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Protest emerges on UM campus in response to vaccine mandate



SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Approximately two dozen Oxford community members, university employees and students protested against the university's COVID vaccine mandate for faculty and staff on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

STACEY SPIEHLER
VIOLET JIRA

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“Vax choice, by damn!” The academic day was disrupted Tuesday when community members, students and university employees marched on campus in demonstration against the employee vaccination mandate. Past university landmarks — from the Walk of Champions to the Lyceum — the protesters paraded their cause loudly. To vax or not to vax — they want the choice.

SEE PROTEST PAGE 2

Extinguish the Flames



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss wide receiver Dontario Drummond dances past an Auburn defender for a first down during a game on Oct. 30.

RUBY DRAAYER

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Well, well, well, the time has come. Hugh Freeze and Liberty are coming into town looking to get a massive win over No. 15 Ole Miss.

Ole Miss is coming off of their

second loss of the season to No. 12 Auburn last weekend. Injuries and lack of depth were extremely apparent in the disappointing loss to the Tigers, but the focus will shift to someone else this week. Liberty will be making its first appearance in Oxford, but it won't

SEE LIBERTY PAGE 6

UM enrollment numbers increase

VIOLET JIRA
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Fall enrollment at the University of Mississippi, excluding the University of Mississippi Medical Center, totals 18,800 students, according to figures released Tuesday by the Institutions of Higher Learning. This is a 0.7% increase compared to fall 2020.

Enrollment at UMMC increased by 1.6%, bringing its total number of students to 3,056 for fall 2021.

Overall, enrollment at Mississippi's public universities decreased 0.8% year over year, totaling 76,510 students in the system for fall 2021.

“This steady enrollment is a testament to (students’) dedication, even in the face of adversities brought on by the pandemic,” said Alfred Rankins Jr., Mississippi commissioner of higher education.

“As each student graduates and moves into the workforce, their perseverance will benefit not only themselves but also the businesses and organizations in which they work and the economy.”

Delta State University showed the largest enrollment decrease, with 9.1% fewer students in fall 2021 (2,727 students) than in fall 2020.

Alcorn State University, Mississippi University for Women and the University of Southern Mississippi showed decreases in enrollment, while Jackson State University and Mississippi Valley State University gained students.

Enrollment at all UM campuses rose consistently between 2011 and 2016 — a 16.5% increase during that period. However, from 2016-2021, total enrollment decreased by 9.9%. Excluding UMMC's student body from the tally, the loss of enrollment at UM over those years is 13.9%. In 2016, the university

SEE ENROLLMENT PAGE 4

PROTEST

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Protesters gathered on the University of Mississippi campus Tuesday in demonstration against the vaccine mandate that requires all faculty, staff, support staff and student employees to be vaccinated or exempt by Jan. 3.

Roughly two-dozen in number, the protesters — consisting of community members, university employees and students — walked the university campus chanting, bearing signs and exchanging words with on-lookers. The protest is one of many across the state and nation against vaccinations as a condition for employment.

One student, who preferred to be identified only as “Kelly,” was notified of the event via a GroupMe for members of the UM chapter of Turning Point USA. The GroupMe was publicly accessible until late Tuesday afternoon, but the protest was not publicized in any other way.

Kelly will be graduating in the spring with a B.S. in biology and a minor in chemistry and says she believes in the science

behind the vaccine, but believes in freedom first.

“They care more about the money and politics than they do about the people who are going here, who are working here, who are just trying to survive,” said Kelly. “They’re caving because of money.”

By complying with the federal mandate, the eight public universities in the state of Mississippi will be able to maintain 120 federal contracts and \$271 million.

Scott Kendricks was also one of the demonstrators. A veteran, educator, former police officer and UM Department of Journalism graduate, Kendricks stood in demonstration against the mandate.

“The university is mandating that all faculty and staff — that means from the professors to the grass cutters — have to get vaccinated to keep their jobs and I think that’s wrong. They didn’t have a choice. They should have a choice,” he said.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a condition for employment, however, the university rescinded previous direction, announcing yesterday that those who had not provided



SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Protests against the University of Mississippi’s COVID vaccine mandate for university employees began in front of the Union plaza before proceeding down the Walk of Champions and University Avenue through the Circle and to the Lyceum.

proof of vaccination or received medical/religious exemption would be separated from employment come Jan. 3. Previously, unvaccinated and nonexempt employees would be placed on unpaid leave after Dec. 8.

Kendricks, though not a university employee, believes it is unfair for employees to lose

their jobs for not taking the vaccine.

“People who have been on this campus for 25 years — working faithfully — they’re going to be out of a job if they don’t take the vaccine,” he said.

The protests began on the Union plaza before taking the Walk of Champions and University Ave. through the

circle and to the Lyceum. Met with an empty Chancellor’s office, the protesters stopped on the east side of the Lyceum, chanting and hotly exchanging words with onlookers in opposition to their cause. The protesters then returned to the Union plaza and disbanded.

It is unclear whether more protests are to be held.

University hosts employee vaccine mandate Q&A info sessions

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A series of Q&A sessions, open to faculty, staff and student workers, are taking place this week, organized because of the new federal guidelines that mandate the University of Mississippi to have all of its employees vaccinated against COVID-19. The sessions took place on Nov. 1, Nov. 2 and Nov. 3.

On Nov. 2, the Q&A was led by a panel that answered a variety of questions, from what was in the vaccine to the process of applying for medical and religious exemptions. This

panel included Dr. Hubert Spears from Employee Health Services, Wayne Gray from the Department of Biology, Andrea Jakobsons from Human Resources and Kimberly DeVries from the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Spears explained that potential side-effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are quite rare.

“There have been over 400 million doses of the vaccine that have been given out. And with the vaccine historically, you know the major side effects within the first six months,” Spears said. “The number of complications have been remarkably low.”

DeVries answered questions about religious and medical exemptions, the process of how applying works and whether there would be public knowledge that an employee was not vaccinated.

“The point of the submission and review process is to be individualized. And that’s true of your accommodation process,” DeVries said. “There will be no public declaration of exemption status... ERC (Equal Opportunity Regulatory Compliance) is keeping those (vaccination) records separate from employee files, separate from HR.”

DeVries hoped that this Q&A would help inform people

about the exemption process and help give ERC feedback and what they could improve.

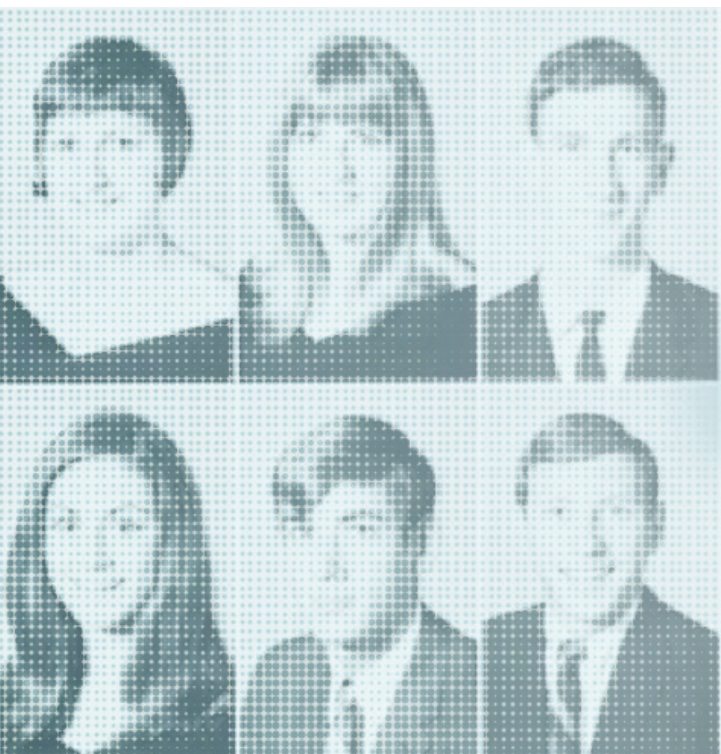
“The goal was that the Q&A would give people an opportunity to ask specific questions in a format that is somewhat less formal,” DeVries said. “And talk to people who are working in the process and give us feedback honestly, on improving the processes and questions that we can see are going to be common questions and helping us clarify expectations.”

It was not just DeVries that hoped the Q&A would be helpful.

Gray said he hoped “(participants) became a little

more aware of the vaccine issues involved with safety and effectiveness and allow them to make a better decision about whether to get the vaccine or not.”

On Oct. 25 Chancellor Glenn Boyce sent an email that announced that the Institutes for Higher Learning had voted to direct all universities to follow President Biden’s executive order. This required all employees of the university, including student employees, to be vaccinated. All employees had to be vaccinated by Dec. 8, however, an email Boyce sent out on Nov. 2 changed this date to Jan. 3.



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Oxford continues to struggle with drug overdoses

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After 2020, a deadly year in which 10 people suffered fatal drug overdoses, Oxford Chief of Police Jeff McCutchen said that the Oxford Police Department has received fewer calls about overdoses in recent months.

However, it's not because drug use has declined.

"We are finding Narcan at houses," he said.

Narcan is a nasal spray that blocks the opioid receptors in the brain and reverses the symptoms of an opioid overdose.

"We are still facing the issue, the overdose issue is still there, people are still getting these prescription pills on the street laced with Fentanyl — but now we are not answering (as many) unresponsive calls because people are using Narcan more," McCutchen said.

Last April, all sorority and fraternity presidents at the University of Mississippi were given Narcan training and a supply to keep in their houses in case of an emergency.

"Narcan is just another safety precaution we take here. Hopefully we never have to use it, but if we ever did, it could save a life, so we always keep it in a known, easy to access location" said Clay Welch, a sophomore biological science major and member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Narcan is not only easily accessible for members of Greek life on campus, but it is also easy

to administer.

"It's really as easy as taking it out of the packaging, inserting the syringe into the person's nostril and pushing the plunger in to administer the medicine," said Welch.

Kyle Loggins, the certified prevention specialist at the William Magee Center for AOD and Wellness Education at UM, said the university, as of last month, is allowed to supply Narcan in each building on campus as well as in student housing.

The Magee Center was able to reach out to student housing and have their pro staff to be trained in Narcan. They also now have Narcan in each building.

"Unfortunately, these opioid use behaviors would likely continue with or without the Narcan training," Loggins said. "The training ensures our community is better equipped to respond to these situations, so overdoses are less likely to not lead to deaths. Then hopefully, individuals can receive appropriate treatment and/or level of care."

Loggins joined the staff last January, during the worst of Oxford's opioid crisis.

"It was my first week on the job," he said. "We were looking at four or five (drug overdoses) in the community, and two of them were students of the university...I knew I needed to get harm reduction strategies on campus and get Narcan involved."



JACOB MEYERS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Last April, all sorority and fraternity houses at the University of Mississippi were given Narcan and chapter presidents received training in how to use the nasal spray in case of an emergency.

Loggins said harm reduction strategies are crucial in trying to "disrupt the culture."

"Narcan training is a direct effect from combining resources between the university and community," Loggins said.

According to the CDC, over 800,000 people nationwide have died from an opioid overdose since 1999. In 2019 alone, there were over 70,000 deaths related to opioid overdose. Since the beginning of the semester, OPD has made 41 drug related arrests.

Since Loggins joined the team, the Magee Center separated from the Campus Rec Center, became its own unit and doubled the size of its staff.

"We try to be here, there and everywhere. I work really closely with Greek life, and I am really trying to get our name

out there," Loggins said. "With this awareness, more students, staff and faculty are beginning to embrace the message of 'help us disrupt the culture.' Students are starting to reach out and ask for help instead of keeping these issues to themselves."

The problem cannot be fixed overnight, which is one frustration Loggins struggles with. Although students are reaching out to health professionals, the issue still exists.

Students see their peers being hospitalized for a drug overdose, or hear about a possible death on campus that relates to fatally laced drugs, yet no one talks about it.

The William Magee Center's goal is to end that stigma, and they still have a long way to go. The William Magee Center first opened its doors in September of

2019 to give students a space to make healthy choices in an open and inclusive setting.

The center is dedicated to William Magee, a UM student who lost his life due to his struggle with addiction.

William's father, David Magee, regularly speaks openly on this issue as he feels that is one of the most important aspects in breaking the stigma. David Magee's "Dear William: A Father's Memoir of Addiction, Recovery, Love and Loss" was published by BenBella Books this month.

"People have to stand up and speak up — people cannot be afraid to talk about it," he said. "Addiction is a disease, just like cancer. People are not afraid to talk about cancer, and talking about addiction should be the same."

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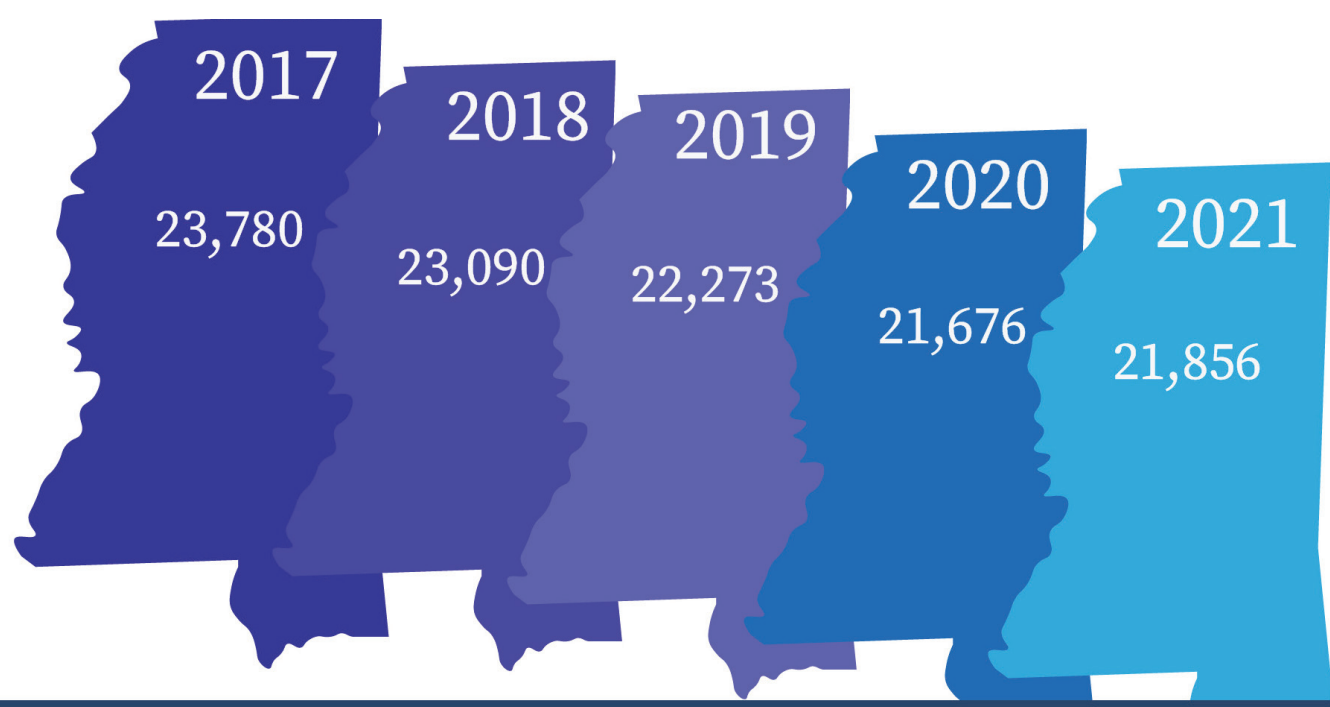
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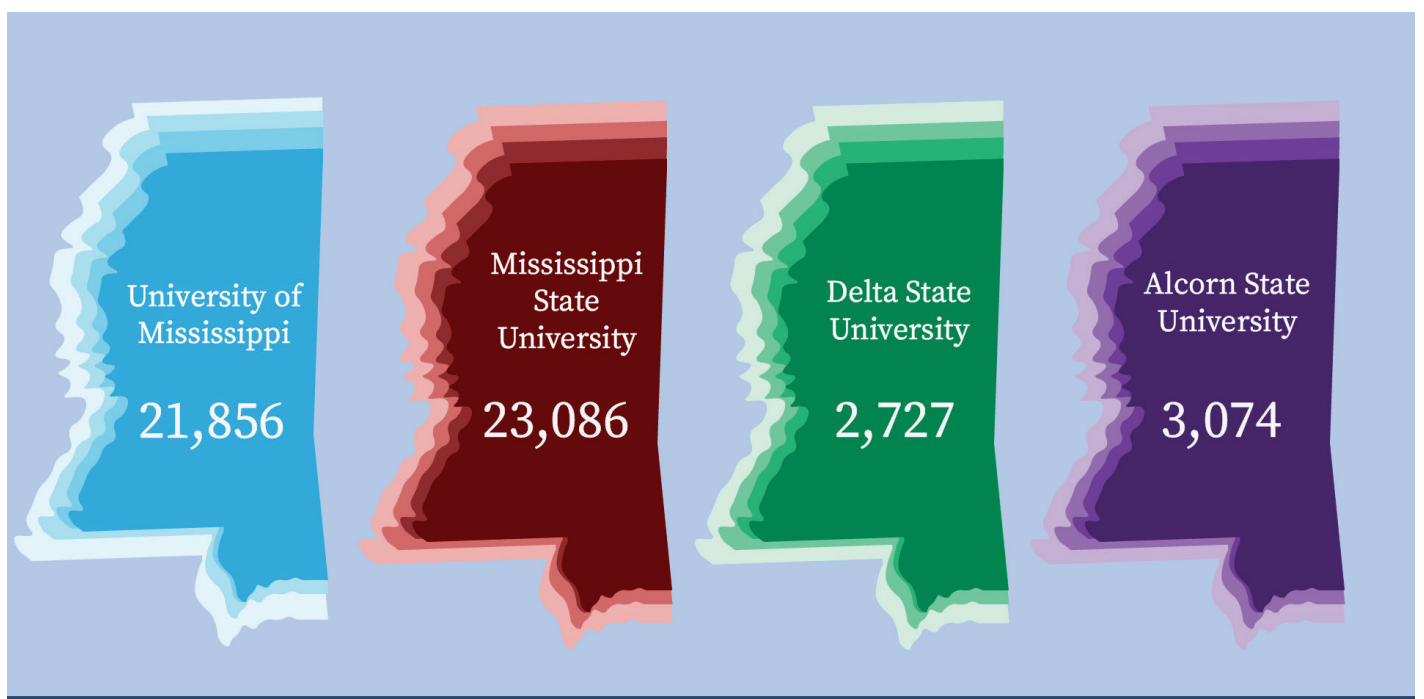
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ENROLLMENT
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Enrollment for the University of Mississippi



Total Enrollment for 2021

ILLUSTRATIONS: MICAH CRICK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

boasted 21,260 students, not including UMMC. This fall the enrollment number is 18,800, excluding UMMC. “Enrollment fluctuates from year to year for many reasons — demographics, the economy, state of the

job market, etc,” said Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Eduardo Prieto. “And the COVID-19 global pandemic has had an impact on higher education enrollment as enrollment dropped nationally more than

6% over the past two years, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.” However, Mississippi State University’s enrollment levels have been on a constant rise for six consecutive years.

MSU has maintained the largest fall enrollment among state universities this fall, with 23,086 students, a 0.4% increase over fall 2020. Decrease in college enrollment is a trend nationwide. According to the

Education Data Initiative, college enrollments total 17.5 million undergraduate students nationwide. However, college enrollment has declined 1.67% per year since 2010.

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University of Mississippi begins construction on Duff Center

VIOLET JIRA
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The University of Mississippi is beginning the construction of The Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation. Situated in the university's Science District, with sides facing both the grove and All-American Drive, the 202,000-square-foot building is the largest single construction project on the Oxford campus, to date.

Jim and Thomas Duff, for whom the center is named, United States Senator Roger Wicker, Chancellor Glenn Boyce and other university leaders ceremonially broke ground on the project Oct. 29. In the October 2021 edition of "At the Flagship," Boyce emphasized the benefits of the new center.

"The Duff Center will be a major enhancement to our campus — it's the single largest building project ever on the Oxford campus, and it

will become a transformative resource for science and math education for our students," he said.

The center will include biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering and physics labs, as well as lecture halls. The center will also include several common areas for students to study, a food service area and a science, technology, engineering and math tutoring center.

The center will include an outdoor area commemorating author William Faulkner and his legacy. The university's old power plant, where William Faulkner wrote one of his most famous novels, "As I Lay Dying," was situated on the site where the Duff Center is being built.

With major donations from Jim and Thomas Duff, the Gertrude C. Ford foundation and other supporters, the project will cost \$175 million, with \$135 million going towards construction expenses.

No anticipated completion date has been announced.




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Conceptual rendering of Duff Center.



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Proposals shall be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on November 30, 2021. The Division of Medicaid reserves the right to return any and all proposals not in compliance with proposal packet guidelines.

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposal packets shall be read at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, and all bidders are invited to attend. Location of opening will be the 4th floor conference room, Walter Sillers building, 550 High St., Jackson, MS 39201.

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LIBERTY

continued from page 1

be everyone's first time in Oxford. Liberty head coach Hugh Freeze is not a stranger to Mississippi and is looking to shock the football world with his first time back in Oxford since "resigning" in 2017.

Freeze was the head coach for Ole Miss from 2012-2016. He inherited a dreadful football program under former head coach Houston Nutt. Freeze was able to transform this team and took them to a bowl game in each of his four years of coaching. Most notably, Hugh Freeze was the coach that beat Alabama in back-to-back years, as well as led the Rebels to the Sugar Bowl and won in 2016. However, Freeze is also responsible for the destruction of the Ole Miss football program the following year. Former coach Nutt was suing the school for defamation after reports that former Athletic Director Ross Bjork and Freeze blamed

Nutt for numerous recruiting violations that happened during his time at Ole Miss.

During the investigation headed up by the NCAA, it was found that 17 of the 21 violations actually occurred during Freeze's time at Ole Miss. This was found when the NCAA updated their Notice of Allegations that charged the program with 21 total violations. This meant that Ole Miss was required to vacate 33 wins during this time, a two-year post-season ban, three years of probation, and a four-year ban on some scholarships. During this same investigation, it was revealed that Freeze was responsible for cell phone calls to a female escort service using University of Mississippi phones. He then resigned, leaving Matt Luke the interim head coach just before the start of the season.

Looking ahead to this week, Ole Miss has a giant mountain to climb in regards to injuries. It was clear to everyone against Auburn that the offensive production was not what it usually is, and that



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss defensive back Deane Leonard tackles an Auburn ball carrier during a game on Oct. 30, 2021.

is largely due to significant injuries in the offensive line and wide receiving rooms. The top three receivers are expected to miss this week's game, whether with season-ending injuries or just out of an abundance of caution.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Kiffin told the media only two of the original 11 starters practiced on Wednesday.

"Excited to come back home...we'll have our hands full. We're a very injured group, especially offensively. Never seen anything like this. (It) does present a challenge for us," Kiffin said.

This Ole Miss team was already struggling during Auburn, and were only able to score three points in the second half against the Tigers. Although Liberty does not have the same level of talent, only being able to score three points the rest of the season is not going to cut it. Multiple turnovers in the game by the defense and special teams helped the offense by putting them in fantastic field position, but were only able to score points on four of the eight trips in the red zone.

Defensively, the Rebels have shown drastic improvements and were able to give the offense a chance to win the game by holding Bo Nix and his offense to only

three points in the second half. AJ Finley led the team in tackles along with Sam Williams and Tylan Knight each getting a sack, but it wasn't enough to get the win.

The Liberty Flames are sitting at 7-2 on the season with losses to Syracuse and UL Monroe. In the 2020 season, they had an unbelievable season and finished the year 10-1. They are an independent university but have a fantastic football program. Quarterback Malik Willis has almost 2,000 yards so far this season with 21 touchdowns and six interceptions. He is averaging about 66.1% completion, and is not someone to overlook this year. The Flames have been very efficient offensively this season behind Willis, and he has also been their leading rusher so far this season. Through nine games, Willis has rushed for 684 rushing yards.

Both quarterbacks have already had incredible seasons and very similar stat lines. Matt has passed for 2,202 yards and has a 66% completion rate at this point in the season, but it is unsure whether Ole Miss quarterback Matt Corral will be healthy enough to play on Saturday. After suffering a shocking ankle injury that forced him to leave the game, his status is still unclear ahead of this

weekend's matchup. He has a unique ability to lead this team towards a win almost single-handedly, and without his playmaking ability, things will get a lot trickier for this Rebels team.

Looking to this week, finding the offensive depth is going to be the key for the Rebels to win this game. There has been a lot of discussion of a "next man up" mentality, and this will be especially crucial this season. Expect to see a lot of new faces, as well as a much less complicated offense. Ole Miss players and Kiffin have alluded to the idea that this will be a very run-heavy offense this week. Despite Corral being the current leading rusher on the team, Henry Parrish and Snoop Conner both have over 400 yards rushing on the year. In order to win this game, they will be critical to find open spaces and punish a depleted Liberty defense.

"We're going to simplify things and try to play some younger players," Kiffin said. "Obviously three points in the second half isn't going to get it done...we have to find a way to overcome that. That's what coaching is."

Ole Miss and Liberty kick-off at 11:00 a.m. CST on SEC Network+ in the much anticipated match-up in Oxford.

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Rebels collect multiple postseason awards heading into SEC Tournament

CATHERINE JEFFERS

thedmsports@gmail.com

The Southeastern Conference has released their slate of awards heading into the soccer postseason, and it's raining Rebels.

Ole Miss goalkeeper Ashley Orkus has taken home the title of Goalkeeper of the Year for the second time. Throughout the 2021 season the Vestavia Hills, Alabama, native has manned the net in all 18 games. Orkus boasts a 1.29 goals against average, facing 200 shots thus far. With 65 saves on the season, Orkus holds a 0.730 save percentage, bringing her career percentage to 0.777.

Not only does Orkus get it done inside the net, she can also dominate offensively, netting her fourth career assist against South Carolina in a 2-1 Rebel victory.

Senior forward Channing Foster has made history again, becoming the first player to hold All-SEC honors five times. Foster was named to the First Team All-SEC for the third straight year, coming off of another dominant regular season.

Through 18 games this season, Foster has eight goals and six assists, bringing her to 43 career goals and 15 career assists. Her dominant presence for Ole Miss Soccer, while not over yet, will soon be very missed.

Senior midfielder Haleigh Stackpole has continued to prove herself this season, earning her debut first team honor, but second all time SEC nod. The



Ole Miss forward Channing Foster prepares to pass the ball during a match against Vanderbilt on Oct. 17, 2021.

SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

2018 All-SEC Freshman Team honoree was awarded to the Second Team All-SEC for the 2021 season. Stackpole has found the back of the net five times this season, but her biggest threat comes in the form of assists. Her

13 assists this season ranks third in the nation.

Senior midfielder Molly Martin has proved to be a dominant aerial presence this season. Her nine goals in 2021 doubled her four previous

seasons combined and placed her on Second Team All-SEC.

While Ole Miss Soccer finished out their regular season with a 3-2 loss to Mississippi State, they now have their eyes set on the postseason. The Rebels

take on Alabama in the second round of the SEC Tournament after a first round bye. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. CST in Orange Beach, Alabama, live on SEC Network.



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Pick 'em: Week 10

DM STAFF REPORT
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We know you missed us. The DM editorial staff is back with their hot takes on football. Hope you didn't come to this piece expecting us to drop some knowledge, we do not have that. Enjoy!

Liberty at No. 15 Ole Miss: Londyn Lorenz
Final Score Prediction: Ole Miss 52, Liberty 24

There is no way in heck (for the Liberty readers out there) that Ole Miss does not win this game. I want to see Hugh Freeze embarrassed beyond belief, but that is going to depend on our defense. We already know how explosive our offense can and will be, but we'll have to see if our defense will match that performance. I'm definitely optimistic for the weekend and will be shouting in the stands come Saturday, but I guess only time will tell.

Tennessee at No. 18 Kentucky: HG Biggs
Final Score Prediction: Kentucky 31, Tennessee 28

The Kentucky/Tennessee rivalry returns! If there is anything I've learned from watching college football for all 19 years of my life and as a long-time Ole Miss fan (thanks dad) and closet UK fan, it's that you shouldn't base your predictions on rankings. Literally anything can happen. Whether such anomalies occur in favor of your team is up to the football gods, or maybe that's just SEC officiating.

Nonetheless, I predict that the Kentucky Wildcats will defeat the Tennessee Volunteers this Saturday. Following a devastating loss to an unranked Mississippi State, the question in my mind is whether the Wildcats will have any energy against the Volunteers or if the loss has sapped any remaining momentum the team might have had from the start of the season. With Tennessee also facing back-to-back losses, a nailbiter against Ole Miss and a blowout against Alabama, both teams are looking to bounce back and prove themselves. So why will the Wildcats prevail?

The Volunteers have proved to have a high-powered, high-scoring offense, while the Wildcats have won by much smaller margins of victory. Furthermore, Kentucky's passing game was extremely weak against Mississippi State. However, prior to the Georgia loss, Kentucky had a consistent running game and defense. The game will be played at UK's Kroger Field, and Kentucky is currently 5-0 at home. Tennessee is only 1-2 away. Since neither team has much momentum coming into the matchup, my opinion is that the home crowd advantage could very well be the tipping point. Also, Tennessee doesn't have the option to throw trash at their opponent's bench. So this weekend I say, "Go Wildcats!"

No. 14 Baylor at TCU: Kate Kimberlin
Final Score Prediction: Baylor 3, TCU 1

Here I am, once again, choosing to write about two teams from my home state that I absolutely hate. I believe this is me looking for a fight at this point (thankfully none of my friends saw my last pick 'em). So, I've decided to predict the Bratty Kid Bowl. However, as much as it does pain me to say, I'm putting my money on the Bears. I was impressed with the win against Texas, if not a little shocked. On the flip side, I can't remember the last time TCU had an impressive football team, so I can't say I'll believe a high score on the Frog's side. I'm sure my Dallas friends will enjoy this game, and I hope they do! Be safe and I will continue to be impartial!

LSU at No. 3 Alabama: Maddy Quon
Final Score Prediction: Can they both lose?

My dear sports editor Catherine has assigned me this game to predict, so here we go. Funnily enough, two years ago I did a pick 'em for LSU vs. Bama. I said LSU should win (and I also said I never wanted to say that again). But that



ILLUSTRATION: VANESSA CLARK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

was then, and this is now. LSU was actually good then, with Heisman winner Joe Burrow as the quarterback. Now they suck, as they should.

Alabama, on the other hand, is good. As usual. One day, Alabama will be bad, and it will be a glorious time, but unfortunately today is not that day. Odds are Bama will absolutely destroy the Tigers, but I would love for there to be an option where they both lose and we can all laugh about it. Catherine, why did you give me this game? I really have nothing good to say here.

No. 12 Auburn at No. 13 Texas A&M: Vanessa Clark
Final Score Prediction: Texas A&M 41, Auburn 38 (yes this is the same as the Texas A&M vs. Alabama final score)

As someone who knows little to nothing about college football other than what I'm wearing to the Grove a month in advance, I could have put some more research into this prediction. However, I did not do that. I know Texas A&M beat Alabama, which is impressive. I think it would be cool if they beat Auburn too, since we just lost to them and I'm a little salty about it. Ole Miss hasn't played Texas A&M yet, but I also think it would be cool if we beat them, so we could say we beat the team that beat

Auburn and Alabama, which is technically the same as us beating them too. That's my logic in rooting for Texas A&M this week. I honestly do not know which team is favored. I've never written about sports in my life. I'm just a cartoonist.

Missouri at No. 1 Georgia: Jacob Meyers
Final Score Prediction: Georgia 48, Missouri 14

Despite being a football game, this is the age old debate of dogs versus cats. As a dog owner and dog person myself, I have a hard time thinking the Missouri Tigers can pull out a win. One of the statistics to note is that Georgia is currently undefeated at 8-0 and Missouri is 4-4. The Tigers might show their claws briefly against the Bulldogs and put up a few points, but with the minor football knowledge I have, I know that Missouri's defense will not be capable of much. Missouri is dead last at stopping the run, and they don't really do the defense thing. Georgia's defense could have the worst day of the year on Saturday, and with their offense they will still make it out with a win. While a Tiger might do some serious damage to a Bulldog, I think the real fight in this game would be closer to that of a kitten and a Bulldog. So my money is on Georgia.

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Ole Miss Volleyball sweeps South Carolina for the first time since 2017

AVERY LUPTON
 thedmsports@gmail.com

Over the weekend, the Rebels were able to secure their second straight SEC sweep, beating South Carolina 3-2, 3-0 in a two game series.

Ole Miss was able to capture the win in game one in a back-and-forth battle that lasted five sets.

The Rebels started the first set strong, getting out in front with a 10-3 lead, but South Carolina came back and tied with Ole Miss by point 18. South Carolina continued to dominate set one, and the Rebels were unable to overcome the Gamecocks. The Rebels fell 25-22.

The second set began with South Carolina in the lead until sophomore middle blocker Sasha Ratliff earned a kill, setting off the momentum for a win, and tied the score 21-21. The second set ended with a Rebel win with a score of 26-24.

In the third set, the game began with a kill by senior outside hitter Lauren

Thompson. Ole Miss remained in the lead the majority of the game, winning the third set 25-18.

South Carolina dominated set four 25-17 to push the match to a fifth set.

In the fifth set, Ole Miss carried a steady lead from the start. Setter Kylee McLaughlin had a kill at point seven, leading to a three-point streak. Even though South Carolina kept fighting back, Ole Miss took the overall win of the fifth and final set, 15-13.

In the second match on Saturday Ole Miss dominated from start to finish, taking the victory in three sets.

The game began with a set by McLaughlin and a kill by freshman outside hitter Katie Corelli. The Rebels finished the first set in quick fashion with a score of 25-15.

The Rebels took the initial lead of set two at 5-1, with a four in a row serving streak. The second set ended 25-13, as Ratliff added to her kill count on the weekend.

Set three began with the Rebels trailing the Gamecocks



ELIJAH DOSDA / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Sasha Ratliff reaches to receive a hit during Ole Miss's match against South Carolina on Oct. 30, 2021.

2-0. After a strong offensive effort, the Rebels went up 6-2. A back-and-forth battle ensued, but the Gamecocks were unable to overcome Ole Miss in the end. The third and

final set ended with a Rebel win at 25-20. With the second win of the weekend, the Rebels moved to 17-5 overall and 6-5 in the SEC.

Next weekend the

Rebels will play against the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on Sunday at 1 p.m. UTK is ranked fourth in the SEC standings with an 8-3 conference record.



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COLUMN

The day the buzzer died

LONDYN LORENZ
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

Next Monday marks the one-year anniversary of “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek’s death, which sent mournful waves across the country. Trebek was a mainstay of American society, with a daily 30-minute presence for over 30 years. He was a champion of the pursuit of knowledge, and his persona transcended the game show world, making cameos in pop culture giants like “The Simpsons” and being famously parodied by Will Ferrell on “Saturday Night Live.”

Alex was more than a game show host, he was a member of the family. His daily appearances offered comfort for all who watched, whether it be at home, at a grandparent’s house or while waiting for a flight at the airport. Everyone could gather around the TV and argue over the facts, bond over what they knew in common or be just as confused as the contestants after a really

strange question. Alex never ridiculed contestants — or the guests at home — for missing an answer, although he may poke fun from time to time, and always ended with an “Oh, sorry,” in his iconic Canadian accent. He was only interested in the facts and teaching the audience one clue at a time.

I had a special relationship with Alex, likely beginning when I was less than a year old. He was like my surrogate grandpa, who I probably saw more than my own grandparents at times. We’d have our 30-minute meetings every weekday (with reruns on Saturday) where he would ask the questions and I’d try my best to give the answers. He taught me so much of what I know today, even more than facts: How to approach new information, that it’s okay to not know sometimes and even how to carry myself when I was the focus of attention.

My time under the spotlight came on Feb. 3, 2020, when I finally got to meet Alex and

film my first of two episodes on the “Jeopardy! College Championship.” I had been whisked around filming promo videos and secluded in the green room all morning until 11:00 a.m. when Maggie Speak — one of the head producers on “Jeopardy!” at the time and now a personal friend — told me I would be at the second podium for the next game. Before I knew it, I was under the spotlights while Johnny Gilbert announced “A sophomore from the University of Mississippi from Perryville, Missouri, Londyn Lorenz.” Seconds later, Alex emerged from behind the question board, greeted the audience and us contestants and took his place behind his podium.

During the whole taping process, I was in awe of being in Alex’s presence and hearing him say my name. On-screen, Alex charged through the questions and we shared a laugh over my mid-game interview, but he was even more electric behind the scenes. During the first commercial break, we took our picture, now my favorite picture of all time, and during



PHOTO COURTESY: LONDYN LORENZ

Londyn Lorenz on the set of “Jeopardy!” with Alex Trebek.

the following breaks, he took questions from the audience. His same dry humor and sarcasm shone through during the informal Q&A, where he told the audience that he didn’t remember his favorite question — “I just read them and go.” — among other amusing anecdotes.

Everyone has been told to never meet their heroes, but mine was even better than I expected. Everyone knew about his cancer diagnosis and could see the smallest glimpses of weakness at times, but his strength and determination were an inspiration to me and the rest of the country. He was

a light to the nation over his 34-year tenure as host, and that light will continue long after his death. His influence can be felt even now, whether you look to the Alaskan musk ox farm where he was the “Herd Godfather,” the 62-acre Trebek Open Space in Los Angeles, which he donated to the city or even the clothes he wore on the show, which were posthumously donated to The Doe Fund.

Alex Trebek will forever be a pillar of American culture and entertainment, but his impact goes so much further. May his memory continue to be a blessing.

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- 7- Youth org.;
- 10- Weed whackers;
- 14- Thin soups;
- 15- Big bird;
- 16- Feminizing suffix;
- 17- Rum cocktail;
- 18- Help, resource;
- 19- Went through, as the paper;
- 20- Loving;
- 23- Blast from the past;
- 26- Future fish;
- 27- Race official;
- 28- Masked critter;
- 29- Samovar;
- 30- RR stop;
- 31- Republic in central Europe;
- 33- Hot time in Paris;
- 34- Powdery residue;
- 37- Canard;
- 38- Traveler's stop;
- 39- Neither's partner;
- 40- Cedar Rapids college;
- 41- DDE's rival;
- 42- ABA member;
- 43- Place in position;
- 45- ___ carte;
- 46- Word that can succeed old, ice and bronze;

- 47- Invitation request;
- 48- ___ garde;
- 51- “The Wizard of Oz” studio;
- 52- Seizes with teeth;
- 53- Activated by small change;
- 56- Gillette brand;
- 57- Shoe width;
- 58- Tater Tots maker;
- 62- Film spool;
- 63- Broke bread;
- 64- Pay as due;
- 65- Goes wrong;
- 66- Acid;
- 67- Set upon;

DOWN

- 1- Big Blue;
- 2- La-la lead-in;
- 3- ___ polloi;
- 4- To disgrace;
- 5- Abrade;
- 6- In your dreams!;
- 7- Lighthouse;
- 8- Strike hard;
- 9- Autobahn auto;
- 10- Rupture;
- 11- Late bedtime;
- 12- Related on the mother's side;
- 13- Passover meal;
- 21- Wide of the mark;

SOLUTION TO 10.28 PUZZLE



- 22- Furry swimmers;
- 23- Florida citrus center;
- 24- Nephew of Donald Duck;
- 25- Prescribed amounts;
- 29- Utah's ___ Mountains;
- 30- Rock;
- 32- Theater district;
- 33- Riddle;
- 34- ___ of thousands;
- 35- Find the answer;
- 36- Aids;
- 44- Poseidon's spear;
- 45- Historical records;
- 46- Consented;
- 48- Without ___ in the world;
- 49- Elector;
- 50- Broadcaster;
- 51- Confronts;
- 52- Henri's hat;
- 54- Ring out;
- 55- When said three times, a 1970 war movie;
- 59- Gilbert and Sullivan princess;
- 60- Yr.'s end;
- 61- Biblical beast boat;

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OPINION

Buzzwords make us forget the real issues

KATHERINE BROTEN

thedmopinion@gmail.com

I am of the dogged and often disappointing persuasion that most people are good. Regardless of background, belief or appearance, I think most people are pure in at least intent, if not action. Try as I might to be a pessimist, I just can't help from thinking that most people share this view. The anger and ill intent we see as soon as we turn on the news or open Twitter does not stem from some sort of inherent human predisposition towards polarization, but it has been intentionally manipulated by those with something to gain by keeping us from realizing

our commonalities. Instead of recognizing controversial issues as opportunities to create solutions, we have reduced every point of contention to a stark black or white.

It's astounding how someone's reaction to just a few buzzwords can tell you so much about their political leanings. Terms like Critical Race Theory, gun control and abortion have become so loaded and divorced from their original meanings that we are incapable of agreeing on common-sense solutions. Take, for example, the Mississippi justice system that allows domestic violence offenders to keep their guns. We know that guns increase the risk of homicide

in a domestic dispute by 500%, yet the NRA has so deftly used propaganda to persuade many that these common-sense confiscations constitute a violation of the Second Amendment. This inflammatory terminology has real-world consequences when we forsake what is right for what is ideologically consistent.

In Mississippi especially, we have a set of shared values that transcend politics or ideology. Southern hospitality: that sense of community that tells us to care for our neighbors and use "yes ma'am" and "no ma'am." If we were not constantly bombarded with intentionally divisive language, I believe we

would have a much more compassionate state.

Most people think racism is wrong and have no problem with teaching their children that it is. It is only when propagandists sweep in with stories of shame and white guilt that we get the asinine educational bans we see coming out of Jackson. Ideology is keeping us from treating the people around us with dignity and respect, and we are failing to protect our neighbors out of a misplaced loyalty to an ideal that does not exist.

Author Roxanne Robinson wrote, "Rage allows us to forget our own humanity. Without rage, we will recognize another person as like ourselves."

The alienating language peddled by those who seek to manufacture rage for their own gain is causing us to forget our own humanity. I hope I am not mistaken when I say that most of us envision a future where everyone is treated with kindness and respect, where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed and where no one's inherent worth is questioned. We cannot fall prey to those who obscure our shared goals with manipulated messages.

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

Hugh Freeze is just another visiting coach

RUBY DRAAYER

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There should be zero celebration for a coach that destroyed your program.

Former Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze will be in Oxford this weekend to take on Ole Miss for the first time since his "resignation" in July 2017.

There has been plenty of excitement surrounding this matchup, and I'm having a hard time figuring out why. Ed Orgeron and the LSU Tigers came to town a few weeks ago, and not one person was ready to applaud him as he ran out of the tunnel, despite being an former Ole Miss head coach for years, too. Why is this game different than playing, say Georgia Southern?

This game should be treated like the independent, non-power 5 opponent that it is. It's a filler game to break up facing SEC opponents every week and give the walk-ons a chance to play. The only reason it's even being talked about is because Freeze won a few bowl games and beat Alabama a couple of times. Let's not forget the numerous vacated wins that resulted from his actions, and the ongoing affects that we're still suffering from today.

I would like to elaborate on

how two of my favorite sayings work together to paint the perfect picture of why....

"Oh, what tangled webs we weave if at first, we practice to deceive."

Let's go back to 2016. Ole Miss had just won the Sugar Bowl, coming off back-to-back wins over Alabama. Fans and players alike were head over heels for head coach Hugh Freeze. Following the massive bowl win, however, Ole Miss was faced with numerous allegations and were about to undergo an extensive and brutal few years under NCAA investigation. The Ole Miss officials at the time decided to defend and deflect all of the possible allegations and assure the media and fans that all violations came from the previous Ole Miss coach, Houston Nutt. Understandably, Nutt was upset and asked for a public apology from Freeze and the former athletic director Ross Bjork. They declined, and Nutt sued for defamation. This is only the beginning of the end for Hugh Freeze and the Rebels.

"Well well well, if it isn't the consequences of my actions."

While preparing for this lawsuit, Nutt and his lawyers requested numbers from Ole Miss during a specific six-day period from January 2016, as he had due to his suspicions

that Freeze was having off the record conversations with reporters. As fate would have it, he wasn't doing a whole lot of conversing. A strange number popped up on the search, and it came from a Detroit number linked to a Florida-based escort service. Ole Miss officials defended Freeze again, at first. It was only a minute long phone call, and Freeze assured them and the media "it was just a misdial." However, the Rebel administration took matters into their own hands, and launched their own investigation into Freeze's phone records. Here's a shocker, they found a "pattern of personal conduct." Freeze was then given an ultimatum. Resign, or be fired, and we'll have to tell everyone what you did. He decided the decision to resign, and on a Thursday evening in July, the Ole Miss chancellor Jeffrey Vitter and AD Ross Bjork headed into a press conference that would change the trajectory of Ole Miss athletics for over five years. They announced that Freeze resigned after a "pattern of personal conduct inconsistent with the standard of expectations for the leader of our football team." A media member then asked what precisely the investigation pulled up, and Bjork said that

"I think we need to protect that information." It is still unclear who he was still trying to protect.

Looking ahead, there were almost no repercussions for Freeze. He resigned as a millionaire, his family stood by his side, and he was hired by another football program less than a year later. Ole Miss, on the other hand, was forced to vacate 33 wins from those beloved seasons, accept a two-year post season ban, undergo a three-year probationary period, and a four-year ban of scholarships. Recruiting slowed down, and players no longer wanted to play for a team that had zero hope of reaching a post season bowl game. Five years later, and Ole Miss is still dealing with the consequences of Hugh Freeze's actions.

With knowing all of this, and the embarrassment that came from it, there is still a devastatingly large group of the fan base that doesn't fault him.

When it comes down to it, facts don't care about your feelings.

On Saturday morning when the Rebels take on Liberty, there should be no standing ovation or applause for a man that single handedly wreaked havoc on this program. People who make stupid choices don't get exceptions because they won you the Sugar Bowl. Treat this exactly as it is. A former coach that took your program through a few good years before turning it into a dumpster fire as he walked away with the lighter unscathed. It's his superbowl, not ours. Don't give Hugh anymore than that.

Rebs by 100.

Ruby Draayer is a junior journalism major from Las Vegas, Nevada, and is the assistant sports editor of The Daily Mississippian.

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