

FDA-proposed vape bans spark UL discussion on black market

Jami Jacobo
ALLONS WRITER

On Sept. 11, 2019, the Trump administration announced plans to ban certain flavored electronic e-vapor juice products. In response, the FDA released a statement introducing the efforts they will take to combat non-tobacco flavored e-vapor juices, especially the flavors that appeal to minors.

According to the statement by the FDA, there is a continued rise in the rates of youth using e-cigarettes and other vaping devices as per the National Youth Tobacco Survey.

In the preliminary data collected by the National Youth Tobacco Survey, the majority of current e-vapor users in high school noted the use of flavors like fruit, menthol and mint. This rising number is the driving force behind the restriction efforts by both the Trump administration and the FDA.

The Trump Administration has been consistent in its efforts to address and prevent the use of tobacco products in today's youth. Last year, the FDA presented "The Real Cost Youth E-Cigarette Prevention Campaign," an effort by the administration to educate youth on the potential dangers of using e-cigarettes.

Further efforts include requirements to request authorization from the FDA for distribution of vapor products and addressing violations by companies that have failed to follow the rules of the FDA.

Earlier this month, the FDA presented a warning letter to JUUL, a well-known e-cigarette production company, determining that JUUL products are considered tobacco products because they are made of or derived from tobacco, and they should be treated with similar regulations.

The FDA claims that JUUL has "adulterated its products" by selling them as a "safer alternative to smoking" without the permission of the FDA.

Most of the discussion for regulation and bans against vaping, or using electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), is centered around the protection of the youth — but what are the possible outcomes from the restriction and banning of vapor products?

Carsyn Brazell, a fourth year student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has never used tobacco products and says that there may not be much change in the way and frequency that minors use tobacco products in general.

"I'm sure kids will still get their hands on it somehow," Brazell said. "There may be less cigarette smoking, but I'm sure they'll find ways to buy vape juice."

Vapor Rights, an organization dedicated to preserving the rights of adults who choose to vape, believes that any regulation should be grounded in science and research and, like the Trump administration and the FDA, believes that these products should not be sold to children.

Jaice DuBose, a Lafayette native and former JUUL user, agrees with Brazell in that minors will find other flavors they enjoy if certain flavors become unavailable.

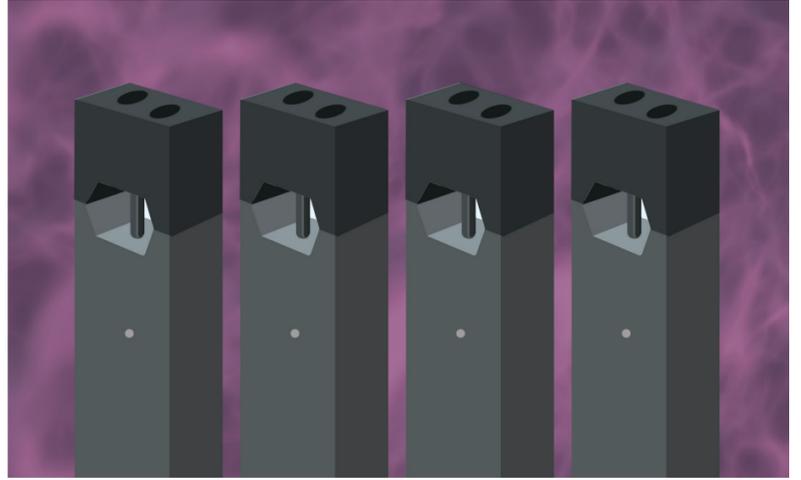
DuBose adds that cigarettes and vapor products should be treated the same when regarding restrictions.

"They each have their own negative effects that should be up to the (adult) user whether or not they want to endure them," DuBose said.

In each of the local interviews, the biggest commonality mentioned between cigarettes and e-vapor products was the potential addiction to nicotine.

Connor Richard, a UL Lafayette alum and a user of cigarettes and ENDS, claims that nicotine addiction is the biggest issue in e-vapor products.

"The Trump Administration isn't addressing a nicotine problem, they're addressing a black market for THC



Graphic by Cole Broussard

cartridges, and wrongly attributing those deaths to vaping in general," Richard said.

Richard was not the only one to mention a black market in the discussion of vaping bans and regulations.

Jack Moore, a Lafayette local, also uses both products occasionally. Moore recognizes the appeal certain flavors may have to children and suggests more public education on addiction and cost.

However, if regulation continues to extremes, Moore thinks that more harm will come.

"I think that we would see an increase in the amount of black market, under the table, unregulated e-cigarettes ending up in the hands of minors," Moore said.

The black market seems to be a common, yet quiet, subtopic under the anti-vaping movement. Multiple media sources have mentioned a market for counterfeit THC cartridges and their deadly effects on a handful of users.

Specifically, counterfeit THC cartridges have been suspected to be the cause of six deaths by vaping. Research

and testing is still fairly new, so it is too early to know for sure. However, other e-vapor users like Richard believe regulations for ENDS products should not be based on a completely different product.

Jesse Saloom, a philosophy professor at UL Lafayette, is a former cigarette smoker and current e-vapor user.

Saloom made a strict distinction between THC cartridges and ENDS products, claiming they are completely different products that cannot be used interchangeably between ENDS and cartridge devices.

Saloom said he is certain that if extreme regulations are placed on e-vapor products, the current generation of e-vape users will begin smoking cigarettes.

"The question shouldn't be 'Is vaping harmful?'" Saloom said. "The question should be 'Will it be more harmful to ban (these products) or not to?' And that's a very different question than 'Is it harmful?'"

Follow the Vermilion on Twitter @TheVermilion for more updates

Dear World photoshoot captures words, ideas of students and faculty

Emily Britt
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's University Program Council and the Office of Residential Life held the annual Dear World photoshoot in the Student Union Atchafalaya Ballroom Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Students, faculty and staff were all invited to attend. Attendees were instructed to write anything they wanted on their skin with a marker and pose in front of the camera.

"It's really important — actually, I think someone said it earlier and I think it's really beautiful — 'When you come to

UL as a student, you're not just a number, you are an individual person with a story,'" Karli Sherman, the Assistant Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, said.

Sherman, who oversees the University Program Council, continued, sharing the significance of Dear World to the UL Lafayette family.

"And I love that we have the opportunity to showcase that on a very literal level in a fun, interactive way and a meaningful way," Sherman said.

"I think it's very important in your collegiate career to do reflection, that's where learning comes from, to do self expression, that's where development

comes from, and I think that's what the whole point of higher education is."

The photographer at the event, Andres Ballesteros, also shared his thoughts on Dear World and what it means to him.

"I've worked with Dear World for a couple of years," Ballesteros said. "I like what the project brings to the table: It sort of lets people connect with each other, to capture part of each person, what makes them who they are, or just a part of their lives that brought them to where they are and kind of dictates where they could be. You walk in their shoes, know what they're struggling with, or what makes them happy or sad."

Ballesteros mentioned the importance of the event to the university specifically.

"How many people do we have here at this college? A couple thousand," Ballesteros said. "And then how do you get all those people to interact with each other, and to a very personal level? What this exercise does is that it makes you open up to everybody and just share something that is part of you so people get to know you better."

He also commented on the lasting effects he's noticed regarding the Dear World events.

"It's really personal; we've seen people make really good friends for years after they come to this event, and some people keep coming back, so there's something there for everybody."

Some students also shared their opinions on the event.

"It's important because it gives people a voice without actually having to stand up in front of a huge crowd and say

something ... I think it brings a lot of people together," Kimberly Rushford, a senior in the psychology program, said.

Rushford, who is also a member of UL Lafayette's Track and Field team, opened up about a willingness to branch out.

"I'm an athlete, and I'm trying to get my voice out there, to mingle with the other peers at UL, instead of just being in the athletes' circle," Rushford said.

Another student, Mia Gamberi, a freshman in the kinesiology program, echoed Rushford's views on the event.

"Everyone can kind of share what they want to say without having to say it," Gamberi said.

Both students explained the quotes with which they adorned themselves.

"My quote is 'Love thy neighbor as thyself,'" Rushford said. "So like the kind of message I want to put out is to always be kind to other people and especially to yourself."

Gamberi, likewise, shared her own personal mantra.

"I put 'Just be yourself. There's no one better,' and I kind of live by that because you come to college ... and you want to find your true friends in life," Gamberi said. "I think everyone can kind of remember what they are here for and prioritize."

Gamberi expressed overall appreciation for the Dear World event.

"I feel like it's good for everybody to do it and everybody is included ... They feel accepted and get to put their words out there too," Gamberi said.



Photo by Emily Britt / The Vermilion

Photographer Andres Ballesteros snaps a picture of student Kristina Khalid-Abasi.

CLARIFICATION:

In the previous issue of The Vermilion, a sports opinion piece implied the university made no effort to collect student feedback on moving the tailgating site. However, according to Ragin' Cajun Athletics, students received a survey via email and SGA was consulted in the 2018-2019 academic year.

News

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A response to Vermilion Sports Editor Lachelle Smith's most recent opinion piece on student tailgating.

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Sports

MACKENZIE LEE

Louisiana soccer goalkeeper talks about her family's influence on her motivation.

PAGE 5

Allons

CANDACE OWENS

A controversial figure is due to make an appearance at UL Lafayette.

PAGE 7

Police Reports

Compiled by David Reed

September 6

- A bicycle theft was reported near Stephens Hall at 12:30 p.m.

September 10

- A student reported his bike was stolen at 3:30 p.m.

September 11

- Officers were dispatched to Harris Hall in reference to a medical call at 1:14 a.m. A counselor on call was notified.

September 13

- At 11:28 p.m., officers were dispatched to Burke-Hawthorne Hall in reference to a bicycle theft.

September 14

- At approximately 7:50 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Cajun Field in reference to an individual previously warned not to return to UL Lafayette campus.

September 15

- Officers were dispatched at 6:28 p.m. to Dupré Library in reference to a bicycle theft that took place over the weekend.

September 16

- At approximately 8:05 a.m., an officer was dispatched to Heritage Apartments in reference to a bicycle theft. The officer met with the victim and a report was generated.

A letter to the Editor:

To Whom It May Concern,

Lachelle Smith's article on football game day experience is nothing short of an opinion piece with false claims about the Athletic Department and UL Lafayette as a whole. It is scarce of facts, statistical evidence, and accurate representations. The sample Smith drew from is not a representation of the entire student body and therefore, prohibits making any generalizations. Social media is an excellent way to gauge feedback, but it must be supported by evidence, something this article lacks entirely.

I would like to focus on this particular quote from Smith's article: "Without any consideration or input from students, the tailgate location was moved for the 2019 season. The Ragin' Cajun Athletics department decided it would encourage their student attendance numbers by moving tailgate back to Cajun Field on the southside concourse of the stadium, making it somewhat inevitable for students to go in the game. The decision was made solely by people that are not students, but seem to feel inclined to know exactly what students want."

During the fall semester of 2018, Heidie Lindsey (Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Engagement and Leadership) and I met to discuss student involvement and engagement at football games. Since student tailgating is directed and led primarily by the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership, Heidie was looking to make any changes and improvements to enhance the student tailgate experience. A survey was sent out via OrgSync and email to all students in the summer of 2018 regarding students' feelings on tailgating, game day activities, and more. The responses from the survey indicated that students

were unhappy with the distant location, the lack of athletic involvement (i.e. Cajun Walk), and the expenses that were attached to reserving spaces and tents. Using this information, myself, Heidie, Margarita Perez (Dean of Students), Jacob LeMeunier (SGA Chief of Staff 2018-2019), Connor Whelan (Athletic Director of Marketing & External Engagement), Nico Yantko (Deputy Director of Athletics), and other students and athletic staff members met consistently-as often as once every two weeks to develop a plan for the upcoming football season. To ensure that this project was implemented, we invited student leaders Rachel Lautigar (Homecoming Queen and 2019-20 SGA President) and Dominique Williams (Homecoming King and student athlete) to join the conversation in which they have continued the effort to make game day experience a memorable one.

To say that no student was considered in making these changes is completely false and a bold accusation to make without any evidence. The changes to football game days did not happen overnight, nor did it only involve a few athletic staff members. It was a year long initiative that was driven by the interest of the students. Smith's claim that the student body is unhappy with the changes stems from a selectively-biased group of students voicing their opinions on social media. While it is important for all student opinions to be heard and accounted for, it is nearly impossible for the Athletic Department and the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership to understand and cater to every individual want and need from students.

Thank you,
Chandler Harris
2018-19 UL Lafayette SGA President

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SGA to collect census data, create budget

David Reed
NEWS DIRECTOR

The Student Government Association blocked voting on most of its agenda at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 16 due to their lack of an approved budget.

"So essentially, we cannot pass a resolution without passing a budget, and we cannot pass a budget until we have census data. As of now we don't have census data," SGA Treasurer Jonathan Adams said. "So we can't pass any of the appropriations 16, 18, 27, 29 or 30 without passing a budget first."

Appropriations for Olivia LaHaye to attend the AGU Chapman Conference, Brittany Grissom to attend the American Society of Gravitational and Space Research, Paige Byerly to attend the 2019 Waterbird Society Meeting, Tyler Martinez to attend the 2019 International Writing Centers Association Conference and Laura Vergenal to attend Neuropsychiatry: A Comprehensive Update have all been put on hold until a new budget can be approved.

The only item on the agenda SGA approved was a resolution to appoint several members to the executive cabinet

and to refer to SGA Chief of Staff Dominique Williams as "Chief of Staff Williams" in official documents.

"It's just an honor to get involved on campus, to get involved with the students and help the students out," Williams said.

Hannah LaCour and Mary Frances Avera were made co-secretaries for LIFE Program students, Claire Carriere was made secretary for the Office of Disability Services, and Kenton Jackson was made secretary for Communications and Marketing.

A resolution to change the course repeat policy was also tabled; however, this was due to the sponsor waiting to get SATS accreditation for this.

The resolution is intended to revert the university's course repeat policy back to where courses a student failed but repeated would be replaced with a GPA neutral "R" instead of the failing grade on the student's transcript.

"The current policy right now is when you repeat a class, all the grades stay on your transcript are just averaged in," Troie Acker, the bill's sponsor, said.



Photo by David Reed / The Vermilion

SGA President Rachel Lautigar sits next to Senate Chair Jonathan Alexander on Sept. 16, 2019.

ATTENTION: Student Government Vacancies

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
COLLEGE OF NURSING
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
GRADUATE SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

1 Senator
1 Senator
2 Senators
2 Senators
1 Senator
2 Senators
5 Senators
3 Senators

If you have any questions, please call at (337) 482-2742 or email at sga@louisiana.edu. Applications are now available online at sga.louisiana.edu and in the SGA office, Student Union, Room 159.

Deadline: September 20, 2019 @ 12:00 pm



Questions or comments on our latest coverage?

Send a letter to the Editor at
thevermilion@louisiana.edu

THE VERMILION

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A hidden figure: UL chef grateful to serve students

Amelia Jennings
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before starting his job at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Cypress Lake Dining Hall Executive Chef Chad Matrana grew up in New Orleans and has always enjoyed food.

"I was born and raised in New Orleans, and just being around that culture and being around the people ... it was really easy to understand the cuisine of Louisiana," Matrana said.

"When I went away to culinary school, it was very easy to start connecting the dots to flavor profiles because I had a good foundation. I just have a love affair with this state and that's really what made me want to become a chef."

However, being a chef did not come naturally.

"You know it wasn't always my first career choice, but after high school and working in fine dining restaurants, I really started taking it seriously," Matrana said.

Before coming to work at UL Lafayette, Matrana says he has worked at a multitude of places.

"I worked at Loyola and I was their executive chef," Matrana said. "I also worked at Commander's Palace. I've also worked at some of the top ten restaurants in the country, so my chef (experience) is really more fine dining restaurant experience than this type of setting."

Matrana described what it was like to feed so many students in the cafeteria.

"It's exciting," Matrana said. "Every day is a new day to get better. It's like instant gratification when you prepare meals for this many people and you do it with the success that we've had. I would say that's it's challenging; it can be very challenging at times. It's definitely rewarding at the same time."

Matrana always has a positive outlook on his job.

"The best parts are making people feel welcome, and when you come here you have to leave your comfort zone," Matrana said. "You're leaving your parents and you're coming to college to be a young adult and be on your own for the first time in your life. So I'd like to give students a sense of home and a sense of being comfortable in their surroundings."

Matrana could only think of one negative aspect.

"We have issues in terms of challenges that happen, the unforeseen things like food trucks being late or something like that," Matrana said.



Headshot of Chad Matrana, executive chef at Cypress Lake Dining Hall.

In his spare time, Matrana goes to the farmer's market to encourage people to eat healthier.

"Executive Chef at UL Lafayette's Cypress Lake Dining Hall will be at the market this Saturday serving samples of a couple of popular Eat Fit meals from their menu: Blackened Shrimp Tacos with Cilantro-Lime Crema and Grilled Redfish and Cauliflower Taco, w/ roasted Corn, and Heirloom Tomato Guacamole," a Facebook post by Delcambre Seafood & Farmers Market reads.

Matrana designed Eat Fit to make the UL Lafayette dining food fit seamlessly into the culture, while still giving the students a balanced diet.

"Matrana, with the help of [Yvette] Quantz [at Ochsner Hospital], has designed the Eat Fit meals at UL Lafayette's Cypress Lake Dining Hall around Cajun foods indigenous to the area," an article from the Daily Iberian reads.

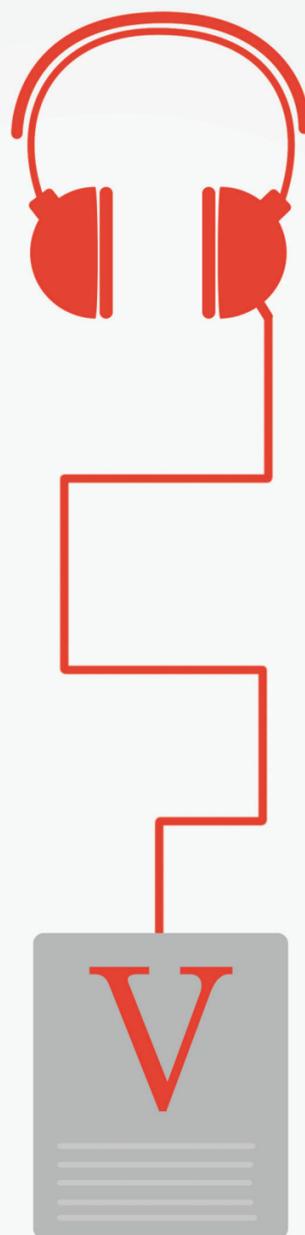
The same article broke down the elements of an Eat Fit meal.

"Eat Fit meals must have no more than 600 calories, 800 milligrams of sodium, five grams of added sugar, and eight grams of animal-based animal fat," the article reads.

Matrana explained why Eat Fit makes UL Lafayette special.

"We're the first university in the state of Louisiana to bring Eat Fit to a University," Matrana said. "LSU doesn't have it; Tulane doesn't have it. It just provides people better options to live a healthier lifestyle. To have better choices."

Tune In.



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thevermillion.com

US News & World Report shows university statistics, UL Lafayette national ranking

Morri Sampey
ALLONS EDITOR

Out of 381 colleges and universities, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette ranked No. 293 in a tie with multiple other schools, according to U.S. News & World Report. According to their methodology page, they take multiple factors into consideration, such as ACT/SAT scores, graduation rates and student-faculty ratios.

Schools are separated into four different categories: national universities, national liberal arts colleges, regional universities and regional colleges. UL Lafayette falls into the national universities category.

The website also lists some information about UL Lafayette. For instance, it states the median starting salary of alumni is \$46,300. It also states the average 6-year graduation rate is 45%. According to the website, there are 34.6% of classes with fewer than 20 students and 9% of classes with fifty or more students. The ratio of students to faculty is 19:1.

Tuition and Fees for in-state students add up to \$9,912, whereas out-of-state students are expected to pay \$23,640. Room and board averages to \$10,604. The undergraduate enrollment is 15,073, and the total enrollment is 17,123. The school has a rolling application deadline. The campus is 1,400 acres large.

UL Lafayette has a 100% five point rating on the website due to the single review left by user "Cajun" from Houston. In the review, Cajun described themselves as an alumni and stated, "Love the university and the



Graphic by Cole Broussard

community!" They gave the categories activities and social life, classes and teachers, and dorms and housing four points each. They also gave city and setting, dining and food, and health and safety five points each.

UL Lafayette also placed in multiple other categories. The categories include best business programs (No. 292), top performers on social mobility (No. 254 as a tie), and best undergraduate engineering programs (No. 170 in a tie).

The many graduate programs at UL Lafayette were also ranked, with speech-language pathology doing the best at

No. 81 in a tie, and biological sciences doing the worst in a tie for No. 175. In between those fell engineering (No. 156 in a tie), nursing schools: masters (No. 156 in a tie), nursing schools: doctor of nursing practice (No. 143 in a tie), and computer science (No. 133 in a tie.)

The online programs were noticed as well, including the online graduate nursing programs (No. 65 in a tie), online bachelor's programs (No. 114 in a tie), online MBA programs (No. 153 in a tie), and online graduate education programs (No. 166 in a tie).

Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Ph.D, dean of the graduate school, told KATC that the high rankings of the graduate school programs is "partly attributed to a focus on adding programs and increasing ways to make those programs more accessible, including online options."

"An important part of that growth is to make our programs more accessible to all students, including not only for working professionals and part-time students, but also full-time students in our research areas," Farmer-Kaiser told KATC.

Sports

‘BAM’: Wide receiver looks towards journey with Ragin’ Cajun football team

Lachelle Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

First impressions are important to a lot of people. It sets the tone for how you want people to perceive you, from what you wear to how your hair is styled — even down to your shoes.

On Oct. 13, 2018, the Ragin’ Cajuns faced off in a battle against New Mexico State, where Jarrod “Bam” Jackson made an unforgettable first impression to the Louisiana fans.

In a 66-38 win over New Mexico State, Jackson made some eye-catching plays. He caught four passes for 63 yards, scoring two touchdowns, but what got the crowd to their feet was his second touchdown of the night: a 22-yard throw by former Ragin’ Cajun quarterback Andre Nunez, which he caught with one hand just grabbing the lower tip of the football.

“He threw it up, and I said, ‘Oh, I’ve got to get on my horses to get that one,’” Jackson said. “I said, ‘I’m gonna get it.’ I put my hand up and I came down with it.”

After the win, Jackson was not done leaving his mark. He was invited for his first-ever collegiate post-game interview, where he walked in, not with Ragin’ Cajun gear, but a crisp grey suit.

Jackson made it clear that the suit wasn’t just for him to look fashionable, but also to make his mom happy, who Jackson said complimented him by saying, “Oh Bam, you look good,” to which he gave a hug and a thank you.

“I put it on so my mom could see me in my suit,” Jackson said.

Jackson is a Reserve, Louisiana, native. Graduating from East St. John High School, where he was ranked as the No. 20 wide receiver in Louisiana. He completed his senior year of high school with 68 receptions for 1,624 yards and 12 touchdowns, as well as being named All-District after helping his alma mater win the district title. Jackson also earned a few top 10 finishes in the 400-meter dash in the class 5A state track meet.

The journey up the depth chart for Jackson has not been easy. In his freshman year, the 2015 season, he suffered an ACL injury during fall camp and was placed on medical redshirt. In the 2016 season for Louisiana, Jackson appeared in six games as a reserve wide receiver and a member of the special teams unit.

In his 2017 season with the Ragin’ Cajuns, Jackson started to give a sneak peek of his intangibles on the field. He



Junior Elijah Mitchell (15) and Senior Jarrod Jackson (17) celebrate after a touchdown as the Ragin’ Cajuns take on the Texas Southern Tigers on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019.

saw action in all 12 games for Louisiana and finished with 18 receptions, 219 receiving yards, and two receiving touchdowns. He accompanied the special teams unit and recorded two tackles during the season, and had a career game against ULM with seven receptions, 113 yards, and one touchdown.

2018 is where Jackson started to give more production to Louisiana, despite being classified as a redshirt junior. Jackson played in nine games, increasing his receiving yards from the previous season from 219 to 325. As well as the matriculation of yards, Jackson started to solidify himself into the top rankings on the team.

Jackson placed second on the team with four touchdowns, where he continued to have good games with an impressive game against Arkansas State and New Mexico State. Against Arkansas State, he caught four passes for 129 yards and a touchdown and his podium-worthy game against New Mexico State where he scored two touchdowns.

But, for Jackson, he is not just focused on the lights and the attention. He just wants to represent himself in the best way, not only for himself but for his family.

“Growing up as an only child, I never had any ‘real’ brothers or sisters, but my cousins and people I know that I’m close with,” Jackson said.

“I give them everything I got; that’s my family, and family means everything to me,” Jackson said. “You know, back at home, they say it takes a village to raise a child and I’m grateful for my village. They made me who I am today. They made me respectful. They made me learn how to speak to people, how to be nice and how to encourage people, and you know I love my family.”

Jackson’s legal name is Jarrod, but attributes his nickname “Bam” from his grandfather, from when he would put Jackson on his lap and bounce him around saying “Bam, Bam.”

With his coveted nickname comes a lot of descriptions of Jackson himself. Head Coach Billy Napier describes his wide receiver as “unselfish” and an accurate depiction of what a member of his football team should be.

“Bam Jackson to me is a guy who is very unselfish,” Napier said. “He’s one of our best representatives of what we would want a Ragin’ Cajun football player to be. That guy right there, he’s the definition. I mean if I could just say what we want our players to be like, they’d be like that guy.”

Napier points out that one of Jackson’s strengths is his play off the ball, believing that is the best gauge of a player and teammate.

“One of the things Bam does is he plays without the ball, and that’s a good indicator,” Napier said. “If you’re a receiver or running back, how you play without the ball, that defines what type of teammate you are, and he is the epitome of a good teammate.”

Jackson started the 2019 season as one of the representatives for Sun Belt Media Day, which was held in New Orleans on July 21-22. He was alongside teammate defensive back, Deuce Wallace.

With the season underway and looking to give the Ragin’ Cajuns some solid production on the field, Bam made it clear at Media Day his goal for the 2019 season and what he is most focused on.

“It’s easy to do big things when everybody looking, but it’s hard to do the little things with nobody looking,” Jackson said. “That’s my goal for the season, get everybody to buy in, and understand the ultimate goal. It’s not about the destination, it’s more about enjoying and understanding the journey.”

Louisiana football wins record-breaking game against Texas Southern Tigers



Freshman Chris Smith (21) scores a touchdown as the Ragin’ Cajuns take on the Texas Southern Tigers on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019.

Charles Long
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana football team enjoyed a record-breaking performance in their 77-6 blowout victory over the Texas Southern Tigers, improving their record to 2-1 on the season.

The 77 points scored and the 71-point margin of victory are both school records, and this is how they got there.

Quarterback Levi Lewis and the Ragin’ Cajuns offense set the tone early, leading the team on four touchdown drives in the first quarter, jumping out to a 28-3 lead. They wouldn’t slow down in the second quarter either, scoring another four touchdowns to enter halftime with a 56-6 lead.

The special teams and kick-return team did an excellent job of setting Louisiana up into favorable positioning. Of the three kickoff returns, two by

senior running back Raymond Calais and one by senior receiver Ja’Marcus Bradley, Louisiana averaged 44.7 yards per kick return. This helped allow the Ragin’ Cajuns to score on some quick drives.

The up-tempo offense for the Ragin’ Cajuns was too fast for the Tigers defense to keep up with. Seven out of the eight touchdown drives in the first half were under two minutes and six plays long. They scored a touchdown on eight of nine drives in the first half, with the only scoreless drive coming as the clock expired and the two teams went into halftime.

The two head coaches agreed to play 10-minute quarters in the second half, and the Ragin’ Cajuns had an opportunity to give playing time to backups and third-strings.

In the shortened second half, Louisiana backup quarterback Jai’ave Magalei led the Ragin’ Cajuns on two more touchdown drives, and the team broke the school record for points scored halfway through the fourth quarter when they scored their third touchdown of the second half, extending the lead to 77-6.

Outside of allowing two field-goal drives, the Louisiana defense kept the Texas Southern offense silent, forcing punts and putting the Ragin’ Cajuns offense back on the field early and often. The six points allowed is the lowest total the Louisiana defense has given up

since giving up three points against UL Monroe in 2016.

For the second straight game, the rushing attack tallied over 400 yards, this time a season-high 440 yards on 42 carries with eight rushing touchdowns.

Sophomore T.J. Wisham took advantage of his carries, leading the team with 103 yards on ten carries. Trey Ragas had 81 rushing yards and a touchdown on five carries and added a nine-yard touchdown reception in the first quarter. Calais and Elijah Mitchell both added two touchdown runs with 73 and 44 rushing yards respectively.

Even though the rushing attack was effective all night, the passing game was too. Lewis finished his night in the second quarter after completing 10 of his 13 passes for 181 yards and two touchdowns. Magalei, who played most of the second half, also had a nice night, completing nine of his 13 passes for 103 yards and a touchdown. The team finished with 308 passing yards.

Louisiana’s high powered offense finished with 34 first downs, 748 total yards and 77 points. The defense held the Tigers to only 15 first downs, 236 yards, and kept them to 3-16 on third-down conversions.

It was a dominant win to send the Ragin’ Cajuns on their road trip, which they’ll start by facing the Ohio Bobcats next Saturday on Sept. 21.

Ragin' Cajun goalkeeper takes charge on field, thanks parents for support



Louisiana goalkeeper Mackenzie Lee.

Madelyn Myer
SPORTS WRITER

Mackenzie Lee has been playing soccer for the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns soccer program since 2016. Now a senior, she is ready for a killer season.

Lee is one of Louisiana's goalkeepers, though that is not the position she's always played. After a teammate's injury, she stepped up to take their position.

"I was a field player until I was a freshman in high school, so like 14, 15-ish, and then we went to nationals and our goalkeeper got hurt and they asked if anyone played a sport that used their hands," Lee said. "I played basketball, so they put me in and kinda just stuck me there ever since."

Lee may not have always been goalkeeper, but she's been playing soccer since the age of three.

Lee has a lot of experience on the field. In high school, she was a three-time all-district selection in Kingwood, Texas. She was also named her team's offensive player of the year, after leading them in scoring her last two seasons.

She played in four matches her freshman season, having a total of 15 saves and a season-high save of seven in a game against Nicholls State.

As a sophomore, she started in 11 matches and had a team and career-high of 49 saves. She also had a season-high save of eight and three shutouts in the season. With her number of saves, she ranked fourth in the Sun Belt Conference.

In her junior season, she started in eight matches and played in nine. She collected a career-best nine saves and once again ranked fourth in the SBC in saves after getting 44 during the season.

As a senior, Lee takes charge on the field. Head Coach Lance Key recognizes her leadership.

"I think on the defensive side of things, we're going to have to rely heavily on the leadership of our goalkeeper Mackenzie Lee, who's a senior," Key said.

Lee is a very dedicated and motivated player. She thanks her parents for supporting her.

"All the time and hours I've put in and sacrifice that my parents have made for me keeps me motivated," Lee said. "That

really keeps me pushing, because I know they've put in a lot of their time and their hours that they didn't have to."

The season is just getting started and Louisiana is already 4-2-1. Lee gave her thoughts on how the season is going so far.

"I think the season is going really well. At first, we had to find our footing and find our rhythm. We're definitely playing more like a soccer team now and I think we all really like that. This is the fourth game in a row we've won," Lee said, referring to their recent win against Nicholls on Sept. 11.

All of the hard work doesn't happen overnight. The team has intense practices that payoff on game days.

"A typical day of practice, sometimes we have weights before, but if we don't have weights before we usually go about 90 minutes," Lee said. "We do some technical work. We've been doing a lot of crossing and finishing because we like to swing the ball and play it out."

Outside from soccer, Lee is a marketing major and has worked as an intern for Foster Marketing in Lafayette.

The season continues until the end of October, followed by a championship tournament in November. With Lee as a key factor to Louisiana's success, they are in good shape.

UL Lafayette 2019 CAREER FAIR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 &
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9 am - 1 pm | Union Ballroom

*Dress professionally and
bring copies of your resume!*



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Day 1: Tuesday, September 24 - Engineering, Sciences & Technology Day

Air Force Reserve
Alexandria Police Department
Atlanta Regional Census Center - RCC
Bayer U.S. LLC
BETA Land Services, LLC
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Cargill
CenterPoint Energy
CGI
Champion Technology Services, Inc.
Chevron
Citgo
City of Alexandria
City Year
Cleco Corporate Holdings, LLC
Cornerstone Chemical Company
Cox Enterprises
Crest Industries, LLC

CSE - Icon Inc.
D.R. Horton, Inc.
Dashiehl Corporation
Delek US Holdings, Inc.
Division of Administration
Electrical and Instrumentation Unlimited, LLC
Entergy
Expro Americas LLC
Fast Enterprises, LLC
Fenstermaker
Fugro USA
IBM
IDEA Public Schools
Ingevity
Keystone Engineering Inc.
LHC Group
Louisiana CAT
Louisiana Department of Transportation and
Development
LSU Health Sciences Center

Loyola University New Orleans - Office of Admissions
Marine Corps
Massman Construction Co.
Nalco Champion
Naval Oceanographic Office
Ochsner Health System
Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center
Packaging Corporation of America
Perficient
Right at Home
RoyOMartin
Sasol Corporation
Schlumberger
ServiceNow
Stuller, Inc.
Supreme Integrated Technology
T. Baker Smith
Techneaux Technology Services
Tenaris

The Integration Group of Americas, Inc.
The Lemoine Company, LLC
The University of Mississippi
Graduate School
Tulane University Freeman
School of Business
U.S. Army
U.S. Navy
U.S. Geological Survey Wetland and
Aquatic Research Center
UL Lafayette Graduate School
UL Lafayette MBA Program
UL Lafayette Study Abroad Programs
Unum
USDA
Weatherford
Weeks Marine, Inc.
Westlake Chemical
Womack

Day 2: Wednesday, September 25 - Business, Arts & Liberal Arts - General Day

Acadiana Broadcasting Group
Acadiana Cane Cutters
Aerotek
AFLAC
Air Force Reserve
Alexandria Police Department
AMERISAFE
Arsement, Redd & Morella, LLC
Atlanta Regional Census Center - RCC
Becker Professional Education
BETA Land Services, LLC
Burns & Wilcox
CGI
Cintas
City Year
Cleco Corporate Holdings, LLC
Crest Industries, LLC
Darnell, Sikes, & Frederick CPAs
Delta Media Corporation

Drug Enforcement Administration
Enterprise Holdings
Gallagher
Hillcorp Energy Company
Home Furniture Plus Bedding
IDEA Public Schools
JCFA - Lafayette Charter High School
KATC
Keller Williams Realty Acadiana
Knowtice
La Farm Bureau Insurance Company
Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office
LHC Group
Louisiana Legislative Auditor
Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions
Louisiana State Police
LSU Law Center
LSU Health Sciences Center

Louisiana USSSA
Loyola University New Orleans - Office of Admissions
Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
M&A Safety Services
Marine Corps
Mississippi College School of Law
Nalco Champion
Nexstar Broadcasting - KLFY News 10
Nicholls State University
Northwestern Mutual
Ochsner Health System
Pedelahore & Co., LLP
Pelican State Credit Union
PepsiCo
Postlethwaite & Netterville
Republic Finance
Republic National Distributing Company
Sherwin-Williams Company

Southern University Law Center
State Farm
Stuller, Inc.
The Orchard Foundation
The Reynolds Company
The University of Mississippi Graduate School
Tides Medical
Tulane University Freeman School of Business
U.S. Army
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
UL Lafayette College of Education
UL Lafayette Department of Accounting
UL Lafayette Graduate School
UL Lafayette MBA Program
UL Lafayette Study Abroad Programs
Unum
Vermilion Behavioral Health Systems
Waffle House, Inc.

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Review conceptual, preliminary and final elements of deep water operation plans.

Investigate offshore incidents, prepare reports and make recommendations.

Perform reservoir studies through mathematical simulation, material balance calculations and other analytical methods.

Analyze pipeline and structure design and installation.

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Allons



AFRICAN-AMERICAN

Candace Owens' appearance threatens equality, diversity



Graphic by Cole Broussard

Elliot Wade

AFRICAN-AMERICAN COLUMNIST

I'm sure that you've heard the old saying about how you are the company you keep. Although members of the Republican Party have tried to denounce accusations of racism and white supremacy publicly, how much does this do if they are still held in high esteem by white supremacists?

In recent years, the Anti-Defamation League has reported a rise in anti-semitic incidents and white nationalists groups have increased their presence on college campuses. We've experienced this firsthand at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and we have had multiple incidents over the past few years of known white supremacist and white nationalist groups, attempting to recruit on campus and to intimidate The Vermilion by flying our building with their propaganda posters and stickers.

The university has stated more than once that diversity and unity are part of the fabric of this campus, so naturally, I was shocked to learn that the university is allowing someone who has been cited as an inspiration to the New Zealand gunman, has publically minimized the actions of Hitler and has denied the rise of white supremacy in the wake of the Unite the Right rally.

Those comprise just the tip of the iceberg of controversy that Candace Owens has found herself in over the past few years. Candace Owens has been a member of the Turning Point USA team up until this year, an organization that has also aligned itself with the likes of Ben Shapiro and Milo Yiannopoulos.

Although Turning Point USA claims its mission is to "identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government," the organization has been in hot water not only for the actions of now-former staff members, but of some of their members. Both the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League have expressed concerns about Turning Point USA and has documented their relationships with white nationalists and other far-right groups, such as the Proud Boys. Members of TPUSA have also been reported

One notable incident was when a leaked conversation between Crystal Clanton, who served as the group's national field director for five years, and another Turning Point employee which read "I hate black people. Like f*** them all ... I hate blacks. End of story." Clanton was explicitly praised in the book of Turning Point USA's founder, saying she had been "the best hire we ever could have made," and that "Turning

Point needs more Crystals; so does America." Turning Point has also been accused of meddling in student elections on campuses, and illegally utilizing its student resources to interfere with the 2016 election.

Is this the kind of person we want to host at our university? Though she has stepped down from her position at the organization, Candace Owens has stated she will still be participating in their speaking engagements, which is what will be bringing her to our university on Wednesday.

Mark Mallory, a graduate student in history here at UL, has taken the extra step to denounce Owens' presence on campus by forming the Student Action and Organizing Committee (S.A.O.C), a group to watchdog extremism on out campus. A press release from S.O.A.C states:

"Many statements made and positions advocated for by Owens, as well as her connection to the rightwing student organization Turning Point USA. Owens has denied the overwhelming scientific consensus around global Climate Change, calling it 'a lie.' Owens has referred to Transgender identity as 'a mental disorder'. Owens continues to normalize and defend nationalism and far-right extremism through statements such as 'If Hitler just wanted to make Germany great and have things run well - OK, fine.'"

"Owens has defined her public career through ignorance, misinformation, intellectual dishonesty, and bigotry towards others. We believe Owens's career and statements constitute ongoing normalization of violence against racial and ethnic minorities and against LGBTQ people. We also believe denying Climate Change is dangerous. This demonstration of solidarity is an opportunity for the community to intervene in the narratives of division, exclusion, and cynicism perpetuated by figures such as Owens."

S.O.A.C has reached out to the College Republicans and to the Dean of Students, Margarita Perez, and requested that the event be canceled, but there's been no updates at the time of writing this.

POLITICS

Threats to voting signify its importance

Christian Janes

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

For the past few weeks my writing theme has been focused on Louisiana's elections. I have been trying to cover the different facets of our election systems, the people running and the consequences of certain outcomes. This week I will be killing two birds with one stone and talking about election systems and their outcomes.

I recently came across two stirring quotes that I feel really put into perspective an individual's role in politics and more specifically what it should mean to you to vote. The first quote is one I think to have come from Pericles, which says "You may not be into politics, but politics is into you."

The freedoms you enjoy enumerated in the Constitution are expected by all those eligible to be exercised freely. To not do so allows others to dictate who you are and what you can do without your input.

The other quote I think captures this attitude is a tweet from the Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles: "You're 'just not that into politics?' Your boss is. Your landlord is. Your insurance company is. And every day they use their political power to keep your pay low, raise your rent, and deny you coverage. It's time to get into politics."

Your individual contribution to politics may seem small, ineffectual and meaningless, but it is anything but. The power of the people comes from the people not a person, and the more that individuals quit participating, the more the powerful usurp the people.

The picture I hope to be painting here is that getting into politics and changing your community for what you believe is your right, but more importantly it is your responsibility. The most basic way in which to carry out that responsibility is through voting.

However, those in powerful positions know that this is an immense check on them, so they have ways of suppressing the voices of those who dissent to their views. Gerrymandering is one of these ways to suppress opposition voices and boost supporting ones, and it comes in many forms. Whether it be partisan gerrymandering, racial gerrymandering, or even the oxymoronic bi-partisan gerrymandering, each serves to make democracy that much harder for those who want to wield it.

I have written an article explaining how different types of gerrymandering works, so won't go into detail here, but for a more in-depth examination of the different types and how they work, I suggest reading about it on fairvote.org.

Next year is 2020, which is a census year. States are constitutionally mandated to reshape their legislative districts every ten years when the census is taken. For many states, including Louisiana, this is done through the legislature.

This means two things. One, it means that the legislatures in Baton Rouge will be drawing all districts, including their own. And two, it means that those who we elect in October this year will have the final say for how much our vote matters in 2022 and until 2032. This is a scary thought if you happen to not agree with the ruling party, or are a minority that has historically and continually been disenfranchised in this state.

Things like this won't change unless we force change. We need to be extremely vigilant about what district lines the party leaders in Baton Rouge come up with, and we need to petition for a fairer system of voting, district reshaping or both. By ceding power from the legislature to a bi-partisan or nonpartisan independent commission, like those in Idaho, Arizona or California, or changing our voting system to a proportional one, such as in Maine, we remove the power to control and corrupt by minimize it though fair voting.

When voting this election, remember that you won't just be voting on the issues of the day, you will be voting on how you want your future ballots to count and how you will want to be represented in future elections. It's time to get into politics.

POLITICS

Trump's wall not being built in his presidency, may be a waste of time

Brett Smith

POLITICAL COLUMNIST

A couple of years ago when Donald Trump announced his intent to put up a wall on the United States-Mexico border, it seemed outlandish. Not any more outlandish than some other presidential ideas, but outlandish enough to garner attention. Then he said he would have Mexico pay for it. That brought it from outlandish to impossible.

That is what we are seeing today. The wall is being built in some small way, with pieces of fence being repaired and small sections of new wall being built, but it is nowhere near the feat of ambition and engineering Trump wanted it to be.

Some within his supporters may see this as a reason to elect him again, to follow through on his plan, while others may see this as a reason to leave the support group and find someone who will make promises just a bit more believable.

The first article I ever wrote for The Vermilion was about the wall, and it feels nice to come full circle and be speaking about it again. What is a shame is how my thoughts on it have changed so drastically since that time.

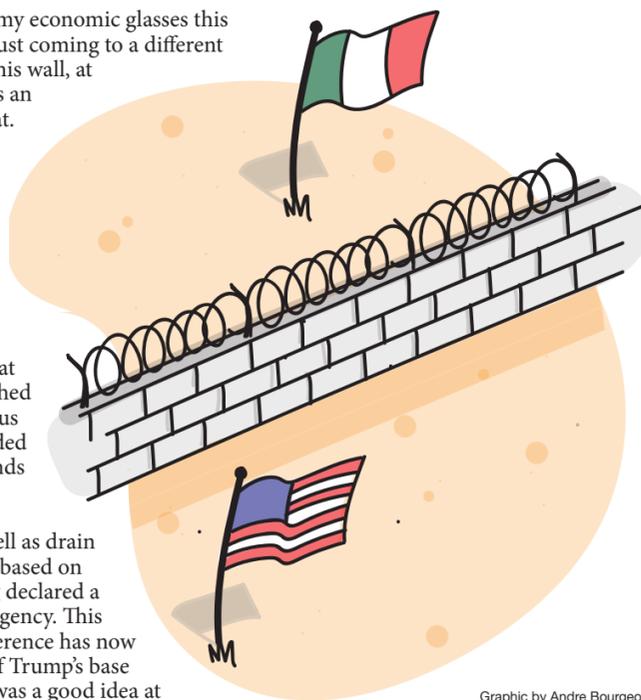
Originally, I put away the symbolism and emotional weight of a border wall and I put my focus on an economic point of view. It was estimated to not cost much, and controlled immigration is not a bad thing for a country to have. It keeps our black market labor lower and typically keeps our legal immigrants standard wage much higher.

I've put on my economic glasses this time as well, just coming to a different conclusion. This wall, at inception, was an impossible feat. Now, we are sinking our money into a hole with no real bottom. Or more fittingly, a wall with no real end.

To fund what has been finished on the wall thus far, we've needed to transfer funds from military community projects, as well as drain some income based on the wall being declared a national emergency. This money transference has now asked many of Trump's base whether this was a good idea at all.

The way that Mexico is treated, has always been treated, is despicable. So it's easy for the half of the American populace to want a wall to be paid for by them. When you start digging into their own pockets, things change. When you start asking them to choose between their military and immigration, heads split and it's no longer easy.

The Mexican-American population has had it hard in this country from its inception. This is unfortunately another painting in the tapestry of that hard life,



Graphic by Andre Bourgeois

and I wish it weren't. If I take off my economic glasses, it's a shame. A real shame. Because this isn't an economic choice.

This is a choice fueled by fear. A choice fueled by contempt and misunderstanding. A choice that, if completed, the American people will look back on with regret. If we understand that soon, maybe we'll be able to correct our mistakes before they become an even bigger mark on America's history.

SOUNDING OFF

What is your favorite place to eat on campus and why?



David Richards
ORGANIZATIONAL CMCN Junior

“Chick-fil-A, because it is all we have.”



Ben Rhone
PUBLIC RELATIONS Senior

“McAlister’s, because the employees show love to me. They know me by name and my sandwich.”



Antonio Cacho
CRIMINAL JUSTICE Freshman

“Zeus, because greek salads are big yummy.”



Jack Ellis
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION Sophomore

“Chick-fil-A, because Popeyes’ chicken sandwich is trash.”



Hannah Gremillion
KINESIOLOGY Sophomore

“Zeus is my favorite place to eat on campus because it is authentic greek food and it is delicious.”



Madeline Lacombe
INTERIOR DESIGN Freshman

“Zeus is my favorite because I really enjoy foreign food and this is the only place on campus. Plus, I love greek food.”

Sounding Off is a section devoted to the voice of students. Views expressed in Sounding Off do not reflect those of UL Lafayette administrators, faculty, staff or other students.

Photos and interviews by Brian Tran.

LGBT

Evan Bergeron: Gay and ready for election

Morri Sampey
ALLONS EDITOR

Last week I wrote about LGBT political figures of the past. This week, I want to discuss one of the future. Evan Bergeron can be described as many things: gay, Catholic, dog-owner, but now he’s also a figure of hope for many LGBT people living in New Orleans.

Bergeron aims to become the newly elected Louisiana Legislator for New Orleans’ District 98.

Bergeron grew up in the Louisiana small town Pierre Part. At age seventeen, right out of highschool, Bergeron worked at the Louisiana State Senate. From there, he attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

When asked about the time of his coming out, Bergeron describes it as “complicated”. Like many LGBT people I know, rather than coming out to the world all at once, it was a slow journey of coming out to close friends and family and then his work environment. The process began around the age of 21 and lasted about 10 years.

“As it relates to my close friends, I think it was just really a cathartic experience of being around other people who were living open and out, and recognizing that I was no longer capable of keeping it inside and secret,” Bergeron said.

As for how his openness is affecting his campaign, he is pleased with the reception it’s been getting.

“So far it’s only been positive, which I’m very thankful for,” Bergeron said. “I’ve gotten a lot of support from the LGBT community, but also from allies, and that’s been very reassuring.”

However, he does acknowledge the possibility of homophobia in the future.

“I recognize that this is the honeymoon period, and that the campaign is still early when you think about it — we’re 28 days from election day — and I don’t know if my opponents see me as a threat yet, but I fully recognize that there is a very good possibility that homophobia will rear its ugly head either in the campaign at some point or once I’m elected,” Bergeron said. “I fully expect some bad apples will try to use it against me, but I’m not going to let them.”

I’m sure some politicians aim for their spot in government for a majority of reasons, fame, money or power to

name a few, but Bergeron said he only wants one thing.

“Honestly, it’s because I want to be able to do the most good for the most people,” Bergeron said.

“I see how I can be a voice of good in our state. The government can help people — that’s the purpose of government, to help the most people in the most way — and the best way for me to do that is to be a lawmaker.”

Bergeron said one issue he’d like to tackle if elected is getting teachers “the pay that they deserve,” along with helping the flooding in New Orleans.

“Any time there’s a hard rain in New Orleans, somebody floods, and one thing I want to do is go to Baton Rouge and not only secure more resources, but secure more resources in order to modernize our pumping and draining system,” Bergeron said. “That’s just a short term fix; that’s a bandaid. We need someone who can go to Baton Rouge and acknowledge that we have a climate change problem and figuring out a way to fix the problem and reduce our carbon footprint.”

Finally, Bergeron spoke about the message it would send if he were elected.

“As it relates to the LGBT community, when I’m elected, it’ll say ‘You have a place in this state. You are worthy of happiness. There is nothing wrong with you. You are a part of this as much as anyone else,’” Bergeron said.

Bergeron also said his election would make a point about qualifications. He said it would show that qualifications actually matter, and the people who are qualified for that job will get that job.

The last thing Bergeron spoke about is millennials.

“A third, kind of subsidiary message, is that the millennial generation is here and ready to make decisions and start fixing the mess that was created by our predecessors,” Bergeron said.

“I mean, we’ve seen in Louisiana, the generations before us who have absolutely decimated higher education in Louisiana, who have caused the student loan crisis, who have caused the mortgage crisis and the housing crisis, to say ‘You did your best, older generation, but we’re here now and we’re going to take control and we’re going to fix your mess.’

“To quote ‘The Hunger Games,’ ‘I volunteer as tribute.’ I’m volunteering to be part of that group and to get our state back to where it would be.”

MUSIC

JPEGMAFIA defines cutting edge hip-hop

Timothy Ledet
MUSIC COLUMNIST

The current trends of hip-hop do not interest Baltimore-based rapper and producer JPEGMAFIA in the slightest.

With his new album, “All My Heroes Are Cornballs,” JPEG walks further down the road of fringe, threading together smooth soundscapes and modulated interruptions to create a confusing but satisfying listening experience.

“All My Heroes Are Cornballs” is a barrage of motifs both aggressive and silly. With song titles like “Jesus Forgive Me, I Am A Thot” and “Grimy Waifu,” it’s hard to tell how seriously JPEG takes himself.

This is exemplified in the marketing for the release of the album, which revolved around disappointment. The initial album trailer featured dozens of artists from Tierra Whack to James Blake criticizing “All My Heroes Are Cornballs” for being an “unlistenable piece of garbage.”

Is this the case? For the common hip-hop listener, perhaps. The album is unforgiving in its oddities. JPEG indulges in abrasive sound bites and violent subject matter, often presented alongside soft vocals and gentle instrumentals.

The album does tend to drift into sonically dark areas as well, although not nearly as much as his previous album, the 2018 “Veteran.”

“Veteran” melded experimental and industrial hip-hop into manic sound collages, a style he largely carries over onto this new record, except with more digestible sound palettes.

“All My Heroes Are Cornballs” starts off with three low-key but poignant tracks. In particular, the excellently titled “Beta Male Strategies” encapsulates everything interesting about JPEG’s off-kilter style of hip-hop.

The song is carried by a slow, brooding beat with a repeating vocal sample setting a notably haunting tone. Topically, JPEG

sets his sights on those willing to criticize and fanaticize music over the internet in a fashion they wouldn’t in person. As he aptly puts it, “Say what you said on Twitter right now / you only brave with a board and a mouse.”

The message here is certainly serious, but the manner JPEG taunts his nay-sayers will make you feel like pointing and laughing at them with him.

This duality between humor and seriousness is prevalent through the entire record, particularly in tracks like “Grimy Waifu” and “Thot Tactics”. Even with song titles that are difficult to take seriously, there’s a tremendous amount of truth as JPEG laments about the nature of his fanbase, the music industry and his newfound success.

The realities haunting JPEG are never far away from the zaniness sprinkled all over the album. He casually laments on the title track of the album “Uh, damn, guess who had a big year? / No whips, no chains, just a few tears.”

Although the success of “Veteran” brought him forward into the hip-hop limelight and freed him of financial burden, he still uses his music as catharsis. In fact, JPEG has very unabashedly opened up about the depression he felt during the creation of “All My Heroes Are Cornballs.”

As explained in a conversation with James Blake, although he wanted to form something resembling “happy music,” he couldn’t escape creating music that “just sounds like death.”

This sentiment is strongly reflected in the album. The most melodic and beautiful moments here are almost always accompanied by something jarring. Because of this, “All My Heroes Are Cornballs” is an exciting, but complex and hard-to-grasp record.

One thing is for certain: Nothing else released this year sounds like this album. Adventurous listeners will find plenty of reward in this eclectic and stellar experimental hip-hop project.