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Thursday, April 5, 2012

### thedmonline.com

#### Vol. 100 No. 279

# Chancellor, ASB address the year to come

#### BY JOE SCOTT jwscott1.olemiss@gmail.com

Yesterday, the Associated Student Body Council held its annual State of the Union address, which covered a few major changes to the student government, said goodbye to old leadership and said hello to a fresh administration.

Speakers at the event included former Vice President Abby Oliver of Hattiesburg, new Vice President Emmalee Rainey of Jackson, former President Taylor McGraw of Oxford, new President Kimbrely Dandridge of Como and Chancellor Dan Jones.

The address was delivered at the front steps of the Student Union to a crowd of both ASB members and students.

The event was important for all the student speakers, not just the audience. It was McGraw's final address to the student body after a busy presidency.

"I don't know if it has really sunk in that I'm done," McGraw said. "It's a weird feeling. It's sort of a weight off of my shoulders, and I'm looking forward to turning over the reigns and graduating.'

of big changes on campus, including free Scantrons, the 2+2 program and free student tickets to baseball and basketball games.

"We had a terrific year," McGraw said. "We set out with a lot of lofty goals and fell short on just a few of them. However, I'm extremely proud of what we accomplished."

Now that he has finished, McGraw said he plans to graduate and move to New York to work with Teach for America.

The address was the first for Dandridge. In her message, she emphasized optimism for the coming year and strongly urged the student body to get involved.

Specific issues she addressed included revamping the Freshman Focus program into the new Freshman Council, which will focus on leadership development, and the push to bring free printing to the students.

"We're here to work for you, not ourselves," Dandridge said. "Feel free to come by our office with anything that concerns you, and use any of the new assets to contact us."

The ASB will be incorporating new assets to contact the His administration saw a lot council, including a new email



Chancellor Dan Jones and former ASB President Taylor McGraw at the State of the Union address

address, asbcouncil2012@ gmail.com.

The event was also a chance for Jones to talk to students about the upcoming year and answer questions about the future of Ole Miss.

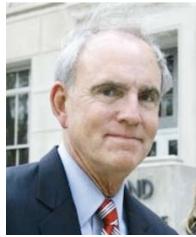
"We are growing here at the university," Jones said. "We are making a transformation from a big/little university into a little/ big university."

Jones spoke of the challenges that will arise as the student

population continues to grow.

"There are a lot of great opportunities that come from growing, but I recognize as chancellor that this also presents us with a lot of growing pains," he said.

# Scruggs back in Alabama, verdict coming soon



Scruggs is set to be released on Feb. 2, 2015, unless U.S. District Judge Glen H. Davidson decides to reduce his sentence. Thanks to new changes in the Honest Services Fraud Statute, Scruggs' legal team is hoping that his sentence will be reduced.

Scruggs pleaded guilty in



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississipp Dickie Scruggs

#### BY HOUSTON BROCK houstonbrock08@gmail.com

Dickie Scruggs was transported to Montgomery Federal Prison Camp on Tuesday, April 3, following his brief stay in the Lafayette County Detention Center. His team of attorneys has until next week to turn in its final submissions on his appeal.

2008 to depriving the citizens of Mississippi of honest services from former Judge Bobby Delaughter. In 2010 the Honest Services Fraud Statute was narrowed by the Supreme Court. Scruggs' attorneys claim that under the new statute, he would not be guilty of the same crime he pled guilty to in 2008.

Law professor Ronald Rychlak believes Scruggs is fortunate to have the opportunity to appeal the case.

"Normally courts are very reluctant to reopen cases," Rychlak said.

It is a very complicated situ-

QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippia

Dickie Scruggs being transported in a van

ation, and Scruggs now has to rely on the decision of Davidson to have his sentence reduced.

The decision will be made in Oxford, where Scruggs attended college and had a law firm.

Davidson is set to announce the verdict of the appeal early next week in Oxford.



# OPINION

## Bad apples or a bad barrel: the Sgt. Robert Bales debate



**BY BRITTANY SHARKEY** brittsharkey@gmail.com

Last month, Sgt. Robert Bales left his military base in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan and marched into a small town where he proceeded to open fire, killing nine children and eight adults. Today, he's being charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder and is currently undergoing mental fitness evaluations while awaiting trial at Fort Leavenworth. If convicted, Bales would face the death penalty.

By all accounts, Bales was a normal, relatively well-adjusted soldier. This last tour of Afghanistan was Bales' fourth in 10 years. Days before the massacre, one of his closest friends had been bombing. In a prior tour, Bales himself had suffered a traumatic brain injury and is said to suffer from PTSD, though his wife denies he experienced symptoms of either the traumatic brain injury or PTSD. There's also been speculation that a commonly used anti-malarial medication can induce psychotic episodes in people with head injuries. The U.S. Military suspended use of this drug in the days following the massacre, but hasn't released

seriously injured in a roadside

the massacre, but hasn't released an official statement whether or not Bales had ever been treated with that particular drug. Whether the anti-malarial drug was the cause or not is be-

arug was the cause or not is beside the point. Mentally healthy people do not, as a matter of course, walk into villages and open fire on innocent civilians. The narrative of modern warfare, beginning with World War II, is really one of bewilderment at man's capacity for cruelty to our fellow man. The case of Bales raises that same question: What could have motivated this man to commit such an unspeakable atrocity?

Phillip Zimbardo, the sociologist behind the infamous Stanford Prison Experiment, might have the answer. His research methods may have been suspect, but he sought to answer the question of what enables otherwise normal people to commit unspeakable crimes against others. His answer is simple but contrary to the narrative that is often used in these situations. When something horrific like this happens, the common story line is that of the "bad apple." The one bad person in a bunch, the aberration, has the sole responsibility for these appalling acts. However, Zimbardo suggests that we need to flip that story and instead of placing the blame on the individual, we blame the institution. Instead of

a bad apple, it's a bad barrel.

What this theory acknowledges is that there are some bad apples, but the greater chance is that a fundamentally good person will be put into a bad environment and that creates a situation where atrocities can occur. The factors that contribute to a bad barrel are new and unfamiliar situations, personal anonymity through uniforms and blind obedience to authority. The military has these three factors in spades. It may be difficult to understand the actions of Bales, but we do need to acknowledge that the environment soldiers are put into is a breeding ground for this kind of horror.

This is not an attempt to excuse his behavior, but merely acknowledge its roots and ensure that whatever sentence Bales receives, it's reflective of those roots.

What this means for Bales remains to be seen. However,

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it does raise the question of responsibility and culpability in these situations. After living through four deployments and the loss and injury of friends and comrades, how functional and sane would anyone be?

We put our soldiers through hell and worse and expect them to come back whole and unaffected. That's just not a reasonable expectation. While Bales awaits the determination on his mental capacity to stand trial, it's his best hope for acquittal. The current military justice system is designed to punish the apple and not the barrel. But maybe before we condemn Bales to death, a more thorough, long overdue examination is necessary of the barrel.

Brittany Sharkey is a second-year law student from Oceanside, Calif. She graduated from NYU in 2010 with a degree in politics. Follow her on Twitter (@brittanysharkey.

# Now is the time for deficit talks



BY JAY NOGAMI jaynog 1 1@gmail.com

The first of January 2013 looks nearer and nearer every day. On that day, automatic budget cuts and tax increases in the range of \$8 trillion over the next decade will be enacted. According to Barclays Capital, if these are allowed to go into effect as is, growth in early 2013 could slow to as little as one tenth of 1 percent, putting us on the verge of another recession.

Congress needs to buckle down now and take action. Recent developments show just

promise may end up being. President Obama has called the Ryan Budget, passed in the House last week, "so far to the right, it makes the Contract to America look like the New Deal." The Ryan Budget passed along party lines, with no Democrats voting in favor and 10 Republicans defecting and voting against the proposed budget. With this bill, there would be huge cuts in Social Security along with a promise to maintain federal spending at 19 percent of GDP.

That such a budget would be passed by the House, knowing anything remotely similar would make it through the Senate, is a testament to just how far apart the two sides of Congress are. In passing the Rvan Budget, Republicans that could take months.

Just this week, there was a bipartisan budget introduced in the House. The Cooper-LaTourette budget was created with a bipartisan focus in mind and it hoped to get 100 votes across both parties. Prominent liberal groups labeled the Cooper-LaTourette budget as Simpson-Bowles but tilted further right. Prominent conservative think tanks such as the Heritgate Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform and Heritage America for Action came out almost immediately, pointing out that the Cooper-LaTourette budget would involve a tax increase and was very liberal. The bill mustered a measly 38 votes in the House.

This was the first effort of the year to pass a bipartisan

has been made since last summer, when budget talks led to a postponement until Jan. 1, 2013, now is the time to focus on our country's budget and our future. Unless serious action is taken by both sides, we will be facing a huge cutback along with a huge tax increase, bringing our economy to a halt. With the economy reportedly cited as one of the most important issues of this election cycle, there should be greater focus on it in Congress.

Instead, these debates will be pushed off until November, which is lame-duck season. Republicans are confident they will gain control of both the Senate and the presidency, and then they will be able to pass whatever bill they see fit. Democrats are also fo-

trying to maintain control despite the economy growing at a snail's pace.

Pushing off the talks can only hurt Americans, regardless of party affiliation. Instead of a shoddy compromise that will just be reverted whenever it seems convenient, now is a time for real action to be taken by Congress.

Now is the time to contact your local representatives and our state senators to let them know what we think is important. Don't let Congress push off our future again and again.

After all, is it really that hard to get along when our country's prosperity is at stake?

Jay Nogami is a sophomore public policy leadership major from Denver, Colo. Follow him on Twit-

how difficult a budget com- have set the field for a debate budget. If this little progress cusing on the election cycle, ter @fay TNogami.

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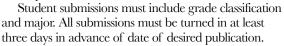
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MEMBER NEWSPAPE

OPINION

NEWS | 04.05.12 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 3

# House Ed Committee has failed Mississippi kids



BY TRENTON WINFORD gwinford@bellsouth.neT

Mississippi's public education is failing. The system is greatly underserving a large portion of Mississippi kids, despite the few bright spots where public education is working well, like Desoto and Madison counties.

The 2012 Mississippi Legislature appeared ready to move the state education system forward with charter public schools. The Senate passed a bill that was sent to the House, where the House Ed Committee let it die. Mississippi children were denied a chance at a better education system by a single vote.

While support has grown for charter public schools, opposition has as well.

Mike Sayer of Southern Echo said his group opposes charter public 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." Just a little bit of research on charter public schools shows that states that have implemented charter public schools similar to the outline in the Senate bill have seen marked improvement in education.

In an area of Memphis, demographics are whose similar to those of Jackson, an underperforming district in Mississippi, the Memphis Academy of Health Sciences is serving students in a way that the traditional public school system could never do. The same can be said for the KIPP schools in Helena, Ark., an area with demographics

nearly identical to many districts in the Delta.

Another concern of charter public school opponents is that such will lead to segregation through "white-flight." However, the wording of the legislation is very specific in outlining admissions as "colorblind.'

If there are more applicants than spots available, then admissions is determined by a lottery (random), which does not take race into account. Also, the legislation directly outlaws race-specific schools, though allowing gender- or need-specific schools.

The final and most controversial aspect of the legislation is the fact that charter public schools can be set up anywhere in the state, even in High Performing or Star Districts, the highest success categories. Essentially, people are questioning why there would be a need for charter public schools in districts that are already succeeding.

First, not all students are succeeding in districts that are labeled as such. It is possible for charter public schools to be established to serve students with disabilities or in need of different teaching approaches. These students are not specific

to underperforming districts. The most successful school in the country might still have struggling students. If we do not allow charter public schools the option of serving well-performing districts, then we could be hampering students who need options.

Second, the process of gaining a charter is intentionally difficult because everyone wants to make certain that a charter public school is needed and being started for good reason and mission. However, since gaining a charter is difficult, it is likely to not be possible to gain a charter for certain areas where one is truly needed. If a well-performing district is next to an underperforming district where a charter is unlikely to be obtained, then it could be possible to gain the charter in the wellperforming district to serve the underperforming district beside it.

For example, Madison County was most recently labeled High Performing while Canton Public School District was labeled as At Risk of Failing. Canton Public Schools District is encircled by Madison County School District. So, a charter school established in Madison County

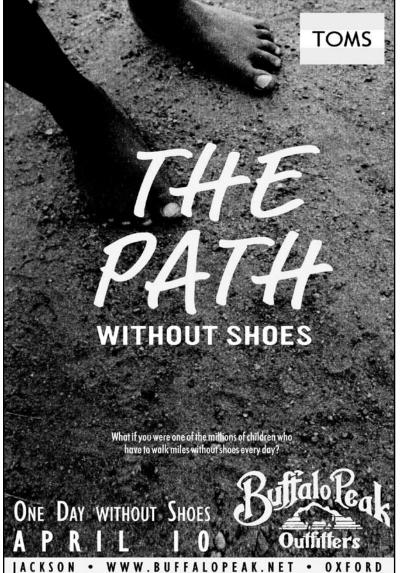


near the edge of the district borders could easily serve Canton Public School students even though it is established in a High Performing district.

Third, district ratings can fluctuate from year to year. Just because a district is High Performing one year does not mean it will be the next. If a charter public school were established in a High Performing district, it could help keep the district at High Performing rather than allowing it to slip. If the charter public school was forced to wait until the district slipped from High Performing before being established, the education system would have failed hundreds or even thousands of students.

Charter public school legislation is something Mississippi desperately needs. In a video update, Gov. Phil Bryant said he intends to call a special session of the Mississippi Legislature in order to address charter public schools and the needs of the children of Mississippi. This issue isn't redblue or black-white. It's about moving Mississippi forward together by better serving and preparing public school students.

Trenton Winford is a sophomore public policy leadership major from Madison.



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# **SPORTS**

SPORTS | 04.05.12 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 4

# New re-admissions policy provides second chance for struggling students with Ole Miss Online

BY JENNIFER NASSAR jennifernassar2@gmail.com

Students who fail their spring semester normally have a chance at redemption by taking summer courses, but this summer will be difficult for those students, thanks to the lack of available financial aid.

Due to fewer Pell Grants, financial aid for the summer will be very limited, and some students will have to rely on credit-based loans to cover their tuition.

There are many loan options to accommodate those who do not receive financial aid for the summer. The Federal Direct PLUS is available for dependent undergraduates and their families, while the Federal Direct Grad PLUS is available for graduate and professional students. All students also have the option of applying for private, non-federal student loans.

The process for the re-admissions policy began earlier in the academic year, knowing that financial aid would "change dramatically" for the summer, and part of it turned into preventing students from being retained, according to Dewey Knight, associate director of financial advising.

"We wanted to have a mechanism for students to not have to go to summer school and be able to continue in the university in the fall even though they may have gone on financial suspension," he said.

Universities across the nation like Howard University, the University of Massachusetts Boston, Arizona State University, the University of South Florida and more have effective re-admission policies.

The new re-admission policy "provides an alternative to the summer option and allows



Micah Borne talks with Vicki Wortham in the Bursar's Office.

rollment without disruption." Associate Provost Ann Canty said this policy will provide a relief to students who are struggling to pull up their GPAs.

"They can come back in the fall even if they have some academic and financial things that will not let them go in the summer," she said.

Students who apply for the re-admission policy will be required to maintain a 2.2 GPA, the average required for financial aid, and a successful completion of the course EDHE 202.

If students come out of their first semester under the policy with a GPA between 2.0-2.19, they will able to continue in the program for one more semester, during which a GPA of 2.0 must be maintained. If not, the student will be "academically dismissed from the university."

Pre-pharmacy major Kelli students to continue their en-Dulaney said she thinks the depts/cetl/newreadmiss.

policy will provide a relief to students struggling academically and financially.

"I think it's great that students will be given a second change to meet the standard GPA," she said. "It's also a good lesson-learning technique."

Psychology major Eric Overley said he understands the financial aid situation, but he said he doesn't see the policy as a lesson-learning technique and feels that students should face the consequences

"I don't think the policy is a good idea at all," he said. "There are some people who are just here to be here and students shouldn't be here if they're not getting the grades."

The deadline to apply is two weeks before the fall semester begins. Students interested in applying or needing more information about the policy icy. should visit www.olemiss.edu/ I Even teachers and faculty



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NORMAN SEAWRIGHT | The Daily Mississippia

#### BY KELLS JOHNSON krjohns2@olemiss.edu

Taking courses in the classroom can be stressful, but online courses can offer students can relieve a lot of that stress.

Ole Miss Online offers a variety of courses, like Business Calculus, Anthropology of Blues Culture and even Outdoor Recreation. Within the program, students are allowed to enroll themselves in the fall, spring and summer semesters.

When taking online courses, the coursework can be done at any time of the day.

These courses even offer students the opportunity to take and schedule tests at any time they wish. However, the program requires that all final exams be taken in person in a supervised facility.

Most online courses require students to complete at least one assignment each week, which is the equivalent of one chapter. Students in online courses also participate in weekly discussions and web chats with their professors and classmates.

If an individual receives a grade of D or lower in an inclass course, he or she has the option to retake the course online with the use of the Ole Miss freshman forgiveness pol-

who are seen daily at Ole Miss

have actually taught or are currently teaching online courses.

"Though online courses are more time-convenient, I prefer teaching in-class courses," said Maurice Hobson, an assistant professor of history and African American studies. "I like the idea of my students being able to look each other in the eye, agree to disagree on topics and keep it moving,"

When asked if her online course experience was worthwhile, biochemistry major Nikkina Hankins said, "It was great access to become familiar with online courses. The courses helped me prioritize my time to make sure I completed the work without being in a traditional classroom setting."

Many parents of students may think online courses are more expensive, but only an additional fee of \$100 is required for a student enrolled in an online course's tuition. Students who attend Ole Miss also have the option to enroll themselves in regular courses and online courses at the same time.

"Online courses are the life!" said Brooklyn Ivy, a sophomore nursing major who is currently taking online courses.

Fall online classes at Ole Miss begin Aug. 20 and end Nov. 30. The last day to register or add online classes is Aug. 31.

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# SPORTS

SPORTS | 04.05.12 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 5

### SEC standing and NCAA regional hosting on the line for men's and women's tennis

#### BY MATT SIGLER

mcsigler@olemiss.edu

The No. 16 Ole Miss women's tennis team will defend its home court this weekend in a pair of Southeastern Conference matches against No. 23 Vanderbilt (13-7, 5-3 SEC) and Kentucky (8-11, 0-8 SEC). The Rebels (13-7, 5-3 SEC) are coming off a solid road trip in which they defeated Arkansas (6-1) and LSU (6-1).

"I think any time you go on the road in the SEC, it makes things a little bit tougher when you're not sleeping in your own bed and you've got a tough crowd out there in some of those places," head coach Mark Beyers said. "I thought we handled it well, and I thought we played well especially Friday when we played without Kristi (Boxx) in singles and ended up winning 6-1. I thought we played well with it being the Arkansas/LSU road trip. It's a long travel, so it's not an easy trip."

This weekend, the Rebels will continue to be led by their dynamic senior doubles duo of Kristi Boxx and Abby Guthrie, who are ranked No. 6 in the country in doubles. Boxx will also be the leader at the No. 1 spot in singles, where she is currently ranked No. 12 in the country with a 12-5 record at No. 1 singles and 6-1 in league play.

This weekend will be a big test for the Rebels as they try to continue to make a push in

the SEC standings, where Ole Miss and Vanderbilt are tied for fourth place behind SEC-leading Florida, Georgia and SEC West leader Alabama.

"You start looking now at being top 16 in the country as far as rankings are concerned and a win over Vanderbilt would solidify that," Beyers said. "Maybe, we will move up or stay where we are, but if you talk about seedings for the SEC tournament and hosting regionals for the NCAA tournament, it is a critical match. These are the kinds of matches we are going to have to show we can win. We've proved that we can do that this year, but we are going to have to do it again to show that we have earned that host for an NCAA regional."

This weekend is also senior weekend for the Rebels where Boxx, Guthrie and Gabby Rangel will be honored for their contributions to the program. Ole Miss will get things started Friday at 3 p.m. against Vanderbilt and continue play Sunday against Kentucky at 1 p.m.

Men hit the road for two crucial SEC matches

The No. 14 Ole Miss men's tennis team will hit the road this weekend to take on SEC-leading No. 6 Kentucky (20-4, 8-0) and No. 40 Vanderbilt (7-11, 2-6 SEC). The Rebels (10-5, 6-2) SEC) recently defeated Arkansas (6-1) and LSU (5-2) to move into second place in the SEC Western



Senior Gabby Rangel plays doubles with freshman Erin Stephens in a match earlier this season. Rangel and Stephens are 12-7 at No. 2 doubles and 4-4 in league play this season.

Division standings and fourth in the overall standings, two games back of Kentucky and one game back of Georgia and Mississippi State.

"It was a great weekend beating Arkansas and LSU," head coach Billy Chadwick said. "It keeps us in the hunt as far as the SEC top teams goes. This weekend coming up is big."

Leading the Rebels into the weekend is freshman William Kallberg, who was recently named SEC Freshman of the Week. The Stockholm native has won six of his last seven matches and is currently ranked No. 61 in the nation with a 8-5 record at No. 4 singles and 5-2 in league play.

"He is a great freshman," Chadwick said. "He came here in January and has been a big part of our success. He is a kid with a lot of talent. He has a great future ahead of him and we are glad he is a Rebel."

This weekend will be big for the Rebels as far as the SEC title is concerned and potentially hosting a NCAA regional. The Wildcats have three players ranked in the top 25, led by the school's all-time wins leader Eric Quigley, who is ranked No. 7 in the nation.

"Vandy is the kind of team that if you're not ready to play, they will beat you at home," Chadwick said. "The guys have been working hard, they are focused and we'll be ready for them. Right now Kentucky is the top team in the conference; they are the only undefeated team. They have to play Mississippi State on Friday, so a lot of the SEC West championship, as well as the overall SEC, is going to be determined this weekend."

## BASEBALL,

continued from page 8

10 home runs and 37 RBI to go along with a .324 batting average, while six other hitters with at least 50 at-bats are also hitting over .300 this season.

"Obviously, you've got one of the best pure hitters in college baseball with Alex Yarbrough," Fitt said of Ole Miss. "Matt Snyder and Zach Kirksey have had huge years as seniors. Kirksev is one of those guys that I don't want to say came out of nowhere because again, he was a player they were excited about when he came in there in a really athletic kind of a player. He just needed some time to use level. The fact that he's been able to put it all together this year has been a huge difference for them."



OLE MISS SPORTS INFORMATION Joe David leads Rebels at BancorpSouth Intercollegiate



On the mound, Ole Miss is expected to send its usual three right-handers against three left-handers from Kentucky.

"I'm impressed with what Ole Miss has done on the mound," Fitt said. "That was one of their biggest question marks coming into the season, and I think they answered it."

The first pitch Friday night is set for 5:30 p.m. Saturday's AUSTN MCAFEE | The Daily Mississippid

those tools on the Division I  $\,$  Senior designated hitter Zach Kirksey ranks fifth on the team with a .324 batting average and leads the SEC with 10 home runs and 37 RBI this season.

> game will begin at 1 p.m. and Sunday's contest is set for a 12 p.m. start time.

#### **Rebels, Southern Miss Rescheduled;** Murray **State Game Moved**

The Ole Miss baseball team has made two alterations to its schedule following the rainout of Tuesday night's game between the 10th-ranked Rebels and Southern Miss at Trustmark Park.

Ole Miss and Southern Miss have rescheduled the neutral site contest for Tuesday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Trustmark Park.

Because of the shift in the game between Southern Miss and Ole Miss, the Rebels will move their game against Murray State to Wednesday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Oxford-University Stadium/Swayze Field. The game was originally slated for May 1, but was moved to accommodate the game between Southern Miss and Ole Miss.

Senior Joe David

MADISON - Joe David earned a top-20 finish while Blake Morris and Joe Lewis each shot a 73 in the final round to lead the Ole Miss men's golf team in a rain-shortened BancorpSouth Intercollegiate here at Reunion Golf and Country Club.

The Rebels finished ninth after shooting a 297 in a second round that was first postponed due to thunderstorms on Monday afternoon and once again Tuesday morning. The third round was canceled.

Wichita State took the tournament championship by one stroke, holding off second-place Central Arkansas.

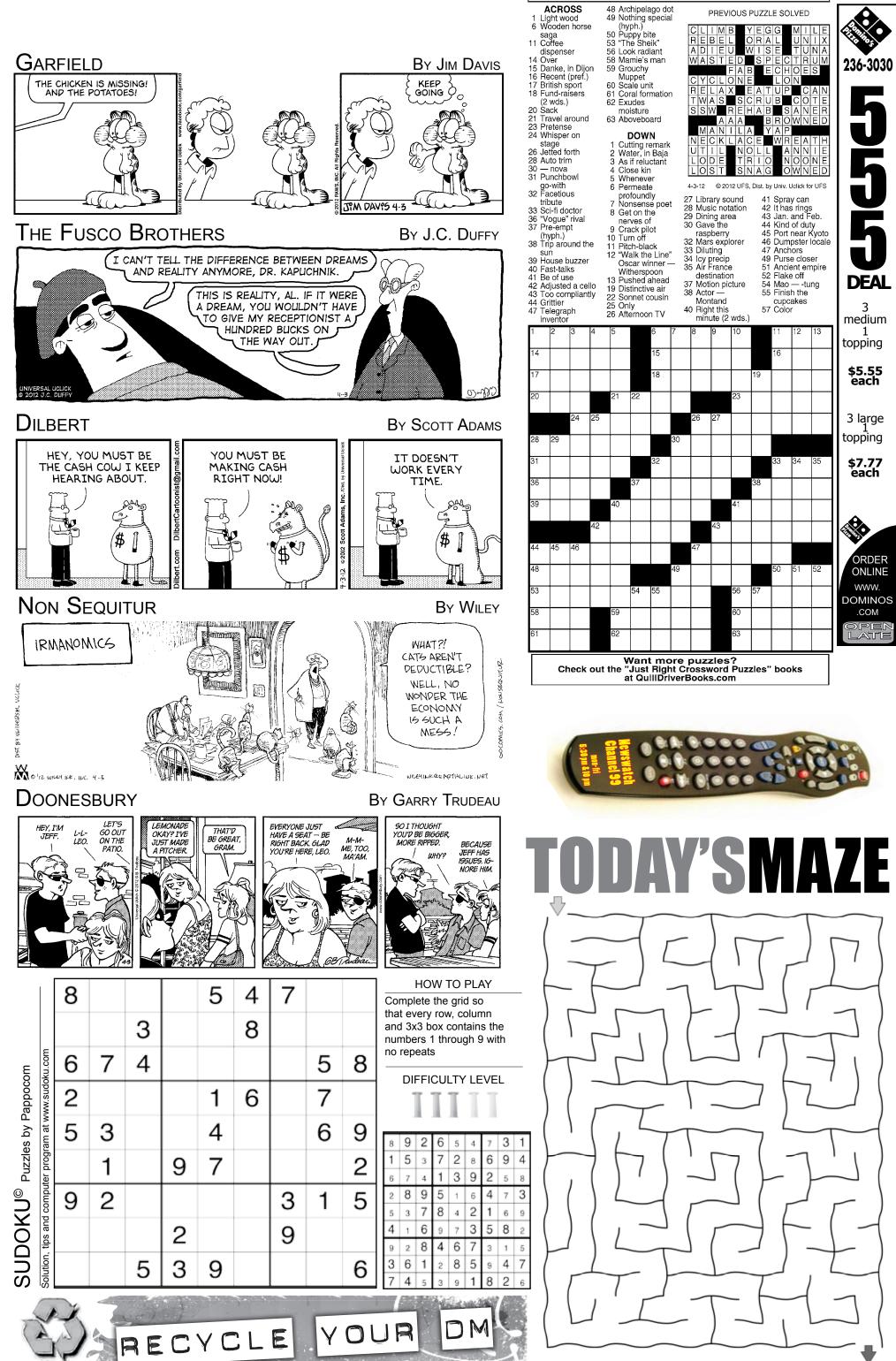
Jonathan Fly of Memphis took medalist honors, shooting an 8-under for the tournament.

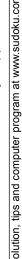
David led the Rebels with a 14th-place finish at 1-under for his ninth top-20 of the year. The senior got off to a rocky start in the round on Monday before play was suspended, but rolled in three birdies on his final 10 holes the following morning to finish with a 2-over 74.

Morris and Lewis notched the best scores of the second round for the Rebels. Morris birdied two of his final five holes to finish at 1-over for the round.

Lewis bounced back from Monday's play suspension well, going 1-under in his final 15 holes.

The Rebels will have two weeks off before they travel to Sea Island, Ga., for the SEC Championship April 20-22.





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The DEADLINE to place, correct or cancel an ad is 12 p.m. one day in advance. The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday year round, when school is in session.

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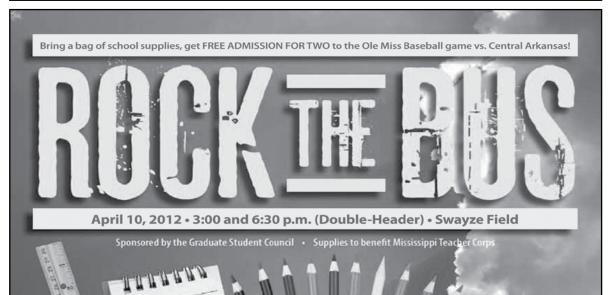
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Graduate School will be collecting school supplies from April 9 - April 27.

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Check out the Rock the Bus website at: www.olemiss.edu/rockthebus

- Markers (pack of 8) Pencils Pencil Sharpeners
  Pens (blue, black and red)

**SPORTS** 

SPORTS | 04.05.12 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 8

No. 10 Diamond Rebels carry momentum into road showdown at top-ranked Kentucky



AUSTIN MCAFEE | The Daily Mississippian Senior right-hander R.J. Hively holds a 3-1 record and 1.71 earned run average and has posted 49 strikeouts to just eight walks in 42.0 innings this season.

**BY DAVID COLLIER** dlcollie@olemiss.edu

Usually when you talk about facing a top-ranked Kentucky team, you're talking about a basketball game. However, this weekend the 10th-ranked Ole

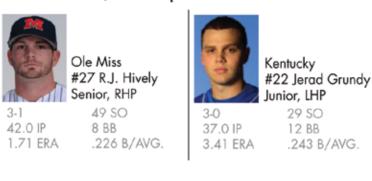
Miss baseball team, which just took two of three games from the top-ranked Florida Gators, will head to Lexington to take on the Kentucky Wildcats, who are ranked as high as No. 1 in Collegiate Baseball, for a threegame series.



## Ole Miss vs. Kentucky **Probable Starters** FRIDAY, 5:30 p.m.



## SATURDAY, 1:00 p.m.



#### SUNDAY, Noon

2-2



"It's stressful, but it's fun," junior left fielder Tanner Mathis said of playing back-to-back weekends against top-ranked teams. "It's like coach Bianco always says: it's why we came here. You know everyone is trying to beat you."

Mathis acknowledged some friends from around the Southeastern Conference saying that Ole Miss now had a target on their backs after knocking off Florida this past weekend, but he said he embraces this role. "That's good," Mathis said. "Bring it on. I think it's good. It makes for good baseball games. It makes when you get the big hit that much more enjoyable and that much more fun."

against Georgia this past week. Kentucky returned to action last night against Dayton.

Kentucky

Junior, LHP

47 SO

8 BB

#34 Taylor Rodgers

.273 B/AVG.

Last season, Ole Miss swept Kentucky in Oxford, but all three games were decided by two runs or less.

"It really has been a surprising story in college baseball," Baseball America's national writer for college baseball Aaron Fitt said of Kentucky. "We had Kentucky pegged as a regional team heading into the season, but we had them as the last team out of the SEC. And now, we've got them as a No. 7 national seed. That's a pretty incredible jump. "It would've been pretty easy to shrug off Kentucky when they were starting off the year 19-0 against a really tough non-conference schedule, but you sweep South Carolina, that opens up a lot eyes. I was

really impressed they were able to win that series at Georgia last weekend. Kentucky, they really don't have any glaring weaknesses when you look at their club, and I think they're for real."

Kentucky is certainly the surprise team in the SEC so far this season, and the Wildcats have posted a perfect 20-0 mark at home this season. Cliff Hagan Stadium includes a short rightfield porch, where it's just 310 feet compared to 340 feet in left field, which favors the team's three left-handed weekend starters and two leading hitters who are both left-handed.

"That just says how much their older guys that they've had the past couple of years have worked and of how much their coaches have stuck behind them and just kept pushing forward," Mathis said of Kentucky's success this season. "It's good for them. It'll be a great weekend over there. They're obviously really good."

Ole Miss and Kentucky are the top two teams in the Southeastern Conference in hitting. Not including Wednesday night's game, Kentucky leads the league with a .325 team batting average while Ole Miss is hitting .311 as a team. The two teams are also first and second in runs scored. The Wildcats average 7.9 runs per game, followed by the Rebels, who average 7.2 runs per game.

Additionally, Ole Miss and Kentucky are both in the top four in hits, RBI, doubles, home runs and total bases.

The Wildcats are led at the plate by freshman first baseman A.J. Reed and freshman outfielder Austin Cousino. Reed is hitting .359 with 30 RBI and two home runs while Cousino is hitting .358 with 24 RBI and five home runs. They are among eight Kentucky hitters who are hitting over .300 with more than 50 at-bats this season.

Ole Miss junior second baseman Alex Yarbrough, a Baseball America midseason All-American selection, continues to lead Ole Miss in hitting. His .426 batting average and 46 hits both rank second in the SEC, along with 33 RBI and three home runs this season. Senior designated hitter Zach Kirksey leads the league with

## IS NOW HIRING for next year!

#### Positions Available:

Programming Production

News

Summer Assistant Manager also needed

Applications available at the Student Media Center, 201 Bishop Hall or on the Rebel Radio 92.1 Facebook page DEADLINE: Friday, April 13th at 5pm Call (228) 547 - 0842 for details

The Rebels (20-8, 5-4 SEC) had their Tuesday game against Southern Miss postponed while the Wildcats improved to 27-2, 7-2 SEC with a series win

See BASEBALL, PAGE 5

