

The VERMILION

Student written. Student **RED**.

PROTESTS, PLATFORMS, POLITICS

Civil liberties or disregard: Why UL amended its free speech policy

David Reed
News Director

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette recently adopted a new free speech policy in response to a state law requiring college campuses to adopt clear free speech protocols.

While some are optimistic about the change, others are upset and many are still confused about what the new policy actually changes for UL Lafayette.

UL Lafayette's new free speech policy says, "It is not the responsibility of the University to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other applicable laws ('Free Speech Laws'), including without limitation ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive."

Louisiana Senate Bill No. 364 requires all colleges in Louisiana to include this in their policy.

Leigh Jolivet, a member of Gamma Rho Lambda, the multicultural LGBT+ sorority at UL Lafayette, said she doesn't agree with the wording of this new policy.

"I also think that wording is a little ridiculous, because I believe that maybe it

should be the university's job to protect us," Jolivet said. "I pay a lot of money to get an education here. I'm expected to pay for my parking; I'm expected to go to my classes and how are you going to say you aren't going to shield me."

Other students, such as senior political science major and former President of Young Americans for Liberty Kaleb Moore, are pleased with the new policy.

"I think it's definitely a step in the right direction for the campus in general," Moore said. "It shows me that the university is committed to the students."

While one may assume this means UL Lafayette no longer restricts speech on campus, there is an exception for speech that could cause violence.

Dean of Students Margarita Perez, Ed.D., said the primary change the new policy brings to UL Lafayette has to do with public demonstrations.

"So let's say a group wanted to come on campus and give out pamphlets about abortion," Perez said. "They would have contacted our office, filled out a form, let us know when they want to come, we would have approved it, and then we would have told them where they could be. Now, they don't have to let us know they're coming; they can be anywhere on campus, as long as they're not interfering with academic



Graphic by Ashley Marshall

classes or something we are having outside (and) they can't enter buildings."

Jolivet said while the changes to UL Lafayette's policy regarding public demonstrations could lead to problems she ultimately believes the change was a good one.

"I kinda agree with what they're doing. In a perfect world they could be like, 'UL is going to not let this happen,' but if they have very strict rules like that, then those rules

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Despite the recent construction in Cypress Lake, students with disabilities feel their needs still aren't being met.

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Luke Lawson join UL Office of Student Engagement and Leadership.

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In an attempt to redeem himself after a missed shot, Cedric Russell vows to lead the Ragin' Cajuns to a successful season.

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DENISE GALLAGHER

Local artist showcases her fairytale prints in the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum.

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'New Brandon': Luke Lawson excited to join UL Greek Life administration

Morri Sampey
Allons Editor

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Office of Student Engagement and Leadership recently welcomed a new staff member to its team.

Although he's mostly known as "New Brandon" by most Greek students at the moment, Luke Lawson said he is excited to fulfill his role as the Assistant Director of Student Engagement and Leadership of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

The nickname is in reference to the person who held the position prior to him, Brandon Palmore, but Luke said that he doesn't mind the nickname Greek life students bestowed upon him.

His first job after graduation was with Walt Disney World Resort, where he discovered his love for working with the younger generation.

"Once I got back to Indiana University, I got a position in student affairs and things of that nature," Lawson said. "I really enjoyed my time in students affairs; I love, love, loved working with the students. I made a career change and went into career services and couldn't stand it, so I realized that my passion was with students."

Following his Disney World position, Lawson would get a job at Evansville University in Indiana; he then he would get a position at his alma mater, Indiana University, soon after.

Indiana University is where Lawson began his Greek Life experience as a student. He had no plans of joining fraternity life until approached by Sigma Phi Epsilon, a fraternity that wanted him to help them recolonize, which means to reestablish a chapter at their university.

Lawson soon found himself at the end of his college career with multiple roles

under his belt and a new role as the chapter adviser for his own chapter of SPE.

Once he was interviewed at UL Lafayette, he knew it was where he wanted to be.

"This job was the only job I applied for down here, and I ended up getting it. I'm so excited to be the voice of reason and advocacy for the students here." Lawson said.

Lawson isn't the only person excited about his new position here.

Alana Marcello, Coordinator of Student Engagement and Leadership, said Lawson's personality and demeanor are what makes him stand out.

"Working with Luke feels like working with someone I've known for years, except only having met him through the hiring process just a few short months ago," Marcello said. "His personality and demeanor are exactly what this fraternity and sorority life community needs, and he has quickly become the perfect addition to our Office of Student Engagement and Leadership team. I am excited to watch him excel in this role and watch our community excel as well."

Lawson will be working with all four Greek councils on UL Lafayette campus: Panhellenic, National Panhellenic, Interfraternity, and Multicultural Greek.

He's already met with multiple students on the board of their respective councils, and he already has plans in the works. He said he's hoping to expand the Greek Councils' presence on campus and further the Greek system.

"At the core of it, I see my job as being a sounding board and kind of an advocate for all the Greek students," Lawson said. "Anyone who has an affiliation of a fraternity or sorority can come to me and can say 'Here are concerns with either my organization or my council or the Greek community as a whole,' and taking those concerns and turning them into action items and making things happen."

He also has plans in the works to get the four Greek councils (Panhellenic, National Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, and the Multicultural Greek

Council) to collaborate on future projects and events together.

"I think one of the things I really, really want to do, especially early on, is bring all four councils together and have meetings together so that we are all making decisions as one community rather than as four separate councils who are all a part of a community," he said.

Despite the many things he's looking forward to, Lawson did say there are two things he isn't looking forward to.

"The heat, maybe," he said. "It's a little bit hotter than Indiana and we haven't even hit the hottest part of it yet. Maybe all the weight I'm going to gain from eating all of the really good food."

"We are thrilled to welcome Luke to the Ragin' Cajun family," Heidie Lindsey, Associate Dean of Students, said. "We are fortunate that Luke brings with him a significant amount of professional, full-time experience working with college students, organizations, fraternities and sororities, and student events. I am confident that he is a great fit for our Student Engagement and Leadership team."

Lindsey believes that he will soon be able to make a name for himself as Luke rather than New Brandon. Not that he minds the nickname, however.

"Call me the new Brandon, call me the new Erica, but don't forget my name is Luke."



THE VERMILION

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Campus accessibility remains an issue despite construction of other projects



Photo by David Reed/The Vermilion
H.L. Griffin Hall has elevators available for students with disabilities, unlike Mouton Hall.

David Reed
News Director

From new apartments to the new pier at Cypress Lake, it's apparent the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is developing.

However, some students with disabilities are frustrated to see UL Lafayette spending money on new projects while there are still changes to be made to improve the school's accessibility.

"They're building all these bike racks, these super nice bike racks, all over campus, but they can't fix sidewalks, I can't get buttons to open the door, the parking is horrible, people abuse the handicap parking, there's not enough van accessible spots," Sy Bodin, a senior and quadriplegic at UL Lafayette, said.

Bodin added that the university should pay more attention to the needs of disabled students.

"They just totally blow over all of it because, really, we are a minority so they want to cater to the new students and all that. I understand it makes sense, but at the same time they need to take care of the people who literally struggle to get around campus."

According to StudentCaffe, a university is free to refuse to accommodate a student with a disability, "If providing the accommodation would put an excessive

financial and/or administrative burden on the institution."

Some buildings such as Mouton Hall and Declouet Hall don't have elevators, making rooms on the second floor inaccessible to students in wheelchairs.

However, Director of Disability Services Carol Landry, Ph.D., said the Office of Disability Services can accommodate this situation.



Photo by David Reed/The Vermilion
Mouton Hall lacks accommodations for students with disabilities as it was built before ADA mandates.

"If a student is not able to access the second floor of old Mouton Hall we have the class moved," Landry said.

Director of Facility Management Bill Crist said adding an elevator to Mouton hall would be no easy task.

"If we put an elevator in the middle of Mouton Hall, which we are still having discussions about trying to do, we are going to lose two major classrooms in order to accommodate that," Crist said.

Crist also addressed the issue of the sidewalks on campus.

"We spend about \$100,000 a year in sidewalk improvements on campus each year, however, because of the tree roots from all of our campus oaks, it is a constant issue we deal with. We have over 22 miles of sidewalks on campus," Crist said.

Despite the university being within its legal right to not make these accommodations, Bodin still feels that UL Lafayette should work to make its campus more accessible to students in wheelchairs.

"Someone who really struggles with their injury may be turned off from getting out in the world or going to school because the access is too limited," he said. "What does that say about your school?"

FREE SPEECH

continued from page 1

can then be used to (say) 'Okay we're not going to let any protest happen,'" she said. "So I feel like while a lot of these things aren't great at least with a more open policy it can be more open for me to retaliate."

According to a previous article in the Vermilion, a line in the conduct section of UL Lafayette's Computer and Network Policy which said, "Distasteful or offensive displays, messages and printouts are not permitted," received student backlash.

Despite the new free speech policy and a resolution passed by SGA in January 2018 to change the words "distasteful or offensive" to "obscene," the policy has not changed as of June 29, 2019.

According to CampusReform, Young Americans for Liberty member Austin Lancos said students who broke this rule may be expelled for it.

"The main policy that was unconstitutional was that if you say anything 'distasteful or offensive' while using UL's Wi-Fi, you would be suspended or expelled from the university," Lancos said.

Senior Communications Representative at UL Lafayette Eric Maron said the controversial rule regarding offensive displays is still in the current policy, but added that the rumors saying breaking the rule would result in expulsion are untrue.

"Contrary to what Austin Lenclos said in the stories I've seen, there is nothing that says that 'if you say anything distasteful or offensive while using UL's Wi-Fi, you would be suspended or expelled,'" Maron said. "According to the Computer and Network Policy, 'Penalties may include loss of access, either temporary or permanent, to UL Lafayette computer systems and networks.' Depending upon the violation (harassment, threatening behaviors, etc), it could be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and that would be referred to the Office of Student Affairs."

According to the Computer and Network Policy, this is accurate.

According to the New York Times, President Trump signed an executive order on March 21, which linked some federal funding for colleges to how well they enforce "free inquiry" on campuses. While Louisiana Senate Bill No. 364 was passed in June 2018, UL Lafayette announced its change to its free speech policy on June 18, 2019 only 28 days after Trump's executive order.

Students, faculty weigh in on TOPS full funding

Emily Britt
Reporter

The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, commonly known as TOPS, received full funding following a Special Legislative Session in June of last year.

“I think it is of course very positive for Louisiana—definitely for our students who want to attend college here in Louisiana,” DeWayne Bowie, Ph.D., Vice President for Enrollment Management at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said.

He continued, remarking on the importance of the funding.

“That is really a big step for our state, I think, in helping our students to attain a college degree,” Bowie said.

UL Lafayette students agreed.

“I think it will do good because it’s helping provide further education for students of Louisiana,” Nova Vernon said, a junior majoring in criminal justice.

Another student echoed this sentiment, connecting his background.

“TOPS is a big part of any Louisiana student’s life because for those of us that come from smaller towns or didn’t do as well in high school but did enough for TOPS,” Austin Manucy said, a junior in the history program.

One student called attention to the status of the Louisiana school system and the benefit TOPS provides for it.

“Our school system is not the most funded system, and a lot of students are not the wealthiest, so this way a lot of our students can still go to college and have it be somewhat affordable,” Kristina Khalid-Abasi said, another junior majoring in history.

Students and staff had ideas about the sustainability of TOPS.

“I think it is something we should

prioritize as a state, because we need it. A lot of students can’t afford to go to college without TOPS,” Vernon said.

She continued, voicing the concerns of most prospective Louisiana college students.

“It’s something that they preach about so hard in high school ... if you get to your senior year and there’s no real funding for TOPS, all your plans are just out the window,” she said.

Other students had different ideas about TOPS, considering instead the rise in attendance and the associated cost.

“They possibly should up the requirements to get TOPS because some of it is very low. There are some students, at least that I went to school with, that got TOPS that in my opinion did not earn it,” Manucy said.

However, despite its full return, many recall the issues with TOPS during previous years.

“I remember when our funds were spent superficially, so I don’t know how long it will necessarily last here, but I hope it will last a long time,” Khalid-Abasi said.

Bowie recalls the major effects the past cut to TOPS funding had on students as well.

“I remember a couple of semesters ago when TOPS was not fully funded. That caused many students and their families a lot of financial hardship. We had some students that actually ended up not being able to return the following semester,” he said.

Regardless of past issues, it appears TOPS will continue to be a primary aspect of Louisiana academic life for the foreseeable future.

“I think the future is bright for the TOPS program,” Bowie said.

Louisiana Secretary of State defends holding voter lists

John Roman
Web Editor

Lafayette city council candidates are currently stuck in a position where they must campaign without exactly knowing who lies within their to-be districts.

Claire Taylor with the Advocate wrote an article detailing how Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin’s office has yet to release the lists of registered voters in Lafayette. Because the lists are not out, city council candidates are having a harder time campaigning than they would normally.

The article described the struggles of District 1 Lafayette City Council candidate Sarah Roy. She told the Advocate how, if she were to campaign on her constituents’ doorsteps, she would have to resort to knocking on random people’s doors.

Political science student Sophia Davis works on Roy’s campaign said the refusal to release the lists seems as if it is politically charged, as not only has it been confirmed Ardoin’s office has had the new districts since March and the fact that these lists in the past had been released much earlier.

“It’s just kind of a courtesy to the candidates running, because that’s really important information that could really help a candidate out,” Davis said.

“With being a candidate, and wanting to reach out to the people in your district who actually go out and vote, that’s just the best way to go and get your name out there and feel what the people in the district need, what they want, what their concerns are, and having those voter logs is the best way to go about that,” Davis added.

Davis also said campaigning is possible without the lists. Roy has used her time to prepare things like her website, social media and yard signs; she has also reached out to several community leaders and business owners.

The withholding of the lists is only part of a larger saga that started when the voters chose to separate the city-parish council into a city council and parish council via a home rule charter amendment back in December of 2018.

It later was made public in February 2019 that there was a clerical error in how the charter described the districts, and a neighborhood of about 300 citizens was left

unaccounted for and, thus, unrepresented. The council determined the error was merely a mistake and opted to fix it with an ordinance.

Ardoin, along with Keith Kishbaugh, argued the charter could only be fixed with a vote of the people, and went on to sue. The suits lost, and both Ardoin and Kishbaugh went on to appeal. Both appeals also lost. Ardoin and Kishbaugh then filed requests for the Louisiana Supreme Court to hear the lawsuit with a request to resolve it before July 22.

Ardoin later addressed the article on the Moon Griffon Show on June 12, saying the list is not complete and he had no intention of releasing an inaccurate list. He later added the Advocate article was “agenda-driven” and he is “not going to back down for political purposes.”

Ardoin also said he legally does not have to release the list until five days before qualifying October election, and qualifying will happen on Aug. 6-8.

Although this is true, Christie Maloyed, Ph.D., political science professor at UL Lafayette, said the lists have almost always been released months in advance in past elections.

“I will say this, it’s not every election that the district lines completely change; that’s a genuine difference,” Maloyed said. “I can say I’ve heard the Registrar of voters speak at a city council meeting and say she had finalized all of the districts, and she has sent that information over to the secretary of state’s office. So they’ve had the information for a while, they’ve just been slow to do anything with it.”

Maloyed added she does not expect the Supreme Court to agree that the charter should go back to a citizen vote, as it could open up a “Pandora’s Box of problems.”

“It would actually be a hot mess if the Louisiana Supreme Court said, ‘We need to send this back to the voters,’” Maloyed said. “Let’s say it did go back to the voters, and the voters said, ‘No, we don’t want to change the district lines,’ then you would have 300 people who would have no district, which would be an absolute civil rights crisis. So it seems to me unlikely on those grounds that the Supreme Court would go that route.”



SPORTS

Cedric Russell prepared to take another shot at upcoming Sunbelt conference

Lachelle Smith
Sports Editor

On March 15, 2019, Cedric Russell's offseason started with him obsessively practicing the three-point shot he previously missed the day before. The foundation of this obsession was birthed by the last second shot, that Russell missed for the Ragin' Cajuns to help advance them against South Alabama in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

But, for Russell, he hasn't forgotten about that shot or the many challenges he's faced regarding his health in the past two seasons with the Ragin' Cajuns. The Louisiana guard is still trusting in his shot and is even more confident that everything is again falling right into place.

Russell, a top five Louisiana High School recruit from Peabody Magnet, known for his shoot-first mentality, averaged 22.4 ppg, 6.0 rebounds, and 4.5 assists as a senior. He led his alma mater to a 2017 Class 3A state title, where he was named championship game MVP scoring 22 points.

On the journey to the State Title game, Russell reminisced on a game where he was surprised at his shooting ability.

In a playoff game for Peabody Magnet, Russell currently tallied 47 points. With a few minutes left in the game, his assistant coach looked at him on the bench and asked him, "Do you want to go for 50?"

Russell immediately checked back in the game. With the ball in his hand, the senior slightly crossed half court. Seeing the goal in his eye view, he pulled up for the deep three. Cedric Russell ended that playoff game scoring 50 points.

With the exposure from his high school career and his scoring capacity, Russell was highly recruited by LSU, Houston, Texas Tech, and North Carolina State. The Ragin' Cajuns were able to secure Russell after the coaching staff for NC State was drastically changed before gaining Russell's commitment. A change that the Louisiana guard believes worked out in his favor.



Photo by Brian Tran/The Vermilion

Cedric Russell crosses half-court to start offensive possession against Coastal Carolina on Feb. 28, 2019.

"This was the best opportunity long term wise and looking at the bigger picture," Russell said. "To build that reputation in college and looking at where I will be basketball-wise for my junior and senior year. Everything is falling into place as I envisioned it."

Looking to pick up where he left off, Russell felt he could instantly make an impact for the Ragin' Cajuns. As a freshman, Russell scored 15 points in his collegiate debut against Ole Miss, shooting 11-10 from the field. This shooting frenzy carried over to two more games against Louisiana College (15 points) and Savannah State (20 points). Russell capped his freshman season with 10 points against LSU in the NIT tournament.

Ready to build on the successful freshman season, Russell ran into an unexpected situation.

On a Thursday during his sophomore offseason, the Louisiana guard and another teammate were going for a rebound in a scrimmage. The weight of both players landed on Russell's foot. Immediately he knew his foot was broken.

Louisiana guard faced a lot of doubts toward his comeback, but he knew it was just preparing him for the future. "It was all a test to get me to where I am today, facing things and going through adversity," Russell said.

An offseason full of rehab and working to regain full speed and strength. Russell overcame the challenges thrown at him, which were more than just a broken foot. He was then faced with many more roadblocks in these past two offseasons such as a sprained ankle, a car crash and the flu.

But the Louisiana guard still was faithful to the process. In the 2018-2019 season for Russell, he led the team in 3-point field goal attempts (174) and 3 pointers made (61). Not only being able to shoot from deep, Russell, became an 80% free throw shooter, placing 3rd on the team in that category.

His most break out game was against Little Rock. Russell scored a career-high 34 points, but the most impressive statistic of the guard's career-high game is that he scored 21 of those points in the second half

to revive Louisiana from a 12-point deficit. Russell finished 10-15 from the floor, 5-8 from behind the 3-point line, and went 9-11 from the free throw line.

Bringing this scoring power into the 2018-2019 Sun Belt Conference Tournament, Louisiana looked for Russell in the last seconds of the game against South Alabama. Coach Marlin was feeling confident in a play drawn up after the timeout, with former assist-man Marcus Stroman deciding who would get the last second shot. Russell the only free one in the desperate minutes confidently shot the ball but missed.

Russell now in his junior offseason with a new team has not forgotten about that missed shot. Instead of blaming himself for the cause of Louisiana's finale, Russell says he is most appreciative of that defining moment. Moving forward from that moment is something he credits his mother for, as she defeated breast cancer.

CEDRIC RUSSELL
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Former Pelicans superstar Anthony Davis bids farewell



Graphic by Cole Broussard

Madelyn Myer
Sports Writer

Following a trade agreement between the New Orleans Pelicans and the Los Angeles Lakers, it is time to say goodbye to superstar Anthony Davis. Davis was with the Pelicans since joining the NBA in 2012, when they selected him as the number one draft pick.

Davis requested to be traded to the Los Angeles Lakers since January of 2019, but no deal had been made until now.

When the Pelicans season ended in April, Davis wore a “That’s all Folks” t-shirt, in reference to the classic “Looney Tunes” line. It would be the last game he played for the Pelicans.

The Lakers reached an agreement with the Pelicans to acquire Anthony Davis for three players and another first-round pick.

Davis will join LeBron James and Kyle Kuzma on the Lakers next season. Along with Kuzma, James and Davis will be a powerful duo. They already have shown good chemistry in past NBA All-Star games.

James congratulated Davis on Instagram saying “AD on the way!! Let’s get it bro! Just the beginning.”

In exchange for Davis, the first player the Pelicans got was Lonzo Ball. Ball is a guard and was the number two draft pick in 2017 and averaged 9.9 points last season.

The Pelicans second acquisition was Brandon Ingram. Ingram was the number two draft pick in the 2016 draft and averaged 18.3 points last season as a forward.

Josh Hart was the final player the Pelicans got in the deal. As a guard, Hart was the 30th pick in the 2017 draft and averaged 7.8 points last season.

Along with receiving three great players, the Pelicans also got the number four overall pick in the NBA draft. However, during the draft, the Pelicans traded their number four pick to the Atlanta Hawks in exchange for a number eight, 17 and 35 pick as well as a heavily protected first round pick in 2020.

With the Pelicans’ newfound picks from the Hawks, their team for next season only improved. They picked Jaxson Hayes, a center from the University of Texas, for their number eight pick.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker, a shooting and point guard from Virginia Tech, was selected for their number 17 pick. With

their number 35 pick, the Pelicans selected 6-foot-5-inch shooting guard Marcos Louzada Silva from Brazil.

After news of the trade agreement, Pelicans Head Coach Alvin Gentry said this on Twitter regarding the new players: “That’s a haul folks.” It was another Looney Tunes reference, similar to the shirt Davis wore back in April.

The Pelicans will now enter a new era not built on Anthony Davis. Davis, on the other hand, will have to adapt to a new team setting on the Lakers.

The Pelicans will have to see how the new players mesh with veteran guard Jrue Holiday. David Griffin the Executive VP of Basketball Operations for the Pelicans made comments about the new team’s chemistry on NBA TV. “Jrue Holiday is the face of this franchise. And that means we sacrifice whatever it takes to win basketball games.”

Davis will be missed, but expect to see great things not only from him as a Laker, but also from the new Pelicans. The NBA regular season will start in October.

Follow the Vermilion on Twitter @TheVermilionSports for more updates

Two Ragin’ Cajuns in golf amateur division

Lachelle Smith
Sports Editor

The Ragin’ Cajun men’s golf team is ready to take on their next challenge.

With this challenge, only two members of the team will be gracing the green to tee off against some of the best in the amateur division. Louisiana’s own Micah Goulas and Charlie Flynn will be competing in the 113th Southern Amateur Championship.

A New Iberia native, Goulas started his 2018-19 season in good fashion. As the 2019 second-team- All-Louisiana selection and LSWA Newcomer of the Year, Goulas exploded with a 2-over-par 74 to earn his qualifying spot into the Championship from a 14-player field.

The Louisiana senior appeared in six events in stroke play. Goulas posted 73.81 in 16 rounds of golf play, three finishes in the top 25, and finished five rounds with a par or better. Louisiana Head Coach Theo Silman has already been impressed with the golfer and expects him to keep going.

“It’s been a very valuable year for him, as we saw him become very comfortable and acclimated to our program and Division I athletics,” Silman said. “I greatly look forward to his leadership this coming year as he and this team have high expectations for the 2019-20 season.”

Goulas will be accompanying Louisiana teammate Charlie Flynn. Flynn led the Ragin’ Cajuns as a freshman with a 73.27 scoring average and earned an exemption into the event by his first-place finish at the 2018 Southern Junior Championship.

The Louisiana sophomore finished twice in the top-20 during the season. Flynn also appeared in 12 events with a team-high 30 round. During his high school career, Flynn was rated as the No. 1 recruit in Louisiana with a 72.31 stroke average and competed in the Under Armor/Jordan Spieth championship along with many more prestigious tournaments.

These two Ragin’ Cajuns are ready for the Championship and are looking to reign in the top of the tournament. The 113th Southern Amateur Championship will be played at Chenal Country Club in Little Rock, Ark., on July 17-20.

Zion Williamson gets a New Orleans welcome after joining Pelicans



Graphic by Cole Broussard

Madelyn Myer
Sports Writer

It's official: the New Orleans Pelicans selected Zion Williamson as their number one draft pick on June 20 during the 2019 NBA Draft. Coming from Duke, he played in thirty-three games and averaged 22.6 points and 8.9 rebounds.

The selection of Williamson was huge for the Pelicans after losing Anthony Davis to a trade with the Los Angeles Lakers. This was the Pelicans' first number one draft pick since 2012 when they selected Davis.

Williamson sat down for a Press Conference after the draft. He was asked if the support from the city of New Orleans was overwhelming. "No, it hasn't been overwhelming at all because the thing that keeps me grounded is, I just always think about the times when it was just me, my stepdad and a basketball on an outside court," said Williamson.

Williamson has only been to New Orleans once before being drafted and he was asked about his experience with New Orleans culture. "The family feel that I got from just walking around. The people here were just welcoming," said Williamson.

Referenced as a generational talent, Williamson has a lot of pressure. He was asked if he thought he could be the face of

the franchise, even as a rookie. "Honestly, yes. I do think I'm ready. You have to think that way. If not, you might be playing in the wrong sport," said Williamson.

Williamson's overall message to the city was short and sweet: "Let's dance."

Head Coach Alvin Gentry commented on his quick liking of Williamson. "Well, first of all, we're both southern guys. Secondly, I think he's got a great basketball mind, but also appreciates the history of the game. I think he's going to be a joy to coach. He plays extremely hard, he's all about the team," said Gentry.

Gentry also talked about how he'd fit in the Pelicans' rotation. "The style of basketball we're going to play, he more than fits into it, we're going to be exciting to watch," said Gentry.

David Griffin, the Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations for the New Orleans Pelicans, talked about how he wants the team built on Williamson and Jrue Holiday. "We've put a lot of emphasis on finding people who can play defense, like Zion loves to do, like Jrue loves to do, so when we get out in transition and take advantage of those gifts as opportunities to score," said Griffin.

He believes in Williamson's ability as a team player for the Pelicans. "Zion is going to be learning how to win at a really

high level. At some point, if there is a time that the baton gets passed in terms of who is expected to carry us to win games, it will. That is not now. Let Zion be that kid, don't write this like he is here to save this franchise. He is not. He is here to join this family," said Griffin.

A report from Sportline suggest that the Pelicans now have a 2.5% increase in likelihood of making it to the playoffs. They also predicted Williamson to average 18.7 points and 8.9 rebounds in his first season with the Pelicans.

Williamson will also be playing in the Summer League games held in Las Vegas to get early experience. This is a great opportunity for the Pelicans; the 2019-2020 NBA season will be one to look out for.

CEDRIC RUSSELL

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"I feel that is where a lot of my endurance and my push comes from because she survived breast cancer on her own, she had the strength to do that," Russell said. "So breaking a foot cannot compare to what she can do, if she didn't quit why should I?"

Now, looking to be a leader of the 2019-2020 Ragin' Cajuns men's basketball team, the self-proclaimed "old soul" of the group is currently looking to step more into the point guard role as a facilitator of this young offense.

"It's going to be fun for sure. I'm not worried since it's so early, guys are still learning the plays. But talent wise and potential wise, we will be okay."

"The last two offseasons I was focused on grinding and separating myself, but this offseason I am putting myself on the back burner and making sure guys are comfortable in what coach is asking of them," Russell said.

Russell's confidence is not wavered by the new faces on the team. Instead, he is embracing the talent among him, understanding that he will be looked upon in the upcoming season. With his newfound appreciation for the loss in the Sun Belt Tournament, his new role, and his new team.

"I've been a scorer my whole life," Russell said. "The highs and the lows have made me the player and man I am today. My outlook for next season is different from last season. I don't regret taking that shot, and I can live with it, but I will never forget it."

Cedric Russell is ready for a new season and the opportunity to take another shot at the Sun Belt.

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Allons

Denise Gallagher's illustrations bring out one's inner child at the Hilliard



Scan courtesy of Denise Gallagher

Brianne Hendricks
Digital Media Manager

The dead of summer no longer looms upon us; it's breathing down our necks with each passing day. The heat can make any outside trek seem like a walk into a pit of lava. So, if you're like me and looking for places to tease Mother Nature from a place of air-conditioned goodness, check out the Hilliard Art Museum, specifically "A Teaspoon and a Bit of String: The Illustrations of Denise Gallagher."

Gallagher, since graduating from The University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has become something of a creative

runaway train. Since her self-proclaimed artistic renaissance, Gallagher has not only illustrated a children's book by the legendary Barry Ancelet and another on a popular Newfoundland folktale, but she's also written and illustrated her own novels as well.

Her creative tale begins long before her first steps into Fletcher Hall. Even as a child, Gallagher said she spent a good deal of her time drawing the world around her. In high school, an art teacher suggested she follow her dreams all the way from New Orleans to UL Lafayette, where she would meet Dutch Kepler, her graphic design professor, who then encouraged her work.

"I credit him with teaching me a lot about discipline and the benefit of working really hard and pushing yourself further than what you think you can do at first," Gallagher said. "I was young, and I didn't have that drive and discipline yet. He saw the spark in me and pushed me."

After her time at UL Lafayette, Gallagher would spend the next 20 years in the field of advertising doing creative work. She says she enjoyed the work, but she needed more.

About 12 years ago, Gallagher said she began her search for her own style. Finding a website called "illustrationfriday.com" pushed her to commit to drawing from their prompts once a week, which she credits with helping to form her visual language.

"I started to fall in love with illustration again. I kept up (drawing each week) after that year because I started to really enjoy creating just for me," Gallagher said. "After a while, I started to get more and more jobs, so I left advertising and started

my own business in order to focus more on illustration."

Successful and thriving, Gallagher's whimsical fairy-tale style speaks to the child in all of us, evoking a sense of magical wonder, something she's proud of. Whether it's illustrating a pup looking to travel to "New Aww-leens" in her own "A Tip Tap Tale," or drawing a beautiful witch in "Jean le Chasseur et ses Chiens," Gallagher has made her mark upon Lafayette art.

For new artists itching to get into the scene, Gallagher has a bit of advice: learn, learn and learn a little more after that.

"Go out there and get experienced, get experience working with somebody who can maybe be your mentor," Gallagher said. "Become part of a team, learn from people who have been doing it longer and get really good at it or even go have a coffee."

She also suggested gelato as a suitable offer for young artists to make to experienced ones. And in this heat, I'd be surprised if anyone would pass that offer up.



Scan courtesy of Denise Gallagher

*Allons***Lafayette City Council fails LGBT community, but not all hope is lost**

Graphic by Chelsea Henry

Morri Sampey
Allons Editor

In a disappointing turn of events for the LGBT community, Lafayette recently turned down the resolution to consider June Pride Month.

Over 20 supporters stood to speak at the meeting, and only two of them were in opposition. Despite the overwhelming support it had, the resolution, started by Councilman Kenneth Boudreaux, was lost by one vote. The final score tallied at 4-3 in favor.

In a written statement, Councilman Boudreaux told *The Vermilion*, “The individual who made the request as well as many who supported are tax paying citizens in good standing who affords the rights, privileges and protection of our constitution and charter. To deny or ignore is wrong and sets a precedent for all other subgroups of our society to be treated the same.”

Matthew Humphrey is a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Lafayette as well as a strong advocate for the resolution. According to Humphrey, the resolution was started because PFLAG Lafayette wanted to do something to celebrate Pride Month; he said it was especially important to do something this year because this particular June is the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

The resolution failing has many LGBT people upset. Santana Pilar Andrews — also known as Dylan Pontiff out of drag — is a popular drag queen in Lafayette who performs at Bolt. Andrews said it was a great chance for Lafayette to show its support and want for diversity in the city. She went on to say that the resolution’s failure sends the message that, “We live in a city that wants to remain close-minded and 50 years in the past.”

As for whether or not Andrews expected the resolution to pass in the first place, she had mixed feelings.

“I couldn’t believe something as simple as recognizing something that’s recognized nationally is such an issue, but Lafayette and certain council members know how to keep us in the dark days,” Andrews said.

Despite the anger the decision has brought the LGBT community, Humphrey says he doesn’t see it as a loss.

“I see it as we still have work to do,” Humphrey said. “It would have been a giant step forward had it passed, but I don’t think it’s all that big of a deal that it didn’t pass, at least not for us, because we still have the work to do. There are still hearts and minds in this town that we have to change.”

Humphrey goes on to say that this isn’t the worst setback the LGBT community has faced, and next June the Lafayette community can expect to see him and PFLAG Lafayette working on this resolution again.

“Next year, it will pass,” he said.

Humphrey also wanted to make it clear the resolution is not an attempt to turn

Lafayette into a “gay city,” as some people accused it of being.

“It’s literally just recognizing the struggles of the LGBT community and saying that students should be free to learn in an environment free of discrimination and bullying,” Humphrey said. “It isn’t anything that anyone can argue with.”

In the words of Councilman Boudreaux at the city council meeting, “There’s nothing in this resolution that forces anybody to participate in any event that they choose not to.”

Humphrey also makes an interesting point about how this decision could affect Lafayette’s economy. He believes this decision will turn away some large businesses who wanted to set up shop in Lafayette, and that it will prevent Lafayette from bringing in more revenue.

As for the message the failure sends, Humphrey said, “Lafayette is trying to be a mini-Austin with all this music and culture and food, but we can’t have June, which is nationally recognized as Pride Month, and say ‘We know you struggle and we see it.’”

“The message is negative and a bad look for Lafayette. We are risking the stagnation of our growth and the loss of exceptional talent,” Councilman Boudreaux said in a written statement. “I do feel based on how this was handled and the response in favor and opposition against gives hope that we will do better in the future.”

LGBT people in Lafayette shouldn’t lose all hope, because Humphrey is adamant that the resolution will pass in the future.

“It’s absolutely going to get passed because we’re going to the city council and parish council,” he said. “I told Councilman Kevin Naquin that he can expect to see a lot of me, because if I have anything to say about it, the children in this area — including his own children — will grow up to be a lot more open-minded.”

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Allons

Pleasant yet underappreciated: CDs from Lafayette Public Library



Photo by Timothy Ledet/The Vermilion

Timothy Ledet
Music Columnist

The Lafayette Public Library, as far as I can tell, is a criminally underappreciated institution in our city. This should come to no surprise considering the ever-increasing dominance of online media, which has severely lessened the appeal of “antiquated” physical media.

The library facilitates a free exchange of material entertainment, be it books, DVDs, board games or CDs. Therein takes place an exchange of ideas, identities, art, messages and memories.

But in a world where ten clicks on Amazon can have you read Harry Potter on a Kindle, watch the entirety of Doctor Who, order Scrabble with two-day shipping, all the while having Amazon Music blare Amy Winehouse’s “Back to Black,” it is easy to write off the library as superfluous.

One must keep in mind that ultimately these are privileges. Not all of Lafayette is ready to invest in an Amazon Prime or a Spotify Premium membership, let alone

a laptop, home computer or smartphone. Some people use the Library as a direct resource to satisfy the needs of this digital generation.

While I am fortunate enough to experience the library mostly out of a preference for physical media, it certainly satisfies a dire need: the ability to listen to music while driving. My 2004 Chevy TrailBlazer provides me with only a cassette tape player and a CD player, so the hidden luxury of streaming music while driving is out of the question.

However, this isn’t entirely bad news for me. Modern music streaming, despite its convenience, carries some underlying cons that affects music consumption. Considering the general decay of society’s attention span, music streaming services cater to the demands of a streamlined society.

This incentivizes artists to strip back their music and focus on immediacy and catchiness with gargantuan projects designed to fill Spotify playlists (I’m looking at you, Migos). Not all artists create with this intent, but it’s prominent enough

to draw correlations between this trend and the rise of streaming.

This often renders the art of album-crafting a forgotten one. I don’t believe sprawling concept albums like Pink Floyd’s “The Wall,” or Donna Summers “Four Seasons of Love,” could have attained commercial limelight in a music culture dominated by streaming.

With my situation, I’ve realized that the limitations of a CD player encourage more time and intention with music listening. I don’t appease to my impatience nearly as much when I’m listening to CDs. Albums that don’t immediately resonate with me receive more attention than they would with the ability to listen to anything else at any moment I choose via Spotify.

Don’t get me wrong, I still stream the hell out of music, but I’m thankful that being slightly technologically disadvantaged is actually enriching my music intake.

Additionally, I’m thankful that I have access to a broad and thorough collection of music through the Lafayette Public Library system.

At the library, I can check out a limit of 10 CDs for 3 weeks. If nobody puts the CD on hold, it automatically checks out again up to 6 times. This means I could indulge myself in any album they carry potentially for 4 months (which I did with David Bowie’s “The Platinum Collection”).

Not only is this a supremely generous borrowing policy for a library, but I continually find myself impressed with the music that the library has to offer.

The collection the library has curated spans dozens of genres, with most corners of contemporary music, popular along with the obscure, being included. Classical music, afrobeat, bluegrass folk, electro-industrial and more are given representation.

I find myself more drawn to what the library has labeled the “Rock” and “Urban”

LIBRARY MUSIC
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New Louisiana marriage age limit does not fix ‘dead by design’ system

Brett Smith
Political Columnist

I have to apologize to my readers, because in my last article I misled all of you. Not only was the title misleading, but it was a hodge-podge of information about rice and soy milk mixed with my own personal feelings about a controversial law regarding child marriage. To rectify that, I’ve decided this article will be solely about the controversial law and shed some light on what exactly it means going forward.

As mentioned in my last column, I’ve lived in Louisiana my whole life, and I’ve seen some things that seemingly only happen here. Or at least, that’s my hope, because if every state made some of the decisions we do, then I would fear for this great country we live in.

One of the salient laws I was aware of was regarding child marriage in this state. Before the most recent change, a child could legally get married at any age. In 2015 alone, according to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), there were 63 children married, the youngest of which was 14 at the time of the marriage. I don’t think I have to repeat that for it to sink in.

Along with this, not only was it commonplace, but it was also advised to marry in circumstances where one party would be convicted of statutory rape or sexual delinquency with a minor. At the time this baffled me. On the surface, it looked like the law was actually aiding the cover of a criminal act. I wasn’t wrong in my assessment; that’s exactly what it was.

That leads us to the recent bill, in which there was set to be a minimum age for marriage in the state. As usual, we were fairly late to the punch, but better late than never. I had hope when I heard the bill was

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LIBRARY MUSIC

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sections. From these two I've borrowed Frank Ocean, Iron Maiden and Janelle Monae CDs, as well as material from Kid Cudi, Aretha Franklin, Run the Jewels, the Beach Boys, Big Thief and a wealth of other artists.

The Lafayette Public Library has enabled me to turn an inconvenience into an opportunity to fully explore new music that I otherwise would miss out on. I urge everyone, whether you're reliant on a CD player or not, to check out what the Library has to offer.

CHILD MARRIAGE

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to show up, but what I didn't expect was the response.

The bill wasn't a wash. In fact, it was one of the most hotly debated on the docket, with one side arguing for a minimum age and the other arguing to keep things how they are, so to speak. This "if it ain't broke don't fix it" attitude reminded me why so many people talk down on the pelican state when I travel out of it.

This wasn't supposed to be debated or argued. It was meant to correct a mistake that our state made when it was in its infancy and show we've evolved as a society. To the lawmakers' credit, it did improve, but not quite as much as we'd hoped.

As of now — after Governor John Bel Edwards signs it into law — there will be a minimum age of 16 to marry. A lot of the same problems apply, such as it still being a way out for crimes of a sexual nature with someone underaged. These problems don't go away, they just become a little easier to swallow.

But I need to ask something of my readers, don't fall for this phony act of compassion. Don't swallow a pill of injustice, no matter how small it is in comparison. There are problems with this state, large, glaring problems, and I ask that you don't forget about them because the shine isn't blinding. Progress doesn't just take work it takes resilience. It takes consistency and courage to shout in the face of a system deaf by design.

It's going to take a long time, but keep trying. This is a fight for all of us. We are the future, so let's be proud of the future we build.



Art in Allons:

The Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum featured local artist Denise Gallagher's work.



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Kamryn Alfred

Nursing

Freshman

“Spending time with my family.”



Cameron Casso

Industrial Tech

Sophomore

“Poppin’ firecrackers with friends”



Sydney Olivier

Nursing

Sophomore

“Staying home with my family.”



Adrian Wall

Moving Image Arts

Sophomore

“Being an American.”



Bryce Ferguson

Finance

Sophomore

“On a date with a fine female.”



Tyrone Love

Finance

Senior

“Study for my Finance 320 class and go to New Orleans to spend time with my family.”