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THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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FILE PHOTO: REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Students react to verdict in Chauvin trial

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Former Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty on all counts in the death of George Floyd on April 20. This verdict comes 11 months after a video showing Chauvin kneeling on the neck of Floyd for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, while Floyd repeatedly said that he could not breathe.

The jury found Chauvin guilty

on 3 charges:

second-degree murder, which has a sentence of up to 40 years in prison

third-degree murder, which has a maximum of 25 years

second degree manslaughter, which has a sentence of up to 10 years

“The death of George Floyd served as a new inflection point in our nation’s pursuit of justice and equal treatment under the law,” Chancellor Glenn Boyce wrote in a statement to students. “As a

community, we stand in support of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all people working to create a more equitable, inclusive and safe world.”

University of Mississippi law professor Ronald Rychlak believes that “no one was left untouched” by the video of Floyd’s death.

According to Rychlak, the prosecution worked to separate Officer Derek Chauvin from “the

SEE CHAUVIN PAGE 3

No male sexual assault group therapy at UCC

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Group therapy is proving to be as effective as individual therapy, but is less accessible to male students at the University of Mississippi.

According to the descriptions of University Counseling Center (UCC) group therapy categories, group therapy is open to everyone, with the exception of sexual assault survivor support, intimate partner violence survivor support, feeding your feelings and creative healing for survivors of sexual assault which are for open for women only.

“Will,” a male sexual assault survivor that asked to remain anonymous, said he was at first unable to find any resources on campus. The fact that the group therapy for sexual assault survivors is advertised exclusively for women, while understandable, still made it feel like no one wanted to listen to him.

“I understand entirely that there’s a reason for there to be exclusive areas (for women) to talk about these things,

but just the fact that it’s only advertised towards women, especially in conjunction with the general sort of attitude that society has towards male survivors,” Will said. “What I’ve experienced on campus kept me from getting help for an extended period of time, just because I didn’t think anyone wanted to be there for me.”

Bud Edwards, director of the UCC, said part of its decision to have some groups open for women only is a result of what the people in the group need or demand.

“In intimate partner violence or in a survivor’s group, there’s too much of a safety issue,” Edwards said. “If a woman is in a group, and she has not gotten to a place where she’s comfortable sharing, or sort of having an emotional connection with a male because she was raped by a man, that really doesn’t lend itself to conduct a group activity now.”

While the UCC does offer thematic groups specifically for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, survi-

SEE UCC PAGE 3

‘The Sam Haskell Situation’



PHOTO COURTESY: ROBERT JONES / OLE MISS COMMUNICATIONS

When Sam Haskell was invited to host a zoom workshop for UM theater students, many objected on account of past controversial comments by Haskell.

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After students brought concerns to the theater department regarding a workshop with a controversial alumnus, faculty was quick to cancel the event altogether and create a committee that handles donors and guests. Despite being grateful for the cancellation, some students who were invited are still asking why it was scheduled in the first place.

What was the reason that

administrators planned for a group of majority female students to meet with an alumnus who had been exposed for sharing emails with misogynistic language? Some say money, and evidently, the alumnus himself was told a false reason for the event cancellation.

In February, one student reached out to The Daily Mississippian with concerns about why Sam Haskell was invited to speak and said others close to the situation felt the same way. The Daily Mississippian filed a public

records request to obtain emails from faculty members regarding how the decision was made.

Evident in the records, concerns about Haskell’s reputation were brought up early in discussions about the workshop, in the form of jokes and serious discussion, but it wasn’t until a student brought up his or her own problems with meeting Haskell that faculty members involved in planning the workshop became more concerned.

SEE HASKELL PAGE 2



LONG TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OXFORD FILM FEST SAYS HER GOODBYES

Melanie Addington retires from Oxford Film Festival after nearly two decades. The former Executive Director is moving on to spearhead Tall Grass Film Festival in Wichita, Kansas.

SEE PAGE 5



OLE MISS BASEBALL'S DOUG NIKHAZY GRABBED SEC AND NATIONAL HONORS

Ole Miss baseball’s left-handed pitcher Doug Nikhazy earned SEC Pitcher of the Week and National Player of the Week after his stellar performance against Mississippi State.

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HASKELL

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In 2017, Haskell exchanged email correspondence that fat-shamed and slut-shamed former Miss Americas. He called them misogynistic slurs, and in one case, he joked at the suggestion that one of the women should die. After these emails were highly publicized, Haskell called them “a mistake of words” and stepped down as CEO of the Miss America Corporation.

A Mississippi native, Haskell is often revered for his role in entertainment; he has produced several films with Dolly Parton and has worked with celebrities including Bill Cosby, George Clooney and Sela Ward. Starting in the mailroom at William Morris Agency and climbing to Worldwide Head of Television, he has since become a rags-to-riches story in his hometown of Amory, where the local high school sits at 1006 Sam Haskell Circle.

Haskell, who is also a heavily involved member of UM’s club of wealthy donors, has a star-studded resume that would — in any other case — excite students at the chance to work with him. However, after a quick Google search, students in the theater department, most of them women, were uncomfortable with meeting him.

On Jan. 21, students who are receiving a bachelor of fine arts degree in the department received an email about a free Zoom workshop with Haskell. For some students, the class was required, and it was set to begin at 9 a.m. on Jan. 30.

However, after “Rebecca,” a student in the theater department who asked to be anonymous because of Haskell’s connections in the entertainment industry, researched him, she and her classmates instantly opposed the workshop.

“We were like, ‘Hey, we just don’t think this is like a great idea. Like, it really just leaves like a bad taste in my mouth, and I think people are just going to be really hesitant to learn from him,’” she said.

Talks about scheduling the workshop began with associate director of development Rob Jolly on Nov. 18, and shortly after, Jan. 30 was chosen as the date of the Zoom meeting.

On Dec. 7, associate professor Alan Arivee sent an email to associate professor Michael Barnett that contained the first acknowledgement of Haskell’s past. Arivee brought up Haskell’s email scandal again on Jan. 21, the same day that the workshop was announced to students. In this exchange, he sent similar messages to Barnett and associate professor Rory Ledbetter on separate threads and inquired about whether or not money is the reason for scheduling the event.

He wrote, “All joking aside, I do still have concerns about promoting Sam Haskell to students. The emails that he sent in relation to the Miss America pageant, initially published

by the Huffington Post have certainly not been forgotten by the industry, despite his ability to continue producing. He resigned as CEO of the Miss America Organization over it. I will not mention this to my students, but I would certainly understand if one or two decided not to take part because of that scandal. Is it possible we’re hoping he’ll give the department money?”

“Okay, I don’t mean to be negative, but I had to plainly bring all this up. That was in 2017, not too long ago. My own personal opinion is that Sam Haskell is pretty despicable. I don’t want to get in the way of any plans to use his considerable fortune to promote the good we’re doing, however.”

In response, Barnett said he would be happy to find a time to discuss Arivee’s concerns in the future. Arivee did not respond to a request for comment.

Just five days after the department sent its initial email announcing the workshop, the first student reached out to Ledbetter with concerns about meeting with Haskell. Ledbetter also did not respond to a request for comment at the time of publication.

“I assume you guys didn’t see any of (the controversial language Haskell and his colleagues had made), but I just wanted to let you know some of us are uncomfortable with hearing from him, especially when our department is mostly women,” one student, whose

“I understand that money is an important part of running a university, but then when you look at the Creed, Sam Haskell as an alumni does not follow the terms of the Creed..”

-Rebecca
Theatre student who wished to remain anonymous

name was redacted, sent to Ledbetter on Jan. 26.

In one response to a student, whose name was also redacted, Ledbetter writes that the department had no part in initiating talks with Haskell and that it was assumed that the workshop was created in order to bring in money for the theater department.

“When the UM Foundation approached us about having a workshop with Sam in the hopes of nudging him to build a scholarship fund for students and potentially contribute to a new theater building, we decided that a workshop wouldn’t hurt anything and it may be useful for everyone to hear about the industry from someone who had been a high-profile agent,” Ledbetter replied.

Ledbetter also said that those involved in planning the event were aware of the “Miss America situation” and thought there had been enough atonement on Haskell’s part for the department to reach out. He added that the department in no way condones Haskell’s behavior.



PHOTO COURTESY: WALT DISNEY TELEVISION VIA FLICKR

Sam Haskell faced criticism in 2017 for a series of highly publicized misogynistic emails that he sent to former Miss Americas.

“My hesitancy in (not leading with Haskell’s controversial past) was based on a desire to not immediately skew students’ perception of him before hearing what he might have to say,” Ledbetter wrote.

Shortly after students sent complaints regarding the workshop to faculty and administrators, the department held a town hall with faculty and students at 5 p.m. on Jan. 27 to listen to concerns about

and speakers in an effort to ensure that a collection of representative voices are included in the process from the outset.”

Barnett also said that the department aims to provide an environment where students can share their viewpoints.

However, Jolly, who was the main correspondent in arranging the workshop, told Haskell a different story.

Jolly told Haskell that the workshop was canceled because most of the students had contracted COVID-19, not because they were upset with hosting Haskell.

“Michael Barnett contacted me this evening about Saturday’s workshop. Unfortunately, he communicated that many students planning to participate in Saturday’s ZOOM are presently ill with COVID,” Jolly wrote. “Apparently, the virus is impacting the students in Michael’s department at a high rate. Although the affected students can still participate in the workshop remotely, Michael’s fear is that many will simply be too sick to actively participate and really engage with you.”

Jolly then asked Haskell to potentially reschedule the workshop to take place during the fall 2021 semester. He then reached out to Barnett, writing that “all is good,” and that the workshop would be rescheduled. Jolly did not respond to a request for comment.

“I think the question was more like, why is the university attaching our name to him and why are we accepting his money?” Rebecca said. “I understand that money is an important part of running a university, but then when you look at the Creed, Sam Haskell as an alumni does not follow the terms of the Creed. If we’re going to stick to that, we should uphold that to our alumni, too.”

Like Rebecca, “Ashley” is another student in the theater department who asked to be anonymous. She believes canceling the masterclass was

the right decision, but the idea that the class would occur in the first place was shocking to her.

“The fact that the department was considering it was very hurtful,” she said. “Yes, I guess you can change your ways; maybe you can be a better person, but I’m a woman. I’m going to be working in the theater industry and in the art industry. There are so many issues with men treating women with a lot of disrespect and sexual misconduct. The situation with him, to me, minimizes the issue of white men being in management positions and not treating women equally.”

The workshop also came with the possibility of scholarships given to the theater program. For what one student called a “struggling” department, money for students would have been a great opportunity. To some students, the department was in a “tough spot” in choosing whether or not to forego potential money for students. In the end, students said, the faculty chose to side with its students.

“I remember thinking if I ever owned a theater company, or if I ever worked for one, would I accept money from someone like him? The answer is just no,” Ashley said. “I want to uplift women. That is not what he stands for, and so that was very unsettling.”

Still, the Gertrude C. Ford Center’s main theater — where students have had many performances — bears his name, a fact that students in the theater department call “very uncomfortable.”

“The question that we brought up is if (Haskell’s email scandal) happened today in 2020, would that situation be different than when it happened in 2017?” Ashley said. “There are a lot of donors that are problematic at the university, and I totally understand that. People always talk about how hard it is for (progress) to happen because of donors and what donors want.”

UCC

continued from page 1

Survivors don't always end up in a sexual assault support group. "In my general therapy groups, I've had both men and women who are (sexual assault) survivors," Edwards said. "It's one of those things where the group process itself is generalizable across to a bunch of different kinds of groups."

Edwards said that while there is no group specifically for male sexual assault survivors right now, if the need for one arose, the counseling center would provide one.

"If we got a semester where we had a group of young men who are survivors, who wanted a group experience and obviously could fit together in the schedule, we'd offer that in a minute," Edwards said.

Edwards said that he has made an effort to make group therapy a focal point of the



ILLUSTRATION BY: MICAH CRICK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

counseling center's treatment process because it's part of his academic background.

"I tell my staff all the time, 'if you can find a group of students who will meet or run a group for a while, we'll figure out the logistics and details,'" Edwards said. "I think my staff didn't believe me at first,

but I've worked with them over the years to try to help them really embrace the idea of groups as a primary treatment modality."

Will said that he is now in counseling with the UCC on a one-on-one basis, and attributes it to his friends continuously telling him he needs

to talk to someone about his experience. However, he feels that sometimes talking to just one person isn't enough for him.

"I feel like (a group setting) would help. There's a lot of loneliness and being a victim you feel like you're the only one out of anyone. So, kind of being stuck with just one-on-one therapy, sort of, exacerbates that thought that, 'Oh, well I'm here with no one else because no one else wants me,'" Will said. "It's also seeing things advertised specifically as just for women. It made me feel like, 'Maybe I'm a bad person. That's why they don't want me to be in that group.'"

Leon Hoffman, a clinical psychologist, said he prefers to do one-on-one therapy before moving someone to group therapy. However, once he moves a patient into a group, he models his combined therapy approach after normal life, and emphasizes

the importance of people interacting with each other.

"People usually live their life out in groups. They don't just hang on to one individual," Hoffman said.

Will said speaking with a counselor individually is helpful in terms of talking about his experience and trauma, but he also wishes he could talk with other people that understand what he went through. Despite loving and trusting his friends, he feels like talking to them about his experience would put undue pressure on them..

"It's one of those things like you talk with people who you know and you love but at the end of the day, none of them really know what to do and or say. You can be there and you can say, 'Oh, I'm so sorry.' A lot of people I know just don't know exactly how to respond," Will said. "They're there, but sometimes that's all they can be."

CHAUVIN

continued from page 1

police," ultimately painting him as the bad guy who deviated from accepted police practices." The defense, on the other hand, tried to argue that Chauvin was acting within departmental guidelines.

"The problem for the defense was that the people who wrote the guidelines said that he was not acting within them. So, the

jury went with the prosecution and their witnesses," Rychlak said.

Many students at the university feel that this verdict is a stepping stone towards justice in the country, but some students also believe that the country has a long way to go.

"The system that caused George Floyd to get killed in the first place is still operating with limited reform since his murder," Sydney Rehm, a freshman international studies major, said.

"This is a happy occasion, and should be celebrated as such, but it is overshadowed by the mountain of work left to do to actively combat racist and violent practices in law enforcement."

For some students, the verdict in Chauvin's trial shows that the justice system is working in the right direction.

"The fact that he was actually found guilty is a great step towards justice," De'Arrius Rhymes, a senior chemistry major, said. "It's the starting point for building confidence in our justice system."

For other students, this was the "satisfying ending" that the nation needed.

"Justice is served," Issac Randle, a freshman accounting major, said. "Karma always comes around for the bad."

Sophomore integrated marketing communications major Alexis Willingham said while she was happy to see George Floyd and his family receive justice, she was confused as to why it took almost a year for that justice to come.

"I do believe that the recent verdict of Derek Chauvin is a good start at holding policemen accountable for their crimes,



FILE PHOTO: KATHERINE BUTLER / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Students head down Grove Loop and towards the Circle during the Black History Month march on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

but obviously there needs to be more," Willingham said. "America will not be a truly free country until justice is served for everyone."

According to CNN, Minnesota's sentencing guidelines recommend about 12.5 years in prison for each murder charge and about four years for the manslaughter charge, but the state has asked for a tougher

sentence. Chauvin's sentencing is set for eight weeks from now. He will remain in jail until his sentencing, as bail was revoked.

"I'm going to put up a fight everyday because I'm not just fighting for George anymore, but I'm fighting for everyone around this world," Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother said. "Today, we're able to breathe again."

Correction

A front page story in last week's newspaper incorrectly stated that Chancellor Glenn Boyce and his office had declined interviews with The Daily Mississippian for over a year and a half. Former editor-in-chief Daniel Payne interviewed Chancellor Boyce on May 5, 2020, but did not write an article about it. Current editors were unaware Payne interviewed the chancellor. The interview was requested in March 2020, and it did not take place until May during finals week, after Payne's year as editor-in-chief was over.

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When it is decided that The Daily Mississippian will take an editorial stance on an issue, the following positions will make decisions as the Editorial Board: editor-in-chief, managing editor, copy chief, sports editor and opinion editor.



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2020-2021 yearbooks available at the Student Union

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The 125th edition of “The Ole Miss” will be distributed at the Student Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until April 23.

Titled “Silver Linings,” this year’s yearbook focuses on the positive aspects of the year, while also highlighting the devastations and hardships that the university community experienced throughout the pandemic.

Asia Harden, editor-in-chief, noted the hardships faced by

herself and the editorial staff when creating content for the yearbook.

“Starting off, things were a little slow. We hired editors later than usual and got our teams together later than usual,” Harden said. “But really, everyone was just super creative and ready for the challenge.”

The yearbook staff worked mostly via phone call or Zoom this semester due to COVID-19 protocols, but it was still able to produce the yearbook by focusing on individuals rather than large groups.

“I think that really helped

give our yearbook a more unique feel, but also helped us to fill up the pages,” Harden said.

After two online semesters, Harden hopes that having a physical copy of the yearbook will help students feel closer together.

“I definitely think it will help us put this year into perspective,” Harden said. “It will bring us closer together and help us realize that this was a year where people had to lean on each other.”

Students must present a valid student ID to receive a yearbook. For students who were



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

UM students are able to pick up “The Ole Miss” yearbook until April 23 at the Student Union.

enrolled and paid tuition for the fall and spring semesters, the yearbook will be free. Students who have only paid for one semester will have to pay \$25 to

receive a yearbook. Non-students, law students and faculty or staff members will have to pay \$50.

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FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Mississippi is one of six states where excuses for absentee voting are required and early voting is not available to all.

MS ranked one of the most difficult states to vote in

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Mississippi ranked as one of the six lowest states nationally in a report the Center for Election Innovation -- a nonpartisan group -- released on how easy it is to vote in each state.

“The Center for Election Innovation & Research compiled current data from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, indicating whether the state offered mail voting to all voters or required a specific excuse and whether the state made in-person early voting available to all voters,” the report said.

The report ranked the states into three groups via color, with green being the state that offers both mail-in and in-person voting with no excuses. Yellow meant that voters must have an excuse for absentee voting but not in person. Red meant that an excuse is required to vote absentee, and early voting is not available for all voters.

Mississippi is one of six states in the red group, which represents the most difficult states to vote in.

“As legislators are moving forward with such regressive proposals, and citizens -- both individual and corporate -- are speaking out against these anti-democratic measures, there has been misinformation about which states are offering the easiest access to the ballot for eligible voters,” the report said.

The report also commended how secure the most recent presidential election was and how many high-ranking officials agreed that this past election was integral.

“We owe a debt to the public service of the nation’s election officials, who worked to ensure that all voters could vote conveniently and easily, even in a pandemic, while maintaining the security of the process,” the report said.

The report said the data is accurate as of April 12, 2021, for the next federal election in 2022.

'That's a wrap'

Long time Executive Director of Oxford Film Festival says her goodbyes

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Melanie Addington has been involved with the Oxford Film Festival for nearly 20 years and has decided it is time to pass the baton. While holding the title of Executive Director of the festival, Addington has enhanced the national reputation of the film festival and transformed it into a signature event for Lafayette County.

From a young age, Addington knew she had a deep love for film, but never thought that her life would revolve around the making of movies. According to Addington, the entire trajectory of her life has been changed by Oxford, MS. She graduated from California State University, San Marcos with a bachelor's in literature and writing with a minor in film. In her search for journalism programs, Addington discovered the University of Mississippi.

After less than a semester in the program, Addington shifted career paths and pursued a degree in higher education. Though journalism led her to Oxford, a love for the town implanted roots here.

"It's just a magical place. Everyone who has been here knows that," says Addington, "Oxford really gave me the opportunity to sort of grow as a person."

Addington has been involved with the Oxford Film Festival since the first year of its establishment. She first got involved with the festival in 2003 as an attendee. The next year she volunteered as a screener. In 2008, Addington

became the co-director of the festival and in 2015 was hired as executive director.

Addington said she has enjoyed helping grow filmmaking as a way to tell a personal story. She never imagined she would one day be running a film festival, but says it is the perfect job for her. For Addington, the festival has been a beautiful way of building a community and adding something new to Oxford.

"I think with any creative arts, hearing people telling stories, with independent film festivals especially, there's such a wide breadth of voices," says Addington, "it's not filtered down by corporate interests."

In her time with the Oxford Film Festival, she has helped establish the festival on a national scale and developed multiple opportunities for the community to get involved with film. These opportunities include the local drive-in, a kid filmmaking camp and film equipment that can be rented by students and the community.

Though she is leaving the Oxford Film Fest, she will be continuing her passion for film as the executive director of the Tall Grass Film Festival in Wichita, Kan. Addington

"It's just a magical place. Everyone who has been here knows that. Oxford really gave me the opportunity to sort of grow as a person."

- Melanie Addington
Former Executive Director of the Oxford Film Festival

says that she was not initially looking for a new job, but community. Due to the COVID-19

decided to go out on a whim and apply for the position. She loves the city and the festival, so when Addington was given the opportunity, she knew she had to take it.

"I've always felt that the Oxford Film Festival needs to stand on its own legs and not be tied to me because I've been involved for so long," Addington said.

Oxford Film Festival Publicist, John Wildman says that Addington has always made everyone that comes to Oxford feel welcome and included. He describes her stamina and dedication to what she does as unmatched. Wildman says that she is the glue of the festival and that her shoes will be difficult to fill once she is gone.

"People talk about a person saying they are the heart of something," says Wildman, "well, she has been the heart of the film festival, and the brains of the film festival. And every other body part you can imagine of the festival."

Wildman has been involved with the festival for the last six years, watching Addington build it into the statement it has become. He says that Addington is always thinking of a new, better way of doing things and is constantly wanting to give more to the



PHOTO COURTESY: MELANIE ADDINGTON

Melanie Addington decided to resign as Executive Director of the Oxford Film Fest after nearly 20 years of involvement in various positions.

pandemic, the Oxford Film Festival had to go virtual.

Addington wanted to give film lovers the chance to enjoy year-round programming, so she helped create an online platform for streaming movies. She went the extra mile and created a television-like network through the Oxford Film Festival website, for viewers to interact with. She extended the festival from a week to a couple of months and established the pop-up drive-ins for the community to enjoy. Wildman says she always has a plan, no matter the circumstances.

"Melanie has definitely brought creativity and relentlessness to the Oxford Film Fest. Those are both essential," Wildman said, "she has a very good sense of what

people would love to do and what they're interested in. She has really helped build up the filmmaking community."

Addington says that leaving Oxford will be difficult because of her love for the town and the film festival. Though she is leaving, Addington intends to visit often for some of her favorite events, including - of course -, the Oxford Film Fest. She recognizes Oxford as the place where she discovered what she is truly passionate about.

"I have had a wonderful experience with this community. I love so many people here," Addington said, "I really hope the community embraces the next executive director as much as they have me, and really show them why Oxford is so special."

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COLUMN

Can Ole Miss baseball find their footing in SEC play?

BARRETT FREEMAN

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As we sit halfway through league play, the Ole Miss baseball team (27-10, 9-6 SEC) has taken its fan base through a roller coaster of a season so far. Sound familiar? That's because pretty much every Ole Miss team ever can be summed up in the same way- it has its highs and lows, and at some points, fans question why they even got on in the first place. But hope keeps fans on the ride.

The Rebels started off the season strong by traveling to Texas and leaving as the kings of baseball. After going undefeated against three top 10 teams, the Rebels found themselves on the throne of the national baseball rankings at No. 1 in the nation. However, it was short-lived, as the next weekend the University of Central Florida came to town and took with them a series win and stripped away their top ranking. But things still looked good.

Ole Miss started out league



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss has suffered several losses to in-conference opponents, leaving questions about how the team will perform during the coming weeks and how they can improve.

play going undefeated against both Auburn and Alabama. The Rebels were 6-0 in the SEC and fiercely looked upon their gauntlet of a schedule.

Like all roller coasters, what goes up must come down. And for

the last three weeks, the Rebels haven't been able to clinch a series win against top-tier teams such as Florida, Arkansas, and Mississippi State. While these losses aren't necessarily detrimental to the team or season, there are still many unanswered questions that

need to be figured out if the Rebels are poised to make a deep season run to Omaha.

The bats have to get better, on Friday nights specifically:

Junior pitcher Gunnar Hoglund and projected first-round draft pick, is too good on the mound for the bats to be unable to help him out. Halfway through the season, Hoglund is averaging an ERA of 2.73 with 87 strikeouts. However, the Rebels have been unable to win their last three opening games with him pitching. If the bats could find their swing in the opening games and string together more runs early, Hoglund and the closer will have less to worry about.

Sunday pitching and depth woes:

With an impressive outing Sunday in his first start, freshman Drew McDaniel has secured a spot to start the third game off for the Rebels. McDaniel pitched an impressive game and gave the team a chance down the stretch, and hopefully will continue his momentum in his progression

as the season goes on. However, after him, the rest of our pitching crew gives Rebel Nation the most to be worried about. The Rebels lack the closer needed to come up big in close games.

Back to the Bats
Statistically, Ole Miss is one of the best teams at hitting the ball, both in the league and in the country. However, the lack of consistency and inability to strike early has caused the Rebels trouble in league play. Players like Cael Baker and Hayden Leatherwood, who struggled before finding their groove against State this past weekend, need to figure out a way to consistently get on base.

Credit to both Baker and Leatherwood, both seem to be finding their swing at the right time. If the majority of batters in the lineup can follow suit, the Omaha hopes will be alive and well for the Rebels.

Doug Days, beer showers, and right field bombs have been more than great, and the criticism only comes because we care.

Ole Miss football prepares for the annual Grove Bowl

RUBY DRAAYER

thedmsports@gmail.com

It's official. The Grove Bowl is back, and Lane Kiffin is the conductor.

Ole Miss football will conclude its spring football season with the Grove Bowl this weekend at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium. Head coach Lane Kiffin announced the format for the teams,

which are very similar to how previous scrimmages have gone.

The first-team offense and second-team defense will be on one team, while the second-team offense and first-team defense will be on another. After those positions were decided, the remaining players and staff were divided in a draft format. Kiffin mentioned that both the first-team offense and defense will face each other

during the game, but the format is still unclear.

This scrimmage marks the first time many of the players have ever been in front of a full capacity crowd and will also be the first time that Vaught-Hemingway Stadium has had more than 25% capacity in almost two years. There hasn't been immense pressure or full capacity stadiums of fans cheering. The Grove Bowl is expected to bring in a huge crowd this weekend and could be a way to narrow down lineups before fall camp later in the summer.

"I think the only difference is just to see if kids get nervous. It's a little more like a game, obviously, with some crowd and more build-up to it, anxiety," Kiffin said in a press conference.. "So, I think that sometimes you can see that with guys you haven't played before to see how (they perform). Some guys just play better in an atmosphere like that, and some guys struggle. I think that's the difference."

While the spring game is usu-



PHOTO COURTESY: JOSHUA MCCOY / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss football prepares to bring back the Grove Bowl scrimmage game April 24.

ally a great way to understand what the next season will look like, it will be harder to grasp what lineups will look like come September, due to the large amounts of injuries on the team. Each position group is struggling, but the offense has specifically been struggling. When asked about progress and accomplishment during this spring season, Kiffin remarked on not being exactly where he would like to be.

"I feel like defensively we have," Kiffin said. "A lot of new players and new looks with those guys. Offensively, I feel like we haven't just because of all the inju-

ries. Especially with the skill guys. We're just hindered in the next progression step for (quarterback) Matt (Corral), but it is what it is."

Kiffin will also throw out the first pitch on the baseball field versus LSU on Saturday, April 24 at noon before the Grove Bowl begins at 4:00 p.m. Gates open for fans at 3:00 p.m.

Fans are required to wear face coverings upon entering the stadium and while in transit, however face coverings are not required while at respective seats. Admission for the intrasquad scrimmage is free and will also be broadcasted live on SEC Network+.

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Ole Miss wins midweek game ahead of LSU

RUBY DRAAYER
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Ole Miss baseball followed up their recent series loss to Mississippi State with a close win over Little Rock on Tuesday night. This win puts Ole Miss at 27-10 overall, and 9-1 in midweek games.

The midweek game had a number of lineup changes. Sophomore Peyton Chatagnier started at third base for the first time this season, and freshman TJ McCants returned to the second base along with hitting in the leadoff position for the first time this season. Freshman Kemp Alderman had his first plate appearance and career start, while freshman Jack Dougherty also had his first start as a Rebel pitcher.

Dougherty pitched 1.2 innings, giving up two hits, two runs, and three strikeouts. He finished the night with a 2.45 ERA. Following Dougherty, six more pitchers came into the game, with none pitching more



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Following a narrow weekend loss to Mississippi State, Ole Miss defeated Little Rock on Tuesday April 20.

than an inning. Offensively, there were a lot of players who impacted in this high-scoring game. Sophomore John Rhys Plumlee went two-for-two at the plate with a double. Senior Cael Baker, junior Kevin Graham, freshman Jacob

Gonzalez, and Chatagnier all had a pair of RBI's in the game. Ole Miss finished out the night with 11 runs on 13 hits. The Rebels have struggled the past few weeks in SEC play, losing their last three series. While midweek games

aren't typically considered the most important games, these games can play a factor in confidence-building. The season is now halfway through, making this weekend's match-up all the more important. Tuesday's

game versus Little Rock begins an eight-game homestand with back-to-back SEC series.

Going into this weekend's series, Ole Miss is third in the SEC West and 9-6 in conference play. The Rebels came off a rough few weeks and only won the second game of each of their last three series. The season started off with such a hot start in the SEC going 6-0 to start things off, that the Rebels are desperate to get back on the winning side of things.

The LSU Tigers have struggled to find any type of rhythm this season and are sitting at fifth in the SEC West and have a 4-11 SEC record coming into this week. This matchup will be a competitive opportunity for both teams who desperately need a series win.

Ole Miss takes on LSU this weekend starting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The two teams are scheduled to play a game on Friday and Saturday before the football team's Grove Bowl.

Doug Nikhazy grabs SEC and National honors

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After a devastating weekend loss to Mississippi State, pitcher Doug Nikhazy earned SEC Pitcher of the Week and National Player of the Week. The Rebels finished the weekend series against the Bulldogs with a 7-5 loss on Sunday, however, Nikhazy's stellar performance on Saturday earned the junior weekly honors.

On Saturday, Nikhazy's performance helped with the 9-0 shutout against the No. 3 Bulldogs, as the Florida-native walked two and struck out 12. The pitcher didn't

allow a Bulldog runner past first base, putting forth "one of the best pitching performances in Ole Miss baseball history," according to Ole Miss Athletics.

Other notable statistics from his performance include Nikhazy becoming the first Rebel to throw a one-hitter since alumni Adam Yates' one-hit game during the seven-inning Southeastern Louisiana game in 2001. The pitcher tied in strikeouts for a career-high of 12 and also set a new best in the league.

Nikhazy stood on the mound for the entire game, making this his first complete game in his career. He is the first Rebel to throw a nine-in-

ning game since alumni Chrisitan Trent in 2014.

Nikhazy will join senior Tim Elko as the second Rebel baseball player this season to earn the Collegiate Baseball award and is the first Rebel to earn the SEC honor. This award for Nikhazy is the fourth SEC weekly honor this season and is the junior's fourth SEC weekly honor in his career. He earned SEC Freshman of the Week twice in 2019 and Pitcher of the Week in 2020.

The Rebels are back in action on Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. to take on Little Rock for a midweek matchup before playing LSU in a weekend series.



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Junior Doug Nikhazy pitches against Arkansas. Following the Rebel's loss to Mississippi State, Nikhazy was named SEC Pitcher of the Week and National Player of the Week.

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Ole Miss drops series to MSU

RUBY DRAAYER
thedmsports@gmail.com

With no surprise, junior Gunnar Hoglund was named starting pitcher for the first game and had a fantastic showing. Hoglund went 7.0 innings, allowing just three runs on four hits, with nine strikeouts and no walks. Mississippi State was able to score first, but while Hoglund was pitching, they were only able to score a single run in each inning.

In the third inning, the Rebels worked to tie it up after senior Cael Baker recorded the first hit of the night. This created a two-out rally as freshman Jacob Gonzalez was walked, followed by sophomore Peyton Chatagnier singling to bring Baker home to make it even.

Sophomore Derek Diamond came in as a reliever to Hoglund, with the Bulldogs ahead 3-2. It only took one inning for Mississippi State to extend their lead as Diamond gave up two more runs. Those extra runs late in

the game proved to be too much for the Rebels and they dropped game 1 of the series.

It was all Ole Miss in the second game of the series, and more specifically junior Doug Nikhazy. Nikhazy started off hot right from the start and didn't slow down until he had shut out the No.4 team in the country. Nikhazy struck out 12 batters to tie a career-high and held the Bulldogs to a no-hitter until the fifth inning. This was his first complete game pitched, and he was the first Rebel to throw a nine-inning complete game since Christian Trent versus Auburn on April 5, 2014.

On the other side of the ball, there was no chance for Mississippi State after every single Rebel who batted made it onto a base in the game. That included eight runners who scored, along with seven of them with an RBI. Senior Hayden Leatherwood had a solo home run in the fourth that pushed the game too far out of reach for Mississippi State.



FILE PHOTO: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

In a close series the weekend of April 16, the Ole Miss Rebels suffered two losses to Mississippi State.

Nikhazy finished out the series with two back-to-back strikes out in the ninth to tie the series up. The Rebels finished the game out, 9-0.

In the rubber match on Sunday, Ole Miss was unable to close things out. Sophomore Drew McDaniel was named the Sunday starting pitcher after

Diamond was moved from the starting role. Things started to look up as Daniel pitched 5.1 innings with two runs on three hits and two walks. Ole Miss relievers were unable to keep up with Mississippi State's batters and gave up five runs.

Leatherwood was the only Rebel with a multi-hit day. He

had two home runs, with one of them giving Ole Miss the lead. Unfortunately, Ole Miss was unable to shut the Bulldogs down with their relievers, and they dropped the series. Ole Miss moves to 26-10 on the season.

The Rebels will take on Little Rock at home on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Ole Miss soccer earns NCAA bid

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After going 6-0 in the spring season, Ole Miss soccer earned their ninth bid into the NCAA tournament. The 2020 Women's Soccer Championship was postponed until 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic and will be played from April 27 to May 17.

The Rebels are set to face Bowling Green in the first round and hope to make their NCAA run a long one.

"I'm very excited for us to have made the field of 48," said head coach Matt Mott from Ole Miss Athletics. "It's such a great accomplishment for this team. They've worked

so hard through the fall and then to go undefeated during the spring was such a testament to the culture and the character that we have here at Ole Miss. We are excited to get to North Carolina and get back to work."

The Rebels earned a perfect record this spring (6-0), making their overall current record 10-5 to close out the regular spring and fall seasons. This marks the third time in the last four seasons that Ole Miss has earned an NCAA tournament bid and the fifth time in Matt Mott's time as head coach.

In their last NCAA outing, the Rebels advanced to the second round after defeating Clemson 2-1 in 2018. The

Rebels faced then-ranked No.1 Stanford in the second round, only to fall 4-1, ending their NCAA tournament run.

"The idea that we're playing somebody from a different region that we've never played before, it's one of the great highlights of this tournament," Mott said. "When you look around there are so many great matchups because we're all in the same area in North Carolina."

The Bowling Green Falcons and Ole Miss Rebels have never faced each other on the field, however, the Falcons earned a bid after a 6-1 spring season and a Mid-American Conference Championship win. The Falcons didn't play a fall season and opened up play in February. In 2019, the Falcons ended with a 14-6-3 overall record. The team made it to the first round and played against Michigan, where the Falcons lost 2-1.



PHOTO COUTESTY: PETRE THOMAS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

After receiving an NCAA bid, Ole Miss women's soccer prepares to face Bowling Green on April 27.

"We're excited to play Bowling Green. We don't know much about them at this point, but we'll certainly go to work on everything we can," Mott said. "We know they are going to be a challenging opponent. They've

won their tournament a number of times and when I've seen them play in the past, they're always a tough team."

The Rebels' NCAA journey is set to start on Tuesday, April 27, in Wilmington, North Carolina at 6:00 p.m.

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Track and field to compete in John McDonnell Invitational

ZACH PARKER
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The Ole Miss track and field program is preparing for the John McDonnell Invitational in Fayetteville, Arkansas this weekend. The program last saw action this past weekend when the team competed at the University of Florida. With the SEC outdoor championships coming soon, the Rebels will look to continue their success this weekend at the University of Arkansas.

The Rebels had an impressive outing last weekend at the Tom Jones Memorial in Gainesville, Florida. Ole Miss had great performances on both the men's and women's side. The women had multiple top-three finishes, while the men saw many personal records broken.

Results from the Tom Jones Memorial include a dominant performance in the women's throws by senior Shey Taiwo and sophomore Jalani Davis and a first-place finish in the women's

3k race by teammate Nicole Rice. The men's side also saw two top 5 performances in the 800-meter against the stacked competition.

Taiwo took home first-place in the hammer throw with a distance of 66.35 meters (217-08). She crushed her own personal record and moved up to No. 3 all-time in Ole Miss history. Davis also came away with a personal record in the women's shot put. Her throw of 17.01 meters (55-09.75) earned her second place at the meet, and the throw lands her currently at No. 18 in the NCAA.

Rice took home the gold in the women's 3k race. Her time of 10:02.38 was almost 10 seconds faster than the closest competitor. Teammate Brooke Gilmore finished third with a time of 10:26.18.

The men's 800-meter race saw three Ole Miss top-10 finishes. All-American senior Waleed Suliman finished with first-place and a No.10 NCAA time of 1:47.74. Suliman had not run the

800-meter since his freshman year but came close to his personal record in his first attempt this year. Teammates Everett Smulders and Marcus Dropik were not far behind with times of 1:50.30 (5th place) and 1:50.70 (9th place) respectively. Both Smulders and Dropik finished with personal records.

Other Rebels in action include women's 800-meter runner Sintayehu Vissa, finishing in fifth place with a personal record and No.16 in the NCAA. Her time of 2:05.01 lands her in the Ole Miss record book with the second-best time in school history. Pole vaulter Lyndsey Reed finished fourth in the high jump with a height of 4.05 meters/13-03.50. Sophomore Joseph Lanham finished eighth in the men's hammer throw (57.11 meters /187-04). Lanham's throw was his personal record landing him tenth all-time at Ole Miss.

The Rebels will start the competition at the John McDonnell



HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Allen Gordon competes in the men's high jump in the Ole Miss Classic. The Ole Miss track and field team prepares to travel to Fayetteville, Arkansas to compete in the John McDonnell Invitational the weekend of April 23.

Invitational on Friday, April 23, starting at 5:00 p.m. Events will with field events beginning at continue all day Saturday starting 1:00 p.m. and running events at 10:00 a.m..

Softball welcomes Auburn this weekend

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The Ole Miss softball team will join the party in the 'Sip this weekend, as the Rebels gear up for the home series against the Auburn Tigers this upcoming weekend, April 23-26.

The Rebels will look to keep their grit and game rolling after winning the last two series against in-conference opponents. Last weekend, the team showed its toughness in the series against Texas A&M, as the Rebels won the first two games in the series by one point. The series win was a huge confidence booster for the team as it was their first series win in program history against Texas A&M

and their first road series win of the 2021 season.

Ole Miss finished the weekend with two wins and one loss. The Friday game ended with a close score of 2-1 for the Rebels, while Game Two ended in a 3-1 score, giving the Rebels confidence for the last game of the series. However, the Rebels lost the series finale 4-3.

The story of the weekend came from the team as a whole, as the Rebel squad is more and more looking like they have found their identity in the ballpark. Sophomore Paige Smith is looking to be in the swing of things as she recorded two doubles in Friday's game that helped Rebel base runners to score. Smith had only two

doubles before the game's first pitch. Senior Anna Borgen was also monumental to the team's success in Texas, allowing only one run against her opponent in both the Friday and Saturday wins. Borgen has won six consecutive games for the team and continues to look as sharp as ever on the mound.

An under-the-radar player to watch for the remainder of SEC play is senior Jessica Puk. In Saturday's game, the Iowa-native hit two sacrifice flies to the outfield that allowed the team to score and secure the victory against the Aggies. Puk is tied for second in the nation with sacrifice hits and is an essential component to this Rebel team, with their eyes on the hori-



FILE PHOTO: HANNAH GRACE BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Following series victories against two in-conference opponents, Ole Miss softball prepares to take on the Auburn Tigers at home.

zation as postseason play is coming up. The team is focused on continuing their success this weekend, as they welcome SEC foe Auburn to Oxford for an in-conference showdown. The first pitch for the series is at 5:00 p.m on Friday and can be viewed throughout the entire weekend on SEC Network+.

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ACROSS

- 1- Hardened part of the skin;
- 7- Like;
- 10- Tears;
- 14- Familiarize;
- 15- Rejections;
- 16- Morales of "NYPD Blue";
- 17- Lure;
- 18- Speck;
- 19- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events;
- 20- Occult;
- 23- Concerning;
- 26- Crosses (out);
- 27- Coeur d' ___;
- 28- It may be happy;
- 29- Captive soldier;
- 30- Mus. slow-up;
- 31- Went in;
- 33- Attach by stitches;
- 34- Penlight battery;
- 37- ___ Lingus;
- 38- Hosp. area;
- 39- Links org.;
- 40- Star Wars letters;
- 41- Rap's Dr. ___;
- 42- Airline to Stockholm;
- 43- Taller and thinner;
- 45- Sloth, for one;
- 46- Actor Holbrook;

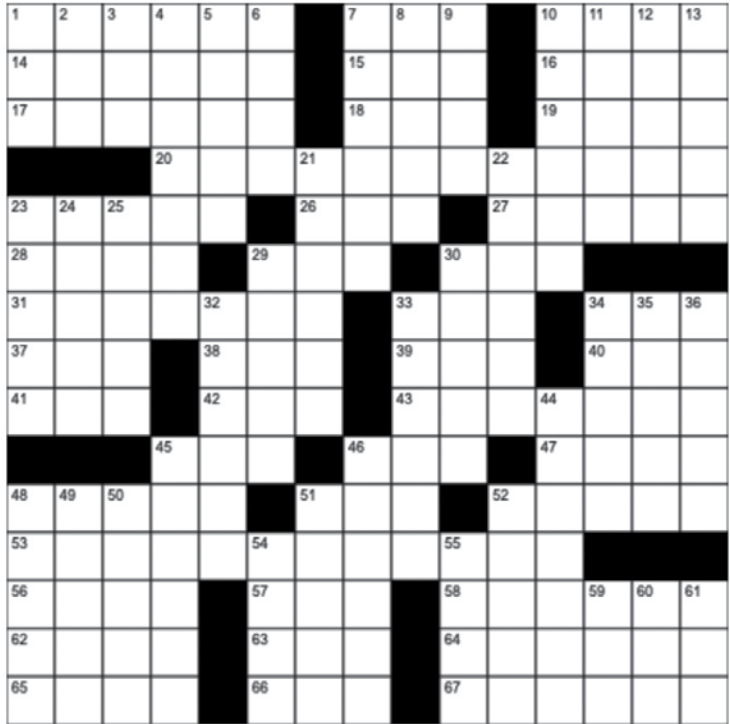
DOWN

- 1- Runner Sebastian;
- 2- Prince Valiant's son;
- 3- Plastered;
- 4- Unhurried ease;
- 5- Not abridged;
- 6- Part of a process;
- 7- One of the 12 apostles;
- 8- Birds on Canadian coins;
- 9- Charles barker;
- 10- Outcome;
- 11- Grenoble's river;
- 12- Song of joy;
- 13- Move sideways;
- 21- Second book of the Bible;

SOLUTION TO 4.15.21 PUZZLE



- 22- Island off the SE coast of China;
- 23- In the future;
- 24- Stupid mistake;
- 25- Unconventional;
- 29- Hickory-nut;
- 30- Royal;
- 32- Ascending;
- 33- Spatter;
- 34- Line in a play directed to the audience;
- 35- Designer Simpson;
- 36- Broadcaster;
- 44- Affinity;
- 45- Oklahoman;
- 46- Occur;
- 48- Journalist ___ Rogers St. Johns;
- 49- Outfit anew;
- 50- Strike hard;
- 51- Firm;
- 52- Frighten;
- 54- X-ray units;
- 55- The doctor ___;
- 59- Al Jolson's real first name;
- 60- Fam. member;
- 61- ___ see it...;



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



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Crawfish creates community

WILL CARPENTER

thedmnews@gmail.com

North Mississippi has seen a growth in crawfish culture over the past decade, leaving sellers inside and outside the city limits to reflect on their business and the unique communal experience born from sharing a meal.

It was a little over 7 years ago when Fred Johnson and friends sat back and realized they must have finished nearly 60 pounds of crawfish after a day of snacking.

"We said 'man, as many crawfish as we eat, we can save money just by getting in the business,'" Johnson said.

Soon after, the group discussed the idea of getting into the crawfish business themselves. By a stroke of luck, the bartender happened to be selling two crawfish trailers, both of which Johnson and company bought on the spot.

Johnson says Rebel Boilers was built off the concept of community.

"We're referees and we're coaches. We're used to company, we're used to diversity, we're used to being nice," Johnson said. "We believe that our ability to perform, our cooking and service and all that stuff comes back in the long run."

This sense of community runs deep for Johnson, who graduated from UM in 1975

"You have to know that there weren't 250 black students here [in 1975]," Johnson said. "I've never felt like I wasn't part of the Ole Miss family, and I think that's what makes our business work."

Part of this rise in popularity around crawfish can be observed in its upward trend among the African American community, Johnson said.

"We're an African American owned group, right?" Johnson said. "So we didn't have many people that look like us eating crawfish during that time, so I think the popularity has changed. So we see the diversity, we see the trend change."

For popular game weekends like the one approaching, Johnson orders around 75 bags of crawfish in preparation for the crowds. Each bag weighs around 35 pounds.

Johnson has frequently run out of supply by the end of the day.

Boilers apply their community approach even to those who could be considered rivals, sharing bags of crawfish with those in need

One of the most popular crawfish sellers in North Mississippi can be found in Water Valley, Mississippi.

"Crawfish hasn't been in North Mississippi for that long," Jason Showah, owner of the Crawdad Hhole, said. "When we started, I think there was one other place doing them."

Showah fell into starting the Crawdad Hole in Water Valley, purchasing an old gas station in Water Valley to start and start his business.

It began as a side job, an opportunity to work for himself and do something different that he enjoyed. Since then, the business has grown every year.

"You get to put your passion into something, you want to make sure that it's exceptional every time," Showah said.

I try to make every batch like I'm making it for my family."

Showah echoes the increase in demand for North Mississippi crawfish. There was a time when one had to travel to the gulf if they wanted crawfish, or wait for one of the UM fraternities to have an annual boil on campus.

Currently, the Crawdad Hhole blows through 2 tons of crawfish and shrimp every weekend.

Showah sees how crawfish can succeed in a town like Oxford. Weekends are spent socializing and partying, making it a breeding ground for the culture surrounding the food.

"People like a little escape," Showah said. "I guess that's why it's popular, especially up here, you know, cause Oxford does have that community and it's got that reputation as being a party town and a social place. I think it's a good fit with that."

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

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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TOUGH

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

OPINION

The Privilege to Employment Pipeline

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As graduating seniors start the job hunt and many students look for summer internships, barriers to access to opportunities are becoming more and more apparent. Being connected to important players in your desired field continues to be a requirement for entry. Articles such as “Why Personal Connections Matter & Can Get You Hired” from job-related sites such as Glassdoor and LinkedIn show how important connections can be, but they fail to account for how these connections privilege certain demographics and maintain barriers to people who have a hard time entering the workforce. According to Glassdoor, referrals by current employees can increase the chances of an interview by 2.6-6.6%. If we

let these preferential practices and industry expectations of connections continue, the divide between the haves and the have nots will only grow.

The only alternative to connections is extensive real-world experience, which some may be able to achieve through an internship, but even these are hard to come by. Some internships require a “friend of a friend of a friend” in the company/field to get you noticed and are often incredibly underpaid, if paid at all. These barriers to entry to the job market can feel insurmountable to most and are unbeatable for many.

In fall 2019, I applied for an internship with the U.S. Department of State. As a student from rural Missouri with no family in politics or anything regarding international affairs, I was almost too intimidated to apply, as Washington, D.C.

and the U.S. government felt too out of reach. I felt qualified for an internship working on Middle Eastern and North African policy with my majors in Arabic and international studies. Luckily, one of my dad’s childhood friends knew someone that worked in the State Department who connected me to the office, and I was given the internship.

My background in the field might have had some bearing, but considering how many Arabic and international studies students there are across the country that applied for this position, it is not likely that I would have gotten the internship without the extra help. The internship was canceled because of COVID-19, as most things have been for the past year, but I felt confident applying the next fall. My GPA had increased, and I was awarded an additional scholarship. My

State Department connection, however, was not available during the application and selection process, so, even though I had preference as a recipient of the same internship the year prior, I was denied.

The concept of connections making life easier, or even possible, is nothing new for UM students. Greek systems at UM and across the nation are stereotypically white, rich and will let you know about it. In addition to this inherent privilege, Greek organizations also sell themselves as pathways to jobs through connections with powerful alumni and resume fillers. Even if students do receive internships, a lack of a liveable wage may prevent students from accepting an offer. These are equally unattainable for many, however, as financial barriers prevent many from applying for or accepting

these positions. Work is being done toward more inclusive and paying internships, but young people are entering the workforce every day without the unnecessary connections required to succeed.

It is unfair to expect students to have years of experience upon graduation, especially when there are so many barriers to entry. It is nice, of course, to hire experienced individuals, but why is the diploma losing its worth? How long will we let already-marginalized but equally-qualified students and graduates fall by the wayside while well-connected individuals are given preferential treatment?

Londyn Lorenz is the opinion editor from Perryville, Missouri majoring in Arabic and international studies.

The Case Against ASB

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The Associated Student Body — as an institution — suffers from a souring culture of on-campus engagement. Of course, every aspect of student life has been upset in the past year, but student government was a boring disaster long before the age of facemasks and video calls.

An overwhelming majority of students don’t care about ASB. Uncontested elections have become standard in student government. In the most recent election, four out of six executive positions were filled by candidates who ran unopposed. In the spring of 2020, five executive positions were filled by candidates who ran unopposed. That cycle featured the last contest for student body president, an election in which only 3,111 votes were cast.

One exception to these dismal turnout trends was in the fall of 2019. On the ballot was an initiative to double the student activities fee from \$5 a semester to \$10. The Senate unanimously supported the measure, but students roundly rejected it at the polls. The

increase would have been a negligible cost to students in an era of exorbitant tuition payments, but that wasn’t their primary concern. The problem was that student government had failed to explain what, exactly, it does.

Student leaders — for lack of a better term — have done some good in the past. They condemned the chancellor search process. They supported the relocation of the Confederate monument. They provided the occasional drama of campaign violation scandals. And yet, such instances seem few and far between. It feels like student leaders devote most of their official energies to making Business Row unwalkable and group chats insufferable.

This boring disaster — uncompetitive races, low turnout and general disinterest — is an apathy borne of contempt. From the outside looking in, ASB can seem a loathsome affair. For years, white and male students have overwhelmingly populated student government. Members of the Honors College are overrepresented in a system that spits out resume bullet

points like a machine. Greek-affiliated students enjoy significant financial and social backing from their respective organizations.

A person seeking to join ASB can face absurd barriers to entry. Low-income students struggle to compete in races that can easily cost a couple of months’ rent. It turns out that all those obnoxious signs are quite pricey. In the spring of 2020, a candidate for vice president — who was running unopposed — spent just under \$600 on her campaign. Students who are not in a fraternity or sorority face an uphill battle against opponents who can draw on expansive readymade networks.

A person who manages to prevail over such obstacles enters a daunting institutional culture. The Senate enforces an unwritten dress code and abides by overblown rules of decorum. Beyond sheer snobbery, business attire and parliamentary procedure are marks of an environment that has needlessly made itself less accessible to some students. Student government, despite recent gains in gender

diversity, can still function as a “boys’ club” that overvalues male voices. Campus discussions — including those carried by this newspaper — often underappreciated accomplishments made by students of color. It’s no wonder that ASB — exclusive, elitist and pretentious — is so thoroughly despised.

At this rate, I would prefer student government by sortition. Take each year’s six-figure student activities budget and dole it out to various student organizations. Even after such expenditures, there would be a good bit of money left. Select a handful of undergraduates by lottery, and let them spend the rest. At worst, we solve for a toxic culture in student

government. At best, we get chocolate milk in the drinking fountains and a waterslide behind the library.

Unfortunately, such a utopia is a long way off. In the meantime, the student government should do some soul-searching. Why do so few students run for even the most (self-)important offices? Why do so many of their peers forego voting altogether? And is there a way to solve either of these problems that doesn’t involve stickers?

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