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MISSISSIPPIAN

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI | SERVING OLE MISS AND OXFORD SINCE 1911



REBELS TAKE ON GAMECOCKS AT MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME

Ole Miss seeks its first win over South Carolina since 2004 this Saturday when the Gamecocks visit Vaught-Hemingway. SEE PAGE 12

Kappa Alpha Theta to close this semester

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The national Kappa Alpha Theta organization has decided to remove the University of Mississippi's Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta at the end of this semester after 39 years on campus due to a number of issues including "low membership and discouraging recruitment efforts."

National leaders of the organization voted unanimously to close the chapter, according to an email obtained by The Daily Mississippian that was sent to members by Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity President Mandy Burgett Wushinske on Nov. 1.

"As you know, present membership in Epsilon Zeta is significantly below Panhellenic total, and results from this fall's primary recruitment were discouraging," Wushinske said

in the email. "This is despite 17 visits over the last two years from Theta volunteer officers, staff, and educational leadership consultants to assist with recruitment, chapter operations, and finance issues."

The national organization sent an email to members of the Ole Miss chapter on Oct. 10 that indicated steps toward the chapter's closure. It said the "Epsilon Zeta Chapter is placed on Membership Limitation

effective immediately... Despite previous communication from the Fraternity, Epsilon Zeta Chapter will not be participating in continuous open bidding this fall." Continuous open bidding is an informal recruitment process that takes place in fall and spring semesters after formal recruitment has ended.

Emails show that a meeting was held with UM chapter

SEE THETA PAGE 4

British investigators continue probe into data firm, Ole Miss



Phil Bryant pictured on the Ole Miss campus in 2017 with Lord Michael Ashcroft, left, Andy Wigmore, and Arron Banks, who provided funding for the Brexit campaign.

PHOTO COURTESY: TWITTER VIA ARRON BANKS

NCAA overturns Ole Miss recruiting restrictions

JUSTIN DIAL
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The case is finally closed.

The NCAA Appeals Committee announced its decision to uphold Ole Miss' 2018 postseason ban on Thursday, along with affirming its findings of a "lack of institutional control" and "impermissible recruiting inducements." The committee did, however, overturn the university's penalty restricting recruits' unofficial visits to campus.

The Appeals Committee's ruling brings a nearly six-year saga of investigations, sanctions and appeals to an end. University of Mississippi Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter and athletics director Ross Bjork released a statement following the committee's ruling, accepting the committee's decision while also expressing some disappointment with the committee's upholding of the 2018 bowl ban.

"While we are pleased by the (Appeals Committee's) finding the the (Committee on Infractions) abused its discretion with the respect to the unofficial visit penalty, we remain disappointed by the remainder of the ruling, which upheld a 2018 postseason ban and findings of lack of institutional control and recruiting inducements," the statement reads.

Regarding the upheld postseason ban, the Appeals Committee cited "multiple level I violations over five years



9/11 SURVIVOR TO SPEAK TONIGHT

Will Jimeno, a former police officer at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will speak about his experience during the 9/11 attacks at inaugural Veterans Alumni Gala.

SEE PAGE 6



TYPHOON SLAMS U.S. TERRITORY MARIANA ISLANDS

UM professor Ji Hoon Heo calls the Mariana Islands' Saipan his home. He's started a website and Facebook page to increase relief efforts for the islands.

SEE PAGE 4

TAYLOR VANCE

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The University of Mississippi has officially ended its business partnership with scrutinized data firm Big Data Dolphins and insurance firm Eldon Insurance Co., but Erica McKinley, the university's chief legal officer and general counsel, did not agree to cooperate with the United Kingdom Information Commissioner's Office's investigation into the firms.

The firms, which were supposed to be established on campus this fall at the university's business incubator, Insight Park, are under investigation by the ICO for allegedly sending U.K. citizens' personal data to the university.

Since the allegations surfaced, the university has terminated its lease agreements with the firms.

"After a thorough internal review, the

SEE DATA FIRM PAGE 5



PHOTO COURTESY: GAGE SKIDMORE
Brittany Kaiser.



PHOTO COURTESY: ERICA MCKINLEY FACEBOOK
Erica McKinley.

SEE NCAA PAGE 4

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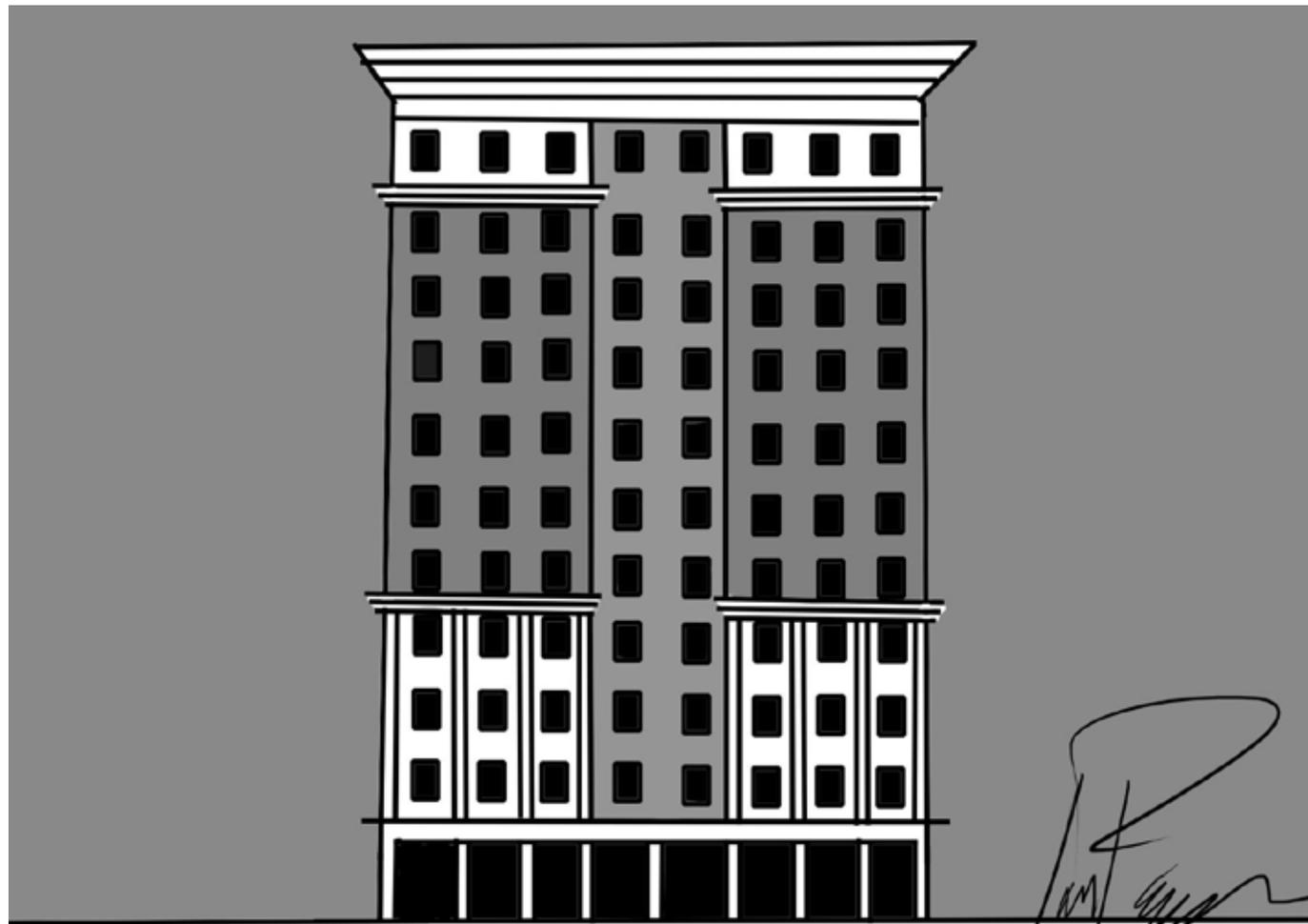
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COLUMN

Americans must pay fair share for healthcare

BRANDON BROWN
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There are many factors that affect the price of healthcare in the United States. Chiefly among these are insurers, excessive litigation, volatile prices for medical supplies, the uninsured and uncontrolled drug prices. Americans spend about \$3.4 trillion per year on healthcare, more than any other nation on Earth. In fact, the average cost of healthcare has risen by over 2,000 percent since 1960. The largest component in this momentous increase is drug prices. The average American spends over \$10,000 per year on healthcare and that number is expected to climb substantially yearly. Amazingly, even with all of this spending the U.S still has one of the lowest life expectancies of any other developed nation.

The initial step in solving

this problem is to look at the health insurers.

First, insurance companies need to be legally required to disclose how much they pay out for every procedure.

Second, legally mandate that healthcare providers make their expenses public. This would introduce competition and allow consumers to price shop which in turn would lower prices. Shockingly, most hospitals don't even know how much most of their procedures actually cost them either — yet another symptom of how prices are never constant in healthcare and how difficult it is for CFOs to even predict how much your stay will cost them until it's all over.

Third, make it harder to sue healthcare providers. Current statistics have shown that physicians in high risk specialties have a 99 percent chance of being sued during their career. This amount is simply unacceptable, and laws need to

change on exactly what is allowed to go to court. Litigation shouldn't be a for-profit game, and until this changes, consumers can expect to see high prices just so physicians can afford malpractice insurance.

Next, drug costs must be regulated. Lastly, streamline the payer system and further regulate it so that health systems don't have to spend nearly 25 percent of their budget negotiating with insurance companies. As mentioned in my last column, if everyone had health insurance these problems would not be so pervasive as there would be less people using the system that couldn't pay into it. This in turn would reduce the complexity of the price negotiations because hospitals would be able to more easily predict prices.

The largest component in this momentous increase are drug prices. Americans pay about three times more for the same medicine than do people in

Britain, for instance. In essence, the U.S. taxpayer has subsidized drug prices for the rest of the world. The U.S. should force pharmaceutical companies to lower the price so that it's comparable with what the rest of word pays for it. If the European Union refuses and a generic medication is created to bypass the price of the drug then the U.S. should begin enacting tariffs on European goods. The U.S. is an international innovation hub for medicine and it shouldn't be the only one to shoulder the cost for these amazing discoveries. So in short, stop letting the E.U. dictate how much Americans have to pay.

In conclusion, let the U.S. healthcare system play by the rules of a capitalist market and demand that those who benefit from American innovation also pay their fair share.

Brandon Brown is a senior psychology major from Laurel.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



**MISSISSIPPI
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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Valuing bombs over books in a morally bankrupt nation



JACOB GAMBRELL
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When I studied abroad in Chile, many of my friends — both Chilean students and exchange students from Europe — were absolutely shocked when I told them how exorbitantly expensive American universities are. Even at Ole Miss, a relatively “affordable” four-year public university, tuition is still incredibly expensive — \$8,550 in-state, \$15,954 out-of-state — compared to other developed nations.

Most of us graduate with a looming mass of student debt over our heads. In fact, more than 44 million Americans owe a collective \$1.5 trillion in student debt. The average student who graduated in 2016 owes \$37,172. Student loans are just part of process, right? A high school friend’s father gave me the advice to not worry about debt because “the returns on investment are unbeatable.” Shackling ourselves with massive debt has become embedded into our culture like a rite of passage. However, it

was not always like this, and it does not have to be like this.

Senators Thad Cochran (Class of ’59), Roger Wicker (Class of ’73) and Representative Trent Kelly (Class of ’88) all attended Ole Miss. When they attended, their tuition was \$201 (\$1,732 in 2018 dollars), \$516 (\$2,881), and \$1,780 (\$3,750) respectively. Accounting for inflation and changes in the value of a dollar, Ole Miss tuition has increased by 761.7 percent since 1959, 458.3 percent since 1973 and 110.7 percent since 1988.

However, in relative terms, the minimum wage has actually slightly decreased in purchasing power by around 16 percent since 1959. This means that young Thad Cochran could have worked just four hours a week at the minimum wage and pay for his college. Wicker and Kelly only needed to work 6.5 and 10.5 hours respectively. If they just wanted to focus on their school work during the semester and only work over the summer and winter breaks, they could have paid for tuition working 11, 18 and 30 hours a week respectively at a minimum wage job during their breaks. A student

today would have to work 23-hour weeks year round or 66-hour weeks during the breaks to pay Ole Miss tuition at a minimum wage job. This of course leaves no time to work for textbooks, rent, utilities, food and fun or go to class full time — hence the \$1.5 trillion in student debt.

Wouldn’t it be nice if we had tuition free college like many European nations do? The Republican controlled House Budget Committee predicts that over the next 10 years, it would cost taxpayers \$70 billion for tuition-free community college and \$807 billion for tuition-free public four-year college. This would come out to an average of \$87.7 billion in increased spending with a \$23.4 billion reduction as the Pell Grant program will no longer be needed. Free college for all Americans would cost roughly \$64.3 billion a year.

“But who’s gonna pay for it?”

Roger Wicker recently released a campaign ad about his writing and passing of the “Securing the Homeland by Increasing our Power on the Seas Act” or “SHIPS Act,” which increases our navy from 279 ships to 355 ships.

Our current military budget is a whopping \$716 billion for 2019. The money is there. We could decrease military spending by only 9 percent, and no American would ever have to pay tuition at a public university ever again.

“But wouldn’t that leave us vulnerable to military threat?”

If we decreased spending to \$651.7 billion to pay for higher education, we would still spend more money than the next eight countries combined, five of whom are our close allies.

Our congressmen, both red and blue, who grew up

when higher education was achievable without drowning debt, spend our tax dollars to police the world so other countries’ tax dollars can go to education, healthcare and other social programs. Where will we end up as a society if we value fighting the 17-year-long war in Afghanistan over helping our 17-year-old high school students attend university? Without a dramatic shift in priorities, we may win some battles, but we’ll lose the war.

Jacob Gambrell is a senior international studies major from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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Confederate memorial plaque committee to expand

hol education this fall

LYNDY BERRYHILL

in expanding the committee membership and to bear a variety of opinions. However, some groups have yet to respond. “We expect him to outline a plan for expanding the memorial plaque committee.”

TAKE A STUDY BREAK PICK UP THE DM

UM professor creates website for Typhoon Yutu relief

VICTORIA ALLISON

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Typhoon Yutu made landfall in the Philippines and Northern Mariana Islands on Oct. 24 as the second-strongest tropical cyclone to ever strike the United States. It reached its peak as a category 5 super typhoon just before making landfall on the U.S. territories Saipan and Tinian of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Instructional assistant professor of journalism Ji Hoon Heo is a native of Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Saipan is about 14 hours away from the U.S. mainland, making it difficult to get there quickly.

Heo said the commercial airport was closed during the first week of the typhoon. Only military and emergency aircrafts were allowed to travel.

"We are often forgotten just because we are so small. I'm a little sour about it because we didn't get any press," he said. "If you ask your friends, they won't know about (Typhoon) Yutu."

Heo moved to Saipan from South Korea when he was 4 years old and lived there until he was 18 years old.

"When people ask me 'Where are you from?' I don't usually tell them I'm from South Korea," he said. "I usually tell them that I'm from Saipan. That's where I call my home."

Heo described Saipan as a



PHOTO COURTESY: BRAD RUSZALA

Typhoon Yutu made landfall in the Philippines and Mariana Islands earlier this week and is the strongest cyclone to hit the Mariana Islands to date.

small island with a very close-knit community of approximately 50,000 people living there.

"It's a beautiful place," Heo said. "It's got white sandy beaches, blue oceans, green oceans, all the different colors you never think an ocean would look like."

Saipan was in the direct path of Typhoon Yutu and sustained extensive damage with wind speeds reaching up to 180 mph. The death toll from the typhoon is now 15.

"You see cars completely flipped over," Heo said. "You see containers out in the street, roofs completely gone, houses are completely gone."

After the typhoon made

landfall, people posted videos and pictures of the destruction. Heo said his friends told him they could hear the sound of concrete being ripped up from the ground.

"I've seen typhoons before, but this was something I've never seen," Heo said.

Heo said he wants to help Saipan in any way he can.

"I've got to do something, so of course, donations were the first thing I tried to do," he said. "But then, the question I asked was 'What more can I do?'"

Heo said he and his friend found out there are various relief efforts located in different cities all around the United

States. They developed a website called yutur relief.com to bring all of the different efforts together onto one website.

"We wanted to create this platform to organize those conversations so that people can see what's happening and what areas of aid they could pour into," Heo's website states.

The website includes information about needed items, an interactive donations map and relief efforts in the U.S., Guam and Northern Mariana Islands.

"We could make some sort of organizational place where people could communicate with each other, so we can effectively put resources in one

place," Heo said.

He said the website has brought so many people together that he's "running out of bandwidth." He also created a Yutu relief Facebook group that has currently has over 600 members and an Instagram page with over 100 followers.

Members of the Facebook group are from all over the world, from Washington state, North Carolina, to Utah and Guam.

"It's really amazing to see everyone come together," Heo said. "We need people to reach out and say 'Are you okay?' because (the citizens of Saipan) are hurting right now."

THETA

continued from page 1

members on Oct. 22 to discuss a strategic plan for the chapter over the next three years, from 2019 through 2022, which highlights the Theta experience, recruitment and retention and recommended steps to be taken.

"We recognize that Epsilon Zeta is at the tipping point when it comes to the health of the chapter. We would be remiss if we did not address the areas in which the chapter is continuously falling short. This Plan represents a collaborative effort, combining

member surveys, membership data from the past six years and countless conversations about how we can successfully guide Epsilon Zeta to a successful future," part of the introduction to the plan written by the UM chapter's executive board reads. "Epsilon Zeta has had its peaks and valleys over the years, and we think it is safe to say that the Fraternity intends to determine the health of this chapter and whether or not we can be sustainable down the road."

Less than a week later, the chapter announced its closure. Another email indicates a

mandatory chapter meeting was held with Wushinske and Fraternity Vice-President Cate Bibb on Oct. 28 for the "Grand Council to discuss their concerns and determine an appropriate path forward."

A press release from UM Communications said the decision to close the chapter was made without consulting senior officials at the university.

"University officials have asked Kappa Alpha Theta national leaders to reconsider their closure and will continue to advocate for an alternative solution, although the authority to withdraw the chapter charter rests solely with Kappa Alpha Theta at the national level," the UM Communications statement said.

Current members will become unaffiliated students and new members can still be initiated as scheduled on Nov. 10 or be released from their pledge and Membership Recruitment Acceptance Binding Agreement, UM Communications said. New members who choose not to be initiated will have all of their dues refunded.

The chapter will close at the end of the fall 2018 semester, but the chapter house will remain open through May 12, 2019, the statement said.



PHOTO: MCKENZIE RICHMOND

Ole Miss' Epsilon Zeta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta will be removed from campus at the end of the semester.

Members currently living in the house can remain there through then, or they have the option to give up their room licenses without penalty.

An "Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi Chapter Closing FAQ" attached to the letter notifying members of the closure clarified that although current members will become unaffiliated students, their status will be changed to alumnae in good standing upon graduation. If any initiated member transfers to another

school with a Theta chapter, they will be allowed to affiliate with the chapter there.

"Greek life continues to be an important and valuable part of the student experience at the University of Mississippi, and leaders within the Fraternal Leadership & Learning department remain committed to providing a variety of membership opportunities and a transformative experience for members," UM vice chancellor for student affairs Brandi

Hephner LaBanc said in a statement. "University leaders will visit with Epsilon Zeta Chapter members Friday to discuss the national office's decision and additional resources available to them on campus."

UM Kappa Alpha Theta Chief Executive Officer Katherine Parks declined to comment.

Theta Encore, an annual philanthropy event the sorority hosts each year, is still set to take place at 7 p.m. on Nov. 7 in the Ford Center.

DATA FIRM continued from page 1

university has confirmed that no personally identifiable information of any U.K. citizen was transferred to the University of Mississippi,” Vice Chancellor for strategic communications and marketing Jim Zook said. “The lease agreement was terminated by mutual agreement of the parties.”

Emails show that McKinley had a telephone conference with ICO officials on July 12, in which she agreed to hear the claims from the ICO but declined to concede to assertions made in June that the university could be holding information relevant to the investigation.

“I explained that in agreeing to hear your recitation, the University of Mississippi did not consent to the jurisdiction of the ICO, concede the factual assertions made in your June 12, 2018, correspondence (to Ole Miss Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter), waive any applicable defenses or immunities, nor otherwise agree to cooperate with your investigation in any way,” McKinley wrote on June 25, ahead of the conference call. “Respectfully, the university is a neutral third-party, and our position on the above matter has not changed.”

The day following the conference call, July 13, the ICO

sent an email to McKinley which said, “We have no further enquiries of the university at this time.”

Neither McKinley nor University Communications could be reached to further clarify why the university did not agree to cooperate with the investigation.

The investigation involving the university began when former Cambridge Analytica business development director Brittany Kaiser testified in the British House of Commons on April 17 that two business executives, Arron Banks and Andy Wigmore, started the data company to create their own version of Cambridge Analytica.

“Arron Banks and Andy Wigmore have told multiple individuals that they took my proposal and copied it and they created their own Cambridge Analytica, which they called Big Data Dolphins in partnership with the data science department at the University of Mississippi,” Kaiser said.

Cambridge Analytica is a company that was accused of illegally harvesting Facebook users’ data and using the data to influence political elections. The ICO recently fined Facebook more than \$600,000 for failing to protect users’ data from third-party groups like Cambridge Analytica.

The ICO sent a letter to Ole Miss Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter



PHOTO: PARKER GALLOWAY

Insight Park, the business incubator on the Ole Miss campus, was set to serve as the host site for the scrutinized Big Data Dolphins firm.

on June 12 informing him to preserve information and data about Big Data Dolphins and Eldon Insurance, which was initially expected to be an artificial intelligence and insurance project to develop at the university’s business incubator, Insight Park.

“Evidence has come to light which suggest that there may well be information that the University of Mississippi holds which is of relevance to my

Office’s investigation,” the letter said. “Specifically, this relates to the transfer and analysis of personal information from a U.K. company — ‘Big Data Dolphins’ — to the United States, and further, that the personal information in question from the U.K. may have been passed to the University of Mississippi and/or to academics working there for analysis.”

However, the letter also said the department’s inquiry is not

targeted at the university but only aims to “understand the scope of Big Data Dolphins’ activities.”

In a written statement to The Daily Mississippian on Sept. 10, Steve Doohan, lead communications officer for the ICO, said the line of inquiry with the university is ongoing and the ICO is continuing to “liaise with senior officials at the university” about the investigation.



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9/11 survivor to speak at inaugural Veterans Alumni Gala

JOHN MACON GILLESPIE
 THEHDMFEATURES@GMAIL.COM

The university will host its inaugural Veterans Alumni Gala on Friday night as a part of the larger celebration of Warrior Week.

The keynote speaker at the gala will be Will Jimeno, a former police officer at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Jimeno and some of his fellow officers were trapped beneath rubble of the World Trade Center for 13 hours after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Jimeno said it is an honor to be able to visit Oxford for the first time and speak at an event that honors military veterans.

"I am very excited to be speaking at this great event as we honor our fellow Americans and heroes who ensure our freedoms are protected," Jimeno said.

Jimeno was born in Colombia, but he moved to the United States at a young age. Jimeno said that, along with speaking on his experiences during the 9/11 attacks, he will discuss his experiences as an immigrant and the influence his parents had on him.

"I talk about my experience



PHOTO COURTESY: IMD5

Will Jimeno, a former police officer and 9/11 survivor, will speak at the university's inaugural Veterans Alumni Gala.

on 9/11 but also how I came to this country from Colombia ... and how my parents instilled in me the American values such as serving my country," Jimeno said.

Warrior Week, an event put on by the university's Veteran and Military Services to connect veteran students and alumni, will conclude Saturday at the

Ole Miss football game against South Carolina. Veteran and Military Services Assistant Director Andrew Newby said Warrior Week was his idea to positively affect the lives of Ole Miss veterans.

"Warrior Week was an idea I had to highlight our student veterans on campus who would otherwise go unnoticed," New-

by said. "I wanted to show the Ole Miss family exactly who we have on our campus, and this was a great way to ensure they aren't forgotten."

Newby said the Veterans Alumni Gala fits perfectly into the Warrior Week vision and can help connect current veteran students to their futures.

"(The Veterans Alumni Gala) was created to connect student veterans to our successful alumni," Newby said. "The purpose of the entire evening is to connect students to their futures."

Newby said his role as assistant director of Veteran and Military Services requires that he care about the lives and futures of his students, a focus reflected in this week's gala.

"I want to make meaningful impacts in (veterans') lives, and by connecting them with someone from their new career fields, I hope the alums can find new talent who are able to make meaningful, positive impacts in any of the fields they pursue," Newby said.

Besides speaking at the gala, Jimeno will get to experience tailgating at The Grove and an Ole Miss football game for the first time.

"I have never been to Oxford, but everyone I have spoken to about Ole Miss cannot stop telling me of its beauty, but most of all the wonderful people there," Jimeno said. "My wife Allison and I are looking forward to seeing another part of the U.S.A and seeing The Grove and spending time with the Ole Miss people and environment."

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WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

Sitting down at the Union



FILE PHOTO: MARLEE CRAWFORD

TREVOR DAVIS

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Human beings cannot survive without food, but we don't eat the same thing for every meal of every day. What we eat is something that speaks to our personality and our character.

Some people prefer long meals with many courses. Some eat something small for every meal. Those who are dieting eat less in a day than those who aren't. Some might refrain from eating certain foods for religious or cultural reasons.

This new series, "What's on your plate," explores those different choices and the reasoning behind them. It's an effort to learn more about people — specifically Ole Miss students — through the food they're eating at a meal during the day.

This week, I went to the most frequented eating spot on campus: the Union. Home to five national chain restaurants, the Union offers a unique mealtime dynamic designed for relatively quick eating experiences.

CHICK-FIL-A: "OL' RELIABLE"

For students like Silas Nelson, a freshman public policy leadership major from Horn Lake, a quick eating experience is his usual choice. Nelson was eating a chicken sandwich and fries from Chick-Fil-A earlier this week. "Ol' Reliable" is what he called the meal.

"I wanted to eat kind of fast and didn't want to wait in line, so Chick-Fil-A was the obvious choice," he said. "You're never going to get something that you didn't order or something that is not cooked well."

He spoke highly of the restaurant's speed, consistency and hospitality. Nelson said he doesn't like to spend a whole lot of time doing stuff he doesn't have to do, and eating is one of those things for him, both in Horn Lake and in Oxford.

Nelson explained that Desoto County is largely occupied by chain restaurants, so on his way home from high school, Nelson would frequent a selection of the many chains that his hometown has to offer.

WHICH WICH: A SIMPLE SANDWICH

While Chick-Fil-A seemed to have a bit of a monopoly on the particular lunchtime I visited the Union during, sophomore accountancy major Logan Gage ate a sandwich from Which Wich while we discussed the importance of a good sandwich and compared the food in Oxford to the food in his hometown.

Gage, a Ridgeland native, was eating a turkey and ham sandwich on white bread with American cheese and lettuce. He said he doesn't get much on his sandwiches, at least at Which Wich.

Gage said his hometown is another city mostly dominated by chain restaurants, but it has its fair share of gems, such as a sushi place called Sushi Village with a fantastic deal on all-you-can-eat sushi. According to Gage, it's a hot-spot for young people looking for a deal on a usually expensive meal.

"Sushi Village is that place that you go to see someone you know," Gage explained. "It's \$11 for unlimited sushi so it attracts a lot of people around our age."

Gage said he thinks Oxford could benefit from a place like this or Waffle House, which is known for its cheap food available 24/7.

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Volleyball returns to Oxford for two-game home stand

JAKE DAVIS
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The Ole Miss volleyball team will play two matches at home this weekend against No. 25 Tennessee on Friday and No. 12 Kentucky on Sunday.

The Rebels enter the weekend 13-12 on the season, having won two of their past three matches, but are stuck with a 3-8 conference record and are currently tied with Georgia for ninth place in the SEC. The Rebels have played fairly well at home this season and will be looking to upset two SEC contenders this weekend.

“We have two top-25 teams coming into the Gillom (Center), so we know we will have to be at our best this weekend,” head coach Steven McRoberts said. “We played really well at Alabama this past Sunday, and I like the way that we are competing in practice.”

Tennessee enters the match 18-5 on the season and 9-2 in conference play. The Volunteers are currently fourth in the SEC — behind Kentucky, No. 20 Missouri and No. 11 Florida — and are ranked in the top 25 for the first time this season. They had early-season upsets against then No. 22 Michigan State at home and then No. 16 San Diego on the road.

The Volunteers have won 11 of their past 13 matches, including nine in conference play. They have lost to Kentucky twice already this season but have

defeated every other SEC opponent they have faced thus far. Seeking a deep run in the NCAA Tournament, the Vols will be looking to shut down their next five opponents before facing No. 11 Florida at home on Nov. 21.

Tennessee came away with the win last year in their only matchup with the Rebels and have won two of their last three matches against Ole Miss, dating back to 2016. The Rebs will hope to flip the season’s script on Friday and play spoiler to a team on the edge of possibly winning the SEC title.

Kentucky enters the Sunday afternoon match with a 17-4 record, including a perfect 11-0 in the SEC. Despite a sweep of Florida on Halloween, which may have secured the SEC title, the Wildcats remain one spot behind the Gators in the AVCA poll.

The Wildcats have dominated their competition over the past two months, winning 14 matches in a row. They were undefeated in October, winning all eight of their matchups against SEC opponents, including wins over Tennessee, Ole Miss, Texas A&M, South Carolina and Florida. With championship aspirations, any loss for the Wildcats at this point could severely affect their seeding in the NCAA Tournament. This means that they will try to close the door early in hopes of avoiding any possibility of an upset.

Having already lost to Kentucky in Lexington on Oct. 14, the Rebels will look to a state-



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Caitlin Wernentin digs the ball during the game against Georgia earlier this season. Georgia won the game 3-0.

ment by dealing the Wildcats their first SEC loss this season, as well as gain their first win against Kentucky since 2010.

Ole Miss will have just five games left in the regular season after this weekend, includ-

ing difficult matches at Texas A&M, at South Carolina and at Tennessee. With NCAA Tournament hopes fleeting, the Rebels will most likely need to win out in dominant fashion to even sniff a bid. However, an NIVC

opportunity is likely, and wins over ranked teams could greatly improve the Rebels’ seeding in that tournament.

Ole Miss will host Tennessee tonight at 6:30 p.m. Kentucky on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

NCAA continued from page 1

involving multiple staff and representatives of athletics interests.” The committee ruled that a second year of a postseason ban “falls squarely with the penalty guidelines...this case classification is one to two years postseason ban”.

The short-term outcome is not what the university wanted, with the Appeals Committee upholding Ole Miss’ 2018 postseason ban. However, the Committee’s decision to overturn the penalty restricting unofficial visits of recruits to campus can be considered a win for the football program, as it will allow head coach Matt Luke and his staff to recruit highly-rated prospects without any restrictions hanging over their heads.

“I think overall, like I said, it’s disappointing in the short-term for Ole Miss because of no bowl,” said Jim Holder, WTVA Tupelo sports director. “But in the long-term, the fact that they’ve had some of those restrictions on recruiting removed is going to turn out well.”

Furthermore, rival head coaches and recruiters from



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Athletics director Ross Bjork and Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter express their grievances with additional sanctions laid out by the COI last year.

other schools no longer have the advantage of feeding perspective recruits information about Ole Miss’ lingering NCAA investigation, and Ole Miss will no longer have to answer recruits’ ques-

tions about the case.

“The fact that the NCAA thought the infractions committee kind of overstepped its bounds surprised me,” Holder said. “Usually when

it’s something with an NCAA appeal, very rarely do you hear anything overturned.”

With the case reaching a conclusion, the university, athletics department, coaches, players and the Rebel faithful can now focus on football, rather than being distracted by the NCAA investigation and worrying about what will come next. Once the 2018 season is over, Ole Miss will be eligible for postseason play, effectively ending all punishments

against the football program.

“This ordeal is now over. Our attention must now be on the present and the future of our football program, and we are calling on the Ole Miss family to help finish this season strong,” Vitter and Bjork’s letter read. “With the freedom to recruit and promote all that the University of Mississippi has to offer, Coach Luke and his staff will keep building on the momentum we have in our program.”

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Stopping the run vital for Rebels' chances on Saturday

FLINT CHRISTIAN
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The Ole Miss run defense has struggled through eight games this season, but it will have to stand stout against a South Carolina rushing attack that found its footing last week against Tennessee.

"I think they had success running the football," Head Coach Matt Luke said. "I think that's kind of what they hung their hat on ... a little more 12-personnel, not as many (Run-Pass Options)."

South Carolina's offense got in a groove on the ground last week, and the Rebels should expect to see a similar effort from the Gamecocks on Saturday. The Gamecocks averaged 5.6 yards per rush, and junior Rico Dowdle came off the bench to notch 140 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. This was against a Tennessee defense that ranked 75th in the country in rushing defense.

Ole Miss currently ranks 113th in rushing defense, and the defense has struggled to maintain consistency from play to play, which has led to many chunk plays and large gains.

"That's probably one of our weakest things right now, giving up explosive plays," junior defensive tackle Benito Jones said.

The Rebels' defensive front is led by Jones, who has notched five tackles for loss and a sack from the defensive tackle position this year. While the defensive front has visibly struggled at times against the run, there is reason for optimism among Ole Miss fans.

The Rebels have faced two of the top rushing attacks nationally (LSU and Alabama) and they have allowed 4.97 yards per rush despite their inflated total. In order to succeed this weekend, Jones emphasized the need for the defensive line to help make the Rebels' young linebackers' job easier.



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Ole Miss defense tackles Alabama running back Najee Harris earlier this season. Alabama won the game 62-7.

"Everything starts up front," Jones said. "(We) don't try to put too much pressure on the (linebackers)."

Luke emphasized the importance of consistency in defending the run when discussing the issues some of the inexperienced linebackers have faced as the season has gone on.

"It's different when you're expected to do it every time," Luke said. "You get in there as a starter, you're expected to flash every time."

The Rebels have healed coming

off of their bye week, which should help with containing the South Carolina rushing offense. Victor Evans is in line for an increased role on Saturday after dealing with a knee injury, and the senior defensive end brings needed experience to the Ole Miss frontline.

"He'll be a little bit better (and) give us a little bit more," Luke said.

Senior defensive end Markel Winters will not play on Saturday, but Luke is optimistic about his chances later in the season. Win-

ters played in eleven games last year, and he had four sacks in the 2018 season before going down.

"He won't play this week," Luke said. "Maybe questionable for the next week, but I think he'll be back before the end of the year."

If the Ole Miss defense can lock down South Carolina's offense up front, its success could be key to keeping Will Muschamp's defense on the field and wearing them down in a game that looks like it might be close until the very end.

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

PICK 'EM: COLLEGE FOOTBALL WEEK TEN

Every week during football season, the DM's sports editors, Justin Dial and Ben Miller, along with a special guest picker, will take a look at a few of the biggest college football games of the week and predict their winners. This week's guest is Lana Ferguson, former editor-in-chief of The Daily Mississippian and writer for The Island Packet in South Carolina.

(Odds via MGM Mirage Sportsbook as of 11/1)

OLE MISS VERSUS SOUTH CAROLINA (PICK 'EM)

Justin Dial, sports editor:

Last week, South Carolina barely escaped Williams-Brice Stadium with a win over Tennessee while Ole Miss was at home preparing for this weekend's game. Ole Miss won't be able to stop the Gamecock offense and South Carolina has a decent front seven and back end, but I think Ole Miss comes out and scores early and often. Rebs win, 45-21.

Ole Miss



Ben Miller, assistant sports editor:

Rebs, no contest. 42-31

Lana Ferguson, former DM editor-in-chief:

Carolina may be my new home, but Mississippi will always have my heart. I'm counting on Ta'amu and the boys to pull out a few key plays to win 38-31.

NO. 6 GEORGIA VERSUS NO. 11 KENTUCKY (GEORGIA, -9.5)

JD: This one is for all the marbles in the SEC East. I don't think Kentucky's poor offense will be able to move the ball at all on Georgia through the air, resulting in Benny Snell having to carry the Wildcats to a win. However, Georgia's defense won't let that happen. They hold Snell to under 100 and cover the spread with a final score of 34-10.

BM: Barring an unexpected start from Kentucky's backup quarterback Gunnar Hoak, I think this is the week the magic ends for Kentucky. Benny Snell and this Kentucky defense are truly special, but Turnover Terry is going to struggle mightily against the Dawgs. Georgia win, 28-10.

LF: The Dawgs have been looking good and with the SEC East on the line I think they'll pull it through. Kentucky's defense will keep it a close game, though. Wildcats cover, UGA wins 21-14.

NO. 12 WEST VIRGINIA VERSUS NO. 15 TEXAS (TEXAS, -2)

JD: It's going to be tough for Will Grier and Co. to go into Austin and win, but I believe the Mountaineers are on a mission following their loss to Iowa State two weeks ago. The same could be said for Texas, who is coming off of a three point loss to Oklahoma State. But, I'm not sold on Tom Herman and these Longhorns, especially after the head coach's outburst last weekend. Mountaineers win outright, 31-24.

BM: Will Grier is an incredibly player to watch and I think he will keep it close, but I just don't believe the Mountaineers will have it in them to win over the stretch. The Longhorn defense will hang on for a Texas win, 28-24.

LF: Will Grier and his offense will have a couple shining moments, but it won't be enough to beat Texas at home. It'll be a close game nonetheless. Longhorns cover and win, 28-24.

NO. 1 ALABAMA VERSUS NO. 4 LSU (ALABAMA, -14.5)

JD: As is the case with the Georgia and Kentucky, this game featuring Alabama and LSU will certainly decide the representative of the SEC West in the conference championship. Luckily for the Tigers, the game is in Death Valley. Tua Tagovailoa hasn't played in an SEC environment like Baton Rouge yet and I think this is the game he gets a little rattled early, but I think he calms down in the second half and leads Bama to victory. Alabama wins, LSU covers, 38-24.

BM: In what is sure to be the game of the year besides the National Championship, two all-around absurd teams will battle it out at night in Death Valley. As much as I'm inclined to believe that nobody wins a night game in Tiger Stadium, I do not think there is a team in the country right now that is going to slow down Tua and his offense. It'll be a bit of a slugfest, but the Crimson Tide will come out on top, 27-20.

LF: As much as I hate to admit it (and hate losing to both these teams. Can we go back to 2015, please?), this is going to be the game of the weekend. LSU's defense will keep things from getting too out of control, but their offense won't be able get that W over Bama. Alabama wins and covers 31-14.

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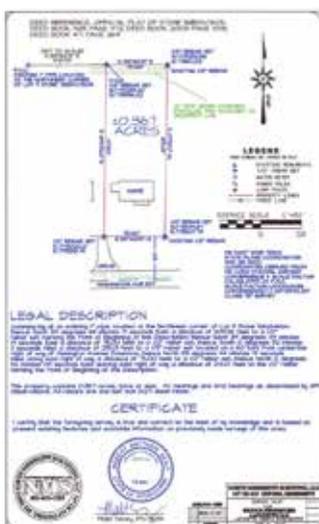
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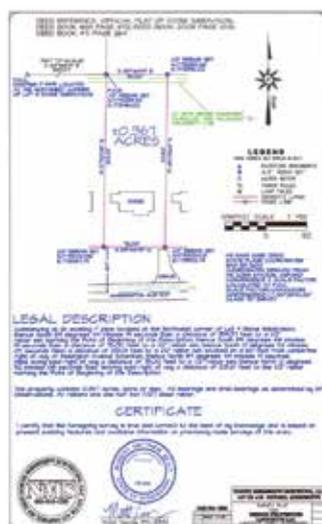


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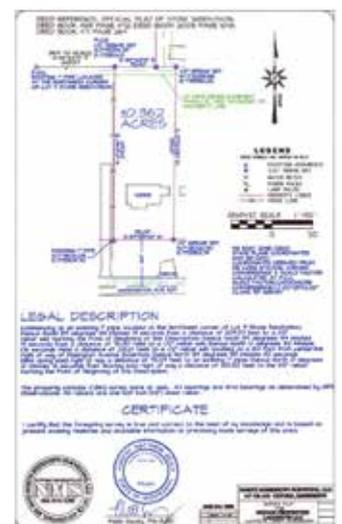
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Rebels host Gamecocks for military appreciation game

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Bill Connelly of SB Nation has developed the S&P+ ranking system for all college football teams in the FBS. The system uses analytics to rank teams based on five factors – efficiency, explosiveness, field position, finishing drives and turnovers. The system allows for ranking teams analytically on a level playing field without having to play each other.

The ranking system has Ole Miss as the 46th ranked team in all FBS, and the South Carolina Gamecocks at 52nd. The proximity would predict that this game can go either way. However, both teams are constructed in two different ways. The Gamecocks are a team without an elite side of the ball, but they are good on both on offense and defense. There is no let down when one side comes off the field and the other steps on.

S&P+ reaffirms the Jekyll and Hyde identity that the Ole Miss team has adopted. Through eight games, the Rebels have an elite offense mixed with a bottom-of-the-barrel defense.

Ole Miss ranks third in college football in offensive S&P+



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Running back Scottie Phillips looks for an opening around Auburn defensive backs Daniel Thomas and Jordyn Peters. Auburn won the game 31-16.

with an adjusted scoring average of 41.9 points per game. This trails only Oklahoma and Alabama, teams that are favorites to win their conferences. The analytics match the eye test. Anyone who watches Ole Miss football knows the offensive firepower Phil Longo's group operates with.

However, the Rebels' three

losses have come against three top defenses (Alabama, LSU and Auburn). Ole Miss scored 39 points total in those three games, including the seven-point output against Alabama. Those three opponents have one thing in common – all three defenses rank inside the top 19 of defensive S&P+. Alabama is the worst of the group

sitting at 19th. Auburn and LSU are each inside of the top eight. South Carolina is a clear step down from the three dominant defenses. The Gamecocks rank as the fourth-best defense that Ole Miss will have faced to this point, coming in at 53rd in defensive S&P+. The system has the Gamecocks surrendering an

adjusted average of 27 points per game.

When comparing how the Ole Miss defense against fares in comparison to the South Carolina offense, the edge is in favor of the Gamecocks. Offensive S&P+ has South Carolina at 60th in the nation, scoring an adjusted average of 30 points per game.

The Ole Miss defense resides in the basement of the country, sitting at 110th in defensive S&P+. The defense has given up 21 or more points to seven of its eight opponents. This includes 41 points to Southern Illinois and 62 to an Alabama team that let its foot off the gas.

Knocking off South Carolina would be the top SEC win for Matt Luke thus far in the season. Will Muschamp's team has experienced a similar roller coaster of play that Ole Miss has. His offense boasts a receiving corps that can rival the N.W.O. in top-level talent. Bryan Edwards and Deebo Samuel are playmakers that will look to take advantage of the porous Rebel secondary. Rico Dowdle gives the Gamecock offense balance with his ability to control the game on the ground. Ole Miss must score in the mid-30s to pull out a win.

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