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11-30-2016

**November 30, 2016**

The Daily Mississippian

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# MISSISSIPPIAN

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

## WHAT'S INSIDE...

**Exchange students** make contribution at Ole Miss

**Column:** At a loss for holiday gift ideas? Look no further

**Ole Miss basketball** ready to face adversity in coming weeks

SEE **OPINION** PAGE 2

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SEE **SPORTS** PAGES 7



## Severe weather downs trees around state



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Thunderstorms produced large hail and tornado warnings across parts of Mississippi on Tuesday, as officials warned that severe weather could threaten the state through the night and into the week. The National Weather Service is warning that much of Mississippi has a "significant" risk of tornadoes from sunset Tuesday to dawn Wednesday. Weather officials upgraded warnings in the afternoon, saying much of northern Mississippi had a moderate chance of tornadoes. A number of tornado warnings were posted, but no injuries and little damage had been reported by the evening. Some trees were reported down and a few buildings were damaged in eastern Rankin County and western Scott County after a tornado was spotted on the ground there, according to a sheriff's dispatcher and local media.

## Police investigate burglaries over holiday

**JACK ORLAFF**  
thedmnews@gmail.com

The Oxford Police Department is investigating six residential burglaries that occurred over Thanksgiving break. Four of the burglaries were on Old Taylor Road, one was on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and one was on Anderson Road.

OPD Sgt. Ryan Winters said this tends to happen when students leave for break.

"It's mostly because people are out of town not locking their vehicles or houses up," Winters said. "People will leave their things out in plain view, and burglars will see that and take full advantage of that. It's just an easy target for them."

So far, no arrests have been made in any of the individual investigations.

Winters said he believes the burglaries are not related in any way and seem to have been done by different people.

The University Police Department reported one burglary on campus over the break but was not available for comment when asked about an investigation.

## Rebels Roll West to give back over spring break

**LASHERICA THORNTON**  
thedmnews@gmail.com

Last-minute applications are being accepted today for the Alternative Spring Break trip from March 13 to March 19, which will focus on community service.

Ole Miss students will fly out west to the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Las Vegas. If chosen, students will pay \$150 to also work on community service projects in the area. Applications are due at 5 p.m. today.

The alternative break only recently started with a collaboration of the Department of Student Housing and the Dean of Students.

The upcoming trip for March 2017 will be the organization's third trip. In 2013, former uni-

versity staff started the break program when they took students to to help with storm cleanup, the food pantry and family assistance.

In 2016, students went to Yosemite National Park in California where they conducted a nature trail cleanup, helped build bear boxes and painted bulletin boards. Students also visited San Francisco and volunteered with Project Open Hand and Family House.

"I thought it was a lot of fun," said Michael Mossing, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, who went in 2016.

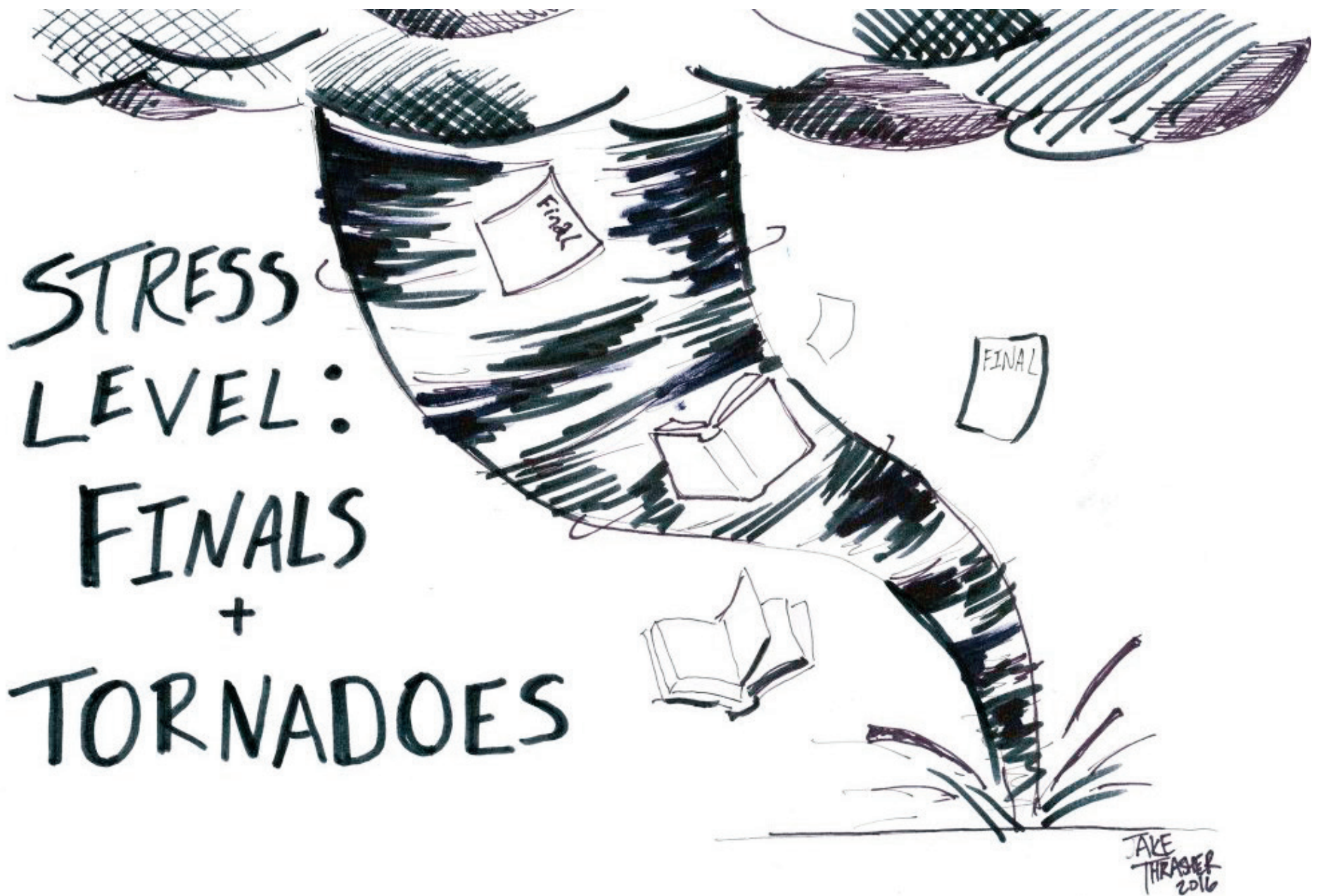
"The students all enjoyed themselves. It's a great experience as long as you aren't afraid to roll up your sleeves and work a little bit in the volunteer projects," Mossing-said.



PHOTO COURTESY: OLE MISS HOUSING TWITTER

SEEREBELSPAGE3





## COLUMN

## Foreign students crucial to campus

**PRADNYA LANGE**

thedmopinion@gmail.com

Every year, the University of Mississippi undergoes its competitive and selective admissions process.

Our admissions team evaluates ACT scores, SAT scores and GPAs of thousands of students.

As per the university's "Facts & Statistics" record, enrollment has shot by a monumental 38 percent in the last 10 years.

Retention rates have substantially increased from 80.8 percent to 86.5 percent.

As success rates of students have increased, it is important to remember the success and impact international students have had at the University of Mississippi.

Enrollment statistics by ethnicity and heritage showcases our

diversity. For instance, as per the fall 2015-2016 statistics, a total of 800 students enrolled were Asians, 41 were Pacific Islander and 428 were of two or more races.

The global engagement office makes every international individual here feel welcome and secure enough to showcase their identity with pride in their background.

The foreign student population sees warmth and friendliness from Ole Miss, and it is something that we value greatly.

Living on the other side of the world from your parents takes a massive step of confidence.

This step is also a crucial one because coming into a foreign country and not knowing a lot about the place is alarming.

It is not easy to room with a complete stranger, try to under-

stand the history, lifestyle and traditions of the United States while balancing two languages, if that person is not a native speaker of English.

His or her college degree might not be a way to find a job, but a ticket to alleviate poverty.

International students come to this campus for opportunity in a new society, and they make great contributions to this campus at the same time.

It is important that we remember the strengths and benefits they bring our campus, and all members of our community should seek out new ways to meet and interact with our international student population.

*Pradnya Landge is a sophomore computer science major from Bombay, India.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Last week millions forgot to be thankful for something that is uniquely American. That is the freedom of speech. The freedom to express your opinion is a right that you should defend.

On campuses around the country, it is becoming the new normal for freedom of speech to be violated. The reason given for this is that some speech is offensive or controversial.

However, free speech is supposed to protect opinions that others would dislike. I do not get angry when people talk about roads or food, but some people might. Those things that might offend me do not offend you, and vis versa.

Where do we draw the line, should we censor everyone? There is no excuse for silencing a single person's voice.

We must protect the expression of all, even the radicals and bigots, if we want to live in a free society.

You should be just as free to speak your mind as anyone else,

even if your ideas or opinions are terrible. Punishing the opinion of anyone endangers the opinions of everyone, because those who you were happy to silence today may be able to silence you tomorrow.

Freedom of speech is important for us all. It is not just the reason I can write this eloquent piece for you to read.

It is a guarantee that your freedom will not be silently taken away from you, and a guarantee that you will hear every side of the issues.

Happily, Ole Miss has a wonderful culture of free expression and it is highly rated by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. We should work to keep it a place of open minds and be a positive example for the rest of the nation.

*Morgan Dignowity is a sophomore public policy leadership major from Olive Branch.*

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MISSISSIPPI  
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ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

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.

The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be 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.



**REBELS**  
continued from page 1

Jennifer Stollman of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation will accompany students in March 2017.

The current committee for Rebels Roll West is composed of one full-time staff member, one faculty member, three graduate assistants and six undergraduate students.

Committee member Ashley Kerbel is the graduate community director.

According to Kerbel, more than 200 students applied last year; however, only 12 were chosen. For this trip, the committee leaders will use blind applications, scoring them based solely on question responses.

"We're going to be making sure we have a very diverse group," Kerbel said. "We may have students who are very involved on campus, but maybe this is their first involvement. We want to make sure we have a lot of blend and balance of students who are going."

Department of Student Housing Assistant Director for Marketing Jennifer McClure said, "We want students who are committed to not only the fun part, but more importantly the service component of it, too. We want them to have this as a networking and friendship-building opportunity as well. Maybe to connect with students they didn't already know who are on campus."

According to McClure, student housing has a student development fund to offer students educational and service opportunities. Rebels Roll West qualifies as one of those. Last year, the department used \$17,500 for the trip.

"I just hope that alternative break becomes a really large organization at Ole Miss within times," Kerbel said. "We have so much to offer. You know, leave Oxford and give up a break to do something great for the community and have fun with it."

# 15 years later: An Oxonian remembers 9/11

**BRIANA FLOREZ**  
thedmnews@gmail.com

In 2001, while sipping a fresh cup of coffee and watching "Squawk Box" on CNBC, Gray Edmondson was shocked to hear a news anchor say a plane had just hit the World Trade Center in New York City near his home.

Now, Edmondson is a practicing attorney with Barnes Law Firm, P.A. in Oxford and lives with his wife Macey Edmondson, the dean of admissions at the Ole Miss School of Law, and their two sons. But he still remembers the day the towers went down.

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 Al-Qaeda militants, an Islamic extremist group, overtook four airplanes and flew two into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers and one into The Pentagon. The remaining plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in New York City, Washington, D.C. and outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, according to CNN.

Edmondson, a recent Ole Miss graduate at the time, was studying tax law at New York University.

"When the plane first hit, even though it was a clear day, the assumption among most people around me was that it must have been a small private plane doing something stupid," Edmondson said. "Then, after the second plane hit and news came out about the Pentagon plane, it became clear that it was a terrorist attack."

Macey Edmondson was back home in Biloxi planning their wedding, when she received a call from him following the first plane crash.

"I immediately called my wife, then fiancé, and told her what was going on and that I was going to walk to the World Trade Center to see what was happening," Edmondson said. "I was walking up to the building, and was pretty much next to it when the second

plane hit."

Chaos followed the second plane crash into the World Trade Center. Thick black smoke quickly engulfed crowds of people running, fearing for their life. Edmondson said this moment was extremely frightening.

"When the building first fell, everyone started screaming and running," Edmondson said. "While running, I could see over my shoulder what appeared to be a large amount of thick smoke overtaking people running as fast as they could."

Edmondson was relieved to find out that the "smoke" was actually ash. Inhalation of smoke could have caused Edmondson and others with him to die.

"I took off my shirt and breathed through it," Edmondson said. "The feeling that we could all be about to die from inhaling that much smoke was pretty scary."

Panic, confusion and fear swept through the lower Manhattan area following the two crashes. Blinded by the thickening ash, a pandemonium quickly spread throughout the rest of the city.

"The sound of jets flying what sounded like close overhead could be heard, but we could not see much of anything through the ash," Edmondson said. "People were screaming and jumping to the ground. It seemed as though

New York City could have been under attack with even more planes crashing to the ground."

Edmondson couldn't get in contact with his wife again until hours after the attacks. His home was completely closed off by officials because of its close proximity to the World Trade Center. This caused Edmondson to relocate to a friend's place for a few nights, and then a hotel for two weeks, until he was able to move back into his apartment.

Edmondson said the days after Sept. 11 were eerie. Lower Manhattan was a ghost town with no sign of human life.

"Walking in Lower Manhattan with no other people around, everything closed, smelling the burning building, seeing ash covered cars, seeing abandoned street vendor carts was very strange," Edmondson said. "When we got close to our building, we saw an army tank driving down the street."

Police and military officials strictly controlled the New York City area. They broke crowds down block by block, building by building.

"The whole scene looked like something out of an apocalypse movie," Edmondson said.

Edmondson said his building had yet to be confirmed that its structure was safe, so officials monitored it closely.

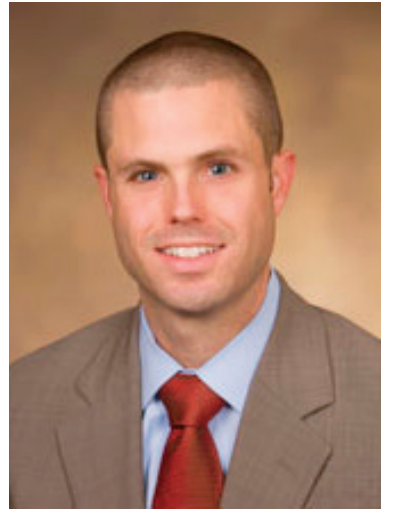


PHOTO COURTESY: GRAY EDMONDSON

"The army only allowed three people in at the same time and gave them 15 minutes," Edmondson said. "I was given a flashlight and 15 minutes to run up 21 flights of stairs, pack my belongings and run back down 21 flights of stairs with whatever I had packed."

Edmondson couldn't reunite with his fiancée until Nov. 21, three days before their wedding.

Edmondson said the events he experienced that day were scary, but he currently does not believe his life was ever at risk.

"Those few events were the only times I thought I could be in a near death situation," Edmondson said. "However, in actuality, I do not think I was ever in any real danger."

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**Hotty Toddy HOLIDAYS**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

- University Christmas Tree Lighting with Chancellor Vitter and other guests at 6:00 p.m. in the Lyceum Circle
- Pictures with Santa, holiday book readings, ice skating, holiday karaoke, free Domino's Pizza and drinks, hot chocolate and cookies, and arts and crafts
- Events and activities sponsored by the African Caribbean Association, Catholic Campus Ministries, Saudi Arabian Student Organization, and the University of Mississippi Hillel

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# 'Tis the season for giving (and receiving) gifts

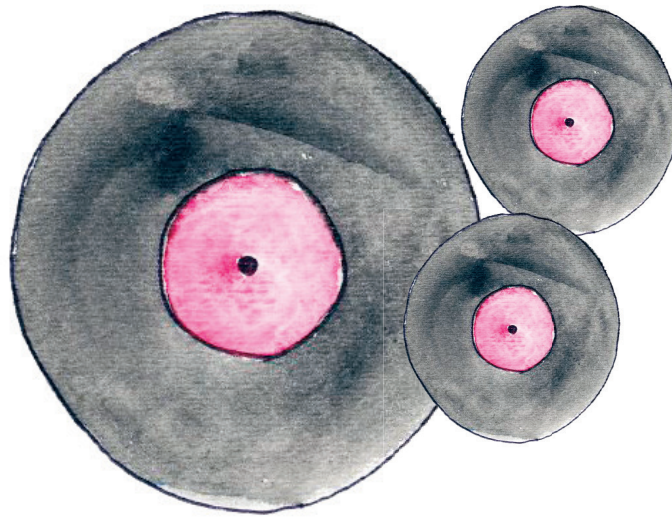
AKIM POWELL

'Tis the season... All I want for Christmas is As on my final exams and five extra points on my final grade, but that's a different story. I just want to give a personal thank you to Thanksgiving for the endless amount of stuffing and green bean casserole; it's been grand. Now that my food galore is over, it's truly upsetting that I have to go back to eating campus food everyday.

On the bright side, Christmas is almost here, and I'm ready to slay the holidays away! Nothing warms my heart more than listening to Mariah Carey's Christmas album and receiving extravagant gifts from relatives that I haven't seen in years. But hey, that's what holidays are for, right? If you're high maintenance like me, then your list is already complete and contains some of the greatest things of all time. The Daily Mississippian has given me the honor to share some of my spectacular Christmas gift ideas with you to help you out or inspire you this season.

## SMART WATCHES

This is literally the best invention ever. I'm probably the only person without one, but that's what makes receiving it even better. Not only are the watches affordable, but it's super cute, and it matches with any outfit. It comes in multiple colors, including rose gold, gold, silver and space gray. You can also have the ability to customize the face of the Apple Watch, changing the clock, photos, etc. According to GottaBeMobile, the Apple Watch is capable of sending and receiving messages, is waterproof in up to 50 meters of water and can check your heartbeat. Now that's an ultimate Christmas present.



KIMOJI MERCH

Kim Kardashian's emojis are so successful that she has recently started selling Kimoji merch. This would be a perfect Christmas present if you're a Kardashian fanatic like me, or even if you aren't. If you're unsure of what to get someone, don't look any further, Kim Kardashian has saved the holidays. The Kimoji merch has a variety of categories including, stickers, lighters, graphic hats, sweatshirts, bikinis and iPhone cases. These all display different modern tropes, including "Turbo Thot" and "Send Nudes." When you or someone receives the gift and loves it, you can thank me later.



GIFT CARDS

I love gift cards with a capital L-O-V-E. This is actually a great present for anyone and everyone. Why spend mine when I can spend someone else's? According to Time.com, gift cards "aren't just the right gift for your friends; they're the right gift for society." Growing up, I used to hate receiving gift cards, but now I'm overly obsessed with them. Being the broke college student that I am, receiving gift cards makes my life 100 times better, and I appreciate it so much more. The best feeling in the world is when you totally forget the gift card and you miraculously find it. It's life changing. This season, rack up on gift cards. You won't regret it.

## — OLE MISS — STUDENT UNION EXPANSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT

**EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, THE STUDENT UNION WILL CLOSE FOR RENOVATIONS.  
A LIST OF OFFICE AND SERVICES RELOCATED IS LISTED BELOW.**

- Ole Miss Student Union office, Campus Reservations, Student Activities Association, and Ole Miss Big Event to Lester 210
- The Office of the Dean of Students to Minor Hall, Room B05E
- The Associated Student Body and Black Student Union to Minor Hall, Room B05A
- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life staff (including the Interfraternity Council, National Pan-hellenic Council and National Panhellenic Association) to Minor Hall, Room B05C;
- Mississippi Federal Credit Union to Oxford main branch at 1101 Jackson Avenue
- ATMs to the lower level of Rebel Market near Freshii and the Ole Miss ID Center.
- Ole Miss Bookstore to the Jackson Avenue Center
- UM Box Office to the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts
- Chick-fil-A and Provisions On Demand (POD) will have mobile concepts on campus along with extended hours at various campus dining locations. Visit [olemiss.campusdish.com](http://olemiss.campusdish.com) for information.



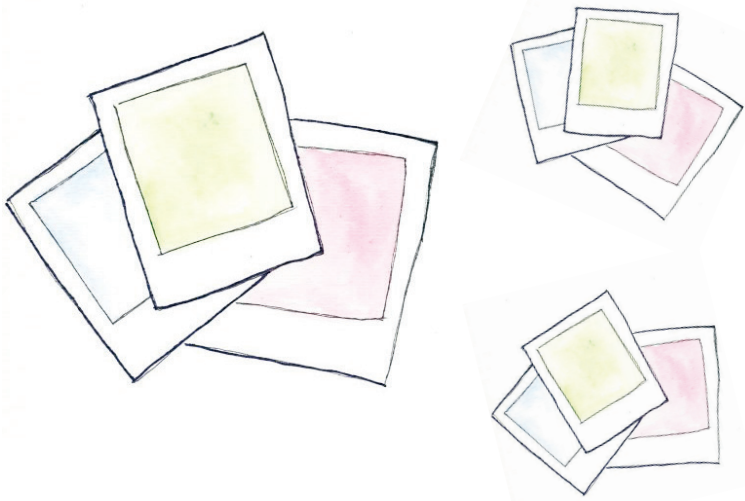
**The Ole Miss Student Union expansion will open in August 2017 and will feature a transit center, food court, McAlister's Deli and the Union Ballroom. The renovation project will be completed in Fall 2018. For questions regarding the renovation and expansion project, please visit [union.olemiss.edu](http://union.olemiss.edu).**



**DIAMOND JEWELRY**

I know they say that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but I believe they're everyone's best friend. I can't wait to see my diamonds dancing in the sun while I'm taking my selfies and drinking my eggnog. This is perfect for the haters. If you're a devious person like me, you make the haters believe that your imaginary boyfriend is actually real and totally blow their minds. On a not-so-psychotic note, the gift is perfect just to have to pass down to your future child.

I know Christmas isn't about giving and receiving presents, but it's the feeling you get when you receive something you've been waiting so long for. So let's make this year's Christmas as magnificent as it should be!



**PUPPY**

When it comes to picking the perfect present, a puppy definitely beats everything else on the list. It's possibly the best present ever. Due to the fact that my dog is 60 years old, I am in desperate need of a new puppy. Receiving a puppy for Christmas would make anyone in the world happy, no matter what age you are. If you're similar to me, you're not picky and all you want is a little furry friend named Max who you can sneak inside your dorm room. The puppy love is so real.

**POLAROID**

Thank god Polaroids are back because I am in desperate need of one! How adorable would it be to post some cute Polaroids on Instagram over the break? I'll answer for you: very cute. I'm truly upset that I wasn't old enough to enjoy this back in the '90s. However, Polaroids are now updated and improved with printers and rechargeable batteries. This is an ideal gift because it's really inexpensive, and you can bring it everywhere you go!

**CANDLES**

Most everyone enjoys the luxury of a nice candle. These are perfect gifts for both friends and family. They are also easily customizable, so even if you buy candles for each of your friends, you can gift them different scents.



**ALBUMS**

Everybody loves a good record, and with all the great albums that have come out this year, it'd be easy to gift most people music they'd love.

**BAKED GOODS**

Not only are baked goods gender-neutral, but they also show that you put your time and heart into making the holidays a little bit sweeter for whomever you give them to.

**INSTAGRAM PRINTS**

Why let all your adorable photos with friends stay trapped inside an electronic device? Order prints of your Instagram photos through sites like Social Print Studio, apps like PostalPix or even Walgreens. Add a cute frame, and you'll have one of the most thoughtful, easy gifts for friends. Some sites and apps even let you make calendars, posters and other creative displays for your Instagram photos.

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# Ross Bjork reaches out to fans, looks to future



FILE PHOTO

Ole Miss Vice Chancellor of Intercollegiate Athletics Ross Bjork issues an open letter to the Ole Miss fan base regarding the football team, the NCAA investigation and more:

“ Dear Ole Miss Family,

Greetings from the Ole Miss campus. I wanted to personally reach out to the Ole Miss Family as quickly as possible after this past weekend. It's hard to believe the football season went by so fast and has now come to an end. With a new normal being established, it is also difficult to believe the Rebels will not be going to a fifth-straight bowl. Less than a year ago, Coach Freeze and our team were hoisting the AllState Sugar Bowl trophy in New Orleans. In 2014, the Landshark defense was No. 1 in the nation, allowing only 16 points per game. I could go on with recent accomplishments under Coach Freeze, but you know them already and that's what makes this season disappointing.

All of us who work for your athletics program embrace high expectations – we signed up for this, and it is what makes Ole Miss a special place. We have all come to expect excellence, and that's a game changer for our culture and fanbase.

Make no mistake about it – not a single coach, staff member, student-athlete or administrator is content with the results of this sea-

son, and I assure you we will be relentless about getting back to the same trajectory of the previous four seasons. That plan and direction is built on a solid foundation that includes momentum across the entire University, enhanced athletic facilities, more financial resources than ever before, a confident fanbase and a commitment to excellence in all facets of our athletics program. None of those things are going away, and I can commit to you that we will not quit or let one season rattle our foundation. We are building a program to last.

So what's next? Here are a few areas we know you're interested in:

1.) *Coaching Staff.* As Coach Freeze has said, we will evaluate all aspects of the team and make appropriate changes. The search for a defensive coordinator is in full swing, and we have all of the resources to hire the best and brightest leader for our defense.

2.) *NCAA Process.* We know how difficult and frustrating this case is for our program and the Ole Miss Family. Rest assured, we have every resource at the table, but we will not make this a public campaign. At the appropriate time, we

will be able to share more about the process and the steps we have taken along the way. We are trying to reach a conclusion, and no one wants to see the end more than I do.

3.) *Vaught-Hemingway Experience.* As you know, Vaught-Hemingway was expanded and upgraded in nearly every area leading up to this season. With any construction project of this size, there are growing pains, and we want to know about your experience in an organized way so we can make the experience better in 2017. Please be on the lookout for the annual fan experience survey that will be emailed to all season ticket holders in the next two weeks.

At my introductory press conference, I asked our fans to do one thing – pull the rope in the same direction because you love this University and our students who compete in athletics. In addition to excellent coaches and student-athletes, winning the SEC requires the Ole Miss Family working together. Thank you for your incredible love, passion and support for Ole Miss Athletics.

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  - 15 Many a Norway king
  - 16 Hodgepodge
  - 17 Ms. Verdugo
  - 18 Robins' beaks
  - 19 Outlook
  - 20 Risk enjoyer
  - 22 Tequila source
  - 23 Not green
  - 24 Locked horns with
  - 26 Skip stones
  - 29 Brain, maybe
  - 31 Aries mo.
  - 32 It gives a hoot
  - 33 — grip!
  - 34 Fills the shelves
  - 38 Boo and hiss
  - 40 Good name for a cook?
  - 42 NBA star
  - 43 Most peculiar
  - 46 Goals
  - 49 Found a perch
  - 50 Itinerary word
  - 51 Rib, slangily
  - 52 Ave. crossers
  - 53 Reeled off
  - 57 Geishas' sashes
- DOWN**
- 1 Dappled
  - 2 NCAA Bruins
  - 3 —do-well
  - 4 Radio dial
  - 5 Bulb-planting chore
  - 6 Modifies
  - 7 Others, to Ovid
  - 8 Cello player — Casals
  - 9 RCA products
  - 10 It's near St. Petersburg
  - 11 Sewing machine inventor — Howe
  - 12 Colander
  - 13 Did a AAA job
  - 21 Thrust-and-parry sword
  - 22 Client mtg.
  - 25 Faux —

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

C	O	A	L	U	H	A	U	L	O	R	C	A								
A	L	M	A	N	O	R	M	A	B	O	O	M								
Y	E	A	R	B	R	O	W	N	S	T	U	D	Y							
				G	L	E	N	N	O	R	A	T	E	S						
				Q	U	E	E	N	S	A	L	A	I							
				L	U	L	L	E	D	C	V	I	N	E	A	R				
				E	A	S	Y	S	I	R	E	N	S	L	U	E				
				A	R	T		L	E	N		D	D	S						
				S	T	E	M	C	O	P	S	E	P	E	R	T				
				E	Z	R	A	A	N	E	N	O	I	S	E	S				
								N	A	N	A	S	C	A	N	T	Y			
								P	A	I	D	I	N	A	A	R	D			
								A	R	M	A	D	I	L	L	O	S			
								W	E	P	T	N	O	T	R	E	W	I	S	E
								S	A	S	E	G	O	O	D	S	N	A	M	E

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- 26 Karate studio
- 27 Dazzled
- 28 Answered a judge
- 30 Goes steady
- 35 Cartoon frames
- 36 Make a sweater
- 37 Bilko and Preston
- 39 Editorial work
- 41 Set free
- 44 Location
- 45 — kwon do
- 47 Applies gently
- 48 — shock
- 53 Tailoring job
- 54 Ms. Jong
- 55 Bishop's rule
- 56 Part of LED
- 58 Intuit
- 61 One-and-only
- 62 Like many a train
- 63 Days before
- 64 Like autumn leaves
- 66 British FBI

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
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65					66				67				
68					69				70				
71					72				73				

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		8										
			3		7			5				
	2						9			3		
					9			6		2		
2		4					8			1		
6	5				7							
4		9								1		
	1		5			8						
								2				

### HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INTERMEDIATE

4	8	2	6	1	7	5	9	3
9	6	3	8	4	5	2	1	7
6	9	3	7	3	6	2	9	4
5	1	7	3	6	2	9	8	4
9	3	4	2	7	8	1	5	6
1	7	8	5	3	9	4	6	2
2	6	5	1	9	4	3	7	8
3	4	9	6	8	1	7	2	5
8	5	1	7	3	2	6	4	9
7	2	7	4	6	5	9	8	1



# Ole Miss basketball ready for tough opposition

**SAM HARRES**  
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The Rebels look set to test their mettle over the coming weeks against a number of challenging teams. After a series of impressive wins, including one against reigning Atlantic 10 champion St. Joseph's, Ole Miss snapped back to reality with a loss in the Paradise Jam final against tenth ranked Creighton. Head coach Andrew Kennedy had no illusions about the loss.

"Creighton is just really good. They make more plays than us, they go 16 for 26 and they deserve to win the title over there," Kennedy said.

Three days after flying back from the tropical tournament based out of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Rebels bounced back and posted a big 86-81 win against perennial Big Sky Conference powerhouse Montana. Led by University of New Mexico transfer Cullen Neal, who contributed 19 points and went five for eight from behind the ark, Ole Miss came out firing on all cylinders after competing with the Bluejays to the bitter end.

"I definitely think we had a good confidence level coming out of the Virgin Islands, I mean obviously it wasn't the result we wanted but I think we can feel good about losing a close game to a top 10 team in the country," Neal said.

Now, the Rebels look forward to a packed schedule with games against Middle Tennessee State, Memphis, Virginia

Tech and Murray State up next. The Ole Miss staff, led by Kennedy for their 11th consecutive year, understands both the difficulty and the reward from playing talented teams.

"They're gonna be tough, they're not going to give us anything free. It'll be a good challenge for our team, I think it'll be one that we need in order for us to continue to move the program forward," Kennedy said.

Deandre Burnett, who transferred in from Miami last season but was not eligible to play until this year, has stood out as a game changer for the Rebels all season. He currently holds the national record for points in a game this season with 41 during the Rebels' Paradise Jam win against Oral Roberts. Burnett, a junior, acknowledged how important a loss can be, especially against a program like Creighton, for the maturation process of his team.

"It was a big measuring stick, they are a top ten team that can shoot it and guard it," Burnett said, "We fought, we were leading that game for 26 minutes and that shows what kind of team we're capable for having. We give that effort for 40 minutes instead of 26 minutes and who knows."

To add to the difficulty of their upcoming schedule, Ole Miss is about to enter exam week. Student-athletes, even at Ole Miss, cannot escape the harsh reality of cumulative reviews and term papers.

"You get into exams which are never easy," Kennedy said,



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Senior forward Sebastian Saiz battles with UMass defenders during a game earlier this season.

"They're gonna test these guys in other aspects."

All in all, Ole Miss fans will have plenty to keep their eye on over the coming weeks. The Rebs play Middle Tennessee and Memphis at home on Wednesday and Saturday respectively and then take a brief road trip to Virginia Tech before heading back home to face Murray State next Thursday.

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# Rebels work to improve defensive play this season

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Since before the season began, Ole Miss basketball hasn't had any trouble scoring. With five players averaging double-digits and 36 points per game between the newly arrived duo of Deandre Burnett and Cullen Neal, this squad has plenty of firepower. The mystery so far, and the story that could define the rest of the season, is whether Head Coach Andy Kennedy's defense can keep up with the scoring of the offense.

While the Rebels flashed serious talent at the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands last week, the defense was a key reason that Ole Miss could not follow through on a near-upset over 10th-ranked Creighton. Burnett and his teammates led the Bluejays for much of the game, but couldn't maintain their early intensity and focus until the final buzzer.

"We were leading that game for 26 minutes. If we can give that type of effort for 40 minutes instead of 26 minutes then, who knows, maybe Ole Miss would be ranked right now," Burnett said.

Despite failing to protect its lead against Creighton and ultimately losing by nine points, the defense has improved as the season has progressed. Poor defense has caused unnecessarily close games since the Rebels' exhibition win against Morehouse when they led by only single dig-

its at halftime. Since then, five of their six games have finished with a margin of less than 10 points. Burnett, Kennedy and Neal all posited that a lack of communication could be the largest factor to blame for defensive struggles.

"Once we start communicating better and trusting each other a little more on the court I think our defense will start progressing better," Neal said.

This could be a point of hope for Rebel fans as it suggests more of an issue with chemistry than an issue with talent. Time spent playing, practicing and learning together could alleviate many of the hardships this new team faces. Fans can also breathe easy as Ole Miss has played thus far without its best shot-blocker Nate Morris, who was suspended for a violation of team rules earlier in the year. While the exact date of his return is uncertain, his reach should greatly impact the defensive end upon his return.

In the meantime, the young Rebels are faced with a difficult situation in which they must focus on learning and communication in order to improve defensively while keeping an eye on upcoming matchups with Middle Tennessee and Memphis. Ole Miss needs time to mature and form a cohesive defensive mindset while also pushing the limits against other top-tier NCAA talent.

The weeks ahead will reveal a number of things and, if Neal



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Guard Cullen Neal moves to take a shot at a recent game against UMass.


is correct, Kennedy may need to redirect his focus toward limiting the rotation to allow a more defined chemistry to form between his core players. This may prove

difficult, but is necessary if Ole Miss wants to run make a run in the SEC and perhaps even NCAA tournaments. The scoring is there, but the defense will surely

be the defining factor of how far this team can go.

## THIS WEEK IN OLE MISS SPORTS

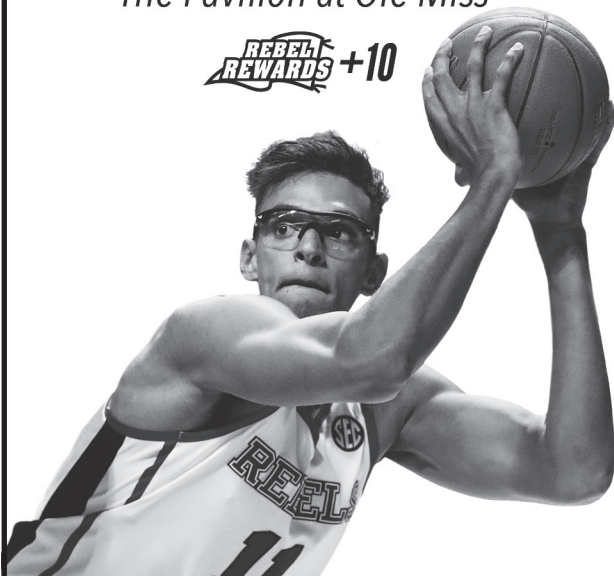
### TONIGHT

**MEN'S HOOPS vs. **

**NOV. 30 • 7 PM**

The Pavilion at Ole Miss

**REBEL REWARDS +10**



### TOMORROW

**WOMEN'S HOOPS vs. **


**DEC. 1 • 11 AM**

The Pavilion at Ole Miss

**REBEL REWARDS +20**



### SATURDAY

**MEN'S HOOPS vs. **

**DEC. 3 • 12 PM**

The Pavilion at Ole Miss

**REBEL REWARDS +10**



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