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# MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911 [Visit theDMonline.com](http://theDMonline.com) @thedm\_news

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**Southern accents** might be going south, y'all

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## Police arrest student in election sign vandalism

**LANA FERGUSON**  
**CLARA TURNAGE**  
thedmeditor@gmail.com

University police arrested a student Monday in connection with the vandalism of an Associate Student Body candidate's sign earlier this year.

Freshman accounting major Taia McAfee was escorted to Lafayette County Detention Center Monday in connection with the vandalism, according to University Police Department

Chief Tim Potts. McAfee was notified of the warrant for her arrest Friday, turned herself in voluntarily Monday and left the detention center immediately after paying bond.

"I don't regret painting over the flag because it's something that was taken off campus because it is hateful and harmful to people of my identity," McAfee said. "I felt like as a student activist, as a student who speaks up for other students, it was within my responsibility to

cover it up. I do want to say I regret not coming forward earlier, before things blew up."

On March 3, several Associated Student Body campaign signs were knocked over or damaged, and one was painted. Despite being widely thought of as the same crime, video evidence clearly shows the signs were vandalized by two different groups of people with hours separating the incidents, Potts said.

The sign that was defaced,

which belonged to the ASB secretary candidate Dylan Wood, had the Confederate emblem on the Mississippi state flag marked out and "BLM" – an abbreviation for Black Lives Matter – painted on it.

UPD has not yet released the police report.

Wood pressed charges against McAfee and senior sociology major Dominique Scott. Potts said Scott was identified early as a bystander during the vandalism but said she did not

take part in defacing the sign. "I can sit here and tell you she did not participate," Potts said. "She was present; she did not damage that sign. That's just a fact of the matter."

Once identified, officers took Scott in for questioning.

"Did we get full cooperation from that person to identify the other people? No. I think that's fair to say," Potts said. "I won't try the case in the paper, but I

SEE **SIGNS** PAGE 4

## Squirrel causes power outage



PHOTOS BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Oxford firefighters respond to a call on campus Tuesday. A squirrel bit power lines, leading to a destroyed transformer.

**SLADE RAND**  
thedmnews@gmail.com

An electrical fuse blew up atop a campus utility pole Tuesday afternoon on Guyton Drive, knocking out electricity in Powers Hall. Facilities Management staff confirmed the explosion was triggered by a lone squirrel climbing its way into the line.

Just before 4 p.m., a blast echoed from in front of Powers Hall, drawing students and teachers out of their classes. Parking and transportation

staff were making their rounds in a nearby faculty lot as pieces of the busted transformer began to smoke in the pine straw surrounding the pole. They stood between a growing crowd of teachers and students and a rising cloud of white smoke. One student used a fire extinguisher from Powers Hall to subdue the slowly building orange flames in the minutes after the explosion, and facilities management staff finished putting out the flames as more staff arrived.

Powers Hall lost power during the incident, and uni-

versity staff cut off power to the utility pole next door to avoid another possible fire at Mayes Hall. Oxford Fire Department was on the scene within 20 minutes of the initial blast and ensured the smoldered pine straw was no longer ablaze. After OFD cleared the area and left campus, facilities management staff used equipment to reach the blown fuse and remove the scorched squirrel.

According to facilities management staff, this was not their first encounter with a power-disrupting squirrel.

## Diversity conference encourages students to 'just pause,' think

**BRIANA FLOREZ**  
thedmnews@gmail.com

The UM Meek School of Journalism and New Media will host a five-day conference called It Starts With (Me)ek Wednesday through Tuesday. The purpose of the conference is to make students think before stereotyping or judging others.

The conference will feature students, faculty and alumni on various panel discussions and lectures concerning race, mental health, religion, disabilities and sexual orientation, as well as a lecture from Fox News chief news anchor and former Ole Miss journalism student Shepard Smith.

A committee of 31 students with ranging talents and backgrounds has been working since January to plan for the conference. Senior broadcast journalism and Spanish major Rachel Anderson is the co-chair of events. Anderson said there

was a three-step process to creating the campaign's message.

"First, we conducted preliminary research through surveys and focus groups in order to understand the current climate in the Meek School," Anderson said. "Committee members then helped brainstorm ideas for potential events. Afterwards, the committee separated into smaller groups to tackle the different components of organizing a campaign like social media, event planning, competitions."

The committee decided the message of the conference would be: "Just pause. Just pause before you assume you know me. Just pause before you stereotype me."

Senior lecturer in public relations Robin Street said It Starts With (Me)ek first began when she put on a campaign for the Meek School in 2011 called "Diversity Rocks."

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PHOTO COURTESY STAN O'DELL

UM public relations students, led by senior lecturer Robin Street (center), have planned It Starts with (Me)ek, five days of campus events celebrating inclusion and rejecting stereotypes.



COLUMN

# Facing the realities of transgender life in America



**AKIM POWELL**  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

“Would you feel comfortable with me walking in your bathroom with pink Brazilian hair down my back, wearing 6-inch heels?” L’oreal Johnson asked during an interview.

Johnson, who identifies as a transgender woman, sat before me in my hometown of Long Beach.

“It’s always been a struggle to be a transgender woman, and now a simple thing like using the restroom is blown

out of proportion,” she said. Indeed, the issues surrounding gendered bathrooms continue to circulate among America’s political discussions.

In February, Trump rescinded the Obama administration’s protection policy that gave transgender students the right to use the bathroom they felt the most comfortable using in public schools.

In a place where children are already experiencing physical and mental changes, why cause more strife for kids who don’t identify as the gender on their birth certificate?

According to the 2011 National School Climate Survey released by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, 80 percent of LGBT students felt unsafe and experienced harassment due to their sexuality.

Adults and young people who identify as transsexual or who are undergoing sex change therapy also have more to fear on top of which bathroom to use.

The slaying of three colored trans women within days in Louisiana, specifically in high poverty areas, hit home especially hard for Johnson and me.

According to Times-Picayune, Ciara McElveen was fatally stabbed in the Seventh Ward in New Orleans. Jaquarrius Holland was found murdered, and the crime is still under investigation. And out of the three transgender women killed, Chyna Gibson’s story was the most publicized. Gibson was a drag performer, typically known by the name “Chyna Dupree.”

LGBT organization GLAAD is keeping a running count of transgender people killed in 2017. There have been

eight deaths, all of whom are transgender women of color. Don’t let this fool you; this number only represents reported incidents.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated there may be 40 times more hate crimes occurring nationally than the FBI reports. Think about all the other trans people who may have been murdered due to ignorance and fear.

Celebrities like Caitlyn Jenner and YouTuber Gigi Gorgeous don’t fully depict what it means to be transgender in America.

Yes, it can be glamorous, but more often, transgender people are dehumanized. Trans children and adults can end up facing acts of violence, being discriminated against or becoming homeless.

Time reports that transgender people are four times more likely than the general population to live in extreme poverty. The risk is

even greater for transgender women of color. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports that 16 of the 20 LGBTQ people murdered in 2014 were people of color. Eleven were transgender women, and 10 were colored trans women.

We, as Americans, have an obligation to the transgender community. We all want to advocate that “all lives matter” or “black lives matter,” but do you believe that “trans lives matter?”

If so, we all need to stop the violence and educate others who are insensitive and uninformed on the subject.

“Always stay true to yourself, and always have your own back,” Johnson told me. “Everyone needs to stop the hating, start the loving and give the girls a chance.”

*Akim Powell is a freshman journalism major from Long Beach.*

**EDITORIAL STAFF:**

**LANA FERGUSON**  
editor-in-chief  
dmeditor@gmail.com

**BRIANA FLOREZ**  
**MADDIE MCGEE**  
news editors  
thedmnews@gmail.com

**JOHN TOULOUPI**  
assistant news editor

**LIAM NIEMAN**  
opinion editor  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

**CAMERON BROOKS**  
**TAYLAR TEEL**  
photography editors  
thedmpphotos@gmail.com

**SLADE RAND**  
managing editor  
dmmanaging@gmail.com

**DEVNA BOSE**  
lifestyles editor  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

**JONATHAN GIBSON**  
assistant features editor

**SAM HARRES**  
sports editor  
thedmsports@gmail.com

**GRAYSON WEIR**  
assistant sports editor

**MAGGIE MARTIN**  
copy chief  
thedmcopy@gmail.com

**ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER**  
Ben Napoletan  
dmads@olemiss.edu

**SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**  
Cary Allen  
Ethan Gray  
Kathryn Hathorne  
Blake Hein  
Danielle Randall  
Sharnique Smith

ISSN 1077-8667

**PATRICIA THOMPSON**  
Assistant Dean, Student Media and Daily Mississippian Faculty Adviser

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.



**MISSISSIPPI**  
**press**  
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

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

Columns 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](mailto: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.

**MEEK**

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COURTESY: FACEBOOK

Shepard Smith

“At that time, I went to Dean Will Norton and Associate Dean Charlie Mitchell and asked if they would support me in putting on that campaign in the newly formed Meek School,” Street said. “Their support was immediate and unwavering. They are two of the finest gentlemen I have ever met.”

However, Street said it was Norton and Mitchell this time around who came to her and asked if she would put on another campaign this year.

“They were troubled over the continuing and even escalating tensions in our country and state,” Street said. “I was, in fact, hesitant to do it again, but I knew in my heart that I could not say no.”

Sophomore integrated marketing communications major Kelly Fagan said she is most looking forward to attending Shepard Smith’s lecture.

“His name holds a lot weight in the professional world, and we’re lucky to have the opportunity to listen to such a successful journalist speak on campus,” she said.

Anderson said she hopes the conference will help participants realize everyone has some things in common.

“We hope attendees will pause before making assumptions about someone because we all have more in common than we think,” Anderson said. “We hope everyone will realize that one factor is not enough to define who someone is.”

All events will be held in the Overby Center Auditorium or on the lawn of Farley Hall.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Violence, arrests at Auburn as white nationalist speaker draws protests



COURTESY: MADISON OGLETTREE | AUBURN PLAINSMAN

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — White nationalist Richard Spencer spoke in a crowded auditorium at Auburn University on Tuesday after a federal judge blocked the school from banning his appearance.

Only a few chairs were empty in the more than 400-seat room as Spencer and other speakers railed against ethnicity and racial diversity, liberals, the media and more. They say they want to promote white pride.

Spencer previously made news by addressing a far-

right gathering where audience members gave a Nazi salute.

Supporters and opponents engaged in shouting marches beforehand. Auburn police spokesman Capt. Lorenza Dorsey said three people were arrested on disorderly conduct charges.

Video posted online shows two men scuffling outside the building where Spencer spoke, with one suffering a facial cut and bleeding afterward. Officers led both men away, and one woman also was handcuffed.

A judge cleared the way for Spencer’s speech after hearing arguments in a lawsuit filed by a Georgia man who rented the room where he spoke. The suit claimed the university violated free-

speech rights by trying to stop Spencer’s appearance.

Auburn officials cited public safety concerns in trying to stop Spencer from appearing in the student union building.

**SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION**  
**Mallory Maier**  
 B.S. IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE  
*“Synthesis of Difluoromethyl and Monofluoromethyl Ketones for Biological Evaluation at the Gabab Receptor”*  
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 8:00-9:00PM - MUDDY MAGNOLIAS

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**  
 10:15-11:15AM - THE MISSISSIPPIANS JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
 11:30AM-12:30PM - AMELIA EISENHauer AND THE PERUVIAN FARM GIRLS  
 1:00-2:00PM - ROBERT FINLEY  
 2:30-3:30PM - SERATONES  
 4:00-5:00PM - JAMES MCMURTRY  
 5:30-6:30PM - LUTHER DICKINSON  
 7:00-8:15PM - DR. JOHN & THE NITE TRIPPERS  
 8:45-10:00PM - NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SWEATS

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## SIGNS

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think it's fair to say we identified one person early on, the person admitted their role in it and opted not to share more information at that time – which is their right. They don't have to."

Scott said when she was questioned, she cooperated with the police.

"I gave them all the information that I was comfortable sharing with them," Scott said. Scott said the individuals she was with that night said they had been thinking about the sign – and the state flag on it – all day.

The Mississippi state flag has been controversial on campus for some time now. Wood is an avid supporter of the state flag. In October, Wood was arrested after refusing to relinquish his larger-than-regulation-size flag while in the football stadium. Wood was charged with disorderly conduct, public drunk and possession of an alcoholic beverage under 21 after the arresting officer's report says he, "became more belligerent (asking) why I hate the flag."

Both Wood and Scott say after the police took Scott in for questioning, Wood signed a non-prosecution agreement against Scott and the other people involved in the alleged vandalism. At the time, no one else had been identified in the crime. A non-prosecution agreement is a voluntary alternative to pressing charges wherein the prosecutor agrees to withhold charges as long as the perpetrator agrees to fulfill certain requirements. In this case, Wood's requirements included a public apology and a forum-style meeting between the parties.

"My vision for that was to have (an event at) the Overby Center, and we discussed that. That's not going to happen, unfortunately," Wood said. "I wanted to pack the Overby Center with groups like the BSU and Our State Flag Foundation. I would be on stage with one other person, and they could ask me questions. They could ask her questions, but that's just not going to happen. I wanted it to be all good and end the year on a 'Look. See? We can all agree that we're all Rebels at the end of the day.'"

Scott said she viewed the requirements differently.

"The stipulations that he

gave in order for him to drop the charges on me included me paying for him to drop the charges, me agreeing to a public apology to him and the third is that he be allowed to create a sort of program to allow people to talk about political issues," Scott said. "None of the stipulations were for me to tell him who else was involved or who actually did it. He didn't ask for a public apology from anyone else than me. He only put these stipulations and these rules on me, and I think that's really telling."

"He's on a political vendetta. It's a lot less about justice for his sign and a lot more about fighting me," Scott said. "The point to which Wood has escalated this situation is ridiculous."

After Scott was identified as only a bystander, the investigation stalled. The other people involved couldn't be identified from the video, Potts said. After spring break, Wood said he felt his conditions would not be fulfilled, so he decided to press charges. Since no one else had been identified in the case, his charges were directed at Scott.

Taia McAfee stepped forward days after spring break, Potts said.

"Over a month went by with that person knowing and the other people who were involved in the event knowing that we were looking for them but refused to turn themselves in," Potts said.

McAfee said she had not planned the vandalism beforehand. She was traveling back home with several members of the Students Against Social Injustice after a sign-making meeting for the March on Mississippi. She said she had seen the flag earlier that day and decided while going home to use the paint she had from the meeting to cover the Confederate emblem.

McAfee said she turned herself in on the same day that Wood first pressed charges against Scott.

McAfee said she agreed to Wood's three terms in the non-prosecution agreement except she wanted to talk to Wood in private, not in a public meeting. This, she said, was because she had received threats online after her involvement in the vandalism became apparent. McAfee said Wood would not accept these terms because he said people would "lose respect" for him if he did not stick to his original requirements.

"Are you seriously considering your respect over someone's

life?" McAfee said. "I'm afraid of everything because (the people who threatened her online) were literally saying, 'Maybe we should take care of them ourselves.' ... We agreed to his conditions as long as our lives would be protected in the process. And he denied it."

Scott said she felt the charges Wood pressed against her ignored clear evidence that she was not the perpetrator.

"So he pressed these bogus charges on me for conspiracy to commit a crime even though the actual assailant said I did not conspire to do anything and that I did not know about what was going to happen prior to," Scott said. "I just happened to be with the person who did it. I know how that may sound, but there's only one version of the truth that I can give. The truth is I did not know that they were going to do it."

Scott said she did have regrets about that night but wasn't responsible for what happened.

"For my part, I recognize that I could have been a better bystander," Scott said. "That I could have been more active in telling her to stop, and I didn't, and I recognize that that was not the best decision to make. But to be blamed for something I didn't do and to subsequently be threatened and harassed is unacceptable."

Scott said Wood would know that she wasn't involved if he'd watched the video. But Wood says he's tried to watch the video and has not yet been able to.

"I went and asked to see the video the first day it happened. (The police) were like, 'We're not going to let anybody back into that room to see the video anymore,'" Wood said. "Then I went to see the video again. ... Well, I really went to see Lt. (Jeremy) Cook to see the video and to press charges. He wasn't there at the time, so one of the clerks told me, 'Well, you have to have a lawyer present to see the video.' I asked Lt. Cook about that later, and he was like, 'You can see the video, I'm pretty sure.' But I still haven't seen it."

Potts said Wood was free to watch the video any time: "All he has to do is request to see it."

Wood also said he did not know any other people had turned themselves in until after he had filed charges, but Potts said this is because McAfee turned herself in after Wood pressed charges against Scott.

Potts said the two parties were not notified earlier because there was a breakdown



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

This sign, belonging to Dylan Wood, was vandalized on March 3.

in communication between the student conduct office and the police department.

"On our initial case report, we didn't have a suspect. So that initial case report wasn't sent to student conduct because there was no one to file student conduct against," Potts said. "So when we subsequently found out who the other parties were, an addition was done to the case. There was nothing that told our records people to send the entire case off (to student conduct). It was more of an internal breakdown on our part on just how cases are delivered. That's been corrected. I don't know when we would have learned of the issue if this situation had not come up."

Potts said he felt Cook, the case's lead officer, had been very patient in the case, giving time for the parties to solve the issue without pressing charges.

"We've been caught on both sides trying to work this out here when it's not our job to mediate between the parties," Potts said. "Had it been me, I would have just picked the person up if the warrant was signed and let the chips fall where they may. They wanted to try to work it out, so we wanted give them every opportunity."

In the midst of these miscommunications, an article about the incident appeared on

a Mississippi conservative blog, "Mississippi PEP."

Wood said he didn't know about the first Mississippi PEP article until after it published. "One of my friends texted me and was like, 'Have you read this article about you?,' and I was like, 'Oh god, what now?'" Wood said. "I thought it was pretty vicious."

Though Wood said he was not aware of the first article, he was interviewed and was quoted for the second, which was published days later. That article says Scott was responsible for the vandalism of all the signs. Potts, however, said signs other than Wood's were vandalized by a group of male students later in the night. These signs were knocked over, and some were broken.

Scott said she didn't think Wood understood the impact perpetuating these rumors had on her.

"One of the things I don't think Dylan understands is how powerful words are," Scott said. "How powerful lies and rumors can be. ... I'm almost positive Dylan Wood hasn't had to walk around campus looking over his shoulder. I'm sure he hasn't been walked up to in public and harassed and called 'nigger' and 'bitch.' I'm sure that he hasn't felt nervous about walking around campus."



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Coco McDonnell's sign, on the far right, was also damaged March 3, but by a different group of people than those who defaced Dylan Wood's sign.

# Is the traditional Southern accent going south?

SHIKHA SHRESTHA

sshrest2@go.olemiss.edu

Is the Southern accent disappearing at Ole Miss?

Many students from outside the South arrive on a campus so steeped in regional tradition, where the marching band once played “Dixie,” a place they assume will sound so Southern, that they may pronounce the Southern accent dead upon arrival at Ole Miss.

“Yes, I believe the Southern accent is gone,” sophomore Katherine Swafford, who grew up in Cleveland, said.

She believes the Southern accent is losing ground at Ole Miss. Others say you just have to listen harder and you’ll hear it, thick as kudzu.

Southern accents, whether on the wane or not, mark an expanding cultural atmosphere at Ole Miss, transcending while at the same time echoing the university’s identity.

Swafford, for example, treasures fond childhood memories of riding back country roads and knowing every single person in town – pretty much everyone had a thick, Southern accent. And Swafford is no exception. She sounds, well, pretty Southern.

For her, a Southern accent is more about drawing people together and less about the isolation of regional difference.

“When you hear someone talk the same way, it gives you a sense of community,” Swafford, who wanted to attend college in the same state where she was raised, said. “You can tell someone isn’t from around town when they don’t have a Southern accent.”

Swafford and her family experienced many Southern traditions – Ole Miss tailgate parties and football games – so she believed Ole Miss was the obvious choice to be her home away from home. Students sounded like everyone she’d grown up around. But the thick accent in that piece of the Delta is also becoming scarce, she said.

“I think it’s because Ole Miss has become such a diverse school, for we have



ILLUSTRATION BY: MARISA MORRISSETTE

professors and students from not just outside of the state, but from all over the world, bringing diversity in not just people but thoughts and ideas,” Swafford said, explaining how the loss of regional accents is the university’s gain in other ways.

Sam Albasha, a 25-year-old undergraduate from Saudi Arabia, said no one at Ole Miss speaks with a Southern accent, not to his ears. English, no matter its inflections, is a foreign language. Regional dialect is just a nuisance to comprehension.

“It’s not my voice,” Albasha said, emphasizing with air quotes. Southern accents are less thick on campus than perhaps in the rest of Mississippi, he added.

College towns can erode regional culture because of a diverse student body and faculty – a good thing, many say. But, they also draw together a group of people from all over the globe, diluting the regional accent, which others lament.

For students like Albasha, the Southern accent is a marker of place, which at Ole Miss is a place experiencing a cultural shift to more inclusiveness.

And many students hear the Southern accent every-

where they go.

“I think everyone here has a strong accent. I immediately noticed it,” Ashley Ramirez, a sophomore from San Diego, said. “The way they say certain words, it’s different. Even I started picking up on it.”

So why does the Southern accent stand out so much? People don’t talk about the Midwestern accent or the Maine accent in the same way.

“I think accents depend on the people you surround yourself around with,” Ramirez said. “Whenever I go back home, everyone thinks I sound so Southern.”

Accents depend on where you are and who you surround yourself with, Ramirez said.

“But I think if you compare someone from Mississippi going to a school in California, it would be much more noticeable than a girl from, let’s say, San Diego, coming to Ole Miss,” she said.

Unlike its legacy of sweet tea, Mississippi’s history tastes bitter to many. Some out-of-state people at Ole Miss might associate the Southern accent with ignorance, prejudice or a lack of culture – despite the state’s

rich lineage of writers, musicians and artists.

“If a comedian wishes to appear as a buffoon or hick, he might easily adopt some generalized Southern accent, creating a quick marker of an uneducated individual, a conservative conformist or rather one who doesn’t possess a knowledge of the world outside of them – this is unjust,” Katie McKee, an associate professor of English and Southern studies, said.

McKee moved from Cynthia, Kentucky, to teach at Ole Miss two decades ago. “The more I study the South, the less I know what it is, for do you think people outside of the country know the difference between an American accent and a Southern accent?”

Then, what exactly is a Southern accent?

According to McKee, the definition varies depending on the individual, and she does not think the Southern accent is necessarily dying here at Ole Miss. In addition, judging people as having had limited life experiences because of their accent is regrettable, she said.

“Accents go with places. There is this idea that the less (more?) pronounced

your accent is, the less cosmopolitan you are, and this applies to any accent,” McKee said. “The heavier your accent, the more it tends to suggest you have not been anywhere; however, I think differently.”

Associate Dean of Liberal Arts Donald Dyer, a Chicago transplant and Russian linguistics professor, has been a part of the Ole Miss community for nearly 30 years. Dyer says the Southern accent is not endangered, but rather students, professors and the institution as a whole are part of what he calls a bubble theory.

“There was a time when people thought language would be homogenized due to modern technology, including the television and radio, where we hear and see how people speak, making us all want to sound and speak the same,” Dyer said. “We couldn’t have been more wrong.”

All language, especially regional accents, are all about identity, Dyer explains.

“We identify people with language, and the reason we sound like others is because we’re identifying with them through a subconscious process. Accents shape as we grow,” he said.

The Southern accent is a spoken passport, teaching us how to understand place and how one fits into that place.

For an international student like Albasha, accents are only a part of the larger language barrier he must clear in order to feel at home in the United States – a struggle, he admits. Albasha even shortened his name to Sam so that others would not struggle to pronounce his legal name, Salman.

Over the last five years, he’s lived in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. He still cringes a tad when he hears “y’all.”

“Coming here there was a huge difference obviously, and accent was one of them, but seeing and hearing different people from all over the world, that’s comforting,” he says.

This story is a student submission from a reporting class.

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# The ultimate guide to Ole Miss spring parties

ANNA KATHRYN HODGES  
akhodges@go.olemiss.edu

With spring party season already upon us, it can be a bit chaotic for first timers trying to understand what exactly goes at them, or if Sigma Apple Pie is having its event this weekend or if it already happened. It's perfectly normal to be overwhelmed with the crazy weekends ahead, but to make it a little easier, here is a little survival guide on how to make it through your first Ole Miss spring party.

**1.** Get ahold of a schedule. I promise, an in-depth, detailed list of every party each weekend and which parties are happening where is swimming around somewhere in one of your group chats or a friend's GroupMe. Know what parties you're interested in going to, and make plans with friends from there. This will make it easier to plan and coordinate.

**2.** Know what you want to do, and make preparations in advance. Once you have figured out what party you want to go to, it is super important that you have a game plan for the day. Find a ride to pick you up from the event before your phone is all but dead. So have a backup plan. Even if you end up not needing a ride, still have one lined up in case things don't go according to plan.



ILLUSTRATION BY: JAKE THRASHER

**3.** Don't overdo it (if you're 21). With the hot weather, it will be very tempting to grab all the beverages your arms can hold and get caught up in the moment. And yes, it will be tempting to drink every last drop of whatever drinks are available, but don't be that person who has to tap out when the event isn't even halfway over, making it a burden on your friends and yourself the next morning when you're filled with nauseated regret. Limit yourself to how much you drink every hour. And remember - hydration is key.

**4.** Try to bring as little as possible. You don't want to be carrying around any valuables and personal belongings that will be most likely lost or stolen. So strap on a fanny pack to store your must-have necessities and leave the rest at home. I suggest a pair of sunshades, gum and an extra charged battery for your phone in case it dies while you're draining it trying to show everyone on Snapchat how much of a good time you are having.

**5.** Pack a snack or two. You'll quickly learn that these events are not catered, and save for the occasional table of crawfish, there aren't any sources of food. So throw in a granola bar or snack pack in your bag. You'll thank me later when you're dying in the Southern heat.

**6.** And lastly, have fun. Spring parties at Ole Miss are the holy grail of parties, so enjoy them! It's a great time to make memories with your friends, and it's something you'll remember for a lifetime. So just remember to be safe, and have a good time.

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**ACROSS**

- 1 Mutt's crony
- 5 Wisdom tooth
- 10 Recover
- 14 Singer — Guthrie
- 15 Crumble away
- 16 La senorita
- 17 Prefix for logical
- 18 Mideast desert
- 19 "Hi- —, Hi-Lo"
- 20 Ungoverned
- 22 Like some subs
- 24 RR terminal
- 25 "Hold on Tight" rockers
- 26 Galaxy locale
- 29 Baton Rouge sch.
- 32 Meat jelly
- 36 Diva's solo
- 37 Kind of racket
- 39 Brian — of rock
- 40 Where to start (2 wds.)
- 43 Aberdeen single
- 44 Double-headed drums
- 45 Hawkeye portrayer
- 46 Ship bottoms
- 48 Business suff.
- 49 Cap'n's helpers
- 50 ECU issuer
- 52 Column ender
- 53 Broker?
- 57 Sent

**DOWN**

- 1 Clink or cooler
- 2 Wagner's earth goddess
- 3 Winged it
- 4 Yellow pad
- 5 High-IQ group
- 6 Rocks to refine
- 7 Journal
- 8 Yemen's gulf
- 9 Ziegfeld show
- 10 Greeting words
- 11 Mr. Wiesel
- 12 "— en el Rancho Grande"
- 13 Wildlife refuge
- 21 Summer in Cannes
- 23 Fastener
- 26 Emcee Pat —
- 27 Trim
- 28 Anouk — of film
- 29 Not prohibited
- 30 Pony's comment

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

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- 31 Probably hungry
- 33 Bell tower sounds
- 34 Early Andes dweller
- 35 "Fargo" filmmakers
- 37 Old C&W channel
- 38 Hypotheticals
- 41 Japanese immigrant
- 42 Thai neighbors
- 47 Window sills
- 49 Merit badge grp.
- 51 Discontinue
- 52 Reflection
- 53 Can. neighbor
- 54 Sea eagle
- 55 Counting-rhyme word
- 56 Sch. papers
- 57 One, to Helmut
- 58 Mandolin's kin
- 59 Prefix for while
- 60 Smidgens
- 63 Quarry

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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**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**

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

# Baseball prepares for Arkansas Pine Bluff matchup

ETHAN WRIGHT

akhodges@go.olemiss.edu

With just 20 games left in the regular season, Rebel baseball has entered crunch time as the team pushes for a strong finish, hoping to ensure a deep run in the SEC Tournament.

Wednesday night's matchup against the Arkansas Pine Bluff Golden Lions represents a crucial opportunity for head coach Mike Bianco and his team to get back on track after a tough series loss to LSU over the weekend.

The Golden Lions have struggled this season to establish consistency; their record currently sits at a middling 12-23. After a string of tough intraconference matchups this month, the Rebels are surely looking forward to a lower-profile matchup against a non-SEC opponent.

But despite the clear on-paper advantage, the Rebels will need to focus on a number of factors if they hope to overwhelm the Golden Lions and gain back some much-needed momentum.

## Not underestimating the opponent

There is no denying the fact that Arkansas Pine Bluff is not a nationally renowned baseball school.



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Infielder Tate Blackman throws opponent out at first base earlier this season.

With that said, Bianco and his team must appreciate that, despite their underwhelming record, Arkansas Pine Bluff has demonstrated plenty of competency against top SEC opponents.

Look no further than the Golden Lions' results from earlier this season.

On March 12, Arkansas Pine Bluff upset Alabama 8-3 in Tuscaloosa as part of a doubleheader matchup.

Sure, it dropped three of its four games to Alabama, but the point stands: One game's worth of lapsed focus is all the Golden Lions need to pounce.

Two days after the Alabama victory, Arkansas Pine Bluff nearly knocked Mississippi State off in Starkville. A four-run ninth inning gave the Bulldogs plenty of cause for concern, but State was able to fend off the upset.

The Rebels cannot afford to look past the Golden Lions; with playoffs on the horizon, a loss on Wednesday could push Ole Miss into an unrecoverable spiral.

## Maintaining focus down the stretch

The Golden Lions are not going down without a fight.

As shown with their neat victory over Mississippi State, Arkansas Pine Bluff is no stranger to late-game comebacks.

It will be imperative that Ole Miss not only score early and often but that it keeps its foot on the gas throughout the entirety of the game. The Rebels have, numerous times this season, allowed opponents to climb out of early deficit holes.

This cannot be the case on Wednesday. A Golden Lions come-from-behind victory would crush Bianco's team, a near death wish as the season draws to a close.

To dissuade any final-inning magic from the Golden Lions, Ole Miss will need to be liberal with its bullpen. While Bianco may wish to rest some of his pitching staff, having capable relievers and a closer waiting in

the wings will be paramount in ensuring the Golden Lions don't take advantage of late-game pitching miscues.

## Making home-field advantage count

The Rebels only have three more home series this season. Taking advantage of Wednesday's location will be vital for the Rebels as they move toward the tail end of their schedule.

Fans love to downplay the impact of collegiate crowds at away games, but every experienced coach or player knows having the stadium on your side can be an absolute game changer.

Taking advantage of Swayze field's hostile environment and impressive crowd noise could be the difference between a win and a loss for Bianco's men.

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Mary Catherine Harvey

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Directed by Sue Ann Skipworth

Wednesday, April 19 at 4:00 pm  
SMBHC Room 311

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# Rebel softball dominates game with UT Martin

**SAM HARRIS**  
 thedmsports@gmail.com

The No. 18 Ole Miss softball team turned momentum from a historic weekend sweep over No. 16 LSU into a 7-2 victory over UT Martin Wednesday night.

The less-than-stellar weather in Martin, Tennessee, brought out the field tarp, but after an hourlong delay, the teams emerged from their respective locker rooms and stepped back on the newly soaked field.

Right hander Kaitlin Lee, a junior from Gulfport, got the start for the Rebels as they faced off against UT Martin's Brooke Kennedy. Head coach Mike Smith has leaned heavily on Lee throughout the season as the ace has shown her worth time and time, including a complete shutout thrown against LSU last Friday.

The Rebels jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning after lead-off batter Sarah Van Schaik drove in Elantra Cox with a hard hit single down the third base line. The Skyhawks answered back with

a run of their own courtesy of a deep single from Jodie Duncan. As the UT Martin third baseman rounded first, leadoff batter Carly Gonzalez crossed home, tying the score up at one.

The second inning brought more hits and another Ole Miss run, this time coming off Cox's bat. The left fielder ripped a single straight up the middle, forcing an impressive throw to third base from the Skyhawks' center fielder, which found Grayce Majam before she found the bag. Fortunately for the Rebels, the play scored Bry Castro, and they retook the lead.

After the teams exchanged blows in the third, each adding a run to its tally, the Rebels began to pull away.

Singles from Kylan Becker and Majam drove in two additional runs in the fourth and fifth innings, respectively, before the Rebels iced the cake in the seventh with a final RBI from Ashton Lampton.

Smith's team accumulated 12 hits from 30 at-bats, pumping the Ole Miss team batting average up to .400 on the night. The Rebels' of-

fense looked near unstoppable throughout the evening, relying on a steady stream of singles and doubles for all seven RBIs.

Ole Miss' defense sputtered at times but emerged from the matchup relatively unscathed. The Skyhawks struck out a combined four times and managed four hits from 25 at-bats.

UT Martin head coach Donley Canary pulled Kennedy after the right-handed pitcher conceded five runs in four innings of work. Sara Hooten relieved Kennedy and gave up a further four hits and two runs in her five-inning contribution.

Smith's team hopes to capitalize on Tuesday night's success as it travels to Gainesville, Florida, to take on the No. 1 Florida Gators. First pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, followed by games on Saturday and Sunday at 6p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively.

The Tigers are set for a midweek face-off with University of Central Florida on Wednesday in preparation for their three-game weekend showdown with the Rebels.



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Junior Kaitlin Lee throws a pitch during Ole Miss' game against the University of Central Arkansas earlier this season. Lee pitched a complete game Tuesday night.

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**APRIL 22 • 4 PM**

Swayze Field

REBEL REWARDS +10

**SUNDAY**

**BASEBALL vs. [Tiger Logo]**  
**APRIL 23 • 1:30 PM**

Swayze Field

REBEL REWARDS +10

