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THE DAILY Wednesday, August 27, 2014 Volume 103, No. 3 MISSISSIPPIAN THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911

Remembering fallen brothers



Vida Townsend holds a photo of her son Will, one of three fraternity brothers who died in the Alpha Tau Omega house fire 10 years ago today.

LACEY RUSSELL dmeditor@gmail.com

It was 4:32 a.m. when a patrolling University Police change. Department officer noticed a

number of missing men re- had worked for nine mained at two.

a third time, they noticed a particular morning,

years. She's a trained When they counted off for librarian, but on this she was acting as the

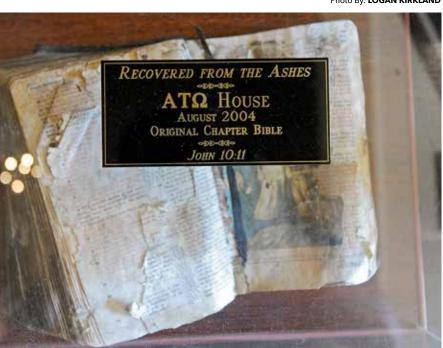


Photo By: LOGAN KIRKLAND

thick odor in the air. Then, he saw the smoke.

The two-story brick and wood-frame Alpha Tau Omega house was burning.

As the sirens began to blare, the young men inside the building scrambled from their beds. Fortunately, many of them knew the emergency plan, and they rushed to safety. Once outside, the 21 men and their housemother counted off.

Two ATO brothers, sophomores Howard Stone of Martinsville, Virginia, and Jordan Williams of Atlanta, Georgia, were missing.

Attempting to maintain composure as fire engines roared up to the green double doors of 1 Confederate Drive, they counted heads again. The

Now, three brothers were missing. Despite the danger, William Townsend of Clarksdale, Mississippi ventured back into house to save his best friend.

Four hours later and 63 miles away, Vida Townsend received a phone call from a friend of her son.

"Have you talked to Will this morning?"

"No, haven't talked to him," Townsend replied. "It was Thursday night last night, you know?"

The young woman on the other end of the line lowered her tone. "There was a fire at the house, and I can't get him on his phone."

Concerned, Townsend immediately went to the central office of Lee Academy, the private school where she

substitute teacher for a K-4 class in the elementary school.

She made a single phone call to The University of Mississippi's Office of the Dean of Students.

"I said, 'I need to know about this fire.' And the lady on the other end said, 'Mrs. Townsend, let me give you this number to call.'

She called the number as she was told. To her surprise, the chancellor of the university, Robert Khayat answered the phone.

"I said, 'Robert, where's Will?' He said, 'We don't know. Can you come?"

She agreed and quickly called her husband, Jim,

The original chapter Bible was found after the fire open to John 10:11.

a local banker, to come to the school. At the time, her daughter Ellen was in ninth grade at Lee. Upon notice of the news, she was excused from class, and the family left for Oxford.

As they drove east through the Delta flatlands, Townsend attempted to call two of her son's close friends who lived off campus. She thought may

be he spent the night with them, but she was unable to get an answer from both.

Photo By: THOMAS GRANING

They arrived on campus and were ushered into Khayat's office in the Lyceum.

"I will never forget the look on Robert Khayat's face," she said as tears welled in her eyes. "We were sitting there, and he walked in, and

SEE ATO PAGE 8

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COLUMN

With liberty and justice for all

BRICE ASHFORD

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"Marriage is ... the most natural state of man, and therefore the state in which you are most likely to find solid happiness ... It is the man and woman united that makes the complete human being ... man has not nearly the value he would have in the state of union. He is an incomplete animal; he resembles the odd half of a pair of scissors."

These words, written by founding father Benjamin Franklin in 1745, were intended to guide a young man towards marriage. The advice depicts marriage as a force of completion, a force that could not be overcome. The letter is entitled "Advice to a Young Man on the Choice of a Mistress." No human being, regardless of sexual orientation, should be barred from the feelings and advice given by Mr. Franklin (though I might advise against taking in an extra partner with-

MISSISSIPPIAN

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out your significant other's prior knowledge). If any man or woman deserves the right to be complete human beings, so do those of relationships consisting of two men or two women.

Who wants to be the odd half of a pair of scissors when those around you have the right to be one whole pair?

Many people live in ignorance of the effects of the widespread legalization of gay marriage. Many couples of the LGBT community currently live at home with their significant other, pay bills with their significant other and simply partake in everyday life with their significant other. Providing them with the same freedoms that you are granted will not cause some widespread breakout of homosexuality. A person's sexuality is not dictated by the laws of this nation; therefore, there is nothing to fear. The earth will continue to revolve around the sun, I promise. As a heterosexual male, I cannot and will not pretend to understand the struggles of someone in the LGBT community, but I know inhumanity when I see it. There is no justification for discriminating against your fellow Americans or anyone of any nationality.

On what grounds of legality do those opposed to the legalization of gay marriage stand? Is your

opposition based on religion? I have heard this argument many times. While your religion may be dear to you, adherence to a set of religious rules differs from individual to individual. There are many people who practice a religion different from mine or yours, who have the same rights to wed as I do-if they marry someone of the opposite sex. with validity, as long as they are heterosexual atheist.

Is your opposition based on the Constitution? If so, your right to wed is not expressly named in the Constitution of the United States, nor is it protected by it. The Declaration of Independence, however, written by our beloved founding father Thomas Jefferson, does make the following statement:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

We pride ourselves on fighting for justice and equality on the international stage. We must never forget to take care of our own. We must end discrimination among all people "with liberty and justice for all."

KIM SANNER

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MARSHALL LOVE Daily Mississippian Distribution Manager THOMAS CHAPMAN Media Technology Manager JADE MAHARREY Administrative Assistant DARREL JORDAN Broadcast Chief Engineer Although my religion, or your religion, may outline marriage in a certain way, our nation's laws are not the same as the laws of my religion. Even the marriage of two atheists is acknowledged

Brice Ashford is a junior marketing major from Ridgeland.

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Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity, space or libel.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Third party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.



MEMBER NEWSPAPER

OPINION

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COLUMN Put down the opiates

PARSA RAFATIAN

pjrafati@go.olemiss.edu

Humans are in a perpetual race to find explanations for Earth's creation and our being. The earliest and seemingly most primitive answer we have produced to the question of both is religion.

That there is religious meaning to all human life is an enticing idea and it has lead to religion's endurance to the test of time – but at what point though, has religion become more destructive than beneficial?

Varying belief in a higher power has been the cause of many wars and resulted in countless deaths in the name of one god or another.

From the Crusades, to the Holocaust, to the conflict between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the Middle East, the body count seems endless when discussing religionbased wars. Animosity between different theologies has plagued human history and

resulted in a myriad of needless destruction.

It is understandable that clashes amongst different religious beliefs may have led to pointless battles in an age where science did not have the impact that it does today, but what is our excuse now?

The vast majority of the scientific community has come to a consensus on Earth's age, how it was created and how humans came to existence. Yet the majority of the human race is trying to convince itself otherwise, and indirectly, causing what I believe to be more harm than good.

The struggle to separate government and church is another problem that directly affects our daily life regardless of belief. When religion starts to affect what type of health care we receive, whom we choose to marry and other personal life choices is when, to me, the line has been crossed.

The thought that somebody may be persecuted and barred from marrying somebody they love because they have the same genitalia is absolutely ludicrous. The basis of this injustice comes from texts written millennia ago by regular men who claimed to hear the word of God, and frankly, that standard should not be applied to modern society.

Contrary to popular belief, the religious are not any more morally sound than those who are not. Religions like Christianity that preach humility have become more oppressive than humane.

Although many have disassociated themselves from more extreme factions of Christianity, such as Westboro Baptist Church, the fact is that they preach the same values but in a much less hostile manner. While half the country still does not allow gay marriage, taking away basic civil rights, religion seems to be hindering society.

And, while there are many different religions, who's to say which one is correct?

While many religions conflict with each other, the fact is that many have bizarrely similar origins. Horus, the Egyptian god of the sky, was believed to have been born of a virgin on Dec. 25 and to have had 12 disciples. The story of the messiah has been circulated for thousands of years and is an intriguing story; and that is what it should be taken as: a story.

His story originated around 3000 B.C. Mithra, the Zoroastrian god of oath, was also born of a virgin on Dec. 25, and had 12 disciples. It was also written that he died and was resurrected on the third day. His story originated 1200 B.C. It is not a coincidence that these gods have virtually the same origin as Jesus Christ.

People should be able to believe what they choose, but to take religion in such a literal sense that it is directly obstructive to progressing the human race is detrimental.

Karl Marx once said, "Re-

ligion is the sign of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people."

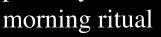
The sad truth is life is very difficult for most people. Humans are often distraught, and religion provides solace, much like people who are physically injured can be treated with opiate-based drugs.

But drugs can only do so much. They help numb the pain temporarily, but ultimately do not heal the injury.

nstead, religion helps us to forget the pain and look forward to an imaginary future where the pain will eventually stop. Religion can help instill joy in many suffering people, but we must be able to decipher fact from fiction.

Parsa Rafatian is a junior from Oxford.





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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ballot set with Cochran as Senate nominee

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi elections commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved a November ballot that lists Republican Thad Cochran, Democrat Travis Childers and the Reform Party's Shawn O'Hara as nominees for U.S. Senate.

Approval of the ballot came, as expected, while Chris Mc-Daniel's challenge of his Republican primary loss to Cochran is still awaiting trial. The judge overseeing McDaniel's challenge said last week that he would not block preparations for the general electhe ballot.

State law says the ballot must be given to counties by Sept. 10, which is 55 days before the Nov. 4 general election. Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann said Mississippi must make absentee ballots available to overseas military voters starting Sept. 20.

"Unless we're ordered to the contrary, we're going to follow the process," Hosemann said after Tuesday's meeting. Certified results show Cochran, a six-term incumbent,

tion, including the setting of defeated the tea party-backed lawsuit, saying McDaniel state senator by 7,667 votes in the June 24 Republican primary runoff. McDaniel says the runoff was shoddily run and is asking the judge to declare him the winner over Cochran or order a new runoff.

> Judge Hollis McGehee has set a Sept. 16 starting date for the trial, and has said it must be finished by Oct. 6. McGehee is scheduled to hear pretrial arguments Thursday in Jones County.

Cochran attorneys are asking McGehee to dismiss the

waited too long to file a challenge. In court papers Tuesday, McDaniel disagreed and said the Cochran argument relies on a 1959 state Supreme Court ruling in a case involving a state election law that has since be rewritten.

McDaniel went a few miles into Tennessee on Monday night to talk about the Mississippi contest. WMC-TV reported that McDaniel spoke during a meeting at a Memphis deli to about 100 people, many of them from DeSoto County, Mississippi. He said he will not concede to Cochran without a court considering his election challenge.

"I want to see what the court has to say," McDaniel told the TV station. "We'll respect the court's decision and we'll move forward. But until I hear his decision, I can't make those calls right now."

Cochran has made several campaign stops in Mississippi while the Senate has been on its August break. Childers, a former congressman from north Mississippi, is also campaigning.

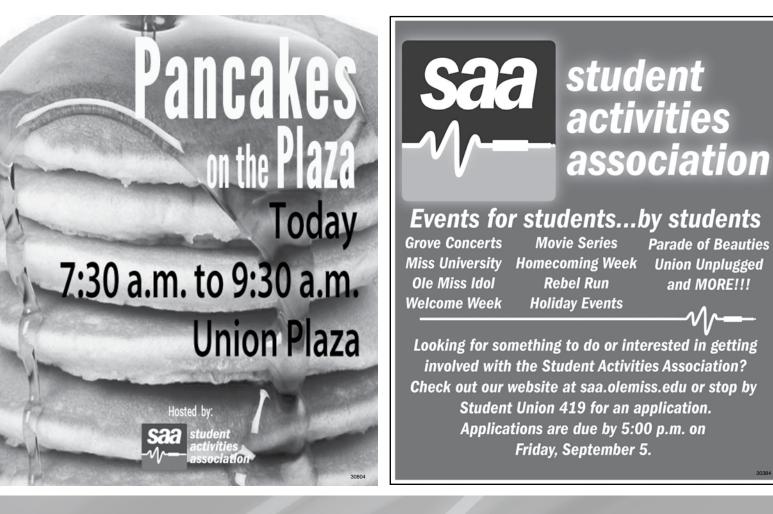
Mississippi law says a new primary could be ordered even after someone wins the general election. If that were to happen, a new general election also would have to be held.

The state Board of Election Commissioners is made up of Gov. Phil Bryant, Hosemann and Attorney General Jim Hood. A special assistant attorney general, Phil Carter, took Hood's place in the meeting Tuesday.

Commuter lot opens Thursday

A new commuter parking lot will open Thursday, according to an email sent by Parking Services to the student body Tuesday. The new commuter lot contains 248 spaces and is located on Jeanette Phillips Drive, southwest of the track and field facility.

UDITIONS





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NEWS

Ole Miss, ATO to hold 10-year memorial service

MAGGIE MCDANIEL mhmcdani@go.olemiss.edu

Beginning at 5 p.m. Sept. 3 at the Paris-Yates Chapel, The University of Mississippi and Alpha Tau Omega alumni will hold a

versity of Mississippi and Alpha Tau Omega alumni will hold a ten-year anniversary ceremony to remember the three boys lost in the ATO house fire in 2004.

The ceremony will honor William Townsend from Clarksdale Mississippi, Howard Stone form Martinsville, Virginia, and Jordan Williams from Atlanta, Georgia, who were killed in the fire.

Al Bell, who serves as the board of trustees chairman for the ATO chapter and is now and was an advisor at the time of the fire, is really looking forward to the event. Bell remembers how hard it was for the members of ATO to cope with the loss.

"I knew those guys were going through probably either the most tragic event that they had ever experienced in their lifetime at that time," Bell said. "It was probably the most tragic event that I have experienced as well."

According to Bell, the loss was harder on the chapter members than he initially thought it to be. Bell said everyone had different ways of coping with the losses, but there has been one thing that stood out.

"Coping with the grief was a group effort, with everybody in the chapter leaning on each other."

One thing Bell is still grateful for today is the community and their support after the incident.



ATO president Ryne St. Marie flips through a scrapbook of condolence letters compiled after the tragedy.

"Another way the students coped and also helped me with coping was the outpour of love and support that we all got from not only the university but also the Oxford community."

Bell knew all three boys who passed in the fire and remembers them from what he heard from others. Townsend had a personality larger than life, and if you met him, you would never forget him. Stone was a little quieter but was known as the best of friends among his pledge class. Williams was more of a free spirit, who was really into Widespread Panictype of music.

According to Bell, a lot of people said they could see any of the three boys being good leaders for their chapter in the future.

When looking back on the incident, Bell believes the accident was completely out of anyone's hands. "I don't believe any of us had ever thought there was something we could have done to prevent the fire," he said. "I think it was just one of those things, almost like an earthquake or tornado."

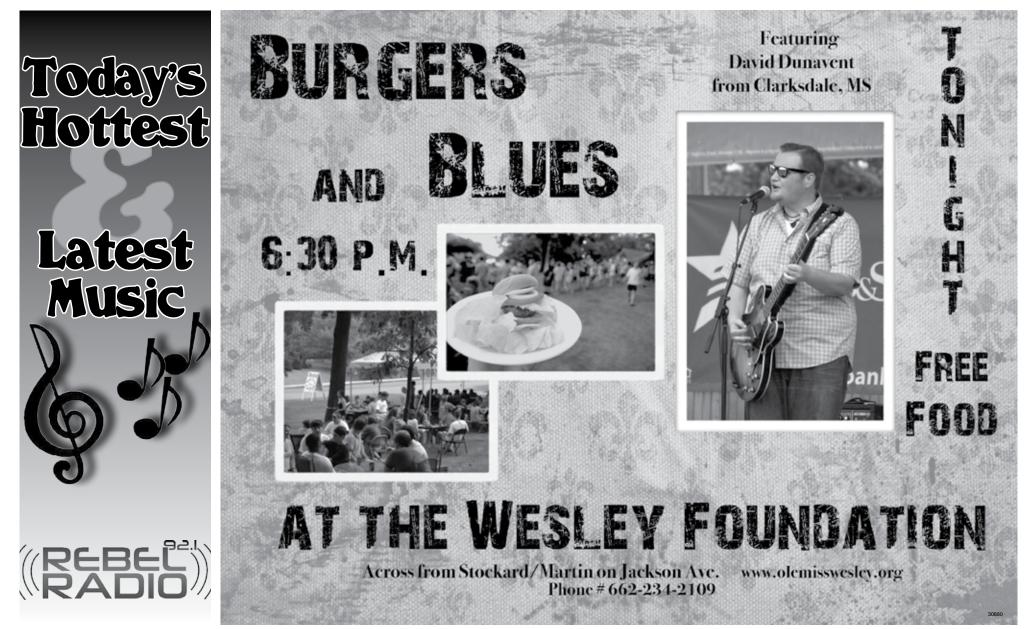
Ryne St. Marie, current ATO president and senior marketing major, said he could not imagine what he would have done if that incident had occurred today.

"It is surreal to wake up one

morning and see this place on fire and realize that I have lost three of my best friends," St. Marie said.

According to St. Marie, once someone accepts a bid from ATO the first thing they learn is about the fire.

"It is just something we hold so close to us because the house that you are in every day is exactly where it happened on campus," St. Marie said.



Into the fire Oxford firefighters reflect on ATO tragedy

CLARA TURNAGE

thedmfeatures@gmail.com

Ten years ago today, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity caught fire in what would be remembered as a tragic loss of life. Today, many of the officers who worked that night still stand as a safeguard of public security at the Oxford Fire Department. Cary Sallis, John Levy, Jon Cullen, Joey Gardener, Michael Milam and Darin Roy remember the event with clarity.

Cary Sallis, fire chief of the Oxford Fire Department, arrived early on the scene.

"I was just really focusing on getting my job done at that time," Sallis said. "As we moved in, we were trying to figure out if everybody was out; that was a big issue.'

Sallis explained that to account for each person who may or may not have been in the building they had to call and personally get in touch with every member of the fraternity.

"In the initial stages, everything is so hectic...it's hard to get that done," Sallis said. "We were trying to figure out who's supposed to be here, and if they aren't, where are they?"

When it was determined that there were in fact missing individuals, firefighters ventured into the flames to search the home.

"I'm not going to lie: it's len had seen. scary, and it's dark," said Deputy Chief Joey Gardener, describing what it's like being inside such a grisly scene. Gardener had been on the force for seven years at the time of the fire and was one of the fighters to venture into the house while it was ablaze.

Many off-duty firemen were called in to help extinguish the fire and evacuate the scene.

"When I got there, I saw a big fireball exploding out of the door," firefighter Jon Cullen said.

"When part of the roof fell, it pushed fire down the stairs and out the door," Darin Roy, chief of inspections, said, explaining the fireball that Cul-

Issues with remodeling hindered the firemen, allowing the flame to reach the attic and spread.

"It was pretty severe just because of the type of construction that we were dealing with," Sallis said. "A lot of these older buildings on University where they had what we call a 'flat roof'; they've gone back and built up roofs or added on to them, and it just makes it so difficult."

Sallis explained that the fire was fairly contained until it moved into one of the 'false attics' that results from adding on to a previous 'flat roof.'

'The fire came out of the window of the basement and caught the attic on fire then ran down the attic," Gardener said. Because of the cement ceiling, this attic was hard to reach and to penetrate, allowing the fire to escalate.

"They were trying to ventilate, cutting holes in the roof," Roy said. "But every time they would ventilate, the fire would have passed the hole."

The fire decimated the basement, attic and second floor, leaving less damage in the first floor. When the fire had grown to be uncontrollable, it was no longer safe for even the firemen to risk.

"It got too dangerous for us to go back in, and that's hard to face sometimes too," Sallis said.

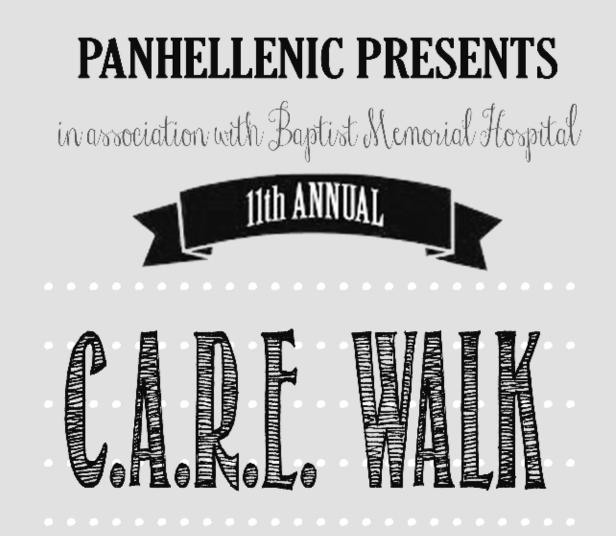
When the flames had been contained enough for the men to reenter, the men began to search the wreckage.

"We had to send people in, and they searched," Roy said. "As they would find someone, they would let people know downstairs that they had found a victim."

One of the officers who went to search the house was Michael Milam, whom, at the time, had been with the department for eight years.

"We were going down the hallway opening all of the doors, and we came to this room," Milam said, recalling in detail. "The door was locked so we pried it open. I walked in. The way the bedrooms were arranged, there was a wall, a foyer, I guess. He was sitting on a couch, a double bunk bed where the bottom was a futon. He was sitting just like I'm sitting right now. He had his head down," Milam dropped his head to duplicate the scene. "I shined my light around, and it took me by surprise."

The victim Milam found was on the first floor, where there was little fire damage. "The smoke got him. There wasn't any fire damage to that room or the floor," Milam said. "I can only assume, but he was probably asleep and just never woke up. There was a little bit of soot coming out of his nose." Though the men see this kind of thing often and are trained to deal with the aftereffects, it is no surprise that they can be greatly affected by such events. "It's hard on all of us," Levy said. "Some have counseling, and some don't. People deal with it different ways.' "Especially when it's a kid or a small child," Gardener said. "Most of us up here have



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SEE INTO THE FIRE PAGE 7

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INTO THE FIRE

continued from page 6

a child so it affects, especially with the kids."

"I can still see his face," Milam said. "I think, from our point of view, you always think 'maybe we could have done this' or 'we could have done this better' or something differently, but we did what we could do. That's one thing; you just wish you could have done something more, but you know that you did all you could.'

Three young boys were lost in the fire at Alpha Tau Omega on Aug. 27, 2004. Though the fire was not the worst the veteran firefighters had seen, it

ocated on

was remembered as one of the most heartrending.

"It's not as bad as it was tragic," Gardner said. "It was tragic because we realized there were one or more victims inside."

Though the fire was contained in just over two hours, the damages it caused were lasting.

"You hate to see anybody get hurt, especially in a fire," Levy said. "It affects people in different ways, but you learn to cope."

The firemen have learned to work through such tragedies simply because they must. The lives of others depend on it.



Joey Gardener, Chief Cary Sallis, John Levy, Darin Roy and Michael Milam are active members of Oxford Fire Department who responded in the ATO fire of 2004.









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Jfove



PAGE 8 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | 27 AUGUST 2014 | NEWS

line ents	911 call received by University Police Department; UPD officer smells smoke, arrives on scene 4:32 am	Firefighters have blaze under control 6:37am	COT	niversity authorities nfirm three deaths 0:30am
Time of ev	4:37 am Oxford Fire Department arrives on scene	6:00 am Members of Chi Psi and Sigma Alpha Epsilon are evacuated from their houses	8:00 am Alpha Tau Omega members assemble at the Beta Theta P fraternity house	

ATO continued from page 1

he didn't look at anybody but me, and I just remember telling him, 'Robert, we've got to find my child.' And it was just something in his eyes. It was just like he knew, but I just think he couldn't tell me.

"He sat down right next

to me and just picked up my hand. That's probably when I knew in my heart what had happened. I mean, a mother knows. "

Townsend and her family were sent to Khayat's personal suite located in The Inn at Ole Miss. It wasn't long before word of their presence spread around campus.

"Somebody opened the door, and the entire hallway

was full of people," she said. "It was students, and it was their parents all in hysterics. I just remember thinking, What are those people doing here? Why are those people here?'"

It was when her "boys" or the young men who were also members of her son's pledge class visited that she knew exactly what had happened.

"By this time, they didn't

INSIDE ... Campus-wide memorial set for Thursday Community lends support Page 7 Timeline of Friday's events Pages 8-9 MONDAY AUGUST 30, 2004 Vol. 96, No.006 **Bound as brothers**

have to tell me. I knew that my child was gone. I knew."

'Love built it.'

In the days following the fire, Ole Miss students and citizens of Oxford and Clarksdale rallied together to support the fraternity and the families of those who died.

Historic department store Neilson's donated suits to boys who would be attending three funerals. Campus Greek groups and non-Greek groups collected items such as tow-

woman, I'm a

little old lady

from the Delta,

and this is the

hand. You have

to play the

hand you're

dealt."

els, sheets, underwear, toothbrushes and soap. "People were just bringing stuff," Townsend said. "They didn't know where to take it. They just wanted to do something. The amazing generositv of Oxford,

it was just

overwhelm-

ing." Townsend recalled people from the across the nation pledging generous amounts of money to rebuild the house that sits on campus today. Some people did it because they loved the fraternity. Some people did it in memory of Stone and Townsend and Williams.

hand. You have to play the hand you're dealt."

Townsend said some days she gets angry with her son.

"You knew better. You knew better than to do that. You were taught better. You knew better than to go into a burning building, but it's like his friend Matt said, it was not if Will was going to do something like that, it was when."

Townsend said to Will, things were black and white. Life was either fair or it wasn't, and he wanted everything to be fair for everybody.

"If some-"I'm not super thing would happen he would say, 'But that's not fair. Even when he was little he'd say, 'Momma, that's not fair.' I'd say, 'I know it's not fair, but some things are not going to be changed. That's the way life is." In the early morning

> hours of Aug. 27, 2004, Will Townsend made the courageous decision to risk his life for a friend.

"What if I'd never had him?" Townsend asked. "That's the way I look at it. We were the fortunate ones. I mean this sincerely, God is God, and God is good all the time," she said. "We would not have made it without our faith: we would not have made it.



amber comforts friends outside his fratemity house Friday morning. The ATOs spent most of the early hours in the Beta Theta Pi hou Fire scene investigation concludes, memorial service set for Thursday

MICHAEL NEWSOM DM CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

DM CAMPOS NEWS EDITOR Fire seene investigations at the Alpha Tau Otnega house ended over the weekend as the commu-nity prepares to say goodbye to three of its members. Federal, State and local agen-cies have wrapped up their on site look into the cause of the frater-nity house fire that killed there Ofe-Miss students early Friday mom-ing Alt the while, memorials were being planned.

Investigators found several pos-sible points of origin for the fire The investigation into the fire

that killed William Townsend, Jor-dan Williams and Howard Stone has been turned over to the Uni-versity Police Department. The investigators said that they found no evidence of foul play and no evidence the fire was intention-ally set therefore samples must be sent to the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

therefore samples must be sent to the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosiver (ATF) laboratory in Maryland to be analyzed to help determine the cause of the fire. Joey Hall, an ATF special agent assigned to the Oxford bureau, commented on the samples. "It will be a priority for them to turn it around, get some answers," Hall said. no evidence the line was internation-ally set. The starting point of the fire has been isolated to one of the basement bedrooms along the south side of the structure on the east wall.

turn it aroune, per tour 125 agents Hall said that about 25 agents trained to investigate the cause of fire were summoned to campus. He said that it is common for

his office to deal with or

fire investigations. "It is kind of what we do ev-ery day. With the amount of loss, along with the fatalities, once we got the calls, we jumped in with open arms," Hall said. He also said the samples would be analyzed today, and more will be known about the cause of the fire after the results are returned. Hall worked with ATF agents, the Misaissippi Bureau of Investi-gations, University Police, Lafay

fire after the results are returned. Hall worked with ATP agents, the Mississippi Bureau of Investi-gationa, University Police, Lafay-ette County Sheriff's and Oxford

physical evid

collected physical evidence at the scene and interviewed witnesses throughout the community. The fire investigation has been numed over to UPD, so that engi-neers can be brought in to deter-mine if the structure of the ATO house is sound enough for students to go in and collect any of their be-longings that are salvageable. Stone was the last casuality of the fire to be identified. Authors:

See THIRSDAY * page 5

"The house," she said. "Love built it. "

True steel magnolia

Though ten years have passed since the untimely death of her only son, Townsend admitted that when it comes to grieving, some days are worse than others.

"I'm not super woman," she said as her voice began to shake. "I'm a little old lady from the Delta, and this is the

"People will say, 'How could God do that?' Well God didn't do that. There was a fire. It happened. My child made a choice based on the type of person he was and what he believed in, and that's what happened. It's not been an easy life. It's not ever, but it's been a good life. It's a good life."

Alpha Tau Omega remembers and honors three who died in the 2004 fire. See page 5

Oxford Fire Department looks back on August 27, 2004. See page 6

Front page of The Daily Mississippian the Monday after the fire. The fire occurred during the first week of classes in 2004.

NEWS | 27 AUGUST 2014 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 9

	Aramark arrives with food for ATO members		Prayer service begins at Paris- Yates Chapel, followed by vigil at ATO house	2004	University news release confirms Howard Stone is third victim
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12:00	om	3:00 pm		st 2	
extinguished Jo		Officials confirm death of Jordan Williams; Howard missing; third body unide	Stone still considered	Augus	



More than 50 firefighters from two departments fought the 2004 blaze for nearly two hours. Twenty-three students and a house mother were in the house when the fire started.

314

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Kiernan speaks at freshman convocation



Photo By: THOMAS GRANING

Denise Kiernan speaks during the Fall Convocation for the University of Mississippi Class of 2018



Chancellor Dan Jones speaks with students after the Fall Convocation for the University of Mississippi Class of 2018.



Students read the University Creed during the Fall Convocation for the University of Mississippi Class of 2018



Photo By: THOMAS GRANING

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Photo By: THOMAS GRANING

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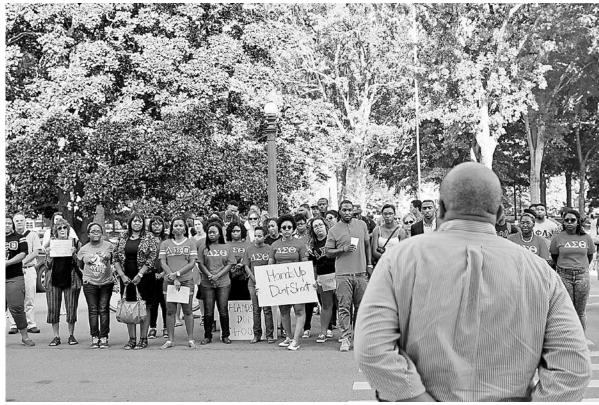
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Week of August 24, 2014

NEWS | 27 AUGUST 2014 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 11

Sorority leads walk for peace



Miller Boyd, professor of African American Studies, speaks before the peace walk on the steps of the Lyceum.



Retired professor Dorothy Abbott walks through the Grove during the peace walk Tuesday.



Syrenia Johnson, Raydreonia Robinson, Ann-Marie Herod, Jasmine Coley, Jeff Mcentosh and Brandi Rhoden lead the peace walk through the Circle Tuesday.



in one of Oblibes 300 Student 300 ORGS at the Set Involved Fair AUGUST 26 & 27 LYCEUM CIRCLE - 11am - 1pm

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PAGE 12 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | 27 AUGUST 2014 | SPORTS

SEC Football Power Poll

IN THIS SEC SEASON PREVIEW, THE DAILY MISSISSIP-PIAN'S SPORTS EDITOR DYLAN RUBINO RANKS THE 14 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE TEAMS. THE OLE MISS REBELS WILL PLAY IN THE CHICK-FIL-A KICKOFF GAME THURSDAY AGAINST BOISE STATE, GAME TIME IS SET FOR 7 P.M. CT.



AUBURN

Quarterback Nick Marshall's off the field issues may hurt rated starting quarterback A.J. the Tigers a bit for the opener against Arkansas, but the defending champs will be near the top of the conference once again. cruiting class and strong weap-



ALABAMA

The Crimson Tide lost deco-McCarron and players on defense, but the tide will continue to roll with another heavy reons on offense.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Head coach Steve Spurrier lost his star players in defensive end Jadeveon Clowney and quarterback Connor Shaw, but Spurrier always has something up his sleeve and the Gamecocks will be near the top of the SEC East.



GEORGIA

The Bulldogs are another team that lose a strong crop of players, but with talented players returning, such as running back Todd Gurley and linebacker Ramik Wilson, will keep Georgia in the SEC race.

alliance

49 Advances 50 Cartoon



The Tigers will continue to Miles. The questions arise at the quarterback position.

I SU



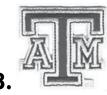
OLE MISS

Is this the year the Rebels live have a strong defense under Les up to the pre season hype? The there will be expectations for ziel, but sophomore quarterback Rebels face a good test Thursday against Boise State.



MISSOURI

After winning the SEC East, another SEC run in Columbia. Is Missouri capable of making another one?



TEXAS A&M

There is no more Johnny Man-Kenny Hill has enough talent to replace Manziel. It all depends on the defense for the Aggies.





FLORIDA

After a disappointing season from the Gators, the players will be battling for head coach Will fense will be stout, but it all lies and the Volunteers as they look Muschamp. Look for a bounce- on quarterback Dak Prescott. back season in Gainesville.

ARKANSAS

Head coach Bret Bielema

Favettville, but it won't happen

this season.

(in proportion) 60 Ominous sign

63 Ms. Lupino



MISSISSIPPI STATE

There are dark-horse expectations for the Bulldogs. The de- in for head coach Butch Davis



VANDERBILT

New head coach Derek Mawants to build a powerhouse in son comes in from Stanford and ing. Their schedule on the road looks to build a strong defensive does not help. mentality in his first season.



TENNESSEE

A great recruiting class comes to build on the season-changing win against South Carolina last season.



KENTUCKY

The Wildcats are still rebuild-

SUDOKU[©]

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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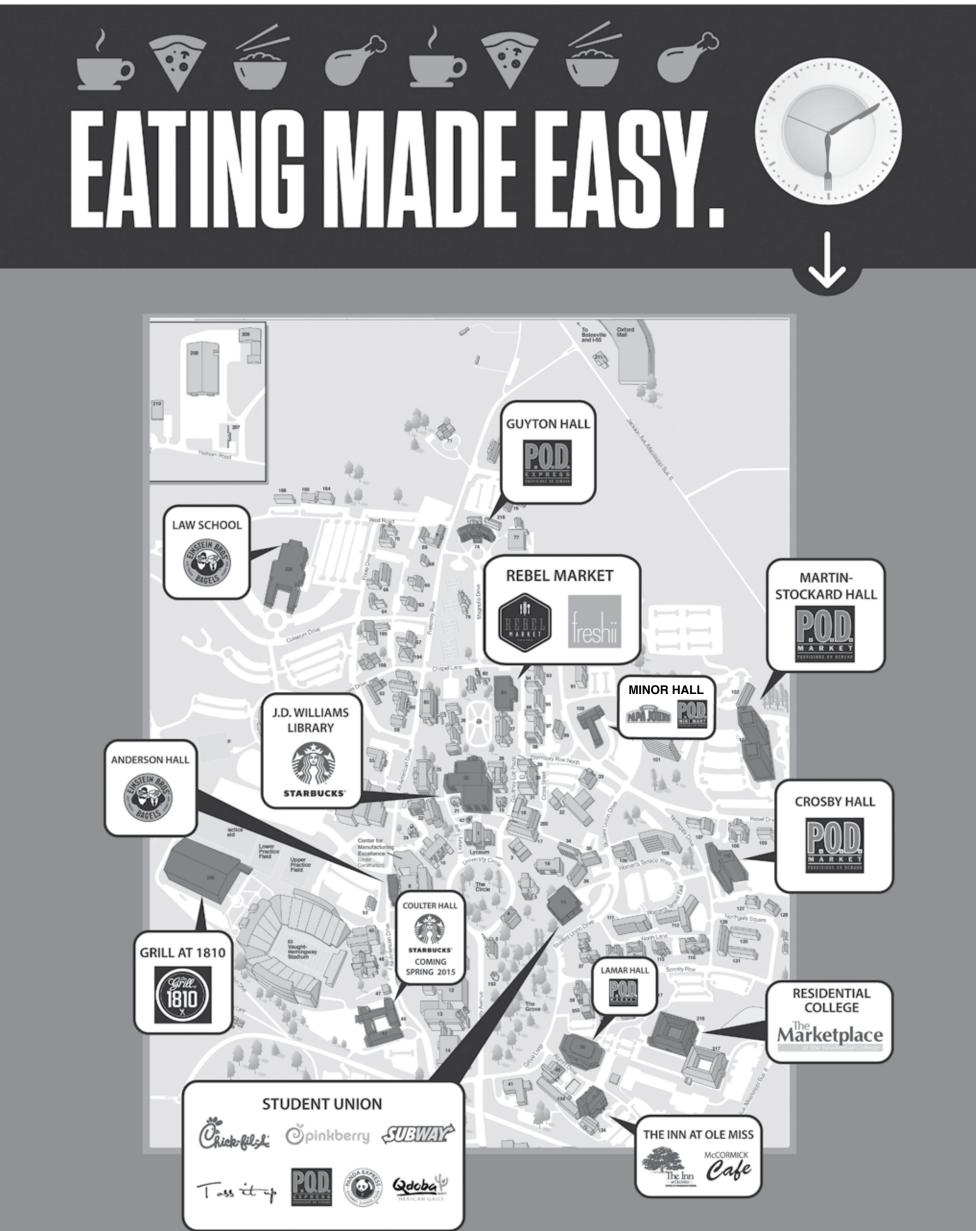
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HOW TO PLAY

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Soccer and volleyball press conference recap

MAGGIE MITCHELL

thedmsports@gmail.com

Ole Miss soccer head coach Matthew Mott took the podium Monday afternoon to address the media about last week's matches and to discuss the upcoming season.

Mott started his opening statement by saying how excited he was about the upcoming season as well as how appreciative he was of the fans' support from Friday's televised season opener against Georgia.

"I'm excited to get the season started. We obviously had a very exciting game on Friday night opening the season with a conference game on the SEC Network," Mott said. "It was almost overwhelming for our team and coaching staff with the support we got really from all different angles and certainly the fans. We had a record 1,823 fans. It was just awesome. It was packed, and it was standing-room only. You could feel the energy from the crowd, and we really appreciated it."

Regarding the team's performance in last week's opener against Georgia, Mott seemed pleased with the team's overall effort.



File Photo: CADY HERRING Melissa Capocaccia (18) heads the ball in Sunday's game against Iowa State.

"It was really a fast-paced, intense game. I thought our girls handled it pretty well. I was happy with the way we played, for the most part, in the game," Mott said. "We had one lapse on a set piece, and they did a nice job of finishing it. For us to battle back and get a goal and then give ourselves a couple other good chances was exciting for us as we go forward and get back into nonconference play."

The Rebels went on to play Iowa State in another close match Sunday, this time managing to pull out a 1-0 win over the Cyclones with a scoring penalty kick from senior goalkeeper Kelly McCormick.

"Our girls came out and played really, really well ... We were able to get a goal off a penalty. Jennifer Miller drew a penalty, and we had Kelly McCormick, our goalkeeper, come up and take the penalty. She struck it great and scored in a ton." for us," said Mott. "We didn't get that second goal to put the game away, but I'm certainly happy with how we performed under the conditions with the minutes we played on Friday in that kind of environment and then turned around and played again."

The Ole Miss Women's soccer team will take to the road for their next matchup set for 5 p.m. Friday against the Louisville Kentucky Cardinals.

VOLLEYBALL PRESS CON-FERENCE RECAP

Ole Miss head volleyball coach Steven McRoberts also met with the media Monday to talk about pre season camp and the new season.

"We have been in camp for 16 days now, 23 practices, seven weightlifting sessions and feel like we have come a long way as a team," McRoberts said. "The number one thing that we have talked a lot about for this season is making sure that we instill our core values and understand the process of creating a top-25 type volleyball program here. I'm really proud of these young ladies and the work that they have put in because they have put

The Ole miss volleyball team will head to Buffalo, New York, to start off the season with their first of four tournament games beginning 9 a.m. Friday against Canisius and ending noon Sunday against host Buffalo.

"We'll have two matches on Friday that will allow us to look at some different lineups and then make some decisions as we go through this weekend," McRoberts said. "Probably at this point, we're anticipating Buffalo on Sunday, looking at last year's things, being the toughest match on the weekend, and we're, of course, playing them on their home court on Sunday."

Regarding the team's starting players, McRoberts said they haven't 100 percent settled on a line-up, which in turn will give several players a chance for more playing time.

"We have played with a couple of lineups, and we like both of them a lot. Most of it utilizing the same personnel, but some of it utilizes some of our other players," McRoberts said. "When you have a fourmatch weekend, you can get a lot of your players playing time. It's a good thing, especially early in the season.'



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Listing of these previously mentioned areas of practice does not indicate any certification of expertise therein.

SPORTS | 27 AUGUST 2014 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | PAGE 15

Catching up with former Diamond Rebel Seth Smith

BROWNING STUBBS

bbstubbs@go.olemiss.edu

It may be time for football season, but baseball is still going on. And no, I'm not talking about Ole Miss baseball. Instead, I'm talking about a current MLB player who used to play at Swavze Field for the Rebels from 2002-2004. This player is Seth Smith, current left fielder for the San Diego Padres.

Smith is having one of the best seasons in his career, hitting .292 with a .392 on-base percentage and a slugging percentage of .492. All of his efforts this year are attributed to his journey throughout the minors, which was a long road for the 31-year-old Jackson native.

After playing for the Casper Rockies, the Tri-City Dust Devils, the Modesto Nuts, the Tulsa Drillers and the Colorado Springs Sky Sox in the minor leagues, Smith was finally called up by the Colorado Rockies in 2007.

"It was fun and difficult at

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San Diego Padres' Seth Smith is welcomed in the dugout after his decisive solo home run in a baseball game on Aug. 6, in Minneapolis. The Padres won 5-4.

times, but thankfully, I was still able to stay healthy and make the adjustments in each league going forward," Smith said. "I was able to take that next step each year leading up to 2007 when I got called up for the first time."

In his rookie season, Smith gained the honor of playing in the World Series against the Boston Red Sox. Smith would

PROUD PARTNER

with OLE MISS DINING

go on to play four more years for the Rockies and then moving on to play two years for the Oakland Athletics. Before the start of this season, Seth was traded to the Padres in what would become arguably his best season yet.

On opening day in his first at-bat for the Padres, Smith came off the bench in the bottom of the eighth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers to hit a three-run homer to seal the victory. The very next game, Padres manager Bud Black inserted the former Rebel into the starting lineup. During the week of May 5-11, Smith was named the National League Player of the Week after leading all of baseball with an average of .500 (hitting 14-for-28), slugging percentage of 1.000, and total bases (28). It was the first honor for Smith in his career.

"It's a long season, and I've had success up to this point. wife and I enjoyed our time The true test is to keep it going, and trying to consistently have good at-bats every night," Smith said.

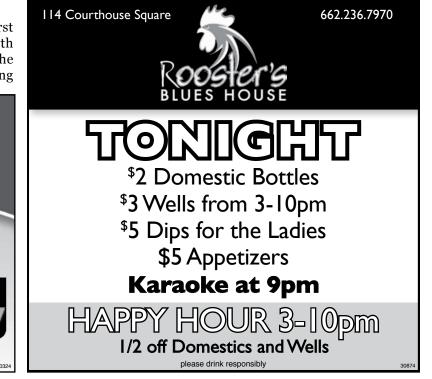
In the month of July, the Padres traded their face of the franchise in Chase Headley to the Yankees and deservedly awarded Seth Smith with a two-year \$13 million contract

extension. Smith will be one of the leading catalysts of the Padres for the foreseeable future after his accomplishments this season.

For those that don't know, the Ole Miss Rebels baseball team had a memorable 2014 season, making the semi-finals in the 2014 College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. Smith keeps up with the Rebels every season, and visits with Ole Miss head coach Mike Bianco every offseason.

"I loved playing there. My there, and we love giving back," Smith said. "We're always rooting for them."





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PAGE 16 | THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN | 27 AUGUST 2014 | SPORTS

C.J. Johnson returns, looks to improve defense and leadership

DYLAN RUBINO

thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss pass rush was one of the weak spots on defense last season; One reason being the absence of junior C.J. Johnson on the defensive line.

During the 2013 season, Johnson started the first four games of the season and recorded 12 total tackles. Johnson missed the last nine games of the season because of an ankle injury, which required surgery.

With the return of Johnson, the Rebel defense looks to be one of the best in recent memory. Johnson has taken notice in his return and how much potential this year's team really has.

"It's on another level. I haven't seen this football team this prepared, this ready to go and so anxious since I've been here," Johnson said. "Everybody in there is bouncing off the walls. It's all about how you use your energy. Everybody is fired up, but how do we use it?"

The leaders on the defense, which include Johnson, D.T.

Shackelford and senior Cody Prewitt have all made sure that their teammates stay sharp in practice and control their energy, Johnson said.

When Johnson arrived in Oxford in 2011, the Rebels went 2-10 overall and 0-8 in SEC play in Houston Nutt's last year as head coach. It's safe to say that Johnson has seen it all for the Rebels. The turnaround that Johnson witnessed firsthand has been eye opening.

"It's been very different. You can just tell by people's body demeanor and the way they come to work every day," Johnson said. "You don't feel like 'oh man. I have to practice today.' It's not that kind of feeling. Everybody is excited and ready to go. Then you talk about talent; you see that pretty much just walking around. We look like an SEC football team when we show up for practice."

The transition period Boise State is going through with a new coaching staff this year has made it difficult for the defense to prepare for the Bronco offense. Johnson thinks it's not so much preparing for the



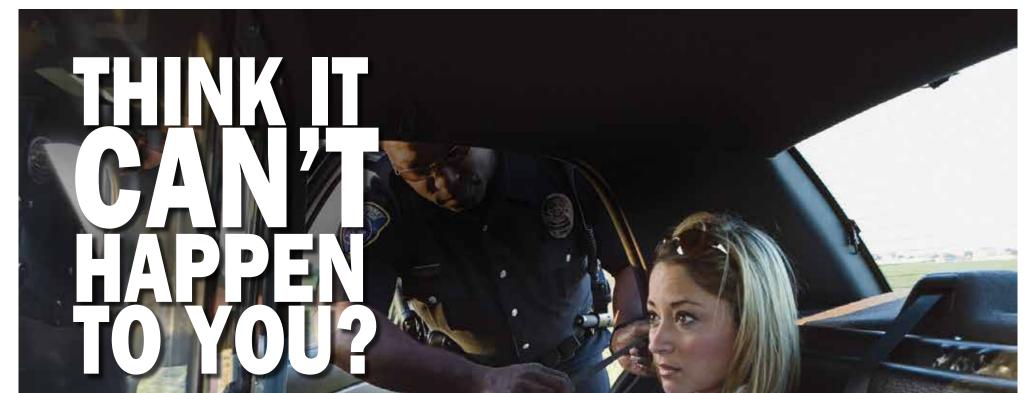
Ole Miss defensive end C.J. Johnson celebrates after a 44-23 victory over the Texas Longhorns last season.

Boise offense, but more about worrying about yourself and your assignments.

"It's tough, but the good thing is that sometimes when you face that situation you're not so worried about your opponent. You focus on yourself," Johnson said. "We know what we have to do on defense and we know what we have to do well. If we can execute assignments and lineup right, we'll be fine."

The defensive line this year is mostly filled with upperclassmen, and some of the younger players have to wait their turn to get reps this season. Johnson never had to go through that process, as he recorded 32 tackles his freshman year. Being told to wait to play your freshman year is a tough pill to swallow for the young defensive linemen, but Johnson has confidence in the players and is thankful for the opportunity to play as a freshman.

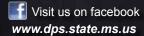
"It was kind of hard for us coming in as freshman in that we didn't have the bodies that we needed," Johnson said. "For us to adjust the way we did was really tough."











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