

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper

March 24, 2021

UL Housing says fire in Legacy caused by old food in stovetop burner

Lena Foster
NEWS WRITER

Amelia Jennings
NEWS EDITOR

It's unclear who, if anyone, was at fault for the fire at the Legacy Apartments, which occurred on Feb. 28.

According to Tala Spates, a resident in the apartment in which the fire took place, they were told the cause of the fire was the leftover food that was left under the burner. However, she doesn't believe that she and her roommates should be completely at fault. She doesn't believe that they should have to pay a fine since the leftover food could have been from previous residents.

"Having us pay a fine for something that honestly is probably not totally all of our fault, I have a problem with that," Spates said.

Joey Pons, the director of risk management at UL Lafayette, said that it was caused by food residue that had built up under the stove and that the residents are responsible for cleaning it.

"In this particular case, we believe the food residue left on uncleaned on the stove is what caused the fire," Pons said. "And because of that, the student residents are responsible for these damages."

The fire extinguisher's functionality played a major role in the incident.

Pons told Spates the fire extinguisher wasn't dysfunctional and that the extent of the damage might've been the way they were using it to put it out, she said.

There was a deficiency detected, however, a backup was found in the hallway for situations like these.

Carl Wining, the director of environmental health and safety, said that the students did everything correctly with the fire extinguisher, and although it wasn't out of date, it didn't deploy correctly. He also added that there was another one in the hallway for backup, in case there was a malfunction. That is exactly what happened here.

It was believed to be out-of-date because the date on the extinguisher is the date of inspection, June 2020, and is valid for one year.

According to the Director of Maintenance, Bill Crist, there are over 4000 fire extinguishers on campus and they are inspected by an outside company.

"We have a contractor that goes through and re-inspects every fire extinguisher on campus," Crist said. "And they put a tag which states the date of their inspection and their approval."

Crist also added that it is unknown as to why it failed. According to him, it could



Photo by Amelia Jennings / The Vermillion

The stove from the fire at Legacy Park sits in a maintenance building on Tuesday, March 16 at 12:57 p.m.

have been a faulty inspection, someone could have messed with it or it could have been just a fluke or a normal mechanical failure.

In regards to the cleaning of the stove and the general maintenance of the apartment, Pons clarified that the housing office does clean the apartments

"Over the summer, we do a thorough cleaning of all the apartments, especially the kitchen area," Dawn Miller, the interim director of housing said.

According to Miller, they take the burners off and open up the top of the stove to clean everything in that area. She said after they clean, they expect students to keep it clean from the fall to spring.

Spates said that after she and her roommates moved into their assigned temporary apartment, they noticed that the bathroom had mold. For this reason, Spates doubts that housing is upholding their cleaning policy.

The cleaning policy isn't the only concern students have regarding the maintenance and housing department.

Chandler Burns, a student living in the apartments, waited almost an entire semester for his washer and dryer to be fixed, and when it was, it was when he and his roommate weren't there.

He has also had issues with his smoke detector, but decided to fix it himself.

"That little smoke detector started beeping, and I did not trust maintenance to get in there to fix it," Burns said. "And so finally I had enough and replaced the

battery myself. So, basically at this point, I'm doing a lot of this stuff myself because I don't trust maintenance to get in and actually do it for me."

As for the fine, the students were charged the cost of the stove and for the damage done to a painting because the students were found to be at fault.

Miller suggested that students should get renters insurance so that they don't have to pay out of pocket if an incident like this happens. However, the university doesn't offer that service themselves.

According to Spates, she was unaware renters' insurance existed when she moved in.

"We pay housing money to stay in this apartment, and we should feel safe. We should feel as though if something happens, our university can back us up," Spates said.

Spates believed that the housing department should provide residents with how-to posters for cleaning and lessons for proper fire extinguisher usage if they do put those responsibilities on the students.

Miller said she does believe that it would be a great idea to include flyers in the apartments about how to clean things properly and how to use the fire extinguisher. She believes this could help prevent another situation like this from happening.

"We can definitely make sure we include training on how to use and clean the stove as well as other appliances in the room," Miller said.

UL Library hosts next voting rights discussion

Morri Sampey
MANAGING EDITOR

On March 17, the Edith Garland Dupré Library hosted the second discussion of their Who Gets to Vote series, funded by a grant from the Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities (LEH). The event was facilitated by Theodore Foster Ph.D., a professor of African American history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. It was hosted on Zoom for registered participants and livestreamed to the Edith Garland Dupré YouTube channel for others. It was also live streamed to the Acadiana Open Channel (AOC) YouTube Channel.

"This series was developed by LEH and is intended to engage members of the public in conversations on the history of voting in the United States," said Cheylon Woods, the Archivist and Head of the Ernest J. Gaines Center in the Edith Garland Dupré Library.

It was made possible due to a Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities grant, which was originally offered to the Lafayette Public Library, who declined it on the grounds of potential bias from the host. UL Lafayette President Joseph Savoie, Ph.D., sent out an email regarding these concerns in which he defended Foster's objectivity.

"Dr. Foster is a dynamic and thoughtful scholar of Black life, culture and politics in our nation," Savoie wrote in the email. "That he is qualified to facilitate this discussion and provide context to it is without question. The University, its students and our wider community are fortunate to have him here."

These discussions, of which there will be four in total, will alternate hosts. The first discussion was facilitated by Pearson Cross, Ph.D., a UL Lafayette Political Science Professor, and he will be facilitating the next discussion as well.

This discussion was centered around "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All" by Martha S. Jones. Similarly to the previous event, it worked not as a lecture, but as an open discussion in which participants shared their opinions back and forth while Foster offered guiding questions and points to discuss throughout.

After being introduced by Woods, Foster took the floor and discussed his history as a teacher.

The conversation then shifted to discuss the book at hand.

"Martha Jones has remarked that she wrote this book because last year there was a national celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, and she was concerned about a monument and commemoration that erased black women as opposed to centering them in this question," Foster said.

Before fully diving into the conversation, Foster took a moment to ask participants to introduce themselves with their preferred names and pronouns, as well as opening the floor to any questions.

From there, the conversation took off. Similarly to the previous discussion, participants were active and respectful in their discussion.

The next discussion will be taking place on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. over Zoom. It will be streamed on the Edith Garland Dupré Library's YouTube channel as well as the AOC's YouTube channel. The book that will be discussed will be "One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy" by Carol Anderson. Cross will facilitate the discussion.

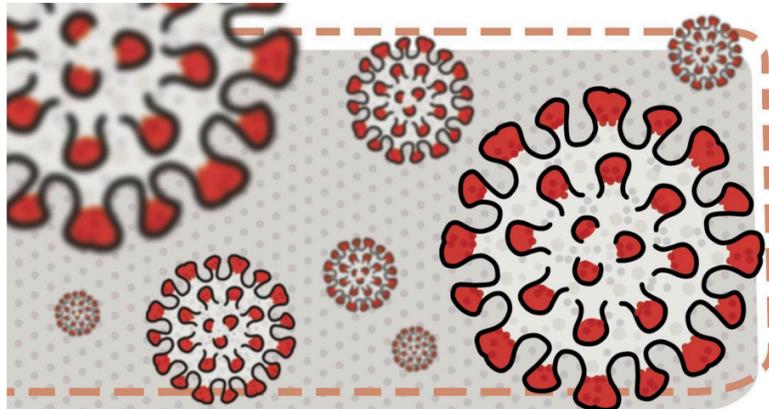
5 new COVID-19 cases last week, university total at 832

Amelia Jennings
NEWS EDITOR

There were five new COVID-19 cases among students, faculty and staff at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette last week, according to the university's COVID-19 dashboard on Monday, March 22 at 6:52 p.m.

According to the dashboard as of Monday, the university has confirmed that 198 students and 140 faculty and staff members contracted the virus and 494 students have told the university they've tested positive. This means there have been a total of 832 reported cases among students, faculty and staff at UL Lafayette.

Confirmed positive tests include tests taken by Student Health Services and UL Lafayette Athletics, as well as tests submitted to the university's human resources department by faculty, staff and student workers. Self-reported tests



Graphic by Cole Broussard

were taken by off-campus health care providers. Students in this category sent their results to the dean of students themselves, according to the dashboard.

Last week, one faculty or staff member tested positive. The university confirmed

that two students tested positive, and three students reported that they tested positive, according to the COVID-19 dashboard on Monday.

This is an ongoing story. Stay with the Vermillion for more updates.

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Justin Bieber's newest album "Justice" is full of good songs, despite not living up to the album's name.

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Students discuss why they stayed on campus

Lena Foster
NEWS WRITER

COVID-19 has affected many students since the beginning of shutdowns last year. However, once schools were officially back in session, some students decided to stay in the residence halls on campus despite possible risks.

Because some residence halls on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus such as Bonin, Corona, Baker, Huger and Agnes Edwards have made the necessary social distancing and required masking changes to policies to abide by COVID-19 regulations, students believed living in the dorms is a better option than staying at home.

Tyla Ajajay is an international student from South Africa, and she believes that it's easier and more suitable for her to live on campus.

"It's more convenient for me to stay on campus, and it's just easier to get places," Ajajay said.

Some students believed that convenience played a factor in their decision to live on campus as well.

"I live about two and a half hours away in Slidell. A lot of my classes are in-person, so that's why I have to stay on campus," Sarah Doll, a freshman resident of Corona, said.

According to Beau Brown, another freshman resident of Corona, his home is in Brusly, and it's more convenient to live on campus where he is closer to everything. He believes the convenience outweighs the risks.

Although some students felt as though moving on campus was the better option, others felt obligated to stay due to the school's housing policy for freshmen.

Jordyn Brown, a freshman living in Baker, believed she had to stay on campus since the housing website stated it was required for all first-time freshmen.

According to the UL Lafayette website, "the University of Louisiana at Lafayette enforces only Freshmen to reside on campus."

The UL Lafayette website informed students that some people were exempt if they lived with their parents or a legal guardian that stays within 40 miles of the school.

The lack of transportation led some students to find a living place closer to campus.

Erynysin Robinson, a freshman resident of Baker Hall, doesn't have a car, therefore, living off-campus wouldn't be the best way to go, especially with her classes.

Other students worked better without disturbances from their households.

According to Valeria Garduno, a sophomore resident of Huger, she not only has in-person classes, but she's more focused in the dorms rather than at home.

"On campus, just being here, I get to work and actually not get distracted compared to when I'm at home," Garduno said.

According to Peyton Broussard, a freshman living in Bonin, he didn't have any family within 30 miles of the school, and he must take in-person classes to perform well academically. He didn't want to stay home and be strictly online.

"I feel like it's better for me to be here rather than if I would've stayed home. I wasn't doing any of my work," Trevaughn Lee, a sophomore student living in Huger, said.

Financial stability and affordability gave many students a reason to reside and continue learning on campus.

Certain students like Noah Yarber, a freshman living in Bonin, received various scholarships which enabled them to stay in the residence halls.

"I had a scholarship for housing, and I can't really afford anything else right now," Noah Yarber, a freshman living in Bonin, said.

Kaeleigh Difloure is a freshman living in Corona and also chose to stay in the residence halls on campus because of a housing scholarship.

"It was the most affordable option," Difloure said.

Some students saw the more positive side of this educational situation during the pandemic and wanted to try to move forward with their college experience.

Drexel Narcisse, a freshman resident of Agnes Edwards Residence Hall, said he had hope for his first semester and didn't think it would be that bad living on campus. He wanted to come live on campus for the experience.

"I wanted to try to make my freshman year as normal as possible. One of the ways for me to do it was to be on campus," a freshman resident of Corona, Madeline Futch, said.

Police Reports

Compiled by Morri Sampey

March 18

- At 4:30 p.m., a suite door was damaged by an unknown subject in Baker Hall.

March 16

- At 3:14 p.m., a complaint was made regarding four lost building keys.
- At 5:00 p.m., a black 2020 Ford Mustang was stolen and recovered, along with the accompanying keyring and \$20.

Radio Host Lucia Moon discusses her show on KRVS, electronic music

Amelia Jennings
NEWS EDITOR

Lyndsy Bradley, also known as Lucia Moon, is a producer at KRVS and hosts the show, Beat Current on Thursday at midnight.

The show is described on the KRVS website as focusing on electric music from the 1920s until now.

"I take a loose theme (normally inspired by new experiences or topical events every week) and run with it when creating a new episode of Beat Current," the website said.

Moon said that she acts as if there is a movie in her head and she is creating the soundtrack for it.

"I like to create this cinematic sound that you don't really know where one song ends and then the next one begins," Moon said. "Typically I'm drawn to ambient, sort of passive sounds that you can create your own narrative listening to it."

While KRVS is not her day job, she works in marketing full time, she said that Beat Current gives her something to look forward to, and she enjoys planning what she might play during the day.

"Basically I just get to listen to music all day as part of my research for my episode, so that's why I stayed. It's very fun and the culture there is really great as well," Moon said. "I get to listen to SoundCloud and different radio podcasts, as part of my research."

Moon currently lives in New Orleans, and she finds that she is drawn to music cities.

"Diverse community, diverse music and

arts. I was also drawn to Austin for those same reasons," Moon said. "I feel like it's important for people to get out there and see the world. It makes for a more well rounded person, but I always knew I would be back in Louisiana, eventually."

She does not plan to stay in Louisiana either. Eventually she would like to see Puerto Rico again or move to Berlin, both music heavy cities.

"Berlin is known for its electronic music scene," she said. "It's like some of the best sound systems in the world, and different clubs there, and Puerto Rico, maybe not electronic music, but it's definitely a very rich culture and really great food."

Moon's love of community is also why she's stayed with KRVS since 2014, about six months after she graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

"Working with KRVS has been a dream - considering my love for new (and obscure) music and beats began before I can truly remember," Moon wrote in a KRVS Facebook post. "I love this community and hope to produce this program for a very long time!"

KRVS has also helped her pursue her other dreams by giving her name recognition, and for a few years, she was able to host a bi-annual fashion show.

On top of her love of music, Moon also adores her two cats, Coco and Echo, and she says that they have good music taste as well.

"They help inspire my radio show by pressing forward on the keyboard when they hear a song they don't like," she said. "They've got great taste."



Photo by Malik Jones / The Vermilion

Voorhies Residence Hall at Legacy Park on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021.



University finishing repairs on the East St. Mary Blvd. Ragin' Cajuns Store from Hurricane Delta

Eliana Bartlett
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette recently finished repairing the roof of the Ragin' Cajuns Store on East St. Mary Boulevard from damages caused by Hurricane Delta.

Several facilities on campus were damaged due to Hurricane Delta which made landfall in Louisiana on Oct. 9, 2020. UL Lafayette Director of Facility Planning and Construction Scott Hebert, along with an emergency crew, has been repairing campus ever since.

The emergency crew consists of undergraduates paid to respond to any immediate issues on UL Lafayette's campus.

"They're basically our first responders after hours to take care of any issues that arise," Hebert said.

According to Hebert, when a situation such as damage to certain areas due to a natural disaster occurs, full restoration is a lengthy process. First, Hebert must locate any damages and evaluate how serious they are. Immediate and catastrophic concerns, such as leaks or breakdowns, are addressed first. Facility management must then record the areas of campus that have been harmed and require servicing.

The university then has to get its insurance claims processed. This step has been in the works since Hurricane Delta's initial arrival.

"They all have insurance claims just like a typical house would be after hurricane damage," Hebert said. "You've got FEMA involved, which is a whole other set of rules, regulations and paperwork that you have to do, which we are still going through right now to work through FEMA

reimbursements."

After this extensive process, the construction team completed the repair of the roof on the bookstore at East St. Mary this past weekend.

"They were able to get in there and wrap up most of it during the weekend which is what we try to do on campus, disrupt the students and the faculty as little as possible," Hebert said.

The Ragin' Cajun Store has been out of service since the Fall 2020 semester. According to Hebert, the store should reopen in the fall depending on the university's population by that time.

Since the university has now recovered from the harm caused by Hurricane Delta, it can now focus its energy on other projects and renovations.

"There are a lot of things that are in the works. We've got a number of large-scale

things getting worked on. We've got a major renovation for Madison Hall," Hebert said. "We are going through the selection process for a few other big projects through the state. We just have to make sure everything is in place before we can publicly announce them."

UL Lafayette's Master Plan is an additional project to turn attention towards. According to Hebert, every project at the university is constructed according to the Master Plan. The plan will expand and improve the university's physique by adjoining the Main Campus, the St. Landry Corridor, and University Common. The Master Plan will seek construction into the 2030s if the process goes according to plan.

"The Master Plan has been in the works since it was conceived," Hebert said.

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Sports

Louisiana football set to take on the Texas Longhorns in season opener

Zachary Nagy
SPORTS WRITER

The Sun Belt Conference and ESPN revealed the league's 2021-22 football schedule earlier this month with the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns set to take on the University of Texas at Austin Longhorns for week one.

The Cajuns will travel to Austin, Texas, for the Sept. 4 showdown against the Longhorns which will hopefully be the first of many full capacity games for this season.

Louisiana is coming off of their best season to date, finishing 10-1, capping off the 2020-21 season with a First Responder's Bowl victory over UTSA.

The long-awaited rematch of Louisiana vs. Coastal Carolina will have to wait as the Cajuns are not set to play their Sun Belt rival during the regular season.

Some key games for the Ragin' Cajuns squad include a mid-week home game against Appalachian State on Oct. 12 as well as a Nov. 20 face-off at Liberty in Lynchburg, Virginia.

After defeating the Iowa State Cyclones in week one of the 2020-21 season, the expectations are high for the Cajuns against Steve Sarkisian's Longhorns in Austin.

With Louisiana returning almost their entire offense, the biggest question for the Cajuns is how they will replace the one-two punch of key running backs,

Elijah Mitchell and Trey Ragas. The dynamic duo both elected to enter the 2021 NFL Draft after incredible careers for the Ragin' Cajuns.

Returning for the Cajuns will be star receiver Kyren Lacy, who finished the 2020-21 season with 28 receptions, four touchdowns and 364 yards receiving. One of the most efficient receivers in the conference, Lacy made quite the impression during his freshman campaign, putting the country on notice. Lacy will look to follow his stellar true freshman season with an even more spectacular sophomore run.

At the linebacker position, the Cajuns return star junior Lorenzo McCaskill, who finished last season with a team-high 83 tackles. McCaskill, a Detroit

native, has shown the ability to make highlight plays and put his team in positions to win each ball game, something the Cajuns will rely on heavily in this upcoming season.

The Cajuns will enter the season as the heavy favorites to win the conference as their experience could lead them down the stretch.

With Coach Billy Napier at the helm, it feels as though the sky's the limit for the Ragin' Cajuns, as anything less than a conference championship will be a failed season.

Success brings high expectations, and as long as Napier is leading this team, the expectations for this Cajuns team will remain astronomical.



Photo by Andre Broussard / The Vermilion

The UL Ragin' Cajuns took on the Arkansas State Wolves for their 2020 Homecoming Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020.

Baylor Bears end men's tennis win streak

Caleb Williams
SPORTS WRITER

OPINION- If the Cajuns men's tennis team has not lost their momentum and spirit coming off the loss against Baylor University, who is currently ranked No. 3 in the nation, the rest of the season looks promising for the team.

All good things eventually come to an end, and for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's men's tennis team, it was their win streak. The Cajuns came off of a six-game win streak and have won three consecutive doubleheaders. While the team seemingly found their groove, the nationally ranked Baylor was not a typical opponent. Louisiana's hot streak ended this past Saturday with the box score being 6-1 and made the Bears 41st doubleheader sweep.

Baylor started the day with a double win with their no. 33-ranked Matias Soto and Nick Stachowiak. The pair played against Louisiana's Xandy Hammit and Oriol Fillat Gimenez where they achieved a 6-1 score. On court two, Baylor lost in doubles against Kacper Dworak and Ivailo Keremedchiev. The duo players have won seven out of their nine games and one of them was a tie against The University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners. The win over No. 3 Baylor is especially big because it was against no. 10 ranked Constantin Frantzen and Sven Lah.

Being that both teams had double victories at this point, the pressure was on as Louisiana's Alejandro Sanchez and Karlo Kajin played Finn Bass and Charlie Broom. The Cajuns put two points up but Baylor won the match 6-2.

Cajun freshman Kajin, who is going 8-3 in singles, beat the No. 103 player in the nation, Broom, in the singles 6-4, 6-4. Along with the win over the No. 2



Photo by James Mays / The Vermilion

Sophomore Kacper Dworak hits the incoming ball during his match as the Ragin' Cajuns take on the Alcorn State Braves on Sunday, March 22, 2021.

singles player, Louisiana State University (LSU)'s Rafael Wagner, the win over Broom shows Louisiana has quality players. This win over Broom is the only point Louisiana received throughout the day.

Bass came back down to play a three-set tiebreaker against Gonzalez. Gonzalez managed a win in the first set (7-6), but could not push through as he lost in the second (5-7), and again in the tiebreaker (0-1).

Louisiana was unable to show the depth in their team against Baylor as they struggled in their singles and doubles matches. The Cajuns now have

a negative record as they are 7-8 in games overall and have a .467 winning percentage.

Although Louisiana lost against Baylor, two of the team's players won over nationally ranked players, showing that the Cajuns are a team to watch out for.

Despite having their winning streak end, the team looks to revive itself as they play Alcorn State, who have 2-5 overall. Although it appears to be an easy win, the Cajuns did not start their season off well as they went 0-5 in the beginning.

With the Cajuns having a well-

rounded team, good coaching staff and newly discovered groove, they should do well in their upcoming games. The Cajuns' schedule includes Alcorn State, Troy, South Alabama, and Loyola. It appears that Troy is the only team left that presents them with a potential struggle. Troy is the only team with a positive 2021 record as well as the only team left with more than five overall wins. Troy, 15-1, still has had close scoring games consistently throughout their season.

Follow The Vermilion on Twitter @TheVermilion for more updates

Louisiana baseball loses against Texas Christian University in weekend series

Madelyn Myer
SPORTS EDITOR

Just when the Ragin' Cajuns baseball team seemed to turn things around this season, they lost another game to Texas Christian University (TCU). Prior to the weekend series against TCU, Louisiana was on a five-game losing streak.

The impressive 7-2 win against TCU on Friday, March 19 showed shades of the old winning habits Louisiana has experienced in past seasons, but it was only for a brief moment. Now 21 games in, the team has an 11-10 overall record.

The win stemmed from the strong start from Louisiana pitcher Spencer Arrighetti. He pitched over six innings of one-run baseball and accomplished eight strikeouts. This pitching effort was especially impressive as it was Arrighetti's first Friday night start as a Ragin' Cajun. He previously played for Navarro College and TCU.

On the batting end, Ben Fitzgerald and Tyler Robertson stayed consistent. They each had a home run in the game that led to three runs each.

Defensively, Louisiana had zero errors. One key play was stopping TCU from scoring in the fourth inning.

Great play from all three of these Ragin' Cajuns and the defense helped the team secure an early lead and keep it.

Unfortunately, the winning recipe didn't stick around for the next round. TCU slaughtered the Cajuns 4-13 in the following game.

Five innings into the game and the Ragin' Cajuns were only a little bit behind TCU. But soon after, TCU broke away from the tight game, scoring four runs in the seventh and



Photo by Andre Broussard / The Vermilion

Spencer Arrighetti throws a pitch as the Louisiana Ragin' Cajun baseball team takes on TCU at Russo Park Friday, March 19, 2021.

eighth innings. The pitchers for this game failed to find their footing and by the time Louisiana scored three runs of their own, it was too late.

In the last game of the weekend series, Louisiana failed to secure the victory once again. This game was a 1-5 loss and made TCU the winner of the entire series.

TCU started the game with four runs in the first inning. The rest of the innings remained scoreless between both teams until the eighth and ninth.

Louisiana tried to come back in the ninth inning and successfully scored one run, but it was not enough to pull off the win.

The Ragin' Cajun batters couldn't get in rhythm against the quick pitching from TCU. Still, Louisiana's own pitching was impressive, but after the first four runs in the first inning, it was too little too late.

Louisiana needs to get their act completely together before next week when conference play starts. The

Cajuns will take on Coastal Carolina in four back-to-back games starting with the first Sun Belt Conference game on Friday, March 26.

The team should use the next few days to prepare and get their pitching order together. On the batting end, the Cajuns should practice batting against the plethora of pitching styles Louisiana has to offer.

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Louisiana softball seeking their 57th straight Sun Belt Conference victory



Photos by Andre Broussard / The Vermilion

Frankie Izard slides into third base as the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns softball team take on Eastern Illinois for their first home game at Lamson Park of the season Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021..

Olivia Beauvais
SPORTS WRITER

In their first game of the season, the Ragin' Cajuns softball team captured an 8-2 win over Jacksonville State at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Green and Gold Classic. And for the second time on Sunday, the offense was at its best from the fourth inning on, leading No. 8 Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Softball to an 8-2 win over UAB in the final game of the weekend.

Louisiana softball carried this momentum into their home opener against Eastern Illinois to shutout the Panthers 9-0 in the fifth inning.

Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Softball ranked No. 7 at this point in the season. They fought McNeese for the win in overtime and then took an 8-7 (8 inn.) victory in Lamson Park.

The Louisiana State University (LSU) crossover was a long weekend series hosted in both Lafayette and Baton Rouge. Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Softball

was dealt its first loss of the season as Louisiana State took a 4-0 win. In the next game, however, Louisiana bounced right back from its first loss of the season by unleashing a flurry of offense in a 7-0, 16-0 (5 inn.) doubleheader sweep of Buffalo.

To continue the battle in the LSU crossover, the Ragin' Cajuns split a pair of contests with ranked foes on Saturday at Tiger Park using an early outburst to race past No. 8 Oklahoma State 7-1 then pushing No. 11 Louisiana State until the very end in a 3-2 battle.

An extra-innings battle between two top 10 teams ended in eighth-ranked Oklahoma State's favor as the Cowgirls found a timely hit in the ninth inning to capture a 5-3 win over No. 7 Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Softball.

In the next game against McNeese, Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Softball completed the comeback from a game-long deficit and captured a 5-4 win.

Once again, the fight from the Ragin' Cajuns wasn't good enough, as Baylor University broke through in the fifth

inning with six runs to pull away for an 8-1 win over Louisiana.

The Ragin' Cajuns came back blazing as they used the home run ball to deliver the decisive blows in a 7-2, 9-0 (5 inn.) doubleheader sweep of Memphis at the Tiger Softball Complex. Completing a three-game series, Louisiana swept the competition, leaving with an 11-7 win. Using this momentum, the Ragin' Cajuns earned a doubleheader split in Austin against the Longhorns.

Louisiana used seven runs over the first four innings to contribute to their 9-6 win in the team's Sun Belt Conference opener. While the offense was on fire, the defense proved themselves by putting a halt to University of Texas at Arlington's rally in the latter part of the game.

In-game two of the SBC series, UT Arlington took their turn building an early lead, which resulted in an 8-3 win for the Mavericks to even up the series.

In hopes of being named series winner, No. 15 Louisiana will attempt to secure its 57th consecutive SBC victory, and

extend a streak that dates back to March 2013.

Prior to the start of their season, two Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Softball senior members, Summer Ellyson and Ciara Bryan were recognized by the National Award Selection Committee.

After previously being honored by the USA Softball Player of the Year Watch List, Ellyson has made a return appearance. This hometown player is one of 50 players across the nation earning a spot on the initial list for this spring's award.

Bryan, a senior outfielder for the Ragin' Cajuns, was chosen to represent Louisiana on D1 Softball's Preseason All-America Team and was a first-team selection.

After playing in the SEC league and transferring from Georgia State in November, she will make her debut as a Ragin' Cajun later this month. Like Ellyson, she is utilizing an extra year of eligibility granted by the NCAA in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Allons



5 great places to study around campus

Morri Sampey
MANAGING EDITOR

OPINION — Even the smallest things in life have been drastically changed by the coronavirus pandemic.

I used to be a gifted kid who never had to study. I didn't truly study until I began college, and it took multiple semesters to learn how to do so. Just when I finally figured it out, a pandemic shook the world, and I had to learn all over again.

My pre-COVID-19 system was pretty good. I put a lot of research and time into figuring out what worked best for me, so I was confident in it. Sure the snacks and coffee helped, but there was one key factor that made it as effective as it was.

In a previous article, I've mentioned that doing your homework in your bed is generally not advised. You're going to get tired even faster and it's hard for your brain to do work in a spot it usually associates with leisure. That's why it's good to have one section of your home associated with nothing but work.

Unfortunately, my home still has plenty of distractions, and it's very easy for something else to grab my attention. Before I know it, I'm sucked into the new thing, and three hours have passed with no studying. My desk is meant to be my spot for work only, but with video games and art supplies within arm's reach, it's incredibly difficult to maintain that focus.

That's why it was necessary for me to study in a place where I couldn't get distracted as easily. All I had to do was go to a coffee shop. With other people watching me, it would have been embarrassing if they knew I was supposed to be studying but was messing around on my phone instead, and there were significantly less distractions in a Starbucks than there were in my bedroom.

Since sitting in a coffee shop can be dangerous now, here are five different places you can study at instead.

Outside of the Ragin' Cajun Food Court
When you enter and exit the Ragin' Cajun Food Court, you have to walk

through a wooden deck. The sides are lined with benches, and in the middle sits a table. The area is shaded and sits right next to a building, so you'll have a wifi connection there, should you need one. The only downside is that the closest bathroom is inside of the Agnes Edwards building because the food court doesn't have one. That being said, the food court does have food and drinks, which makes it perfect for getting study snacks, even if you run out halfway through.

Under the Trees

Nestled between Madison Hall and Rex Street are a couple of benches and some trees. Similarly, there is a large tree and a deck next to the Edith Garland Dupré library. I enjoy studying at both of these spots. They also boast a wifi connection and close proximity to a bathroom. If you choose to study next to the library, you have easy access to the Jazzman's Café on the first floor of the library. The con of these spaces is a lack of tabletops, so if you're the kind of person who has multiple books and stacks of cards, this might not be the best location for you. A potentially unexpected upside is the scenery. The deck sits among many

beautiful trees, and at the right time of day, feels almost ethereal. The benches next to Madison have their own charm with a view of the multiple statues and displays that line the sidewalk.

Girard Park

Leaving campus, but not by much, Girard Park offers multiple spots for studying. Multiple tables underneath roofed pavilions offer plenty of space to spread out books and notes, and these tables can easily be wiped down before using them. The roofs offer protection from any potential rain, and there is plenty of space between each pavilion. You're sure to go unbothered, even on a busy park day. If none of the pavilions are open, feel free to bring a blanket and have a seat in any of the open grassy areas. You'll lose the table, but it's significantly easier to spread books and notes out over a blanket than it is over a thin bench. Unfortunately, the park lacks wifi, decent restrooms and access to study snacks, so you'll want to come prepared and have your study material either printed out or saved where you don't need the internet to access them.

The Y LAFAYETTE Sign

Straying a bit farther from campus, you can find the Y LAFAYETTE sign in Parc Sans Souci. The spot is popular for those seeking out good photo opportunities, but is otherwise unbothered, and offers plenty of space on the ground for a blanket. It also has a few benches. This spot also lacks wifi and a tabletop, but makes up for it in scenery and close proximity to a few Downtown restaurants that are within walking distance, if you feel hungry after your study session.

The Library

Finally, the Edith Garland Dupré Library is still open for business, and they have been diligent about their social distancing. Wifi, plenty of space to spread your things out without worrying about being too close to others and guaranteed silence all prove that sometimes the obvious choice is the best choice. Bring some wipes and clean off your area before and after you use it, and you're set to enjoy the privilege of having close access to restrooms, coffee, additional study resources and more that being a University of Louisiana at Lafayette student grants you.



Photo by Carstens McConville / The Vermilion

Doublets and daggers: What historical fencing is and why you should try it

Amelia Jennings
NEWS EDITOR

OPINION — Most college students won't be playing on the university football team anytime soon. No judgment here, my thick glasses help me write articles, not throw a ball.

But there are sports that you can do if you are not the most physically active. For instance, I do historical fencing in the Girard Park Recreation Center.

Now, you might be asking yourself what historical fencing is. I like to say that it is medieval street fighting. Unlike modern fencing, I can wear my beautiful doublet, fence with a bigger sword, and use a dagger or cloak if I so choose. I have been doing it for the last

five years in Baton Rouge, Hattiesburg and Shreveport. Historical fencing is an international sport — I just only travel with my group in the south.

In the Girard Park Recreation Center, there are two types of historical fencing that we practice, rapier fighting and cut and thrust. Rapier fighting is my preferred method, and actually the only one I practice because cut and thrust requires a lot more gear. For example, thicker gloves and elbow pads are definitely needed because the swords are heftier and the goal is to cut your opponent as opposed to stabbing them.

However, I myself already wear a lot of gear for what I do. So, what I start with is my normal athletic wear, leggings, and a t-shirt. On top of that, I wear a chest protector, which in the

words of one of my friends, is a plastic bra. Next, I put on my fencing jacket. Over that, I put on my leather gloves, then my hood my gorget, or dog collar, and finally, my helmet.

While I realize that that is a lot, I don't want it to put anyone off of fencing. And you don't need all of that at first. The coach who runs the program at the park, has lots and lots of loaner gear that anyone can wear and use. On top of that, you start out with drills that only require a mask and gloves.

I have tried both historical fencing and modern fencing, and I believe historical fencing is a lot more fun. Modern fencing has a lot more strict rules about points and is very competitive. Plus, the outfits aren't

nearly as fun. Historical fencing allows for more freedom of expression, different fighting styles and more friendly competition.

Plus, you can't use a cape in modern fencing, and that is absolutely no fun. I am not good at using it, but it is very fun to try.

Other off-hand weapons are a dagger, my favorite, a shield, a mini-shield called a buckler, a second sword, and I've even seen people using a candelabra and a stuffed frog.

There are a lot of rules, but they are only for safety, and once you get used to them, they are not a big deal. Trust me, it is worth every second and gives me so much joy.



Photo by Amelia Jennings / The Vermilion

Justin Bieber's "Justice" album has a few gems despite confusing premise

Madelyn Myer
SPORTS EDITOR

OPINION — Justin Bieber's "Justice" album brings me back to the "Purpose" era Bieber. They both contain songs with deep meaning about faith, hope and love. That being said, "Justice" is an overall slower-paced, matured version of "Purpose", but this time with many songs dedicated to his relationship with his wife.

When Bieber first announced his album, he talked about its meaning on Twitter. "I know that I cannot simply solve injustice by making music but I do know that if we all do our part by using our gifts to serve this planet and each other that we are that much closer to being united," Bieber wrote. So even after seeing that and the release of three successful singles, I was not expecting the kinds of songs I heard.

I expected songs that were made to address some of these injustices in the world. And aside from a strangely placed MLK interlude in the middle of the album, I didn't get that vibe at all.

Nevertheless, there are several songs that I thoroughly enjoyed. Bieber has an amazing voice and as he matures, he's been getting better at showcasing it.

The first of those songs is "Deserve You." The song includes Bieber harmonizing with himself in the way only he can. Its upbeat keyboard and drums backing his vocals are magic enough for it to be my favorite track on the album. I'd give it a solid 8.5/10.

My next favorite track is a collaboration with Khalid called "As I Am." It starts off slow until the chorus and Khalid's verse comes in. Soon after, they both start singing together and it's honestly the collab we didn't know we needed. There are a few collaborations on the album, but this is arguably the best as it compliments both artists. My rating would be an 8/10.

"Die For You" is an '80s pop hit that I think would have done well as one of Bieber's singles. The song is one of the catchier on the album and Dominic Fike comes in on the track to add some more flavor. Even with its morbid title, it's a feel-good song that anyone could



Photo via JustinBieberMusic.com

vibe to. I feel good enough after my first listen to give it a 7.5/10 ranking. "Peaches" is entirely different from any of the other songs on the albums. It's the only explicit song on the album and one of the few that doesn't scream Pop. Daniel Caesar and Giveon aid their r&b vocals to the track. "Peaches" deserves a 7/10 rank.

Next up is "Somebody." It's another track that screams '80s pop, but it works well. Bieber adds a lot of verses that echo back with softer tones. This song is probably the most dance club acceptable on the album and my personal ranking is a 6/10.

This isn't my favorite Bieber album, but it does have quite a few gems that

make you appreciate his artistry and evolution. Bieber has some of the best male vocals in the industry and even though this album's theme isn't really about justice at all, it does have feel-good songs for the soul and that's exactly what Bieber intended.



**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
LAFAYETTE**

**Student Government
Association**

SPRING ELECTIONS

Voting will occur via Engage on March 31, 2021 at 6:00 am through April 1, 2021 at 4:30 pm

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS	
Senator (Select up to five)	
John Bason	Culture
Lauren Brooks	Independent
Colby Hebert	Culture
Andrew Roberts	Culture
Trenton Seets	Culture
Kaytlyn Williams	R.E.A.C.H.H.
COLLEGE OF NURSING	
President (Select one)	
Symone Pierre	Independent
Martha Voltz	Culture
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES	
Senator (Select up to five)	
Makatlynn Atlow	Culture
Matthew Authement	Culture
Tyler Collier	Culture
Karessa De LaPaz	Independent
Caleb Franklin	R.E.A.C.H.H.
Sarah Sierra	Culture
Terence Toomer, Jr.	Culture



— Come out of your shell —

Lagniappe Day is on April 16. Students will still be able to enjoy crawfish on a grab-and-go basis. While canoe racing and the swamp jump are cancelled, there will still be music and snowballs.

Photos by Malik Jones and Khaelyn Jackson.



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