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The Daily Mississippian

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Recommended Citation

The Daily Mississippian, "February 4, 2015" (2015). *Daily Mississippian (all digitized issues)*. 976.
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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 Visit theDMonline.com

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Sweet Treats for Recruits:



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

A football-themed cake is seen at Sweet T's Bakery Tuesday. The bakery has become known for making personalized cakes for prospective football recruits.

Bakery creates custom cakes for recruits

MARY VIRGINIA POTERA
mvporter@go.olemiss.edu

Jeff and Kathleen Taylor, owners of Sweet T's Bakery on Jackson Avenue, have become known for making cakes for recruits when they come to Ole Miss for visits. The cakes are not ordinary cakes, but are artistically-made replicas of an Ole Miss football jersey tailored for the individual player.

Jeff Taylor makes the cakes himself each time the recruiting coaches let him know that a recruit is coming into town.

"Other schools have been making cookie cakes for the recruits for a while, but we wanted to make something more special, and we know the recruits really love them," Taylor said.

Indeed, many recruits have tweeted pictures of their cakes, and espn.com even featured one of the cakes on their website after seeing it tweeted by one of the recruits.

Kathleen Taylor has been involved in making artistic cakes for 17 years. Jeff Taylor started to make them a few years ago when sculpted cakes became more popular and well known, as seen on TV shows like *Ace of Cakes* on the Food Network. Now, Jeff Taylor builds and crafts cakes that are enormous structures and edible pieces of artwork and,

since last fall, has been making the jersey recruiting cakes for each recruit that comes in town.

"It is already an honor to give back and be part of what draws recruits to Ole Miss, but I find that making these cakes is a good creative outlet, and we love the reaction of the players through Twitter and other means," Jeff Taylor said.

Kathleen Taylor described the process of how the orders are placed and what goes into crafting each cake for the recruits.

"The recruiting coaches generally give us a week's notice, and we try to be there for them and make every effort we can to make the perfect cake for each individual," she said.

Jeff Taylor has allegedly become so skilled at making the cakes that now he can typically finish one within an hour or two, and a few weekends ago, when many recruits were in town, he made sixteen individual cakes for the recruits.

Although these cakes have become somewhat of a signature item to Sweet T's, they also make cakes for all kinds of different events at and outside of Ole Miss. Jeff Taylor made a large replica of the Egg Bowl trophy

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Safe Ride transportation program to partner with Cline Tours

KATIE FERGUSON
akfergus@go.olemiss.edu

Students for a Safe Ride, a program that provides free and safe transportation for Ole Miss students, has recently announced that they will be collaborating with Cline Tours as their new bus company.

The Safe Ride committee is looking for long-term solutions that will make the program more reliable for students. After working with a different company for a short period of time, the board decided that Cline Tours was the more dependable option for the program, according to Safe Ride President Gabriella Gonzaba.

"The (other) company wasn't as reliable as we wanted them to be," Gonzaba exclaimed. "We don't just want a company who commits only for a couple of weeks. So, we're excited that Cline Tours will be working with us now. They're

from Memphis and coming all the way over here to help us. That's really good."

Gonzaba also mentioned that the program's cost has changed, which may pose a threat to its transportation hours.

"The new pricing has gone up, so that's kind of a problem. We may have to change the hours we run at certain times. We don't just want to have two buses, but three or four continuously like the old Rebel Ride used to have. But, since the prices have gone up, we don't really know how much it's worth."

Associated Student Body President Davis Rogers said he is excited to work alongside Cline Tours as the program's bus provider. He also mentioned that alternative funding might be present in the future for Safe Ride.

"(Safe Ride) was very successful last semester, so we're looking to

upgrade our bus system, improve our routes and move on for the future. The City of Oxford has been offered a grant proposal from the federal government towards pushing for a safer environment around Oxford. The city believes Safe Ride is a good program, so they're thinking about funding parts of it. That's exciting."

Rogers included the program in his platform when running for ASB president last semester because he believed that the program was popular enough to be rebooted. He also mentioned that there were negative consequences around campus when Rebel Ride disappeared, as a secure ride was no longer ensured for students.

"I was a student during the last years of Rebel Ride, and I remember how vital the program was to people around me and how much of an impact it made when the

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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN EDITORIAL STAFF:

LACEY RUSSELL
editor-in-chief
dmeditor@gmail.com

SARAH PARRISH
managing editor
dmmanaging@gmail.com

MACKENZIE HICKS
copy chief
thedmcopy@gmail.com

LOGAN KIRKLAND
MAGGIE MCDANIEL
news editors
thedmnews@gmail.com

KYLIE MCFADDEN
assistant news editor

DYLAN RUBINO
sports editor
thedmsports@gmail.com

CLARA TURNAGE
lifestyles editor
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

SIERRA MANNIE
opinion editor
thedmopinion@gmail.com

CADY HERRING
photography editor
thedmphotos@gmail.com

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MADDIE THEOBALD
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design editors

KRISTIN JACKSON
digital content coordinator

ADVERTISING STAFF:

EVAN MILLER
advertising sales manager
dmads@olemiss.edu

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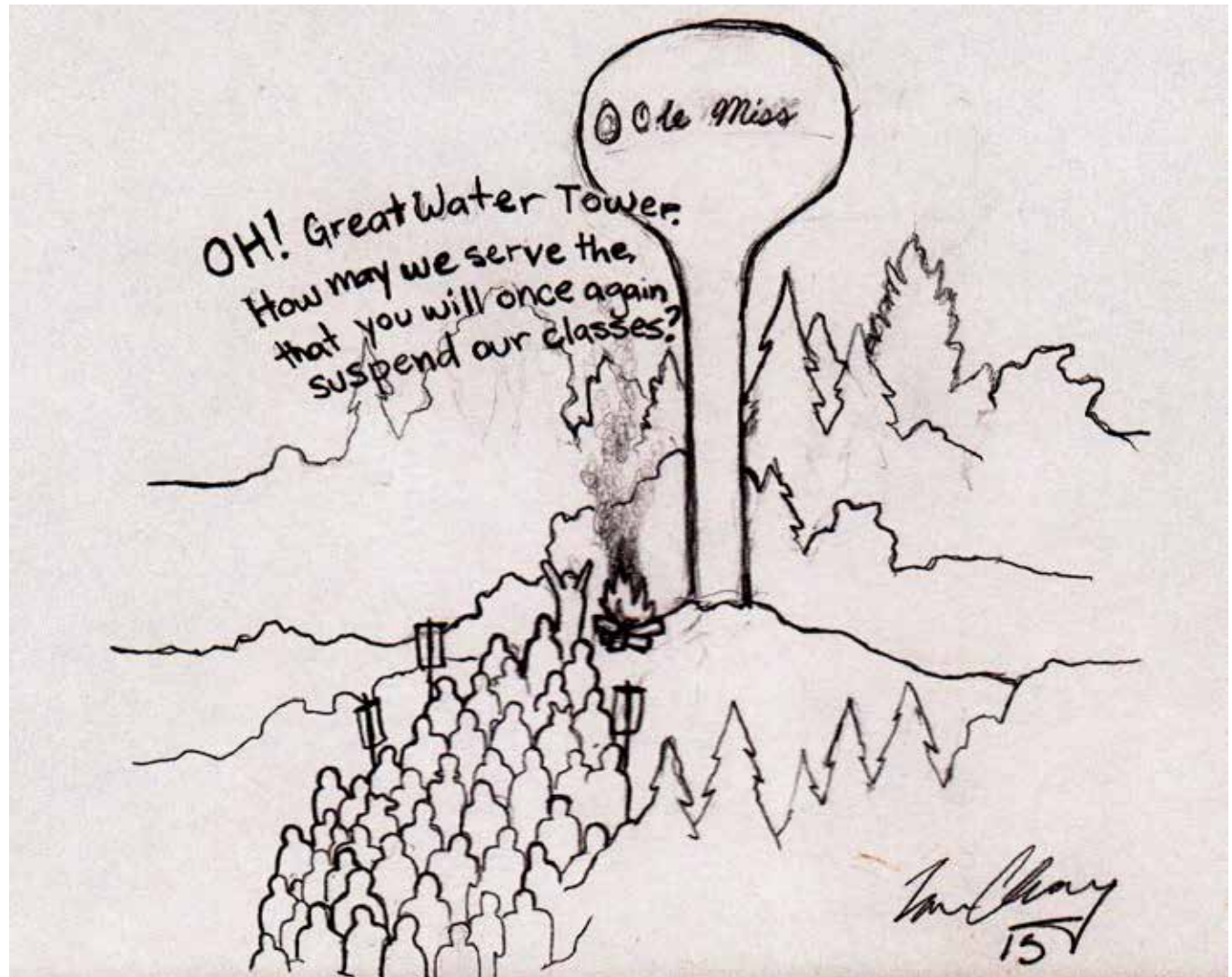
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SOUND OFF, Y'ALL:

Do you think parents have a right not to vaccinate their kids?

"This is 100 percent a public health issue, and I feel like those should be taken quite seriously. However, personal choice is also a big factor. Normally, I would be opposed to forcing an individual to take any medical treatment, but with vaccines it is more than any single person's illness. Compared to, say, Jehovah's Witnesses. They refuse blood transfusions, and it only affects their personal health. Vaccinations are a requirement for all people to be healthy. Preventable, fatal diseases are coming back.

"If parents aren't going to vaccinate their children, those children should not be attending public school."

Holly Baer is a junior religious studies major from Flowood.



"Yes, it should be left up to the parents on how they would like to raise their children. And if vaccinations are not one of the parents' choices: so be it."

David Huff is a junior mechanical engineering major from Brandon.

"Nope. Unless you're a newborn or you're immunocompromised (as a result of chemotherapy, for example), there's nothing dangerous about vaccines. In fact, by vaccinating yourself, you help prevent the spread of diseases like measles and chicken pox to those who can't be immunized. If you don't, however, you put yourself and others at risk for contracting these easily preventable diseases, which are sometimes fatal. We have speed limits for the same reason; it's not about taking away your right to go 120 miles per hour on Highway 6, but rather about ensuring that you don't threaten others on the road."

Reid Black is a sophomore biochemistry and philosophy major from Pascagoula.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

S. Gale Denley Student
Media Center
201 Bishop Hall,
P.O. Box 1848
University, MS
38677-1848

Main Number:
662.915.5503
Business Hours:
Monday-Friday,
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Daily Mississippian is published Monday through Friday during the academic year, on days when classes are scheduled.

Contents do not represent the official opinions of The University of Mississippi or The Daily Mississippian unless specifically indicated.

ISSN 1077-8667

The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to The Daily Mississippian, 201 Bishop Hall, P.O. Box 1848, University, MS, 38677-1848, or e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. 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.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

SAFE RIDE

continued from page 1

program disappeared,” Rogers said. “I trusted what I understood as a student and decided that this program was important enough to be pursued again.”

Ole Miss student Lane Proctor said the program is important for the safety of all students living on campus.

“It’s important to keep this program running because obviously people are going to be drinking on a college campus,” she said. “It would be irresponsible for the university to make a statement against drinking by not providing a source of transportation for students.”

The program will have a fundraiser after spring break in order to raise funds for the transportation costs. They are pairing up with Trey Horne, the co-owner of South Depot Taco Shop, and providing both wristbands and auction items for participants. A portion of your food or drink order will also be deducted.

Safe Ride became active after it was rebooted in September 2014, and the committee is hoping to get it running for spring semester in a couple of weeks. It will pick up and drop off in several different locations, including Martin/Stockard and Fraternity Row.

If you are interested in applying to be part of the Safe Ride organization, applications can be picked up in the ASB office. They are due March 6.

CAKES

continued from page 1

for the recent recruiting banquet that looks exactly like the trophy itself, and he has also made stadium replicas and other types of cakes for weddings and other events. In fact, the recruiting coaches first got the idea to give the jersey cakes to the recruits when one of the coaches saw the jersey cake featured as a groom’s cake at a wedding. Generally, it takes Jeff Taylor about eight to ten hours to make a large sculpted cake, and for even more special cakes like the stadium and Egg Bowl trophy, it takes about twelve to fifteen hours.

“The slogan of Sweet T’s is ‘Baking Memories,’ and that is really what we try to do,” Kathleen Taylor said. “We want the recruits to remember the experience of receiving one of our specialty cakes. Each cake is personalized and unique for each recruit.”

Nolon Blaylock, junior accountancy major and avid Ole Miss football fan, said he first saw the cakes tweeted by four star recruit DeMarkus Lodge. He was impressed with the authenticity and quality of the pastries.

“I think it is really special and generous that Sweet T’s is so involved in showing the recruits what they mean to the university,” he said.



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Sweet T's Bakery owner Kathleen Taylor decorates a cake last week.

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Coaching for Literacy chapter comes to Ole Miss

SARA KIPARIZOSKA

skipariz@go.olemiss.edu

Fifteen University of Mississippi students decided to change the way they were volunteering. What started off as an idea during their weekly dinners at the Residential College is now becoming a reality among these dedicated few. The students involved in the new chapter of Coaching for Literacy are not only helping raise the funds for important literacy organizations, but also giving up their time by directly volunteering.

Coaching for Literacy, a Memphis based non-profit organization, recently started an Ole Miss chapter and partnered with Ole Miss Athletics to raise funds and awareness about illiteracy in Mississippi.

Students of the university have a chance to purchase a \$10 raffle ticket for a chance to be an honorary guest of the Ole Miss men's basketball team Feb. 25. Together, the team and the winner of the raffle will help fight illiteracy and the UGA Bulldogs. The winner of the raffle can bring one friend and sit on the sidelines of the game, partake in the pregame and halftime activities, meet the team and stand alongside Ole Miss men's basketball head coach Andy Kennedy.

The members of the Coaching for Literacy Ole Miss chapter will be selling raffle tickets online and in front of the student union on Tuesdays and Thursdays until Feb. 20.

The Ole Miss Chapter of Coaching for Literacy also invites those who purchase a raffle to come to Rooster's Blues House on Feb. 19. Those who have purchased a raffle ticket will have free admission, and tickets will be sold at the door. Local bands Delta Springs and Dartboard Girls will be performing, and admission is 18 years old and up.

The funds raised from the raffle will directly benefit three local literacy programs. The Coaching for Literacy Ole Miss chapter has committed to supporting the Barksdale Reading Institute, Mississippi Children's Museum and Leap Frog. The goal of this new campus organization is to raise awareness among the student population of the illiteracy problems in our state and in our nation.

Currently, the Ole Miss Chapter of Coaching for Literacy is composed of 15 men from three different fraternities. Phi Delta Theta fraternity is represented by founder and president of Coaching for Literacy Ole Miss, Matt Bolton. Bolton is a current sophomore from Memphis who is majoring in Business Finance. Conner Adkins, a member of Sigma Nu from Jackson, Tennessee, and a current sophomore En-

glish major is the vice president alongside Wade Meena. Meena is a member of Kappa Alpha from Jackson and a current sophomore management information systems business major.

"We wanted this organization to be an inter-fraternity philanthropy event," Bolton said. "We want the awareness of this program to be maximized among different organizations."

Coaching for Literacy Ole Miss wants to unite all students, regardless of Greek affiliation, for a meaningful purpose such as fighting illiteracy.

"We are all from different fraternities, but we want to use our connections and come together for a common goal," Meena said.

"We are prepared to help each other out and make a difference by putting our differences aside," Adkins said.

Members of the Coaching for Literacy Ole Miss are also involved with the local Leap Frog program, which is a volunteer-based after-school tutoring center.

Coaching for Literacy at Ole Miss is the first chapter of its kind in the state of Mississippi. With current chapters at Vanderbilt University and SMU, Coaching for Literacy hopes to expand and raise awareness of child illiteracy among college students all over the nation.

Bolton hopes that one day the lime green colors associated with Coaching for Literacy will be as recognizable as the pink for breast cancer.

"Next year, I expect the chapter to grow and the sports programs to continually support it," Bolton said. "The athletic department has been so great and supportive of the student body."



PHOTO BY: CADY HERRING

Coaching for Literacy members Chris Diethelm, John Pierce, Peyton Vaughn, Matt Bolton and Brent Ferguson promote their cause in front of the Union last week.

"Bjork is such a great leader who could get in touch with all the different departments to help out with our idea," Meena said. "He was a big deal in making this chapter happen."

The future for Coaching for Literacy at Ole Miss looks bright and promising. The chapter plans to partner with other athletic teams on campus and give Ole Miss students the experience of becoming an assistant coach for a day, all while raising money and awareness for a cause that matters.

For more information about how to purchase your raffle ticket, be sure to check out www.facebook.com/CFLoleMiss. The raffle ends on Feb. 20, and only students of the university are able to purchase a raffle ticket. Students interested in volunteering can also text "REBS4LITERACY" to 22828 or contact any active Coaching for Literacy chapter member.

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National Signing Day predictions

CODY THOMASON

csthoma1@go.olemiss.edu

With National Signing Day finally upon us, I have decided to make my final predictions on which universities some of the Rebels' top prospects will decide.

CECE JEFFERSON: OLE MISS

Florida is also heavily in the mix for this dynamic five-star defensive end, but I think the Rebels hold on to their lead. Jefferson had a great visit a few weeks ago and can play immediately for the Rebels defense.

DAMARKUS LODGE: OLE MISS

There's been speculation that Lodge might follow fellow high school quarterback Kyle Murray to Texas A&M, but I think Lodge stays with Ole Miss, who has had the lead in the race for his signature for some time. The impressive wideout de-committed from A&M earlier in the season for a reason, and I don't think Murray is enough to sway him, especially with the chance that Murray might forgo football to play baseball.

DREW RICHMOND: TENNESSEE

Richmond de-committed from Ole Miss two days before National Signing Day, leaving the Rebels virtually no time to find a replacement for him at offensive tackle. He seems like a lock to join the Volunteers now.

VAN JEFFERSON: OLE MISS

While Jefferson did make a last-minute visit to the Michigan Wolverines with new head coach Jim Harbaugh, I think there's way too much ground for Michigan to make up in order to have a chance at flipping the wide receiver. I expect Jefferson to be catching passes for the Rebels next season.

LEO LEWIS: LSU

The longtime Ole Miss commit de-committed a few days ago, and later tweeted out emoticons of a tiger and a bulldog, hinting that his college decision



COURTESY 247SPORTS AND SCOUT.COM

Top: DaMarkus Lodge Bottom: Austrian Robinson

is between LSU and Mississippi State. Since he de-committed in Baton Rouge on a visit to LSU, I expect the Tigers to get this linebacker's signature..

JEFFREY HOLLAND: AUBURN

A close friend of CeCe Jefferson, Holland is a great linebacker who is between Auburn, Florida and Ole Miss. Holland has

been very interested in Auburn, especially after Will Muschamp was hired as their new defensive coordinator, and I expect him to ink with the Tigers.

AUSTRIAN ROBINSON: OLE MISS

While Maryland has led for much of his recruitment, things seem to have changed as of late.

I expect the New York defensive end to sign with Ole Miss and make the long trip to Oxford.

KEVIN SCOTT: USC

Fellow defensive tackle Ross Donnelly committing to Ole Miss likely means the Rebels feel they don't have a good shot at getting Kevin Scott. Ole Miss had seemed to be the leader, but it was rumored that if USC seriously pursued Scott they would land him. It appears they have.

JAASON LEWIS: ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Although he did visit Ole Miss, Lewis remains committed to ASU, and I don't expect that to change. Florida was also fighting but recently got another commitment at running back, likely making this battle between the Sun Devils, Ole Miss and Tennessee, but there's no indication he goes anywhere but to ASU.

JALEN JULIUS: OLE MISS

It's not determined what position Julius will play at the next level, as he's been projected as either a cornerback or a wide receiver. Regardless, Julius can be a dangerous weapon on either side and in the return game. I expect Ole Miss to beat out Miami and Louisville for his signature.

Be sure to watch Newswatch 99 for additional National Signing Day coverage and pick up a copy of The Daily Mississippian tomorrow.

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Civil War Drawings from the Becker Collection is curated by Judith Bookbinder and Sheila Gallagher and the traveling exhibition is organized by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California. Drawings from the Becker Collection premiered at the McMullen Museum at Boston College in the exhibition, *First Hand: Civil War Era Drawings from the Becker Collection* which was organized by the McMullen Museum and underwritten by Boston College and Patrons of the McMullen Museum. The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are sponsored in part by the city of Jackson. Support is also provided in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Support for *Civil War Drawings from the Becker Collection* is provided through the Thomas G. Ramey and Peggy Huff Harris Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson.

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F. Schell, *Rebel Cavalry Officers Driving Back the Skulkers* (detail), 1862. Becker Collection CW-FHS-MD-9_17_62. 30983

Recycle the DM.



FILE PHOTO: PAYTON TEFFNER

Stefan Moody attempts to block a shot in a game earlier this season.

Rebels to face Texas A&M tonight

BROWNING STUBBS

bbstubbbs@go.olemiss.edu

Tonight's matchup between Ole Miss (14-7, 5-3 SEC) and Texas A&M (15-5, 6-2 SEC) could determine second place in the conference. The Rebels are currently tied with five other teams for third place in the SEC, while they all trail the Aggies by one game.

ESPN "bracketologist" Joe Lunardi currently has both of these teams in the NCAA Tournament. Needless to say, this game will be evaluated greatly once March Madness time comes. Coming into this matchup, the Rebels are winners of their last three conference games, which is their largest SEC winning streak of the season.

On the other hand, Texas A&M has won six straight SEC games in impressive fashion. The Aggies are currently in good shape to make the big dance as their RPI is 33, while the Rebels' RPI is 48. Both of these teams gave top ranked Kentucky their hardest test of the season as both Kentucky had to win it in overtime over Ole Miss and two overtimes against Texas A&M.

Judging by the latest statistics, the Rebels have an advantage as they lead the SEC in scoring in conference games at 75 points per game. Ole Miss also leads the nation in free throw percentage at 80.1 percent. The entire SEC will be watching this game as one of these two teams will emerge. So far, the SEC has six teams in the top 50 RPI, which tops all conferences. Furthermore, Ole Miss and Texas A&M is a matchup that you don't want to miss and is a must win for the Rebels.

IMPACT PLAYER OLE MISS: ANTHONY PEREZ

Junior shooting guard Danuel House is a bad man on the court. House lights up the Aggies offense as he is playing consistent basketball, scoring in double figures in his last seven SEC games. Ole Miss must watch out for House because he is a threat from long range. In the win over Auburn last week, House made 6-of-7 shots from beyond the arc. On the season, House is shooting around 40 percent from three, and he must be contained on the wing. House has poten-

tial to go off for a big scoring night in this game where the stakes are high.

IMPACT PLAYER TEXAS A&M: DANUEL HOUSE

Junior shooting guard Danuel House is a bad man on the court. House lights up the Aggies offense as he is playing consistent basketball, scoring in double figures in his last seven SEC games. Ole Miss must watch out for House because he is a threat from long range. In the win over Auburn last week, House made 6-of-7 shots from beyond the arc. On the season, House is shooting around 40 percent from three, and he must be contained on the wing. House has potential to go off for a big scoring night in this game where the stakes are high.

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6 PM

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