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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Alex George reads 'Setting the Kite Free' today

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WHAT'S INSIDE...

Rolling Stone top 25 artist performing in Oxford tonight

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Walk-off home run lifts Rebels over LA Tech

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TOMORROW...

ASB presidential candidates' platforms at a glance

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Candidates plead their cases, answer student questions



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

(Left to right) Austin Spindler, Dion Kevin and Emily Hoffman, Associated Student Body presidential candidates, answer questions from students and define their campaign platforms at the officer debate Wednesday in the Overby Center.

**LYNDY BERRYHILL
JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD
SLADE RAND**

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For the first time in three years, student body president candidates defended their claims to office for a standing-room-only auditorium Wednesday night.

All 14 candidates for president, vice president, attorney general, secretary, judicial chair and treasurer gathered at the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics for the debate. More than 200 students attended the debate, most of whom were pulling for one candidate or another.

Presidential candidates Emily Hoffman, Dion Kevin and Austin Spindler spoke about the importance of diversity, community involvement and student feedback.

Hoffman said the most difficult issue facing the student body from the perspective of ASB is the lack of student involvement. She said to solve the problem, ASB must reach out to more groups on campus, especially minority groups, to achieve maximum participation and inclusion.

"It takes us going and being uncomfortable ... so that we can get everyone's voice heard," Hoffman said.

Kevin suggested ASB require students to have a certain number of service hours, similar to how the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College runs its service hours program, to ensure involvement.

"I want the students to start caring about the community more," Kevin said. "I am kind of tired of students taking the

SEE **DEBATE PAGE 4**

Health center seeks grant to support free HIV testing

JENNIFER FRONING
thedmnews@gmail.com

The Center for Disease Control reports that people living in Southern U.S. account for nearly half of all people living with an HIV diagnosis in the country, at 44 percent. As a state, Mississippi is ranked ninth in the nation for the lifetime risk of HIV diagnosis, with 20.6 people diagnosed per 100,000 residents. Lafayette County reported seven cases of HIV in 2015.

To combat the virus on campus, the Ole Miss Health Center conducts HIV testing in house. Dr. Travis Yates, director of the health center, said the center conducts these tests every day.

"We have some students who come specifically for HIV testing, and some come frequently for STD testing," Yates said. "We will often include HIV in that if they elect to have that done."

Nationally, HIV spreads fastest among gay and bisexual men, younger demographics and African Americans. In 2015, 16.8 people per 100,000 residents of Southern states were living with

an HIV diagnosis. This rate was 11.6 per 100,000 in the Northeast, 9.8 per 100,000 in the West and 7.6 per 100,000 in the Midwest.

At Ole Miss, students have to pay for the HIV test if they want to have it done on campus, but Yates said he is trying to get free HIV testing reestablished for students. The school is seeking a grant from the State Board of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to help provide free HIV testing for students. Yates said this may bring more HIV-positive students to the health center.

"We see our students here at the Student Health Center, but that in no ways means that we see every student with HIV," Yates said. "There may be plenty of students with HIV that I have no knowledge of."

All the nurses at the health center on campus are already certified to administer an HIV test, but in order for Ole Miss to get this grant, the nurses have to go through a special training

SEE **HEALTH PAGE 3**

Ash Wednesday services attract hundreds on campus



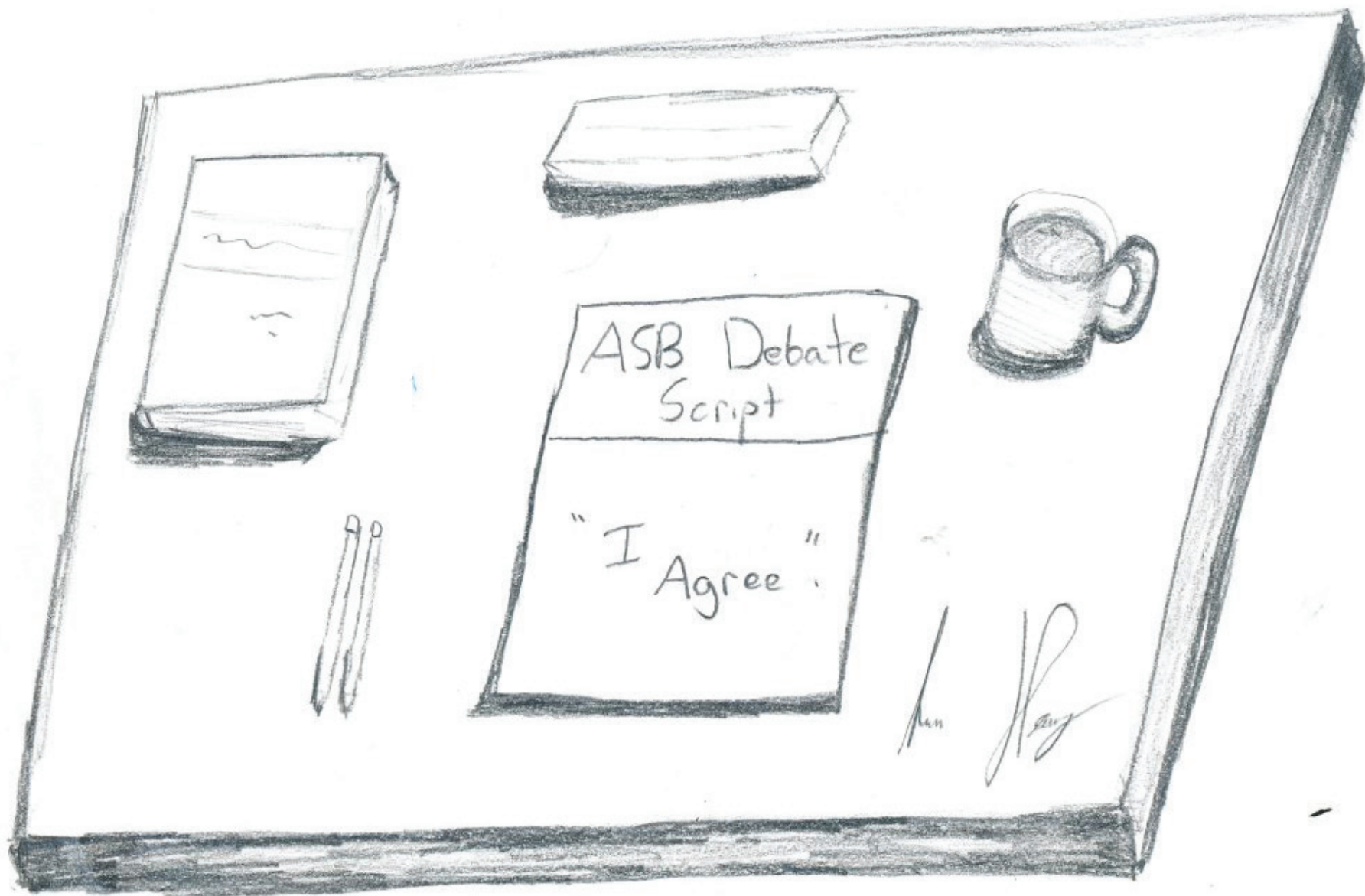
PHOTOS BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Students, faculty and staff gathered on campus throughout Ash Wednesday to commemorate the first day of Lent, the 40 days of penance before Easter.

Hundreds of participants prayed together and were given a small cross of ash on their foreheads. The tradition

stems from the Bible verse in Genesis, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

A special mass took place at 7 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on campus, at noon in the Paris-Yates Chapel and at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church.



COLUMN

Republican party: Not as pro-life as we think



DANIEL PAYNE

thedmopinion@gmail.com

For many people in the South, especially in religious contexts, there seems to be little thoughtful decision to be made about political candidates. Only a few issues are important, and the pinnacle of these issues is whether a candidate claims to be “pro-life.”

The candidates who have

claimed the moral high ground on this issue have traditionally been Republican, because their policies call for fewer abortions, whether by making them illegal or very difficult to receive.

Unfortunately, the recent actions of Republican politicians suggest they have forgotten life continues past the stage of a fetus, in foreigners, refugees and all other humans.

Perhaps the most widely supported disregard for life may be that destroyed by the negligence of our own military activities. While the military does a great deal of good worldwide through humanitarian aid and governmental stabilization, there are certainly reasons for concern.

Over the past years, the use of drone strikes has risen significantly, as have innocent people killed by them. Some attempts to estimate how many are killed

without reason by our drone strikes result in counts in the hundreds or even thousands. It is true that both parties hold some blame in this inconsistency, but Republican politicians and citizens are less concerned with the consequences of such reckless strikes.

Similarly strange about the “pro-life” party is its support of refusing refugee entry into the country. Many of these refugees will die without a country to grant them safety, and though there is no evidence of such immigrants harming us, they remain outcasts by the hands of Republicans.

The cries of the religious right ring out against abortion, but for those refugees who Jesus himself commanded compassion, there is little response.

Another issue of concern is the manner in which Repub-

licans have been handling the healthcare system. The repeal of the Affordable Care Act without a replacement poses serious concerns for those who would lose coverage. Well-respected studies found that upwards of 35,000 people could die by such rash actions. Unfortunately, there is little outrage on the right about these lives.

The death penalty, another cause championed by Republicans in recent years, has yielded its share of innocent victims. A study from the National Academy of Sciences estimated that one in 25 people executed was innocent. Though the number is small, it is surprising that the party that has branded itself as “pro-life” supports so ardently a policy with these consequences.

Even without all these considerations, the evidence that the Republican party saves

lives by preventing abortions is scarce. The rate of abortions in the U.S. is dependent upon many factors, none of which include the party in power. Many states that increased access to abortions had fewer than the national average. The rhetoric that Republican lawmakers reduce abortions is plainly false.

While neither party perfectly defends life in all forms, there is one party that champions the title “pro-life.” Unfortunately, this branding doesn’t correlate to lives lost in the real world.

As voters, we should be aware of not only the philosophies but also the outcomes of their policies.

Daniel Payne is a freshman integrated marketing communications major from Collierville, Tennessee.

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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.

HEALTH
continued from page 1

program. Training includes five hours of online practice and a daylong in-person training session.

Two nurses at the health center are currently signed up to go through the training so Ole Miss will qualify for the grant. When the staff is accredited with the training certification, the program for free HIV testing on campus will be reestablished.

Currently, if a student turns out to be positive for HIV, the health center will refer that person immediately to an infectious disease specialist. The nearest infectious disease specialist is in Tupelo.

Yates said the health center will still treat the student for common ailments such as a cough, the common cold or the flu, but the center requires the student to be monitored by an HIV specialist.

HIV rates have stayed about the same in the last few years at Ole Miss. Ole Miss does not have a high incidence of HIV in the student population, but that does not include all of Oxford or Lafayette County.

If a student is HIV positive, that person does not have to register with the health center on campus, but Yates said he or she does have an ethical obligation to tell his or her partner because it is life-threatening.

“They may have been diagnosed elsewhere or getting their care elsewhere,” Yates said. “The number of students that I do or do not see may not be reflective of our overall numbers.”

In 2015, the state saw 509 diagnosed cases of HIV, according to the Mississippi Department of Health.

Women accounted for 110 of those cases of HIV, and African-American women reported the highest number of cases with 86. White women reported 16 cases,

and Hispanic women accounted for four cases.

There were a total of 399 cases of Mississippi men living with HIV in 2015. African-American men ac-

counted for 323 cases, and white men reported 59 cases. Hispanic men saw 10 cases, and the last seven cases were from other ethnicities.

The CDC funds the Mississippi State Department of Health to implement a high-impact approach to HIV prevention. In 2014,

\$6,926,595 was given to Mississippi for HIV/AIDS program initiatives. Yates said these initiatives are a worthwhile cause.

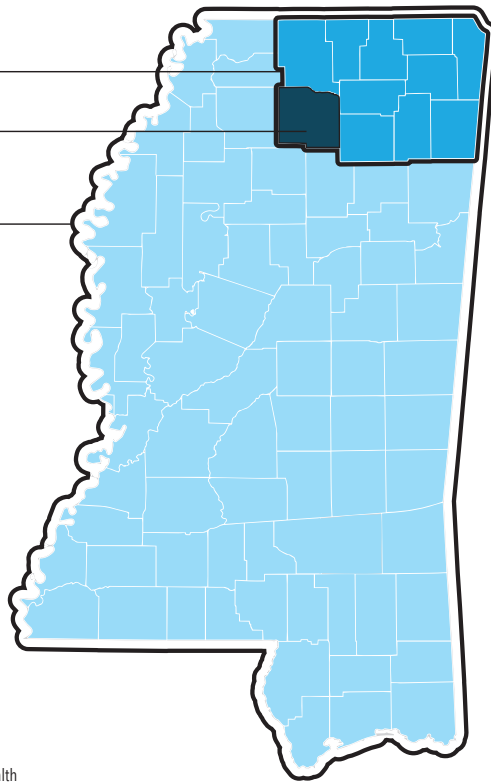
“The only thing we can do is educate people,” Yates said. “We can educate people, explain the risks and educate people about safe sex practices.”

Reported cases of HIV in Mississippi

7
33
509

Females:
African Americans: 86 cases
White: 16 cases
Hispanic: 4 cases
Other: 2 cases
Unknown: 2 cases
Total Females: 110 cases

Males:
African Americans: 323 cases
Other: 4 cases
Unknown/MR: 3 cases
White: 59 cases
Hispanic: 10 cases
Total Males: 399 cases



Source: Mississippi Department of Health

GRAPHIC BY: MARISA MORRISSETTE

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DEBATE
continued from page 1

city for granted.”

Spindler said he believes there is a lot of room for Ole Miss to grow through public forums. He plans to host town hall style meetings to increase participation and student input.

“We need to understand that the Associated Student Body is the collective voice of this university community,” Spindler said. “Each of us deserves to have our voices heard.”

The presidential candidates were also asked how they would have responded to ASB’s vote to take down the Mississippi State flag had they been elected president at the time.

Spindler said it is important to be objective to reach a decision that is best for the campus at large when there is a divisive issue to debate.

Hoffman said it takes having uncomfortable conversations with people who disagree to make the decision for what is best for everyone and not just one individual.

Kevin said there was a lot of division at the time because a lot of people felt their voices were not entirely heard. He said there needs to be more than just the senators’ voices weighing in on big decisions.

Vice presidential candidates Matt Gladden, Allison Hanby, Coco McDonnell and Elam Miller all voiced concerns about the 13 open seats in ASB Senate, which had to be filled earlier this semester.

Candidates unanimously suggested reaching out to more student leaders within



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Associated Student Body candidates listen to other candidates’ campaign speeches during the officer debates in the Overby Center.

colleges to encourage more participation in elections.

Judicial chair candidates Will Nowell and Bryant Carlton said they would work toward amending the university’s two-strike policy to be more reflective of Ole Miss’ restorative justice ideals.

Before the candidates began debating, all 14 students running for executive office held the election season’s first official meet and greet with the student body.

“We were hoping for at least 100 people, and that’s a low number,” attorney general candidate Dillon Pitts said. “It’s definitely a low student turnout.”

Levi Bevis, also running for attorney general, said the crowd at the meet and greet was made up of mostly campaign-affiliated students. He said he would have liked the chance to meet more new students.

“We want this debate to be very open, and want them, the

students, to be involved in our election process,” Bevis said.

For many of the candidates, Wednesday’s debate marked the first time they spoke directly with their opponents.

Jordan Coopwood is running for secretary, along with Dylan Wood. Coopwood said he had not formally met with Wood before the debate, and neither of them had been given the questions ahead of time.

“Any student could submit a question for tonight, and then the ASB election committee selected the ones they’re going to use,” Coopwood said.

Students submitted questions for the candidates before the debate, which were posed by the election commissioner.

During their debate, both candidates for secretary expressed a need to create a more transparent and accessible ASB.

Coopwood asked the audience if anyone present was aware of the bills brought be-

fore the ASB Senate just one night earlier. Not one audience member had, and Coopwood said he would like to change that.

Wood said he would like to make ASB senators’ and officers’ office hours public to encourage more input from their constituents.

Jennie Jesuit is running unopposed for ASB treasurer, the position in which she currently serves. Jesuit delivered a minute-long speech in lieu of an opponent to debate with Wednesday night.

“My freshman year, I didn’t

know how to get involved with funding like that,” Jesuit said. “I think I’m behind the scenes a lot of the time, and I just want to make sure people are aware of what it is we do.”

She said this was the first ASB debate she has been at school for and was excited at the chance to show her constituency how the treasury works day-to-day.

Kobe Payton, a freshman marketing and corporate relations major, said all the debaters seemed passionate and knew what they were talking about.

Payton said being African American himself, he immediately noticed there weren’t any African-American candidates.

Freshman integrated marketing communications major Ellie Greenberger said she had watched the campaign videos on Facebook, but the debate gave her a more complete understanding of each candidate.

“I thought it was really neat because I could actually see who these people are,” Greenberger said.

Elections will take place online Tuesday. Students who are unable to vote electronically on their MyOleMiss accounts can vote in Minor Hall at the ASB office.

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Frankie Ballard plays tonight at The Lyric Oxford

JONATHAN GIBSON

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Country music is thriving more than ever, and not just below the Mason-Dixon Line.

While much of the country music known and loved by many was born in the South, one performer is bringing a little Michigan flair to the country music scene.

Frankie Ballard will be performing tonight at the Lyric Theatre in Oxford.

Ballard was named one of the Rolling Stones' Top 25 Artists of 2016, and that acclaim has been well-earned.

Hailing from Battle Creek, Michigan, Ballard spent much of his time in college learning to write music, performing at coffee shops and small venues to get his music heard.

With lyrics that incorporate beautiful storytelling and music that seamlessly weaves together electric guitar riffs, strong bass lines and pounding drum beats, Ballard's new album, "El Rio," is a shining homage to great artists like Bob Seger, Bruce Springsteen and The Eagles.

"I love music," Ballard said. "I grew up loving music, needing music, counting on music for everything in my life. For energy, for inspiration, for counsel. I fell in love with music so much I just had to start playing it. It's really my dream to be a musician and to make the best music I can make."

For Ballard, "El Rio" was the result of a burst of inspiration he and his band found while writing in El Paso, Texas, along the Rio Grande River.

"We left town, which is unique for me," Ballard said. "We went down there to get away from the distractions that slow us down in the studio. We went down to the border for 10 days and came back with a pot of gold. Our ability to focus and to live in the music for that amount of time and pour everything we had into it allowed us to make a better album."

The inspiration came at the perfect time, with Americana and country music surging in popularity across America.

Ballard said his songs focus mostly on telling stories — this is where his country and blues elements shine.

"I'm a storyteller at the end of the day," Ballard said. "It doesn't have to be my story, necessarily. It can be a narrative that I've witnessed in someone else's life that's close to me. I could get a song idea from something somebody says down at the grocery store."

He said performing in small towns like Oxford brings a certain amount of charm and energy not found in other, bigger cities.

"I love the music fans down in the South," Ballard said. "They have such a great appre-

ciation for country music and the blues. I love Mississippi, too. That state has got soul."

His favorite part about performing is seeing the way different crowds and cities respond to his music.

Even if you shudder when you hear that signature country twang come over the speakers in your car, Ballard's music brings to life stories and sounds that transcend genre lines and throw back to a more retro country music sound rarely seen in the industry today.

You'll find it hard to keep from tapping your foot to songs like "L.A. Woman" and "You'll Accompany Me," which are both reminiscent of folk rock songs you might hear in a feel-good '80s cult classic like "Cad-dyshack" or "Footloose."

Doors will open at 8 p.m., and tickets are available online or at the door for \$18. A \$3 fee will be collected at the door



PHOTO COURTESY: FRANKIE BALLARD

for all attendees under 21. The show will start at 9 p.m.

"I'm expecting a lot of college fans," Ballard said. "I'm excit-

ed to do it. Oxford is different from any other town, but that's what makes it cool. I hope there are some people there that are

ready to hear some music. If they show up, we're going to give them a great time."



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COLUMN

Freeze's future in question after NCAA allegations

ETHAN WRIGHT
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Last Wednesday, following the conclusion of the NCAA's investigation of Ole Miss' football program and subsequent amended allegations, Athletics Director Ross Bjork self-imposed a one-year bowl ban for the Rebels' 2017 season. The amended notice of allegations included eight additional violations. This bumps the total number of allegations up to 21 and implicates both current and past members of the coaching staff.

Bjork and head coach Hugh Freeze have both noted even though at least three of the new allegations have



FILE PHOTO

been supported by significant amounts of evidence, the charges of lack of institutional control and failure to monitor will be fought. This, in turn, means that if the university loses its case against these two charges, the NCAA possesses a much greater authority to punish the school and increase regulations. At the university level, lack of institutional control is perhaps the most dreaded of all the NCAA's charges and can lead to vacated wins, further bowl bans and even further reduction of scholarships.

The outlook for Rebels fans appears bleak, especially considering that, even if the charges of lack of institutional control and failure to monitor are successfully defeated, the NCAA could still impose further bowl bans and scholarship reductions on Ole Miss. There have been rumblings across Oxford, as well as the rest of the nation, that perhaps it would be best for Ole Miss to simply cut its losses and fire Freeze. Here are a few of the pros and cons of moving on from Freeze:

PROS

At first glance, it seems tempting. A disappointing season with a less-than-optimistic outlook for next year is more than enough for fans to cry mutiny. Firing Freeze, or accepting his resignation, would represent tangible action from the university in acknowledgement of the program's

SEE FREEZE PAGE 7

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 - 23 Roll by
 - 25 Welcome benefit
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	47	48	49							50				
51							52					53	54	55
56						57	58				59	60		
61						62					63			
64						65								66

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

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
SUPER TOUGH

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

FREEZE

continued from page 6

struggles and mistakes. Regardless of further punishments, Ole Miss will face a rebuilding process over the next few years to some extent, and it seems logical to simply start the process with a clean slate, a slate that doesn't include Freeze or the recruiting baggage – whether the allegations are true or not – he carries. If nothing else, firing Freeze as soon as possible would give Bjork extra time to find Freeze's inevitable replacement. Plus, if the Rebels clean house, the NCAA could potentially reduce any additional penalties it plans on imposing.

CONS

Without question, some might see firing Freeze

as an admission of guilt from the university. After all, why let an innocent coach go? Ole Miss would be forced to fire Freeze "for cause" – that is, for reasons other than under-performance on the field. Yet, to the public, it again raises the question: Why fire Freeze if he didn't do anything wrong? Moreover, removing Freeze from his position would put the Ole Miss coaching staff at a disadvantage going into next season. Ole Miss is surely one of the least inviting schools for head coaches at the moment, and Freeze's successor would be forced to face the consequences of allegations in which he was not involved. Matt Luke, the Rebels' offensive line coach, would fit the bill for an internal hire for the

short term, and possibly through next season but probably isn't a permanent solution.

Ole Miss football is stuck between a rock and a hard place. Firing Freeze may help ease further sanctions from the NCAA, but there are plenty of reasons to keep him on board. Regardless of whatever action Bjork and the athletics department take, the Rebels have quite the a tough decision to make.

The Daily Mississippian will continue to report on stories related to the NCAA allegations as they develop.

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Walk-off home run leads Rebels to win over LA Tech

JUSTIN DIAL

thedmsports@gmail.com

No. 23 Ole Miss secured a 4-3 win in the home opener against Louisiana Tech Wednesday night to improve to 13-2 on the year.

The Rebels got a big boost after a seven-inning grid lock when transfer pitcher from Oklahoma Brittany Finney hit a walk-off homer to end the game in the eighth. Ole Miss led for the majority of the game but allowed Louisiana Tech to rally in the sixth inning to tie the score at three.

Both teams were hitting the ball well throughout the game, as Ole Miss racked up nine hits and two home runs and Louisiana Tech came up with eight hits of its own. Kaitlin Lee started on the mound for the Rebels, giving up three earned runs through five innings. Alyssa Clayton replaced her in the top of the sixth and tallied three strikeouts with no earned runs.

"We knew that we were going to get a pretty good game coming in," Ole Miss head coach Mike Smith said.

This is the first time in school history the Rebels have broken into each of the

major national polls, including USA Softball and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

"I don't think we had our best game today," Smith said. "That's a good team, probably a postseason NCAA team."

The Rebels faced an early 1-0 deficit after the top of the first inning but quickly evened the game up in the bottom of the first after a leadoff triple by Elantra Cox, who then scored on a wild pitch. Cox went 3-4 on the day, improving her season average to .500.

The Rebels took the lead in the bottom of the second inning as Dylinn Stancil hit a sacrifice fly to center field to bring in a runner. In the bottom of the fourth, Stancil cranked a solo home run to extend the lead to two, her second dinger of the season.

The top of the sixth was a long half-inning for the Rebs, sacrificing two runs off of wild pitches and allowing Louisiana Tech to tie the game up at three. The Rebels had runners on second and third in the bottom of the seventh but could not capitalize on the opportunity.

"We kind of let that sixth inning get away from us a little



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Freshman infielder Dylinn Stancil throws a ball for an out during Ole Miss' win over Louisiana Tech University.

bit," Smith said. "Didn't make some plays. Didn't pitch real well."

In the bottom of the eighth, with two outs and nobody on base, Finney crushed a solo walk-off home run to send

Louisiana Tech home with the loss. It was her only hit of the night, but she made it count when it mattered.

"Honestly, it wasn't one of my best days," Finney said. "I had two not-so-great at

bats leading up to my last at bat but the last one definitely made up for it."

The Rebels will face Mississippi Valley State at 5:30 p.m. Friday at home.



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