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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

Physical plant director defends letter

BY ADAM GANUCHEAU & GRANT BEEBE dmeditor@gmail.com

Physical Plant Department Director Ashton Pearson, who emailed all the department's employees a letter concerning social media posts, said he felt obligated to send the letter after being told of his employee's behavior and that he consulted an administrator and an athletics official before sending it.

The letter was emailed following the Ole Miss football victory over LSU on Oct. 19. The letter from Pearson chastised an unnamed physical plant employee who had posted support for LSU using social media while working on the sidelines at the game. The letter said that while the university cannot dictate which teams employees may support, if employees cannot support Ole Miss, they should "remain neutral and without comment."

"Under no circumstances do I, or any member of my staff, monitor another employee's social media accounts or emails," Pearson said in an email this week to The Daily Mississippian, in answer to questions. "However, when posts made by one of my staff are brought to my attention, I am obligated to address them."

Pearson said that the concern was not employee alle-



UM Physical Plant Thursday night.

giance, but a personnel issue concerning individual job performance.

"This was simply a case of an employee not giving their undivided attention to a job for which they were hired to do," Pearson said. "The employee was observed by an athletics administration official posting to a social media site while actively engaged in performing their role in support of an athletic event."

Danny Blanton, director of public relations at the university, said the problem is not with making social media posts.

"This issue is not about so-

cial media," Blanton said. "It is about employee conduct while they are on the clock and gameday responsibilities."

KATIE WILLIAMSON | The Daily Mississippian

Before he sent the letter, Pearson said he deliberated with an administrator and the athletics department.

"After discussing this with

the athletics official and a university administrator, it seemed necessary to write a memo advising my staff that, while on the clock, they are expected to perform their assigned duties and not engaging in distracting activities,' Pearson said. "Also, when someone is paid to perform a job, it is a reasonable expectation to suggest that they remain cognizant of their environment when representing their employer. As the memo clearly stated, the university will never dictate which sporting teams a person can support or cheer for."

The letter has stirred controversy on campus and received attention from national media. The Daily Mississippian contacted a number of physical plant employees but they declined to comment.

Although many people have been outspoken about the incident, John Neff, director of the university's Center for Civil War Research and an associate professor of history, has been particularly vocal, articulating several concerns that he has regarding the letter.

"My first concern about the letter is that Pearson claims the support of administration," Neff said. "He does not name who that administrator is, and he does not give us any sense of it. If I were in administration, I think I would

See REACTION, PAGE 4

Grove holding up well after successive weeks of football



BY AMINA AL SHERIF aalsher@go.olemiss.edu

scape Services. "The Grove looks about the the crew is focused on the leaves

Grove throughout the year, said

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE WILLIAMSON | The Daily Mississippian

The Grove is the hub of The University of Mississippi's football game mania as fans spend hours upon hours in the stretch of grass and towering trees by the hundreds, stomping their way from tent to tent.

Despite the high Grove traffic from three home games in a row, the condition of the Grove does not seem to have been unusually affected, according to Denise Hill, superintendent of Land-

same as it does every year this time of year," Hill said. "It always depends on the amount of rain we get."

Biology senior Alexandra Wood walks through the Grove a few times a day.

"I think the Grove looks better this year than it has any of the other years I have been here at Ole Miss," Wood said.

Aleely, one of the landscaping crew members who work on the falling due to the season change since the ground is unsalvageable this far into the season.

"Right now, all we are mostly taking care of is blowing leaves off the pathways," he said of the current maintenance required to keep the Grove in shape. "There is not a whole lot we can do to help the land recover after a game in a few days."

Aleely said the landscaping See GROVE, PAGE 4

OPINION: TWITTER ANONYMITY FOSTERS STUPIDITY

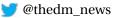
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OPINION

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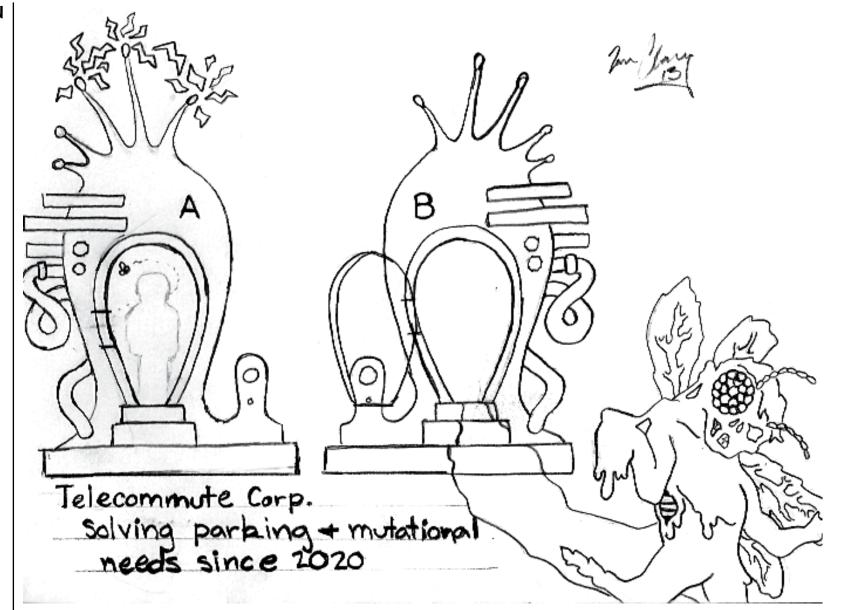
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COLUMN

Twitter anonymity fosters stupidity

BY: CARL CASE cicase@go.olemiss.edu

With the increasing popularity of the social media platform known as Twitter, we've seen a growth in use of the term "anon," which is simply short for anonymous (just covering all of my bases here). We've seen countless accounts that wish to show us how to dress in a "classy" manner, how to be a gent, how to misuse the word "parody" in order to gain followers, and on, and on, and on.

like a good idea at the time, sweet tea and bow ties letting tune of being pulled into a but when you use them to cover up the fact that you have virtually no followers on your personal account and your personality is about as stale as that Taco Bell quesadilla you left on your counter last Friday night, then you kind of

run your good idea into the ground.

First, let's address the issue of these kids (almost always high schoolers) who think they're personifying the South because of their "classy" dress. No, you mixing a button-down Polo and a bow tie doesn't mean you have style or class. It simply means you are unoriginal and mimic everything you see other accounts do in order to achieve Twitter celebrity and validate your low self-esteem.

As far as having class goes, me know you are classy? I need to see receipts and proof. Most of these accounts never even offer us a "pic slip," or, in everyday language, a picture letting us know we aren't being catfished. Who wants to keep up with a spoiled brat

whose mother and father buys all of their semi-expensive clothes (supposedly)? "Not I," said the cat.

Another trend in anonymous accounts are those who seek to mimic the success of Ole Miss Problems. I personally know the person behind this account, and I think they do a great job at the whole "anonymous tweeting game."

Having an anonymous Twitter account doesn't give you the right to attack others with your trashy comments and lack of common sense. Sure, these accounts sound how are your tweets about Last year, I had the misfor-Twitter feud with some anon- ogy and Spanish double major from ymous account that used the Brookhaven. Grove for followers, and their lack of wit and logic almost dumbfounded me. Mostly anyone who runs some type of douchebag account like this has the IQ of a goat, I'm

convinced.

If you run an anonymous Twitter account and you don't have the guts to insult and attack people on your personal account, please spare us the pain of looking at your stupidity broadcasted across the Internet. I don't need an anonymous Twitter to call anyone out on their stupidity, and neither should you. Before you create an anonymous Twitter in the hopes of having your poor grammar and terrible advice retweeted across the Twittersphere, don't.

Carl Case is a senior psychol-

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes all comments. Please send a letter to the editor addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, University, MS, 38677 or send an e-mail to dmeditor@gmail.com.

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.



MEMBER NEWSPAPER

OPINIC

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COLUMN Mississippi and LGBT rights: A journey

BY: SEAN HIGGINS smhiggin@go.olemiss.edu

Last week, Jon Stewart's "The Daily Show" had an interesting contest between Alabama and Mississippi. The competition was to see which state could be the most homophobic toward a "fake" gay couple that was being filmed by Stewart's crew.

However, the show took an interesting turn when Alabamans had no reactions to two men holding hands in downtown Birmingham. In fact, one man even approached the "couple" and said, "Y'all are the most punk rock gay couple I've ever seen in my life, dude. That's cool as (expletive), man," offering a fist bump to each member of the couple.

The couple got treated similarly by a photo booth worker at the Mississippi State Fair. So what does this mean? Are Mississippi and Alabama progressive on gay rights? Hardly. Although "The Daily Show" segment was hilarious (I encourage you to watch it), it doesn't accurately portray the climate toward LGBT folks in the two featured states.

Mississippi in particular has a troubled history with gay rights. According to CNN data, Mississippi voters in 2004 passed an amendment to the state constitution banning same-sex marriage. An overwhelming 86 percent of voters approved the discriminatory measure. What were the consequences? According to Williams Institute analysis of the 2010 Census, there are 3,484 same-sex cou-

ples in the state that are prohibited from marrying. I would guess that number is only growing.

The good news is that support for marriage equality is growing in our state. Recent polling from the Williams Institute suggests that 34 percent of Mississippians support same-sex marriage. The trend is similar but once again strides behind the national curve. But if we want any progress on gay rights in this state, we must elect public officials who are compassionate and supportive of the LGBT community as a whole.

Unfortunately, elected Mississippi officials have shown hostility toward the LGBT community in their words and actions. Gov. Phil Bryant is currently ordering the Mississippi National Guard to defy U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's order that states provide ID cards to allow same-sex spouses of military members to claim benefits. Gov. Bryant and the Mississippi National Guard insist they are following the Mississippi Constitution, apparently unaware of the most fundamental principle of United States government: federal law trumps state law if the two conflict.

Why is Gov. Bryant going out of his way to make life harder for gay people in Mississippi? His mean-spirited obstruction not only defies the United States Constitution, the Supreme Court ruling in United States v. Windsor and his oath of office, but also has reallife consequences for same-sex couples in this state.

Both Sen. Thad Cochran and Sen. Roger Wicker voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which if passed by the House — will protect LGBT individuals from being fired due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill even included a broad exemption for religious institutions. But apparently that wasn't enough. Do Sens. Wicker and Cochran think it's acceptable to fire an employee based on race? One doesn't choose his or her sexual orientation, just as one doesn't choose his or her race. Race is protected under workplace

orientation should be as well. Mississippi has undoubtedly made progress toward greater acceptance of LGBT residents of our state. But that progress now has to translate into policy. We need to elect senators, representatives, governors and mayors who believe in equality and fairness for all Mississippians. We need to repeal our amendment to the Mississippi Constitution that banned the freedom to marry. We need to legalize gay adoption because same-sex couples can raise a family just as a heterosexual couple can.

I hope I'm alive to see the day we all have the freedom to marry who we love in Mississippi. The Hospitality State should be hospitable for LGBT folks, too.

Sean Higgins is a junior political science major from Brookings, S.D.

Correction

The feature "Thacker Mountain Radio hosted in the Lyric tonight" in yesterday's Daily Mississippian was attributed to the wrong writer. The story was written by Lauren Shatto.

The women's basketball photo in yesterday's Daily Mississippian was also incorrectly attributed. The photo was taken by Thomas Graning.





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NEWS

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REACTION,

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be concerned that whatever ideas are being talked about are being attributed to them."

Neff said the impacts of regulating individual expression are far-reaching.

"Pearson is legitimately able as a supervisor to try and control employee behavior while on the clock, and if the letter had been written to say, 'Don't do this on the job,' we'd be done," Neff said. "There just isn't any room for any administrator anywhere to have that kind of influence or control over their employees. Their control extends to the job being done and does not extend to what you think, how you feel, who you cheer for or what you are interested in supporting."

Blanton said the issue is **STOP DRIVING** WHILE TEXTING.

limited to the physical plant and its employees and supports Pearson's position of authority over his department.

"What needs to be emphasized is that these are internal guidelines issued by the director of a department to staff," Blanton said. "I have internal guidelines for my staff, and while it does not make them university policy, they indicate how I want my employees to conduct themselves to represent The University of Mississippi's Public Relations department."

Blanton said the administration is not implicated in this issue.

"It is not that the university administration is leveraging anything on this, as this only applies to physical plant employees who are on the clock on gamedays," Blanton said. "It simply does not apply to anyone else."

GROVE, continued from page 1

crew comes in to work on the Grove and the peripheral areas seven days a week due to the high concentration of home football games in six weeks this season, working one to two hours each shift.

On Monday, six landscapers accompanied Aleely in working on the Grove to prepare for this weekend's game against Arkansas.

"A crew comes in on the weekend every Saturday night and Sunday to clean the Grove after the games, and sometimes they come in Monday, too," Hill said. Although the work seems to increase during football games to keep the Grove in shape, Hill said that the upkeep of the Grove stays about the same throughout the year. But that can change quickly, according to Aleely, who said the weather is the biggest obstacle keeping the Grove from be-

ing in pristine shape. "The wet weather is the biggest challenge for us," Aleely said.

Hill said that due to the combination of wet weather and high use of the Grove, the crew's main focus is to keep holes that form in the Grove filled to avoid trip hazards.

Most recently, the Grove has been covered with straw in cer-



FILE PHOTO (TYLER JACKSON) | The Daily Mississippian

Straw is used in the Grove to reduce the effects of wet weather.

tain areas. According to Aleely, fans use straw to line their tents in an attempt to reduce the negative effects of a wet gameday.

Although the straw is there to help keep the Grove in good condition, Wood said she does not like the way the straw looks on gameday.

"Rain is so much worse than cold on gamedays," Wood said. "The straw helps with the muddiness, but I think it makes the Grove look worse."

Aleely and the landscaping crew will begin rehabilitating the Grove after the Grove Bowl.

"When football season is done in the early spring, we will scrape the Grove, punch holes to aerate the soil, then beginning planting new grass seeds," Aleely said.

Hill said the work on the Grove will continue at the same rate, and the seeding process will lead to a lush, grassy Grove for the spring.



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LIFESTYLES

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Wake of Nature at the Southside Gallery

BY JOANIE SANDERS jgsander@go.olemiss.edu

This month the Southside Gallery is featuring work by Carlyle Wolfe and Drew Galloway. Both exhibits are inspired almost exclusively by the natural world.

Wolfe is an Oxford native and adjunct professor of art at The University of Mississippi. Her work is described as having a poetic nature. Her exhibit, titled "Until the Day Breathes ...," presents watercolors based on color studies done on mornings throughout the year.

"My paintings and works on paper are about awareness of the natural world — becoming progressively, cyclically more present to its rhythms, gaining deeper understanding of its design and acquiring direct experiential knowledge of its mysterious beauty," Wolfe said.

Galloway is a native of Birmingham, Ala. His exhibit features rural landscapes and natural scenery and consists of oil paint on collaged metal and other reclaimed materials.

"Almost exclusively I go back to the same place and reexamine it in different seasons, Galloway said. "Usually I have a connection to the place, a creek where my child likes to play or a creek where I grew up playing myself. That way I have some sort of connection and that helps me tolerate the 40 hours to complete one of the paintings."

Wolfe explains her work as beginning "quietly in drawing from observation. Outside the little house where I live, I gather various blooms and branches to draw — begonias, hydrangeas, zinnias, pink ladies, oak leaves, quince, camellias,



Carlyle Wolfe's art hangs on the walls of Southside Gallery on the Square Thursday.

lavender, lily of the valley ..." She creates line drawings and silhouettes that she cuts out of printed papers. The silhouettes are used as stencils, "for monotypes or paintings, or independently in site-specific installations," she said. "Whole bodies of paintings and works on paper are developed simultaneously."

Wolfe's focus on light, time and space "attempts to allegorize many moments into one composition" according to Will Cook, manager of Southside Gallery.

"In the paintings, I use the

same silhouette shapes to describe individual forms, but I also investigate times, seasons, weather conditions and shadows by referencing abiding observations of light and color," Wolfe said.

Galloway views painting the way a writer looks at a blank piece of paper. He said it "can be intimidating but when something around has some kind of intrinsic beauty to it, it is easier to begin painting. I feel like I am collaborating with the material."

Galloway said he appreciates things that have a little bit of age and character to them because it is easier to start painting when there is some beauty already there.

Galloway has several large paintings in the Southside exhibit and a series of smaller paintings that he called "vignettes."

"They were paintings that I did for myself as studies," he said. "They were mementos. Now I have enough (mementos) that I thought other people would be interested in them too."

Galloway said he tries to depict beauty that is often over-

looked.

"I try to capture the beauty in your backyard that most people ignore," he said. "Sometimes the most beautiful places are the memories you have as a child that you miss. As an adult I go back – I do now what I did as a 7-year-old. It is like a full circle."

The gallery hosts receptions as opportunities for artists to visit with fans and the local community. The Wolfe and Galloway reception will be held today from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Southeastern Comedy Arts Festival held at the Powerhouse this

BY CASEY HOLLIDAY

cahollid@go.olemiss.edu

If you are the type to watch stand-up comedy on Netflix, it is time to turn the television off and head to the Powerhouse for the Southeastern Comedy Arts Festival this weekend.

The festival is sponsored by the Southeastern Comedy Arts Alliance, the Powerhouse Community Arts Center and the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.

"The Southeastern Comedy Arts Festival is a yearly gathering of comedians throughout the area to perform and learn the craft of comedy through standup, improv and workshops," said Bruce Butler, director of the festival and director of improvisation group Laff Co.

The workshops are held from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. on Saturday. They include a character building workshop, "Improv 101" and "From Practice to Performance," which teaches how to take half-formed ideas from rehearsal and flesh them out to a performance-ready sketch, according to Laff Co. member Brian Spurlock.

In addition to the workshops, there will be two live shows on Saturday: an improv showcase at 7 p.m. and the Blue Revue Adult Comedy Show at 9 p.m. Both are open to the public and tickets are available at the door for \$10

l each or \$15 for both.

Laff Co. is an Oxford-based group that has been performing since 2004 and was recently selected to be a part of the Mississippi Arts Commission's 2013-14 Artist Roster. Spurlock, senior biology and chemistry major, has been a part of Laff Co. for

been a part of Laff Co. for four years and is excited for students and Oxford residents to experience the troupe's performances.

"I always have a great time at rehearsal and during performances. Everyone in the troupe is funny individually, so it's always a blast to hang out with them," Spurlock said. "I recommend coming to see at least one of the shows because of the breadth of talent



Members of Laff Co. performing at the Powerhouse.

that will be on stage."

That talent includes newcomers like the Misfit Monkeys of Jackson, Pants Optional Improv of Hattiesburg and the Longshot Theatre Company of Gulfport as well as returners the Stage Monkeys of Hattiesburg, Cult of See COMEDY PAGE 6

LIFESTYLES

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Stage Monkey from Lafayette, La. and two groups from Tupelo, West of Shake Rag and Stranger, Are You Smiling?

King Kobraz, the Oxford music group most known for their song "Feed Moncrief," will provide music.

"There are very new and very old improv groups full of talented people whose sole job on that stage is to work with their team and make you laugh," Spurlock said. "It

should be a great show." Overall, eight improv groups and six stand-up comedians will be performing this year.

"Laff Co. will be closing the event and will push the limits of their comedic talents by premiering new games that are sure to put a smile on the face of every audience member," Butler said.

The Powerhouse is located at 413 South 14th Street. More information on the Southeastern Comedy Arts Festival can be found on the Facebook event page.





FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS The WOOD BROTHERS ALSO PLUS AJ GHENT



COLUMN

Oxford endangers animals/mascots



BY KATIE WILLIAMSON thekatiewilliamson@gmail.com

Oxford is gearing up for another glorious football game this Saturday. Across the Square and campus, fans are showing their support for the Rebels by creating illustrations of caging the Razorbacks or roasting the hogs.

Although the cartoons seem to be well-intentioned, it is easy to forget the plight of the wild hogs that we have so vulgarly defaced. The boar is currently one of the most prevalent land mammals, but with the increasingly slanderous images shown throughout the town, we may see a decline or perhaps extinction of nature's cuddly pigs in our area.

Bullying is a problem that has not just affected the hogs in Oxford; bulldogs, tigers and even longhorns have been subjected to Chalk drawing on the Oxford Square on Thursday. the unbridled harassment of cruel Ole Miss fans. Next time, I hope you will take a moment to reflect before you feel the need to bash one of God's beautiful creatures in the name of football.



KATIE WILLIAMSON | The Daily Mississippian

It may be too late for the hogs in this area, but with the help and support of viewers like you, we can preserve the rest of our wild critters, like the nearly extinct and downtrodden Trojans that roam to

our east.

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend.

Katie Williamson is a senior art and journalism dual-degree from Oxford. Follow her on Twitter @kc_williamson.













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SPORTS

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Volleyball looks to move up SEC standings

BY TYLER BISCHOFF tfbischo@go.olemiss.edu

Coming off of a win over Mississippi State on Wednesday night, the Ole Miss volleyball team will look for its second straight win as it travels to take on the Tennessee Volunteers tonight at 6 p.m.

This will be the second matchup of the season between Ole Miss (12-12, 2-9 Southeastern Conference) and Tennessee (9-16, 1-10 SEC). The Rebels knocked off Tennessee 3-1 back in October.

Tennessee enters the match last in the SEC standings, while Ole Miss is tied for 11th. The Volunteers have struggled offensively this season as they have the lowest hitting percentage in the SEC at .160. They are the only team in the conference hitting below .200.

Tennessee also has the fewest assists (10.91) and kills (11.79) per set in the SEC. Ole Miss is second to last in both categories.

Led by Ellen Mullins, Tennessee leads the SEC in digs per set with 18.21 per set. Mullins, who leads the SEC, averages 5.99 digs per set.

Ole Miss enters the game with its offense on an upswing. They have had six sets in their last three matches with hitting percentages over .300. For the season, Ole Miss is hitting just .221, eighth in the SEC.

Sophomore Nakeyta Clair has raised her hitting percentage over the past three matches. Against Mississippi State, Clair had a career-high 19 kills and a hitting percentage of .536. Her season hitting percentage is now at .314, 15th in the SEC. In the first meeting with Tennessee, freshman setter Aubrey Edie had a careerhigh 48 assists. Edie is ninth in the SEC with 9.09 assists per set and had 42 against Mississippi State on Wednesday.

Ole Miss improved its digging against Mississippi State, as three players reached double figures in digs. Edie had 12, which gave her a fifth double-double on the season, senior Kara Morgan had 14 digs and junior libero Cara Fisher had a career-high 17 digs.

Freshman Kristen Brashear and sophomore Evan St. Laurent combined for 13 more digs, as Ole Miss had 16.5 digs per set against Mississippi State. Ole Miss is last in the SEC at 12.66 digs per set; an average of 16.5 would rank third in the SEC.

Ole Miss will then return home on Sunday, which will be its fifth game in 10 days, to take on Texas A&M (11-10, 3-7 SEC).

Ole Miss will look to continue its recent offensive success, as Texas A&M is allowing the highest hitting percentage in the SEC at .222. However, freshman Jazzmin Babers will be the biggest defensive obstacle for Ole Miss. She is second in the SEC with 1.23 blocks per set.

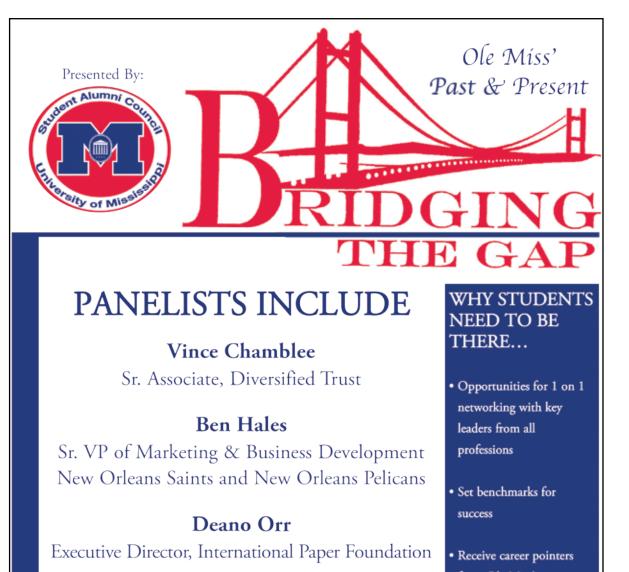
Ole Miss and Texas A&M will play at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in the Gillom Center. Two wins on the weekend could move Ole Miss as high as eighth in the SEC standings.

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss volleyball, follow @Tyler_RSR and @thedm_sports on Twitter.



FILE PHOTO (QUENTIN WINSTINE) | The Daily Mississippian

The Ole Miss volleyball team celebrates together after winning a point during a match against Kennesaw State on Friday, September 6, 2013.





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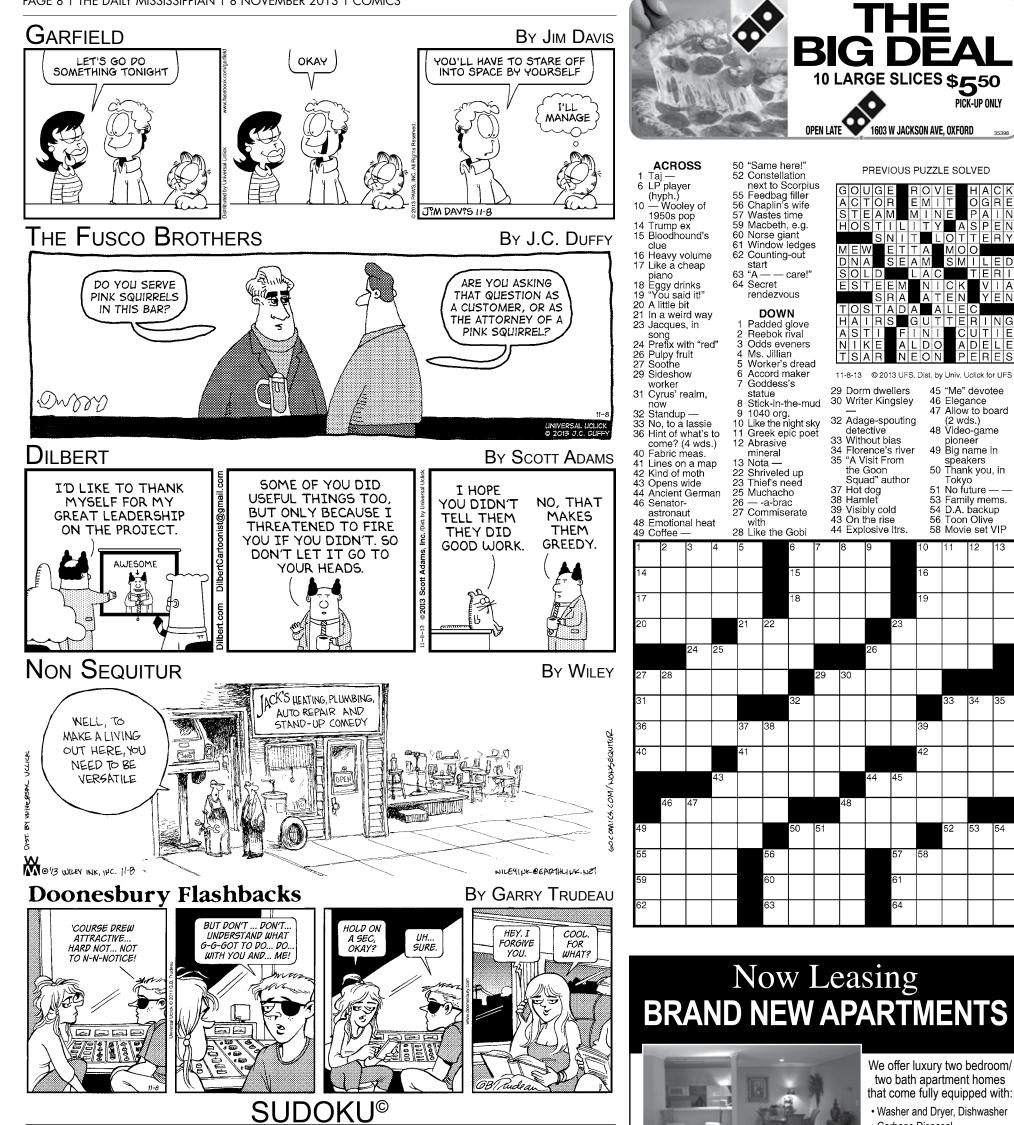
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SPORTS

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Four Downs: Arkansas Razorbacks vs. Ole Miss Rebels

In this week's edition of Four Downs, The Daily Mississippian football beat writers Matt Sigler and Cody Thomason and sports editor David Collier answer four questions regarding the week's matchup.



1. Ole Miss struggled offensively coming off their first bye week. Do you see that being an issue Saturday?

Matt Sigler (@SigNewton_2): I don't think it will be. Ole Miss will be facing a middle-of-the-pack defense in Arkansas, and also when you look at Arkansas's last game, a 35-17 loss to Auburn, things look favorable for the Rebels considering that they run a very similar offense to Auburn.

Cody Thomason (**a**) **TheCodyThomason**): T think Ole Miss will come out prepared and have offensive success from the start. Senior running back Jeff Scott is expected to return to what has become an impressive assortment of backs for the Rebels, which should form an impressive rushing attack. Junior quarterback Bo Wallace should continue his success through the air, and the offense should be back on track.

David Collier (@DavidL-Collier): It won't affect Ole Miss the entire game, but I do think it will slow them down a bit out of the gates. Luckily for the Rebels, they aren't facing No. 1 Alabama coming off of this bye week, so going against an Arkansas defense that gives up its share of yards should play in Ole Miss' favor. The defense needs to set the tone early, so the Rebel offense doesn't start

on the field. Arkansas is a team that will take big chunks off the game clock with a solid running game, so the Ole Miss defense will most likely be on the field quite a bit. Therefore, being able to stay fresh will be a key in this game.

Thomason: I think this will be a huge impact, especially on the defensive side of the ball. Ole Miss' improved depth will allow them to rotate more and keep their players fresh, especially on the defensive line where Ole Miss was very limited against Idaho.

Collier: I don't see it playing a huge role this week, but it certainly will going forward. It's always nice to have that depth at key spots, but how will the conditioning of the returning wounded be? How many plays can they go? That'll tell us how much they'll impact the game, but it is certainly nice to have more bodies to throw in there and keep you fresh in the fourth quarters of games, especially against a team that likes to grind it out like Arkansas.

B OBTUTOS ···

3. Ole Miss seems to play better against teams that run right at you. Do you see

UCHANEY'S

them continuing that success against Arkansas, or will the Hogs find success on the ground?

Sigler: I see continued success. Don't get me wrong, Arkansas has one of the best running games in the conference and one of the best backs in Alex Collins, but with a young offensive line, I don't see them being able to put up too much against a healthy Ole Miss defense.

Thomason: Ole Miss will be facing stellar freshman back Alex Collins, who could cause some problems for the Rebels, but overall Ole Miss has been more effective against running teams than against passing teams, and I expect this trend to continue.

Collier: It depends on what you define as success. Arkansas is going to run the ball. That's what they do. If they don't, then Ole Miss will have their most dominating performance of the year. The key for the Rebels will be to limit the Razorbacks on first- and second-down runs and force Arkansas quarterback Brandon Allen into more passing situations than they are accustomed to. 4. The Rebels are one win away from gaining bowl eligibility. What's the key for Ole Miss to get the pivotal sixth win?

Sigler: Make the most of offensive possessions and stop the run. The offense will have to limit three-and-outs because once Arkansas gets the ball they are going to have it for a bit. The defense will have to stop the run and not allow the Razorbacks to control time of possession.

Thomason: The key is the run game on both sides of the ball. Ole Miss has to shut down Alex Collins, as he is the key to Arkansas' offense, and they have to run well against a talented front four for Arkansas. It will be an extremely tough test for the Rebels' offensive line to contain the Razorbacks' defensive line, but if they do, the Rebels can have a big day rushing the ball. **Collier:** Get an early lead. Arkansas is one of those teams that likes to control the time of possession and grind games out. If they can do that, it'll be close until the very end. Ole Miss should walk away with a win, but if they can grab an early lead, build on that lead and force Arkansas to pass the ball, it could be an easy win. If they can grab that lead, the Hogs' strategy of running the clock could work against them.





the game playing from behind while it gets back into rhythm.



2. What impact do you think having almost everyone back healthy will have on the Rebels?

Sigler: I think it will be critical as far as keeping fresh legs



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Ole Miss hosts Troy in hoops season opener



FILE PHOTO (AUSTIN MCAFEE) | The Daily Mississippian

LEFT: Derrick Millinghaus (3) runs up court during Friday's game against USC-Aiken. RIGHT: Jarvis White (32) guards a USC-Aiken player during Friday's game

BY TYLER BISCHOFF

tfbischo@go.olemiss.edu

The Ole Miss men's basketball team will begin the regular season tonight as it hosts the Troy Trojans. The Rebels are coming off one of the most successful seasons in program history, as they won the SEC tournament and made it to the round of 32 in the NCAA tournament.

"My focus is on getting our guys prepared to play game one," Kennedy said. "Now, it's for real. Dress rehearsals are over."

But Ole Miss will have to start this season without four Reggie Buckner and Nick Wil- went 1 of 2 from the stripe.

guard Marshall Henderson will sit out due to a suspension.

Henderson's suspension began last Friday when the Rebels beat USC-Aiken 75-70 in overtime in an exhibition game. Ole Miss felt the loss of Henderson, the leading scorer in the SEC last year, as they posted an offensive efficiency rating of .91 points per possession.

Without Henderson, Ole Miss will be in need of offensive prowess. Junior guard LaDarius White has the expectations of becoming a go-to offensive player. White scored 13 points in the exhibition game, but it took him 13 shots to get of its top-five scorers from last there. He didn't get to the freeseason. Murphy Holloway, throw line a lot either, as he

rick Millinghaus is the most aggressive offensive player Ole Miss will have. Millinghaus scored 15 against USC-Aiken. He got to the free-throw line nine times and didn't have a turnover while playing a teamhigh 32 minutes.

Ole Miss is going to need multiple players to replace Henderson, and Kennedy is expecting sophomore forward Anthony Perez to step up.

"He's got so much talent," Kennedy said. "I want him to play to his size. Anthony's 6-foot-9. He needs to play above smaller guards. Right now, he doesn't play (at) sixnine, and that's something we're trying to emphasize."

In the post, junior forwards Aaron Iones and Demarco

ing time in a game since their injuries in January. Freshman forwards Sebastian Saiz and Dwight Coleby will add depth up front. Sophomore forward Terry Brutus tore his ACL in the offseason and will miss the entire season, which leaves Ole Miss with just four healthy, scholarship post players for the season.

Troy, of the Sun Belt Conference, is coming off a 12-21 season. They lost two of their top three scorers from last season.

Senior guard Hunter Williams will lead the Trojans. He averaged 10.4 points per game last season and dropped 23 points and six assists in Troy's exhibition win over Victory University. Along with WilMyers scored 19 on 8-of-11 shooting in their exhibition. Myers averaged eight points last season.

In the frontcourt, Tevin Calhoun scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, seven of them on offense, against Victory.

Troy won its exhibition by a score of 105-68.

Ole Miss and Troy will follow the women's season opener against Jacksonville State, which begins at 5 p.m. The men are scheduled to tip off at 7:30 p.m.

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss men's basketball, follow @ Tyler_RSR and @thedm_sports on Twitter.

liams graduated, and senior Sophomore point guard Der- Cox will see their first play- liams, senior guard Antoine

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SPORTS

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Lady Rebel soccer looks for upset in SEC tourney semis

BY NICK ELEY njeley@go.olemiss.edu

After a 2-0 shutout of Kentucky on Wednesday, the fourth-seeded Ole Miss soccer team will take on the No. 1 seed Florida Gators this afternoon in Orange Beach, Ala., in the semifinals of the SEC Tournament.

The Rebels got their two goals from their two leading scorers on Wednesday. The first came from senior midfielder Mandy McCalla, and the second from senior forward Rafaelle Souza, who is now tied as Ole Miss' all-time leading scorer with 41 goals for her career.

The Rebel defense will need to be prepared for the only scorer in the conference more proficient than Souza, freshman Savannah Jordan. The Florida star finished the season with 21 goals, two more than Souza's 19.

The first matchup of the year between these two teams was a 4-1 victory for the Gators that quickly got out of hand for the Rebels. Florida scored three times in the first 15 minutes of action and never looked back.



FILE PHOTO (AUSTIN MCAFEE) | The Daily Mississippian

LEFT: Olivia Harrison (20) hugs Rafaelle Souza following Harrison's game tieing goal during soccer game against South Carolina on Oct. 20, 2013. RIGHT: Rafaelle Souza clears the ball from a South Carolina defender during the soccer game on Oct. 20, 2013.

Ole Miss is looking to continue its recent success and give Florida a better game this time around.

"They whipped us up in Oxford early in the season, so we've got to play better than we did that night," Ole Miss head coach Matt Mott said following Wednesday's game. "But I think we will. I think our team is excited for the matchup."

Florida made it to the semi-

final matchup by virtue of a 1-0 victory over Arkansas. The low score was not indicative of Florida's normal offensive prowess, although it did attempt 17 shots on the night. The Rebels and Gators are scheduled for kickoff at 4 p.m. Friday.

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss soccer, follow @thedm_sports on Twitter.



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SPORTS

Rebels, Razorbacks set to battle Saturday



FILE PHOTO (AUSTIN MCAFEE) | The Daily Mississippian

Quarterback Bo Wallace rushes for a first down during the first half against LSU on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013

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BY MATT SIGLER mcsigler@go.olemiss.edu

The Ole Miss Rebels will get their first shot to become bowl-eligible this Saturday when they welcome Southeastern Conference foe Arkansas to Oxford. The Rebels (5-3, 2-3 SEC) are coming off a bye week, while the Razorbacks (3-6, 0-5 SEC) enter the game on a six-game losing streak. The meeting is the 60th between the two teams, with Arkansas leading the all-time series 31-27-1.

"As excited as we were last week to have an open week, we're equally as excited to get back to playing," Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze said in his weekly Monday press conference. "To be at home again is always nice. We're looking forward to getting an early kickoff. That's something we haven't had this year. We've enjoyed the ones we've had, but it's always good to have a variety."

Despite the less-than-stellar record Arkansas holds, Freeze knows this team can be dangerous.

"We're playing a very scary football team, to me," Freeze said. "If they ever convert drives, they would be very, very dangerous because they control the time of possession. They run the football extremely well, two of the finer running backs that we've seen. Again, just for whatever reason, they haven't finished drives the amount of times that they've had chances to. If they ever did that, it would be a very, very scary game.

"We sense that in this building. Hopefully, our kids will sense that and know it's another SEC battle that's going to take place Saturday and will be a very difficult task."

Offensively, Arkansas brings in one of the best rushing attacks in the conference. The Razorbacks are averaging

211.2 yards per game on the ground, which ranks them third in the SEC. Talented freshman running back Alex Collins carries the load out of the backfield, and stopping him will be key for the Rebels.

"Every week you face a really good running back in the league, and he's no different," Ole Miss defensive coordinator Dave Wommack said of Collins. "I think he is a great jump cutter and has unbelievable vision. He'll cut to either side of the box and outside, and I think he just does a tremendous job. That's why they've got the rushing yards. He's a good football player with great vision."

Collins ranks fourth in the conference, averaging 98.8 yards per contest and has added four touchdowns. Despite having one of the best rushing attacks, the Razorback offense as a whole has struggled for the most part. They are last in the conference in scoring offense, averaging just 20 points a game, and second to last in total offense, averaging 355.3 yards per game. This is mainly because of the lack of a passing game the Razorbacks possess, which ranks last in the conference at 144.1 yards per game.

However, Freeze knows that if they have to, Arkansas has the ability to make some plays through the air.

"Not that they can't throw it," Freeze said. "I think their tight end is going to be a real special player and the receivers have played well as of late."

Quarterback Brandon Allen will lead the Razorback passing attack. He has struggled, completing less than 50 percent of his passes for 1,067 yards with nine touchdowns, but Allen has thrown seven interceptions.

Ole Miss will have most of the defense back this Saturday, after having around seven guys injured the past few

weeks. A few big names that will look to be making a return include freshman defensive lineman Robert Nkemdiche and sophomore corner Mike Hilton. Some other players who have been banged up but have played and are now even closer to 100 percent include sophomore defensive tackle Issac Gross and sophomore linebacker Denzel Nkemdiche.

"It's great to have them back," Wommack said. "We've gone a long time without having people. Denzel's been hurt off and on. Robert's been out, seems like three or four weeks. Mike Hilton, who is one of our best football players in my opinion, having him back those guys are going to make a difference for us and are going to make us a better football team, having them out there."

Offensively, the Rebels will continue to be led by junior quarterback Bo Wallace, who has thrown for 1,976 yards and 11 touchdowns and only three interceptions, which is a major improvement from last season's total mark of 17 interceptions.

However, most eyes will be on the running backs, who have seen their roles expand after senior Jeff Scott went down with an injury. Also, freshman Mark Dodson has begun to emerge after having a breakout game against Idaho two weeks ago.

"I like the way they are going about their business," Freeze said of the backs. "They've taken the chances they have been given and made the most of it. All four have looked good in some things this week. We're not afraid to use any of the four."

The Rebels may have to rely even more on sophomore Jaylen Walton, sophomore I'Tavius Mathers and Dodson this weekend if Scott is unable to go because of injury.

"It was more than they first diagnosed it as," Freeze said of Scott's injured leg. "It ended up being a bone spur on the nerve. Now, they've deadened that nerve." Kickoff for Saturday is set for 11:21 a.m. and will be televised on SEC TV.



For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @SigNewton 2 and @thedm sports on Twitter.

