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MISSISSIPPIAN

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

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Rebels dominate UT-Martin

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Pharmacy school dedicates new wing of research center

ARIYL ONSTOTT
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The School of Pharmacy and its Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences dedicated the completion of the Thad Cochran Research Center West Wing on Wednesday. More than 70 people came to the ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Thad Cochran Research Center West and hear the history of its work.

The Thad Cochran Research Center West's completion is the final part of the two-building National Center for Natural Products Research complex. The center will allow further advancement of cutting-edge technology into the university's natural products research, such as the university's medicinal plant research programs.

The Thad Cochran Research Center West began in 2012 and was funded by several federal grants. A little over two years later, the completed 97,000-square-foot facility includes many innovative facilities like an expanded botanical specimen repository, laboratories for scaling up synthesis of naturally derived compounds and laboratories for strengthening efforts to discover natural products.

"This expands The University of Mississippi's opportuni-

ties to make an impact in our own community, our state and around the world," Chancellor Dan Jones said. "The research that's done here will improve health all over the world."

William Canty, Thad Cochran's field representative, said Cochran hopes the creation of the new facility will give Mississippians opportunities to work with federal agencies to tackle some of the greatest health and agricultural challenges of the 21st century.

Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs Alice Clark said the Thad Cochran Research Center started nearly 30 years ago when a group of people from the university and representatives from the USDA wanted to create a national center focused on identifying and harnessing beneficial chemicals from nature.

The Thad Cochran Research Center was formally created by legislation in 1988 with great support from Senator Thad Cochran. Cochran's support for pioneering biomedical and agricultural research has been crucial to the center's success, according to Larry Walker, director for the National Center for Natural Products Research.

Construction of the Thad Co-



PHOTO: KAYLA BEATTY

SEE PHARMACY PAGE 5 Chancellor Dan Jones speaks Wednesday at the Thad Cochran Research Center west wing dedication.

Students sell lemonade for literacy



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Darby Hennessey works the lemonade stand Wednesday for Pi Beta Phi's Lemonade for literacy philanthropy in the Circle.

Senator, commissioner speak on local prisons

ARIYL ONSTOTT
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Award-winning Clarion-Ledger journalist Jerry Mitchell moderated a panel Wednesday, discussing the corruption Mississippi's prisons face in relation to the number of inmates incarcerated.

The panel comes on the heels of the resignation of Chris Epps, a longtime corrections commissioner who plead guilty to taking nearly \$2 million in bribes in exchange for prison contracts. Corruption is just one of the many problems Mississippi prisons face, panelists said.

Low education and pay of corrections officers are a significant problem in correctional facilities, Marshall Fisher, corrections commissioner said. Officers need a high school education or GED and must be 21 years old to apply. The position's starting salary is \$22,000. Mississippi currently has just under 19,000 people incarcerated.

Low pay also leads to corruption, Fisher and UM Chair of Legal Studies, Eric Lambert said. Since February 2015, Fisher has been ordering raids of inmates' cells, from which over 300 illicit items

SEE PRISON PAGE 5

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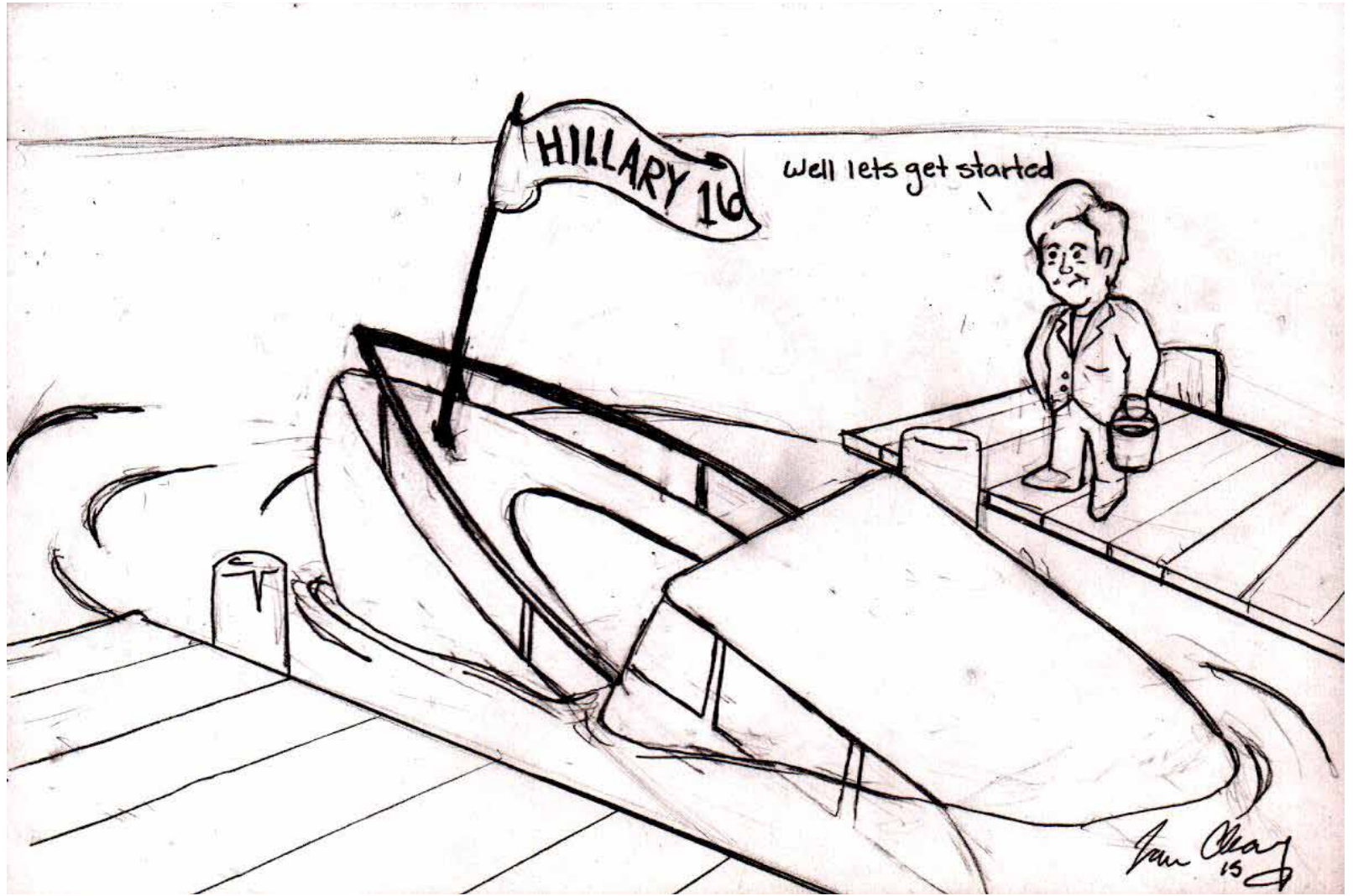
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COLUMN

Meet the editor

BRANDON LYNAM
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Hi there, my name's Brandon Lynam. I'm the Opinion editor for the 2015-2016 year here at the DM. I was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, and I couldn't be happier to have found a new home here at Ole Miss, where I'm currently a sophomore. In America, the farthest I've gotten from Southern culture has been going to Orlando once when I was about 14. The South has been my home since, well, since I was born into it. Although I'm not well-travelled in the States, that doesn't mean that I'm bound to the South. I'm an international studies and Chinese double major, and I have been to China twice, three times after this summer. I might be physically grounded here in Mississippi most of the time, but I'm much more comfortable as a global citizen than as a citizen of the South. Now that we've gotten to know each other a little better,

let's talk about what I'm hoping to accomplish here.

I want to hear about what matters to you, and that can really include just about anything. This is The Daily Mississippian — a lot of the stories here are going to be specifically related to Mississippi (and even more so to Ole Miss), just as they should be and just as they have been. Events that we students have personally been affected by — the fire-and-brimstone pastor and the recent “die-in” protest both come to mind — have been met with mixed responses, and I want both sides to have a place where they can clearly articulate their stance.

I also want to continue discussion on hotly-contested issues: We need to talk about race relations, religion, sexuality and other deeply controversial topics. These topics obviously aren't endemic to Mississippi, but they're still relevant to us as college students that have come together from all different locations and

walks of life to pursue higher education. These topics matter. Hearing from people with all different types of viewpoints on these complex and often confusing topics matters.

At the same time, I hope to bring a broader scope to the Opinion section. As an international studies major, I'm interested with people's opinions on the Syrian civil war and America's (lack of) involvement in it. What do people think about the growing implementation of spikes and sprinklers that prevent homeless from sleeping in certain public areas? Does the recent announcement that Russia has lifted its ban on supplying Iran with missiles scare you, or do you think it's just an economically-motivated show of force? We as humans prefer not to look beyond the boundaries of our own personal lives. We don't like to explore the unknown and unfamiliar. It's a natural and instinctual phenomenon. But I think it's wrong. With all of the

access that we now have to the global stage, we have no excuse to not discuss issues that may not be relevant to us as individuals but are incredibly relevant to us as a whole.

I want to know what you, the reader, think. You don't have to be an English major to have an opinion on these subjects. Above all else, I am looking for people that have something interesting to say. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that each and every one of you have recently felt so strongly on a topic that you have wanted to get your opinion out there — that you have felt truly inspired. Channel that inspiration towards writing a piece for the opinion column. Get your unique viewpoint out there by sending it to me at thedmopinion@gmail.com.

Brandon Lynam is a sophomore International Studies and Chinese major from Knoxville, Tennessee.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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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.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Former NFL player sentenced to life in prison



AP PHOTO: JOHN TLUMACKI

Former New England Patriots football player Aaron Hernandez looks up as his defense attorney, James Sultan shows a video of Hernandez's home as he emerged from the basement, during closing arguments in his trial Tuesday in Fall River, Mass.

FALL RIVER, Mass. (AP) — Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for a deadly late-night shooting, sealing the downfall of an athlete who once had a \$40 million contract and a standout career ahead of him.

Hernandez, 25, who had been considered one of the top tight ends in professional football, shook his head, pursed his lips and sat down after the jury forewoman pronounced him guilty in the slaying of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old landscaper and amateur weekend football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée.

Hernandez's mother, Terri, and his fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins, cried and gasped when they heard the verdict. Hernandez, his eyes red, mouthed to them: "Be strong. Be strong." Lloyd's mother also cried.

Jurors deliberated for 36 hours over seven days before rendering their decision, which also included convictions on weapons charges.

"The jury found that he was just a man who committed a brutal murder," District Attor-

ney Thomas Quinn said after the verdict. "The fact that he was a professional athlete meant nothing in the end."

Lloyd was shot six times early on June 17, 2013, in a deserted industrial park near Hernandez's home in North Attleborough. The motive has never been explained.

Police almost immediately zeroed in on the former Pro Bowl athlete because they found in Lloyd's pocket the key to a car the NFL player had rented. Within hours of Hernandez's arrest, the Patriots cut him from the team. The team declined to comment on the verdict.

Prosecutors presented a wealth of evidence that Hernandez was with Lloyd at the time he was killed, including home security video from Hernandez's mansion, witness testimony and cellphone records that tracked Lloyd's movements.

Hernandez's lawyer, James Sultan, acknowledged for the first time during closing arguments that Hernandez was there when Lloyd was killed.

But the attorney pinned the shooting on two of Hernandez's friends, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, saying his client was

a "23-year-old kid" who witnessed a shocking crime and did not know what to do. Wallace and Ortiz will stand trial later.

Prosecutors have suggested Lloyd may have been killed because he knew too much about Hernandez's alleged involvement in a 2012 drive-by shooting in Boston that killed two. But they were not allowed to tell the jury that because the judge said it was speculation.

As a result, they never offered jurors a motive beyond saying Hernandez appeared angry with Lloyd at a nightclub two nights before the killing.

In the 2012 case, Hernandez is accused of gunning down a pair of men over a spilled drink at a nightclub.

All 12 jurors and three alternates spoke to reporters Wednesday, saying they were shocked by the defense admission that Hernandez was at the

scene of the killing — an acknowledgement that they said helped confirm that he was guilty.

They also described how the judge talked to them privately after they reached their decision and told them about other allegations and evidence not presented in the case, including the 2012 slayings and the last texts Lloyd sent minutes before he died saying that said he was with "NFL."

The jurors said that information reaffirmed their feeling that they had made the right decision.

In the Lloyd killing, the defense argued that investigators fixated on Hernandez because of his celebrity and conducted a shoddy investigation in their zeal to confirm their suspicions.

Prosecutors said Hernandez organized the killing, summoned

his two friends to help carry it out and drove Lloyd and the others to the secluded spot in the industrial park. During closing arguments, prosecutors also accused Hernandez of pulling the trigger, though under the law it was not necessary to prove who fired the shots to convict him.

Security video from inside Hernandez's home showed him holding what appeared to be a gun less than 10 minutes after Lloyd was killed. The surveillance system also captured Hernandez, Wallace and Ortiz relaxing at his home hours after Lloyd was shot, hanging out in the basement "man cave," lounging by the pool and cuddling Hernandez's baby daughter.

The conviction carries a mandatory sentence of life without parole and automatically triggers an appeal to Massachusetts' highest court.

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Interactive mapping systems improves campus navigation

SARA ROGERS

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After three months of development, the university officially launched an interactive map of campus last May.

During a review of the university website nearly two years ago, an opportunity for improvement within the map became very apparent, according to Misty Cowherd, univer-

sity communications project manager.

Cowherd said the earlier map depended too much on Google Maps, satellite photography and drive-by photos that did not adequately represent the Ole Miss campus. Current technology allows customized capabilities with enhanced graphics that can help visitors find their way across campus. Construction areas are updat-

ed on the map, as well as other special event information like the current Commencement schedule.

With the help of Concept 3D and CampusBird - software studio and media services companies - the interactive map platform partnered with the university to create the interactive map which offers more advanced map capabilities.

"Having access to a detailed, interactive map with high-resolution photos or a 360-degree

panoramic view and virtual campus tour is very valuable to first-time visitors - or even for students during their first weeks on campus," Cowherd said. "The map and its associated photos and videos help prospective students remember what a special place Ole Miss is."

New students are expected to benefit from the map as well - especially during their orientation sessions.

"I can definitely see us referring to the interactive map

with our incoming students," said Meredith Parker, sophomore journalism major and orientation leader. "Especially when explaining the best way to find your classes on the first day. I know that I am more likely to pull out my phone and look at the interactive map than pulling the printed map out of my backpack to refer-ence to students."

Robby Seitz, the university webmaster, said bicycle racks, fire hydrants, food locations and automated door locations for wheelchair access are available on the map, which is much more detail than could be included on a printed map.

"I think maps help us get a sense of 'being there' even before we arrive," Seitz said. "Google Street View, which is also available on our map, lets you explore the streets and sidewalks without taking a step. That kind of experience goes a long way to making you feel like you know a place when you get there."

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PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Representative William Canty speaks on behalf of Sen. Thad Cochran Wednesday at the west wing dedication ceremony.

PHARMACY *continued from page 1*

Chran Research Center began in 1992, and the original staff of 24 people began their work in the center in 1995. The center began a partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's agricultural research service in 1996.

Clark said the partnership with the USDA has been crucial to creating an intellectual environment where the free exchange of ideas and productive collaborations flourish daily

in the Thad Cochran Research Center.

Another milestone for the research center began in 1998 when the marijuana research program was incorporated.

By 2001, the research center had begun a partnership with the FDA's Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Center in order to bring solid scientific information to support the safety regulations of botanical dietary supplements.

"We at the USDA supported the construction of this new west wing research facility as means of continuing and ex-

panding the ground-breaking work already being done at the Thad Cochran National Center for Natural Products Research," Steven Musser, deputy director of scientific operations for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said.

Musser said he hoped the Thad Cochran Research Center West facility will increase existing efforts in the reference and authentication of materials for botanical dietary supplements and toxicological studies. The FDA greatly relies upon this research to ensure the safety and security of Americans.

PRISON *continued from page 1*

have been confiscated. Lambert said according to correctional facility research, it is estimated that 35-65 percent of these "contraband items" are introduced by prison staff. Because of their low salaries, officers are more likely to accept bribes from inmates in exchange for contraband goods like drugs, cellphones and other illicit materials, panelists said.

Many of the panelists agreed that other possible solutions to combat the violence and inefficiency of prisons include reentry programs, prevention methods and a regional jail model.

Reentry programs would help inmates assimilate into life after prison and prevention methods would include literacy programs to help children avoid a life leading to prison. This model would enable efficiency by breaking up large prisons into smaller, regional ones.

"If it's a revolving door, then obviously we're not correcting anybody," Mississippi Senator Lydia Chassaniol said.

During the panel, an audience member asked what cor-

rectional officers were doing to improve relations with and reduce the number of minorities in prison.

Though Fisher did not have a blanket solution, he said it was something to consider. He also mentioned community policing to build stronger relations with minority communities and developing a national conscience to improve minority relations as potential solutions.

"I found it interesting that they [the panel] didn't really have an answer to the minority question," senior journalism student Edwin Edenfield said. "I feel like that's a pretty big deal that people should be focusing on."

Junior journalism major, Adrienne Lay said she was glad she attended the panel because of the different perspectives that were included and the extent of the issues were surprising. "Honestly, I didn't know it was an issue until I heard about there being a Mississippi prison problems panel."

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Tori WhoDat: finding faith in sexuality and music

JARED BOYD

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"I don't need any more dissonance in this sea of disapproval," Tori WhoDat rapped in her 2012 song "Homecoming."

Listening to the record in a rented burgundy Honda sedan parked outside a furniture store, the pint-sized rapper nods her head to the military-inspired snare drum cadence from which the beat derives. Even on this dark Memphis night, the bib of her black snapback cap bounces back and forth like a metronome in the glow of the store light. She grins from time to time. It's hard to tell if her sudden smiles are due to the embarrassment of revisiting a less-polished version of her artistic efforts or an emotional response to the heartfelt lyricism of the particular recording. This song, much like the boxes that fill the seats of the car she's sitting in, represents a transition in Tori's life.

"It's a letter to my parents that somehow just happened to rhyme once I got it all down," she

says of the track. When it first appeared near the end of her debut mixtape, "Tori Story," the young rapper was going through a host of big changes. The Louisiana native, who spent most of her teenage years in Chicago, had just moved back to the South. Coming to Memphis meant turning her back on a career in the gospel rap that gave WhoDat, then known as Victorious, an opportunity to travel the nation with an Indiana-based label. The decision even halted WhoDat's plans to attend seminary.

After two years outside the studio, Tori returned to the mic with a more candid approach.

"It was just a really confusing and scary time," WhoDat said. "Even now, it's still something I'm figuring out; finding out where my faith lies in regards to my sexuality."

In the lines of songs like "Homecoming" and "Who Am I?" Tori expresses through rhyme her struggle to settle into an identity. On the latter, she emerges triumphant, with driving synths laid behind her vocals.

"I will stand tall," WhoDat proclaims in the second verse. "Come and take a trip to where my heart is."

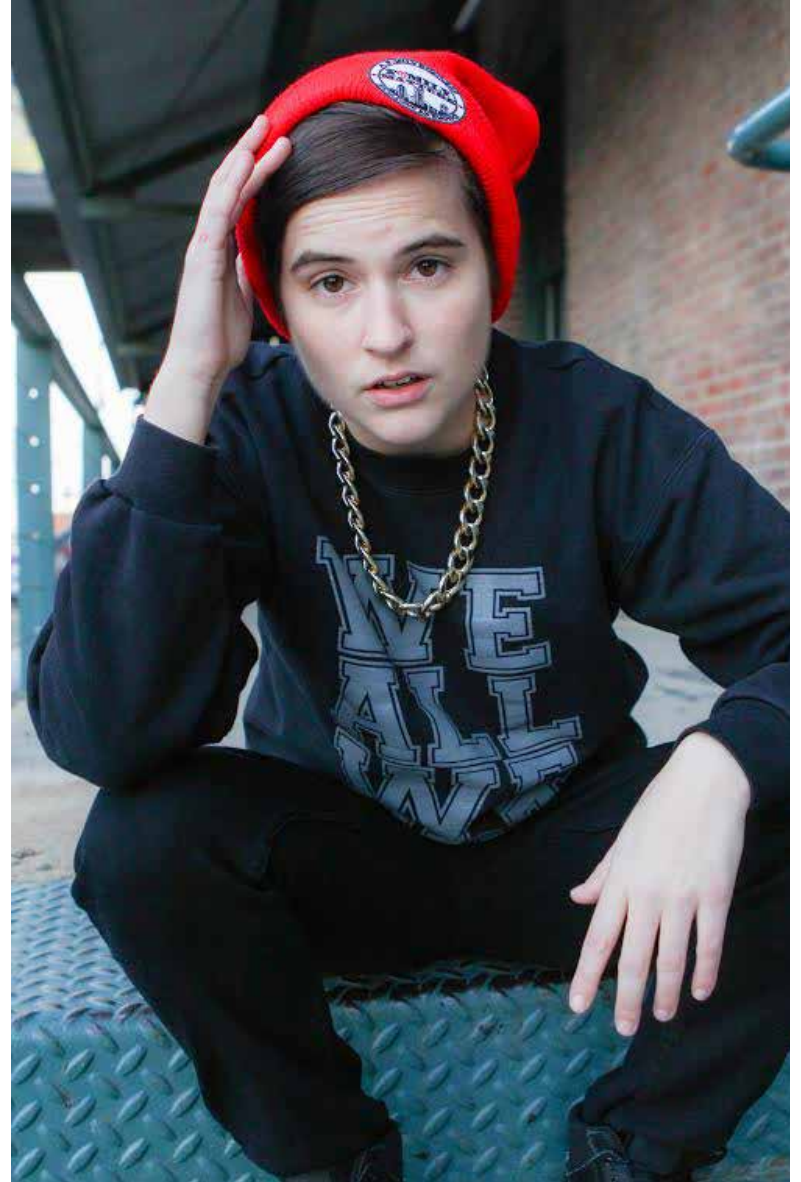
Looking back, she reiterates, "It's still something I'm figuring out."

"I had been with two girls before I could even admit to myself I was gay," WhoDat said. "When I finally was able to say, 'Okay. I'm gay. This is what I am,' I just cried."

While Tori takes a break outside in her car just after sound check at Memphis's Lounge 11, she's also taking a break from moving into a new house. For the time being, her rental car, the boxes inside and her girlfriend, Erin, are Tori's only semblance of home. In just a couple of hours she is going to open for Wave Chappelle, the token hipster of local superstar Yo Gotti's CMG rap label.

During her impromptu listening session, a group of stand-out fans arrive. Aside from obvious physical attributes, such as skin tone and dress, many of the mem-

SEE WHODAT PAGE 7



COURTESY: TORI WHODAT



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Charles Overby to Receive Coveted Ole Miss Women's Council Legacy Award

OXFORD – The Ole Miss Women's Council for Philanthropy will honor Charles Overby, a champion of the First Amendment and the free press, with the 2015 Legacy Award on April 18 at the University of Mississippi. Presented by C Spire, Overby will receive the award during a dinner at Carrier House, home of Chancellor Dan and Lydia Jones.

The Legacy Award of the Ole Miss Women's Council recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions as leaders, philanthropists and mentors.

FedEx Corp. is the platinum sponsor for the 2015 Legacy Award, and gold sponsors are FNC Inc. and Kimberley Fritts. Sanderson Farms, Two Rivers Ford, RJ Young, the Mississippi Press Association, the Freedom Forum and Kate and John Green are silver sponsors.

Helmed by an accomplished cadre of female leaders and philanthropists, the Ole Miss Women's Council provides scholarships, as well as leadership development and mentorship throughout the students' tenure at the university. OMWC's endowments total nearly \$11 million.

For more information on the Ole Miss Women's Council, visit www.omwc.olemiss.edu.



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38743

WHODAT continued from page 6

bers of this small enclave appear to relate first hand to Tori's message about sexual identity. Some of them approach the car, and Tori hops out to greet them with daps and hugs.

Tori nicknamed her fans "Dat Krewe," a reference to the parade committees from her hometown, New Orleans. Their mantra of "Love, Positivity and Progression" fits neatly within the theme of Tori's music and her supporters' position in the venue, sprinkled throughout the crowd of hardcore rap aficionados.

"People get upset, you know, other artists on the bill," WhoDat said, not because of the eclectic crowd she attracts, but just how loyal they are to her. "People would walk in for my set and then literally walk out right afterward. I think it's more so of a testament to the fact that I can reach those people who normally wouldn't come out to see shows like that."

For audience members who aren't well-acquainted with Tori's content, another large draw is her penchant for initiating crowd participation and frequent bursts of energy and has little aversion

to throwing herself off stage to crowd surf. In the opening for Rae Sremmurd last October at the Lyric Oxford, she rode the adoring arms of Mississippi rap fans before continuing her amped anthem "Krewe-dentials" once she was placed back on the ground.

"I get consumed by the song and connecting with the people in the audience," she said. "I like to look people in the eyes. I'm not really worried about forgetting my lines."

On this particular night, WhoDat is performing through a toe injury, only noticeable due to a slight limp in her step, as she moves about Lounge 11 in



COURTESY: TORI WHODAT

her signature white tennis shoes. Luckily, her swagger disguises her altered movement. She isn't

worried, either.

"When I start performing, I don't feel any pain at all," she says.

Tori attributes her on-stage demeanor to be simply a facet of her personality.

"I don't like to do things unless I'm going to do it with all my heart," she said.

She also has borrowed a sense of determination from her father, one of her biggest role models, who always told her, "You never know when an opportunity could be 'the' opportunity."

It seemed as if "the" opportunity for Tori was right around the corner.

For the second year in a row, Tori WhoDat was scheduled to appear at the 101.9 FM Kiss Con-

cert on April 18 at the New Daisy in Memphis. Her most recent single, "Love the Way," debuted on the station as they announced this year's headliners for the event. Her family gathered around for the announcement, after which her mother offered the rapper, "You sound just like your father."

"That made me smile," she said.

Alongside Tori WhoDat, Flo-Rida, Wyclef Jean, SoMo and The Voice's Melanie Martinez were headlining the event. However, due to a recent cancellation, Tori is headed back to the drawing board, to find a way to capitalize off her recent success.

"Now I'm in this new phase where there is so much that is brand new, and I'm excited to make feel-good music," WhoDat said. "I just want to show people all sides of me."

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Off-campus students adopt from Humane Society

CHANDLER MARIE MORGAN
cmmorgan@go.olemiss.edu

For many Ole Miss students, living off campus comes with many new personal responsibilities. For some, living off-campus means having the opportunity to welcome a pet into their home and become responsible for a furry friend.

Katy Mueller, a junior living off campus who owns both a kitten and a puppy, said she always owned a pet growing up and felt like she was missing something without one at school.

"The responsibility of a pet, whether people notice it or not, is something people want," Mueller said. "Taking care of another living being makes someone feel important."

Senior Ashley Counce said she seized the first available opportunity to adopt her seven-and-a-half month old Tea-

cup Yorkie from her parents' friend. Unlike Mueller, she did not grow up with a pet in the home.

"I think students adopt pets for the attention that it brings," Counce said. "Others grew up pet owners or lovers or have even been deprived of the pet experience, and this is their first opportunity to have a pet of their own."

Counce's parents were more than okay with her adopting a dog to keep her company while she lives away from home, Counce said.

Some students, however, don't feel confident taking on the responsibility of owning a pet during the hustle of their college years. Sophomore Cody Marlowe said he did not feel he could give his full attention to a pet while balancing school, work and a social life. Although he is not currently a pet owner, Marlowe said he'd be open to the possibility of



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Sachi Denham adopts a puppy at the Oxford Humane Society, Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

adopting a dog his senior year. "College students make great pet owners," said Jenn Petermann, executive director of adoptions at Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society.

Petermann said there are a great mix of college students who look into adoptions and becoming pet owners. The

monthly goal for adoptions at Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society is at least 100 adoptions per month. Petermann said 35 percent of those adoptions are made by college students.

Although Petermann said people primarily go to the humane society looking to adopt dogs, cats make great pets

for college students, too. One advantage of owning a cat is a feline's ability to take care of itself, as long as the owner provides food and water, Petermann said.

The Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society adoption process includes a paper application, previous veterinarian reference, verification with parental guardians if the person adopting is under 21 and verification by the property owner if the potential adopter does not own their own residence. This process ensures the adoption provides the best home possible for the animals, Petermann said.

Anyone interested in adopting a pet from the Oxford-Lafayette Humane Society can contact the main office at 662-236-7631 for further information on pet adoptions and the process of becoming a prospective pet owner.

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Rebels sweep doubleheader against Southern Miss

NATALIE ALLEN

thedmsports@go.olemiss.edu

The Rebels took care of business Wednesday as the Ole Miss softball team swept the doubleheader against Southern Miss at the Ole Miss Softball Complex.

The Rebels dominated the Golden Eagles in game one where Ole Miss was able to total six runs, 11 hits and no errors while holding their opponent scoreless.

Sophomore outfielder Miranda Strother quickly established the pace of the day in game one by hitting a home run in the 1st inning. The two-run shot was Strother's fourth homer of the season. Dishing out the first punch helped Ole Miss build their momentum that continued to carry them throughout the rest of the doubleheader.

Shortly after, the Lady Rebs added four more runs in the 2nd inning. Ole Miss loaded the bases just in time for freshman left-fielder Elantra Cox to step up to the plate and provide a two-RBI single that set the Rebels lead to 4-0. Junior Natalie Martinez quickly followed with two more RBI's that added to make it 6-0 Ole Miss.

With bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the 6th, Cox hit an infield single that got her out at first, but still allowed Ole Miss' seventh run.

Junior pitcher Madi Osias led

the Rebels on the mound for all seven innings in the game one shut out and came in to relieve senior Lauren Lindsey after two innings in game two.

The tide turned in game two as the Golden Eagles came out fighting in the first inning. Freshman outfielder Samantha Reynolds led off the game with a double. Two batters later, junior second baseman Morgan McKeever hit a sacrifice fly that brought in Reynolds to make it 1-0 Southern Miss.

The Golden Eagles found their momentum offensively in game two as they totaled eight hits. The Rebels struggled at the plate early on and had only one hit from

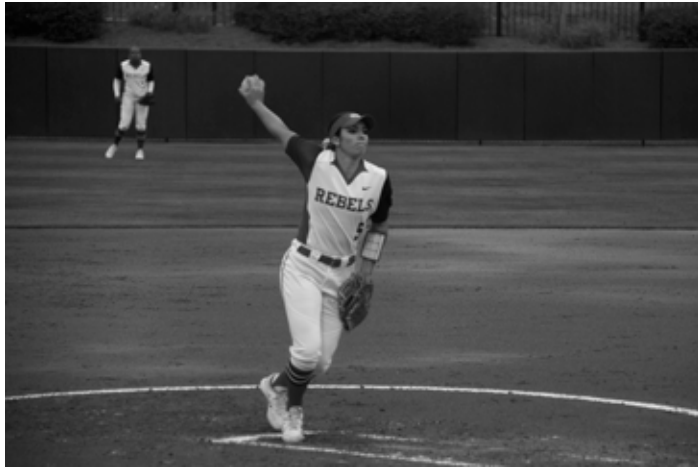


PHOTO: KAYLA BEATTY

Junior Madi Osias pitches during the softball game between Mississippi and Georgia Friday.

Strother until the bottom of the 5th.

Although they struggled to score in game two, the Rebels played impressive defense that held the Golden Eagles to just one run scored despite their outstanding offensive play.

In the bottom of the 5th, Ole

Miss was able to pick up the pace. Freshman shortstop Grayce Maja had a double that was excellently placed in deep right field. Pitcher Madi Osias immediately followed with a hard hit ball that bounced over the shortstop's head and sent Maja home to tie up the score with two outs.

Madi Osias was lethal at the plate. In the bottom of the 6th, Osias hit another two-run bomb to send the Rebels ahead 3-1, her 5th home run of the season. The home run sealed the sweep for the Rebels.

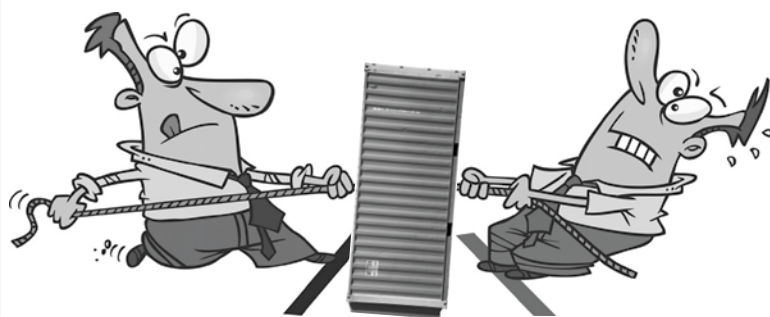
"We were just looking to hit a fly ball, but we'll take a home run

instead. It was a great manufacturing of a couple of runs that inning," Ole Miss head coach Mike Smith said. "We do a pretty good job with that. We don't always score those runs in the first inning, but it is all about being patient and getting to that pitch when we can, and we did a great job of that in that later inning."

"Miranda (Osias) comes to play everyday. [Miranda] has been consistent all year long. If I could have a poster child for what work ethic does, she would be right on the front because she does an outstanding job."

Ole Miss is now over the halfway point of a 13-game home streak. Up next for the Rebels is a three-game series against Louisville beginning at 3 p.m. on April 17th.

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Molly Edmondson

B.A. IN BIOCHEMISTRY

"Characterization of Epithelial Cadherin Domain 1"

Directed by Dr. Susan Pedigo

Thursday, April 16 at 1:00 pm

Honors College Room 309

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

38643

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Ryan Sessums

B.S. IN CHEMISTRY

"Effect of Biochar and Activated Carbon Amendments on Gaseous Mercury Emissions of Soil and Mercury Methylation Rates in Sediment"

Directed by: Dr. James Cizdziel

Thursday, April 16 at 2:00 pm

Coulter Hall Room 200

The defense is open to the public.

If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

38781

COLUMN

Stephen Curry should be your 2014-2015 NBA MVP

CODY THOMASON

csthoma1@go.olemiss.edu

With the NBA regular season coming to a close today, several players are vying for the league's most prestigious honor: the Most Valuable Player award. Likely to receive votes this year are: New Orleans Pelicans power forward Anthony Davis, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, Oklahoma City Thunder point guard Russell Westbrook, Houston Rockets shooting guard James Harden and Golden State Warriors point guard Stephen Curry.

I'll begin with the New Orleans Pelicans's Anthony Davis. The 22-year-old forward has already ascended into the NBA's elite and has shown remarkable improvements in his third year. Davis has put together the most well-rounded season of any of the candidates, scoring 24.3 points per game, 10.2 rebounds and a league-leading 2.9 blocks a game. Davis also added 2.2 assists and 1.5 steals per game, and shot 53 percent from the

field. The Pelicans are currently 44-37 and fighting for the eighth seed in the Western Conference, which puts him at a huge disadvantage for the award.

Lebron James is averaging 25 points, 7.4 assists, six rebounds and 1.7 steals per game on 48 percent shooting, but, since this is actually slightly below James' career averages, no matter how outstanding it is, he doesn't stand a good chance to win. James also missed nearly two weeks of the season, which also hurts his case.

That brings me to who the three players most likely to be put to a vote: Westbrook, Harden and Curry.

Most NBA fans have seen Westbrook's incredible play since teammate Kevin Durant went out with a season-ending injury. Westbrook has tried to carry the team by himself and has notched 11 triple-doubles - eight more than any other player in the league - and is narrowly leading James Harden as the top scorer in the NBA with 28 points per



AP PHOTO: DANNY MOLOSHOK

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry dribbles against the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 31, 2015, in Los Angeles. The Warriors won 110-106.

game. He also has 8.6 assists per game, good for fourth in the league, the second most steals per game in the NBA

with 2 and adds 7.3 rebounds per game which is an outstanding amount for a point guard. With that also comes a

league-leading 4.4 turnovers per game and poor shooting percentages of 42 percent from the field and 29 percent from beyond the arc. In addition, Westbrook's scoring outbursts haven't always translated into wins for his team, who are still fighting for the last Western Conference playoff spot.

In my mind, James Harden comes in second in the MVP race. Harden has scored excellently and carried his team for much of the season while superstar center and teammate Dwight Howard battled injuries. Harden has improved a lot this season with 27.5 points per game, 6.9 assists, 5.6 rebounds and 1.9 steals per game on the defensive side of the ball. Despite this improvement, the Rockets were better on defense with Howard on the bench. The lack of a big two-way impact hurts his MVP chances in my mind. Howard shot a solid 44 percent from the field and 37 percent from three, but those percentages pale in comparison to Curry's.

Curry has been the most im-

SEE CURRY PAGE 11

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BASEBALL

continued from page 12

pitched a scoreless inning of relief following Smith.

Ole Miss added another run in the seventh after sophomore outfielder Josh Watkins led the inning off with a double and later scored on a sacrifice fly by junior right-fielder Cameron Dishon.

Junior left-hander Matt Denny came on in the ninth and recorded the final three outs to secure the 11-1 win.

The win was the Rebel's third in the last four games as they look to extend the three-game win streak and finish strong during the second half of the season.

"We just want to play well and put some games together. We haven't done that all year," Bianco said. "We've been up and down all year. We're just trying to be consistent."

With the win, Ole Miss improved to 19-18 on the season. The Rebels return to action Friday as they travel to Auburn for a weekend series. First pitch Friday is set for 6 p.m.

CURRY

continued from page 10

important player on the league's best regular season team, the Golden State Warriors, who went 66-15 overall this season. Curry scored the sixth most points and had the sixth most

assists in the league with 23.9 and 7.7 respectively. Curry has also had the fourth most steals per game with two, along with 4.3 rebounds per game. What really puts him over the top is his shooting percentages. Curry shot almost 49 percent from the field and was able to shoot as well as Harden's 44 percent field goal percentage from behind the three-point line. In

fact, Curry broke his own record for most three-pointers made in a season with 284. Curry was able to perform at a high rate in every aspect of the game while shooting with un-

heard-of efficiency and leading his team to the best record in the NBA.

For these reasons, Stephen Curry deserves to be the 2015 NBA MVP.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Ruiqi Feng

B.S. IN CHEMISTRY
B.A. IN CHINESE

"Development of Methods for Determining Dry Deposition of Mercury using an Ion-exchange Membrane: Relative Rates of Mercury Dry Deposition at Sardinia, Enid, and Grenada Lakes"

Directed by: Dr. James Cizdziel

Thursday, April 16 at 3:00 pm

Coulter Hall Room 200

The defense is open to the public.
If you require special assistance relating to a disability, please contact Penny Leeton at 662-915-7266.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

May May Ly

B.S. IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

"Design and Synthesis of Sigma-1 Probe for Positron Emission Topography (PET) Imaging"

Directed by: Dr. Christopher McCurdy

Thursday, April 16 at 4:00 pm

Thad Cochran Research Center Room 3054

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Rebels dominate University of Tennessee-Martin 11-1

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
bsrippee@go.olemiss.edu

Coming off a series win on the road against top-ranked Vanderbilt, Ole Miss kept was able to keep the momentum going with a 11-1 win over Tennessee-Martin Wednesday afternoon.

The Rebels used a four-run second inning and a five-run fourth to quickly take control of the game.

Ole Miss took advantage of three infield singles and a throwing error by junior Skyhawk third-baseman Mike Murphy to plate four runs in the second inning to grab the early lead.



Mississippi sophomore Colby Bortles bats at the baseball game Wednesday April 15

PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Senior right-hander Sam Smith took the mound for the Rebels on Wednesday. On his 50th career start and his third midweek start of the year, Smith was sharp, going six innings and allowing just one run on four hits, striking out four and allowing just one walk.

"I've kind of let all the stress off my back," Smith said. "I was really pressuring myself early in the year to get off to a good start, and I've just kind of let all the pressure go."

Smith continued his recent stint of quality outings as he picked up his second win of the season, improving his record to 2-4 on the year.

"I thought Sam was terrific," head coach Mike Bianco said. "We need him if it's midweek or on the weekend in relief. We need him, there's no doubt. It's going to be hard to have much success without him."

Ole Miss again got the offense going in the fourth. After a leadoff single and two walks which loaded the bases, sophomore third baseman Colby Bortles continued his recent

hot streak at the plate and broke the game open by hitting a grand slam over the left field wall extending the Rebels lead to 9-0. It was Bortles' second grand slam in three games. Just two pitches later, senior first baseman Sikes Orvis launched a towering home run to right field which gave Orvis his eighth home run on the year.

UT-Martin got on the board in the sixth with a solo home run by senior outfielder Taylor Douglas, making it a 9-1 game.

Bortles continued his success at the plate with a solo home run to right field in the seventh as Ole Miss extended their lead to 10-1. It was Bortles' second home run of the day and his sixth of the season. He led the Rebels offensively on the day with five RBI's.

"I think it's confidence," Bortles said of his recent rise in performance. "I didn't have much confidence in the early part of the season that I needed to have and gaining that confidence back from my teammates and everybody else has been the main thing."

Senior left-hander Scott Ashford and freshman right-hander Drake Robison each

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 11

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