduct full spectrum military cyberspace operations in order to enable actions in all domains, ensure US/Allied freedom of action in cyberspace and deny the same to our adversaries."

Cyberspace is about to become the next battlefield. In the years to come, many if not all military operations are going to have some sort of cyber component. While we have enjoyed the benefits of a highly technologically advanced society, we have overlooked the inherent dangers in these systems until now.

As a last warning, while I wholeheartedly agree that our technological infrastructure needs protection, we must always tread carefully. A sweeping piece of legislation or a new military protocol could lead to invasions of privacy. While we want to be safe, we must always remain free, both in real life and in cyberspace.

# WHY I DON'T RECYCLE PAPER

BY JARROD LOWERY Indiana Daily Student, Indiana U via UWIRE

UWIRE

Recently, as I was about to throw a piece of paper into a trash can, an environmentally sensitive colleague of mine admonished me.

"I hope you're going to recycle that.'

Doing my best to approximate the moral presumptuousness of those who lecture others about their responsibilities to the rock we call home, I responded, "Why would I do that? Don't you care about the environment?"

As you might expect — and as I had hoped — a discussion about the relative merits of recycling and throwing away pa-

My point was that, contrary to the dogma most people of a certain age have been forcefed, one of the best ways to increase the number of trees on the planet is to consume more paper.

This is because consuming paper puts upward pressure on demand for it and thus for trees, many of which are grown in vast quantities on plantations maintained by the paper industry.

By pointing this out, I meant to demonstrate that it is possible to promote proenvironment causes even while eschewing the rituals environmentalists assure us are moral obligations. That said, I only make sure to throw my paper in the trash because I have a mild aesthetic preference for having a few more trees in the world, not because I am under the sway of those who preach the absolute need for ever more trees. If paper plantations proliferate to the point that I think there are getting to be too

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many trees in the world, then I'll probably start recycling paper again.

After considering my interlocutor's arguments about the contribution of paper to landfill waste, however, I concluded that she and I simply had differing preferences and that we were both doing what made sense in order to promote our respective goals.

Then I recalled having come across some research compiled by Danish statistician Bjorn Lomborg that seriously calls into question the basis for harboring much concern about the proliferation of landfills.

area.

This estimate is based on projections of a population increase and waste generation increases that are likely to be higher than the actual rises, so our waste will probably take up even less space than that.

Additionally, Lomborg dismisses the concern about the health threats posed by landfills by noting that the EPA estimates landfills will cause some 5.7 cancer-related deaths during the next 300 years which works out to one every 50 years.

In light of these facts, it is clear that there is little to fear from throwing paper in the trash.

demand for paper will be fairly small. And that might be so.

Nevertheless, because my preference for an increased tree population is stronger than my practically nonexistent fear of running out of room for trash (or getting cancer from a landfill), I am going to continue throwing paper away instead of recycling it.

The most important lesson from all of this is not that we actually have plenty of room for our trash, that our landfills are not going to kill us or that recycling paper is unwise if you want to have more trees.

Rather, it is that, contrary to the propaganda so many of us encounter over the course of our education, it is entirely appropriate for us to make our own decisions regarding our habits of resource usage on the basis of our own preferences.

per promptly ensued.

My colleague informed me that I should recycle the paper I use because paper constitutes a large proportion of the waste which, she assured me, are increasing so rapidly in size that we are running out of space for them.

She also told me of the detrimental effects landfills could potentially have on our groundwater supply, into which various toxins from our trash might seep.

After acknowledging that there are certainly downsides to throwing away paper, I asked her a question once posed by University of Rochester economist Steven Landsburg: If we found out a way to recycle beef, wouldn't the population of cattle decrease?

As he notes in his book "The Skeptical Environmen-

talist," if we were to place all of the trash that will be generated in the United States over the course of the next century in one landfill and pile it just 100 feet high (which is shorter than some existing landfills on the East Coast), it would all fit in a square just 18 miles on a side, which amounts to 0.009 percent of the country's land

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On the other hand, one could argue that I am doing little good for the world's tree population by throwing away paper because my personal effect on



## WELL,

continued from page 1

quickly could cause another explosion, he said.

"Rather than like a train running into a brick wall, it'll be more like putting the brakes on slowly," he said. "That's what they're aiming for. You can keep the brakes on and everyone arrives alive, or you hit the wall and have big problems."

Even if the cap works, the blown-out well will still be leaking. But the newer, tighter cap will enable BP to capture all the oil, or help funnel it up to ships on the surface if necessary.

One of those ships, the Helix Producer, began operating Monday and should be up to its capacity of collecting roughly 1 million gallons of oil a day within a few days, Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles said.

A permanent fix will have to wait until one of two relief wells being drilled reaches the broken well, which will then be plugged up with drilling mud and cement. That may not happen until mid-August.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration issued a revised moratorium on deep-water offshore drilling Monday to replace the one that was struck down by the courts as heavy-handed. The original moratorium halted the approval of any new permits for deep-water projects and suspended drilling on 33 exploratory wells in the Gulf. The new ban, in effect until Nov. 30, does not appear to deviate much from the original moratorium, as it still targets deep-water drilling operators while defining them in a different way.

Work on the new capping operation began Saturday with the removal of a leaky cap that captured about 1 million of the 1.5 million to 2.5 million gallons of oil the government estimates is spilling from the well every day.

Engineers will be watching pressure readings. High pressure is good, because it would mean the leak has been contained inside the wellhead machinery. But if readings are lower than expected, that could mean there is another leak elsewhere in the well.

"Another concern right now would be how much pressure the well can take," and whether intense pressure would further damage the well, said Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute.

Gulf residents closely watched the operation, knowing the damage already done to the biologically rich Gulf and the coast's two leading industries, fishing and tourism.

"I think we're going to see oil out in the Gulf of Mexico, roaming around, taking shots at us, for the next year, maybe two," said Billy Nungesser, president of Louisiana's oil-stained Plaquemines Parish. "If you told me today no more oil was coming ashore, we've still got a massive cleanup ahead."

BP "can't do much, but they know how to drill wells," dock master Jimmy Beason said at a marina in Orange Beach, Ala. "I think that by the end of the month it will be stopped, and this work with the cap is part of it. I see the light at the end of the tunnel."

As of Monday, between 89 million and 176 million gallons of oil had poured into the Gulf, according to government estimates.



## ROGERS RECIEVES COSIDA HONORS

BY RACHEL JOHNSON

The Daily Mississippian

Langston Rogers, former University of Mississippi associate athletics director for media relations, was honored by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) with a postgraduate scholarship in his name. According to the CoSIDA website, the scholarship was formerly known as the CoSIDA Postgraduate Scholarship but was renamed in Rogers' honor and announced at the time he received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Langston Rogers Postgraduate Scholarship will be given to a minority student or female athletics PR professional.

The scholarship is not Ole Miss-specific and

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

may be granted to students at any school.

The organization previously awarded Rogers the Arch Ward award in 2001. The Arch Ward award is an honor given to a CoSIDA member that has made outstanding contributions in his field.

CoSIDA is a more than 2,400-member organization that works to help public relations, communications and information professionals working at all levels of collegiate athletics in the U.S. and Canada, according to their website.

Rogers came to Ole Miss in July 1981 and retired in April after 29 years of service to the university.

## Toyota decides to restart Mississippi auto plant

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota will restart the delayed construction of its Mississippi plant, which will provide 2,000 jobs and be up and running by the fall of next year, the Japanese automaker said Thursday.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s auto plant in Blue Springs, Mississippi, was initially planned to be completed by 2010, but building was suspended after the U.S. economy nose-dived in late 2008.

The Mississippi plant will make 150,000 Corolla compact cars a year, moving back to North America production Toyota had temporarily shifted to Japan when it pulled out of a California joint venture with General Motors Co. in April, Toyota said. Initially, it had said it would make the Prius hybrid in Mississippi.

The development comes at an opportune time for Toyota, when the world's biggest automaker is struggling to fix an image battered by a spate of recalls, especially in its key North American market.

Toyota, which also makes the Camry sedan and Lexus luxury model, has been plagued by a massive quality crisis, resulting in the recall of 9 million vehicles around the world since October, mainly in the U.S. for problems such as gas pedal defects and braking software glitches.

Toyota was fined a record \$16.4 million by U.S. authorities for dallying on the recalls. It faces more than 200 lawsuits in accidents, including fatal ones, suspected of being linked to defects, and those alleging the recalls caused the value of Toyota vehicles to plummet. Toyota's image also suffered when it decided to close New United Motor Manufacturing Inc., known as NUMMI, the California plant it ran with GM, setting off protests among workers. maker Tesla Motors Inc. to develop and build electric cars at the shuttered plant in the San Francisco Bay area.

Toyoda said he was happy to announce the latest decision on the Mississippi plant.

"We aim to give our full effort to manufacturing vehicles that can bring joy and to contribute to the region's economy and society," he said.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour welcomed Toyota's decision and said he had believed in Toyota all along.

"We're delighted but not surprised," Governor Barbour said. "We've had good reason to keep our faith in them. Through a global economic crisis, Toyota kept its financial commitments to the state and to local schools, proving they are not just the world's premier automaker but a valuable community partner as well."

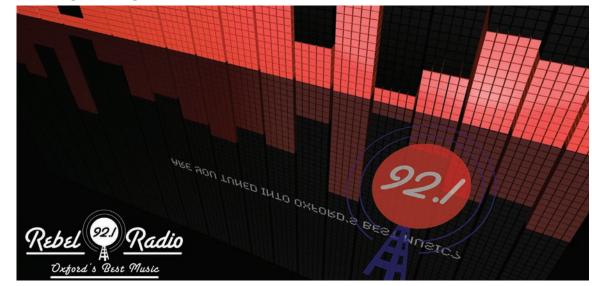
The state of Mississippi had committed \$294 million to the project. But Toyota paid more than \$10 million to the state to support road construction and extend water and sewer systems, and made donations to support local education, according to the governor's office.

The latest plan signals that Toyota is again getting ready to tackle a growth strategy, after managing to return to the black for the fiscal year that ended March 31. The Japanese automaker had racked up its worst loss in its history the previous fiscal year.

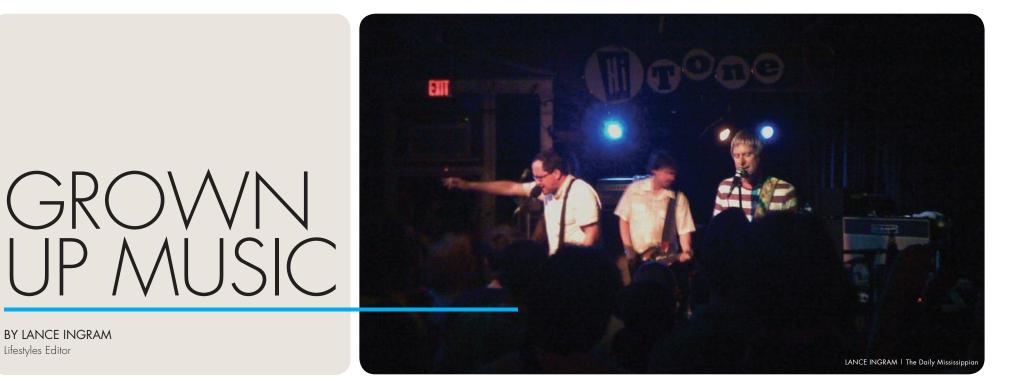
Analysts say Toyota's sales are improving but its return to profit is still shaky. Toyota had been on an expansion track until sales tanked from the financial crisis.

In a move likely to allay some of the anger, Toyota President Akio Toyoda announced last month a partnership with U.S. electric vehicle Yoshimi Inaba, president and chief operating officer of Toyota Motor North America, said the company couldn't restart the plant until it was sure of a recovery.

"With the return of stability to our existing operations in North America, it is time to fulfill Toyota's promise in Mississippi," said Inaba.



#### LIFESTYLES | 7.13.2010 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 5



Brooklyn-based band the Hold Steady, performed Sunday night at the Hi-Tone Cafe in Memphis. The band performed a set of classics and tracks off their new album, "Heaven Is Whenever".

weat shimmered on the singer's guitar as it dripped down his limb like a leaky faucet.

'Can we get some more heat in here?" Parker Giespert, lead singer and guitarist for opening act, the Whigs, said with a grin. "Is there like a central heat system or something that we can turn up?"

Excessively sweaty bodies rubbed against each other as the band launched into their next song at the Hi-Tone Cafe in Memphis Sunday night, but the heat wasn't enough to stop the crowded audience from bobbing along to the tune.

A venue that could hold 300 people comfortably was packed with more than 500 fans on the dance floor to catch the Hold Steady headline with up-and-comer The Whigs, but the people kept pouring in.

Before the show, a crowd of fans wrapped around the neighboring gas station, blocking vehicles from entering in both entrances, as talk of a sellout and the possibility of waiting in vain lingered in the air.

The humidity inside the venue increased as the audience poured in. apparent that there were two sets had mastered what could be consid-

Soon after came bittersweet news.

The Whigs' lead singer maneuvered through the crowd to the tiny stage, crowded with both acts' gear, to announce bassist Tim Deaux was unable to perform due to a death in the family that forced to catch a last-minute plane home.

Albeit saddening news, a slip of grace, the Whigs' original bass player, Hank Sullivant, was in town visiting family. He called the band the day before to ask his former bandmates to be put on the guest list; Giespert instead offered him the chance to perform with the group.

The Sunday night reunion was the first the original trio has performed together since 2005, when Sullivant left to join MGMT.

Performing a set consisting primarily of tunes from their debut album, "Give 'Em All A Big Fat Lip," the Whigs' raw power and aggressive live show was a combative opening and enough to get the Hold Steady or any following headliner to step their game up.

During the set break, it became

of people in attendance - the young indie rockers, sporting a uniform of plaid button ups or v-necks, skinny jeans, Converse and horn-rimmed glasses, and the other half were adults consisting of business owners, accountants and office workers, who would surely be late for their nineto-five Monday morning.

The Hold Steady's performance was persistent in rocking diligently through their set, despite the overbearing, intolerable heat. Lead singer Craig Flinn sang with the passion of a pastor behind the pulpit as he leaned over the crowd yelling and pointing with vigor, never slowing down or allowing the heat to get the best of him.

In any opportunity the musicians had to hold a note or slow down, they hurriedly grabbed a towel and bottle of water to combat the persistent heat as they rocked their way through a series of classics and songs off their new album, "Heaven is Whenever."

During their performance of "Rock Problems", a song about growing older, it became obvious that the group

ered "grown-up punk."

The majority of the crowd, the nine-to-five-ers, seemed to identify with the Hold Steady because of their representation of the youthful spirit of punk in a way that converges punk attitude into a mature way of describing the mundane life of adulthood.

As the evening progressed, men lost their shirts and ladies pulled their hair into ponytails as they regretted that extra hour applying makeup. The dance floor became sparse as concertgoers sought a cooler space. Yet it was still impossible to pass someone without swapping sweat beads.

The concert came to a close and the Hold Steady, looking as if they had taken a swim on stage, said their thank-yous and goodbyes and exited the stage. The floor was a sweaty, sticky mess of perspiration, spilled beer and condensation as the crowd slowly exited.

Two men in drenched shirts and jeans-turned-capris stumbled through the exit as they patted the other's back and laughed as one said, "I sure hope I can make it to work at eight in the morning."



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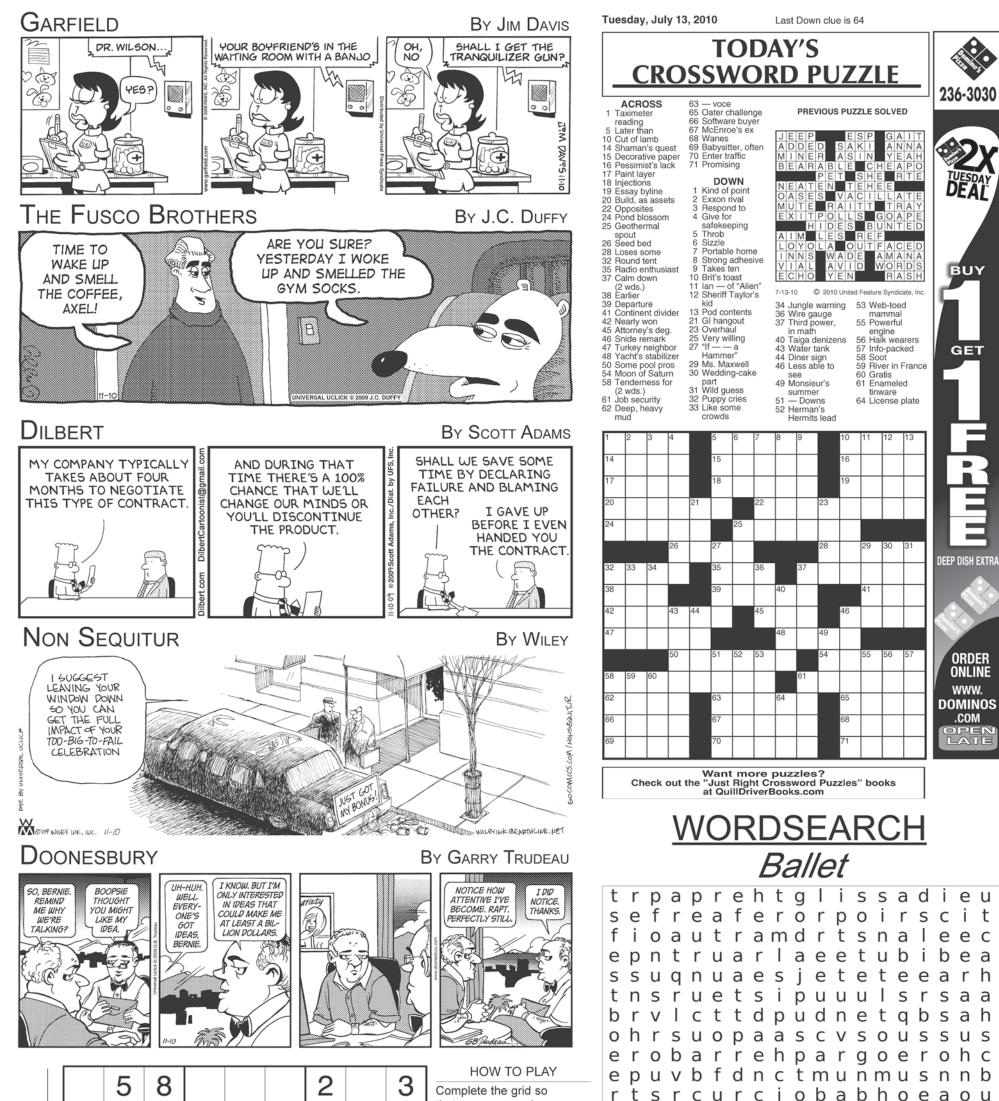
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# WHY THE SEC WORKS; WHY THE BIG XII WON'

#### BY ANDREW DICKSON The Daily Mississippian

German philosopher Karl Marx explained the essence of communism when he wrote, "From each, according to his ability; to each, according to his need."

C'est la vie in the SEC, where each university - from Vanderbilt (2-10, 0-8 in 2009) to reigning National Champion Alabama - received an estimated \$17.3 million in shared

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revenue last year, according to com- Swamp and hand the eventual Namissioner Mike Slive.

A paycheck like that makes it much easier for programs with less tradition than schools such as Alabama or Florida to hire a competitive coaching staff, expand their recruiting efforts and keep their facilities up to date.

In the SEC's modern age, a sound game plan and a relatively athletic team is enough to take a nine-game conference losing streak to The

tional Champion their only loss of the season.

Parity is at an all-time high, which makes almost every game played in the SEC worth tuning in (which, consequently, makes every game worth televising).

With the SEC as the home to the highest revenues and the last four BCS National Champions, it's no surprise that conferences around the country are doing the best they can to keep up; the Big 10 plucked Nebraska from the Big XII, which gives them 12 teams and a conference championship game; and the Pac-10 added Colorado (also from the Big XII) and Utah (formerly of the MWC) in an attempt to bolster its conference.

So where does that leave the Big XII? According to Texas Tech head coach Tommy Tuberville, formerly of Ole Miss and Auburn, on the fast road to extinction.

We have a 10-team league right now, but I just don't know how long that is going to last, to be honest with you. It's just a matter of time, unless they get everyone on the same page," Tuberville said on Rivals Radio when asked about the future of the conference.

Tuberville was reprimanded by the Big XII for his comments, but let's not be so quick to dismiss him as a pessimist - try and read between the lines. Tuberville has been in this business for a long time, and he's well aware that we can learn from the past to predict the future; as Marx would say, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce."

A number of factors contributed to the decline and eventual disbarment of the Southwest Conference - including SMU receiving the death penalty and Arkansas defecting for the SEC. However, at the root of the dissention among SWC programs was the same entity that has spurred the latest round of conference expansion - money.

Near the end of the SWC, Texas and Texas A&M were the only teams experiencing any real success selling their programs, and the gap in revenues and competition grew between those two universities and the remainder of the conference. In 1996, the SWC and Big 8 conferences dissolved, and members from both came together to form the Big XII.

Now that marquee programs like Nebraska and Colorado have left the conference just fifteen years later, Tuberville's ominous prediction seems likely.

In fact, it almost came true this year when the Pac-10 was courting the majority of the Big XII South to form the first 16-team super conference in college football. Again, the

fate of the conference was left in the hands of Texas and Texas A&M.

From many accounts, Texas was ready to make the jump to the Pac-10 (and ready to drag the rest of the schools in the Big XII South with them). Texas A&M had other plans, however - and for good reason too.

The Texas A&M campus - located in College Station, TX - is more than two thousand miles away from a few Pac-10 teams; by comparison, the farthest trip TAMU would have to make if they played in a conference like the SEC would be to Columbia, SC, which is around 1,050 miles.

Joining the Pac-10 could have put an enormous amount of stress on TAMU fans and athletes.

Had Texas decided to head west, Texas A&M - from many accounts - would have been on its way east to the SEC. The Aggies had called Texas' bluff, and had effectively saved the Big XII (for the time being at least). Regardless, in this newlook Big XII, UT is still the top dog.

Texas will take home more revenue than anyone else in the conference, and without the twelve teams required by the NCAA to play a conference championship game, Texas also gets to bypass another possible roadblock on its way to the BCS National Championship game.

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