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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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West Oxford Loop to extend to College Hill

CLARA TURNAGE
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Mayor Pat Patterson announced the appropriation of \$3 million to Oxford and Lafayette County to extend West Oxford Loop 3.6 miles to College Hill Road Thursday at City Hall.

The appropriation is a result of the passing of House Bill 1535 on March 30, which gave \$949 million to the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Patterson said this extension has been in the works for nearly 20 years and is the collective effort of state and local government as well as the University of Mississippi.

Lieutenant Gov. Tate Reeves said this project was one of many across the state.

“No matter where you find yourself on the political spectrum, we can all agree that public infrastructure is a role that government must play,” Reeves said. “This is a clear example of what can happen when you have a state representative and a state senator that are working together to do what’s right for their community.”

Patterson said Chancellor Dan Jones expedited the process a little over a year ago.

“We stand here today as a re-

SEE OXFORD LOOP PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves speaks at a press conference about the extension of West Oxford Loop held in front of City Hall on April 16.

Swap unifies greek communities



COURTESY: ASHLEY NORWOOD

Phi Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Gamma step at the first annual “Greek Swap” hosted by the Theta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Wednesday April 15 at the Tad Pad. This is the first swap that included panhellenic and non-panhellenic fraternities and sororities. For more photos and a video go to thedmonline.com

Students, faculty gather for annual violence-prevention rally

DREW JANSEN
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The UM Violence Prevention Office hosted an annual rally for Take Back the Night, an international non-profit organization with the mission of combating sexual and domestic violence, Thursday in front of the Lyceum.

Many campus organizations participated in the rally, including the Sarah Isom Center for Gender Studies, Army ROTC, UPD, the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council.

Interim Isom Center Director Jaime Harker commented on the origins of these demonstrations and how they’ve evolved.

“The idea of Take Back the Night was to say ‘We’re going to go out in groups and reclaim our right to exist and not be afraid of where we are,’” Harker said. “The truth is, when you look at statistics for rape, the vast majority are committed by people you know, so that image of the anonymous rapist is probably not the majority, but the symbolism is still im-

portant.”

One in three women and one in six men worldwide experience sexual assault within their lifetime, and less than 50 percent of rape cases are reported, according to the Take Back the Night foundation’s website.

“This is something that we’re a part of all the time,” UPD officer Kendall Brown said. “We partner with Health Promotions, Violence Prevention Office, OPD and Family Crisis Services off campus. We’re constantly working to eradicate and raise awareness of violence, especially sexual violence.”

Director of the UM Counseling Center Bud Edwards spoke during the event about his first involvement with Take Back the Night in 1992. After talking about becoming the father of a beautiful daughter, Edwards said the thing that was most important to him was to protect her and everyone else’s daughter.

“I made myself a promise that by the time she went to college, I



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Anti-violence shirts hang in front of the Lyceum at the Take Back The Night rally on Thursday April 16.

would have done my best to reduce, if not eradicate sexual violence on the college campus,” Edwards said. “I must say I did not succeed quite like I had hoped to, but I do feel like we’ve made

progress.”

Ole Miss softball player Natalie Martinez, Verizon Wireless district manager Lorianne Singleton and Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council presidents

Ellen Mitchell and James-Roland Markos spoke on how students can better protect themselves and the community against sexual violence.

SEE RALLY PAGE 3

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COLUMN

Students stand against American Sniper

ROBERT MCAULIFFE
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Yesterday evening and this Sunday at 8 p.m., the Student Activities Association has decided to screen the Oscar-nominated Clint Eastwood film “American Sniper” in the Grove as part of its spring semester outdoor film series.

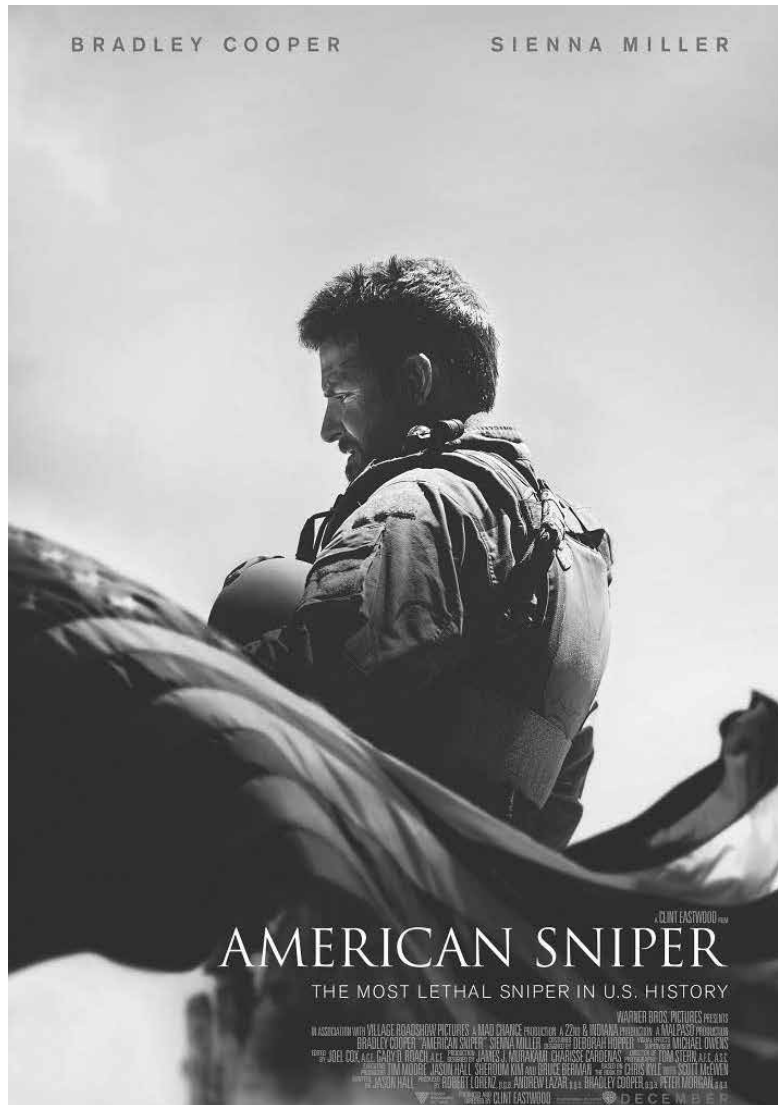
There’s nothing inherently wrong with screening this film – I believe all art, regardless of its quality, deserves to be displayed and discussed. However, whose idea of a fun spring film is “American Sniper”?

If you followed the news surrounding this film’s theatrical release, you probably saw a story or two concerning social media posts from people who had seen the film. I will not repeat their content, but suffice it to say they contained some of the most hateful, violent and xenophobic rhetoric towards Muslims and Arabs I have ever seen.

Muslims have been horrified during the film’s screenings, as these tweets indicated many red-blooded white Americans left the film not with a sense of sorrow at the mutual tragedy and senseless death involved in war, but rather with a jingoistic desire to bash on “America’s enemies.” Does this refer to members of the Ba’athist army? Perhaps the Islamic State of Iraq? Maybe even al-Qaeda?

According to “American Sniper”’s audience, however, “America’s enemies” are American Muslims, indiscriminately, regardless of ethnicity. Never mind that Iraqi Muslims, the kind Clint Eastwood paints as “America’s enemies,” make up less than 2 percent of the Muslim population. Middle Eastern Muslims at large only make up 20 percent of the global Muslim population – far more Muslims live in South and Southeast Asia.

Why is it that this film inspires such violent ignorance? Clint Eastwood is a talented director. I enjoyed “Gran Torino.” However, with “American Sniper,” he presented a dangerous misrepresentation of



both Chris Kyle’s life and the Iraq War. Early on in the film, Eastwood juxtaposes Kyle watching the burning twin towers on 9/11 with his joining the military and deploying to Iraq. This cheap emotional ploy attempts to create visual causality – 9/11 happened, then the invasion of Iraq happened implicitly as a result. This is a lie.

The Iraq War had nothing to do with 9/11 – that was the Afghanistan War. Eastwood uses this visual juxtaposition to create a jingoistic emotional justification for the Iraq War. Throughout the film this tactic is continued. The Iraq War, which was a tragic mistake based on blatant lies from our leadership that left over 120,000 innocent Iraqi civilians killed by American soldiers, is portrayed as a heroic struggle against America’s aforementioned “enemies.” Obviously, the Iraq War happened, and cinematic depictions of it can be interesting,

but a film that does not invoke its many failings is sorely remiss.

However, worse than the film’s misrepresentation of a tragic war is its lack of respect for the lives of Muslims. In a time when the nation at large is concerned with violence against minorities, “American Sniper” depicts Chris Kyle, who shot and killed 160 people, as a glorious war hero. The film makes no attempt to humanize the Iraqi combatants resisting the American invasion of their country. In fact, they are explicitly dehumanized, depicted, to quote Chris Kyle himself, as “savage, despicable evil.” In the book upon which the film is based, Chris Kyle, when asked whether he has any regrets, replied by saying “I only wish I had killed more.”

By valorizing this man, the lives of Arab Muslims are seen as irrelevant. Eastwood does not show the families of the men Kyle killed. He does

not show any Muslim Americans, many of whom serve in the military. His depiction of Muslims and Arabs uniformly paints them as savages, enemies, “others.” “American Sniper” is less a nuanced portrayal of the Iraq War than a cynical propaganda film, more akin to “300” in tone than Eastwood’s vastly superior “Flags of Our Fathers” and “Letters from Iwo Jima.”

In light of the Chapel Hill hate crime murder of three Muslim students, is this really a film we as a university ought to be causally screening in the same breath as innocuous films like “The Hunger Games”? Many members of the Muslim community on campus have expressed that the screening of this film makes them feel directly targeted.

Muslim and Arab students are already constant targets of discrimination, jokes and casual microaggressions. “American Sniper” has been proven to inspire hateful, violent reactions from white Americans. It is irresponsible and perhaps immoral for this film to be shown on campus in such a nonchalant manner.

Thankfully, while they will not cancel the showing of the film, the Student Activities Association has agreed to co-sponsor a discussion on Tuesday at noon in Union 404, entitled “Cultural Awareness in the Era of ‘American Sniper.’” I applaud this effort and extol students on both sides of the debate to attend. However, the fact still remains that this film is being shown Sunday night at 8 p.m. in the Grove. I ask that all students, staff, and faculty members who stand opposed to jingoism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia join me in protesting before the screening of the film. Stand in solidarity with your Muslim and Arab brothers and sisters, and make it loud and clear that not everyone at UM supports the hateful message of “American Sniper.”

Robert McAuliffe is a junior international studies major from St. Louis.

**THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN**

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

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

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



**MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION**

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Mississippi in Brief

Compiled by Lizzie McIntosh

WEST LOOP

continued from page 1

sult of the combined efforts by a community led by the work of Dan Jones' staff at the university," Patterson said.

Jones said it is hard to distinguish between the needs of the city and those of the university, which results in the need for collaboration between both parties.

House of Representatives member Brad Mayo said this project has been special to him because it affects his neighborhood.

"This is going to affect us in two ways. First, it's going to make day-to-day life easier. For those who live north of town and want to get to Jackson Avenue, it's going to ease their burden," Mayo said. "Secondly, it will encourage what the lieutenant governor was saying, economic development."

RALLY

continued from page 1

"I think any time you have an organization that represents a large part of the campus, it's important for that organization to realize the potential that they have to impact the campus in positive ways and promote positive change," Markos said.

Following the speeches, students marched through campus while members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity led participants in chants of "Hotty Toddy, it's my body," and "two, four, six, eight, no more date rape."

Take Back the Night began its U.S. activity in the late 1960s and established itself as a non-profit organization in 1973. Take Back the Night events now occur in 30 countries annually.

"It has turned into a celebration of survivors, an attempt to reach out and give information to people about resources and places they can go for help," Harker said.

CHOOT 'EM

Troy Landry of Swamp People (and speaker of the infamous words above) would be very pleased with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks this week. The department recently announced that they are implementing a new process for receiving permits for alligator hunting. According to the Clarion Ledger, hunters previously received tags on a lottery system. Now, hunters will receive them on a firstcome, first served basis. Each hunter is allowed to buy one permit in one of the seven zones. All permits will go on sale on July 14. Officials said the cause of this change is increased growth and interest in alligator hunting. The state's alligator population is still healthy, but will need to be continually watched as the sport increases in popularity.

BUSH BACKS BRYANT'S BILL

Did you like that alliteration? Jeb Bush was in Mississippi Thursday to show support for a new education law. The Washington Post reported that he went to the Mississippi Capitol as governor Phil Bryant signed the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act. Bush's non-profit group, the Foundation for Excellence in Education, is backing the bill. The new bill is modeled after a similar program that Bush established when he was the governor of Florida. The program will benefit up to 500 students in its first year with an added 500 every year up to the fifth year.

DID NOT EXPECT TO READ THIS

According to Space Daily, Mississippi is now home to an 18-foot-wide, over 10,000 pound cryogenic tank for NASA's newest rocket, the Space Launch System. The tank was moved from the NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama to a test facility in Iuka. The Space Launch System is expected to be the most powerful rocket that has ever been built for deep space missions. Its mission is ultimately projected to go to Mars. The tank is being tested in Iuka to confirm that its design and manufacturing processes are satisfactory of all NASA requirements.

PACKING HEAT

Governor Phil Bryant signed a law Friday that said people will no longer need a permit to carry a concealed firearm. According to the Daily Journal, under this law citizens will be able to carry a firearm in a purse, briefcase or other types of luggage. The law will go into effect on July 1. The legislation that Bryant approved also said ammo owned by residents of Mississippi is legal despite federal action, and reduced the fee for a concealed carry permit. Bryant said, "The right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to America and to Mississippi." Long live the Second Amendment, Mississippi.

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Overby panel discusses state and national politics

DREW JANSEN
ajjansen@go.olemiss.edu

Mississippi political experts analyzed recent and coming elections and discussed the state's changing political climate at a panel Thursday at the Overby Center.

Senior Overby Fellow Bill Rose moderated the panel, titled "The Long, Hot Political Summer." The panel comprised Clarion-Ledger political editor Geoff Pender, Republican lobbyist and political Hayes Dent and Northeast Mississippi Tea Party organizer Grant Sowell.

The panel examined the upcoming 13-candidate special election for the 1st Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and discussed possible outcomes before a crowd of around 60. The election was set for May 12 after the death of Republican Rep. Alan Nunnelee on February 6.

"Special elections are always kind of wild cards," Dent said. "You really don't know what's going to happen. There's not a ton of interest. You've got a runoff, surely, that will occur when a lot of people are getting out of school

and folks are going on vacation. If a runoff is needed, it will take place June 2."

Pender referenced the debate over Common Core curriculum as an issue of potential importance in the race. Sowell said Common Core may have similar significance in Mississippi's upcoming regular 2015 legislative elections.

"The position one takes on Common Core may be a very big deal," Sowell said. "That is a deciding factor, I think, in some of these races, more so with Republicans pitted against Republicans."

Looking forward to the state's

general political future, Sowell said Mississippi needs a Republican candidate whose actions better reflect conservative ideals and cited relatively low ratings from outside organizations in terms of conservatism.

"If you look at congressional scorecards, they all say the same thing," Sowell said. "These politicians rank very low. If our kids came home with these grades, they might be grounded for a while."

The panel also reflected on the Republican primary from Mississippi's 2014 U.S. Senate election. Dent and Sowell were actively in-

involved in the election, on the sides of Thad Cochran and Chris McDaniel respectively.

Pender said the April 1 U.S. Supreme Court ruling against capping individual campaign contributions could impact upcoming elections by marginalizing grassroots campaigns.

Audience member and junior liberal studies major P.J. Sheffield argued that the decision was of little consequence.

"Basically, it comes down to what voters think," Sheffield said. "It doesn't really matter how much a candidate spends. What will determine an election is what the people of Mississippi believe."

The panel marked the end of the Overby Center's original spring 2015 event calendar, but the center has organized an additional event to take place April 30 concerning the special election. The 13 candidates have been invited to partake in a panel discussion at the center and, as of now, six have formally accepted the invitation.

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Catherine Criddle

B.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY
B.A. IN BIOLOGY

"A Comparison of *Metragyna Speciosa* and *Mitragynine* against Opioids on Thermal Nociception in Rats"

Directed by: Dr. Kenneth Sufka

Friday, April 17
at 2:00 pm

Honors College Room 107

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Megan Lindsay

B.A. IN ENGLISH

"No Such Thing as Happiness: A Collection of Short Stories"

Directed by: Elizabeth Spencer

Friday, April 17
at 4:30 pm

Honors College Room 311

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Ford Center to host world premiere of Shakespearian Opera

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The Ford Center will host the world premiere of a new opera written by Ole Miss alumna Nancy Van de Vate Saturday night.

“Hamlet” has only been adapted as an opera once before in the mid-to-late 19th century by French composer Ambroise Thomas, but now thanks to composer Nancy Van de Vate, the Shakespearian tragedy will grace the operatic stage anew.

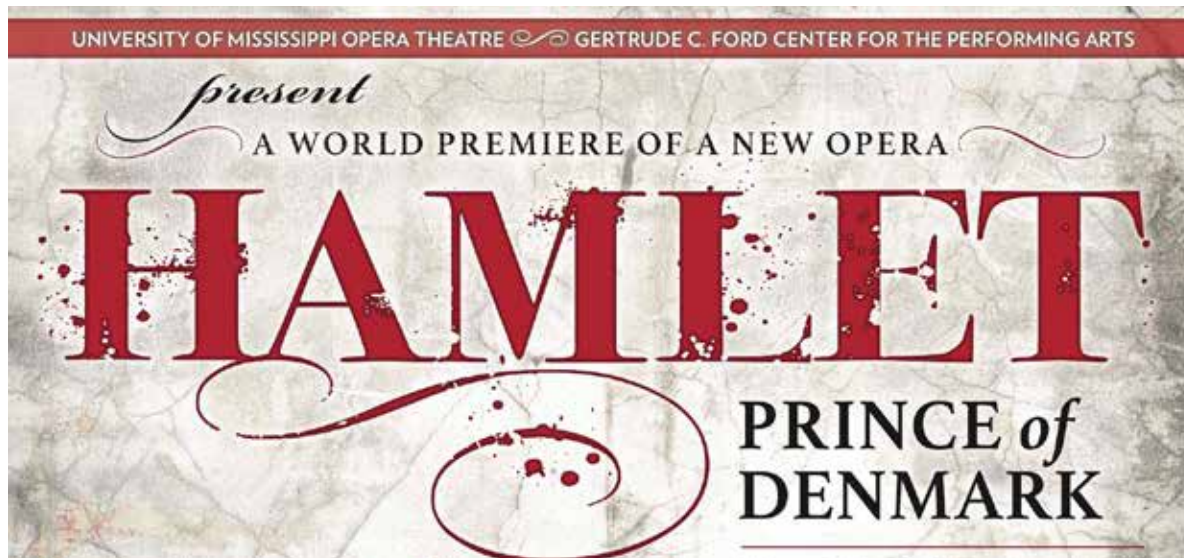
“This is a chance to see (Hamlet) actually set to music in an opera where you have this wonderful, expressive device of the music helping support this already tremendous play,” Julia Aubrey, the director of the opera program on campus, said. “We call it ‘the perfect play becomes the perfect opera.’”

The story of the play as it was written by Shakespeare has not been altered, but merely enhanced through the composition of Van de Vate.

The Ford Center’s marketing director Kate Meacham said Van de Vate is “an incredibly prolific composer of all types of music.”

“She’s very well-known in the upper world in Europe,” Meacham said.

Van de Vate and Aubrey to-



COURTESY: FORDCENTER

gether decided to bring the premiere of “Hamlet” to Ole Miss Meacham said.

Meacham said the opera is new to the stage, and this is an “incredible opportunity” for both the university and the students who will be singing in the production.

Ole Miss opera students traditionally perform either an opera or a few scenes from operas every year. “Hamlet,” however, is a full-scale production not strictly limited to Ole Miss opera students. The cast includes two university faculty members and students Jacquelyn Skoog, Kyle Davis and

Andrew Ross. Guest artists from Samford University and New York City will also join the production as well as fight choreographer Christopher Schager from Northeast University. Norman Easterbrook, director of the Ford Center, is serving as the production manager and a large orchestra will also accompany the singers on stage.

Everything has been custom-designed for the performers in the adaptation.

“We have an incredible set,” Aubrey said. “All of the costumes have been made specifically for the performance.”

This Saturday’s premiere marks more than just the debut of “Hamlet” at Ole Miss, however. In May, the performers, orchestra and crew will all be traveling to Prague for the European

premiere of Van de Vate’s adaptation of “Hamlet.”

The cast and crew will be taking along all of their costumes and props as they travel abroad to showcase both the opera and the university’s opera program. “Hamlet” will be performed with the Czech Moravian Philharmonic under the conductor Petr Vronsky.

“Hamlet” will premiere at 7:30 p.m. on April 18 in the Ford Center. Tickets are \$30 for general admissions seating for the public. For Ole Miss students, the tickets are \$10 with a student ID. Tickets can be purchased online at fordcenter.org or at the Ole Miss box office in the Student Union. The student discount is unavailable online. Due to length and content, it is advised that patrons be of middle school age or older to attend.

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Softball to host Louisville Cardinals in weekend series

NATALIE ALLEN
thedmsports@gmail.com

The Rebels swept their doubleheader against the Southern Miss Golden Eagles Wednesday night. Ole Miss claimed game one by a score of 7-0 before taking game two with a 3-1 victory.

Sophomore outfielder Miranda Strother was a main offensive source Rebels in the series. In each game, she contributed a two-run home run. She also hit her second triple of the season early in game two. She hit four RBIs in total during the day, including driving in the go-ahead run in game two to clinch the sweep.

Junior pitcher Madi Osias led Ole Miss on the mound for a complete shut-out first game and five scoreless innings in the second game. She had four strikeouts and only allowed one walk. Osias also showed

timely hitting, batting in the tying run in the second game. Ole Miss went on to win 3-1.

Freshman right-fielder Elantra Cox was another key player of the series with the Golden Eagles. Her ESPN top-ten-worthy diving catch in game two helped to stifle Southern Miss's junior first baseman Sarah Evans. Cox's stellar defensive play and clutch RBI's helped lead the Rebels to victory in both games.

The Rebels are now 25-19 on the season. The two wins against Southern Miss have built up momentum leading into this weekend's series against Louisville. In order to keep the ball rolling, Ole Miss will need to pick up the pace at the plate and continue to get runners on base early on.

Being the first one on the scoreboard is key for the Reb-



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Senior Allison Brown bats during the softball game against Georgia Friday.

els' mentally. Ole Miss is 3-14 on the season when their opponent scores first and 22-5 when they cross the plate first.

Louisville is similar in this fashion. Overall, they are 36-21 on the year thus far. When the Cardinals trail early on, they are only 3-15. When they are leading, they're 26-2. When they are tied, they're 7-4.

The player to watch for the Cardinals is sophomore right-hander Maryssa Becker who was named Atlantic Coast Conference Softball Pitcher of the Week after tossing a pair of complete-game shutouts and earning the win in the Cardinals' 1-0 upset of No. 8/10 Florida State.

Ole Miss will return to action this Friday, hosting the Cardinals in a three-game series beginning at 6 p.m. at the Ole Miss Softball Complex.

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- Admin. head
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- Leo mo.

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- Steam
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	ANT	ELLERY
POPULAR	ION	
ATOMS	ESSAY	LOU
STEP	CARON	MOBS
TOM	EATON	TACOS
	AXL	NERVIER
PURPLE	YEA	
DORMOUSE	KISMET	
ALBA	SKID	LOATH
MEAD	EERO	ERICA
EDNA	DREG	DELHI

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- Telescope lens
- Big Dipper neighbor
- Cowboy's stray
- Put through a blender
- Moving right —
- Pool table part
- Drew up
- Snert's master
- Split to join
- Couch
- Fastened
- Car safety device (2 wds.)
- Outfitted
- Ward off
- Swamp critter
- Historic shrine
- Hide in kids' books
- Simple trap
- Water carrier
- Rascals
- Potpie veggie
- Wayfarer's refuge
- Superman's emblem

advertising DESIGNERS NEEDED

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- REQUIRED:** knowledge of and experience in InDesign and Photoshop. Illustrator a plus.
- An understanding of the fundamentals of graphic design and what constitutes good AD design
- Ability to quickly produce effective and attractive advertising materials following instructions from staff
- Attention to detail, high degree of creativity, strong verbal skills and ability to work independently at times
- All SMC student employees must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and be in good standing academically

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14							15				16		
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SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

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

STAFF REPORT

Ole Miss, Matt Insell agree to four-year contract extension

After a successful 2014-2015 campaign that featured the Rebels' first trip to the postseason since the 2009-2010 season, head coach Matt Insell and athletic director Ross Bjork agreed in principle to a contract extension. Insole's current deal will now expand until the end of the 2018-2019 season.

base salary of \$475,000 and will now be the longest allowed extension by the state of Mississippi. The new deal for Insell includes incentives on academic accomplishments and accomplishments on the court as well. Insole will also get an included 15 percent for his staff members.

In his two years running women's basketball, Matt In-

sell made an impact on the program with his most recent season being his most successful one. Insole took the Rebels to a 19-14 overall record, going 7-9 in Southeastern Conference play. The impressive season for the rebels was capped off with wins over then 13th ranked Kentucky and seven SEC wins, which were the most conference wins since 2009-2010 and

a 4-1 start in SEC play. Ole Miss was picked to finish dead last in the conference and finished tied for 7th in the conference.

Insell has increased Ole Miss' win totals in each year as head coach and totaled seven more wins this season than his first year at the helm. Insell fell one win short of the first 20-win season since 2006-2007. Insell is now the sixth coach in

Ole Miss women's basketball history to lead the Rebels to a postseason birth in just two seasons.



CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION

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Rebels travel to Auburn to take on Tigers in weekend series

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
bsrippee@go.olemiss.edu

Winners of three of their last four games, the Ole Miss baseball team looks to take their current momentum into Auburn this weekend as the second half of Southeastern conference play begins.

Ole Miss comes into the series with a record of 19-18 and 7-8 in conference play. The Rebels currently sit third in the SEC West and will look to improve their SEC and postseason status.

Auburn comes into the game with a 23-15 record and a 5-10 mark in SEC play. The Tigers have struggled this year, but like Ole Miss, they have played a tough conference schedule so far. Auburn has already had series against Texas A&M, Vanderbilt and LSU, who are all ranked in the top 10 nationally.

The Tigers have a tough one-two punch from the top part of their weekend rotation in sophomore right-handers Keegan Thompson and Cole Libscomb. Thompson comes into the series with a 7-2 record and a 2.84 ERA while Libscomb boasts a 4-1 record and a 2.44 ERA. Both of these pitchers will be tough match-ups for the Rebel offense this weekend.

Junior right-hander Christian Trent will take the mound for the Rebels Friday night. Trent comes into the game with a 5-3 record and will be looking to rebound after a loss last Thursday night against Vanderbilt. Junior right-hander Brady Bramlett will start on Saturday and freshman left-hander Will Stokes will take the ball Sunday for Ole Miss.

Auburn will feature a balanced lineup offensively. The



PHOTO BY: KAYLA BEATTY

Mississippi sophomore Colby Bortles runs for first base at the baseball game Thursday.

Tigers have five hitters with at least 20 RBI's on the season and eight hitters who have a .270 batting average or better.

Junior outfielder Robert Daniel and sophomore infielder Jordan Ebert lead the team with three home runs each on the year.

Ole Miss will look to continue their success at the plate, which has led to winning three of the last four games. The Rebels have struggled this year with runners in scoring position. After receiving some key timely hits against Vanderbilt, the Rebel offense continued to improve in that department on Wednesday, going 5-5 in that category. Ole Miss will need to continue to get production from hitters like sophomore third baseman Colby Bortles, who has recently found his rhythm at the plate.

Ole Miss will be looking to maintain their recent level of play and try to find some consistency, as well as take advantage of an easier schedule in the second half of conference play.

"We just want to play well and put some games together," head coach Mike Bianco said after Wednesday's win against UT-Martin. "We haven't done that all year. We've been up and down all year. We're just trying to be consistent."

Senior first baseman Sikes Orvis agreed with his coach when asked what this team needs to do to get on a run late in the year.

"We've got to be consistent," Orvis said. "We've showed that we can play with anybody. We've beaten some of the top teams in the country."

This young team seems to have been gaining confidence and finding their stride over the last couple of weeks.

"The younger guys just need to see how good we really are, and I think we've shown that over these last couple of weeks, especially over the last four games," senior pitcher Sam Smith said.

First pitch on Friday is set for 6 p.m.

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