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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

lifestyles
Blink 182 finally sounds like themselves again



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lifestyles
And the Echo releases self-titled debut



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sports
Rebels dominate Pine-Bluff



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Being Muslim in Mississippi



Hunain Alkhateb poses with her husband, Mohamed Jihan, on UM hijab day. Alkhateb is one of just 5,000 Muslims living in Mississippi, and she chose to be here. For a profile of Alkhateb, see page 6.

University hosts first lavender graduation

KIARA MANNING
kamannin@go.olemiss.edu

The University is preparing to host its inaugural Lavender Graduation to honor LGBTQ students for their achievements. The event will place on from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, May 6 in the Student Union Ballroom.

Lavender Graduation has been around for several years. The first ceremony took place at the University of Michigan in 1995 and has since then been instituted at numerous universities throughout the country. The ceremony was created by Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish lesbian, after she was not allowed to attend her children's graduation due to her sexual orientation. Traditionally, every ceremony takes place a week before the university's commencement events.

Jamie Cantrell, professor and member of the inaugural planning committee, said Lavender Graduation is a way to honor students for their achievements at Ole Miss.

"Lavender Graduation is a cultural celebration that recognizes LGBTQ students and acknowledges their achievements and contributions to the University as students who successfully navigat-

ed the college experience," Cantrell said.

Lavender is a significant part of LGBTQ history. It is a combination of the pink triangle gay men were required to wear in concentration camps and the black triangle that labeled lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany. The LGBTQ community turned these symbols of hate into a symbol of pride in their community.

At least 50 guests are confirmed for this year's ceremony, Cantrell said. A total of 13 students are expected to participate, which consists of six graduates and seven undergraduates.

"We will honor those students with purple cords and a reception ceremony," Cantrell said.

According to Cantrell, the graduation is co-sponsored by several groups on campus including the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement, UM Pride Network, the Department of Student Housing and the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. The graduation is also supported by the newly-formed Ole Miss LGBTQ Alumni and Friends

SEE LAVENDER PAGE 4

Joel Kotkin talks small town revivalism in Oxford

TORI HOSEY
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Internationally recognized geographer, author and urban development expert Joel Kotkin is scheduled to speak at the Pavillion at Ole Miss Friday, May 6 at 11:30 a.m.

The event is co-sponsored by Ole Miss Athletics, the School of Business Administration, the UM Real Estate Advisory Board and the Meek School of Journalism and New Media. The event's topic will focus on ways Oxford can begin accommodating the 12

percent growth it has experienced from 2010 to 2015.

Over the past decade, Joel Kotkin has completed studies focusing on the urbanization of major cities such as London, Mumbai, Mexico City, New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Houston, San Bernardino and St. Louis, among others.

An author of seven published books, Kotkin has been described by the New York Times as "America's uber-geographer," and has published reports on topics such as the future of class in global cities and places with the best

opportunities for minority groups.

Currently, Kotkin is conducting studies on Texas urbanism and is involved in a project about the future of Orange County, CA.

Blake Tartt III, president of the UM Real Estate Advisory Board, helped to orchestrate Kotkin as the speaker for the upcoming lecture.

"I think the reason the board decided to go with Joel Kotkin this year is because there is so much development," Tartt said. "We thought Joel could put a really good spin on good development and why people

are coming to small towns like Oxford."

Tartt is also concerned with addressing the present need for increased infrastructure.

"They need to keep up with their water and sewer capacity and expanding their road system so that it will alleviate traffic congestion," Tartt said. "They need to embrace density, that's what infrastructure is, it's your utilities. Another thing Oxford lacks is high-speed fiber optic [internet]."

According to Kotkin, who contributes to Forbes Magazine's weekly column "New Geography," the growth of

Oxford and towns of comparable size can be attributed to a large migration of people looking for a cheaper cost of living without sacrificing urban areas perks.

"Oxford is one of the fast-growing, small cities in America and I think it's because it provides what people want," Kotkin said. "They want enough choices of what to do and where to go, and they don't want to spend an hour on the Long Island railroad or the 405 [interstate] to do it."

SEE KOTKIN PAGE 4

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Finals: An uphill battle



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Bathroom rights are business rights

The right of a transgendered person to use public restrooms is a heated topic of discussion at the moment. North Carolina recently passed a law banning people from using the bathroom that does not match their birth certificate, meaning only those who have completed the surgery to transition and have filled to the appropriate paperwork can use the bathroom with which they identify. Target recently made it store policy to allow use of whichever fitting room and bathroom a person identifies with. But most debate over this subject ignores a key point: who owns the bathroom.

The answer is simple: the business does. The bathroom is the property of the business, and therefore is property of whomever owns the business. As property, only the owner should decide who uses it. Any law telling the business owner who they can and cannot allow to use their property violates the rights of the owner.

Target, for example, is a publicly traded business: multiple people own it. This means that the people who own

large shares of the business are the ones who decide how it is ran: the board of directors. Individual Target locations must agree to the policy set forth by these directors in order to carry the Target name.

The owners decided to let transgendered people use their property, and the North Carolina law violates the rights of the owners by not allowing them to serve people they want to serve.

This reasoning applies to the opposite situation as well. If a business does not want to let transgender people to use their bathroom, it is their right.

The proper way to protest practices you do not like is through boycotts. Don't like Target's policy? Do not buy from them. Don't like a store not letting transgendered people use their bathroom? Do not buy from them.

Sean Johnson
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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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

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



MISSISSIPPI
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ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

Farewell column: Collin Brister, former sports editor



COLLIN BRISTER
thedmsports@gmail.com

with really talented people and because Brian Scott Rippee didn't hang up on me when I asked if he wanted to help me out. I remember that call like yesterday.

"Hey man, uh, want to come in a few days a week and help with the sports section?"

"Sure, when?"

"It's 2 p.m. How about in like an hour?"

He came in that day. Thank God.

This job has taken me some really cool places over the past few months.

I got to see Ole Miss beat Mississippi State in Starkville this past November.

To a kid who grew up 30 minutes from Starkville, that's a big deal. I got to see Ole Miss win the Sugar Bowl for the first time since the '60s. I got to see Ole Miss open up the Pavilion.

I'd be lying if I said there weren't trying times.

I remember a specific day in March that I had interviewed six people and was writing a feature story on how good the Ole Miss students have had it

over the past four years compared to students before.

My phone crashed and deleted every single interview. Every one.

I then spat out 700 fire words about the dominance of the Ole Miss bullpen.

I'd be remiss if my last byline ever didn't thank a few people, or a lot of people. Whatever.

Thank you to everyone who took time to read what I had to write from my columns, to my power polls that were called sassy.

Thank you to everyone who emailed, even if it wasn't always positive. Or ever positive.

Thank you to every sports writer who has written articles the past few months.

Thank you to Logan and Dylan Rubino for taking a chance on a kid who had never had anything published before.

I would argue that I had the best college job in the world. I got paid to write about a team that I grew up loving. I'm not exactly sure how you beat that.

Thank you to Brian Scott for answering the phone that day. There were days that I'm not sure how a sports section gets published without him.

I worked with him seven months and I only wanted to fight him once. That's pretty impressive in my opinion. Brian Scott's taking over my job next year.

He'll do better than me. Also, if you'd like to write for The Daily Mississippian text him at 662-688-6... I'm not going to do that.

Thank you to the DM staff for not letting me lose my mind last November when I had absolutely no clue what I was doing. You're all beyond talented and good people.

It's crazy, because when you think about getting a part-time job in college, it usually involves the mindset of "I can't wait to go home," once you get there.

I never felt like that here.

I've been on the second floor of Bishop Hall at 1:30 a.m. before and never once was I miserable.

I thoroughly enjoyed going to work every single day. I'm not sure how many people get to say that.

I've joked that I may be the shortest-tenured sports editor of all time at the DM.

I'm not sure it's actually a joke.

It doesn't seem like it's been seven months since that conversation with Logan over gambling spreads.

It doesn't seem like it's been four years since I got to Ole Miss. It doesn't seem like this year should be over, but it is.

I've had an amazing four years, and I owe this place a lot. Thank you.

"You like sports?"

"Yeah."

"Cool. Want to be the assistant sports editor?"

That's how I got this job back in early September. I was sitting in a class with the former The Daily Mississippian editor-in-chief Logan Kirkland writing down gambling spreads. I wasn't paying attention at all. I also didn't gamble that weekend, because that's illegal.

One thing led to another, and by early November I was running the sports section of The Daily Mississippian.

I'd be lying if I said my head didn't start spinning immediately after I took over.

I'd be lying if I said I didn't get text messages at 2:30 p.m. asking what was going in the paper the next day and my response wasn't "The hell if I know."

It worked out though. It worked out because I work

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LAVENDER continued from page 1

Organization.

Cantrell said she believes there will be a time where celebrations for the LGBTQ community will be the new normal at Ole Miss.

“Major universities in the South to our north, west and east, including the University of Tennessee, Louisiana State University and the University of Alabama all hold Lavender Graduation ceremonies in the spring,” Cantrell said. “Gosh almighty, it’s time for the University of Mississippi to get on board.”

The Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement Director Shawnboda Mead said the Lavender Graduation has been a major priority for the committee for the past two years.

“This event is actually one we’ve been talking about for the past two years since the

UM'S FIRST LAVENDER GRADUATION

ILLUSTRATION: CLARA

center opened,” Mead said. “We weren’t able to make it happen our first year here so in partnership with all these other groups and offices we were just able to move forward with the planning.”

The University attempted to hold a Lavender Graduation years before the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement existed, Mead said. According to Mead, Cantrell has played an integral part in the research and development process.

Mead said an event like the

Lavender Graduation is important for the Oxford community.

“It is important for our community to provide a graduation ceremony and celebration that recognizes our own members of the community who identify as LGBTQ who are graduating,” Mead said. “It’s a final way to encourage staying connected and feeling supported by the institution.”

KOTKIN continued from page 1

A large demographic contributing to Oxford’s growth is what Kotkin calls the “lost millennials”.

“We’ve been trying to figure out where millennials live,” he said. “The New York Times’ definition is that they all live in Brooklyn, wearing hipster hats and drinking designer coffee. But as it turns out, most of them are living in small towns and suburbs, but it’s as if they don’t exist.”

With the rising cost of urban living, small towns like Oxford are becoming more attractive to students, young families and those beginning their journey into retirement.

Kotkin said if Oxford wants to continue this growth and expansion, it is going to have to make some decisions.

“If you are going to grow your town, you’re going to have to figure out a way to build family-friendly housing that’s relatively affordable,” Kotkin said. “If not, you’re just going to be a town that’s retired rich people, students and service workers. That’s all you’re going to have.”

Kotkin said it will be up to Oxford whether or not it will continue to grow and expand or become what he dubs a “museum town” – a town that caters only to a specific demo-



COURTESY: JOELKOTKIN.COM

graphic of residents and tourists.

Charlie Mitchell, assistant dean of the Meek School of Journalism and New Media, said sponsorship of events like Kotkin’s is critical to the development of Oxford.

“In order to be effective in urban planning, Kotkin talks about that you have to be adept in communicating with the public,” Mitchell said. “This is a good thing to alert our students to. There is value for them, and that’s why we’re doing this. The better you can explain to people the process of something, the more successful project you’re going to have.”

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Liana Christine Tai

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Directed by: Gang Guo

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at 9:00 am
Croft Boardroom

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28870

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Madeline Dwyer

B.A. IN BIOLOGY
“Biological Activity of Garcinia kola Seeds on Hepatitis C”
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

LGBT laws, NCAA policy could keep teams at home

JOEDY MCCREARY

Teams could pull out of scheduled NCAA events this spring because of new state laws in North Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee while the sport's governing body's demands for discrimination-free environments at the places where its events are held won't take effect until the fall.

Though there are many potential unknowns before the measure takes effect, 27 NCAA championships are scheduled this spring and some state laws are already on the books. The decision whether to participate are not being made by coaches or athletic departments.

A Minnesota state university system banned its athletic teams from traveling to tournaments in North Carolina, which passed a law that opponents say can allow discrimination against LGBT people. Most of the schools in the system are Division II or III level; the University of Minnesota, a member of the Big Ten, is not one of them.

The decision means that one of the top baseball teams in Division II, St. Cloud State — ranked No. 3 in one of the top 25 polls — will likely stay home and forgo the opportunity to reach its first Division II World Series later this month in Cary, North Carolina.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton said system leaders are in the process of reconsidering the ban, and St. Cloud State President Earl Potter is hopeful a resolution is reached.

He said in a statement Wednesday that the school will “not engage in any speculation at this point” because the NCAA “is tracking this situation and is working to determine how many teams might be affected by such bans.”

The NCAA will require sites hosting or bidding on both its predetermined and merit-based events to show how they will provide an environment that is “safe, healthy and free from discrimination.”

Spokeswoman Stacey Osburn said the NCAA is looking for the best way to implement the measure.

What they decide is a concern for people like Scott Dupree, the executive director of the Great



COURTESY OF: (CHUCK LIDDY/THE NEWS & OBSERVER VIA AP

Protesters head into the Legislative building for a sit-in against House Bill 2 in Raleigh, N.C., Monday, April 25, 2016. While demonstrations circled North Carolina's statehouse on Monday, for and against a Republican-backed law curtailing protections for LGBT people and limiting public bathroom access for transgender people, House Democrats filed a repeal bill that stands little chance of passing.

er Raleigh Sports Alliance. His group helps with the bidding on and organizing of sporting events in the North Carolina Triangle. He said organizations that host or bid on games will have to complete a form from the NCAA outlining its anti-discrimination requirements.

“The question is, what specifically is that form going to require of cities and hosts, and is that something we'll be capable of meeting?” Dupree said. “I know they'll ask that we guarantee a championship environment that is free of discrimination. And of course we have been doing that in the past, for years, with no problem. We have a proven record in that regard.”

“But what if the NCAA comes back to us and says, ‘Well you're promising all of this, but the fact is you still have a law on the books that allows for discrimination.’

That's my concern,” Dupree added.

In adopting its measure, the NCAA said it was following the actions of legislatures in several states but did not identify them. In addition to North Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee have passed similar laws.

The anti-discrimination policy seems to close a loophole in previous NCAA directives.

Though schools were not allowed to host predetermined events if their state governments flew the Confederate battle flag, schools in those states — Mississippi and South Carolina, until it took down the flag last year — were able to host the merit-based, non-predetermined events like the FCS playoffs and baseball regionals.

Officials at the University of Memphis, the host for the 2017 men's basketball South Region-

al, say the NCAA will determine if a new Tennessee law will affect those plans. Gov. Bill Haslam signed a bill that allows mental health counselors to refuse to treat patients based on the therapist's religious or personal beliefs.

In Mississippi, a law goes into effect July 1 that will allow government workers, religious groups and some private businesses to cite religious beliefs to deny services to LGBT people. Three universities in the state — Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Southern Miss — have some of the nation's top baseball teams and could be in line to host NCAA regionals next month.

North Carolina State also fea-

tures one of the nation's top college baseball teams, playing in the state at the center of the issue.

Gov. Pat McCrory signed a bill that prevents local governments from passing their own anti-discrimination rules covering the use of public accommodations. That came in response to Charlotte leaders approving a measure that allowed transgender people to use the restroom aligned with their gender identity. The law blocks local and state protections for LGBT people and takes away people's ability to use state law to sue over workplace discrimination.

The U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday in a letter to McCrory that the North Carolina law violates civil rights protections and can't be enforced, putting the state in danger of losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal school funding.

Supporters have defended the law as a common-sense measure that keeps men from using women's restrooms. North Carolina Republican House Speaker Tim Moore said the NCAA should interpret it to “see that this bill is in no way discriminatory.”

A showdown is looming. In the 2016-17 academic year, at least six NCAA events are scheduled to be played in North Carolina, the highest profile being the first round of the men's basketball tournament in Greensboro.

The law also has led to a public and business backlash that goes beyond the NCAA.

The NBA could move the 2017 All-Star game out of Charlotte. Performers from Bruce Springsteen to Pearl Jam have canceled shows out of protest, and Paypal called off plans to create an operations center in Charlotte that would have employed 400 people.

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Molly Grace Williams
B.S. IN COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS
“Attitudes and Practices Among College Students Relative to Personal Listening Device Usage and Hearing Conservation”
Directed by: Gregory Snyder
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Zachary Cookston
B.A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
“A Giant's Struggle: Analyzing Google's Relative Failure in China”
Directed by: Gang Guo
Thursday, May 5 at 10:00 am
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“Calling To Our Hearts Fond Memories”

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who are no longer with us.

**Thursday, May 5, 2016
Community Ceremony
4 p.m. at Paris-Yates Chapel**

Muslims in Mississippi

This is the first in an occasional series about the lives of Muslims in the state. Today, we profile a UM professor who excels in male-dominated science fields and stresses the importance of women's rights.

PHOTOS AND ARTICLE BY: CADY HERRING



Hunain Alkhateb walks around campus with a friend, Sundus Omari who is also from Jordan. Omari is hoping to continue her education at the university like Alkhateb.

If you were to spot Hunain Alkhateb on one of her weekly walks around campus, you would notice an animated woman stepping confidently under a brightly colored hijab and pushing her son in a stroller. What most people don't know is that she is a modern pioneer. She's been published in dozens of academic journals, but she is also an advocate for Islam and interfaith education, and she scuba dives when she has time.

Born in the United States, Alkhateb is an American citizen. She moved to her family's home country of Jordan until she finished her bachelor's degree in civil engineering. In 2006, she was the first of seven children in her family to pursue graduate studies in the United States. Ten years and a

master's degree in micromechanics and Ph.D. in nanomechanics later, Alkhateb said she feels she accomplished her goals.

Alkhateb is one of an estimated 5,000 Muslims in Mississippi. Although the number of Muslims in the state is increasing, Muslims comprise only about 1 percent of the state's population, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. Religion Census and U.S. Census Bureau. The nation's first international museum of Muslim cultures is located in Jackson.

At the University of Mississippi, Alkhateb teaches civil engineering and engineering science courses and serves as faculty adviser for the Ole Miss American Society of Civil Engineers and the Muslim Student Association.

"Dr. Hunain has the ability to

make her students feel as if they are her family," Norah Daghestani, student and Muslim Student Association member, said. "She doesn't just consider them on her class list, but they have a place in her heart. Dr. Alkhateb makes her students feel as if they matter and they can make a difference."

Coming back to America as an adult broadened Alkhateb's perspective on what Islam is today.

"This is my new world, I thought when I got here," she said. "I started to realize what practices were not actually religious, but just cultural. I get to do whatever I feel."

Alkhateb said it is important to educate women about their rights. She believes that to bring peace, there must be an intercultural religious awareness and understanding. For her, one of the first steps toward that is to educate against prejudice toward Muslims for practices that aren't religious at all.

Alkhateb met her husband, Mohamed Jihan, a research assistant in medicinal chemistry, at the University. Contrary to the norm in Jordan, she believes women are able to initiate a relationship for marriage if they have an interest, instead of relying on a male guardian or father to choose for her.

"A lot of our women in our communities are not aware of their rights," Alkhateb said. "It's the only way they can be liberated from cultural restrictions."

Many women in Muslim coun-

SEE MUSLIM PAGE 7



Top: Alkhateb adjusts her hijab while on a walk around campus. She says that she feels empowered by following this Muslim tradition of wearing a hijab. To her, it's an important outward symbol of what she believes and makes it easier to connect with the Muslim community anywhere in the world.



Left: Artist and Tougaloo College professor Ann Saunders work is seen at her exhibit at the International Museum of Muslim Cultures in Jackson, Miss. this Spring. The city of Jackson announced that April was Islamic Heritage Month and other exhibits including _ are on display to celebrate the diversity of Muslim cultures.

Saunders draws inspiration from her beliefs and the Qur'an, African aesthetic and other Islamic art. The exhibition will be on display until May 14, 2016.

MUSLIM continued from page 7

tries mostly stay in their homes and don't participate outside of female or family culture. Alkhateb says that practice is strictly cultural and chosen by the leaders of those specific communities.

"Muslim women are not obligated to only do house chores," she said. "They can hire someone to do that for them if they decide to. A Muslim woman can write any condition in the marriage contract and the spouse is obligated to follow it. If he doesn't follow the contract, then it can be considered separation and she can have a court case."

Living in Oxford, she said she has been able to put her ideas and drive into action. Alkhateb enjoys the welcoming atmosphere and conservative Christian values because they coincide with her beliefs. The three Abrahamic religions — Christianity, Judaism and Islam — have similar origins and core values. She said she has

never experienced any microaggressions toward her, which she considers fortunate because she knows many women who wear a hijab or more modest Muslim garb, such as a niqab or burka, who have felt aggressive bias.

"There's so much more that people have in common that they don't realize," she said. "When I talk about [my beliefs], people say, 'Oh, I didn't know you do that. It's very close to what we do.'"

Alkhateb's drive carries over from her professional life into everything she does. One of her students thought she would enjoy scuba diving and encouraged her to try the course offered by the University.

"I can't even swim," Alkhateb said. "But [the student] left scuba gear in my office, and finally, I gave it a try. It was a wonderful experience and the instructor was accommodating to all of my religious beliefs and even brought in a woman instructor for me."

She loved scuba diving so much that she is now certified and is en-



Engineering students Amanda Gurley, Briana Myles and Omar Yassin laugh with Alkhateb during an Ole Miss American Society of Civil Engineers meeting.

couraging her husband to learn too.

The Muslim Student Association hosts public events every semester for students, families and anyone interested in knowing more about Islam. Their events range from "Pink Hijab Day" in the spring, when anyone can try

on the traditional headscarf, to movie screenings. Alkhateb loves giving back to the community and speaks at churches about Islam and interfaith communication. She gives talks about the so-called STEM fields (science, engineering, technology) and encourages minority students to take advan-

tage of the many opportunities at Ole Miss.

Alkhateb said she sees her status as a Muslim-American woman in the South not as a hardship, but as an opportunity to educate and communicate about the similarities among the different religions and cultures at the University.

5012 Muslims in Mississippi in 2010 (ranked 33rd in the United States)

16 Muslim congregations in 2010 (ranked 31st in the United States)

28% of women employees in science and engineering occupations in 2010

RESEARCH: DREW JANSEN



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REVIEW: Blink-182 returns to form with new single 'Bored to Death'

MATT BARNHOUSE
mlbarnth@go.olemiss.edu

Blink-182 is back and better than ever with their newest single "Bored to Death."

Their first single off of their new album "California," as well as the first single since the 2015 departure of founding member Tom DeLonge, "Bored to Death" is an electrifying song that takes Blink-182's sound to bigger heights. At the same time, the sound feels familiar, though amplified.

The fast tempo of the song combined with angsty lyrics and powerful chorus are a classic Blink-182 formula, and it works to perfection. New vocalist and guitarist Matt Skiba (known for his work with Alkaline Trio) provides the kick in the pants the group needs to continue making great pop-punk music.

The lyrics of the song are similar to that of many pop-punk songs. The pained, awkward social conversations, the absolute terror of approaching the woman one's crushing on, as well as the pure angst of adolescence is present throughout. It takes the listener back to his teenage years, even though it is "a long way back from 17," as the song sings.

This is the first Blink-182 song since the band reunited in 2009 that actually feels like Blink-182. 2011's "Neighborhoods," as well as 2012's "Dogs Eating Dogs" felt unpolished and uninspired.

Sometimes a change is necessary, and Skiba is the perfect choice for a "change." For the first time in over a decade, it feels like everybody in the band is all-in. No longer is Blink-182 trying to be something they're not with the wannabe-U2



BLINK-182 CALIFORNIA

COURTESY: CHORUS.FM

sound they had earlier in the decade. It's back to the basics, only bigger now. Blink-182 was always a more lighthearted, fun band, and the sound of the new single reflects that.

New producer John Feldmann helped create a sound that feels more filling than past Blink songs, and it signifies the

band's growth, as they play almost exclusively large arenas now. The sound has to be huge in order fill the arena.

Feldmann is able to create a larger sound while maintaining the essence of what makes Blink-182 great, and that is why this new single is so encouraging to Blink-182 fans

both young and old. Feldmann, as well as the band members, didn't try to reinvent the wheel. They did what they do best: make catchy, relatable radio-friendly music that will be stuck in the listener's head for months to come.

If there is one criticism to be made with the new single, it's that Mark Hoppus and Skiba sound a little bit too similar. It may take a few listens to figure out who is singing which part, but it does not make the song bad, just a bit confusing for the first listen.

Along with the new single and album, Blink-182 also announced a nationwide tour with a June 16 stop at the Bank-Plus Amphitheater in Southaven, with pop-punk staples The All-American Rejects and A Day to Remember accompanying them. Tickets go on sale to the general public Friday and VIP packages are already on sale.

"California" releases July 1 and is available for pre-order now.

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 - 15 NFL coach
 - 16 Chuck —
 - 17 Glimpse
 - 18 Organ feature
 - 19 Pittsburgh river
 - 20 Cook in a wok
 - 21 Proper
 - 22 Spectacles part
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 - 26 Vacuum tubes
 - 27 Hostile toward
 - 31 Hydrocarbon suffix
 - 32 Brief affair
 - 33 Circular
 - 36 Snow boot
 - 39 Molasses-based drinks
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 - 41 Edit out
 - 42 Lama's chants
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 - 7 Mies van der —
 - 8 Old war story
 - 9 Soubriquet of Elizabeth I
 - 10 Next to
 - 11 Helena rival
 - 12 These have many extras
 - 13 Ceremonial fire
 - 21 Fabric meas.
 - 23 Swimming hole
 - 25 Posh hotel lobbies
 - 27 Beehive kin
 - 28 Down in the dumps
 - 29 Purposes
 - 30 Good connections

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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Lindsey Hardin

B.A. IN FRENCH

"The Impact of Survival Processing and Collaborative Inhibition on Recall Performance"

Directed by: Matthew Reysen

Thursday, May 5 at 11:00 am
Lyceum Room 110

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Alison Neel

B.A. IN BIOLOGY

"The Effects of Red Light on Blue Light Phototropism"

Directed by: John Kiss

Thursday, May 5 at 11:00 am
Shoemaker Hall Room 219

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Silas Grant Beebe

B.B.A. IN MANAGEMENT

"Leading as Nudging: Optimizing Healthcare Delivery Systems Management in Mississippi"

Directed by: Milorad Novicevic

Thursday, May 5 at 1:00 pm
Holman Hall Room 230

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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

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Album review: And the Echo releases self-titled debut

SHELBY PACK
sepack@go.olemiss.edu

Oxford's very own And the Echo have just debuted their self-titled album. Morgan Pennington and Winn McElroy have created an eight track masterpiece, the first official release for this dynamic duo.

McElroy simply describes the album as "bangin'," and his short and sweet response is no exaggeration. And the Echo's ethereal synth-pop sound radiates throughout this album, creating songs both dreamy and electric.

In the fall of 2014, the duo released a 45rpm with the songs "Smoke and Mirrors" and "The Parade," but this album serves as their first formal music release, something that, McElroy explained, has been a long time coming.

"We wanted to allow enough time for us to develop our writing and sound before we formally released anything," McElroy said. "A lot of this material was written in 2014 and 2015."

Long time followers of the band will likely recognize the



COURTESY: AND THE ECHO

tracks featured on this album, which they have been promoting around town since its release on April 21. Lyrics laced with heartbreak come together with catchy, synthesized beats to create the songs that have been drawing in crowds since And the Echo began performing locally in 2014. To create this dichotomy, Pennington and McElroy combine their efforts in a unique way.

"Our process is pretty dif-

ferent than most bands," McElroy said. "I usually come up with a musical idea and then pitch it to Morgan. She'll then take that music and begin the lyrical process while I finish the music. After that, we'll merge the two and begin editing vocally and musically in order for the track to pass the litmus test. Sometimes, though, a track comes together overnight. That happened with 'Smoke,' 'The Parade,'

and 'Year Three'."

Now, they are busy planning for the future. As a result of this album, And the Echo will soon be putting out a follow-up.

"We've already begun recording our next record and it's most likely going to be notably darker than our current release," McElroy said. "The time spent writing together and developing our sound was definitely well spent, and the

releases will be coming a lot faster now as we have lots of material to work with."

As far as touring goes, And the Echo is promoting close to home for the next few months.

"For this summer we're going to be working on press for the current release," McElroy said. "We're playing a few festivals and have some regional dates, but we're saving a lot of touring for the Fall."

This has been a big year for the local band and it appears to be getting bigger by the second. The secret to their success, perhaps, has been cultivated from the very town in which they were created.

"The Oxford music scene has been absolutely wonderful," McElroy said. "Oxford is a town full of the arts which makes it both an inspiring and an encouraging place to live. We have had nothing but a positive experience."

And the Echo's album can be found on iTunes and Spotify.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Michael Gratzer
B.S.G.E. IN GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
"Paleosol Development and Trace Fossils in the Upper Triassic Cooper Canyon Formation of the Dockum Group in Andrews County, Texas"
Directed by: Brian Platt
Thursday, May 5 at 1:00 pm
Carrier Hall Room 209
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Sean Woo Kang
B.A. IN BIOLOGY
"Vegetation Effects on Rhizosphere Microbial Communities in Coastal Wetlands of South Mississippi"
Directed by: Marjorie Holland
Thursday, May 5 at 1:30 pm
Shoemaker Hall Room 213
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Travis Fortin
B.E. IN ENGINEERING
"Anatomical Locality on Haptic Feedback to Attenuate Stuttering"
Directed by: Dwight Waddell
Thursday, May 5 at 3:00 pm
Brevard Hall Room 209
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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION
Michael Joseph Hohl
B.S. IN BIOLOGY
"Optimizing RNA Extraction from Fungal-Algal Tissues for Transcriptomic Gene Expression Analysis"
Directed by: Erik Hom
Thursday, May 5 at 3:00 pm
Shoemaker Hall Room 219
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OLE MISS SPORTS

Men's tennis advances to the NCAA Championships

For the 23rd straight year, the Ole Miss men's tennis team will be playing tennis in May, as the 64-team field for the NCAA Championships was announced Tuesday.

The Rebels earned a No. 2 seed in the Cal regional and will face Denver in the first round May 14 in Berkeley, California. Cal, the No. 13 seed overall, is hosting the first and second rounds and will face Army in the first round. The winners will meet on May 15 for a berth in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

NOTABLES...

Ole Miss owns the fifth-longest consecutive NCAA appearance streak in the nation with 23 straight. The Rebels earned their first ever NCAA bid in 1989 and then again in



Grey Hamilton returns a serve.

PHOTO BY: EVAN TURNER

1994. They have been every year since then. hopefully they'll have a good crowd."

The Rebels will meet Denver for the first time in program history.

It marks the Rebels' second trip to California for the NCAA first round since the current format was instituted. The Rebels traveled to Los Angeles in 2011 for the UCLA region.

If the Rebels get by Denver, they could face a familiar opponent for a few guys on the team. Cal has three Swedes on the team, while the Rebels have two in Stefan Lindmark and Gustav Hansson, along with Head Coach Toby Hansson.

The Rebels are also familiar with another member of the Bears team in Florian Lakat, who transferred there from Mississippi State.

ON THE FIRST-ROUND MATCH AGAINST DENVER...

"We are not that familiar with Denver, since we don't face them regularly, but they've had a good year. We'll familiarize ourselves more with them in the coming days and get ready for a good match."

ON POTENTIAL SECOND-ROUND MATCH VS. CALIFORNIA...

"I am very familiar with the guys at Cal. They are a great group of players. It will be an interesting match-up if both teams make it through. It's an exciting regional to be part of."

Senior captain Stefan Lindmark...

"We're very excited to be back in the NCAA Championships. We are going to a place where we feel that if we play well, we have a good chance to advance. I am super pumped. It's my last year, and I am ready to make the most of this opportunity."

ON FAMILIARITY WITH OPPONENTS...

"I don't know that much about Denver, but I know they're a good team. We have to be ready to play well. It's going to be a battle. I know four guys on the Cal team, and I've beaten three of them before. But first we have to take care of Denver."

QUOTING HEAD COACH TOBY HANSSON...

"It's obviously one of our goals to make NCAAAs every year. We have an opportunity to close out the season on high note and it's very exciting. The guys are looking forward to going to California. We know they have a nice facility and

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Kayla Smith

B. A. IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

"Tigers, Flies and Longines: The Chinese Corruption Crackdown and Its Effect on Conspicuous Consumption"

Directed by: Joshua Howard

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Croft Boardroom

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Eleanor Chamberlain Anthony

B.A. IN PHILOSOPHY

"A Neural Network Approach to Handwriting Recognition in the Codex A"

Directed by: Gregory Heyworth

Thursday, May 5 at 4:00 pm
Honors College Room 114

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SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATION

Mara Vernier

B.S. IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

"Courtship Lateralization and Its Effect on Mating Success of Male Wild Turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo)"

Directed by: Richard Buchholz

Thursday, May 5 at 5:00 pm
Shoemaker Hall Room 114

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Diamond Rebels dominate Arkansas Pine-Bluff 12-1

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
 thedmsports@gmail.com

It's been a year of ups and downs for Ole Miss pitcher Chad Smith, and Wednesday was certainly a high point as he struck out 11 Arkansas-Pine Bluff hitters, a new career high in that department, and picked up his fourth win of the year in a 12-1 rout of the Golden Lions.

"I was just able to command both my fastball and my slider," Smith said.

"I didn't throw any change ups tonight, but I was able to work off of my fastball and slider and command them on both sides of the plate. It was a big confidence booster just seeing it translate with all the hard work I've put in in practice"

Smith's command of his fastball has escaped him at times this year, but he was in full command of it on Wednesday.

"In this league you have to have fastball command to be successful, and recently when I have struggled, that's been the issue for me," Smith said. "I felt good the whole time."

It was the first time Smith



Chad Smith set a new career high for strike outs during the UAPB game.

PHOTO BY: EVAN TURNER

had gone seven innings since late February against Louisville, and his velocity was right there until the end.

"He was terrific," Head Baseball Coach Mike Bianco said.

"I don't know if it was his best night, but it's got to be up there. He was really strong, and even into 100 pitches he

was throwing in the low 90s and had great stuff."

Ole Miss scored 12 runs on 10 hits, and nine different Rebels recorded a hit on the night.

Kyle Watson and Errol Robinson each had two hits. Robinson had three RBIs and Watson had a pair.

"I tried to stay up the mid-

dle," Watson said. "Coach Clement has really been working with me on keeping a short swing and staying up the middle of the field."

Like Smith, Watson has had his share of highs and lows this year, and has been moved around the outfield a good bit. He even got an inning in a third base on the night.

"He's never held his head down, and he's just a great time guy and had a terrific athlete, and had a terrific night swinging the bat," Bianco said.

J.B. Woodman and Will Golsan each had an RBI base knock as well.

After a scoreless first inning from Pine Bluff's Humberto Medina, Ole Miss took control with three in the second, one in the third and added a pair in the fourth to take a 6-0 lead.

Pine Bluff added a run on a ground ball out in Smith's final inning before Andrew Lowe tossed a scoreless final two innings of relief.

Ole Miss added two more in the seventh and four in their final at bat in the eighth.

The win was the Rebels' 34th on the year.

"We've played well all year, and stumbled for about five games, but we recovered from that," Bianco said. "I'm proud of the way we've played the last few weeks."

The Rebels travel to Athens this weekend for a three game series at Georgia. First pitch is set for 6 p.m. on Friday.



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