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THE MISSISSIPPIAN

Thursday, April 15, 2021

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A talk with the chancellor Students



KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAI

Chancellor Glenn Boyce claims to have a stong relationship with the university and says he believes the university has a lot to be proud of.

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When the news broke that the Institutions of Higher Learning had selected Glenn Boyce to become the University of Mississippi's next chancellor in October 2019, Boyce's reputation preceded him. After having served as IHL commissioner and then consulting on the IHL's search for chancellor, he made a name for himself before even setting foot on campus as the 18th chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

Traditionally, a newly-selected chancellor sits down with The Daily Mississippian once he settles on campus, but Boyce and his office declined the DM's interview requests for over a year and a half — until now.

Here's what Boyce finally had to say.

SEE **BOYCE** PAGE 2

BASEBALL COLUMN

Rebels can't miss taking on MSU

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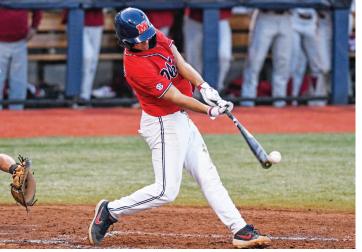
Ole Miss was sitting pretty at the top of the SEC as a top-5 team a week ago. Now, after the team's second consecutive series loss, things are looking a little different.

The Rebels battled against No. 2 Arkansas last weekend, but they were only able to come away with one win. In the previous weekend, the Rebels traveled to take on No. 5 Florida in Gainesville and managed just one win. While both of their opponents are incredibly well-rounded, dropping a series

at home in the SEC is never a good look.

The SEC is really good at baseball. So as a team in the SEC, expectations are a little bit lower in terms of how many games you are going to win in conference play each season. That being said, every single game counts, and you can't lose close ones. When selecting teams for regional play, the committee will look at every loss and dissect it. Even close wins against bad teams can hurt you in the long run.

Arkansas won the first game in the doubleheader on Saturday, April 10, and after "feeling



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Following losses to Arkansas and Florida, the Rebels prepare to go on the road against Mississippi State this weekend.

like they were punched in the mouth," the Rebels fought back to even it out at 1-1. In the first game, the Rebels left 14 runners on base and had bases loaded with no runs scored in three separate innings. I cannot tell you if there is anything more frustrating to watch as a fan.

On Sunday, things were off to a drastic start almost immediately for Ole Miss. The Rebels' starting pitcher Derek Diamond gave up five runs in the first inning. Freshman Josh Mallitz came in to relieve him after 1.1 innings and allowed six runs himself. Giving up 11 runs in

SEE **STATE** PAGE 8

Students advocate for a 'New Miss'

MORGAN O'NEAL

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New Miss started as a gift: one hat given to an iconic figure in the University of Mississippi's history. It later turned into a clothing brand, then became a student's campaign platform and now, the two words represent a mission centered around love, compassion, equity and equality.

The story of New Miss begins with James Meredith in 1962 and continues today with the help of one of Meredith's long-time friends and two UM students hoping to heal, grow and reform the University of Mississippi and the state as a whole.

Meredith, the first Black man to attend the university and a civil rights icon, was given the original New Miss hat by Pastor Robert West about three years ago. He's worn it nearly every day since, according to Suzi Altman, a photojournalist and friend of Meredith for the past 20 years. Altman said West had the hat made for Meredith, telling him, "The day you stepped on the Ole Miss campus, it ceased to be Ole Miss. It became New Miss. October 1, 1962, it became New Miss."

For years, the term 'Ole Miss' has caused controversy over its Mississippi plantation origins. In 1939, the university's student-led newspaper, then known only as The Mississippian, reported that the student who named the yearbook "The Ole Miss" in 1896, was inspired "from the language of the Ante-bellum 'Darkey,' who knew the wife of his owner by no other title than 'Ole Miss.'" The headline read, "Ole Miss Takes Its Name From Darky Dialect, Not Abbreviation of State."

Altman met Meredith in 2002 when she took a photo of him in front of his auto repair shop in Jackson for The New York Times, just days before the 40th anniversary of the desegregation of the university. She is responsible for turning West's gift idea into a trademarked brand whose proceeds mostly go to The James Meredith Interpretive

SEE **NEW MISS** PAGE 4

BOYCE

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Boyce claims he has a strong relationship with the UM community

Regarding the IHL selecting him as chancellor and how the UM community felt about the process, Boyce said since he's become chancellor, he's been very open, visible and extended himself by getting to know members of the UM community.

"I've been here for a while now. Those (problems) are in the past, so the more time has gone by, the more people I've gotten to visit with, to know and just to see the kind of leadership that I'm offering, which is open leadership, communicative leadership," Boyce said.

Those "problems" included several protests regarding his selection and potential calls of "no confidence" from various councils around campus at the very beginning of his term. Boyce now feels very strongly that he has a good relationship with the UM community.

"My office door is always open. Always. I don't say that lightly," Boyce said. "I enjoy visiting with people. I enjoy communicating with people and I enjoy listening to how we can take and further the institution. Input is something that I value, and when you have such great students, great faculty, staff, people have a lot of great ideas around this institution. They need to be heard."

After miscommunication and community frustration surrounding the Confederate monument relocation and potential headstones being added to the cemetery in July 2020, Boyce began meeting with the nine leaders of the largest Black student organizations on campus monthly.

Nicholas Crasta, the outgoing president of the Black Student Union, has been a part of those meetings, and in November, he spoke with The Daily Mississippian about the progress he and other student leaders had seen with Boyce.

"For Chancellor Boyce, he's trying his hardest to build a relationship with students as much as possible, knowing that he kind of came in with a lot of distress and a lot of tension from the UM community," Crasta said. "He's been trying to do his best and working as much as possible and trying to kind of get down to earth as much as possible."

He will not give back the IHL consulting salary

Boyce said he never returned the approximate \$87,000 he was paid to consult on the IHL's search for a new chancellor, though he once considered doing so to mend his relationship with the UM community.

"That was money that I earned. It didn't have anything to do with the search. People got confused about that. I was just hired by IHL in order to assist them with understanding what the university might need," Boyce said. "I was finished with that



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Chancellor Glenn Boyce has served in his role for over a year and a half.

task in that position before this search. I didn't have anything to do with this."

Boyce went on to claim that his consulting job had nothing to do with the actual selection process of the chancellor.

"(The job) was just to go out and to spend time with alumni and other folks in order to learn what the community was looking for in the next chancellor," Boyce said. "It was just simply to visit with constituent bases of the university. I included professors, administrators, alumni, students and asked them, 'Okay, what are you looking for in the next chancellor?"

Boyce doesn't anticipate struggles with UM's new diversity plan

After the release of the Pathways to Equity Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Indevoted to one area to look at, but it's a plan that's being implemented campus wide,' Bovce said.

The plan comprises three goals for the university to achieve: advance institution-

al capacity for equity, cultivate a diverse and equitable community and foster an inclusive campus climate.

"Ole Miss is a beloved term. It's a term that represents a modern day university and who we are today. It's a term that represents the transition of what we become as a university."

> - Glenn Boyce Chancellor of the University of Mississippi

stitutional Strategic Plan in January, Boyce said that he's very excited about carrying out the plan over the next five

"What's fantastic about it is that it's an operation across the entire campus. It's not just a specific plan and

Boyce said that while the plan is only in the beginning of its implementation phase. the university is already taking steps in order to increase diversity at the university. Part of the plan includes working with the Associated

Student Body Senate.

"We've asked ASB Senate to look at our student body to look at the representations that they have on all these committees," Boyce said. "Everybody's looking into it and determining how they need to be moving forward with it, including if any policy changes should be made."

Bovce said that he does not anticipate any struggles along the way with incorporating diversity on campus.

The Ole Miss name

Ever since the name "Ole Miss" was coined by Elma Meek in 1896, there has been controversy surrounding the name for its antebellum vernacular. Boyce said he is aware that people have conversations about it, but he does not have any plans to change the name.

"We have conversations about it in terms of there's conversations that people have about (the name) from time to time. Even national articles will put out conversations about (it)," Boyce said. "But Ole Miss is a beloved term. It's a term that represents a modern day university and who we are today. It's a term that represents the transition of what we become as a university."

Boyce said he believes that Rebels is a beloved term as well, and he emphasized that it's a name that thousands of athletes have certain distinctions under. In 1939, the university's student-led newspaper "The Mississippian" reported that Meek was inspired "from the language of the Ante-bellum 'Darkey,' who knew the wife of his owner by no other title than 'Ole Miss.'" The headline read, "Ole Miss Takes Its Name From Darky Dialect, Not Abbreviation of State."

"Thousands of players have performed under and continued to perform under (the name Rebels) today," Boyce said. "I'm about the present and the future. That's where I am: the present and the future. I believe deeply that what we represent today, I'll put up against anyone. We're an outstanding institution made up of outstanding students, faculty and staff."

He has a back-toschool plan

The plan for the fall semester is to go back to in-person classes, according to Boyce. He said that while the plan is to have the upcoming year as an in-person, on-campus experience as a move back to normalcy, he thinks Zoom will still play a part in some classes.

"People often ask you, 'Okay, what is going to be something that is sustainable, that you will use that you learned from COVID?' I think Zoom is one of those things that will stay with us through meetings, probably save a lot of travel time and different things like that," Boyce said.

He also thinks Zoom will be used in instructional format for years to come because it offers the opportunity for students to be more flexible with their schedule. Still, he doesn't believe it will replace face-to-face classes.

How he's done so far

It's been over a year and a half since Boyce has been selected as chancellor of the university. He believes that while it's been a very difficult and challenging year, the university has a lot to be proud of.

"It's been amazing how the university has been so resilient. If you really start investigating how universities did nationally through this pandemic, I will put the efforts of this university and I'm talking about everybody up against anybody else's levels," Boyce said. "We stayed open. We kept moving forward...students did a great job progressing toward their degrees. That was no easy task, obviously, for anyone, and I think we did this incredible job."

Boyce credits everyone at the university for being so resilient throughout the year, saying that all the students, faculty and staff did an amaz-

This would be a time that I think this university should be awful proud of itself," Boyce said.

Active Minds spreads awareness for suicide prevention

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This week, Active Minds is facilitating their annual Mental Health Week to spreading awareness about mental health and suicide prevention on a campus affected by this year's severe decline in mental health among young people due to COVID and an increased number of suicide attempts in Oxford

Active Minds partners with other campus organizations to hold a de-stressing or informational event each day of the week. On Monday, they teamed up with the William Magee Center and Mr. and Miss Ole Miss, Cade Slaughter and Lilli Gordon, for #UMListens, an event meant to create a safe space for students to conversate about mental health on campus.

#UMListens is a phrase coined by the UMatter Office and the Magee Center and was a part of Mr. and Miss Ole Miss's Forward It Fund, their philanthropic effort to fundraise for and program activities around three pillars: mental health, fine arts and literacy. Students and faculty were invited to choose from a wall of buttons with different moods written on them, from wishful to frustrated to refreshed.

"I remember this activity happening in the Circle my first year as a student, and I still have my button that says 'valued' sitting on my desk in my bedroom," Slaughter said. "Seeing so many students purposefully look over the board and walk away with a button was an incredible feeling of accomplishment and also just love."

Gordon said that many students are still feeling isolated due to online classes, but showing up to events like these and recognizing your emotions is one of the first steps in healing.

"I love that this event called on students to come out and enjoy spring in Oxford while also



PHOTO COURTESY: LILLI GORDON

Students and faculty were invited to select buttons they felt best described their moods.

reminding them that it's okay to not always feel their best," Gordon said

On Tuesday, Active Minds partnered with the Student Activities Association, the Campus Recreation Center, the Counseling Center, and the Magee Center for GLOWGA at the Grove Stage at 7:30. Dozens of students gathered for a meditation and nighttime yoga session taught by a Campus Rec instructor, glow-in-the-dark accessories and free refreshments.

Lydia Cates, Active Minds President, said she's most excited about Wednesday's event, Brushing with BSU, where students are given the materials to paint canvases in the Grove with the assistance of an artist. It's an annual event that Active Minds collaborates with the Black Student Union to put on in the fall but was postponed until now due to COVID.

"Obviously students are struggling with mental health, but it's been harder for us to be able to accommodate that with everything that's going on," Cates said. "I'm just glad that we are now able to at least do some of that programming to help and spread awareness for our students."

Thursday at 4:30 p.m., students are invited to listen to UM sophomore Alex Bush tell her mental health story via Zoom, as well as learn from her about suicide prevention and navigating life as a young adult. Bush has lost six loved ones to suicide, two of whom were family members, and has dedicated her life to mental health advocacy.

"I don't want to see it happen to anyone, because (suicide) is a horrible thing for people to experience," Bush told the Daily Mississippian in March. "So I just dedicate everything I do to the people who've lost their lives or a loved one to suicide."

On Tuesday, Oxford Police Department stated via Twitter that their officers have responded to an increased number of



The phrase #UMListens was created in conjunction with efforts by Mr. and Miss Ole Miss to fundraise for mental health, fine arts, and literacy activities.

suicide attempt calls and welfare concerns on suicidal individuals this year. The tweet included resources for individuals who are struggling and warning signs to look for, such as when an individual begins to isolate themselves, increases their use of drugs and alcohol, or talks about feeling trapped or like they are a burden to others.

Mental Health Week wraps up on Friday with Blenz Bowls Percentage Day, a percentage of the proceeds from sales that day will go towards the University Counseling Center.

"There are students on campus that don't really realize that we have resources like the UCC and the Magee Center, so I'm just excited for people to actually come in contact with them and find out what they're about," Cates said.

Cates says Mental Health Week is vital in fighting the stigma surrounding mental health because it allows students to experience other students openly speaking on their personal experiences with it.

"Hopefully seeing other students being so open to talking about their mental health journeys will encourage them to work on their own mental health journey in a productive, efficient and helpful way," Cates said.

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NEW MISS

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Center, Meredith's new museum scheduled to open late 2021 and Black Lives Matter-Mississippi.

The New Miss Brand sells baseball hats identical to Meredith's original, other than one addition by Altman: "James H. Meredith 1962" embroidered on the back. The online store also offers flags, t-shirts and flat brim hats with the New Miss logo on them.

students UM DeArrius "Dee" Rhymes and Tyler Yarbrough have worked alongside Altman to elevate New Miss from a clothing brand to a tangible mission and concept on campus among students and faculty and across the state, beginning when Rhymes ran for Mr. Ole Miss on the platform of "Truth, Justice & The New Miss Way" with his friend Yarbrough as one of his campaign managers.

Rhymes and Yarbrough both wore New Miss baseball hats and t-shirts to accept their Who's Who awards on Friday, opening their jackets on stage in the Pavilion to reveal their New Miss merch to the audience and Chancellor Glenn Boyce, who stood alongside them on stage.

Yarbrough, who was the last recipient to walk, remained on stage for about a minute with his jacket open and was met with applause, a holler from Rhymes and questions from others afterwards who wanted to know more.

To Yarbrough, New Miss is about more than removing the racist history from the school's name. It's about issues such as the absence of Black fraternity or sorority houses on campus, minority students dropping out due to lack of scholarships and financial aid, and the university failing to acknowledge its history of slavery on campus.

"I guess, by virtue, (New Miss) is kind of a political statement, but when I put it on, my first thought is about pride in myself," Yarbrough said. "I think it represents progress and the direction we need to be going in."

Rhymes, who has adopted the nickname 'Mr. New Miss,' says he believes that with the foundation that James Meredith laid and his own role in defining and advocating for New Miss, the brand has the opportunity to bridge the gap between equality and equity at the university and in the entire

"(New Miss) shouldn't be a political statement. It should be normalized," Rhymes said. "A Black person shouldn't have to come to this school and feel like they don't belong. Our Black student leaders come here and feel like they have to be political activists, every one of them."

On the night of Saturday, April 10, Altman and her wife hosted Rhymes and Meredith at their home in Brandon so the two could meet one another for the first time, experience a traditional Passover Seder meal



and trade stories about Mississippi and the university.

"I let them talk and brought them books from my collection, the Meredith library," Altman said. "It was nice to see them talk about school, the student body, campus stuff that Dee's involved in. James asked a lot of questions about that."

Rhymes said Meredith offered him words of wisdom for his journey in trying to make a difference in a place like Mississippi, telling him, "Mississippi is the most powerful word in the English language" and "ain't no shortcuts." He said Meredith challenged him to dig deep, as he believes Rhymes had only begun to scratch the surface.



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

DeArrius "Dee" Rhymes and Tyler Yarbrough wear the New Miss hats during the Black History Month March on Feb. 23.



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Alumni Association hosts social media discussion

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The Ole Miss Alumni Association hosted a discussion about social media's influence on Wednesday afternoon featuring professors from the School of Journalism and New Media. Professors Jason Cain, Brad Conaway and Cynthia Joyce shared their insights regarding the impact social media has on society, business and politics.

Cain, an assistant professor of integrated marketing and communications, began the session by sharing his view of social media's impact on how information is consumed by the public.

"Our moment right now in social media is not new and uncharted waters," Cain said. "It's not as we've never faced it be-

Cain pointed out that many people speculate that the invention of social media has sparked a revolution, when in reality, the idea of mass media has existed for nearly 600 years.

"This is an evolution, not a revolution," Cain said.

Cain said social media isn't going anywhere any time soon, and he said that isn't a bad thing. Because of the invention of the smartphone, people can use the internet and social media almost any time they want.

"We can't fit the genie back in the bottle," Cain said.

Although there is a learning curve to navigating social media, it is accessible on many different platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and Cain expects social media to continue

to impact our daily lives.

Joyce, an associate professor of journalism, said she has seen its evolution firsthand. With a background of working in newsrooms, she saw the way social media changed how information was delivered.

Joyce admitted that she, along with many other colleagues, are challenged by the in's and out's of social media, but she readily agreed with Cain that social media is a fundamental part of living in today's world.

"This is the air we breathe now," she said.

Joyce ended her talk with the advice to be intentional about what we post on social media and to use it as a tool to commu-

"Use the tools," she said. "Don't be used by them."

Lastly, Conaway, visiting professor of journalism instruction, touched on the value of social media in today's world. He began with a statistic from the Pew Research Center that says nearly 64% of Americans think social media has a mostly negative impact on the country.

Following a Twitter spat between Neil deGrasse Tyson and Steak-Umm, a frozen meat company, Conaway pointed out that social media often serves as a platform for debate, which can lead users to feel as though social media has mostly negative effects.

'We live in a world where one of the most prominent scientists in the country can be attacked by a company selling frozen steaks. Conaway said.

Resale shop employs those with mental illnesses



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Oxford's Holding Hands Resale Shop has continued to serve the community despite the challenges of the pandemic. Holding Hands employs people with mental illnesses and disabilities, striving to provide opportunities for those in need. This is something that founder Donna Howard saw a need for in her community since the shop's inception.

Howard started the store for her daughter Cassie, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in her teens. Cassie has had several jobs throughout her life, but she was never happy because she felt like she was treated differently because of stigmas surrounding her mental illness. After visiting a thrift store in Nashville with a similar model for people with physical disabilities, Howard decided to open her own store.

"Donna had always had the dream of (Cassie) having a job where she could feel good about herself," Julia Williams, the Holding Hands community

outreach coordinator, said. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 86% of people in Mississippi receiving public mental health benefits were unemployed in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available. Research published in 2010 in Psychiatric Services found that rates of employment also decreased as the severity of the mental illness increased.

Holding Hands Resale Shop



PHOTOS: JULIA JAMES/ THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Holding Hands employs people with mental illnesses and disabilities and strives to provide opportunities for those in need.

has employed people with mental illnesses and disabilities since its founding in 2013.

Williams said that the mission of Holding Hands is to give its employees a safe place to work where they are comfortable and can succeed while feeling good about themselves.

At the start of the pandemic, Holding Hands had to close its doors for six weeks. However, this didn't stop people from donating. Williams said that there were piles of items in front of the store nearly every morning because being stuck at home meant people were cleaning and donating more than usual.

When the store did reopen, it had more business than ever before because so many more people were having financial difficulties and looking to shop at thrift stores. Williams also said that the Goodwill and Salvation Army weren't open for a while, which increased her store's foot traffic and visibility in the community.

The store currently employs 12-15 people with mental illnesses. The store also partners with a number of other local nonprofits who will sometimes recommend employees them. Most of the store's emplovees receive disability benefits, but working with Holding Hands gives them something to normalize their schedule, Wil-

A unique aspect of Holding Hands's model, Williams said, is the store's flexibility with the skill levels of various employees. Whether they run the cash register, sort and hang clothes, move furniture or drive the moving truck used for pick-ups, the store strives to find a place that matches their abilities.

"We take them where they are," Williams said. "We also work with the understanding that there are days where medication may be off or someone may be having a worse day with their illness, and we work with those struggles as well."

The store partners with other local organizations, including Interfaith Compassion Ministries, Doors of Hope, United Way, Red Cross and Communicare, to provide clothing to clients of those organizations for free. When asked to summarize her Holding Hands experience, Williams said she believes they are successful.

Mellisa Hart, assistant store manager, plans to open her own thrift store following the Holding Hands model, which would employ mentally and physically disabled people in Tupelo. She thinks her current position with Holding Hands is helping prepare her to achieve this goal, including learning how to cater to each employee's weaknesses and strengths.

"I've been a retail manager for 20 years always working for corporations and this is an organization that actually cares about its employees," Hart said.



Rebels drop series against No. 1 Arkansas

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Ole Miss dropped its weekend series to No. 1 Arkansas after splitting the doubleheader and losing the final game 18-14. Here's how the

Game One

After a rain cancellation on Friday, junior Gunnar Hoglund opened up for the Rebels on a beautiful Saturday afternoon at Swayze Field. He pitched 5.1 innings with eight strikeouts and no runs.

Arkansas tied the game in the sixth inning and then quickly scored four more runs in the following two innings. Ole Miss shuffled through their bullpen looking for a pitcher to stop the scoring but was unsuccessful. The five pitchers that came to the mound in game one for the Rebels and had an average ERA of 3.51.

However, the most troubling statistic for the Rebels was the number of runners left on base. In three separate innings, Ole Miss had bases loaded, and each time, left all runners on base. The Rebels had 14 hits, leaving 13 runners on base, and only scoring three runs. Ole Miss had no problem hitting, but struggled to score. The Rebels dropped game one to the Razorbacks,

Game Two

Game Two started off almost identical to the first, though the Rebels seemed more enthusiastic. Head coach Mike Bianco compared Game one to being "punched in the mouth." It was clear the Rebels weren't going to allow that again.

Junior Doug Nikhazy started on the mound and did what he does best: disrupt. Nikhazy pitched for 5.2 innings with seven strikeouts and seven hits for four runs. The Razorbacks failed to score for four innings, and when they did, Ole Miss was already out of



PHOTOS: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS/

ABOVE: Peyton Chatagnier dives to tag out Arkansas's No. 8 at second base.

RIGHT: Jackson Kimbrell pitches in the third game of the Arkansas series on Sunday, April 11.

"I think one of the big roles of a starting pitcher is to put up zeros but to also create energy in the dugout," Nikhazy said. "The message interpreted by myself was to go out there and stay in the fight no matter what happens. I tip my cap to them. They're very aggressive."

headed into the bottom of the eighth. Showing no mercy, Ole Miss added five more runs and extended their lead to seven. Kevin Graham, Hayden



Dunhurst, Bench and John Rhys Plumlee helped to add insurance runs, making it an easy close for pitcher Taylor Broadway. The Rebels beat the Razorbacks 13-6 in the second game of the doubleheader.

Attendance in both doubleheader games was in the top five highest in program history.

Game Three

Looking for the series win on Sunday, Ole Miss started sophomore Derek Diamond on the mound.

Uncharacteristically, Diamond gave up two home runs early and left the game after only 1.1 innings. Freshman Josh Mallitz entered the game only to give up five more runs, making it 10-0 in the second. Mallitz lasted 1.1 innings before sophomore Wes Burton came in and closed out the in-

The Rebels' luck turned toward the better in the third inning after a Cael Baker walk, a Jacob Gonzalez double and an RBI single by Peyton Chatagnier. Ole Miss steadily closed the deficit to 14-14 at the end of the seventh inning. Unfortunately, Arkansas tacked on four more runs to win the series.

outplayed The Rebels Arkansas 14-13 in hits but walked 17 Razorbacks, which ultimately cost them the game. Bianco was ejected from the final game but reflected on the resilience his team showed while making a coming back. Bianco also made it clear that the pitching in game three needed to be improved.

"I lost my composure. I will say I am proud of (the team)," Bianco said. "You're down 11o, and it didn't look good. It's human nature to concede and our guys didn't do that ... You walk 17 guys and hit two. I can't remember a day that we were that bad on the mound."

Meanwhile, Ole Miss fans set a program record for series attendance with 33,423 fans in attendance this weekend.

The Rebels led 8-6 as they

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Ole Miss wins midweek matchup against Austin Peay

RUBY DRAAYER

thedmsports@gmail.com

No. 6 Ole Miss handled Austin Peay easily in their midweek game on Tuesday after seven innings.

The Rebels were coming off of a series loss to Arkansas, their second SEC series loss this season. The series loss knocked them out of the top 5 rankings for the first time this season.

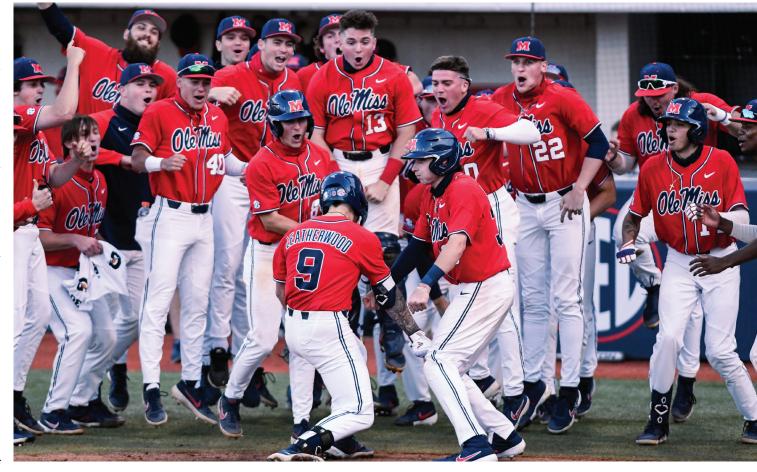
For their first game after the heartbreaking loss to Arkansas, Ole Miss dominated the visiting Governors. Senior Tyler Myers got the start against Austin Peay and pitched three innings, giving up one run that came from a solo home run. Following Myers, freshman pitcher Jack Dougherty made his collegiate debut. Dougherty struck out five of the six batters he faced and looks to be a key member of the bullpen for years to come.

"It's a great story and it happens like that sometimes. You just don't know how you're going to use them," Bianco said. "Hand it to (Dougherty), just proud of him. He's put on weight in the weight room. He's continued to work hard."

The Austin Peay Governors were the first to get on the board with a solo home run into left field on the second pitch of the game. Myers wasted no time with his response and quickly ended the inning with three straight strikeouts. The Rebels were then up to bat, scoring three runs in the first inning to retake the lead.

The shining offensive star of the game was senior Cael Baker. Baker went 4-for-4 on the night, with a career-high six RBIs. Baker also had a home run against the Governors. Following the game, Bianco remarked on Baker's improvements with being on time with his fastballs and staying productive even with two strikes.

"Really just been working on



tracking the ball," Baker said.
"It's been up and down, but it
was nice to get out there (and)
play."

Freshmen Jacob Gonzalez and TJ McCants, and sophomore Peyton Chatagnier were a huge help with the 13-1 win over the Governors. Gonzalez finished 3-for-4 on the day and added two RBIs. McCants and Chatagnier continued their dominance at the plate, each adding two hits. Gonzalez and McCants extended their hitting streak to 12 consecutive games. Junior Kevin Graham also extended his on-base streak to a consecutive 26 games.

The Rebels will take on Mississippi State in Starkville this weekend with a change to their pitching lineup. Sophomore Drew McDaniel will replace sophomore Derek Diamond for the third game of the series.



PHOTOS: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS

TOP: The team celebrates after a home run by Hayden Leatherwood.

ABOVE: Doug Nikhazy pitches against Arkansas.

LEFT: Fans cheer following a high-scoring inning in the third game of Ole Miss's series against Arkansas.



Track and field to compete in Tom Jones Classic

BARRETT FREEMAN

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The Ole Miss track and field program is heading to Gainesville, Florida this weekend to compete in the Tom Jones Classic hosted by the University of Florida. After home meets the past two weekends, the Rebels are looking to build on some outstanding performances that were showcased in Oxford.

The Ole Miss track and field teams competed this past weekend at the Joe Walker Invite held in Oxford. The Rebels walked away with numerous victories and records. The Rebels performance was encapsulated by All-American senior Waleed Suliman qualifying for the Olympic Trialstrials in the 1500-meter

Suliman showcased his talents by recording a time of 3:36.53 in the 1500-meter race. His personal best led to not only a first-place victory, but also an Olympic trials qualifying time. Suliman is the first American to break the Olympic Trial standard and ranks second in the NCAA with his performance. Suliman's time earned him the new Ole Miss facility record previously held by Olympian Alistair Cragg of Arkansas. Suliman now moves up to second all time in Ole Miss 1500-meter history.

Results from the Joe Walker Invite include Suliman's facility record and first-place victory in the 1500-meter race. Junior Allen Gordon had an impressive outing by sweeping every jumps event on the mMen's side. Meanwhile, senior Kieshonna Brooks helped the wWomen's sprinters gain four first-placefirst place victories over the weekend.

Gordon jumped high and far in every direction this past weekend. The All-American won the high jump with a height of 2.11m (6-11.00). In the triple jump, Gordon he added a personal record with a jump of 15.29m/50-02.00 (+1.0). Gordon's leap moves him to 13th-best in the Ole Miss record books.

The senior Kieshonna Brooks won the 100-meter hurdles with her time of 13.59 (+1.3). This was her season-bestseason best and an impressive way to finish her final performance at the

Ole Miss Track & Field Complex. Brooks also helped get a first-placefirst place finish in the women's 4x100-meter relay with fellow teammates Jayda Eckford, Brandee Presley, and Toni Glatz.

The Rebels saw other outstanding performances with the wWomen's 4x400-meter relay running a time of 3:45.81 and earning first place. Freshman Olivia Womack ran a personal recordPR of 11.88 in the 100-meter dash to add another sprinting title for the Rebels. Sophomore Mario Garcia Romo ran his own personal recordPR in the 1500-meter race (3:37.17) which currently ranks third3rd in the NCAA. In the mMen's dDecathlon, freshman Pierce Genereux took home first place with a total of 5815 points.

The Rebels will need to continue their excellent season with stiff competition waiting for them in Gainesville. The Rebels will meet on travel on to the Tom Jones with events continuing all day Saturday, April 17. Field events begin on Friday at 2:00 p.m.P.M and running events will begin at 6:00 p.m. P.M.



FILE PHOTO: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Classic on Friday, April 16, The Ole Miss track and field program is heading to Gainesville, Florida, this weekend to compete in the Tom Jones Classic hosted by the University of Florida Gators.



STATE continued from page 1

three innings against the No. 2 team is a death sentence for most teams, but to everyone's surprise, Ole Miss fought back to even the score at 14-14.

Ole Miss ended up losing the game 18-14. This is a key example of games that will haunt you when it comes time for postseason rankings. Had they had won, the Rebels would be No.1 in the country and lead the SEC.

Starting off 6-o in conference play was a huge relief for Ole Miss and allowed for a little bit of breathing room, if you will. Sweeping an SEC team at home is one thing, but doing it on the road is a whole different ball game. Now that they are 8-4 in conference play, the Rebels will need to handle business down in Starkville with a series win at minimum. Mississippi State is a fantastic program with an allaround great team.

Mike Bianco announced the new starting pitchers for this series with a change to Sunday's lineup. Sophomore pitcher Drew McDaniel will now replace Diamond, along with unchanged juniors Gunnar Hoglund and Doug Nikhazy.

In order for Ole Miss to win out in this series, and all of the rest of them, there will be a very slim margin of error. The batting needs to be handled in every single inning, and when there is an opportunity for runs to score, you cannot waste it - especially against a top-5 team.

Starting time for the Rebels' battle against instate rival Mississippi State starts on Friday, at 6 p.m..

The Rebels battled against No. 2 Arkansas last weekend, but they were only able to come away with one win. In the previous weekend, the Rebels traveled to take on No. 5 Florida in Gainesville and managed just one win.

Rebels prepare for weekend series versus A&M

BARRETT FREEMAN

thedmsports@gmail.com

The Ole Miss softball team (25-17, 8-7) will travel to face Texas A&M (26-11, 5-7) in a clash of SEC foes this weekend, April 16-

The team will look to bounce back after a series win last weekend against South Carolina. The Rebels started out the Friday game strong, beating the Gamecocks 8-o in five innings. It was a tight battle for the first four innings as the Rebels only held a one-point lead. In the top of the fourth and fifth inning, the bats got hot, and the team scored seven unanswered to force the game to be called early.

Junior Savannah Diederich was electric on the mound, putting on her best career pitching show allowing only one hit and throwing seven strikes.

The next day on Saturday, the team didn't let up and took the series, winning 8-5. Going into the bottom of the fourth inning, the outlook was shaky as South Carolina was up by two. Sophomore Paige Smith started things off by getting on first by taking a hit omi Jones kept things going with a bunt, and then Senior Sydney Guiterrez slammed the ball to left field to get two Rebels home to tie

That wasn't enough for the Senior Gabby Alvarez though, as she decided to put the game out of reach with a three-run hit that sealed the victory for the Rebels.

With the series already decided, the Rebels dropped the Sunday finale 10-1, but their weekend performance was enough to continue the high hopes for the team's season

In other news for the softball team, the SEC league announced its SEC honors of the week with freshman Blaise Biringer earning SEC Freshman of the Week. The rookie posted a .545 average during a week of three wins and one loss for the Rebels. Birringer tallied six hits while driving in three runs and scoring three.

Biringer's big break came during the Central Arkansas game on Tuesday, April 6, where the Rebels won 4-1 during their



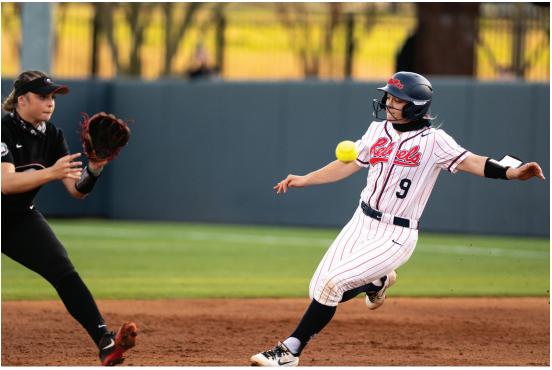
from the pitch. Sophomore Ny- In the last game of the weekend series against South Carolina on April 11, Abbey Latham put the Rebels on the board with a solo home run.

midweek matchup. The freshman hit a ball down the left-field and became the first Rebel player with an inside-the-park home run since alumni did Kylan Becker during the NCAA Oxford Region-

During the weekend series against the South Carolina Gamecocks, Biringer went 4-for-8 and helped the Rebels with their 2-for-3 win for their eighth consecutive home victory against a conference team.

Scouting the Aggies for this weekend's series, the Aggies dropped the series against Auburn during the weekend of April 9-11. In game one, the Aggies lost 6-2. However, the second day meant victory, as the Aggies posted a 4-1 win to rally back to tie the series. The Aggies lost their momentum on the final day of the series and posted a 3-1 loss to Au-

The Rebels will return to the diamond this weekend at Texas A&M with the first pitch on Friday, April 16 at 6 p.m.



FILE PHOTO: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Paige Smith prepares to slide into second base in a game against Georgia.



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ACROSS

- 6- Former Russian rulers; 11- Paris possessive: 14- Blast from the past;
- 15- Up; 16- Metal container;
- 17- Umbilicus; 18- Ornate:
- 20- Hydrocarbon suffix:
- 21- Final: 23- Fuel transport
- 24- Churns up; 26- Seaport on San
- Francisco Bay; 28- Relaxina: 30- Give consent:
- 31- Jargon; 32- Hue; 33- Vigor;
- 36- Cutty 37- Termagant;
- 38- Mal de 39- Jazz trombonist
- 40- Castle water nits: 41- English royal house: 42- Animal life:
- 43- Wide of the mark: 44- Try;
- 47- Unpaid; 48- Composer Ned;

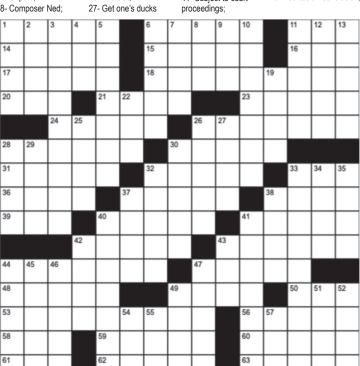
- 50- Pay stub?; 53- Process of forming conclusions; 56- Intolerant person;
- 58- Dadaist Jean; 59- Outer coat of a seed; 60- Singer Frankie;
- 61- Grads-to-be: 62- Macho guys; 63- Host;
- DOWN

1- Sharpen;

- 2- Gusto: 3- Opponent;
- 4- Go head to head:
- 5- Shouting; 6- Long lock of hair;
- 7- Riverbank component; 8- Al Jolson's real first
- name; 9- Graycoat;
- 10- Variety of pool; 11- Milan's La
- 12- Devoured; 13- Dummy Mortimer;
- 19- Irritate: 22- Math subj.;
- 25- Hog sound; 26- Leers at;
- 28- Canadian gas brand;
- 29- Banned apple spray; 30- Trunk line:
- 32- Repeat rhythmically; 33- Pertaining to teaching; 46- Snares; 34- School founded in
- 1440 35- Like a minx;
- 37- Liquid food; 38- Go sour:
- 40- Enormous: 41- Subject to court
- 43- She's a she: 44- Tapestry;

SOLUTION TO 4.8.21 PUZZLE

- 45- Start of a saying on forgiveness;
- 47- Church instrument;
 - 49- Start the pot; 51- Single; ___ (perfectly): 52- To
- 54- Society page word; 55- Belief:



Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com (www.bestcrosswords.com). Used with permission.

UM's Ramsey Davis earns SEC Freshman of the Week



Ramsey Davis steals the ball away form a Mississippi State player earlier this season. The Rebels lost to State 0-1.

KELBY ZENDEJAS

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For the second consecutive week, an Ole Miss Rebel earned SEC Freshman of the Week. Ramsey Davis earned the honor this week, and Price Loposer earned last week's SEC Defensive Player of the Week honor. Davis scored her third collegiate goal against South Alabama on Saturday, which garnered her the honor, and the Rebels won against South Alabama 3-0, earning an overall record of 10-5.

Davis's energy off the bench helped lead the Rebels to shoot 20 or more shots for the third consecutive match,

while Davis's goal in the 84th minute also contributed to the overall win against the South Alabama Jaguars. This honor is the freshman's first SEC honor of her career.

The Rebels put up goals from sophomore Mo O'Connor in the 13th minute with the second goal hitting the net from junior Haleigh Stackpole and senior Molly Martin. Davis's goal lifted the Rebels even higher in their win, and she helped rebound senior Madisyn Pezzino's shot attempt, putting the ball into the upper-90 of the net.

Davis's third goal of her career adds to the second goal for the spring season with the

first goal coming from the Vanderbilt game on Nov. 7. Davis is also the third Rebel soccer player to earn an SEC honor during this spring season as both Loposer and Stackpole earned an honor already. Pezzino earned an SEC honor on Nov. 2, which totals to four honors for the Rebels this season.

The four honors are the most so far in a single season in program history.

The Rebels will bring their energy to the upcoming exhibition game against the Little Rock Trojans this Thursday, April 15 for the last spring season match. The game is set for a 4 p.m. kickoff.

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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.

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OPINION

Debunking and debriefing: a farewell from a cynical editor

ELIZA NOE

thedmopinion@gmail.com

When DM editors leave, they usually write around 700 words about how much they love the University of Mississippi and how thankful they are for the Student Media Center. While I absolutely share those sentiments, I have decided to spare you of my sob story, and instead, I'll use my last column to clear up a few misconceptions about The Daily Mississippian.

Everyone who works at the DM is an actual human being and a student at UM.

I know this sounds obvious, but you would be very surprised with how many people (especially burner accounts) legitimately believe we're "Satanic perverts," "Godless liberals," "fear mongers," "repulsive" and "going to end up in (our) parents' basements." In reality, we are tired college students — just like you or your children — trying to do good work, graduate on time and finish our homework.

Part of the job of working at the DM is facing backlash when we report on things people don't like or see as "bad news." I have been called every curse word under the sun, had angry parents call the Student Media Center about stories I have written and have dealt with lawyers threatening to sue me and my coworkers. It's all part of the job, and we've dedicated arguably too much time to sharing the funniest and most ridiculous comments we have received.

That being said, if you are an administrator that feels the need to "clap back" against the student newspaper instead of answering inquiries for the stories you claim to disagree with, I have no sympathy for the "bad press" you receive. I promise that the effort you put into those public criticisms is more embarrassing for you than it is for me.

We do publish positive stories in the DM, actually.

One of the biggest criticisms the DM receives is that we don't publish any good or positive stories. If you would actually keep up with coverage besides what outrage you see on Twitter, you would know that we publish several "positive" or neutral stories in the DM every week — with the same objectivity we use in our "negative" ones. I would not particularly say that the DM is the voice of the students, but rather a mirror of campus that reflects what is actually happening here. We don't fluff up reality in order to boost enrollment. However, if you are looking to ignore the problems happening right in front of you and care more for positive stories, I encourage you to read

theses stories on our website: "Masks for meals: Local girl starts business for charity," "UM hosts first food truck festival," and "Ole Miss soccer's Ramsay Davis earns SEC Freshman of the Week."

I am not a public relations figurehead. It has never been my job to publish "happy" stories that promote UM, and it has never been my job to be liked — by administrators or even other students who do not like what we publish. It is our job as journalists to call out wrongdoing and shed light on systemic issues that seem to perpetually plague UM, even after attempts at social progress. This, in particular, moves us into my next point.

There is a difference between op-eds and news.

Coming into this position, I didn't expect that around 60% of our audience would not be media literate, but that seems to be true. According to Merriam-Webster, opinion is defined as "a view, judgment or appraisal formed in the mind about a particular matter." Our opinion columnists — who are not allowed to produce content outside of the opinion section — have views that I and the DM staff do not agree with. Their columns are not news, and our news is not opinion.

I have had to bite my tongue many times when editing and publishing particularly fiery opinions because that is all that they are: opinions. Though many seem to ignore our weekly disclaimer that is published in every print issue of the DM, the concept of individuality is still lost among many thoughtful readers. In case you need a refresher, here is the official policy regarding the publication of op-eds and letters to the editor:

Columns do not represent the views of the University of Mississippi or The Daily Mississippian. The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor, which should be emailed to dmletters@olemiss. edu. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. They may be edited for clarity, brevity and libel. Third-party letters and those with pseudonyms or no name will not be published. Letters are limited to one per individual per month. Letters should include contact information, including relationship to the university, if applicable.

We do love the University of Mississippi.

This is probably the biggest myth I'm going to debunk. Are there times where I am extremely frustrated with the lack of transparency at UM? Yes. Do I think we still have miles to go in order to have true equality and equity among the many identities and communities that make up the entire UM community? Also, yes. Is the DM going to call out those

inequalities whenever it can? Yes. Does that mean that we, as a staff and as individuals, hate the university? Absolutely not.

I am a third-generation Ole Miss Rebel that grew up only an hour away from Oxford. I still vaguely remember Colonel Reb at football games and listening to "From Dixie, With Love" in the Grove. I am very familiar with the culture and traditions that have hurt the students and community that UM has claimed to have loved and cared for.

I've watched this place get rid of a Confederate monument, but there is still so much room for it to grow. I am an adamant believer that The Daily Mississippian can help facilitate that growth through honest and brave reporting.

This university has given me so much — funding for an education, experience that I'm carrying into the workplace and a community of people that I'll cherish forever. I promised you in the lede that I wouldn't get too emotional, so I'll wrap it up here. Hotty Toddy and go to hell, LSU.

Eliza Noe is a senior journalism major from Amory and the outgoing editor-in-chief of The Daily Mississippian. Maddy Quon will take over as editor-in-chief the 2021-2022 school year.

MLB is wrong to move the All-Star game out of Atlanta

KATHERINE BROTEN

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"Democrats praise our national pastime while Republicans decry corporate power" sounds like a satirical headline from The Onion circa 2011. However, as we have come to expect, 2021 has already proven itself to be a year of surprises.

Two weeks ago, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed a bill into law that many activists and voting rights watchdogs say unfairly targets Black Georgians while restricting access to the ballot on the whole. Among other things, the bill limits absentee voting, reduces voting periods for run-off elections and even makes handing water to those waiting in line to vote a felony if done with the intention of soliciting votes.

In response to this reprehensible and anti-democratic legislation, Major League Baseball announced this week that it would be moving the much-anticipated All-Star game out of Atlanta out of respect for "the voting rights for all Americans." The removal of the

game comes at the price of an estimated \$100 million to the local economy and the potential loss of thousands of jobs.

I fail to see this as the great win for voting rights that many within the Democratic Party claim it is. The MLB's decision and subsequent praise from the left is the newest manifestation of America's longstanding tradition of scapegoating the South for all of its social issues.

If large corporations truly cared about voting rights, where is the private sector outcry about Iowa's new omnibus bill that mimics Georgia's legislation almost word for word? What "commitment to voting rights" did the MLB espouse when a bill was introduced in the Arizona state legislature earlier this year that would potentially prohibit 3.2 million Arizonians from early voting?

The reality is that these companies could care less about access to the ballot box. I hate to agree with Gov. Kemp, but actions like the MLB's recent withdrawal amount to nothing more than cor-

porate virtue signaling with profit incentives attached. Perhaps the worst part of this performative activism is that Southerners once again serve as the easiest target.

The people who are hurt by the moving of the All-Star game are not Georgia's GOP legislators or Gov. Kemp. On the contrary, it's the overwhelmingly Black Atlanta population that is depending upon the return of tourism like baseball to rescue the city from the economic devastation of the pandemic.

As long as Americans can point to the South as a problem that needs to be solved and as long as our national racial anxiety is affixed to one region, we as a nation are able to avoid doing the difficult work of truly combating systemic prejudice.

I know that you've seen the look of pity and patronization when you tell your liberal friend from up north that you live in Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama or anywhere south of the Mason-Dixon line. To many, we are a land full of rednecks and racists, uneducated

hillbillies and Klan members.

Never mind that Mississippi has more Black elected officials than any other state in the nation. Never mind that a staggering 76% of Fulton County residents, which encompasses Atlanta, voted for Joe Biden over Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election. These Southerners don't matter, and they are rarely mentioned beyond stereotypes. They are made collateral damage in the name of corporate greed disguised as activism.

To be clear, Georgia's new law is draconian and reminiscent of Jim Crow. However, while racism is certainly present in the South, it is not exclusive to it. It's easier to divest from an area, to simply move away, than to root out the underlying causes of its issues and examine the ways in which we all might contribute to them.

We cannot abandon and isolate our way out of bias, prejudice and oppression. The solution is just the opposite. As Sen. Raphael Warnock, the first Black Senator from Georgia, said last week, "We can protest this law not by leaving Georgia but by coming here and fighting voter suppression headon and hand-in-hand with the community."

Katie Broten is a sophomore majoring in public policy leadership and economics from Farmington, New Mexico.

Opinion Policies:

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