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COVID-19 vaccine now required for UM employees



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A nurse administers a COVID-19 vaccination at the Tad Pad.

VIOLET JIRA

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The Institutions of Higher Learning board voted to require all faculty, professional staff, support staff and student workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, with exceptions.

The vote amends the board's previous directive that barred institutions governed by IHL from instating a vaccine mandate.

All affected employees have until Wednesday, Oct. 27 to get their first shot of Moderna or until Nov. 3 to get their first shot of Pfizer. They have until Nov. 24, the day before Thanksgiving,

to get their second shot of the two above options or a single shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to President Joe Biden's vaccine schedule. Proof of full vaccination must be provided.

The board's decision is a direct result of Biden's Executive Order 14042.

SEE MANDATE PAGE 2

Rebs determine the season Saturday



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss running back Jerrion Ealy celebrates after scoring a touchdown against LSU on Oct. 23.

RUBY DRAAYER

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It's over halfway through the season now, and the Ole Miss Rebels are sitting at 6-1 on the season. After a big win over LSU this past weekend, all eyes will be on the Rebs as they head to Auburn to take on the Tigers. As of Wednesday, the Auburn Tigers are favored to win this matchup despite the Rebels being a top-10 team.

I'd like to paint a picture. Two years ago, it's the last game of the season, and Ole Miss was fighting to get to a five-win season. Matt Corral was getting ready to transfer and was not even the starter. That team finished the year with an abysmal 4-8 record. Flash forward to this year. The Rebels are already bowl eligible. Corral has a very real chance to win the Heisman, and Ole Miss is staring down a very likely 11-1 season finish. It's almost unbelievable.

While there is still a lot of football left to play, Ole Miss has already had a historic season. The last time they won in Tennessee was in 1983. The last time that Ole Miss beat

LSU was in 2015, and as they head to Auburn, this team will be looking for their first win in Jordan-Hare since 2015.

"Very hard place to play," Kiffin said of Auburn. "Even though we're ranked in the Top 10, we're the underdogs."

It is not easy to win in Auburn, but if the Rebels are going to get the win, this is the year to do it. The Tigers have a first-year head coach under Bryan Harsin after firing Gus Malzahn in the middle of last year's season. Harsin has led this year's team to a 5-2 season, with losses to Penn State and Georgia. While this is nothing to complain about from a first-year coaching staff, they do have one fatal flaw. They have continued to name Bo Nix the starting quarterback for this entire season. Arguably the most-hyped quarterback prospect in the last 20 years, Nix has done just enough to keep Auburn fans on board, but for the rest of college football fans, he is seen as a sub-average quarterback who happened to beat Alabama in 2019.

Now, while saying this, it's

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Outbreaks: then vs. now

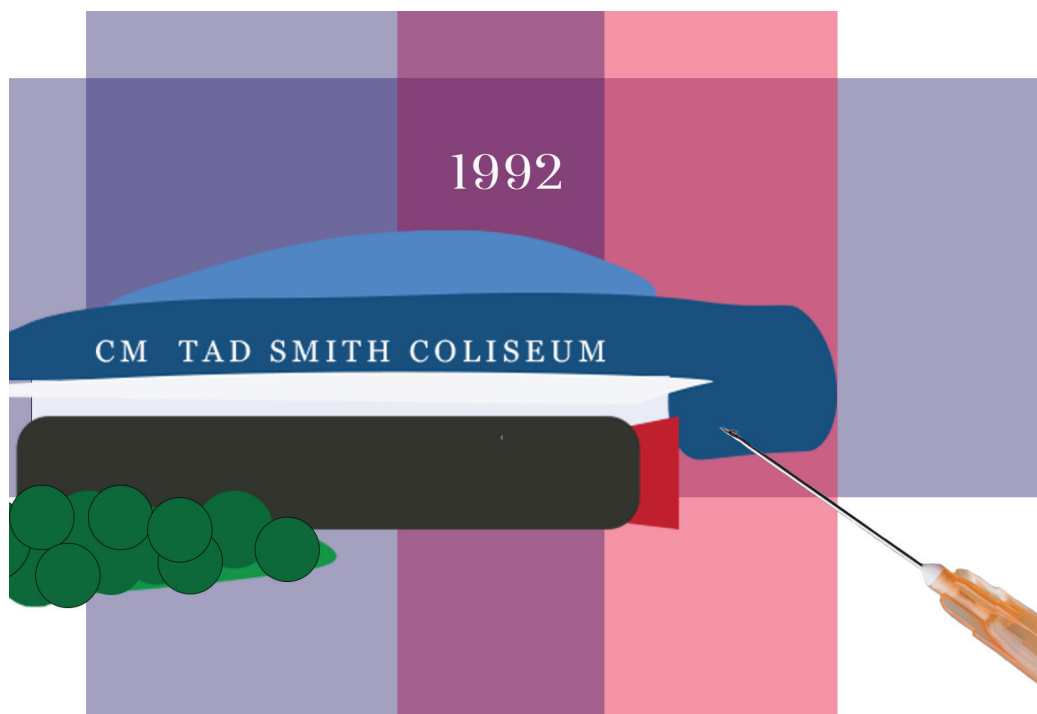


ILLUSTRATION: MICAH CRICK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

BRITTANY KOHNE

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Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination has been a hotly debated issue on college campuses since students returned to classes in August.

Even though the state

Institutions of Higher Learning board this week notified student workers they will be required to show proof of vaccination, with exceptions, by Dec. 8, the IHL has for months steadfastly stated that it would not require the general student

population to be vaccinated for the virus in order to attend classes. The IHL's recent requirement came only in response to a federal mandate requiring vaccinations of all people who work with federal contractors, many of whom are university faculty, staff

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ELI MANNING POSTER PAGE 12

LSU weekend brings increased arrests

SOPHIA JARAMILLO
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“87 arrests, now that’s the Oxford we know,” commented Facebook user Kristen Carsley on the Oxford Police Department’s Activity Report from the LSU game weekend. The Activity Report listed 87 arrests, with 25 of the arrests being Driving Under the Influence.

In comparison to the Arkansas home game weekend, which only had 15 arrests, Chief of Police Jeff McCutchen said the LSU game attracted the largest crowd they had seen in six to seven years.

“I think some of those numbers have to do with the fact that obviously it was our largest crowd,” McCutchen said.

The LSU game was not the only event taking place this weekend. Fall Visit Day attracted high school students from all over the country to tour the University of Mississippi on Friday, while Square Jam attracted visitors and students later that night to the Oxford

Square.

“On any ballgame weekend, we’re all working,” McCutchen said. “I mean, it’s everybody.”

After the Arkansas game the Oxford Police Department implemented a staffing change, intentionally assigning officers to certain “hot spots” around Oxford, allowing officers to work in certain locations and rotate out throughout the day.

“We got through the third and fourth quarter and then handled post-game traffic, and we still had all that fresh staff to give assistance on the square,” McCutchen said.

The largest portion of the arrests this weekend consisted of 25 DUI’s, the most Oxford has seen for a long period of time. McCutchen explained that a 2:30 p.m. kickoff gives people the opportunity to go out on the Square on Friday night while still making it to the Grove in order to drink on Saturday as well.

“It’s a perfect storm for things to happen in the alcohol realm,” McCutchen said.

Even though Arrest and Report numbers were high this weekend, McCutchen agreed



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The Oxford Police Department recorded an increase in arrests over the LSU game weekend in comparison with previous home football games.

that people generally handled themselves well.

“I thought the way that our fans and our students handled themselves was great. We had a lot of good interaction, a lot of good conversation out there,” he said.

McCutchen mentioned that even though ride shares and taxis were running this weekend, Safe Ride is another transportation system that is

able to help students to get home safely. Safe Ride, led and organized by students, uses Oxford University Transit to provide late night transportation on Thursday-Saturday nights from the Square to campus.

“Don’t feel like you don’t have any options,” McCutchen said. “That’s one of the big things that we’re that we’re trying to remind people of.”

In response to how arrest numbers will look in the future, McCutchen hopes that students and residents remember that drinking and driving is a controllable problem.

“We can do a better job of not drinking and driving. I think that’s a great recipe for a fun weekend for everybody,” McCutchen said.

MANDATE

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While the executive order does not mention colleges and universities directly, it does aim to ensure that there are adequate COVID-19 safety protocols for federal contractors. All institutions under IHL’s governance — including the University of Mississippi — are or are likely to be recipients of federal government contracts.

Currently, IHL governed institutions have approximately 120 federal contracts amounting to a combined present value of

\$271 million, according to a news release from Mississippi Public Universities. Over a third of that amount — or \$91 million in active federal contracts — are used by the University of Mississippi.

Because university employees come into contact with these federal contractors, the vaccine mandate is necessary to put the state in compliance with Biden’s executive order.

Chancellor Glenn Boyce sent a letter to the university community Monday evening confirming that the COVID-19 vaccine is now required and outlining other important information, such as how to get

vaccinated and information on providing proof of vaccination.

“In order to comply with the Executive Order and task force guidance, all University employees (including faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate student employees) must be fully vaccinated by Dec. 8, 2021,” he wrote. “Employees must provide the university with proof that they have been fully vaccinated.”

The university will be moving swiftly to ensure compliance with the federal executive order, and will provide accommodations for those who cannot be vaccinated due to a disability or medical condition

or because of a sincerely held religious belief, in accordance with direction from IHL. This stands in direct contrast with Mississippi’s laws regarding required immunizations for children for school attendance — only medical exemptions are allowed.

The move directly impacts students as well, specifically student workers. In a letter to all students, Vice Chancellor Charlotte Pegues clarifies that while the mandate is a condition for employment, it is not a condition for enrollment.

“Please note that this vaccination requirement is a condition of employment at the university, not a condition of

enrollment. If you are a student who is not employed by the university, you are not required to be vaccinated. The IHL Board kept in place its directive preventing COVID-19 vaccine mandates as a condition of enrollment,” she wrote. “If you are a student employee (graduate or undergraduate) of the University of Mississippi, this vaccine mandate will apply to you and vaccination will be required for employment.”

The university will be providing further direction for all affected persons regarding uploading proof of vaccination and requesting exemption as well as other important action items in the near future.

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Professor Mark Burson removed from graduate classes following controversial comments

VIOLET JIRA
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A University of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media professor is being criticized for inflammatory comments he has made in recent weeks. Though his comments on the Fox News show “The Ingraham Angle” and allegations of similar behavior and rhetoric in his classrooms have sparked outrage throughout the university community causing him to lose his graduate teaching positions for the Spring of 2022. Otherwise, little to no action has been taken by the university against Burson.

According to reporting from the Oxford Eagle, two students accused Burson of racism after he used “China virus” when referring to the COVID-19 pandemic in a classroom setting. Burson took to conservative reporter Laura Ingraham’s show to discuss the backlash during a special edition of the show broadcast from Oxford, Mississippi, on the University of Mississippi campus.

In his interview with Laura Ingraham, Burson recounted his experience being, “attacked by the liberal mob,” over the past few weeks. Burson openly admits to using the term “China flu,” but failed to see or acknowledge any error in his behavior.

“What’s interesting about that is I don’t think I ever used the word ‘China virus.’ I tend to use the term ‘China flu,’” he said. Use of terms like “China

virus” and “China flu” have been repeatedly shown to be offensive and xenophobic, particularly to members of the Asian and Asian-American community. The term was popularized by former President Donald J. Trump, who used the term frequently.

Since public criticism has risen about Burson’s comments, he has been removed from teaching his graduate level integrated marketing communications classes. However, Burson is still scheduled to continue teaching his undergraduate courses throughout the remainder of the current semester and during the spring semester.

The graduate school did not respond to requests for comment.

An IMC student in one of Burson’s classes says she’s never heard him use language that could be considered offensive or inflammatory. She does not agree with those who are calling Burson racist.

“To assume Professor Burson is racist is wrong. It’s wrong to assume someone’s sexuality, pronouns, ethnicity, dating status, etc. just by the way they act or something they say or the way they dress,” she said. A member of Burson’s class, the student asked to remain anonymous. “So why is the university assuming Professor Burson is a racist person over an allegation?”

Burson also responded to accusations from the university’s Equal Opportunity and Regulatory Compliance that



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

School of Journalism and New Media professor Mark Burson is under fire after two students accused him of using the phrase “China virus” in reference to COVID-19.

his comments were racist.

“I said, ‘did I violate any university policy?’ And she said ‘no, but everybody knows that it’s racist, and if you had Chinese students in class you would have offended them,’” he said. “And what’s interesting about that is I am pretty good at recognizing Chinese students or anybody who has Chinese in them because 26 years ago I adopted a little baby that was one quarter Chinese. And so I know someone from China when I see them, and nobody in class is from China.”

The anonymous IMC student, overall, sees nothing

wrong with Burson’s actions.

“I think he should still be allowed to teach. Nothing he said on that show was wrong. He told his story,” she said. “If he isn’t allowed to teach for that, then there are bigger problems within the university at hand.”

Debora Wegner, interim dean of the School of Journalism and New Media, deferred to the University’s statement on the matter.

“The University of Mississippi welcomes all viewpoints on our campus, and we do not discriminate on political points of view,” said Jim Zook, Chief Marketing and

Communications Officer. “Mr. Burson is scheduled to teach in the spring.”

Mark Burson was unable to be reached before the time of publication.

“I’m a unicorn in Farley Hall, which is home of the School of Journalism. I’m a conservative professor and I make no apologies for the worldview that I hold,” Burson concluded his interview with Ingraham. “I believe in the sanctity of life, I believe in the sovereignty of the individual. I believe we are all created equal and in God’s image.”

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OUTBREAK

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and student workers.

This is starkly different from the response to a measles outbreak on campus in 1992.

In that instance, unfamiliar to many current members of the university community, students and staff born on or after 1957 were required to receive their second dose of the measles vaccine or they were not allowed back on campus.

Monday, Feb. 10, 1992, became a memorable day for Dr. Eric Dahl. There were two confirmed measles cases on campus. At the time, Dahl was the acting director for the Harrison Student Health Center at the university. The official director was on a cruise during the weeks of the measles outbreak, leaving Dahl to call the shots.

A week prior, Dartmouth College had seven students die from measles. The university did everything to prevent such an event from happening.

"Everybody was working 14 hour days. We would vaccinate at the Coliseum. We would vaccinate at the Student Union, and so we are getting cooperation from all the Department of Student Affairs personnel," Dahl said. "Sparky Reardon was the assistant director and was instrumental in encouraging students to look at this serious event. There's no reason people can't die here."

There are two forms of measles: rubeola, which lasts for one to two weeks and can lead to life-threatening complications, or rubella, which is only dangerous to pregnant women.

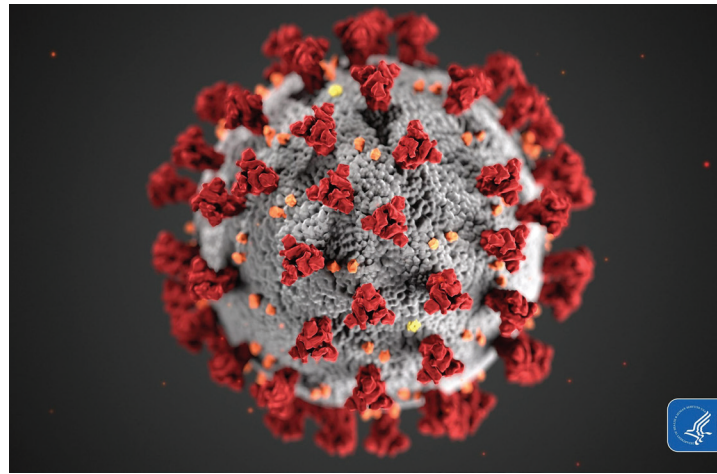
After those two cases were confirmed, the Mississippi State Health Department officially declared an outbreak on campus.

Any students who didn't comply with Health Services were not allowed to go back to

the classroom, until they had proof of vaccination.

Following this announcement, the university quickly transitioned into vaccinating everyone who could not prove that they had received their second dose of the measles vaccine.

Students who had received their second dose were directed to go to the Student Health Center to check their immunization status. If they had been vaccinated against measles twice prior to arriving on campus, they would receive a



COURTESY OF: CDC VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

card imprinted with the Student Health Service seal.

Those who had no proof of receiving two shots of the measles vaccine were sent to receive their second dose at the Tad Smith Coliseum Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1992 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There were 50 nurses on site giving the vaccine to people.

Shots were also given that Thursday, but the university encouraged students to receive their second dose Wednesday, due to high demand.

The Tad Pad was fitted with rows and rows of tables. Half of the tables were designated for records, while the other half were vaccination tables. Because students were required to have proof of vaccinations, the Tad Pad had lines wrapped around it of students and staff waiting for their shots.

The only people who were

exempt from the immunization requirement were those allergic to the vaccine, pregnant or those who received their second dose of the vaccination after their first birthday.

Dahl said the side effects of the vaccine were far less severe than a possible case of measles. The side effects usually were no worse than a high fever.

"Classic measles (rubella) is characterized by a bad cold and progressively increasing fever over a period of three or four days, red eyes and a cough," Dahl said.

The other form of measles, rubeola, resulted in fever as high as 104 degrees and redness of skin.

Fortunately, the university cases were classic measles, or else there would have been more hospitalizations.

Donald Dyer, now the associate dean of the college of liberal arts, was a Russian language professor at the university in 1992. Dyer recalled the outbreak on campus and the vaccination process.

"I remember I wasn't a real big fan of needles back in those days, and I was going, 'what's the cut off going to be on age?' I'd rather not have to get one of these if I don't have to. And unbelievably, guess what the cutoff date was? 1957. I was born in '58," Dyer said.

He then recalled walking over to Tad Pad from Bondurant Hall, where he taught his classes. During that time, shots were delivered through a gun, rather than the needle syringe that is used today.

"So you just walked up, you know, rolled up your sleeve, and they put the gun next to your skin and shot it." Dyer said.

Attorney Walt Davis was an Ole Miss law student at the time of the measles outbreak. For many law students, it was a struggle to retrieve their proof of vaccination. Davis, in particular, had his records mailed multiple times to the University Medical

Center from Mississippi State, his undergraduate institution, but the records could never be located. Eventually he had to receive the vaccination on campus to continue to go to his classes. However, Davis was not as fortunate as other students who received the vaccine. He experienced adverse effects, caused by a genetic predisposition.

"Within 48 to 72 hours, I had a severe inflammatory reaction, an arthritic reaction where I couldn't stand, was on crutches for several weeks and had to use a cane for about six months after that," Davis said. "I lost about 35 pounds in a month and had to go through several doctors in several tests to figure out exactly what was going on. So I wound up attending class on crutches for most of the rest of the semester and using a cane through the summer and into the fall."

On Thursday Feb. 13, 1992, only 3,000 students were cleared Wednesday for Friday classes, leaving 6,000 students yet to be cleared to attend classes. At that time, there were still two confirmed measles cases, but a rise was expected to happen in the next week.

The rise happened on Friday, Feb. 14, with a spike up to 15 confirmed cases. At the end of the two week hiatus due to the measles outbreak, a total of 9,000 students were cleared to return to classes with 7,000 students receiving a vaccination on campus.

"Ninety percent of the students have endured the inconvenience," Dahl said in a 1992 edition of the Daily Mississippian. "From the bottom of our hearts, we thank them."

Almost 30 years later, the university faced a similar viral outbreak: COVID-19. In the spring semester of 2020, students were sent home, due to both the fear of contagion and the uncertainty of the virus. The university has had 1,860 cases since March 16, 2020.

Dahl explained the transmission process of the measles compared to COVID-19.

Contagions are classified by "R-naught." Dahl said he would describe HIV as a 4, meaning if one person gets HIV, they are likely to give it to four people. Influenza is rated a 2, and the new Delta variant is an 8 and a half. Measles, however, is highly contagious. The R-naught can be as high as 20, especially in dormitories.

COVID-19, Dahl said, is different. Because COVID-19 is a

relatively new virus, doctors are still conducting research to see how COVID-19 affects a large spectrum of people. However, there is another factor involved, Dahl said. The political nature of the country has evolved over the past 30 years.

Dahl said that the most major contrast he has seen between the two outbreaks has been the reluctance to receive the vaccine.

"I think there was far less severe resistance in '92 to getting the measles vaccine. It was kind of like, oh, you know, what a hassle," Dahl said. "Now, there are folks who have bought into the conspiracy theories to the point that it's a fervency like nothing I've ever seen in medicine. And it's just a shame that politics have been rolled into medicine, and I don't blame either party."

Davis also said that the change in political climate contributes to the contrasts in how both outbreaks are handled.

"The appeal toward the base of both parties is different than it was previously, the primary traditional fights between the conservatives and the liberals," Davis said. "You know, in the '90s, we're still talking about social welfare programs, military spending and things we'd all grown accustomed to. We grew up during the Cold War."

Until recently the university, the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Institutions of Higher Learning were not requiring students or faculty to show proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. However, on Oct. 25, the IHL announced that all faculty, staff and student-workers of any public Mississippi university or college are required to be fully vaccinated by Dec. 8, with exemptions.

Caron Blanton, IHL spokesperson, commented on the parallels between the measles outbreak and COVID-19 and how the Board responded.

"Unlike 1992, the State Health Officer has not asked the Board to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine," Blanton said. "The State Health Officer has asked the Board to encourage all members of the campus communities to get vaccinated, which the Board of Trustees and the universities have done through communication efforts, incentives and providing opportunities for students, employees and community members to get vaccinated."

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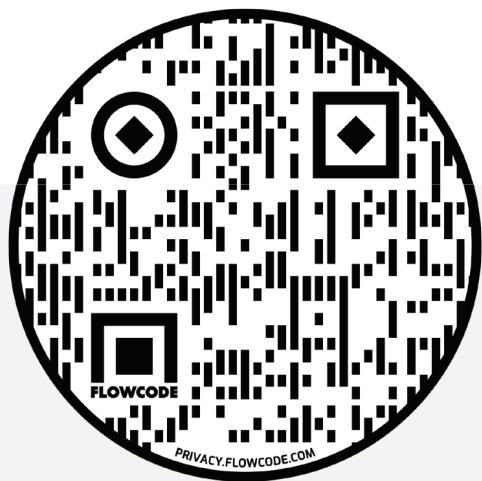
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PREVIEW
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hard to deny that Nix has been pretty solid the last few weeks. He loves to scramble but has done a good job at getting the ball off. Nix loves to throw the ball out of bounds to the fans, but he does avoid the sack. Auburn is coming off of a bye week, but in the Tiger's last matchup against Arkansas, Nix threw for 292 yards with over 80% accuracy. While impressive, it is likely that his throwing accuracy won't matter in this game. Auburn has one of the best running backs in the SEC with Tank Bigsby. For this matchup, the Tigers will be running the ball a good chunk of the game.

The Ole Miss defense has struggled against the run during SEC play but was able to handle the LSU offense this past weekend. In an unexpected turn of events, the Rebel defense leads the SEC with 3.5 sacks per game, a drastic improvement from last year. Auburn's offensive line is full of veterans but has been subject to scrutiny this year, as they've struggled against opposing defensive lines. If the Rebels want to continue to make improvements on the defense, they will need to be able to stop the run and battle in the trenches to put pressure on Bo Nix. After a dominant performance against LSU, Chance Campbell and Sam Williams each earned defensive accolades from the SEC. Campbell was named SEC Defensive player of the week, and Williams was named SEC Co-Defensive Lineman of the week.

Offensively, the Rebels will have their way with the Auburn defense. They have been virtually



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss running back Snoop Conner leaps to avoid a diving tackle by an LSU defender in a game on Oct. 23.

game will be no different. This offense will most likely run the ball heavily, and after an absolute beat down on the ground last week, the running back room will have their hands full again this week.

Ole Miss has struggled with injuries and penalties the entire year, and this week will be no different. Veteran offensive lineman, Ben Brown, announced via Instagram Tuesday that he will

any more. Despite his extra year of eligibility, Brown made it clear that he would not be returning. He suffered a complete tear in his bicep during the Tennessee game and underwent surgery to repair it. Unfortunately, this ruled him out for the season. Along with him, star wide receiver Jonathan Mingo will likely not return this season. Wide receiver Braylon Sanders missed last weekend with

and it is still unclear whether he will get any action this weekend in Auburn. Heisman contender Matt Corral suffered a small ankle injury during Tennessee but played through it against LSU. Tight end Chase Rogers has all signs pointing to him missing another week with an injury.

This will be the game to watch this weekend, and for your Rebels, it will be the difference between a

second-year head coach. A win over the Tigers means coming home to a three-game homestand and then traveling to Starkville to finish out the season. Beating Auburn is no small feat, and fans will find out quickly what this Ole Miss team is really made of.

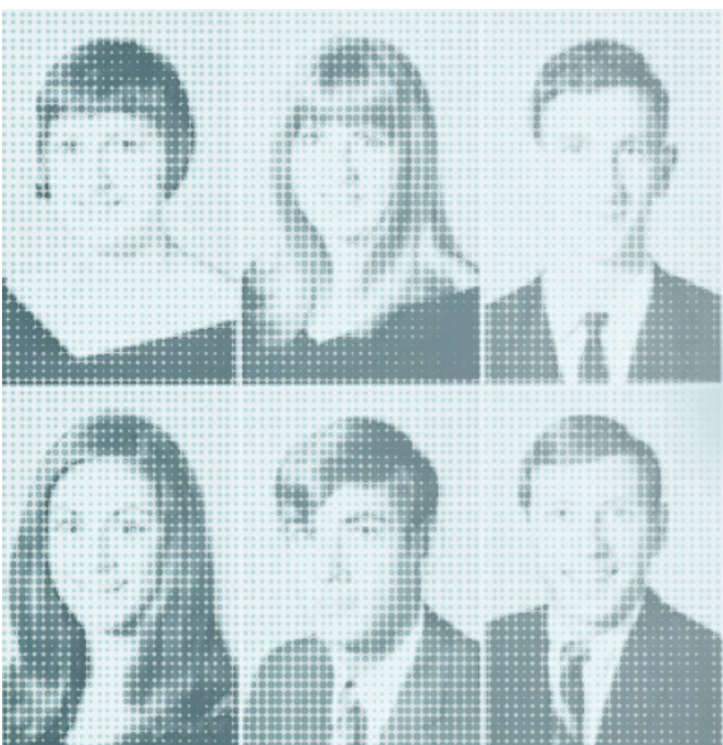
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Week 9 pick 'em

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No. 10 Ole Miss at No. 18 Auburn: Catherine Jeffers
Final Score Prediction: Ole Miss 35, Auburn 24

In every game except this one, I have to root for the Tigers. Born and raised an Auburn fan, I've grown up chanting "War Eagle" my whole life. But this week, I am an Auburn hater.

If I have to see Bo Nix running around like a chicken with his head cut off and our defense can't bring him down, I'm going to scream.

Speaking of our defense, I feel nothing but pride for them after their performance last week. Against the Tigers of LSU, the Landshark defense held them to 17 points and 77 rushing yards, a vast improvement and a very positive sign heading into what will be a tough matchup against Auburn. This should be a beacon of hope because although Auburn's offense is strong, our top players look to be at their prime of the season.

Linebacker Chance

Campbell was awarded the SEC defensive player of the week after recording 10 tackles, a forced fumble and a sack against LSU. My money is on him wrapping up Bo Nix at least twice.

The last time the Rebels went to the Tigers, they lost by six in a thrilling match up. Not this year. It will still be thrilling but Zakoby McClain is no match for Matt Corral and company.

Don't get me wrong, Jordan-Hare Stadium is one of the tougher environments in college football, but if a Rebel team from 2019 can go into Auburn and almost pull out a win, I don't have a seed of doubt in this year's squad.

No. 6 Michigan at No. 8 Michigan State: Owen Pustell

Final Score Prediction: Michigan 35, little brother 24

Inject rivalry football into my veins. This bitter in-state rivalry has been ignited in recent years, with the Spartans winning four of the last five despite being otherwise underwhelming on

the field.

This season, both Michigan and Michigan State have surpassed preseason expectations and had dominant 2021 campaigns. The Spartans are led by transfer running back Kenneth Walker, who has rushed for 997 yards in just seven games at an astounding 6.6 yards per carry. The junior running back plays with terrific patience and contact balance, a combination which has been impossible for defenses to stop so far.

On the other side of the field stand Hassan Haskins and Blake Corum. This Wolverine duo has been arguably the best backfield tandem in college football this season, with Hassan Haskins' intimidating physical presence complemented by Corum's twitchy and explosive style. With this being a rare top-10 matchup between these rivals, it has been talked about as the biggest game in Jim Harbaugh's Michigan coaching career, and one of the biggest in the rivalry's history.

Though it should be a close game, I expect Michigan to win. Their strong defense will give Walker his biggest challenge of the season, and going against a relatively untested Spartan defense, it's possible this is the week Michigan ignites their passing game. Make no mistake, Saturday will be a hard hitting, run-dominated Big Ten classic.

No. 1 Georgia vs Florida: Aidan Gallardo

Final Score Prediction: Georgia 48, Florida 14

We have arrived at one of the biggest rivalries in all of college football, although this year the game might not be so close.

Held in Jacksonville, the Florida-Georgia rivalry has earned the nickname of the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" because of the tailgating and big crowds that come to represent both schools.

No. 1 Georgia has looked like the most dominant team in all of college football. After an impressive win over then



ILLUSTRATIONS: VANESSA CLARK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

ranked No. 12 Kentucky, the Bulldogs headed into a bye week. They'll be coming into this game well-rested and with fresh legs. That's not a good sign for the Gators.

Georgia's defense has been the best in college football. The Bulldogs rank first in points allowed per game at a mind-boggling number of 6.6. That's better than other historic defensive teams through five games such as the 2001 Miami Hurricanes (12.4) or the 2011 Alabama Crimson Tide (8.4).

Georgia has already shutout two SEC opponents, Vanderbilt (62-0) and Arkansas (37-0). Holding Arkansas to zero points is an extremely difficult thing to do because the Razorbacks have averaged 32 points per game.

Now let's head over to the other end of the spectrum. Let's talk about Florida.

The Gators haven't played up to the expectations that fans were hoping for. After reaching the SEC Championship last season, Florida hasn't played at the same level largely due to the fact that they lost several key players to the NFL Draft, including Kyle Trask, Kyle Pitts and Kadarious Toney.

So Florida is in a rebuilding

mode of sorts. Although they lost to Alabama by only three points about a month ago, they just haven't felt like the same Florida team everyone loved last year.

Including the loss to Alabama, the Gators have three losses on the season, the other two being to Kentucky and LSU.

Florida's offense has been okay. The rushing attack has been incredible, being the second best team in the SEC in terms of rushing yards per game at 254. But the passing game has been questionable.

Quarterback Emory Jones has been sub-par this season. Jones leads the SEC in interceptions with nine so far. This has led head coach Dan Mullen to turn to his backup quarterback, Anthony Richardson, who has clearly been the better of the two. Mullen said that he plans to use both Jones and Richardson against Georgia.

I think this game will be over before halftime. Georgia's defense is just too good and they'll be a nightmare against Florida's lackluster offense.





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E.O.E

NFL Week 7 roundup

OWEN PUSTELL

thedmsports@gmail.com

Well, about half the NFL got absolutely mollywhopped last week. Six games were decided by 21+ points while just three were kept within one possession. The Jets played their part well, losing 54-13 to a struggling New England offense, while also managing to get their rookie QB hurt. Bravo New York, Bravo. The Texans scored five whole points against the Cardinals, who have taken their place as the undisputed No. 1 team in the NFL, as Kyler Murray continues to play like a true MVP candidate. The Lions lost again, but look like they play harder and harder each week. Expect a win to come from them soon as they play the beatable and disheartened Eagles and Steelers next. The Browns, who were missing Baker Mayfield, scraped out a win behind third string running back D'Ernest Johnson's 168-yards performance. They move to 4-3 but are looking at an easier four game streak featuring the Lions, Patriots and Steelers. The Niners continue their disappointing season after losing a messy game to the Colts at home on Sunday Night. For the first time in years, there are legitimate questions about the front office in the Bay Area after they mortgaged their future to bring Trey Lance in. John Lynch sent the 49ers 2022 first and second round picks plus a 2023 first rounder to the Dolphins for the third overall selection last year. Of course, they drafted Trey Lance who has looked promising thus far, but seems to be on a team that is struggling at virtually every other position. For a guy who has thrown just 366 regular passes since high school, it looks to be a difficult situation.

Winner – Cincinnati Bengals (Bengals 41, Baltimore Ravens 17)

We are seven weeks into the season and the Bengals hold the No. 1 spot in the AFC North.

After not posting a winning record for five seasons and having a -390 point differential during that time, Cincinnati is 5-2. Sunday was a statement win. A 41-17 victory over a division rival they haven't beaten since September of 2018. It's a new culture in Cincinnati. Joe Burrow is living up to his No. 1 draft status, and Ja'Marr Chase has given the offense a deep threat that hasn't been there since A.J. Green's prime.

but, to their credit, they have rebounded well. In the past two weeks, the Titans have beaten the Bills and Chiefs (which gets less and less impressive every week), but they have proven that they have the talent and ability to beat any team at any time. Derrick Henry continues to be the biggest work-horse back in the league, already carrying the ball 191 times, 68 more than the league runner-up. While Henry might not

safety, another area the Titans needed help at going into the season.

Losers – Justin Fields

After getting drafted in the first round last year, Justin Fields has held the hopes of Chicago football fans squarely on his shoulders. They clawed for Matt Nagy to start Fields week one and were disappointed to hear that Andy Dalton was to be the Bears starter until further notice. Eventually,

but Matt Nagy certainly isn't the coach to unlock it.

Losers – Carolina Panthers (Panthers 3, New York Giants 25)

After last season, the importance of Christian McCaffery to the Carolina Panthers was in doubt after Mike Davis replaced him following an injury. This year, CMC has once again found himself on injured reserve after getting hurt in week three. The Panthers, who surprised everyone by starting the season 3-0, have yet to win a game in his absence. They have dropped four straight, including their two lowest scoring games of the season, in what has been a streak of poor offensive performances. Interestingly enough, it has been the pass game that has felt the loss of McCaffery more than anything. When CMC is starting, Sam Darnold averages 296 yards, 1 TD, 0.3 INT and a 68.21 completion percentage per game, with no games below 67.5%. Without their superstar running back, Darnold has averaged 199 yards, 1 TD, 1.75 INT, with a 57.22 completion percentage. The difference is night and day. Without his trusty checkdown, Darnold has been forced to take deeper drops and make difficult throws on a more constant basis. Early in the season it looked like this might be the rejuvenation that Darnold needed after a broken stint with the Jets, but after getting benched towards the end of last week's three point performance, it looks like Darnold might not be the franchise answer.

Rebel Recap

DK Metcalf: 2 catches, 96 yards, 1 touchdown (Seattle Seahawks 10, New Orleans Saints 10)

A.J. Brown: 8 catches, 133 yards, 1 touchdown (Tennessee Titans 27, Kansas City Chiefs 3)

Dawson Knox: Bye Week

Elijah Moore: 1 catch, 13 yards, 1 touchdown (New York Jets 13, New England Patriots 54)

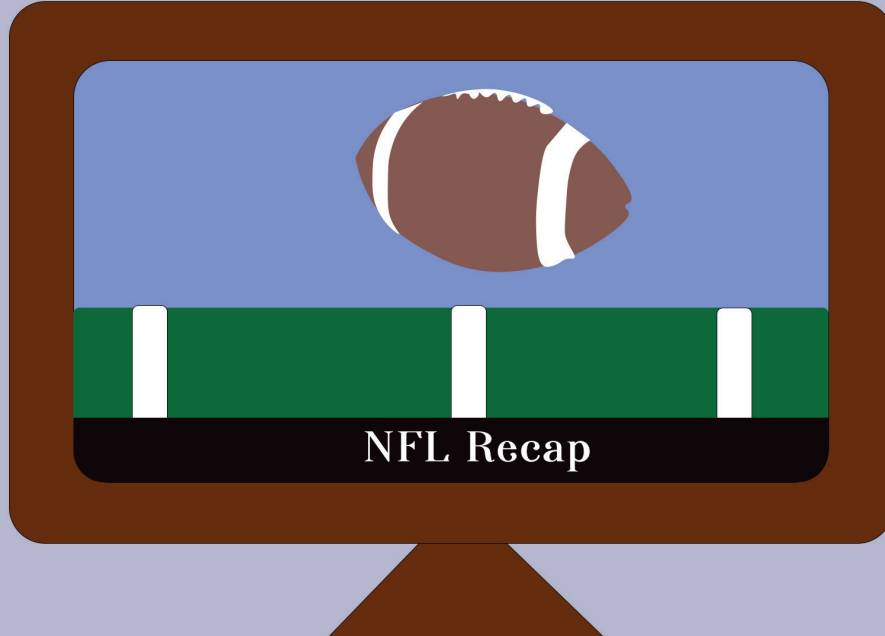


ILLUSTRATION: MICAH CRICK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Defensively, the pass rush has been much improved. In 2020, they totaled 17 sacks throughout the 16 game season, but after adding Trey Hendrickson (team leader with 6.5 sacks) and Larry Ogunjobi (2.5 sacks) the pass rush has bounced back with 19 sacks through seven games. The emergence of second year linebacker Logan Wilson has also been crucial to the teams defensive success. He has molded into a well-rounded playmaker totaling four interceptions so far.

Winner – Tennessee Titans (Titans 27, Kansas City Chiefs 3)

Just a few weeks ago I was bashing Tennessee for losing to the Jets (which I still find objectively hilarious),

boast the highest yards per carry (18th among players with 50+ carries), he is the only back in the league who can consistently take 30 touches a game without real threat of injury. Much like Cincinnati, the Titans needed to boost their pass rush in order to stiffen up defensively. Their production has come from linebacker Harold Landry, who's 7.5 sacks puts him second in the league. The 2018 second round pick is going into his third year as a starter and has always been a solid player, but looks to have added an extra edge to his game. Additionally, it looks like the Titans have found a late round gem in Elijah Molden. The 100th overall pick has started the last two games and recorded 17 tackles at

Dalton would go down with an injury, paving the way for Fields to become the Bears full-time starter. In the five games Fields has seen considerable action, he has thrown for a combined completion percentage of 57.3% with six interceptions and two touchdowns (while also fumbling six times). Fields took sacks he didn't need to and generally looked overwhelmed by the NFL defenses he called "slow" in the pre-season. Granted, head coach Matt Nagy has not put Fields in the best scenarios to succeed and there is a lackluster offensive line unit, but you expect more from the 11th overall pick. Obviously, Fields still has plenty of time to turn it around and he clearly possesses playmaking ability,




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Howry Lectures in Faulkner Studies

VIOLET JIRA
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

The inaugural Howry Lecture in Faulkner Studies commenced virtually Monday night. An annual event, the Howry Lectures in Faulkner Studies will bring a distinguished Faulkner scholar to the heart of Yoknapatawpha County every year to present the university, Oxford and Lafayette County communities with a lecture on one of the South's most prolific writers and his works.

Barbara Ladd, the inaugural Howry Lecturer and professor of English at Emory University, delivered a riveting and relevant lecture entitled "Who is Charles Bon? Reading Race in Faulkner in the 21st Century." "Absalom, Absalom!," the novel around which her discussion was centered, turns 85 years old today.

The lectures came about when the University of Mississippi English Department faculty were directed to think of ways to use a surplus of money from an endowment given to the department. Wanting to honor

the legacy of the donors and create something that added to the wide breadth of resources available to Faulkner enthusiasts and scholars in Oxford, the Howry Lecture in Faulkner Studies was created.

Jay Watson, Distinguished Professor of English and Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies, sees the annual lecture as an opportunity for the community to realize and engage with the continuing relevance of Faulkner's work.

"Professor Ladd is going to be talking about one of Faulkner's greatest novels of race, 'Absalom, Absalom!,' but a novel that was written 85 years ago," said Watson. "And yet, one of the things she's going to address in her talk is that the moment that we are in, in this country right now. The dialogue on race and justice is a moment that Faulkner can help us out with."

"Absalom, Absalom!" is one of the core novels in William Faulkner's bibliography. Published in 1936, the novel weighs in on some of Faulkner's

favorite topics like race, family, history and memory. Charles Bon — the mixed race son of the novel's central figure Thomas Sutpen — was the subject of Ladd's lecture.

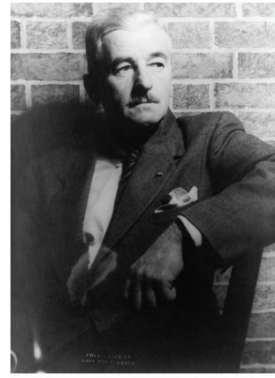
"21st century readers, we occupy a different kind of racial landscape than that really binary Jim Crow landscape of the '30s, when Faulkner wrote the novel," Watson said. "So, the way 21st century people think about race — the more kind of fluid ways or multiracial ways that we think about racial identity — we can bring that back to Faulkner, and help make Faulkner more contemporary with us."

Ladd has studied Faulkner and southern literature extensively, and is internationally recognized as an expert in the field. While the lecture focused primarily on Bon, Ladd opened her lecture with a striking consideration of Sutpen — the novel's main figure — and the role he plays in the story of the South.

"What Sutpen might represent will change of course — does he represent the dark, grandiose pretensions of the southern planter? Or the rapacity of the American innocent? But it will, in most cases, be Thomas

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Sutpen and his story as the vehicle of the story of the South," she said.

Ladd continued to deliver a striking presentation that was followed by an engaging discussion of the text and it's content, driven by questions asked by the audience.

Everyone knows there is no better place to read, study and enjoy the works of William Faulkner than in Oxford, Mississippi. His characters are

set against our most famous landmarks. Faulkner rests in the shade of our trees. The Howry Lecture in Faulkner Studies is sure to be a rich annual treasure for those who love literature, Faulkner and the South.

The next Howry Lecture in Faulkner Studies is set to take place in March 2022. Professor Sharon Holland of the University of North Carolina will be the Howry Lecturer.

SOLUTION TO 10.21 PUZZLE

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ACROSS
1- Expeditiously;
6- Guns;
10- Patriot Nathan;
14- Melon, e.g.;
15- Belinda Carlisle's "Should ___ You In?";
16- Hurler Hershiser;
17- Put a new price on;
18- Actress Rowlands;
19- Wading place;
20- Compensate;
21- Distaste;
23- Heston's org.;
25- Bullpen stat;
26- Catch sight of;
29- ___ Abby;
32- Gulf;
37- Snake eyes;
38- Equal a bet;
39- Stable scene;
40- One recording the past;
43- Banner;
44- Fall short;
45- Common Market abbr.;
46- Actress Witherspoon;
47- Kitchen addition;
48- Piedmont province;
49- Affirmative action?;
51- Mayday!;
53- Young bird;

DOWN
1- Pearl Mosque city;
2- Ovid, e.g.;
3- Mercury or Saturn;
4- Crevice;
5- Gardening tool;
6- Latvian capital;
7- Hgt.;
8- Facade;
9- Fab Four name;
10- Kachina doll maker;
11- Buck follower;
12- Boxer Spinks;
13- Building add-on;
22- Of religious rites;
24- I don't give ___!
26- Early anesthetic;
27- Pigs;
28- Deputised group;

58- Grammarian's concern;
62- Bay;
63- Langston Hughes poem;
64- Grain stores;
65- Draft classification;
66- Emptiness;
67- Former Russian rulers;
68- Dispatched;
69- Goes wrong;
70- Michael of R.E.M.;

30- New Haven collegian;
31- High up;
33- Like cool cats;
34- Pains;
35- Article of bedding;
36- Paris "thanks";
38- Believable;
39- Weeps;
41- Shakespearean contraction;
42- Gangster's gun;
47- Magazine VIP;
48- Help;
50- Martini garnish;
52- Ejects;
53- Not one;
54- Uniform;
55- Show to a table;
56- Black, in Bordeaux;
57- Deities;
59- Jai ___;
60- Hiker's snack;
61- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto);
62- Long-leaved lettuce;

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OPINION



ILLUSTRATION: VANESSA CLARK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Nothing will change under Biden's leadership

HAL FOX
 themopinion@gmail.com

Living in Mississippi, you'd think Joe Biden's approval ratings could never eclipse 30%. Located in one of the most solidly red states in the country, the University of Mississippi is unsurprisingly one of the most conservative campuses in the country. On campus, you're much more likely to hear negative opinions about the current president than positive ones, which can skew perceptions about how people nationwide really feel about the new administration. In the conservative bubble of Oxford, Mississippi, it's easy to fall into a mindset that Biden is widely hated everywhere, that it's just the norm. Usually, this would be inaccurate.

According to new approval rating polls, however, the opinions about Biden on our campus seem to mirror the country's more than ever before.

Biden's accumulated approval rating currently sits at 43.5%, a new low for his administration at a time where most presidents see their approval ratings rise due to policy implementation (not the Trump presidency though, which stayed steadily around 40% throughout the entire administration and only ever briefly achieved a 45.8% peak approval rating). While the substantial majority of Biden's detractors likely share the conservative views popular on our campus, the new low in Biden's approval ratings instead comes from discontent among key voting blocs that won him the 2020 election, notably women, young people, African Americans and Latinos.

After the calamitous withdrawal from Afghanistan that rocked headlines, the Biden administration faced increased criticism and a decline in the polls. His biggest problem stands as failing to deliver upon the most essential promise he made during the election: to

repair the damage done by the Trump administration. Biden's bipartisan police reform plan has failed in the Senate and his \$3.5 trillion (projected over 10 years) Build Back Better plan — a joint bill that includes legislation to overhaul infrastructure, address climate change, bolster labor unions, reform education and make the wealthiest companies and individuals pay for it — has similarly failed to overcome Washington gridlock.

While the individual policies in the Build Back Better plan are very popular among members of the public, many are distraught that the Biden administration has made next to no progress on making these policies a reality. With the rate that the negotiations are going, if America ever does see the Build Back Better plan in action, it will likely be so watered down from Congressional compromise that no one will be happy with the result — the signature move of the Democratic party.

Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election because people in this country are finally starting to demand real, intensive change in the structures and processes of American democracy and society, but they may have staked their hopes on the wrong person. While Biden's policy proposals hint that change may be possible, the realities of an incredibly divided Washington make that change seem more distant and unreachable than ever before. Perhaps Biden voters listened to the wrong

campaign promises and should have paid more attention to when Joe Biden said that "nothing will fundamentally change," once he was elected into office. I think he has a better chance of delivering that promise to voters than any other.

Hal Fox is a sophomore majoring in Chinese and international studies from Robert, LA.

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October 23: Eli Manning Day

Thank You 10.



Photo by HG Biggs