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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

news

This week's crime blotter

Page 3



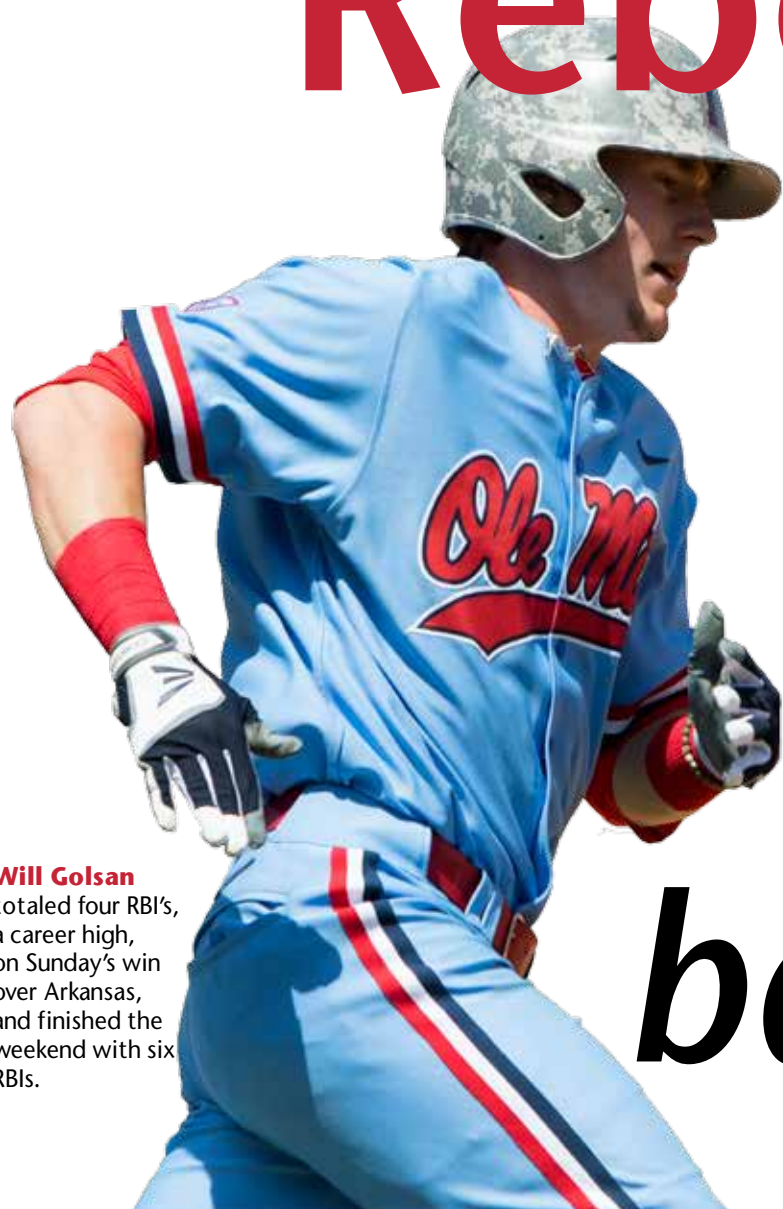
lifestyles

Shakespeare's first folio makes stop at Ole Miss

Page 4



Diamond Rebels



J.B. Woodman hit a homerun Sunday afternoon and ended the weekend with three RBIs.

Errol Robinson recorded his fifth straight multi-hit game finishing the weekend 6-13 at the plate.

Will Golsan totaled four RBI's, a career high, on Sunday's win over Arkansas, and finished the weekend with six RBIs.

back on track

SEE STORY ON PAGE 8

Ban on adoption for same-sex couples lifted in Mississippi

AUSTIN HILLE
ahille1234@gmail.com

The United States District Court officially struck down the state of Mississippi's ban on adoption by same-sex couples on Thursday, March 31. This ruling now gives same-sex couples in Mississippi the right to adopt.

As stated in the ruling issued by U.S. District Judge Daniel Jordan, the law violates the "Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution," given that equal marriage rights have been officially extended to gay and lesbian couples.

Mississippi was the last state in the country to have a ban on

same-sex adoption, a law that was in place for 16 years.

"I just think this is a very protracted and controversial issue," law professor Michéle Alexandre said. "We are not the only state, but we are certainly among the minority of states that have resistance in some areas around [LGBT] is-

sués. So, we've made same-sex marriage the law of the land, but it sounds like we will have to litigate these issues one by one."

Although the federal decision has technically been in effect for over a week now, a few details must be worked out before the law officially goes into

effect across the state.

"It really depends on the district attorney's office," Alexandre said. "They made a statement of cooperation, I believe, within the week of the decision. It shouldn't take very long unless somebody tries to run the clock and tries to have a re-review on the Supreme

Court."

Mississippi has been in the public eye for policies about the LGBT community, primarily religious freedom bill.

"I think [the religious freedom bill] kind of encapsulated all the combinations of issues that came up about LGBT rights," Alexandre said. "Litigation of that statute itself is going to, I think, force us to really come to terms with what the law means and our obligation to apply it."

For Spencer Pleasants, president of the UM Pride Network, this represents a victory in achieving equal rights for all people.



GRAPHIC BY: HAYDEN BENGE

SEE ADOPTION PAGE 3

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COLUMN

Finding right question about the death penalty



HOLLY BAER
TheDMOpinion@gmail.com

On Good Friday, Christians recognize the execution and death of their savior. This Good Friday, Mississippi lawmakers voted to bring back execution by firing squads.

For years, the United States has been forced to face the dwindling supply of sodium thiopental, one of the drugs necessary for a safe, “humane” execution. Only one company in the United States makes it, and they’ve recently stopped. Foreign nations have stopped selling the drug to the United States to pressure them to abolish the death penalty.

Because of this shortage, there have been several botched executions because of untested, unapproved drug cocktails. Rather than stopping executions, the Mississippi House has approved using death by firing squad as an alternative to lethal injection.

We aren’t the only state that supports the firing squad. The last person killed by firing squad was Ronnie Lee Gardner in Utah in June 2010.

Death by firing squad is a favorite of fascist regimes attempting to silence dissenters. It has no place in the U.S. But firing squads aren’t the only problem here. There is no humane way to kill some-

one. Just as murder is immoral, the taking of someone’s life by the hand of the government is inherently immoral and inhumane.

Most Americans support capital punishment. In 2013, a Gallup poll showed 63 percent of Americans supported the death penalty, despite the fact that it is more expensive than life in prison, it doesn’t decrease violent crimes and innocent people die.

According to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, 1,414 people have been executed since 1976, 156 people have been exonerated before death. This means one out of every 10 people on death row have eventually been proven innocent. This is

before considering the number of innocent people who were executed and exonerated after death—or innocent people whose innocence was never proven.

Instead of focusing on reforming our justice system to minimize innocent deaths, our state legislature is—once again—focused on finding solutions for unimportant problems. Fortunately, lack of lethal injection drugs and lengthy appeal periods have limited the number of executions in the state. No one has died by execution in Mississippi since 2012.

Only one European country, Belarus, has the death penalty. In the Americas, 19 countries have the death penalty

but only two countries — the U.S. and Saint Kitts & Nevis — execute people.

Most of the world has come to recognize capital punishment as an enemy to human rights. Instead of catching up to the rest of the world, various state lawmakers have doubled down and said, “If we don’t have the drugs, we’ve got the bullets.”

And those of us who don’t support the barbaric slaughter of our fellow Americans? We sit, sometimes silently, sometimes with raucous shouting, and hope for a change.

Holly is a senior religious studies major from Flowood.

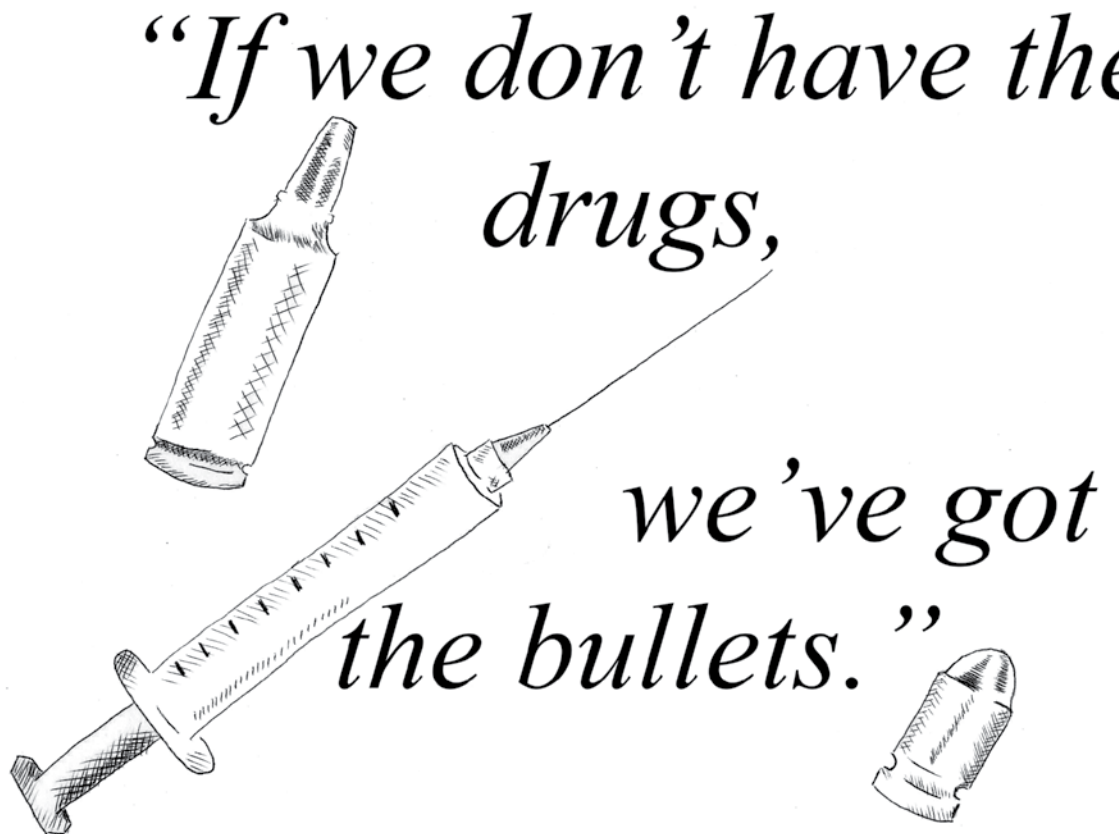


ILLUSTRATION BY: JAKE THRASHER

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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.



MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Student chosen as DNC delegate

SUAD PATTON-BEY
snpatton@go.olemiss.edu

One Ole Miss student will be “feeling the Bern” this July as she represents the Magnolia state at the Democratic National Convention.

Holly Meter, 24-year-old paralegal studies major, was selected as the state delegate on April 2 for presidential candidate Bernie Sanders at the First Congressional District Democratic Convention.

In order for a presidential candidate to be named the nominee, they must receive 2,383 out of 4,765 delegate votes nationwide.

Meter said she grew up in Horn Lake in a household where politics were commonly discussed.

Unlike many families she knew, Meter said, there was always healthy political discussion between her parents and her growing up.

“I know a lot of people where they talk with their parents [about politics] and it’s real fractious, they really can’t talk positively,” Meter said.

Voting was a family affair in the Meter household. She would regularly accompany her parents to the voting booth.

“I’ve been interested in politics most of my life, but when I went to the 2009 inauguration, that really just sparked my love of politics,”

Meters said.

At the First Congressional District Democratic Convention there were five individuals interested in becoming Sanders’ delegates, but Meters delivered the winning



COURTESY: HOLLY METER

Holly Meter will be a DNC delegate this year.

speech and was elected by the Democratic State Executive Committee.

Meter’s friend, Hollie McDonald, was with her when her name was announced.

“Holly gave a real heart-felt speech on how she always liked Bernie, and she really likes the things he stands for,” McDonald said. “I was really happy because she is so excited to be a Bernie delegate.”

Additionally, Kelly Jacobs, KC Caldwell Grist, Bill Wheeler and LeRoy Brooks were chosen as democratic delegates for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, with Charlie Penson as an alternate.

More delegates will be selected in the coming weeks at the second, third and fourth Congressional District Conventions including the Mississippi State Democratic Convention, which will be held May 21.

Meter said she intends to start a Facebook page about her experience as a delegate and gain perspective on various problems people in Mississippi face.

“When I go to the convention and I’m interviewed by TV crews, I can give honest views on what people in Mississippi want and what problems we are facing,” Meter said.

Meter encourages women, especially young women, to get more involved in politics. She said she feels women or young people are encouraged to participate in politics.

“I wasn’t taught anything about voting in school,” Meter said. “I wasn’t encouraged to get out and vote. If it wasn’t for my parents, taking me to the voting booth with them when I was little, I probably wouldn’t have voted.”

ADOPTION

continued from page 1

“It’s certainly a sigh of relief,” Pleasants said. “It relates to the case for greater quality and true equality. This is one of those fine-tuned circumstances that needed attention and needed to be equalized.”

Among members of the LGBT community within the state, the lifting of this particular ban is counted as an important stepping stone to what they feel is total and complete equality, according to Pleasants.

“I now can look at my straight friend and say, ‘I can do something now that a cou-

ple months ago only you could do,” Pleasants said. “We are equal. And you know, that makes a big difference. As a Southerner and Mississippi

native, that’s good to know that my state won’t deny me the wonderful gift of parenthood.”

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CRIME BLOTTER

APRIL 1-7

BRIEFS DO NOT INCLUDE EVERY INCIDENT FROM THE PAST WEEK. ALL SUSPECTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY. REPORT COMPILED BY LASHERICA THORNTON.

Alarm: 34
Careless Driving: 4
Civil Matter: 2
Credit Card Fraud: 2
Disturbance: 14
Grand Larceny: 1
Harassing Phone Calls: 8
Illegally Parked Car: 5
Malicious Mischief: 7
Noise Violation: 16
Petit Larceny: 2
Public Intoxication: 2
Residential Burglary: 5
Scam: 4
Traffic Citation: 186
Welfare Concern: 14
Wreck: 67
Arrests-
Careless Driving: 9
DUI: 13
Failure to Comply: 2
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia: 5
Public Intoxication: 3
Shoplifting: 2
Speeding: 2

Disorderly Conduct: 1
DUI: 1
Exhibiting of a Weapon: 1
Fake ID: 2
Harassment: 1
Intoxicated Person: 2
Larceny: 2
Loud/ Unnecessary Music: 3
Motor Vehicle Accident: 14
Possession of Alcohol: 4
Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute: 1
Possession of Paraphernalia: 4
Public Drunk: 1
Simple Assault: 2
Vandalism: 1

On Monday, April 4, a resident of Saddle Creek subdivision reported two laptops had been stolen from the residence. The following day OPD officers stopped 19-year-old Jarvis Carter of Oxford and conducted a search of his vehicle. During this search, the two laptops were recovered and identified by the reporting party. Carter was arrested on the scene and given a \$2,500 bond.

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Shakespeare's First Folio makes tour stop at University

DEVNA BOSE

dbose1@go.olemiss.edu

The University of Mississippi has been selected as the only college in the state to host an original Shakespeare First Folio, and the month-long event will kick off tonight.

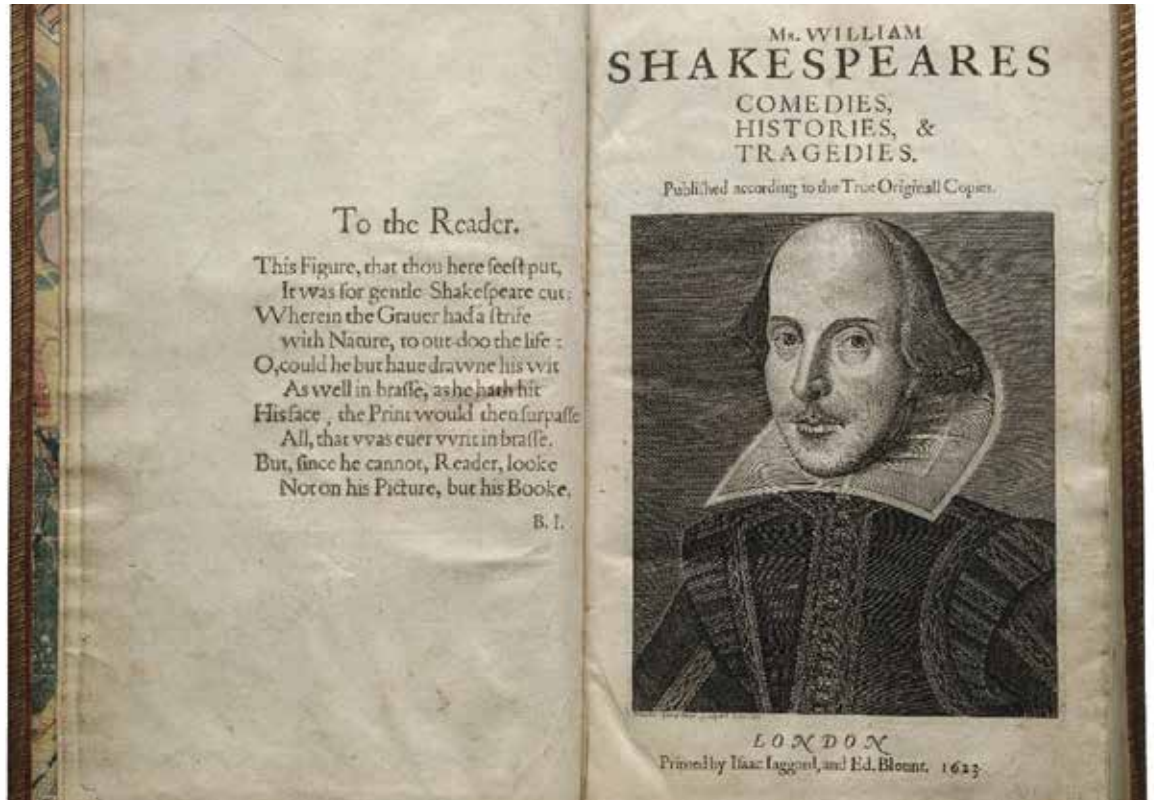
The University will host this First Folio as part of a national touring exhibition celebrating 400 years of Shakespeare. Many of Shakespeare's most beloved plays such as "Macbeth," "Julius Caesar" and "As You Like It," are only known because of the book at the heart of this exhibition. His friends and colleagues created the folio in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death in 1616. It includes 36 of Shakespeare's plays, 18 of which were never printed before.

Marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death,

the Folger Shakespeare Library is sending a First Folio to every state as well as Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Approximately 750 copies of the 1623 First Folio were produced, but only 233 copies are known to exist today. The Folger Shakespeare Library is the world's largest Shakespeare collection and holds the most copies of 1623 First Folios. Its collection is numbered at 82, the largest in the world.

The opening reception for the First Folio will be at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, and opening remarks will be given at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Ivo Kamps, University of Mississippi chair and professor of English, will speak at 7 p.m. as part of the reception. The First Folio will be on display and open to the public at The University from Monday, April 11 until Sunday, May 1. At each location



COURTESY: WWW.FOLGER.EDU

in the country, the First Folio will be opened to one of Shakespeare's most quoted passages, the "to be or not to be" monologue from "Hamlet."

There will also be performances, workshops, master classes, exhibitions and lectures throughout the First Folio's tour here at the University.

Matthew R. Wilson, Assistant Professor of Performance at the University of Mississippi and director of Ole Miss Theatre's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," said this exhibition is going to be very exciting

for the University and Oxford community.

"For people around here to be able to walk up and read Hamlet's 'to be or not to be' speech out of an almost 400-year-old book is, I think, a very special connection to history," he said. "Another thing that is exciting is the enormous collection of events planned. Departments all around campus have contributed to this. You had to put together a pretty big proposal to win your state's slot."

Ole Miss Theatre is presenting "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in conjunction with

the First Folio exhibition.

"Midsummer' is going to be a lot of fun. It's been a while since we've done a Shakespeare play on the main stage. Even people who think that they don't like Shakespeare will find a lot to laugh at and enjoy with 'Midsummer'," Wilson said.

"Shakespeare is one of the greatest storytellers of all time. His characters are familiar to us, and his words still excite artists, scholars and audiences around the globe. He connects us to each other, to our history and to the themes and ideas that touch us every day. Shakespeare's world is our world, and it is vast. We hope this exhibit invites everyone to come explore," said Michael Witmore, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Everyone is encouraged to come view one of Shakespeare's original First Folios on display at the Ford Center starting today, April 11, continuing until May 1.

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THIS WEEK IN OXFORD

MONDAY

6:30 p.m. - "First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare" Opening Reception - Gertrude C. Ford Center
7 p.m. - Cards Against Humanity night - The Growler
7:30 p.m. - Oxford Film Fest presents Shakespeare - Shelter
8:30 p.m. - Trivia Night - The Blind Pig
9:30 p.m. - DJ Night - Rooster's

TUESDAY

5 p.m. - Melissa Ginsburg signs "Sunset City" - Off Square Books
7:30 p.m. - Trivia night - Frank & Marlee's
7:30 p.m. - Oxford Film Fest presents Shakespeare - Shelter
9 p.m. - Broken English - Proud Larry's
9:30 p.m. - Open Mic Night - Rooster's

WEDNESDAY

7:30 p.m. - Oxford Film Fest present Shakespeare - Shelter
9:30 p.m. - Karaoke - Rooster's
9:30 p.m. - Movie Night - Lamar Lounge

THURSDAY

3:30 p.m. - William Joyce signs "Ollie's Odyssey" - Square Books Jr.
6 p.m. - Thacker Mountain Radio with Talbot Adams, Christian Lopez Band and Erik Larson with "Dead Wake" - Off Square Books
7:30 p.m. - Tina Packer's Women of Will - Ford Center
8 p.m. - Karaoke - Taqueria El Milagro
8 p.m. - After Thacker: The Christian Lopez Band - Shelter
9 p.m. - The Werks with Backup Planet - Proud Larry's

FRIDAY


5 p.m. - Katie Parla signs "Tasting Rome" - Off Square Books
6:30 p.m. - An acoustic evening with Zechariah Lloyd, Cody Rogers, Ben Rickets and Austin Sanders - Shelter
7:30 p.m. - United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants - Ford Center
7:30 p.m. - "A Midsummer Night's Dream" - Fulton Chapel
7:30 p.m. - Theatre Oxford presents "True West" by Sam Shepard - the Powerhouse
9 p.m. - New Madrid with Boogie Woods - Proud Larry's

SATURDAY


9 a.m. - Juke Joint Festival - Clarksdale, Mississippi
10 a.m. - Record Store Day - The End of All Music
7:30 p.m. - "A Midsummer Night's Dream" - Fulton Chapel
7:30 p.m. - Theatre Oxford presents "True West" by Sam Shepard - The Powerhouse
7:30 p.m. - Oxford Film Fest Underground - Shelter
9:30 p.m. - Karaoke - Rooster's

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 1:00-2:00 PM - LEO BUD WELCH
 2:30-3:30 PM - CHRISTONE KINGFISH INGRAM
 4:00-5:00 PM - THE BELLFURIES
 5:30-6:30 PM - ORGONE
 7:00-8:00 PM - LETTUCE
 8:30-10:00 PM - MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD


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Top-ranked Florida Gators sweeps Ole Miss softball

JONATHAN CREEKMORE
thedmsports@gmail.com

Ole Miss softball dropped game one of their weekend series 8-0 against the Florida Gators Friday night at the Ole Miss Softball Complex.

The Rebels came into the game not having beaten the reigning two-time national champs in Oxford since 2007 and let the game slip away after allowing four home runs to the Gators. The Rebels finished the game with two hits, one of which came from Elantra Cox, who extended her game hit-streak to eight.

The highlight for the Rebels was Senior Night for beloved teammate, Alyssa Invergo, from Peotone, Illinois, who will graduate and forgo her last year of eligibility to begin optometry school in Memphis, Tennessee.

"It's bittersweet, coming

to an end," Invergo said. "So many great memories. There's really nothing like the SEC. Being able to compete and play in the best conference, it's really great."

Head Coach Mike Smith said Invergo has been an inspiration to the team.

"She's a great competitor, comes with a smile on her face and works hard every day," Smith said. "She's one that's going to be missed because of being such a great team player."

Ole Miss saw participation from all three of their pitchers. Madi Osias, who needs only three wins to break the school's single-season wins record, pitched the first four innings, and Kayla Landwehrmier and Krista Jacobs both relieved for an inning a piece.

With only one stolen base in the game and no Rebel advancing past second base,



PHOTO BY: OLEMISSPORTS.COM (JOSH MCCOY)

Ashton Lampton celebrates with teammates at home plate after a solo homerun to left-center Sunday afternoon against Florida.

Smith was undoubtedly concerned with his team's play.

"There was no fight in our team tonight," Smith said. "We just need to come back with a new energy and a new focus for tomorrow."

After the game, Smith was adamant that his team can do much better, and that he expects better.

"I don't care who's on the other side, whether it's Florida, a Major League Baseball team or the USA team," Smith said. "That's not Ole Miss softball. We're a team that battles. We scrap. We grind it out, and we didn't even do that today. We just need to come back tomorrow, ready to play softball."

Ole Miss dropped their final two games of the weekend as they fell to the Gators 6-1 Saturday and 4-2 on Sunday.

The Rebels were led on Saturday, in front of a record crowd of 1,342 people, by Kylan Becker, who recorded two hits on the Saturday. Ole Miss fell behind early in Saturday's contest, as they surrendered two first inning runs to the Gators, and then gave up three more runs in the second inning before recording an out. The positive on the hill from Saturday's contest is that sophomore Kayla Landwehrmier pitched six innings of relief only allowing one run.

Sunday's contest was prob-

ably the most competitive of the weekend, but the Rebels fell 4-2.

Landwehrmier followed up her solid performance on Saturday with another good performance on Sunday afternoon, going seven innings and only giving up two runs. The Rebels were able to cut into the Gator lead after falling behind 3-0 in the fifth with a single run, but would not be able to overcome the Gators.

Ole Miss is still in solid position to make a regional for the first time in program history. The Rebels will take on UT-Martin on Wednesday before traveling to South Carolina for a weekend series.

MONDAY MADNESS

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 - Pooh-pooh
 - Sully
 - Upscale sport
 - Sandoval or Picasso
 - Hoopie expletive
 - unto itself
 - Farewell
 - "Chantilly —" (Big Bopper tune)
 - Felt hat
 - In black and white
 - Day one
 - Brambles
 - Evolve
 - Like pagodas
 - Treasured violin
 - Job opening
 - Dismal
 - "Car Talk" network
 - It may be poetic
 - Fritz, to himself
 - Mach 2 fliers
 - k.d. — of country music
 - Sticky-footed lizard
 - Use one's index finger, perhaps
 - Decks out
 - On a roll (2 wds.)
 - Fallen-rock debris
 - 55 Wooded
 - 57 Thumbed a ride
 - 61 In a dead heat
 - 62 Jots
 - 64 Gravitate toward
 - 65 Prudent
 - 66 Swiss Army —
 - 67 Work units
 - 68 Ended a bout early
 - 69 Ruhr Valley city
 - 70 "— Rosenkavalier"
- DOWN**
- Boulder's st.
 - Shut with a bang
 - Barge pusher
 - Thin
 - Mooch
 - Teahouse attire
 - Hopped a jet
 - 50 cents, in slang (2 wds.)
 - Unfreezing
 - Banded quartz
 - Track competitor
 - Exclamation of disgust
 - Goes into hibernation
 - No later than
 - Novelist — Levin
 - 24 Special abilities
 - 26 Provides staff
 - 27 Game officials
 - 28 Bakery item
 - 30 Grammy winner
 - 32 MRI picture
 - 34 Costa —
 - 35 Yucky
 - 36 Electrical units
 - 39 Slogan of 1956 (3 wds.)
 - 40 Majestic wader
 - 43 Given the cold shoulder
 - 46 Put up
 - 48 Autumn mo.
 - 49 Up and at 'em
 - 50 Finishes the cupcakes
 - 51 Kim of "Vertigo"
 - 52 "Hasta —, amigo!"
 - 54 Abrade
 - 56 Grandees
 - 58 Present!
 - 59 Amtrak driver
 - 60 Tooth pro's deg.
 - 63 Opposite of 'tain't

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

TRAM	WHIR	COAL
YULE	SHARE	ELBA
REEL	IOTAS	NEED
ESCAPE	STU	TOLD
NERO	ELSA	
KANGAROO	TAUGHT	
AGUE	AMBO	PRIOR
PAD	SPIRE	JOY
PIETY	HEAP	POPS
ANSWER	SLIM	EST
APES	STAT	
TENN	LUG	HOCKED
BLOG	IRENE	HALE
ALOE	EGRET	ERMA
REND	FEED	ROOF

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- Up and at 'em
 - Finishes the cupcakes
 - Kim of "Vertigo"
 - "Hasta —, amigo!"
 - Abrade
 - Grandees
 - Present!
 - Amtrak driver
 - Tooth pro's deg.
 - Opposite of 'tain't

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		63			64		
65					66					67		
					68					69		
										70		

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Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

CHALLENGING

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

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

OLEMISSSPORTS.COM

Ole Miss football wraps up spring with final practice

Ole Miss wrapped up spring football with a final practice on Saturday in the Manning Center. With Vaught-Hemingway Stadium under renovations, the final practice and scrimmage came in lieu of a spring game. "A lot of work got done that was good this spring," Ole Miss Head Coach Hugh Freeze said. "I loved our energy and our attitude and our teaching session on uncommon men. We all have to make that a priority, that that's what we want to be in life, whether it's sports or not." The scrimmage saw the Ole Miss defense limit the offense's ability to get into much of a rhythm. However, the offense was able to hit some big plays to move the ball.

"There were some good things obviously," Freeze said. "I thought our defense stopped the run very well. They gave up too many explosive plays, particularly on third down. Offensively, we didn't win first down and never got into tempo really, but had some really good explosive plays."

With All-SEC quarterback Chad



PHOTO BY ARIEL COBBERT

Coach Hugh Freeze paces during a practice earlier this spring.

Kelly missing the final week of practice due to a sports hernia surgery, freshmen quarterbacks Shea Patterson and Jason Pellerin took turns leading the offense. Patterson's progression through spring drills was especially impressive.

"I really thought Shea, from week two to the end, really started picking things up," Freeze said. "He has a really good football IQ and understanding of what we're trying to do."

Another player in particular that made the most of his spring was redshirt freshman receiver Van Jefferson. Jefferson won the

Eli Manning Award for most improved offensive player during the spring.

"I thought he just had a really solid spring," Freeze said. "Van is wired a little differently. He really understands what to do with the time he has and work. He really stood out."

A unit as a whole that stood out was the defensive line, as Freeze mentioned D.J. Jones, Breeland Speaks and Marquis Haynes as players that had a good, consistent spring.

"As a unit, we've been working," D.J. Jones said. "When the season comes, we have to be the one to

make plays. Right now, that praise doesn't mean anything if come fall we don't do it."

An offensive line that is still working on meshing together was tasked with the assignment of blocking that talented defensive line. The o-line was working a little shorthanded all spring without Robert Conyers and Rod Taylor while also replacing five key players from last year's group.

"We've made progress this spring," Sean Rawlings said. "It's not where it needs to be, obviously. It never is in the spring. We can continue to make progress and continue to develop as leaders. We can work together more and

communicate to make each other better."

Like every team around the country, Ole Miss was practicing without some players during the spring that will play a large role come fall.

"We missed some kids. I wished we would have had Issac Gross, Tony Conner, Fadol Brown, Robert Conyers, Rod Taylor, Chad Kelly and some of those others to get the reps, but we didn't," Freeze said. "The ones we had out there I know got better."

Ole Miss opens its 2016 football season in Orlando, Florida, against Florida State on September 5.

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Ole Miss baseball needed this weekend's sweep

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
 thedmsports@gmail.com

Ole Miss completed a much-needed sweep of Arkansas over the weekend to improve to 25-7 on the year, and more importantly, back to .500 in SEC play at 6-6.

"It was big weekend for us to just get back in the SEC and get three wins was huge for us," Will Golsan said. "A sweep is always good, especially at home in the SEC."

It was Ole Miss' first SEC sweep since taking all three games at home to Mississippi State in 2015 to close out conference play.

Pitching MVP: Brady Bramlett

Ole Miss won the Friday night game 7-3 behind seven innings of three-hit shut-out baseball from ace Brady Bramlett.

"I felt great tonight. I was really proud of my outing, especially after the last couple of weekends," a smiling Bramlett said while holding his game-ball and T-shirt Mike Bianco awards to the MVP of each game. "Coach B actually challenged me this week in the bullpen. He asked 'Where are your seven shut-out innings' and I gave it to him tonight."

"He is that kind of kid," Bianco said. "He really believes in himself, and in a good way, and to have success in any type of sports, but especially in baseball and especially on the mound, you've got to believe in yourself."

Bramlett provided a much-needed quality start for a team looking to get back on track in SEC play.

Offensive MVP: Errol Robinson

Errol Robinson hits during Friday's win over Arkansas. Errol would hit 6-13 for the weekend and brought up his



PHOTO BY: EVAN TURNER

Henri Lartigue follows through a swing during Ole Miss' victory over Arkansas Friday night. Ole Miss would go on to sweep the series to improve their SEC record to 6-6.

batting average to a .254.

This could have gone to a number of different players, like Will Golsan, who had four RBIs in the Sunday win and brought his total to six on the weekend. But Robinson earned this with his turnaround at the plate after struggling to begin conference play. He went 6-13 and brought his batting average up more than 50 points in this last week to mark of .254.

"It's nice to see the results, but I think it is more the process," Robinson said after Friday's win. "I think before then I was making pretty good

contact and just hitting right at people, and now it is about getting back to it and getting back to the results and sticking with that process."

Ole Miss scored 29 total runs this weekend, it's the most in an SEC series this season and its second most in a series all year, only behind a 32-run series against Florida International to open the season.

Analysis

This weekend was just what the doctor ordered for Ole Miss. It came into the series with an offense that had been

struggling in conference play and a new-look rotation. The Rebels answered the call as the offense exploded for the 29 runs and the starting pitching was better, maybe not the level it should be at, but it was definitely better. David Parkinson earned a win in his first career start on Saturday, going 5.1 innings and allowed just one run on three hits, and Wyatt Short did what Sunday starters are asked to do in the SEC – give your team a chance – and he certainly did that as he walked off of the mound in the fifth inning on Sunday to an ovation and a 6-3 Ole Miss

lead. Short wasn't feeling his best, but he did enough to get the Rebels the win.

Going forward, Bianco said he does not know what he will do with his rotation, but having an offense that gives the pitching staff that big of a cushion certainly does not hurt.

The Rebels got back on track, and have everything in front of them as they sit just two games back of first place in the SEC west. Solidifying the rotation will be key, and it definitely got a step closer to that this weekend.

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