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**February 17, 2022**

The Daily Mississippian

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# THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Thursday, February 17, 2022

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## Alumni share experiences at UM during Black History Month keynote



SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Peggie Gillom-Granderson, moderator Jon'na Bailey, president of the Black Student Union, and Donald Cole speak on a stage set up in the Gertrude C. Ford Student Union ballroom at the Black History Month keynote on Feb. 16.

**SOPHIA JARAMILLO**  
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In celebration of Black History Month, the University of Mississippi hosted the annual Black History Month keynote on Feb. 16, titled "I Am UM," in the Gertrude C. Ford Student Union Ballroom.

Alumni Donald Cole and Peggie Gillom-Granderson spoke on the disadvantages they faced as Black students at the university, and how the university should recognize and celebrate Black students, staff and community at Ole Miss.

Cole was one of the Ole Miss Eight, a group of students who were arrested

for peacefully protesting racial discrimination at the University of Mississippi in 1970.

Cole attended the University of Mississippi just six years after James Meredith was admitted at the university in 1962.

"The university didn't love me at first, but I kept on loving it," Cole said, "until it

loved me."

Cole was a professor of mathematics at the university, eventually receiving the position of assistant provost before he retired in 2018, leaving his legacy as a namesake on the Martindale-Cole Student Services Center.

"I love this institution. The institution was part of  
**SEE KEYNOTE PAGE 2**

## School interviews dean candidates



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

The University of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media.

**VIOLET JIRA**  
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The University of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media has moved into the next phase of finding a dean to lead the school. Throughout the next week, the school will be hosting candidates, for presentations, forums and meetings.

On Monday, the SOJNM and the university at large welcomed the first candidate, Deanna D. Sellnow, who

**SEE SOJNM PAGE 3**

## Take me out to Swayze

**DILLON CADER**  
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With the beginning of college baseball season edging closer, the Ole Miss Baseball Team once again finds itself in a position to be one of the best teams in the country. Several college baseball outlets have ranked them in their preseason Top-10, with their highest ranking at fifth in the country.

Coming off of a season where the Rebels saw several key players miss time for injuries, the 2022 team returns most of the position players that took the field in 2021 and adds a number of transfers to provide much-needed depth on the mound.

The Rebel offense will be the team's biggest strength after leading the SEC in total

offense during the 2021 season. This 2022 team returns every single position player that received serious playing time last year, with the exception of Cael Baker transferring to Ohio in the offseason.

The Ole Miss offense comes into 2022 with reasonable expectations to be the best offensive team in the country.

They return an offense filled with not only some of college baseball's most elite hitting talent, but also with proven veterans who have experienced the grind of the college baseball campaign, something that will mean a lot to this team down the road when dealing with slumps and injuries.

Rebel fans should expect to see a very similar lineup that they saw in 2021. In his media day press conference, Head Coach Mike Bianco explained

what he expected his team to look like come the season opener on Feb. 18.

"I do not know a year when I have gotten ready for the press conference and tried to write down names. There are always some question marks, but this year, there are not as many question marks. Some guys have played very well and some guys will start on Feb. 18," Bianco said.

Kevin Graham returns for his senior year and will hold things down in left field for the Rebels. Graham placed his mark as one of the Rebels' best hitters last season with a .342 batting average and 56 runs batted in.

The Rebels have a few different options when it comes to center and right field. The most likely scenario is that

**SEE BASEBALL PAGE 9**



FILE PHOTO: HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss baseball captain Tim Elko watches his teammates during a game against Southern Miss during the NCAA Oxford Regional Tournament on June 6, 2021.



# KEYNOTE

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my life — is part of my life — I can't separate myself from the institution, nor can it really separate itself from me; we interweave together," Cole said.

Holding the record of the all-time scoring and rebounding leader, Gillom-Granderson was a legendary player on the Ole Miss Women's Basketball team from 1976-1980. She then returned to the University of Mississippi to be the assistant coach of the women's basketball team in 2003.

"I love Ole Miss, I've defended Ole Miss for pretty

much all of my life," Gillom-Granderson said. "But there was Black and white, and it should never return to that."

As the 60th anniversary of the integration of Ole Miss approaches, Ethel Scurlock, Associate Professor of English and African American Studies, encourages Ole Miss students to recognize the strain, struggle and sacrifice of the Black students who paved the way for the university to reach its position today.

"Black students came to this space and they thrive in spite of — not because of — the racial landscape of Ole Miss," Scurlock said. "They paid in blood, they paid in sweat, they paid in tears, and some even paid with their sanity."



SOPHIA JARAMILLO / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Peggie Gillom-Granderson and Donald Cole spoke at the Black History Month keynote at the University of Mississippi on Feb. 16.

# The DM debuts podcast

**JACOB MEYERS**

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"The Weekly Scoop" podcast, presented by The Daily Mississippian, premieres tomorrow.

"The Weekly Scoop," hosted by Jacob Meyers, consists of interviews with teachers, students and members of the Oxford community. The podcast

features conversations about life on campus and around Oxford and interviews with professors and Ole Miss staff.

In the first episode, Associated Student Body Sen. Bennett Matson, who assisted with passing the new Safe Ride Home program for students on the Oxford Square, shares his thoughts about getting the initiative passed and implemented.

Episodes will be posted weekly on Fridays. Listeners can access the podcast on SoundCloud and YouTube to listen and watch the content. To stay up to date with "The Weekly Scoop" and new episodes, subscribe to The Daily Mississippian SoundCloud and YouTube channel. The podcast will also be accessible on our website, thedmonline.com.



ILLUSTRATION: MICAH CRICK / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN



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# SOJNM

*continued from page 1*

is currently a professor of strategic communications in the Nicholson School of Communication & Media at the University of Central Florida.

“People ask why do I want to come here,” Sellnow said during her candidate presentation. “I want to do meaningful work.”  
The school will welcome three additional candidates throughout next week.  
Johnny V. Sparks of the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication

at Ball State University will be welcomed on Feb. 20. Andrea E. Hickerson of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina will be welcomed on Feb. 23.  
Jesse J. Holland of the School of Media and Public Affairs at The George

Washington University will be welcomed on Feb. 25.  
The SOJNM has been without a dean since the resignation of Will Norton in April 2020. Debora Wenger has been serving as interim-dean while the search for Norton’s replacement presses forward.  
“On behalf of the search

committee, thank you for your patience with the process,” School of Applied Science Dean Jean Grandjean wrote in an email to students, faculty and staff. “We are excited to get the dean candidates to campus! We invite and encourage you to engage with the candidates while they are here in Oxford.”

# Love at the library

**VIOLET JIRA**  
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Most people walk out of the University of Mississippi’s J.D. Williams Library with books. But on Dec. 14, Mweyeria Offord walked out with a question — and an answer — for her now fiance Cellas Hayes, who used a creative library scavenger hunt to pop the question. Spoiler alert — she said yes.

Hayes is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Pharmacy, and Offord is working towards a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration, both at the University of Mississippi. Their son, Caspian, is one year old.

This particular milestone in their relationship has gained the couple impressive internet attention, with a TikTok Hayes posted of the proposal currently sitting at over 1 million views.

“She said YES!” Hayes wrote in the caption.

But most don’t know their relationship stretches all the way back to 2016, when Hayes first saw her in a cafeteria on campus.

“We met in 2016 in the Luckyday cafeteria. That’s the first time I saw her,” Hayes said. “Then I got her number on Sep. 19 in the union, and then we had our first conversation outside of the library.

The spot where they had their first conversation in 2016 is where Hayes would kneel and propose five years later.

“We were just like any other couple in college, trying to figure it out together, trying to get through personal stuff, professional student life stuff,” Offord said. “And growing

together, learning together, learning about ourselves, learning about each other, learning how to love, learning how to love ourselves by loving each other. Like, that kind of thing.”

When the time came to pop the question, Hayes struggled to decide how to go about it. He had some criteria — for example, he wanted it to be private. The Monday Hayes bought the ring — which was the Monday before he proposed — he still had not decided exactly what to do. But in the end, everything played out perfectly.

“I was walking between the library and the Lyceum then I was like ‘I should do a scavenger hunt.’ That’s when finals week had just ended — nobody was going to be on campus,” he said. “Then I was like, ‘I’ll do a scavenger hunt in the library’. She likes books. I could use her favorite books, not just any books.”

Hayes described the idea materializing quickly in his mind as he set about getting everything ready. The proposal included some of Offord’s, who has a B.A. in English, favorite titles like Michelle Obama’s “Becoming” and Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.”

Meanwhile Offord — right up to the moment she solved the hunt to reveal the question — did not suspect a thing. Largely due to the fact that creative, romantic gestures from Hayes are something she was used to.

“I had no idea because since we met, he’s always been extremely creative, very romantic, like naturally. So I’m thinking like, this is just



PHOTO COURTESY: DESTINEE GARY

Cellas Hayes and Mweyeria Offord were engaged on Dec. 14, 2021, at the J.D. Williams Library after Hayes lead Offord on a creative scavenger hunt to find his proposal question.

another romantic gesture like he’s telling me nice things and he has me going on this whole thing,” she said.

The couple had also established that if they were to get engaged, it would be post-graduate school.

“So that’s why it was never in my mind that that’s what he was about to do, because we’re not done with school yet,” Offord said. “When I got done and I had to unscramble those letters, it took like 15 minutes to unscramble, because he was missing a few letters. I unscrambled it and when I realized what it said I looked at his friend and I said, ‘there is no way that this man is asking

me to marry him today.”

As the viral video captures, Offord exits the library walking to where Hayes is offering a ring on one knee.

“Are you sure?” Offord asked after saying yes. “About me?”

“Yes, I’m sure,” Hayes replied before asking her the same question.

“Yes,” she responded. “I’ve been sure.”

Two months later, as they move into their third month of being engaged, the video of their engagement is going viral yet again as Valentine’s Day approaches, this time on Twitter.

The couple is planning a small courthouse ceremony

in April 2023 and a larger wedding event in April 2024, when they are further along and finished with their higher education, and when COVID-19 has hopefully subsided enough for the event to be maskless. It goes without saying that the memory of their engagement will remain fresh in their minds as the couple continues this new chapter together.

“When you think about it, and you’ve been with somebody since you were 18 years old, and this person watched you, basically every phase of their life,” Offord said. “You really want to do this forever. And it was just so surreal. And it was one of the best moments of my life.”

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# Masks now only required in instructional areas and healthcare settings at UM

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The University of Mississippi is now requiring masks and face coverings only in instructional areas and healthcare settings regardless of vaccination status, according to an email Chancellor Glenn Boyce sent on Feb. 11.

“We are certainly in a different place this spring than we were spring 2020 or even spring 2021,” Boyce wrote. “We have developed protocols that are proven to be effective when we experience a surge in cases. We have also seen our case counts reduce significantly from the beginning of the semester to today.”

No masks are required in dining areas, residence halls, the library, the Union, the gym — only in classes and medical areas like Student Health Services.

The Mississippi State Department of Health’s website recommends wearing “a mask in all indoor public settings, even

if you are vaccinated,” but the university is acting in accordance with recent communication from MSDH on mitigation strategies.

Boyce asked the university community to respect the needs of those who are high risk, unable to be fully vaccinated or feel more comfortable wearing masks.

Faculty and staff may also require face coverings for their private offices. Rebecca Marchiel, an associate professor in the history department, is concerned for her young daughter’s safety, saying on Twitter, “Do not come NEAR my office without a mask, thanks.”

Lauren Gallagher, a graduate student pursuing a Master’s in Counselor Education with a focus on mental health, expressed resigned sadness to everyone’s negative attitudes about masks, including her own.

“I feel like the impetus for all of this is an overall desensitization to death,” Gallagher said. “We’re dropping masks because the

deaths went down to the 50s?”

Senior criminal justice major Mac Metz has always opposed mask mandates.

“I call myself pretty informed, and my mom is an ER physician,” Metz said. “The science has not supported masking of any kind, especially with omicron.”

As of Feb. 2, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was still recommending masks as the best protection against all variants of COVID-19, especially indoors.

Elsewhere in the SEC, Mississippi State and LSU also went maskless with similar stipulations on Feb. 14. Alabama plans on removing their mask mandate on Feb. 21. Auburn, Vanderbilt, Kentucky and Florida still have mandates in effect. Tennessee dropped their masks on Jan. 20. Georgia has no mandate.

Boyce’s email ends with an assurance of continued monitoring of the COVID-19



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The University of Mississippi now requires masks and face coverings only in instructional areas and healthcare settings regardless of vaccination status.

virus’ impact on the school, and the university will make adjustments to policies as necessary.

Mississippi is beginning to

taper off the omicron variant’s brutal impact, with 1,062 new cases and 75 new deaths on Tuesday, with 14 reported cases on the university campus.

## Oxford expands EV charger access

VIOLET JIRA

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Oxford will be home to two more new electric vehicle fast charging stations after the Oxford Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to authorize Mayor Robyn Tannehill to sign onto the Tennessee Valley Authority Electric Vehicle Fast Charger Program.

Though a specific location has not been named yet, the chargers will be situated in or near the parking garage off of the Square.

“They can park there, go to the gas station, go to the coffee shop or walk a loop around the Square,” Rob Neeley, general manager of Oxford Utilities, said during the meeting. “In 20 or 30 minutes, their car will be fully charged and back on the road. That’s what it’s intended for.”

Currently, Oxford has many charging stations in multiple locations — some on the University of Mississippi campus and off. The difference,

as Neely shares with The Daily Mississippian, is that the new chargers are faster and better.

“Oxford has numerous EV charging stations around town, including in the downtown parking garage, but I am not aware of any fast charging stations,” Neely said. “The big difference is that the fast charger can charge a vehicle in 20-30 minutes whereas a normal charger takes eight hours or more. This is critical for travelers who are looking to recharge and get back on the road.”

The TVA Electric Vehicle Fast Charger Program seeks to widen access to EV charging in the Tennessee Valley region, which includes the entirety of Tennessee along with portions of Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and North Mississippi.

Ideally, drivers in the TVA region will have access to an EV charger every 50 miles along major corridors in the regions. Oxford was chosen because it is

situated along highways 6 and 7.

The agreement stipulates that upon signage and approval, the TVA will pay up to \$150,000 for two chargers. This would account for three quarters of the price of the station. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality has selected Oxford to be awarded \$50,000, which will cover the remaining part of the station, according to documents shared with The Daily Mississippian by the Board of Aldermen.

According to Neeley, the project will begin in 2022 and should be completed by 2023.

The University of Mississippi, too, is looking to expand EV charger access on campus. Sam Patterson, director of parking and transportation at UM explained the university’s plan to expand and add to EV charger availability on campus.

“The University of Mississippi Department of Parking and Transportation is currently in the process of upgrading



AP PHOTO: SETH WENIG

Chargers for electric cars are displayed at an opening ceremony for a Revel electric vehicle charging hub in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on June 29, 2021.

and expanding the options for Electric Vehicle charging stations on campus,” Patterson said. The expansion project will replace the existing units and add six more spaces for a total of eight

spaces. All spaces will be part of the nationwide ChargePoint Inc. system and will allow the university to track usage and various metrics associated with environmental sustainability.”

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# UM scholarship office helps students win big

**MARY BOYTE**  
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The Office of National Scholarship Advisement continues to help all University of Mississippi graduate and undergraduate students apply for prestigious scholarships.

A light-up felt letter board sits on the windowsill in Vivian Ibrahim's office. It reads, "Goldwater '22 I clicked submit" with two stars framing the words. As director of ONSA, Ibrahim said that getting to work directly with students is her main motivation.

ONSA serves to help students when applying for national scholarships — primarily for post-graduate studies — through a variety of different services. Writing workshops, application editing and boot camps are some of the ways Ibrahim and her partner Whitney Woods help students achieve their goals.

Awards ONSA helps students to achieve include the Boren Scholarship, Churchill Scholarship, DAAD Research

Internships in Science and Engineering, Rhodes Scholarship and Truman Scholarship.

The application process does not happen overnight. Ibrahim and Woods work one-on-one with students for long periods of time. She said that applications usually go through an average of nine drafts before they are deemed ready.

"The reality is that we work together over months and months. We get to know each other quite intimately," Ibrahim said.

Ibrahim said she prefers to think of the process like a class that you put hours into every week.

As evidenced by her letter board, Ibrahim finds joy in getting to know her students. When asked what her favorite part of the job is, Ibrahim instantly replied "chatting to the students."

"I really love getting to know everyone's story," Ibrahim said.

ONSA has grown in the past few years. Last year, the office was moved from the top floor of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale

Honors College building to the ground floor in an effort to make it more accessible to students across campus.

ONSA acts as a liaison between students and those who give out scholarships. According to Ibrahim, many scholarships and awards do not allow students to apply directly. ONSA steps in and institutionally endorses candidates. This year, ONSA endorsed 20 individuals for the Fulbright award and yielded 10 semi-finalists. The semi-finalists include Londyn Lorenz, Neely Griggs, Olivia Jaramillo, Meghann Lugar, Kaitlyn Read, Charles Savage, Kaitlyn Sisco, Evelyn Smith and Ashleen Williams.

The Fulbright Fellowship is one of the most well-known on campus. Winners receive funding to study or complete projects abroad. ONSA offers a specific boot camp for the Fulbright award. The boot camp is a self-paced, online class-like experience that students can complete during the summer.

This year's Fulbright boot camp will take place over a four-week period in June and again in July.

"The aim is to get applicants to reflect on and about their application," Ibrahim said, "The course covers technicalities of the application, personal statements, crafting narratives, (and) how to incorporate pivotal life events. There is also a unit on creative beginnings and calculated risks. I will work with students every step of the way."

Ibrahim said that even if students do not receive the awards or scholarships they are working toward, the process can still be extremely rewarding. Many students use their applications created in ONSA to apply for graduate school.

Ibrahim reflected on the "seasons" that ONSA goes through each year. Right now, she said that they are about to start the senior year season. Many students in their junior year are preparing for senior awards now. Ibrahim helps them complete their applications, many of which are due even before students start their senior year.

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in utilizing ONSA services may contact [onsa@olemiss.edu](mailto:onsa@olemiss.edu) for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY: THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Vivian Ibrahim is the Director of the Office of National Scholarship Advisement.



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A sign in Vivian Ibrahim's office window.

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# Rebels lose in overtime on buzzer-beating half-court shot

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The Ole Miss Men's Basketball team took their fourth loss in a row, this time at the hands of the South Carolina Gamecocks after an extraordinary finish in Oxford on Tuesday, 77-74.

In a game that had seven ties and 11 lead changes, Ole Miss once again failed to pull through when the game was right there for the taking.

The first half saw very little offensive production as both teams shot less than 40% from the field and only 17% from the three. After taking a 29-28 lead heading into the break, Ole Miss appeared to look more comfortable on the offensive end and began to find their stroke midway through the second half.

The Gamecocks played at the pace of the Rebels, as both teams would heat up and cool down in unison. Ole Miss seemed to be close to pulling away, but South Carolina hit big shot after big shot to stay in the game.

Ole Miss clung to a one-point lead until South Carolina's leading scorer Erik Stevenson hit a three with 23 seconds left in the game to give the Gamecocks a 68-66 lead. With the ball on the last possession, Jarkel Joiner drove his way into the lane and hit a layup with one second left. South Carolina would then miss their first attempt at a half-court shot, which sent the game into overtime.

Offensive production was once again limited for both

teams in overtime and Ole Miss found itself with the ball in its hands for the last shot with the game tied at 74. Joiner worked the clock down under five seconds before pump-faking and leaning into a three-point attempt to try and draw a foul. He was not rewarded with the call and missed the shot.

Then, with two seconds left in the game and the ball under his own basket, South Carolina's Jermaine Cousinard inbounded the ball all the way to half court where James Reese would catch and fire it at the buzzer, off the glass, securing the win. A miraculous half-court heave made for yet another heartbreaking loss for the Rebels and their record falls to 12-14 and 3-10 in SEC play.

It's not every day when

there is a half-court shot to end a game, but with the way this season has gone for the Rebels, it seems like the most logical outcome. The last two possessions of the game sum up the Rebels' season pretty fairly in that they failed to take advantage of an opportunity to win the game and received a healthy dose of bad luck to pile on top of their shortcomings.

Nysier Brooks, Mathew Murrell and Jarkel Joiner all led the game in scoring with 18-point outings. With five games left in the season, the Rebels will need similar production from the three if they wish to end the campaign on a high note.

The Rebels next action will be against Georgia in Athens on Saturday, Feb 19. Tipoff is set for 12 p.m. CST.



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University of Mississippi guard Luis Rodriguez makes a layup during a game against Kansas State on Jan. 29.

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# Ole Miss athletes give historic performances

**MAKAYLA STEEDE**  
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Lea Horvath of Ole Miss Rifle and Shey Taiwo of Track and Field don't have to stroll down the Grove with crowds cheering on all sides to prove that they are champions.

Only a few weeks into the track and field season, Taiwo has made a historic start in women's weight throw.

On Jan. 28, Taiwo climbed her way up the all-time NCAA list from the No. 7 spot and overtook the No. 2 spot with a record-breaking throw of 25.02 m or 82 feet, one inch. Not even a month later, Taiwo topped her own record, with a throw of 25.19 m on Feb. 11.

As a four-time NCAA qualifier and four-time All-American, Taiwo is no stranger to success, but these throws have taken her to new heights.

"When the ball left my hands, I knew it was a good throw," Taiwo said. "I was so excited."

In addition to the two throws earning her the No. 2 throws on the NCAA all-time list, the throws made her the No. 4 women's weight thrower in world history and is the best throw by a collegiate athlete this early into a season.

Taiwo's throw on Feb. 11 is

now the seventh-best throw in world history.

Taiwo has also been named as one of athletes on the Bowerman Women's Watch List, a trophy presented to the best male and female track and field athletes each year.

"When you're a track and field athlete, the Bowerman award is something that you always have in your dreams, but in all honesty, I never thought that I would get this close ever," Taiwo said. "It's crazy to think that I came to Ole Miss with hopes of just being able to score a few points for my team, and now I am on the Bowerman watchlist."

With more meets ahead of her, Taiwo has no inclination to slow down now.

"My goal for this season is to beat the NCAA record and set it high enough that my younger teammate Jasmine Mitchell will have to work hard to beat it," Taiwo said.

In 2020, Mitchell, a junior, landed an SEC title in the weight throw category with Taiwo following behind as a runner-up.

Mitchell and Taiwo have been teammates since high school, and Taiwo names Mitchell as her biggest cheerleader and biggest competition.

In order to break the NCAA record, Taiwo must overtake

Southern Illinois' Brittany Riley, who holds the No. 1 spot with her record score of 25.56m or 83 feet, 10.25 inches.

Taiwo and the rest of Ole Miss Track and Field will finish out the indoor season with the SEC and NCAA Indoor Championships on Feb. 25 and 26 and March 11 and 12.

Ole Miss Rifle and Lea Horvath have been lighting up the scoreboard this season, finishing out the regular season with a record of 9-3. Horvath had a historic performance when she fired 60 perfect shots and earned a perfect score of 600 in air rifle during a competition with John Jay College on Jan. 30.

This came exactly one year after Horvath fired her first perfect score in 2021 during a competition with the Navy Rifle Team.

"I became really happy because exactly a year ago, I shot my first perfect score," Horvath said. "It made it more special."

According to Ole Miss Rifle Head Coach Marsha Beasley it was the twelfth time a perfect score had been fired in NCAA history.

With her second perfect score, Horvath became one of only four athletes to ever fire 60 perfect shots multiple times.

With it being the anniversary



PHOTO COURTESY: BILLY SCHUERMAN / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Shey Taiwo gives the fins up salute after receiving her trophy for a second place finish in the women's hammer throw.

of her first perfect score, Horvath had trouble keeping thoughts of scores out of her head during the competition.

"As I got closer to finishing the match, I felt pressure after my 45 shot, and it started to be more stressful," Horvath said.

However, Horvath had nothing to worry about, and her perfect score further established her as No. 4 in the NCAA rankings of individual athletes for her individual average across smallbore and air rifle, 1186.455 aggregate.

In addition to Horvath's

perfect score, the other shooters on the team fired scores of 599, 596 and 593, which set a university record for air rifle.

"I was delighted to see our team set the school record in air rifle," Beasley said. "All four counters turned in scores above their average."

Ole Miss Rifle and Ole Miss Women's Track and Field are currently both ranked in the Top 10 in the NCAA, with Rifle ranked No. 5 and Women's Track and Field ranked No. 9.

# Finishing with a bang

**OWEN PUSTELL**  
thedmsports@gmail.com

No. 5 Ole Miss Rifle beat an 0-10 Memphis team in the regular season finale on Saturday, Feb. 12 by a score of 4723 to 4646.

The scoring leader for the day was Lea Horvath, who shot a strong 1580, including a near perfect 599 score in the air rifle section. With 1 more point, she would have achieved her third career perfect score, a feat now done only 13 times in history.

Freshman M'Leah Lambdin was on point as she led the

team in scoring for both of her events in the second relay. Senior Abby Buesseler also had a strong performance, scoring 1572 total points, but was particularly on target in the smallbore relay as she scored 587 points, which tied with Lea Horvath for the team lead.

The Rebels' strong performance enforces their place as the No. 5 team in the country, and sets them up well for playoffs. The victory over Memphis earned Ole Miss a share of the Great America Rifle Conference regular-season championship alongside West Virginia and Kentucky. The

NCAA qualifiers will begin on Feb. 19 with a match against Jacksonville State.

Ole Miss finishes the regular season 9-3, with two of their losses coming in away matches against No. 1 Alaska Fairbanks by scores of 4719-4725 and 4719-4721 respectively.

The other loss of the season came in the opener against No. 2 West Virginia, but the Rebels have since beaten the Kentucky Wildcats who are now tied with West Virginia in the polls for the No. 2 spot. Ole Miss is a battle tested team which bodes well for their chances as the playoffs near.



JACOB SMITH / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Abby Buesseler shoots during a match against Memphis on Feb. 12.

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# Men's tennis gets back in the win column with two sweeps over North Alabama

**DILLON CADER**  
thedmsports@gmail.com

The No. 15 Ole Miss Men's Tennis team swept the North Alabama Lions 4-0 twice on Friday, Feb. 11, extending their record to 9-1 on the year and completing their fifth sweep of the season.

After losing a close match to No. 4 TCU five days earlier, the Rebels wasted no time putting away the Lions. The Rebels swept doubles and singles in both matches, losing only one set the entire day.

Ole Miss's Simon Junk and Finn Reynolds won four matches throughout the day, winning a singles and doubles match in both matches which

put them over 100 total wins in their careers at Ole Miss.

Ole Miss was clearly the better team in the match, as they dominated the Lions and erased any hope UNA might have had in earning their first victory of the season.

Reynolds dominated his opponents like a professional playing an amateur in each of his four victories. Junk and Lukas Englehardt showed why they are considered some of the better players in the league with their lopsided wins.

Oxford has been kind to the Rebels this season as they improve to 9-0 at home on the year with only six home matches remaining.

This match should give the Rebels a healthy stroke of

confidence as they prepare to take on the most challenging portion of their schedule that consists of at least six teams ranked in the Top 25.

The Rebels will travel to Seattle on Friday, Feb. 18 where they will play in the ITA National Indoor Championships. They will participate in a four-day tournament that will feature some of the country's most talented teams.

The tournament will be a good opportunity for Ole Miss to see what they can do against top-tier competition as they gear up for the brutal grind of SEC play which will begin against the No. 1 Tennessee Volunteers in Oxford on Sunday, March 6.



HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Nikola Slavic prepares to return a shot from a North Alabama opponent. Ole Miss defeated North Alabama 4-0 twice on Feb. 11.

37026

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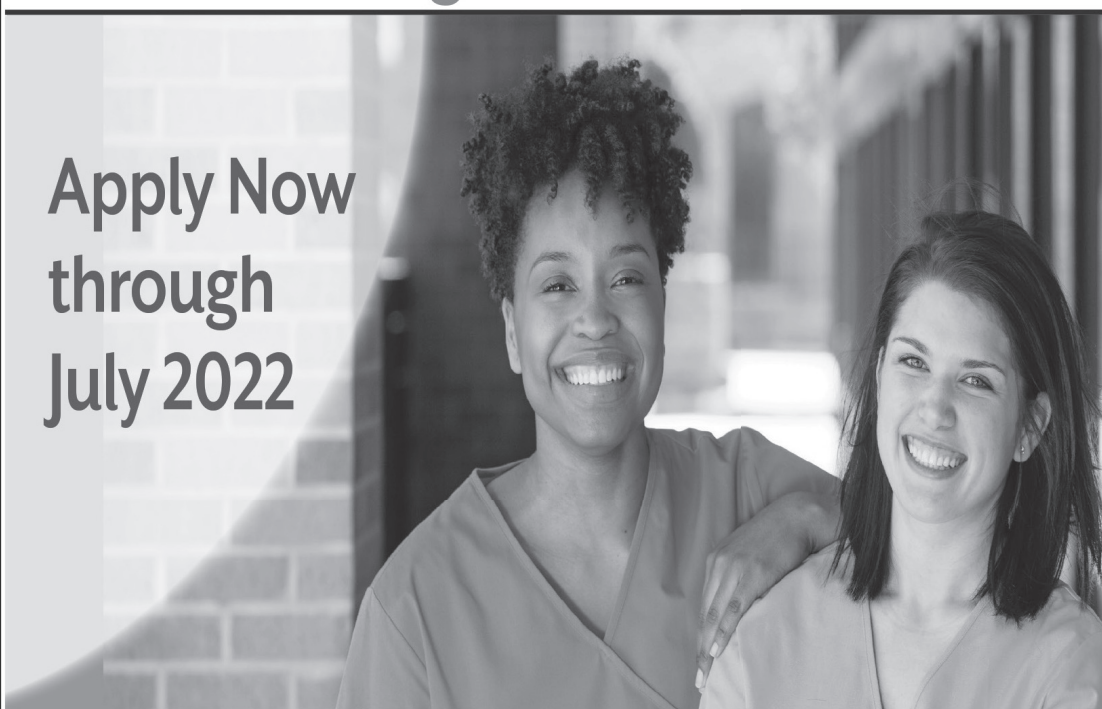
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This publication/project was supported by Grant Number 90LR10037-01-00 from Administration for Community Living(ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Should you have any questions about MAC Center please feel free to call 1-844-822-4622.

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# BASEBALL

*continued from page 1*

Justin Bench will return to his natural position in center field and TJ McCants will move over to right field.

Justin Bench is a do-it-all player for the Rebels, while TJ McCants exceeded expectations in his freshman season with a batting average of .300. His development is something that really excites the coaching staff.

“(McCants) is a super athlete. Scouts realize that. He’s a draft-eligible sophomore. He’s a kid who has played infield in the scrimmages and will continue to do that. One, it gives us more depth and options. Two, in fairness to him, who knows that might be the thing he does when he gets to professional baseball,” Bianco said.

Bench played the majority of the 2021 season at third base due to injuries. His move to the infield sent McCants out to center field, where he grew more comfortable every game despite his natural position being in the middle infield.

Bianco says he wants the team to show some defensive improvement this season, so fans should expect Bench, who is the team’s best outfielder, to start the season off in center. It should be noted that the coaching staff believes Bench can play anywhere on the field, so seeing him move to another position wouldn’t be a huge surprise.

If that happens, McCants will most likely move back over to center field, and either Hayden Leatherwood or Kemp Alderman will step in and play right field.

With Bench projected to return to center field, this leaves third base wide open for the taking. Bianco had really good things to say about junior college transfer Reagan Burford, who impressed the coaching staff with his bat during the fall. Expect Burford to start at the hot corner come opening day. Bench and Tim Elko have game experience there as well.

“(Burford has a) very mature approach offensively. He’s a guy who is a little different from what our fans are used to... he’s going to be a tough out. He can run. He can handle the bat. We’re going to need that,” Bianco said.

The Rebels have a chance to have the best middle infield in all of college baseball with Jacob Gonzalez and Peyton Chatagnier.

Shortstop Gonzalez was one of college baseball’s best hitters in 2021, and it was just his true-freshman season. He hit .355 while driving in 55 RBIs and looked like a veteran defensively. If he can build on his stellar freshman season, he could very well find himself being selected in the first round of the MLB draft.

After a hamstring injury slowed his production down in 2021, second baseman Chatagnier comes into 2022 completely healthy. Chatagnier is the fastest player on the team while bringing a strong bat into the lineup. Gonzalez’s

connection in the middle infield makes for one of the best duos you’ll see at this level.

At first base the Rebels return none other than Tim Elko, the on-campus legend who miraculously played through an ACL injury for much of the 2021 campaign. Elko appears to be back to 100% as he gears up for what could be a historic season for him.

“Tim Elko has been back and been released to go full speed, 100% out there. I was even a little shocked a few weeks ago. I pulled Tim to the side and watched him during an early work portion of our practice where it is just defense and watched him move around first base,” Bianco said. “Easy to look at him and not realize the injury he had and surgery and work and effort put in, as well as Josh Porter, our trainer, to put him back on the field.”

To put what Elko did last season in perspective, the top performers around the country last season all finished with somewhere around 60 RBIs and 20 home runs. Elko missed four weeks during the season and acted as a pinch hitter for two more weeks before making his way back into the lineup on a torn ACL. He finished the year with 55 RBIs and 16 home runs. He competed with the best players in the country statistically while only playing half of the season at full health.

Bianco says that he thinks that he might have the best catching trio that he’s ever had at Ole Miss in Hayden Dunhurst, Knox Loposer and

The Rebels return junior Derek Diamond, who Bianco has announced will get the nod to start on opening day. Diamond is a hard-throwing right-hander who relies on his fastball, which can get up to 97 mph, but also puts a filthy break on his slider.

Despite showing signs of being an elite pitcher, Diamond struggled with his control and seemed to have confidence issues last season. If he can get it together, he can be a reliable Friday-night starter for Ole Miss.

During the offseason, Bianco and his staff knew they had to bring a number of new guys in to provide them with the pitching depth to compete in the SEC, and that’s exactly what they did.

John Gaddis, the graduate transfer from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, is someone who the staff expects to make an impact right away. It is likely that the lefty will start for the Rebels, whether it be on Saturdays or Sundays.

Jack Washburn, a transfer from Oregon State, is also expected to make an immediate impact. He’ll most likely come out of the bullpen when the team needs several innings from one pitcher and can step in and make spot starts during the postseason.

Brandon Johnson and Jack Dougherty became two of the Rebels’ go-to relievers at the end of the 2021 season. Both are hard-throwing right-handers who had great falls and will be put in some big-time situations



FILE PHOTO: HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The Ole Miss baseball team will see a number of stars return opening weekend on Feb. 18.

a point of how well Drew McDaniel did in the fall. The sophomore right-hander started most Sunday games for the Rebels last season, and while his performance was underwhelming at times, he did show signs of being a really good pitcher. He seems to have improved as much as anyone over the offseason, and fans should expect him to provide several innings of work this year.

Other players Bianco mentioned were Hunter Elliott, a left-handed freshman from Tupelo, Mississippi, as well as Riley Maddox, a right-handed freshman from Pearl, Mississippi. Because the team found itself with very few left-handed options out of the pen last season, expect Elliott to play right away as a freshman.

Wes Burton and Jackson Kimbrell also pitched in big games last year and provided the team with some much needed extra depth on the mound.

Another player who could turn out to be a great pitcher is right-hander Max Cioffi. Cioffi is a senior who missed all of last season due to injuries. He pitched in several big games in 2018 and 2019 and appeared to be someone who would end up being a great pitcher. Not having him last year really hurt the Rebels on the mound. He will miss the first month of the season as he finishes his rehab, but when he comes back, he could really take this pitching staff to the next level.

If the new pitchers can be serviceable to the team by getting off the field when they need to and the position players play to their potential, Ole Miss has a real shot to be the best baseball team in the country this season.

“It’s not a secret, we haven’t been (to Omaha) since 2014, but we’ve been really close. It’s one game and you have to play a little better. You have to pitch it a little bit better, you have to swing it a little bit better,” Bianco said. “But I see no reason why this team doesn’t have an opportunity to get to Omaha and be the first team in a few years to get there. I think we have all the pieces. Obviously the offense is there, but on the mound, I think we will surprise some people. I think we will pitch better than most people probably expect us to.”

### Projected lineup

- Peyton Chatagnier, 2B
- Jacob Gonzalez, SS
- Kevin Graham, LF
- Tim Elko, 1B
- Justin Bench, CF
- TJ McCants, RF
- Hayden Dunhurst, C
- Calvin Harris, DH against RHP, Ben Van Cleve DH against LHP
- Reagan Burford, 3B
- Pinch Hitters: Tywone Malone, Hayden Leatherwood, Kemp Alderman, Knox Loposer

### Projected Pitching Rotation Starters

- Friday: Derek Diamond
- Saturday: John Gaddis
- Sunday: Drew McDaniel
- Midweek: Jack Washburn
- Bullpen
- Jack Washburn: LRP
- Brandon Johnson: CP
- Jack Dougherty: LRP
- Dylan Delucia: MRP
- Max Cioffi: MRP
- Jackson Kimbrell: MRP
- Hunter Elliott: MRP
- Riley Maddox: MRP
- Wes Burton: MRP
- Josh Mallitz: MRP



FILE PHOTO: HG BIGGS / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss catcher Hayden Dunhurst high fives a fan as he walks onto the field prior to a game against Southern Miss during the NCAA Oxford Regional Tournament June 6, 2021.

Calvin Harris.

Dunhurst will get the start behind the plate. He returns as one of the best defending catchers in the country and provides the lineup with yet another big bat. Harris is in line to be the next stand-out catcher under Mike Bianco and will likely get many at-bats as either a pinch hitter or designated hitter against right-handed pitching. Loposer returns for his senior season and gives the Rebels another option behind the plate.

The kryptonite for the Rebels in ‘21 was their inability to get outs when starters Doug Nikhazy and Gunnar Hoglund weren’t on the bump. Bianco believes that despite losing the two stars to the draft, this year’s squad has more depth on the mound.

this season. Johnson will most likely replace Taylor Broadway as the closer, while Dougherty can be used for any role where he is needed.

Bianco made sure to make

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# Oxford Film Festival showcases rare MLK documentary

**WILL JONES**  
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

In honor of Black History Month, the Oxford Film Festival — in cooperation with the University of Mississippi Division of

Diversity and Community Engagement — presented a special screening and discussion of “King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery to Memphis” on Feb. 10 at the Powerhouse Community Arts Center.

The documentary follows Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights movement from 1955 until King’s assassination in 1968.

“King...” is a cinematic national treasure that allows viewers to be first-hand witnesses to King’s crusade, and thereby gain a fuller appreciation of both the personal challenges he endured and the vast cultural legacy he left behind,” the Oxford Film Festival said.

The documentary serves as a cultural epic, a long-form knockout running three-hours in length, including an intermission, that offers

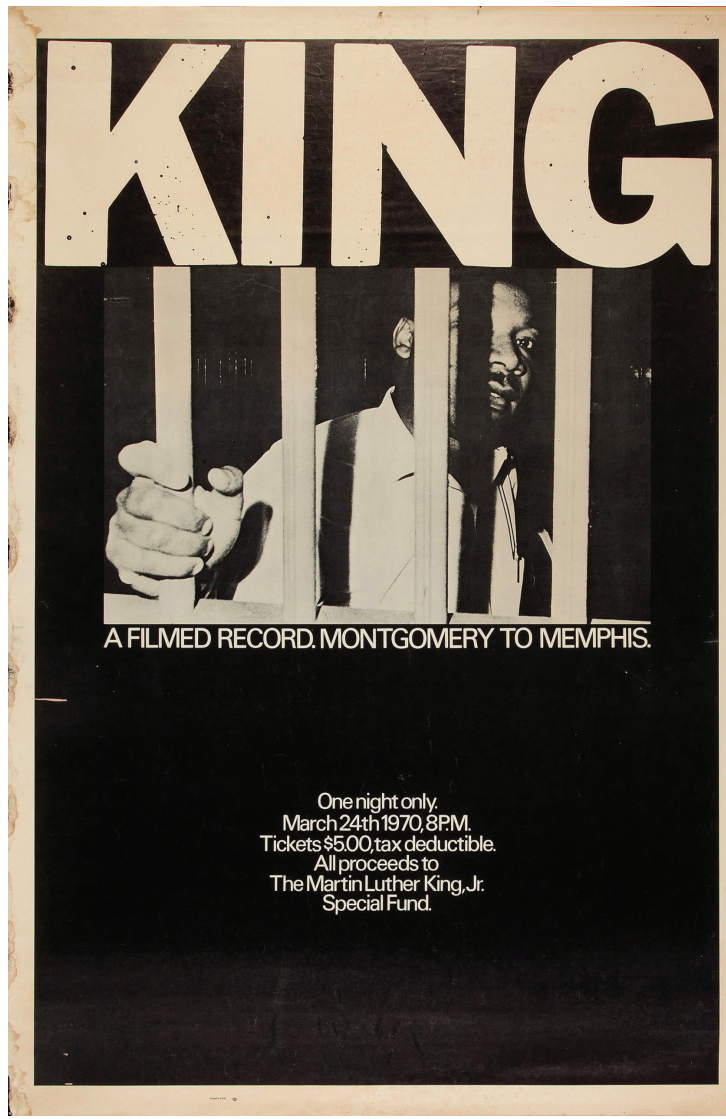
emotional objectivity and clarity to iconic and infamous historical events, while truly highlighting the highs and lows in the ongoing fight for racial equality.

The film is also composed almost entirely from archival footage — not unlike a Ken Burns documentary — with interstitial appearances by celebrities and artists of the period offering testimonies and serving as the connective tissue between the heart-stopping events on display.

Produced by Ely Landau and directed by Academy Award-winners Sidney Lumet and Joseph L. Mankiewicz, both of whom went uncredited at the time, “King: A Filmed Record...” was originally presented as a one-night-only special event on March 20, 1970. Although the film was added to the Library of Congress’s prestigious National Film Registry in 1999, it remained little-seen and never properly distributed until 2010.

The version projected Thursday appeared as stunning as ever: a new HD master restoration from the original 35mm film negative, utilizing film elements provided by The Museum of Modern Art.

Every piece of footage remains evocative in its own right, both of-the-time and, unfortunately, timeless, with split-second images that become burned into your psyche. However, seeing the events strung together — from the Montgomery



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bus boycotts to the Selma marches — while often tough to stomach, creates such a stirring, undeniably powerful effect. Yet, glimmers of levity and hope are deliberately sprinkled throughout, one moment including footage of Mike Nichols and Elaine May performing a comedy routine for a group of peaceful protesters.

While often associated with the state of Alabama, the civil rights movement traversed the entire country, particularly the

southeast, with the citation of Mississippi during King’s iconic “I Have a Dream” speech serving as the centerpiece of the film:

“I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.”

“King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery to Memphis” is currently available to stream.

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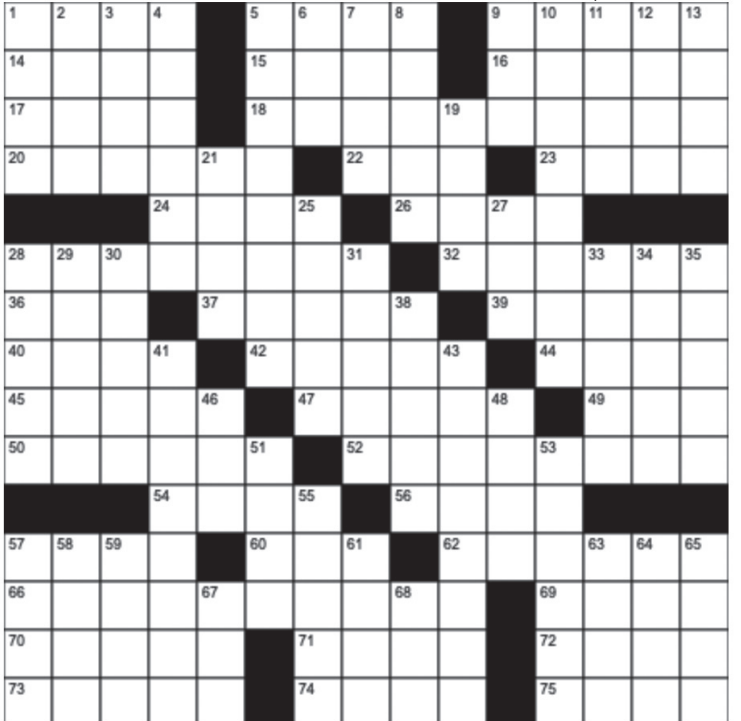
#### ACROSS

- 1- Yes, \_\_\_;
- 5- Stead;
- 9- Suckle;
- 14- Woody's son;
- 15- Land west of Nod;
- 16- Broadcasting;
- 17- Attendee;
- 18- Sinister;
- 20- Commence;
- 22- Porridge plant;
- 23- Lodge members;
- 24- Salamander;
- 26- Back;
- 28- Learned persons;
- 32- Reckless;
- 36- \_\_\_Bo;
- 37- Triple;
- 39- "Stormy Weather" singer;
- 40- Quod \_\_\_ demonstrandum;
- 42- 1936 Cooper role;
- 44- Put on;
- 45- A, as in Athens;
- 47- Long stories;
- 49- Unit of weight;
- 50- Behind;
- 52- Liquid hydrocarbon;
- 54- Wide-eyed;
- 56- Painter of limp watches;
- 57- Close with force;
- 60- U.S. soldiers;
- 62- Liquid container;
- 66- State in the W United States;
- 69- Drop of water expelled by the eye;
- 70- Appliance brand;
- 71- Small gull;
- 72- Cube creator Rubik;
- 73- Belief;
- 74- Attention;
- 75- Frees;

#### DOWN

- 1- Biblical gift bearers;
- 2- "East of Eden" brother;
- 3- A Baldwin brother;
- 4- "West Side Story" Oscar winner;
- 5- Port side of a ship;
- 6- Promising words;
- 7- Architect Saarinen;
- 8- Open, as a gate;
- 9- Silent bid;
- 10- Victim of social injustice;
- 11- Complain;
- 12- Gravitate;
- 13- Energy units;
- 19- Romantic couple;
- 21- Hide;
- 25- Attending;
- 27- Exclamation of relief;
- 28- Pilfer;
- 29- Monte \_\_\_;
- 30- Piles;
- 31- Slink;
- 33- Orange container;
- 34- Negatively charged particle;
- 35- Tubular pasta;
- 38- Barely beat;
- 41- Vitamin B1;
- 43- Stately Spanish dance;
- 46- Film director Lee;
- 48- Han \_\_\_ was a "Star Wars" character;
- 51- Full of energy;
- 53- Brooding hen;
- 55- Circumference;
- 57- Ella specialty;
- 58- Like some excuses;
- 59- King of comedy;
- 61- Dagger of yore;
- 63- Actress Hatcher;
- 64- Ground;
- 65- Psyche's love;
- 67- Budgetary excess;
- 68- Spleen;

#### SOLUTION TO 2.10 PUZZLE



Crossword puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com ([www.bestcrosswords.com](http://www.bestcrosswords.com)). Used with permission.

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

### HOW TO PLAY

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

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL INTERMEDIATE

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



# OPINION

## *Cry me a Wicker*

**KATHERINE BROTEN**

thedmopinion@gmail.com

Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker has doubts about President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee. While on a podcast last week, Sen. Wicker lamented that President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee will be a "beneficiary of affirmative action" and, implicitly, unqualified to sit on the highest court in the country. Beyond the initially evident problems with that statement, Biden's Supreme Court pick has yet to be named. Wicker seems to believe the pick will be unqualified simply because President Biden has promised to nominate the first Black woman to the court.

Wicker's comments occurred in the context of an upcoming Supreme Court case about admissions at Harvard College.

The complainants argue that Harvard is discriminating against potential students by considering race in their application process. Affirmative action in higher education began in the 20th century, as compensation for the historical subjugation and exclusion of marginalized groups, particularly Black Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. Experts agree that if the conservative supermajority on the court decides to rule race-conscious admissions unconstitutional, it would result in a significant reduction of Black and Latino students at nearly every prestigious college in the country.

While opponents of affirmative action complain that the program discriminates against white students, the reality of college admissions paints a different picture.

Studies have repeatedly shown that the largest "beneficiaries" of affirmative action since the program's inception have been white women. Furthermore, other admissions criteria that overwhelmingly favor white students often go unmentioned in affirmative action debates. Legacy admissions, for example, give preference to students whose parents attended the university to which they are applying. This is, of course, discriminatory to students of color whose parents were routinely excluded from selective universities in the past and wholly disadvantages first generation students. The impact of legacy admissions is huge, with over one-third of Harvard's class of 2022 being comprised of legacy students. The overall chance of being admitted to Harvard as an undergraduate is an astonishingly low 3.4%, but

if one or both of your parents attended Harvard, your chance skyrockets ten times to 33%. One cannot help but wonder why only students of color are considered undeserving of their spots at prestigious universities.

After his unsavory comments on affirmative action, Wicker doubled down on his racist rhetoric surrounding Biden's potential nominee. "We're going to go from a nice, stately liberal to someone who's probably more in the style of Sonia Sotomayor," Wicker stated on the podcast. Notably, Justice Sotomayor is the first Latina and woman of color to serve on the United States Supreme Court. In contrast, Wicker called Justice Amy Coney Barrett an "inspiration" to his granddaughters. The intersection of sexism and racism present in this sentence is palpable. With the mention of

even a theoretical Black woman, Wicker already denigrates her as not only unqualified, but also unprofessional and offensive. Beyond this obvious racism, for what other Supreme Court nominee was being "nice" a major consideration? By degrading affirmative action programs, Wicker lays the groundwork to discredit any Black woman nominee, no matter how "qualified" or credentialed she may be. Wicker's dog whistles are painfully obvious and embarrassing to the state of Mississippi.

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## *Mississippi education needs a total overhaul*

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Mississippi is bleeding out, hemorrhaging educators fed up with unlivable wages as students across the state suffer from underfunded schools and racial bias. For centuries, Mississippi has underfunded public education, and as a result has remained one of the poorest, unhealthiest and economically stagnant states in the country. Mississippi legislators who deprive public schools of the resources they need are making a clear statement: They represent the white, wealthy and privileged — no one else — and that they will pursue the interests of this class no matter what the consequences.

The push to underfund education has always been an attempt to suppress Black Mississippians and increase the socio-economic divide between white and Black families. During segregation, when Black and white students learned under different school systems, Black schools were severely underfunded compared to their white counterparts, with Black schools receiving \$297 million dollars less than white schools between the years 1954 and 1960.

In 1969, when the U.S. Supreme Court released a mandate that Mississippi must merge its separate and unequal school systems, work which is not finished, as some towns in Mississippi are still desegregating, white students in public schools ran for the

hills, or more aptly, ran for relatively inexpensive private schools called "segregation academies" that refused to admit Black students. While the racist selection criteria these private schools operated under is largely absent from these schools now, these private schools are still highly segregated institutions.

In Jackson, Mississippi, 97% of public school students are Black. At Jackson Preparatory Academy, one of the most prestigious high schools in Mississippi and a former segregation academy, however, 96.5% of the students are white. Despite supposedly ending the practice of maintaining two separate school systems in 1969, Mississippi legislators send their children to these high-outcome, segregated private schools while simultaneously underfunding public education by \$2.3 billion dollars since 2008, year after year failing to meet budget requirements set out by the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP).

Thankfully, the Mississippi House and Senate have both passed substantial teacher pay raise plans that would aim to increase teachers' salaries by an average of \$4,700. The two chambers have yet to reconcile the two proposals, but both total around \$210 million. Mississippi's teachers currently have the lowest wages in the country, and nearly half that of the teachers in the highest paying state, New York. Public school teachers are often forced to work multiple jobs to make ends meet while the

trickle of out-of-state teacher employment has slowed to almost zero. At the same time, the number of college students studying education has drastically decreased.

While this pay increase is a step in the right direction and will pull Mississippi up from dead last in educator wages to just near the bottom, this is just the first necessary step to reviving Mississippi's education system. Fulfilling funding requirements for the MAEP is the next crucial step to ensuring quality public education. Additionally, even a \$4,700 dollar pay increase, while no doubt a crucial piece of aid for state educators, is not substantial enough. Nationwide, 55% of teachers are considering ending their career sooner than they had anticipated, even in states paying teachers better adjusted for cost of living. With the incredibly important role that educators play in society and their influence on the future wages and health of the state, teachers should see a larger pay increase than \$4,700.

The appalling conditions of Mississippi's public schools are the direct fault of the legislators that have perpetuated racial divides in education for centuries. And often, instead of improving conditions and giving the withering public education system the funding it desperately needs, what education policies do these legislators pursue? Authoritarian bans on teaching critical race theory and systemic racism, education that

is already completely absent from Mississippi classrooms. While students in Mississippi public schools are forced to endure the consequences of an education system razed by systemic racism, legislators spit in their faces by banning discussion about the very reason conditions are so bad in the first place.

It's clear that Mississippi desperately needs an education revolution. White, rich legislators are content to drain the school system for all that it's worth. Their kids don't attend those schools anyway, so why should they care? It shouldn't come as a surprise that education levels are the greatest predictor of wages and employment status later in life, and by defunding education, these legislators are condemning the wealth, health and happiness of the entire state, specifically for Black students.

If Mississippi voters don't make funding quality, racially diverse public schools their top priority, then this state will continue to rank last for outcomes. Is this the Mississippi we want? A

Mississippi that abandons hundreds of thousands of public school students, a Mississippi that stubbornly refuses to stop shooting itself in the foot every year the education budget remains underfunded? Or are we ready for a new Mississippi, a Mississippi in which no child's education is prioritized because of their race or economic status, a Mississippi that invests in its wellbeing and future by investing in its students? If the latter is the world we want to create, then Mississippians must demand that their public officials finally put an end to the legacy of Jim Crow, and, for the first time in state history, adequately fund their public schools.

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# Men's Golf finishes sixth at the Puerto Rico Classic

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Ole Miss Men's Golf participated in their first tournament of the spring season and ended up placing sixth on the leaderboard.

The tournament took place on the sunny island of Puerto Rico at the Grand Reserve Golf Club in the city of Rio Grande.

Ole Miss had a terrific final round that helped them tie a program record for the lowest tournament score of 828 (-36). The last time that score was posted was at the 1982 Mississippi Intercollegiate.

Sophomore Brett Schell led the way for the Rebels with a team-leading score of 201 (-15). Schell was able to finish in a tie for a career-best fourth place. He also managed to shoot a career-best 65 (-7) on the final day of the tournament.

"Brett's great week is no surprise to us," Head Coach Chris Malloy said about Schell's phenomenal play. "He's been getting better and better and got the putter rolling this week. I think this will give him some confidence that he can be as good as anyone in golf."

Seniors Jackson Suber and Sarut Vongchaisit both shot a score of 208 (-8), under par for the tournament, putting them in a tie for 22nd.

The team will take a couple of weeks off as they prepare for their next tournament, the Cabo Collegiate in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The tournament is set to play on Feb. 27 at the Cabo Del Sol Ocean Course.

**Here are the final results from the Puerto Rico Classic.**

- Ole Miss:  
 T4. Brett Schell: 70-66-65-201 (-15)  
 T22. Jackson Suber: 67-70-71-208 (-8)  
 T22. Sarut Vongchaisit: 70-69-69-208 (-8)  
 T60. Kye Meeks: 74-73-69-216 (E)  
 70. Jack Gnam: 71-71-77-219 (+3)  
 T73. Ludvig Eriksson: 72-77-73-222 (+6)  
 Team Leaderboard:  
 1. Oklahoma: 268-269-268-805 (-59)  
 2. Georgia: 265-268-278-811 (-53)  
 3. Tennessee: 276-268-273-817 (-47)  
 4. Purdue: 272-277-269-818 (-46)  
 5. Michigan State: 281-269-273-823 (-41)  
 6. Ole Miss: 278-276-274-828 (-36)  
 T7. College of Charleston: 278-273-278-829 (-35)



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS / OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Sarut Vongchaisit competes in the SEC Match Play Championships at the Shoal Creek Golf Club in Birmingham, Alabama, on Monday, Oct. 11, 2021. Ole Miss men's golf finished sixth at the Puerto Rico Classic in the first match of the spring 2022 season.

- |                                                |                                      |                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| T7. South Carolina: 276-276-277-829 (-35)      | 10. Iowa: 283-281-274-838 (-26)      | 12. Marquette: 277-287-276-840 (-24) |
| 9. East Tennessee State: 276-284-276-836 (-28) | 11. Wisconsin: 280-279-280-839 (-25) | 13. Maryland: 283-288-287-858 (-6)   |



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