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**October 21, 2019**

The Daily Mississippian

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## ‘Not just a sign’

The first three were defaced. The new one is bulletproof.



PHOTO: MEGAN SUTTLES

The Emmett Till memorial sign that was shot by vandals. The Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement arranged for two busses to transport attendees to Sumner for a day of engagement with the Emmett Till Interpretive Center.

### WILL STRIBLING

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Stolen and thrown into the Tallahatchie River. Replaced. Shot. Replaced. Shot again.

This was the fate of the Emmett Till memorial marker until Saturday, when a new memorial was dedicated to the civil rights martyr.

The sign was designed to be as resilient as the legacy of Till himself. It weighs 500 pounds and is made of stainless steel, protected by a layer of bullet-proof glass. A motion-sensitive security camera sits below to keep watch over visitors and any would-be vandals.

With a cotton field on one side and the edge of the Tallahatchie River on the other, over 50 people gathered around the marker for the rededication ceremony. This spot, known as Graball Landing, is where historians believe that Emmett Till's body was pulled from the river 64 years ago.

The new sign is the fourth erected by the Emmett Till Memorial Commission since 2008. The second sign was riddled with 317 bullet holes by the time it was replaced in 2016. The third sign only stood for 35 days before being shot again.

The same week that the fourth sign was done being built, a photo emerged that showed three white University of Mississippi fraternity members posing next to the vandalized sign with guns, grinning ear to ear. The photo was posted on one of the members' Instagram profiles before making national headlines in July, following a report by the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting and ProPublica.

Though a complaint about the post was filed to the university in March, no statement was made about the post until after the story broke. This was because of the mishandling of the university's investigation, according to the university. The only punishment the students received over the racist incident was

SEE TILL SIGN PAGE 3

## You got arrested for a fake ID. Here's what comes next.

### MCKENZIE RICHMOND

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A night out on the Square took a sharp turn from beers and live music to the confiscation of a fake ID, a ride to the sheriff's office and more than \$1,400 paid in fees.

Blair, a senior integrated marketing communications major, was charged with a

minor-in-possession and fake ID violation after handing his fake ID to an ABC officer at the former 21+ bar, Rooster's.

In court, he paid the fine for bail — along with the fee for his violations, lawyer fees and court fees — and participated in community service.

On campus, he said The Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct required him to take a campus alcohol

safety class, write reflection papers on his experience and share why he would never make such a "heinous mistake ever again." He also had to prepare a slideshow presentation on alcohol safety to present to transfer students.

Blair is in the process of having his record expunged before graduation in May, but the time constraints of being a full-time student and

state laws have postponed the expungement. He said it could take a year to clear a minor-in-possession charge.

"I guess I wish I knew the extent to which all of this took like out of your life, and the fact that I would have to get it all expunged, and all the process of getting it expunged before I applied for jobs, and all the money that isn't just bail," Blair said. "You know,

lawyer fees and court fees."

Blair is just one of hundreds of University of Mississippi students who are arrested each year and are surprised by the range of consequences, according data from UPD.

Most students with criminal offenses are arrested on

SEE FAKE ID PAGE 8



# Who will be the next governor? Political strategists debate.

**MASON SCIONEAX**  
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Political consultants Austin Barbour and Brandon Jones speculated on the upcoming Mississippi gubernatorial election and made their cases for each candidate at the Overby Center on Wednesday night.

Barbour, a Republican Ole Miss alumnus and nephew of former governor Haley Barbour, supports Republican Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves. Jones, a Democrat and former member of the state House of Representatives, prefers Democratic Attorney General Jim Hood.

Barbour highlighted Reeves' struggles in the Republican primary against Bill Waller, especially in the Jackson area. He argued that this was largely because of Reeves' inclination to reject political favors.

"Like him or not, the guy is not afraid to tell people no, and a lot of those people live in and around Jackson," Barbour said. "Those counties will be tougher for him than for most Republicans."

Jones retorted that Reeves' unwillingness to play ball makes him unfavorable. He argued that Reeves will struggle among local politicians like Boards of Supervisors groups, which he has often made his political opponents.

"What makes Reeves unique is not just that he says no, it's that he puts stink on it," Jones said.

Charles Overby, who hosted the event, asked them to weigh in on the effect of President Donald Trump's two recent endorsements of the Reeves campaign.

Both Barbour and Jones agreed the endorsement will help Reeves,



FILE PHOTO: MASON SCIONEAX / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Charles Overby, political strategists Austin Barbour and Brandon Jones and Overby Center fellow Curtis Wilkie dissect the upcoming governor's race. Barbour and Jones each shared their opinions on the race and how their party's candidates will fare.

especially when paired with a visit from the president.

Barbour said that the Trump endorsement will help to lock in voters who may have considered voting for Hood or who voted for Hood in past elections.

**"What campaigns do at their best is accentuate what people already think about a particular candidate,"**

- Brandon Jones  
Political Consultant

"For those who have liked that Jim is a good ol' boy, the Trump endorsement solidifies a lot of swing votes for Reeves," he said.

Jones added that Trump's presence in the election, if it

angered black voters, could swing the election in Hood's favor. Barbour cited that in Mike Espy's 2018 Senate race, Espy brought out an increased African American voter turnout. Neither believes the same presence can be expected in this election.

"I would love to see Trump come to Veteran Stadium in Jackson," Jones said. "The specter of this White House on black voters in Mississippi is a motivating factor."

Jones also said that he feels that overall voter turnout will be low, and that Hood needs to increase voter enthusiasm across Mississippi. He fears that many Republican voters who are considering voting for Hood may relent and cast their ballots for Reeves, he said.

"Democrats fall in love, Republicans fall in line," he said.

The two disagreed on the possi-

ble implications the Institutions of Higher Learning and the hiring of new Ole Miss Chancellor Glenn Boyce may have on the election. Jones said that Reeves may have struggles distinguishing himself from his connections to the IHL among Ole Miss loyalists since current governor Phil Bryant appointed all 12 of the current members.

"I think the narrative is harmful for Tate Reeves at the same time that there is a national conversation on secrecy and cronyism in politics," Jones said.

Barbour disagreed, saying that the recent presence of the IHL's decision in the media is only distracting from much needed negative press about Reeves, which would help Hood.

"It's a problem for Jim Hood when the media isn't talking about the governor's race. He needs every

minute of every day that he can get," Barbour said.

The two's opinions diverged again in their perceptions of the effectiveness of Hood's campaign message. Barbour argued that Hood's campaign has struggled to hone in on a specific driving message, and that is shown by the three different ads his campaign aired this week alone.

"When you're in the home stretch," he said, "you better know what your message is. The Hood campaign is struggling to find its message."

Jones felt that campaign is effective in its focus of the perception that Reeves is a shady character, referencing one of the ads that is running this week. The ad uses a Hood campaign-funded investigation that showed that Reeves used his political powers to have a private road built from his neighborhood to the mall in Jackson.

"What campaigns do at their best is accentuate what people already think about a particular candidate," Jones said.

The two also expect the race to be close. Jones mentioned a little-known law in the Mississippi Constitution, which was a byproduct of the Jim Crow era, enacted to restrict African Americans from attaining statewide office, that he dubbed the "Electoral Junior College."

In Mississippi statewide elections, a candidate must win a simple majority of the votes cast and a majority of the statewide Congressional districts. If both of these conditions are not met, the Mississippi House of Representatives is sworn in and elects the governor.

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# This week at Ole Miss

There's no shortage of events happening daily at Ole Miss, and we want to make sure you're aware of them.

## Linguistic and culturally diverse teaching workshop:

Faculty from the Intensive English Program (IEP) will discuss successes and struggles of international students. Refreshments will be offered. Time/Location: Monday Oct. 21 from 2:30-3:30 in the Student Union, room 321

**Ole Miss Sports:** On Wednesday, the Ole Miss softball team will take on Mississippi Valley State at the softball complex. First pitch is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Ole Miss volleyball, the ranked third in the SEC, will square off with No. 2 Georgia in Athens on Wednesday night. The game will be streamed on ESPNU at 8 p.m.

**Little Women:** the musical: The classic story about four Civil War-era sisters in New England is coming to the Gertrude C. Ford Center. Hosted by the Ole Miss Film & Theatre department, this play will run four separate times over the weekend. Tickets start at \$20, and discounts are available to Ole Miss students and faculty. Time/Location: Friday Oct. 25-Sunday Oct. 27 in the Gertrude C. Ford Center

**The Longest Table:** Want to share a free meal in the Grove with students, faculty and staff? At the university's Longest Table, everybody has a seat. Time/Location: Sunday Oct. 27 from 5:00-6:30 in the Grove.

## TILL SIGN *continued from page 3*

a suspension from the Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Speakers at Saturday's ceremony included two of Till's relatives and other advocates determined to keep his memory alive.

Dave Tell, author of "Remembering Emmett Till," told the story of civil rights activist Betty Pearson and a letter she wrote to a friend in 2007 about the reasons for putting up Till's first sign.

"She said, 'I'm not putting up signs to make sure we get the facts right, and I'm not putting up signs to increase tourism or to save a town by bringing tourists dollars in. I'm doing this because these signs make new kinds of conversations possible,'" Tell said.

Pearson was present for all five days of the Till trial, in which an all-white, all-male jury acquitted the two men accused of Till's murder. According to Tell, Pearson said that between 1955-2007, she never once had a conversation across racial lines about Till's murder.

"So the sign is not just a sign, right? By giving dignity to the story, we're hoping it makes new kinds of conversation about racial reconciliation possible," Tell said.

For the first time, the Till sign includes the story of the previous vandalism. It's part of the story, too, and the people involved with its construction think that in order to reckon with what happened in 1955, one also has to reckon with what's happened since then.

"We understand that racial reconciliation begins by telling the truth. Our historical markers allow a first step towards that truth-telling process. Sadly, there are still those who want to deny



PHOTO: MEGAN SUTTLES

The new Emmett Till memorial sign for where his body was recovered from the river.

the events of 1955. We cannot change our past but we have a responsibility to tell our stories together so we can move forward together with a shared future," Patrick Weems, Director of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center said.

The new additions were also meaningful to Till's cousin, Airicka Gordon-Taylor.

"I'm so glad that they have incorporated what happened with the other signs. To me those bullet holes are symbols of the constant murder of young people across America since 1955... Mississippi wants you to forget who Emmett Till was. Our family will not allow that to happen," Gordon-Taylor said.

In 1955, then- 14-year-old

Emmett Till left his home in Chicago to visit family in Mississippi. During the trip, a white shopkeeper, Carolyn Bryant, accused Till of making sexual advances toward her at Bryant's Grocery in Money, Mississippi. Four days later, Bryant's husband, Roy, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, kidnapped Till from his uncle's home. They then beat him, shot him in the head and threw his body into the Tallahatchie River.

The jury that acquitted the

two murderers only deliberated for 67 minutes. Carolyn Bryant admitted decades later that her claims Till harassed her were lies. Roy Bryant and Milam didn't wait nearly as long to admit their crimes, doing so in a 1956 interview with Look Magazine, as their acquittal provided them double jeopardy protections.

After Till's mutilated body was recovered from the river, his mother, Mamie, famously demanded an open casket at her son's funeral so others would have to confront the horrors inflicted on him.

Gordon-Taylor gave half of her speaking time on Saturday to her mother, Ollie Gordon, who showed reverence to Mamie.

"We can't tell the story of Emmett without the mother. The mother fought to keep his death from not being lost and not being without a cause. This is what spearheaded and boosted the civil rights movement. I am sure that she's looking down on us today, and I am sure that she's honored that so many people have a love for her son. That they continue to fight for justice," Gordon said.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held a few miles away in Sumner, the town that holds the Emmett Till Interpretive Center and the courthouse where Till's murderers were tried. In front of the courthouse, two objects stand as reminders of Mississippi history. On one side of the entrance is a marker for the Emmett Till murder trial. On the other is a monument for the Confederate soldiers of Tallahatchie County, where it has stood since 1913.

## EDITORS' NOTE

An article on Friday about people who are barred from bars included an example of one student who said that she was not allowed in Rafters bar because she "probably was rude." The article should have included a response from Rafters bar. After the article was published, Don Michael Lazarus, who represents Rafters, said that she was not allowed to enter because she was underage. When she turned 21, she celebrated her birthday at Rafters. The article also included a fabricated quotation, attributed to a person who works at bars on the Square. The quotation, saying that throwing a drink at

a bartender would likely result in getting barred from a bar, was removed from the article online because he never made that statement to the reporter. One inaccuracy was in the story because of an editing error: the article should have identified Loden as a patron of Funky's, not an employee. The article was not written by a staff member of The Daily Mississippian; it was submitted on a freelance basis. The writer's work will not be published in the paper in the future. The Daily Mississippian has updated its policies for accepting freelance work to ensure accuracy in all reporting.

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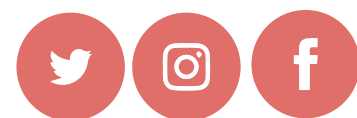
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# Kanye West's "JESUS IS KING" launch date moves again

**CAROLINE NIHILL**  
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Kanye West's new gospel album, "Jesus is King," is tentatively going to be released on Oct. 25, almost a month after the original release date. The update was reported by attendants of the Kanye West experience at George Washington University on Oct. 12.

According to the university's online news source, at the impromptu concert, West showcased unfinished music and his movie. Throughout the event, students reported that West quoted Bible verses throughout the performance. The information about the event launched hours before West performed that night.

West announced that there will be a movie, directed by Nick Knight, with music featured in the film. The film will be shown starting on the current release date for the album, and is exclusively in IMAX theaters.

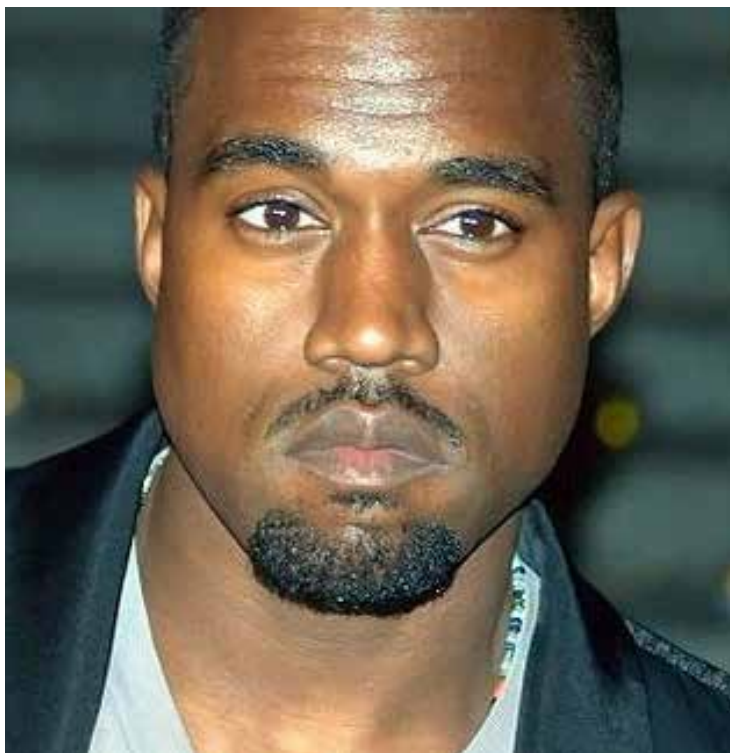
The movie has a promo-

tional website that features a short synopsis with little information of the film or the album. Recently, the trailer has been released on the site, with presumably music from the album. The video contains a Bible verse along with where the movie was filmed.

"'JESUS IS KING' brings Kanye West's famed Sunday Service to life in the Roden Crater, visionary artist James Turrell's never-before-seen installation in Arizona's Painted Desert," the website said. "This one-of-a-kind experience features songs arranged by West in the gospel tradition along with new music from his forthcoming album."

The setting for the movie is James Turrell's Roden Crater. The crater is in Northern Arizona and was created by Turrell for human sight and psychological perception research.

"(Roden Crater) functions as a naked eye observatory of earthly and celestial events that are both predictable and



FILE COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kanye West will release his new album, "Jesus is King," which has been anticipated for months.

continually in flux," Turrell's website says. "Constructed to last for centuries to come, Roden Crater links the physical

and the ephemeral, the objective with the subjective, in a transformative sensory experience."

The sight is currently under construction and not open to the public. The construction will result in the crater having 21 viewing spaces along with six tunnels. It is unclear if these are additions or total for the space.

The sight is mentioned to have constant visibility of the sky, which the rooms constructed to demonstrate the different perceptions of light. The crater is also a sight seeing place for predictable and fluxing celestial events.

The website features pictures of the Roden Crater, with the varying perception of light based on time and space.

West's new music is leagues different than his original rap sound. His new album is comprised solely of gospel music. West has been very open about his change in genres, and is openly embracing religion and his religious goals through his music.

Tickets and theaters information will be updated on the JESUS IS KING website daily.

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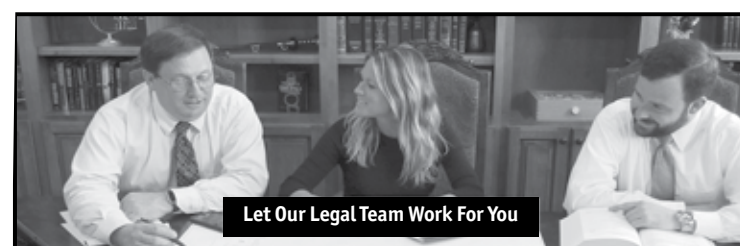
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# Square Jam



**REED JONES**  
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**Top:** Men's basketball head coach Kermit Davis greets the hundreds of fans who showed up to Square Jam on Friday. Kermit Davis is entering his second year as the head coach for Ole Miss.

**Left:** Hundreds of community members showed up to Square Jam. The event is hosted annually before the start of the Ole Miss basketball season.



**Above:** Rebelettes perform in front of hundreds of community members at Square Jam on Friday. Ole Miss built a basketball court in the Square outside of City Hall to showcase the players before the start of the season.

**Right:** A child dunks at the annual Square Jam event. Community members were invited to participate in a variety of events related to the coming basketball season.

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FOOTBALL

# Offensive incompetence leads to another avoidable loss

**JOHN MACON GILLESPIE**  
thedmsports@gmail.com

If you have two quarterbacks, you have none.

That adage rang true Ole Miss on Saturday night as its bowl hopes virtually evaporated in a 24-17 loss to Texas A&M. Ole Miss struggled figuring out which quarterback, John Rhys Plumlee or Matt Corral, gave them the best chance to win on a night where the offense as a whole looked lost from the beginning.

Much like last week against Missouri, the Rebels rotated signal callers numerous times on a given drive, but with worse results than they saw against the Tigers. The offensive play calling got stale and predictable, which was what the quarterback rotation was supposed to guard against.

Instead, the Rebel offense looked confused and couldn't find a rhythm for most of the night.

What this loss represents is likely much worse than just a number in the record books. If Ole Miss wanted to reach a bowl game at season's end, it likely needed a win over either Missouri or Texas A&M. It got neither.

Now, while the Rebels still have winnable games on the schedule in New Mexico State and Mississippi State, they have to face nationally-ranked Auburn and LSU as well, still needing three more wins to reach bowl eligibility, a feat that, on paper, seems nearly impossible.

It was a fun ride seeing the explosiveness of Plumlee take the field in a starting role each week, but it's obvious that in order to win, Ole Miss has to be able to pass the ball with



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

The ball bounces in front of Miles Battle as he attempts to make a diving catch on Saturday. Ole Miss lost to Texas A&M 24-17 in Oxford.

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**ACROSS**  
1- Current choice;  
5- Anaconda;  
8- School orgs.;  
12- First name in architecture;  
13- Necklace fastener;  
15- Coarse file;  
16- Nothing, in Nice;  
17- Helicopter part;  
18- Major ending?;  
19- Geyser in Yellowstone National Park;  
22- Nervous twitch;  
23- And so on: Abbr.;  
24- Christmas;  
26- Former monetary unit of Finland;  
29- Faculties;  
31- Bell and Barker;  
32- Big name in insurance;  
34- Cornerstone abbr.;  
36- Takes steps;  
38- Rips;  
40- Lummoxes;  
41- Young;  
43- Ludicrous;  
45- Grazing ground;  
46- Borrowed;  
48- Owner;  
50- They're all charged up;

**DOWN**  
1- Dynamic beginning;  
2- Slather plaster on the upper surface of a room;  
3- Historic Scott;  
4- Consult;  
5- Ink spot;  
6- Swear word;  
7- Starting on;  
8- Start to fix?;  
9- Snitch;  
10- Italian wine city;  
11- Blueprint detail;  
13- Chirping insect;  
14- Dried plum;  
20- Aleutian island;  
21- Single;

**SOLUTION TO 10.18.2019 PUZZLE**

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

more efficiency, and Corral provides that.

If the Rebels plan to play both quarterbacks moving forward, situational play calling has to be better and less predictable for the system to benefit and not hamper the offense. A two-quarterback system can work for the Rebels if used properly, but teams from this point forward will be better prepared for it, as the Aggies were on Saturday.

It may be too little too late, but the Rebels need to finish the year with at least five

wins in order to have momentum heading into the 2020 season. This is a young team in Oxford, and the future is certainly brighter than in the recent past, but finishing the season worse than 5-7 is a quick way to lose the fans still holding on.

What pains Rebel fans after this loss isn't just the unlikelihood of bowl eligibility this season, but the fact that this game, along with others this season, was winnable. Ole Miss had plentiful opportunities to extend its lead in both halves but failed to do so,

giving the Aggies a window to come back and claim the win. If Ole Miss had taken advantage of these opportunities, we could be discussing a different story instead of a demoralizing loss.

The Rebels head into a bye week before traveling to No. 9 Auburn on Nov. 2, leaving a sour taste in the mouths of the Rebel faithful for a couple of weeks. Barring some unforeseen circumstances, that may persist until the end of the season.

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Puzzles by KrazyDad

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

**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**  
**NOVICE**

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



# OPINION

## Keep the library open on game days

**EMILY STEWART**  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

You don't have to be a football fan to go to Ole Miss, but when many of the campus buildings are closed during home games, it sure does feel like it.

The Turner Center, South Campus Recreation Center, the library and the honors college are all closed on home game days. I scoured the internet to find a reason why, but I couldn't find one. Why would a large, public university close buildings that are integral to a student's growth?

These facilities help students achieve academic success, so maybe they only do

it to keep us safe. These are open buildings after all, so perhaps it would be safer to leave them closed while the campus is open to thousands of visitors.

However, we can all see the amount of extra security that we have on game days. There's even a security guard whose main job is to direct people to the right exit door at the student union. Now, I'm sure this is merited and keeps us safe, but why not do this at other buildings as well? Does it cost too much? If paying a little more to keep these buildings guarded is what it takes, then I believe it is what the students deserve.

This isn't just about giving students access to what is already ours. Ole Miss needs to

realize the impact these facilities make. Having different places to work is proven to be better for your mind. When I'm stuck in my room doing homework with zero progress being made, I go somewhere else, and I'm not the only one.

Studies show that people are more productive when they change their surroundings. Some even call this phenomenon the "coffee shop effect." The theory says that a coffee shop has better background noise than a silent room — or one filled with many friends. It keeps your brain stimulated in just the right way.

For you, maybe this coffee shop atmosphere is best re-sembled in the Great Room of

the honors college or Starbucks in the J.D. Williams Library. When you leave your traditional work space with specific goals in mind, there's intent behind it. Your sole purpose of going to this place is to work.

Productivity doesn't have to revolve around getting schoolwork done. Working on yourself is just as important. Exercise has been shown to decrease levels of stress, and as a school that is greatly involved in sports, I'm a little surprised that Ole Miss closes its gyms on game days. Over half of adults in the United States say they experience daily stress and anxiety, but in a 2013 study, students who exercised at least three times per week reported

better moods and less stress. They were more social, too. Exercise is proven to improve people's lives, so let's allow students to try it for themselves. In the Turner Center, there are even treadmills with desks attached for doing homework while working out.

Keeping these facilities closed is inconsiderate and inconvenient. Ole Miss, don't give us the bare minimum. Don't restrict our access to the resources we need to thrive because of a football game.

*Emily Stewart is freshman international studies and Arabic major from Columbia, Tennessee.*

## We should be proud despite our flaws

**KATIE DAMES**  
thedmopinion@gmail.com

This semester I am studying abroad in Milan, Italy, where I tutor upper-level English students at an Italian high school. When asked what music they listen to, they mentioned American artists like Travis Scott and Migos. When asked what TV shows they watch, the responses included "Riverdale" and "Friends." Despite the apparent strength of America's cultural influence abroad, when asked if they would ever want to visit the U.S., one student said, "Oh, I would never go to America because they have guns everywhere, and I would be afraid of being shot."

After I invited more questions about my home, the same student discredited the U.S. as little more than a wasteland with a colonialist, genocidal, racist past.

I was quick to note that just as "Friends" does not depict true American life, our nation's shortcomings do not reflect an entirely accurate picture. The negativity bias in the media results in a depressing portrait of the state of the union. Despite this, we see individuals willing to make positive changes to these problems. There are a lot of elements of American society that we should be disappointed about, but I am most proud to be an American because of our determination to reimagine a better country. The American dream derives from the determination that individuals can change their situation for the better, and the same principles apply to our current socio-political state.

The current surge in activism in the U.S. is something worth celebrating. Harsh realities like intruder drills and school strikes

about climate change seem straight out of a dystopian novel, but the fact that young people feel empowered to mobilize for their futures promises hope for generations to follow.

When many people think of Mississippi, they quickly think of a backward place filled with uneducated people. We make national headlines for Jim Crow-era election laws that are still in practice, for students posing proudly with rifles in front of Emmett Till's damaged memorial marker and for ICE raids that tore apart communities and families organized by local and state authorities.

However, let's not forget that last year we had three Rhodes finalists and one Rhodes scholar. Innovators and bright minds keep coming out of our university because of the grit derived from the challenges we face.

From the Ed Meek sit-

uation to the selection of Glenn Boyce, students and community members are actively promoting progressive actions despite disheartening events. Though through these challenges we have felt the burden of slow-moving bureaucracy and a lack of local autonomy, the culture of conversation and action at the university prove that we still have the capacity to redefine our community.

Some may see Mississippi as one decade behind other states and our country as a contradictory cheerleader of freedom, but there are many reasons to celebrate the U.S.,

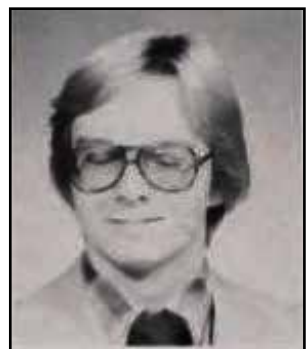
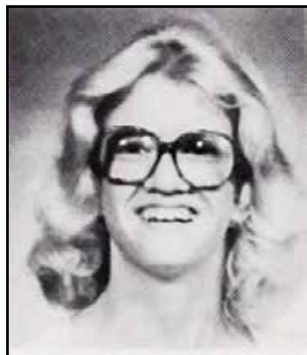
Mississippi and the people who make them great.

Exceptionalism of one's home can be dangerous, but from the local level to the national level, there is hope. Our history reflects the dark ambitions and cruelty that our country and campus were built upon, but a closer look notes the ingenuity that our predecessors focused on while making our country more welcoming to all. We are far from perfect, but all signs point out that we are on an upward path.

*Katie Dames is a junior international studies major from St. Louis, Missouri.*

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## FAKE ID continued from page 3

charges of minor-in-possession, possession of a fake ID, driving under the influence, public intoxication and disorderly conduct, according to Oxford police officers and lawyers.

Oxford DUI attorney Dwight Ball said fake ID charges are common.

“Anyone that’s under 21 years old, it’s almost a sure bet they have a fake ID,” Ball said. “Here’s the phenomena I don’t understand: they keep it with their real ID. There’s students that ask cops which ID they want, and the cops say they’ll take all of them. Or students will drop them, and they’ll reach down to pick them up, and the officer will take them both.”

According to Ball, possession of a fake ID is against the law, and students can still be charged even if they don’t use the ID to buy alcohol or enter a bar.

Records from Oxford Police Department show that in 2019, there have been 464 DUI offenses and 389 other alcohol violations so far, including 281 arrests for public drunk, the most common alcohol violation. On top of that, there have been 442 narcotic related arrests.

“For example, public drunk has been on the book for many decades, and as standard, that’s a fine up to \$100, plus cost of



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

A crowd forms outside a bar on the Square. Many students are arrested on charges of minor-in-possession every year.

court, which makes it \$327 and up to 30 days in jail,” Ball said.

According to Oxford Police Department Captain Hildon Sessums, the most costly misdemeanor offense is a DUI. A first offense DUI results in a fine, loss of a driver’s license and mandatory classes.

Defense attorney Jay Carmean added that a DUI offense will also result in the increase of your auto insurance bill.

“In my opinion, DUIs are the most severe misdemeanor offense,” Sessums said. “A DUI offender knowingly puts themselves and innocent people at serious risk when they get behind the wheel under the influence.”

According to Carmean, the fine for a first offense DUI charge in the Oxford Municipal Court is \$1,581, and \$692 for an MIP or fake ID.

In the city of Oxford, justice court expungements, which essentially remove charges from your criminal record, take a year because the county prosecutor must sign off on it. The justice court judge is not an attorney, which is why the court requires the attorney prosecutor to sign off on it. According to Ball, convictions of moving violations cannot be expunged, but all other misdemeanors can.

According to Carmean, contrary to popular student belief, an attorney is essential

to file an expungement.

Expungement only happens for criminal records. For students, their records can not be expunged from the university conduct record.

According to Tracy Murry, the director of the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct, the university is required by the federal government to keep records for seven years. Typically, students applying to law school or medical school will be asked to disclose this information to the school, but it is the students’ decision to release their records.

“A lot of people get confused because it seems like you’re going through two systems at the same time,” Murry said.

“We handle policies and only policy violations; the court handles law. But a lot of times (students) feel if a matter is dropped in the court system, or if a case has been expunged, it should be with us. We don’t communicate with the court system, so we wouldn’t know that, so we’re still going to meet with the students and have that conversation with them. Expungement sort of, in some cases, means you’re guilty. You’re just having it erased from your record.”

The Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct uses the policies from the University Conduct System Authority and Jurisdiction to examine each case to determine whether it falls under the jurisdiction of the university and if they should handle it.

“For the city of Oxford, which is what most students are referring to, if they’re talking about alcohol arrests, then we do all handle those,” Murry said.

Aside from the financial costs, time commitments and a potential record, Blair added that the emotional toll his arrest had on him and his family was difficult.

“Honestly, calling my mother was probably the worst part about it,” he said. “Then it sucked more because then I had to let her know that she had to help me pay back the people who bailed me out, and it was money that my family didn’t have, so that was all stressful and that made me feel worse.”

# Delta Rho - Kappa Kappa Gamma 2019 Initiates

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Danielle Alton  
Addison Avdoyan  
Paige Barbarite  
Taylor Bass  
Molly Bohanan  
Emily Bone\*  
London Boscamp\*  
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