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The Daily Mississippian

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Recommended Citation

The Daily Mississippian, "June 30, 2015" (2015). *Daily Mississippian (all digitized issues)*. 1175.
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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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Rally for Confederate symbol removal in Jackson Monday

See thedmonline.com for details

news

Same-sex legalization affects state, campus
Page 4



sports

Rebels awarded at USA track championships

Page 8



First same-sex marriage held in Lafayette County

LOGAN KIRKLAND
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After State Attorney General Jim Hood sent a letter Monday to county circuit clerks giving them the green light to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, Lafayette County hosted its first same-sex marriage ceremony at the courthouse on the Square in Oxford.

Anxious and nervous, Corey Blount, teaching assistant for the university's intensive English program and Kurt Smith, project coordinator for the intensive English program, waited in the office of circuit clerk Baretta Mosely as the official paperwork was filed and the marriage license was signed.

Upon receiving their marriage license, the couple was greeted with cheers as they left the office and entered into the lobby of the courthouse.

The couple and their supporters moved to the steps of the courthouse where they posed for a picture holding



their newly issued marriage license. Chatter amongst the group focused on finding someone to officiate their wedding.

"When we arrived at work today we just thought it was going to be a normal Monday until someone asked Kurt where he was going for lunch and he said 'to get married,'" Oxford resident Lance Herrington said. "We were all kind of giddy driving down here with excitement and also nervous."

Herrington said the majority of supporters who came to the courthouse were friends and colleagues from the intensive English program at the university. The main purpose of being there was to show moral and emotional support for both Kurt and Corey.

"I think a lot of us didn't want them to have to come alone to do what could be possibly a negative experience, but turned out wonderfully positive," Herrington said.

The excited group was soon in-

SEE MARRIAGE PAGE 4

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JAKE THRASHER AND LOGAN KIRKLAND

Idol auditions today

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The Fox Network's show American Idol will hold the last auditions for their 15th and final season at 9 a.m. today on campus in the Union Plaza.

These auditions are a part of American Idol's bus tour, which includes 11 destinations across the nation starting in Seattle and ending right here in Oxford.

"We are expecting upward of 1,000 people to be here for auditions, but there is no exact number, there could be up to around 3,000," said Jessica Evans, a data entry operator working for the Public Relations office at the University of Mississippi.

"Being one of the only two southern audition locations besides Athens, GA, Oxford will definitely target many people coming from Birmingham, Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans and other large surrounding cities," Evans said

The judges for the auditions

in Oxford will be a select group of the show's producers who decide who has what it takes to go on to the next round of arena auditions to be held in either Savannah, Georgia or Little Rock.

This will not be the first time the Idol Bus Tour auditions have been held in Oxford. In 2013, Ole Miss student Michael Simeon auditioned here at the Oxford Conference Center and made it all the way through the competition to Top 48.

This past season, Simeon took American Idol auditions for a second try and made it all the way to the competition's top 24 and top 12 for men.

"I know people may be nervous or hesitant about auditioning, but I would just tell them to look at it this way: you can't be any more not on the show than you already are. I would encourage anyone who is interested to go for it!" Simeon said.

To be eligible to audition, contestants must be within the age range of 15- 28 and

SEE IDOL PAGE 2

UM supports state flag redesign

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A recent petition that received more than 64,088 signatures on Moveon.org exemplifies a movement that the University of Mississippi began almost 20 years ago.

Discussion of the removal of the Confederate symbol from the Mississippi state flag has recently resurfaced following the massacre of nine African-Americans in a South Carolina church. Following the incident, those who saw the flag as a symbol of oppression created a petition that ignited the issue in many states across the South.

In Mississippi, House Speaker Philip Gunn supported the removal of the Confederate flag; however, Governor Phil Bryant said on Thursday that he would not call a special session to consider the redesign of the Mississippi flag.

Sen. Roger Wicker released a statement Wednesday saying that he believed the flag should be "replaced by one that is

SEE FLAG PAGE 2



Mississippi state flag flies outside of fraternity house.

PHOTO: LOGAN KIRKLAND

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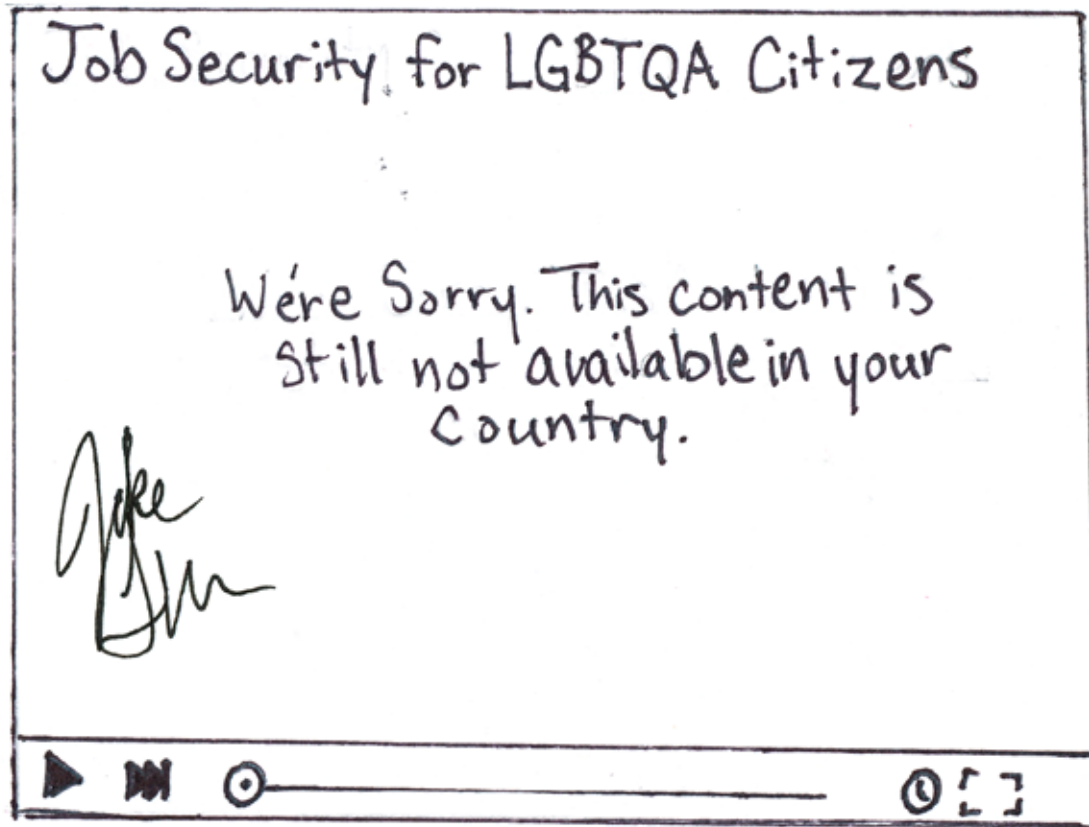
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COLUMN

Lower the flag, raise a new perspective

Adam Ganuchau, former editor-in-chief of The Daily Mississippian, wrote this column in February 2014 addressing the Confederate flag after the vandalism of the James Meredith statue on campus. As the issue resurfaces, the current staff felt it was important to reiterate the views expressed.

I was on campus late Tuesday night – so late that the only person I saw during my walk from Bishop Hall to the Ford Center was a custodial worker locking the doors of the Student Union. I deliberately visited James Meredith’s statue on my walk over. I stood by, pondering the incident and the protest events that have transpired since. Something caught my attention as I was reading the plaque at the foot of the statue: a whipping noise echoing off the side of Brevard Hall. I curiously walked around the Lyceum. When I saw it, I shuddered. How can we solemnly and fully condemn a couple students for hanging a Confederate flag on the statue when fewer than a hundred yards away, we fly that same flag every single day? How can we publicly denounce acts that violate the university’s creed of respect and dignity and willingly stand by and subject our peers to a flag face that has caused so much strife on our campus and in our state?

The current Mississippi state flag bearing the Confederate

symbol has to go. As students at the flagship institution of the Magnolia State, we have more than just an opportunity to take this stance – we have the absolute responsibility to. It will not start with the administration. It starts with us, the student body at Ole Miss. This is not merely a column – this is a call to action.

We have a race problem. We deal with not-so-isolated incidents as they come, it seems, and we will continue to do so. But we have an obligation to consider what we can do right now to help alleviate some of the problems.

Mississippi was close in 2001. Lawmakers chose to let the citizens vote, and a replacement state flag was conceptualized. The vote was hardly close and Mississippi citizens chose to keep the current flag.

That vote, which occurred nearly 13 years ago, is the barrier that many people still hide behind today, and we need to break down those barriers with all the firepower we have.

If we have a problem with placing a Confederate flag on a

black man’s statue, we should have a problem with letting black students walk by a similar flag in the Circle every day. We should also take offense at the few Confederate flags still hanging in dorm and fraternity house windows.

Thirteen years is a long time. In the past decade, Mississippi leaders have seemingly focused on making amends for the state’s unfortunate and vast racial history. In 2011, we created the Mississippi Freedom Trail, a cultural initiative to commemorate the state’s Civil Rights heritage. In 2005, Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood relentlessly prosecuted former Ku Klux Klan organizer Edgar Ray Killen for the murders of three Civil Rights workers in 1964.

The University of Mississippi has made its fair share of progressive moves, as well. Both the Colonel Reb on-field mascot and “Colonel Reb” homecoming personality election title have been removed. The song “From Dixie With Love,” a morphed arrangement of the songs “Dixie” and “Battle Hymn of the

Republic” that the Pride of the South Marching Band played during athletic events, was banned in 2009. Perhaps the most pertinent university move to race relations in the state of Mississippi was the banning of Confederate flags at athletic events.

Let’s add to that list. We are the state’s future leaders. With that responsibility comes the responsibility for progression. To make progress, we must accept the duty to take an objective look at our past to determine what can be done to better our future.

For a better future, we have to spearhead this change. Start petitions. Email the administration. Write your state and national Congressmen. Sure, it’s a small battle in a large war, but we have to start somewhere.

Can we really afford to sit back and wait? We all know that answer.

Let’s do this for Ole Miss and Mississippi.

Adam Ganuchau is a 2014 graduate from Hazlehurst.

THE DAILY
MISSISSIPPIAN

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Main Number: 662.915.5503
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Daily Mississippian is published Tuesdays and Thursdays during the summer, on days when classes are scheduled.

Contents do not represent the official opinions of The University of Mississippi or The Daily Mississippian unless specifically indicated.

ISSN 1077-8667

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
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

FLAG

continued from page 1

more unifying to all Mississippians.”

Interim chancellor Morris Stocks issued a statement Tuesday in which he said the university came to the realization years ago that the Confederate flag did not represent the core values of respect and civility for others. Mississippi State President Mark Keenum said his university, too, overwhelmingly supports a new state flag.

There have been dissenters to such a proposition. State Senator Melanie Sojourner posted a rebuttal to her Facebook page Saturday that said, “The flag was no more the ‘source’ of horrible acts against mankind than a gun is the ‘source’ of someone’s death. The ‘source’ is the hatred and evil that resides in the hearts of some who live and have lived among us. We all have a responsibility to make certain that it is the ‘source’ we address and not place blame on something that alone could do no harm. Simply placing blame on something that some see as a symbol only perpetuates the problem.”

Donald Cole, vice chancellor for academic affairs and assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs, said the university has served as a petri dish of sorts for what happens when an institution distances itself from divisive symbols.

“It took bold leadership at that time by our chancellor to disassociate from the flag. But that’s what leaders do,” Cole said. “We are a much better university because of that. And we could be a much better state because of it.”

Charles Ross, director of African American studies at Ole Miss, said he would not display the current flag in his yard.

“When the decision was made to incorporate the Confederate flag as a part of the Mississippi state flag, for all practical purposes, African Americans were not viewed

as full citizens,” Ross said. “When you have the Confederate flag displayed and somebody from the outside looks and sees some of the superficial images connected to the state, they say ‘They haven’t changed a bit.’”

Ross said Mississippi has made significant changes, and it deserves a flag that symbolizes that.

“We’ve made a lot of progress as a state. In some ways, we’ve done some things very well that other states have not done,” Ross said. “The flag, by being changed and removed, will illustrate that Mississippi is trying to move and to rectify its past legitimately.”

Ross said many who disagree say the Confederate flag is a representation of heritage and pride, but that is rooted in the division of the North and South, the division between people.

“It is a symbol that was tied to slavery,” Ross said. “Thousands of people fought to defend slavery and they took the

TAKE OUR ONLINE POLL:

Do you think Mississippi should remove the Confederate symbol from the state flag?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Confederate Flag with them.”

Ross said to change the flag would give people - particularly African Americans - something to be proud of about Mississippi and would begin a positive conversation about race relations in Mississippi.

Cole said the flag has served its purpose, but that it is now time to move to a new purpose, one that represents the whole of Mississippi, not just a part.

“People are reevaluating the flag and what it means,” Cole said. “We’re not saying to abandon the flag. We’re saying, ‘Let’s put it in perspective.’

Let’s put it in museums, where it belongs. But let’s get something that represents the whole of the state, not part of the state.”

Cole said the removal of the flag would be a gesture towards common ground for all Mississippians.

“I’m always convinced that Mississippi, particularly in race relations, can lead the nation,” Cole said. “We’re in the Deep South. If we were to remove it, people would listen. It’s pretty obvious that other states are moving already.”

Continuing to use the current flag would reinforce the misconception of Mississippi and its inhabitants, according to Cole.

“We’re bringing forth a new Mississippi,” Cole said. “We have symbolism that’s representing the Mississippi of the 1800s. That’s backwards symbolism, and it doesn’t represent us as a people very well. It just makes sense to change.”

IDOL

continued from page 1

must have 2 to 3 songs prepared in advance either acoustic or self-accompanied.

Michael Simeon became an internet sensation over a video of his audition when he sang Stay With Me by Sam Smith while he slow danced with famous singer and American Idol judge, Jennifer Lopez.

America was shocked this past May when Gary Newman, Fox Networks Group co-chief, announced to the public that this is to be the final season of the show.

More information about auditions can be found on American Idol’s website AmericanIdol.com. The final season is to premiere on Fox Network in January of 2016.



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MARRIAGE continued from page 1

interrupted by circuit clerk Baretta Mosely, who announced that circuit court judge Andrew Howorth was available to officiate the wedding ceremony.

"It really broke my heart that he was so nice, that he was willing to show his support," Kurt Smith said.

"He's a public figure and that he would show public support for this is remarkable."

On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the Constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection under the law mean that states cannot ban same-sex marriages. But Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, advised circuit clerks to delay issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples until the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifts a hold that was put on a lower court's ruling in lawsuit that sought to legalize gay marriage in Mississippi.

"It's been a rollercoaster for the past week with the anticipation that same-sex marriage would be legalized and then with the state governance intervening on that day," Smith said. "At that point, how often does any other couple have to say, 'Well, at what time will it be legal for me to get married?'"

Smith said they saw the update that the Attorney General had ordered and they immediately called the clerk's office and got the OK.

"We rushed down as soon as possible before something like what happened in Alabama happens where they say 'oh never mind' and they try to block it again," Smith said.

The crowd followed closely behind the circuit judge and the couple to the upstairs courtroom. Friends eagerly sat in the pews waiting for the couple walk through those doors and become a part of history.

The doors opened and someone in the crowd played Wagner's Bridal Chorus from a phone as they walked down the aisle. Laughter, smiles and happiness filled the room as the two placed rings on each other's hands.

"It still doesn't feel real hearing the word husband," Smith said. "It's amazing that we could be a part of something that is decades in the making."

Now that same-sex marriage is legal, Smith said there will be a cultural shift throughout the country.

"For generations we've been used to 'there's no such thing, it's not even an option.' Now, with it being an option, the entire gay culture is going to be shifting towards normalization and being able to participate in a ceremony just like all of our straight friends do."

Blount said that they have waited for this moment as a couple for six years, and to see it happening this fast is unbelievable.

"We are the same, God loves us and God put his hand over our relationship," Blount said. "Now we are being recognized like we should be."

Herrington said there is nothing for anyone to be afraid of; this marriage was a very smooth, easy, happy positive process from everything that he observed and hopefully that will be the experience for all the counties in the state.

Herrington stood to take a picture of the couple as they said their vows. In the picture, he noticed the photographers and the United States flag and the Mississippi state flag in-between the couple. It reminded him what an important historic moment this was for the county.

"That summed it all up for me: the best Monday I've spent in years," Herrington said. "I'm so excited to not only support my friends, but be a witness to history."

Marriage ruling affects campus

CLARA TURNAGE

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The Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage will have repercussions both in the state and on the University of Mississippi campus.

Though the Supreme Court ruled on Friday to legalize same-sex marriage, Mississippi did not begin issuing licenses until Monday.

"The attorney general was smart to resolve that sooner than later," Michèle Alexandre, an associate professor at the law school, said. "When it comes down to it, they have to obey the law."

Alexandre said this decision has received a lot of criticism, like that of Gov. Phil Bryant, because marriage is, in most cases, left to the purview of the state government.

According to 16 WAPT News, a federal appeals court is giving Gov. Phil Bryant until Wednesday to give reasons for his opposition of lifting the stay on same sex marriage in Mississippi. In a statement, Bryant said, "Today, a federal court has usurped that right to self-governance and has mandated that states must comply with federal marriage standards—standards that are out of step with the wishes of many in the United States and that are certainly out of step with the majority of Mississippians."

Alexandre said these rights are applicable only when the court does not violate a Constitutional right of an individual or group. This decision did not infringe on that right, she said, because the question was of the one of the Constitutional right of same-sex couples.

"This is the way our system works," Alexandre said. "When there is something that is subject to contention like this case, the Supreme Court steps in to resolve it."

Alexandre said the court



ILLUSTRATION: JAKE THRASHER

framed the opinion in a way that gave the right to marriage without extending further rights to same-sex couples. This, she said, was done purposely so that no blanket statements were made without regard to unforeseen outcomes.

"The opinion was very straightforward. It extends the fundamental right that all of us have to marriage," Alexandre said. "They could have gone, on the equal protection clause, further. They could have done that, but they didn't. It might be left for another day."

Spencer Pleasent, co-president of the UM Pride Network, said, though he spent the majority of Friday celebrating this long-fought victory, he was disappointed that Mississippi delayed adhering to the Supreme Court ruling.

"Mississippi wanted to take a step back from it and that's not progression," Pleasent said. "It should not have to be an issue for a same-sex couple to do anything that a straight couple would want to do. That's all we're asking for, the simple equality."

On campus, Pleasent said he has seen growth in the Pride Network has seen the effects of a supportive campus.

"Just this past year, we have really started to see change," Pleasent said. "The Pride Network's numbers have increased so much."

Pleasant said the next step for the UM Pride Network will be to increase awareness and inclusion on campus.

"This campus that I love so much promises me full inclusion and I want to make sure that's completely accurate," Pleasant said.

Donald Cole, vice chancellor for academic affairs and assistant to the chancellor for multicultural affairs, said there would be changes too, in the university. Married housing, which has as yet only been available to heterosexual couples, will now have the opportunity to expand to include same-

sex marriages as well, Cole said.

"We do have limited married housing on campus and (the question of same-sex tenants) has not come up as of yet to my knowledge," Cole said. "It hasn't been challenged but as soon it's challenged, we're going to do the right thing."

Cole said he did not see the Supreme Court's decision it as a controversial ruling.

"I saw no other decision they could make," Cole said. "They were asked to rule whether or not the constitution could deny someone of something. Marriage happened to be both a religious and a secular ceremony. They were not ruling religiously; they were ruling constitutionally."

Associate Student Body president Rod Bridges said he believes legalization is in line with the university's creed.

"The first sentence in Ole Miss' Creed is, 'I believe in respect for the dignity of each person,'" Bridges said. "Respect is a bipartisan value. Neither Republicans nor Democrats can dispute the notion that every individual of every ethnicity, race and sexual orientation, deserves some respect."

Bridges said he does not believe the legalization of same-sex marriage will affect the university strongly.

"I believe that our campus community is exemplary in the fact that we respect one another," Bridges said. "Yes, there are outliers who don't believe in following this constantly, but they're a very vocal minority. I wholeheartedly trust that students will continue to love one another and not discriminate based on orientation."

Cole said the university had a responsibility in this state to be a leader in such issues.

"People look to educational institutions for leadership. As an institution, we can present our findings as an educated society," Cole said. "Basic human rights is one thing we should stand for."

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BOOK REVIEW:

‘The Festival of Insignificance’

ALEX MARTIN

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It would be easy to write off Milan Kundera’s newest novel, “The Festival of Insignificance,” as an exercise in navel gazing. After all, the novel actually opens by discussing this very thing: “It was as if their seductive power no longer resided in their thighs, their buttocks or their breasts, but in that small round hole located in the center of the body... But how to define the eroticism of a man (or an era) that sees female seductive power as centered in the middle of the body, the navel?”

It is in this cursory, yet somehow incisive, essayist fashion that Kundera attacks—or maybe does not—many themes in this novel, diving into not only insignificance, as the title suggests, but also fashion, Stalin, friendship, Hegel and, yes, navels.

For a novel, surprisingly little action takes place. Set in a modern yet timeless Paris, the novel plays out through seven loosely connected chapters exploring the conversations and daily, seemingly insignif-

icant actions of four friends: Ramon, Charles, Caliban and Alain. These conversations between friends are frequently interspersed with direct musings from Kundera and strange, historical tales, such as a particularly memorable foray into Stalin’s war room. Every event or happening in the novel seems just a charade or a vehicle for Kundera to paint an idea or opinion, leaving not much room for plot or climax. For some readers, this may be an unwelcome departure from the more typical structure of the novel, but I found it refreshing, though in a longer work, I am not sure how effective it might be.

It is widely discussed that “The Festival of Insignificance” is most likely the last book the world will see from Kundera, author of the now-canonical “The Unbearable Lightness of Being.” As the book stands alone, it is short (115 pages with large font and margins) and kaleidoscopic almost to a fault, never lingering long enough on any one topic for the reader to have confidence that they have grasped the message at hand.

Yet, it is funny and smart in its brevity, maybe using its reticence to make a larger point: “Insignificance, my friend, is the essence of existence... But it is not only a matter of acknowledging it, we must love insignificance, we must learn to love it.”

Still, “The Festival of Insignificance” is hard to place, though it is a bit more comprehensible when viewed through the lens of all of Kundera’s earlier work. As Publishers Weekly suggested, the novel is “a fitting bookend to Kundera’s long career intersecting the absurd and the moral.”

I am tempted to call the novel “short yet sweet” and end the review, but I must admit my frustration with one important aspect of it-- the view it takes of women. Female characters, of which there are few and who are rarely named, are seen merely as objects for desire or opportunities to muse on the nature of sexual attraction and judged by their looks alone. But, given Kundera’s wit and effortless charm, I am already tempted to forgive him.



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Freeze releases statement about left tackle Laremy Tunsil

CODY THOMASON

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Head Coach Hugh Freeze released a statement this weekend regarding star left tackle Laremy Tunsil and his arrest on Friday. Tunsil turned himself in and was booked at the Lafayette County Detention Center at 2:15 p.m. on Friday, but was released on bail less than an hour later.

"We can confirm that Laremy Tunsil turned himself in and was arrested for a misdemeanor, domestic violence-simple assault," the statement said. "The incident occurred Thursday night and involves Laremy defending his mother against his stepfather."

"Laremy realizes he could have handled it differently, but I am proud of him for

standing up for his mother and protecting his family," Freeze said. "Laremy and his mother have also pressed charges against the stepfather. As we gather more facts, we will act and make decisions accordingly."

According to The Clarion-Ledger, Tunsil's stepfather, Lindsey Miller, denied a report by ESPN saying that he shoved Tunsil's mother. Miller filed a restraining order against Tunsil on Friday, and claimed that Tunsil started the fight and struck him six to seven times.

Tunsil was a first team All-SEC lineman last year and is projected to be one of the top picks in next year's NFL draft.



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ACROSS

- 1 Big umbrella
- 5 Form 1040 experts
- 9 Teddy bear look-alike
- 14 Hydrox rival
- 15 — mater
- 16 Any of Charlie's girls
- 17 Blowout or bash
- 19 Paper quantities
- 20 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
- 21 Forest browsers
- 22 Bumper-car locales
- 23 Bacon servings
- 25 Liverpool poky
- 26 Nutritious grain
- 27 Work waiting
- 30 Ski lifts (hyph.)
- 33 Nick of films
- 34 Yale athlete
- 36 Linen vestments
- 37 Poet — Neruda
- 38 Aloha in Rome
- 39 Diner coffee
- 40 Bayou dish
- 41 Goes belly up
- 42 March 17 gab?
- 44 Brief homily?
- 45 Raised platform
- 46 Beauty treatment
- 50 Mustang
- 52 Meditation guide

DOWN

- 1 Succeed (2 wds.)
- 2 Gladiator's place
- 3 Butte cousins
- 4 Food cooker
- 5 Frolic
- 6 Operates a ferry
- 7 Tsp. and oz.
- 8 Right to decide
- 9 Bar sing-along
- 10 Dramatist Eugene —
- 11 Petri-dish contents
- 12 Moon buggies
- 13 Unser and Gore
- 18 Hunches
- 22 Ipso —
- 24 — d'oeuvres
- 25 Ernest or Julio
- 27 London cop
- 28 Mademoiselle's eye
- 29 Very willing
- 30 — Mahal
- 31 Splotch

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

PECS	TADA	ARIA
APHID	AGAR	BING
TEASE	NUNC	OGLE
HEN	LUGE	HEDGED
	HURL	WIDEST
LUCIDLY	AVE	
OPINE	BRANCHES	
RIND	CRUEL	REAL
INQUIRED	MICRO	
	RAN	SPECKLE
GREASE	WINK	
REHASH	PAPA	NET
SNIT	IRON	CRONE
VINE	NOOK	EUROS
PEER	GORY	MAWS

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17			18						19			
20			21					22				
23			24				25					
		26				27			28	29		
30	31	32				33				34		35
36				37						38		
39			40						41			
	42		43					44				
			45				46			47	48	49
	50	51				52				53		
54						55				56		
57						58				59		
60						61				62		

SUDOKU[®]

Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

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

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

Position preview: Offensive line

CODY THOMASON

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It's no secret that the offensive line struggled last season for the Ole Miss Rebels. Between a number of injuries and inexperience, the group had trouble in both run blocking and pass protection, giving up 31 sacks last season. The good news for the line is that it returns all of its starters. Even if they weren't one of the best groups in the SEC last year, the added experience should warrant some improvement, and, barring injuries, there should be more depth this season, too.

The anchor of the line is junior left tackle Laremy Tunsil. The offensive line really took a hit any time Tunsil wasn't on the field protecting the blindside and will need him back at full strength to be effective this year, as he is still recovering from the broken leg and dislocated ankle he suffered against TCU last season. Tunsil was a member of the All-SEC first team last season.

Returning at the right tackle spot will be senior Fahn Cooper. Cooper was a junior college transfer last year and a solid starter for the Rebels across from Laremy Tunsil. At center, senior Ben Still returns and will likely hold the spot once again. Still showed great toughness last year, fighting through injury to help an already depleted Rebels offensive line. Backing him up will be junior Robert Conyers, who split time between tackle and center last year and should do the same this year.

Perhaps the most interesting spot to watch will be at guard. The Rebels have three players who started at some point last season, with senior



FILE PHOTO: CADY HERRING

Justin Bell, sophomore Rod Taylor and Senior Aaron Morris all returning. Morris was the original starter last season but reinjured the same knee he had ACL surgery in 2013 and may not be at full strength for the start of the season. This gives Taylor, who had a solid freshman season, a chance to grab the job next to Bell.

Behind those three, two freshmen have the chance to make an early impact. Red-shirt freshman Jordan Sims was called the most improved offensive player in spring camp by head coach Hugh Freeze and could see a lot of time because of it. He's joined by true freshman Javon Patterson, who was ranked as the number 3 guard in the country and the number one player in the state of Mississippi by 247 Sports composite rankings. Patterson was able to enroll early and take part in spring training as well. This extra experience, along with his skill, should give him a chance to play a lot in his first

year and possibly start.

The backup spots at tackle is also something to watch out for. Conyers will be first up at tackle, but behind him will be junior Jeremy Liggins, who was moved to tackle from quarterback and tight end in the spring. Liggins is a great athlete but raw, and will need to continue developing as a lineman. If Liggins can learn the position, he could provide great depth this year and possibly start next year, when both starters will most likely be gone. Sophomore Christian Morris will also be a backup at tackle, but he too needs to continue developing to see time in the upcoming season.

While this offensive line should see significant improvement from last year, it will still have its hands full with some of the dominant defensive lines in the SEC. Depth and overall play should be much better this season, but the offensive line is still a work in progress for the Rebels.

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31820

Ole Miss Rebels place in USA track championships



CODY THOMASON
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Though the NCAA track season is over, several current and former Rebels competed in the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships last weekend.

Four former Ole Miss athletes competed in the events, three of which received medals for their performances. The group was led by pole vaulter

Sam Kendricks, who shattered records at Ole Miss during his collegiate career. Kendricks reached 5.75 meters, or 18-10 1/4, in the pole vault, earning him the gold medal. The second place finisher's height was 5.60 meters—almost a half-foot lower than Kendricks. Kendricks won the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships last year as well, and won two NCAA outdoor titles and an SEC title during his ca-

reer at Ole Miss.

Britney Reese also performed well, earning a silver medal with a long jump of 6.97 meters, or 22-10 1/2. Reese has won five gold medals at the World or Indoor World Championships since 2009 and has competed in the Olympics twice, winning the gold in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Isaiah Young received a silver medal for his time of 19.93 seconds in the 200-meter race, also earning fourth place in the 100-meter race with a time of 10 seconds. Young was previously a First Team All-American twice and an SEC Champion in his collegiate career

with the Rebels, and competed in the 2012 Olympics and the 2013 World Championships.

All three of them will represent the USA in the Beijing World Championships this year.

Meanwhile, former SEC Athlete of the Year Ricky Robertson placed seventh in high jump, jumping 2.25 meters, or 7-4 1/2. Robertson was an All-American multiple times while at Ole Miss.

As for current men's Rebels, sophomore Craig Engels finished 16th in the preliminary 800 meter races with a time of 1 minute, 48.56 seconds. Fellow sophomore Jalen Miller

placed 25th in the 100-meter race after timing in at 0:10.19.

Meanwhile, junior Holland Sherrer and freshman Shannon Ray competed from the women's team, with Sherrer running the 800-meter race in 1:48.83, good for 16th in the preliminary race. Ray competed in the women's 200-meter race with a time of 0:23.59 seconds, giving her the 24th spot in the preliminary. Freshman Brooke Felmeier also competed, but in the USA Track and Field Junior Championships, where she finished fifth in the 800-meter race with a time of 2:10.57 seconds.

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