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4-12-2012

## April 12, 2012: Grove Edition

The Daily Mississippian

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# THE GROOVE

EDITION

# REESE IS READY



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Cancer never sleeps, but neither will the fight: Ole Miss Relay for Life Friday



COLUMN

# The Weekly Top Zen: Painter of Blight



BY ANDY PAUL  
@anandypaul

I turned in the final draft of my honors thesis collection of short stories last week. It was the culmination of roughly eight months of work, in which time I internally worked out a number of personal demons I have struggled with throughout my teenage and young adult years. The final product is something of which I am extremely proud, and I hope that anyone who reads it will be both entertained and

moved. But this doesn't mean I am satisfied by it. No, I will never be satisfied by it. This is not because of some deep artistic neurosis regarding the "never-ending toil of the writer's world;" it's because I will never be able to write something as astounding as Thomas Kinkade's life on paper.

Kinkade, the self-described "Painter of Light," died this past weekend at the age of 54 from "natural causes," although the results of an autopsy are pending. Although you may not know what he looks like, you have almost undoubtedly seen his work everywhere. He's on every drugstore calendar. He's on every Bible study group's wall. You might have even finished a 500-piece jig-

saw puzzle that revealed itself to be a Kinkade snowy cottage (the ultimate anticlimax, if you ask me). Kinkade once estimated that one in 20 Americans owned at least one of his works. It was a pretty grandiose assumption, but when you consider he raked in about \$100 million a year, it isn't all that ridiculous a statement.

Thomas Kinkade is known for his mass-marketed, idyllic, some would say tepid and emotionless, renderings of countrysides, hilly knolls and Christian imagery. Art critics abhor him, contending he appeals to the basest of artistic instincts and demeans his fans with his thoughtless art. Personally, I don't care. If you want to own a Kinkade paint-

ing, own a Kinkade painting. There's no accounting for bucolic taste. I'm not a fan of his work, but I'll be darned if I'm not a fan of his life.

The man was a nut job, by all accounts. Yes, he was almost undoubtedly a severe alcoholic; I am very sorry to hear it and wish that on no one. But the things Kinkade supposedly did while sauced up are astounding. Here's a brief account of just some of the charges against him:

While attending a Siegfried and Roy show in Las Vegas, a drunk Kinkade began shouting "Codpiece! Codpiece!" at the performers. A woman once revealed that the painter openly groped her breasts at a painting showcase in Indi-

ana. He was a fan of territorial urination and would often "claim" things by whizzing on them. This included peeing on a statue of Winnie the Pooh at the Disneyland Hotel while muttering, "This one's for you, Walt." Every one of his children has the middle name "Christian." OK, so that last one isn't crazy — but he's got, like, four daughters. Think of something more creative, Kinkade.

So, yeah. I'm finished as a writer. I will never, ever be able to think of just a handful of the debauched things Thomas Kinkade did when he wasn't painting Jesus holding glowy, fleecy, baby lambs. RIP Kinkade — the Lord Byron of the modern age.

COLUMN

# A slice of "American" nostalgia



BY JOSH PRESLEY  
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I'm sure a grand total of no one was asking for another "American Pie" sequel, but the past decade has given rise to the trend of the belated "fourquel,"

the fourth entry that comes long after the heyday of the original trilogies. Examples include "Live Free or Die Hard," "Scream 4" and "Indiana Jones and the Most Angry I've Ever Been in a Movie Theater." It's a shameless cash-grab to capitalize on name value, but sometimes it's still fun to catch up with beloved characters from yesteryear. "American Reunion" is one of those times.

Actually, this is the eighth "American Pie" movie, as a few

terrible direct-to-DVD spinoffs were released under the "American Pie" banner. I really doubt this has helped the name value of the series, but at least this time we have pretty much the entire original cast for the first time since the second film.

The extent of the plot is pretty much that the characters from the original are attending, as the plot suggests, their high school reunion, and we follow the four guys as they reconnect and try to relive some of their glory days. Interestingly, all the male actors look like they've hardly aged a day since the last "American Pie" film, while all the female actors look a little worse for wear. Then again, this includes Tara Reid. Some of my younger readers may not recall, but there was a time when Tara Reid was an attractive

young lady. Then again, there was also a time when Creed was the biggest band in the world. Sometimes I really don't miss the '90s.

Anyway, the cast all do a fine job playing the characters exactly the same as they were in the earlier films. I guess a little character growth would be too much to ask for in a movie like this. These people are supposed to be adults with families and careers, yet they behave just like they did in high school. This seemed a little forced, but I suppose it wouldn't be an "American Pie" movie if we were dealing with a bunch of mature adults.

The conflict of the second half of the film is predicated on one of my biggest pet peeves: the "big misunderstanding." That is, where the main charac-

ter is caught in a web of lies that could have been easily avoided. In this case, Jim (Jason Biggs) has a young girl trying to seduce him, yet never simply tells her he is married and has a child. Why not? Because the movie wouldn't have a conflict if he did. This is lazy writing and it never ceases to annoy me.

Also, Stifler (Sean William Scott) seems a little too gung-ho about the idea of getting into bed with a high school girl, and for some reason, none of the other characters seem to think this is creepy.

Still, the movie is perfectly acceptable entertainment. I sat in a movie theater for an hour and a half and never got bored — even laughed out loud a few times. There's plenty of adult themes and toilet humor, but it never reaches the vulgar and unfunny depths of "The Hangover Part II." "American Reunion" is good-natured nostalgia, and that's all it ever needed to be.

**THE GROVE**  
EDITION

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NEWS



COLUMN

# Test Drive: 2013 Ford Mustang GT



SUSAN HOLT | The Daily Mississippian



BY MATTHEW BISHOP  
mtbishop2@gmail.com

Ever since Ford revolutionized the Mustang in 2005 with retro styling and new engines, the Mustang has kept getting better. In 2010, they updated the retro look, and then in 2011 they came out with the all-new 5.0-liter, 412-horsepower engine.

The Mustang evolves a little more for 2013 with some slight changes and improvements. The exterior gets a subtle refreshing that gives a more aggressive look. The front grille and splitter are more prominent than before, and the hood has gotten a pair of functional hood vents. The rocker panels are now painted to match the body color, which now comes in an attention-getting lime green color called "Gotta have it Green," which looks like it could glow in the dark.

The biggest changes to the exterior have to do with lights. I know this doesn't sound like much, but once you see the new, chiseled LED taillights with smoked lenses, you'll instantly fall in love; and don't worry, they still retain the popular sequential-turn-signal function.

HID headlamps are now standard on all models and have little light bars next to them, which makes for a nice, subtle accent. Ford even offers a floodlight underneath the mirrors that feature the Mustang logo; your friends will be amazed.

Sadly, the interior of the Mustang doesn't see many changes for 2013 and continues to be the weak point for the Mustang with its cheap materials. This was even worse on our base GT, which lacked the aluminum trim of the premium models.

There are, however, two new options available for the interior. One is the option of cloth- or leather-trimmed Recaro sports seats that were found on the BOSS 302 last year, an option worth considering since we thought they were amazing on the BOSS.

attribute to the eight extra ponies, but I'd like to think I've improved my driving since then. We didn't have a chance to do a quarter-mile run, but I would expect it to be the same as the 2011 and 2012 models, which were 13.0 seconds at 110 mph.

The electronic power steering system in the Mustang now has three modes; comfort, standard and sport. We drove it mainly in sport mode, and it provided amazing feedback and response and seemed to be perfectly weighted — it just begs you to give more.

A new performance option for 2013 is the Track Package, which is only available on manual transmission-equipped cars, and comes with a 3.73 rear axle ratio, engine cooler, upgraded radiator, Brembo brake package with special 19-inch wheels and performance tires, and the same Torsen limited slip differential that's on the BOSS 302. Like the Recaro seats, this is a must have option for any auto enthusiast.

The base price of the 2013 Mustang GT is \$31,095, which at \$74 a horsepower makes it the cheapest car per horsepower on the market. Add in the must-have options that I spoke about like the Recaro seats (\$1,595) and Track Package (\$2,495), and the total comes to \$35,185.

The Mustang just keeps getting better year after year.

There are still some improvements and refinements that can be made, but it is way ahead of its competition, and I personally can't wait for the next-generation Mustang that's due out in 2014, its 60th anniversary.

*The test car was provide by Belk Ford in Oxford.*

# Weekend Bound in Oxford Town **APRIL**

1 2

THURSDAY

**Jimmy Reidy Benefit****Concert @Ajax****Jimbo Mathus****@ The Blind Pig****Karaoke @ Frank & Marlee's****DJ D-Wade @The Library****Jimmy Phillips and the****Rumminators****@ Proud Larry's****The Chad Wesley Band****@ Rooster's****Clint Jordan @ Soulshine****Karaoke****@ Taqueria el Milagro**

1 3

FRIDAY

**Maybelle's Lovers @Ajax****AM Band @ The Blind Pig****Dueling Pianos****@ Frank & Marlee's****DJ Mario @The Library****Gunboay w/ Attractive****Nuisance @ Proud Larry's****JP Soars and The Red****Hots @ Rooster's**

1 4

SATURDAY

**Dueling Pianos****@ Frank and Marlee's**

SATURDAY

**Cowboy Mario @ The****Library****The Pimps of Joytime @****Proud Larry's****The Litigants @ Roosters****Jay Patrick Marlar @****Soulshine****Karaoke @****Taqueria el Milagro****The Wild Card Charlies****@ Two Stick**

1 6

MONDAY

**Trivia Night @The Blind Pig****The Legit Jazz Quintet****@ Proud Larry's**

1 7

TUESDAY

**Open Mic Night****@ The Blind Pig****Karaoke @ Roosters****Trivia Night @ Two Stick**

1 8

WEDNESDAY

**Dry Rub @ Irie****Open Mic Night****@ The Blind Pig****Country DJ @ Roosters****Aron Shiers @ SnackBar**

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## Former Rebel athlete breaks American record and sets her sights on Summer Olympics

CAITLIN ADAMS | The Daily Mississippian

BY CAITLIN ADAMS  
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If you walked by Brittney Reese on the sidewalk, you would most likely pass by her slender frame and shy grin without realizing who she is. She blends in around here with her love of Ajax catfish, piano lessons and Xbox 360, and word of her success never passes through her own lips.

Reese prefers her nights spent in front of the TV rather than at the bar. Her arms and legs are covered in tattoos ranging from Bible verses to her given nickname, "B Reese Da Beast."

"I'm a homebody, and I just like to stick to myself," she said.

But if you paid close attention to the track shoe inked on her ankle, you might get the idea that Reese is anything but ordinary.

At 25, the Gulfport native, Ole Miss graduate and former Ole Miss track and field star is a four-time long jump world champion and is expected to bring home the gold medal from this year's London Summer Olympics.

Reese has gained worldwide attention as an Olympic hopeful and successful world champion, but her true story lies in her laidback nature and Mississippi roots. Reese has had huge success both on and off the track, but she won't let those triumphs change who she is, no matter how far she jumps.

"She is the same old Brittney, and I love her for staying that way," said her mother, Carla Young.

Reese did not always see a future for herself in track. Growing up, her true passion was basketball and she lit up the moment she set foot on the court. Young described her playing as if Reese were in heaven.

"Basketball was her love, and track was something you did if you played basketball to help keep you in shape," Young said.

Reese's focus did not switch to track until the incessant encouragement of her mother made her think twice about her future.

"I explained to her that in track she could make it herself, but in

basketball she had to have a team," Young said.

Reese took her mother's words to heart.

"She is the reason I am here and the main reason I'm running track," Reese said.

The rest is history that can be seen in the record books. Four world champion titles and one American record later, her mother's encouragement seems to have paid off.

When Reese ultimately decided to make the transition from basketball to track, she quickly found out that it would not be as easy as she expected. After being one core credit shy of NCAA eligibility standards, Reese had to attend community college to fulfill required credits. She went to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and found herself back on the basketball court.

She remained there for two years and the basketball team saw many successes, but when Joe Walker, the Ole Miss track and field head coach, got her to Oxford, she put down the ball and picked up her running shoes.

Reese and Walker instantly formed a close relationship based on their love of track and their trust in each other.

"Brittney and I just click," Walker said. "I am somewhat of a father or uncle figure to her, and if she couldn't jump tomorrow it wouldn't change what I thought about Brittney at all."

Reese ran track under Walker and was named the 2007 and 2008 Women's Outdoor SEC Athlete of the Year. As fate would have it, the one core credit she was shy of, English, ended up being her major and she returned to Ole Miss to finish her degree and graduated in 2011.

Reese left the Ole Miss track and field team after the 2008 season to turn professional after Walker encouraged her to do so.

"He basically told me I needed more of a challenge than I was getting at the college level," Reese said.

Walker currently doubles as the Ole Miss track coach and Reese's personal coach. He has faith that she will get the recognition she deserves this summer.

"I would say she never ceases to amaze me, but I have such confidence in her that, in a way, it doesn't amaze but it still makes me really proud," he said. "Every time we put pressure on Brittney, she seems to show us that she's got what it takes."

In 2008, with Walker's guidance, Brittney competed in the Beijing Olympics and ended up placing fifth, a grand accomplishment for most, but Reese felt she had more work to do.

"One of the toughest things I've been through was knowing that I was supposed to get on the podium but didn't," Reese said. "After the meet I got on the bus and just cried because I was so hurt."

But Reese didn't leave Beijing empty handed. She may not have taken home the gold, but she walked away with a Nike sponsorship with the help of her agent.

Every day since the summer of 2008, Reese has been preparing for this summer's competition.

"I've completely wiped out what I did in 2008 and just want to start over fresh and keep my winning streak going," she said.

In June, Reese will travel to Oregon to compete at nationals to qualify for the Olympics. The top three competitors win spots on the national team and go to London this summer. Until then, she trains on the Ole Miss campus for two to three hours a day, and no matter how much her legs ache, she knows the pain is worth it.

"If I want to get on that podium and don't want to be left out again, I'm going to have to be tired and just push through," she said.

And pushing through is exactly what she's done. Reese recently returned home from Istanbul, Turkey, where she snagged her fourth world title and managed to break the American indoor record set by Jackie Joyner-Kersey in 1989. Reese jumped 7.23 me-

ters, the farthest distance any female has jumped in more than a decade. She also walked away as the only female in history to win back-to-back indoor titles.

"I was laughing because it was finally mine, and I now have something to call my own," Reese said.

Joyner-Kersey's outdoor record is next on her list, but Reese can be assured that there are no hard feelings between the two.

"She wants me to break it," Reese said. "She is like a mentor to me and texts me for motivation."

Reese has excelled on the track field, but she does not show any signs of slowing down when she takes off her running shoes. An avid supporter of philanthropy and a self-proclaimed family aficionado, Reese gives back to those around her.

"It's not just about the money," said Mark Pryor, Reese's agent through World Express Athletic Management. "To her, it's about helping other people."

Last November, Reese returned to her hometown on the Gulf Coast and bought 100 turkeys to hand out to families in need. On a trip to Canada last month, she met with elementary school children and talked about the importance of obtaining an education. Reese has also set up a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Oxford to get involved as a mentor to the children.

Never one to keep her winnings to herself, she recently asked her agent to use a portion of her prize money to set up a college fund for her nieces.

"She's not your everyday athlete, and I think that's the secret to her success," Pryor said. "She's not worried about her ranking, what others are jumping or how she is viewed; instead, her focus is about doing the best she can, boosting people up and loving on her family."

No matter the number of stamps on her passport or medals around her neck, Reese plans to stay true to her roots.

Whenever she visits Gulfport,

she still attends the church she grew up in, and when September rolls around you can count on her to be eating her mother's famous seafood étouffée at her birthday blowout thrown by her family.

Reese is proud to be a Mississippian and hopes to make the Hospitality State proud when she steps into the London Olympic Stadium.

"No matter where I am, I will always be a Southern girl," she said. "I want to bring that gold medal back home with me."

**Check  
thedonline.com  
for an interactive  
timeline of Brittney  
Reese.**

**Watch NewsWatch  
channel 99 tonight  
at 5:30 p.m. for  
a segment on  
Brittney Reese.**

**Saturday's Event:  
The Mississippi  
Open will take  
place at the Ole  
Miss Track and  
Field Complex  
Saturday, April  
14. The meet  
will be an all-  
day event and  
will be a senior  
day recognizing  
graduating  
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London 2012  
Olympic Games is  
on Friday, July 27,  
2012.**

**Duration July 25 -  
August 12**





PHOTOS BY CAITLIN ADAMS | The Daily Mississippian

# Timeline: Brittney Reese

## 2004

Named the Mississippi Gatorade Player of the Year in track and field while at Gulfport High School

## 2006

Joined the Ole Miss track team under the direction of Joe Walker

## 2007

Qualified for World Championship team and competed in Osaka, Japan and took 8th place

## 2007-2008

All American (Indoor and Outdoor), SEC indoor and outdoor long jump champion



## 2008

NCAA indoor and outdoor long jump champion

Named SEC Indoor and Outdoor Women's Field Athlete of the Year

Turned professional after Ole Miss track season

Scored sponsorship deal with Nike

## August 2008

Competed in the Beijing Summer Olympics and took home 5th place in the long jump competition

## August 2009

Won first World Outdoor Long jump Championship Gold Medal in Berlin

## March 2010

Won first World Indoor Long Jump Championship Gold Medal in Doha, Qatar

## August 2011

Won second World Outdoor Long Jump Championship Gold Medal in Daegu, South Korea



## August 7-8 2012

Expected to begin competing in the long jump event at the London Summer Olympics

## Late June 2012

Will compete at the U.S. National trials in Eugene, Oregon to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics

## March 2012

Won second World Indoor Championship Gold Medal in the long jump in Istanbul, Turkey and broke Jackie Joyner-Kersey's American indoor record with her jump of 7.23 meters



# Daylight Savings brings savored Southern art to Southside Gallery

BY TERESA HENDRIX  
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Afternoons are lasting longer in the newly green Grove, while fresh blooms and home runs put some extra sweet in our tea. Springtime brings celebration to all things Mississippian and Southside Gallery will join in this April, exhibiting two different homegrown artists.

"It's always nice to showcase the people who are around you," Southside director Will Cook said of the exhibitors, oil painter Lou Jordan and ceramicist Yerger Andre, both Ole Miss graduates who grew up in Jackson. "I thought it would be a show that would have the interest of a lot of local people and people from the state."

Jordan, who currently resides in Charlottesville, Va., showed her work in 2000 at the University of Mississippi Museum and currently has pieces displayed in the Lyceum, while Andre recently

exhibited at the New Orleans Ogden Museum of Southern Art with fellow Mississippi potters and has open house shows at the home of his mother and fellow artist in Jackson.

Oxford seems to be a desired setting for both of alums.

"Oxford is highly receptive to new work," Andre said, "I took (ceramics) up (at Ole Miss) and had no idea what I was getting into, but I got a lot of support from my professors at the university, which continues to this day."

Jordan holds a similar view, seeing Southside as a perfect venue for her "homecoming" show.

"It's kind of in a nest of activity and intellectual stimulation," she said.

"Right down the street from a bookstore, right on the historic Square. I think Oxford has always had an arts culture, if you include literature and music and the visual arts and just interesting people who are works of art in them-

selves."

Not only do these artists have personal ties to and fondness for Oxford and the region, but they also appreciate Southern influence on art and even capture it in their work. Jordan created a diptych tribute to Mississippi artists entitled "Mississippi 1 and 2" that will be featured in the Southside exhibit.

"I took parts of the paintings of artists like Theora Hamblett, Walter Anderson, Mildred Wolfe, Bill Dunlap and others and painted in their style and merged them all together," Jordan said, explaining this work.

"I was learning along the way how they achieved their images, their use of colors, just their method of painting."

She describes these and other Southern artists as "extremely aware and original artists. There is a storytelling element (in Southern art), and shyness is not a part of it. Each artist I admire strikes out on their own and just makes the art work."

As a fellow Southern artist, Andre would agree that confident originality is key.

"I've learned that you have to be true to your own intuition," he said. "I have a natural tendency to make clean forms, and I do a lot of trimming on my pots so they have nice balanced necks. I've allowed myself to really focus on every bit of the construction process, and I tend to layer the crystalline glazes so I can get these nice streaks and spots."

As unique as Southern artists make their work, community and familiarity hold as values to them as well, resonating beyond the traditional hospitality of the table and the Grove.

"If you scratch the surface, there are quite a few potters here in Mississippi," Andre said.

The Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild helps to maintain qual-



TERESA HENDRIX | The Daily Mississippian

ABOVE: Work by ceramicist Yerger Andre. BELOW: An oil painting by Lou Jordan.

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ity standards throughout the state, and I've gotten tons of support over the years from fellow members."

Jordan's work for the Southside exhibit, including her tribute to Southern art, honors this familiarity with the title "In Mind."

"I think that's an expression we all use so often: I'll keep you in mind," she said. "So all the art that I've displayed (at Southside) is something

that made such an impression upon me that I wanted to save it and be in touch with that image for a long, long time."

Members of the Oxford and Ole Miss community can receive a local, cultural experience to savor with Southside Gallery's exhibit through April 28, as both Jordan and Andre get back in touch with their college roots and bring something newly enjoyable to the town that's in bloom.

the lyric oxford

For tickets and show info visit [www.thelyricoxford.com](http://www.thelyricoxford.com).  
Lyric box office open Wed - Sat and days of show 12-5.



# Weekend Wanderer: more local tomfoolery

BY MADISON RUTHVEN  
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I'll start off by saying that I had higher hopes for the content of this week's article. I was hoping to get at least two hours outside of Oxford to something really off the beaten path, but thanks to rainy weather, chilly nights and the fact that all of my friends are constantly as busy as I am, I had to settle for making my own fun in good ole' Oxford town. In retrospect, that's not necessarily a bad thing; realistically, weekend vacations take a decent amount of effort to plan, most of which goes toward working around everybody's individual schedule. At such a critical point in the semester, not many people have time for a lengthy trip of any kind, but we do have a few hours here and there. That's what this week's article is about. True enough, it's not a nail-biting read, but there's something to be said for finding ways to relieve some stress whenever you can.

## The Whirlpool Trails

More than a few people already know about the Whirlpool Trails in Oxford, but don't be so quick to write them off. Located at the very end of Coliseum Drive South (away from the campus), the original purpose of the trails has been lost for centuries. All who have tried to find out what it was have long since died tragic, painful deaths. That being said, I have done no research on why the trails are there, and, if you know, I'd love to hear. Most people use the trails for some form of exercise, and a couple of people just wear Under Armour or Nike shorts and kind of stroll around and look healthy while the rest of us sweat, but the thing I'd like to focus on is biking. The main trail is where most people go running, but branching off of the main trail are various smaller cycling paths meandering through the forest. The trails have a diverse level of difficulty, ranging from boring, flat trails covered with pine straw to panic-inducing, brake-screaming, vertical death traps that should only be attempted by professional cyclists who have made peace with all of their

loved ones.

Most of the trails are a good medium between intensity and relaxation. One minute you can be hanging on for dear life, and then the next you'll be cruising passed moss-covered trees fallen over one of the many small creeks winding through the forest. Mountain bikes are optimal, but if your bike isn't a mountain bike, it's still possible to ride the Whirlpool trails. I rode on the trails with a one-speed beach cruiser from Walmart until very recently. It's nothing close to easy but still possible.

Maps of the trails can be your very own after one quick and easy Google search. If you have any questions about biking in Oxford or other biking needs, I don't want to hear them, but the Oxford Bicycle Company located on Jackson Avenue East is a great place to start.

## Camping at Lake Puskus

I had been planning a camping trip for a couple of weeks, but it kept getting postponed due to weather, time constraints or the fact that all of my friends have been occupied with trivialities such as "work" or "studying," whatever that means. It came down to the wire this past Saturday night. I had a deadline Monday morning that I had already pushed back repeatedly, and my friends were still too busy or too hung over. This led me to make what was, in hindsight, a terrible decision that led to two valuable lessons: never, under any circum-

stances, go camping when you are alone or hung over. I wasn't too thrilled about being either, but, dammit, I had an article to write and I convinced myself to man up and that it could actually be fun.

It wasn't.

Lake Puskus is a charming place, located 30 minutes east of Oxford on Highway 30 toward New Albany. The lake is good for fishing, and there are about 10 or 15 campsites complete with picnic tables and fire pits. I like it personally because of its pristine scenery and relatively short distance from Oxford. I have been there many times before with friends and with plenty of time for preparation, but Saturday, I sadly had neither. I could have gotten there earlier, but after I woke up at 3 p.m., a friend suggested Mexican food for our post-debauchery afternoon brunch. No one can turn down Mexican for breakfast.

By the time I had gathered all of my camping supplies and made it to the lake, it was 7 p.m. and I had an hour to set up camp and start my fire. Aside from an altercation with an irritable yellow jacket (I destroyed his home and tried to end his life), everything went as smooth as a Georgia peach—and then it was dark. This is where my troubles arose. Due to my hung-over state of mind, my thoughts were all strange and disjointed, similar to a Faulkner novel. If he gave his brain anywhere near that kind of beating in order to write his novels, I both respect and pity him. As the shadows descended,



The Whirlpool Trails

MADISON RUTHVEN | The Daily Mississippian

my light-hearted camping trip turned into a dimly illuminated limbo world, where time had no meaning and my thoughts gradually turned darker than the shadows that consumed them. Actually, I'm pretty sure that is a line out of a Faulkner novel. Maybe I never even left Puskus ...

After whittling countless sticks into countless pointless sticks with points, I threw them into the fire and then whittled more pointless pointy sticks. After about four hours of this, one of my friends finally agreed to come out, for which I'm eternally grateful. I

snapped out of my hangover-induced limbo world, and the rest of the night was as right as rain. I woke up the following morning, soaked up the glory of Puskus in daylight and left with my two valuable lessons and a whole new appreciation for Survivor Man. Regardless of my sub-par experience this weekend, Puskus is a great place to go camping. Day use is \$3 a person and over night camping is \$7.

*Madison Ruthven is a green-eared know-nothing. Drop some knowledge on him at mdruthven@live.com.*

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# Cancer never sleeps, but neither will the fight

BY JONECE DUNIGAN  
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Cancer never sleeps. The disease claimed more than 572,000 lives in 2011, according to the American Cancer Society.

Through all the pain, however, cancer sprouts an everlasting hope, bringing people together.

“Cancer never sleeps, but neither does the fight to find the cure.”

This has been the motto for Ole Miss’ Relay for Life team. On April 13 from 6 p.m. on Friday until 6 a.m. on Saturday at the Lyceum Circle, they will remember the lost, celebrate the survivors and raise money for cancer research and Hope Lodges, which is a temporary place of stay for patients’ families when they are facing treatment in another city.

Relay for Life has been fundraising since the middle of fall semester and has raised more than \$36,000 so far. More than 550 students are participating, and each team pledged to raise \$1,000. Angels for A Cure is leading the fundraiser with \$6,210. Publicity

chairman of the Relay for Life committee Doug Odom said he welcomes any person from any social background to create a team.

“We have teams from all walks of campus life,” he said. “Greek teams, residence hall teams, the Honors College; but even if someone wanted to start a team with four of their close friends, they would absolutely have the power to do so.”

The Luminaria ceremony is the most quiet event of the night and the most powerful, according to junior broadcast journalism major Margaret Ann Morgan.

“It’s beautiful with all of the candles lit and everyone walking together,” she said. “That ceremony shows the effects cancer has had on so many, but it shows even more that we are not going to stop fighting for a cure.”

Advocacy chairman of the Relay for Life committee Adam Blackwell said he believes being a part of the mission to fight cancer is one of the biggest impacts one can make on the Ole Miss campus.

“Everyone has been affected by



MALLORY SIMERVILLE | The Daily Mississippian

cancer in some way,” Blackwell said. “It touches all of us, and everyone has something they can give back.”

The theme for this year is “Cancer Doesn’t Take a Holiday.” Each team will decorate their tents in honor of a holiday and each hour the event will have entertainment and games relating to a certain holiday. During the birthday hour, for example, they plan to have a birthday cake-eating contest. These activities, along with the “Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back” ceremonies, give students and survivors the best treatment life could offer: each other.

“When one of our family members is affected by cancer, it’s so important that we all surround them in support and love,” Blackwell said. “That’s what we do with Relay for Life.”

Morgan said she is thankful for the love the Ole Miss family gave to her when her mother was diag-

nosed with both pancreatic and liver cancer.

“I cannot imagine coming back home to anywhere else other than Ole Miss after such a huge loss in my life,” Morgan said, “They were there from the very moment I found out about my mom’s cancer, and they are still here for me today.”

Morgan has participated in Relay since she was little. This year will be a tender experience for her. Relay kicks off with a Survivors Lap where survivors will parade their victory around Lyceum Circle. It is a celebration her mother will not be in, but Morgan believes she was a survivor in her own right because her mother’s optimistic demeanor did not change.

“She was so strong in her faith,” Morgan said. “The first thing she told me and my brother was, ‘We are going to get through this.’ Her strength from that point forward is just amazing. I don’t know how

she did it, but she made sure the rest of us were strong, too.”

Morgan said she still gets choked up thinking about her mother’s death sometimes, but never has the loss dulled her viewpoint in life.

“One thing I learned from my mom while she was sick (is that) we don’t always get to choose the life that is handed us, but what we do get to choose is the way we live our lives,” she said.

Blackwell has been a part of Relay since his high school.

“I Relay because my grandmother is a 10-year breast cancer survivor,” he said.

“Many of my aunts have also been affected by breast cancer. I also Relay so that future generations won’t have to worry about cancer.”

Odom decided to become part of the committee after witnessing Relay with the Honors College team.

“Cancer has affected many close friends and a few family members of mine, and working on this committee is definitely very humbling,” he said. “The amount of positive reinforcement that Relay provides for victims, survivors, family and friends is absolutely incredible.”

For information about how students can make a team and take a stance against cancer, visit [www.relayforlife.com/olemiss](http://www.relayforlife.com/olemiss).



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