

# THE VERMILION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 November 17, 2021

## UL Lafayette changes COVID-19 vaccination policy for faculty, staff

**Amelia Jennings**  
MANAGING EDITOR

On Nov. 5, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette released a statement regarding vaccinations on campus.

According to the email that was sent out, all employees of the university must receive a COVID-19 vaccine by Jan. 4 2022. This was updated from the original date of Dec. 8 of this year.

“Initial guidance stated that two weeks must have elapsed since your final dose prior to the deadline to ensure you were fully vaccinated. The new guidance states you must receive your final vaccination dose – either the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson – by Jan. 4.” the email reads.

This includes student workers and graduate students as well.

“The process to comply with the federal executive order is separate from the one student workers and graduate assistants followed earlier this semester. As such, student workers and graduate assistants must follow the process outlined below regardless of whether they provided proof of their COVID-19 immunization or completed and submitted the Exemption From Immunizations Declaration form,” the email says.

The university, as a federal contractor, must comply with the executive order

released by President Biden.

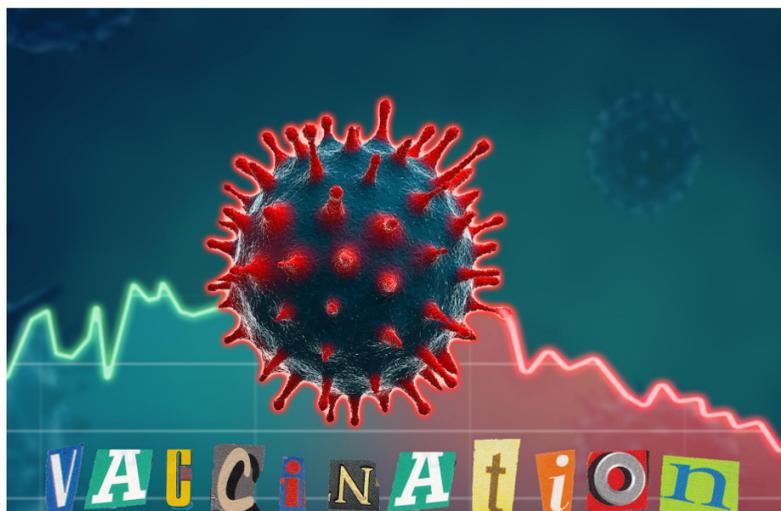
According to section one of the executive order, “Accordingly, building on these actions, and in light of the public health guidance regarding the most effective and necessary defenses against COVID-19, I have determined that to promote the health and safety of the Federal workforce and the efficiency of the civil service, it is necessary to require COVID-19 vaccination for all Federal employees, subject to such exceptions as required by law.”

However, the order does allow for exemptions for disabilities which must be filled out by a medical professional.

“If a medical exemption is requested, Student must return the completed Vaccine Exemption Physician Certification Form (attached) to Student Health Services at Patient Portal,” reads the Request For Exemption from Immunizations form.

A sincerely held religious exemption may also be requested.

“In compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the University prohibits employment discrimination based on religion and will provide reasonable accommodation to eliminate conflict for an individual’s sincerely held religious beliefs or practices unless providing such accommodation would pose an undue hardship, or cause



Graphic by Malik Jones / the Vermilion

more than a minimal burden on the University’s business operation. Social, political, or economic philosophies, or personal preferences, are not religious beliefs or practices protected under Title VII,” reads the Religious Accommodation Request Form.

The email also gives dates for which the vaccine needs to be taken, depending on which one is received.

“Tuesday, Dec. 7, for the first dose of the Moderna vaccine. Tuesday, Dec. 14,

for the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Tuesday, Jan. 4, for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine,” the email reads.

Employees who do not comply will be placed on leave from the university.

“Noncompliant employees will not be permitted to work on campus. Staff members will be placed on unpaid leave. Faculty members will be placed on paid suspension or unpaid leave per the Faculty Handbook,” the email update released on Nov. 9 says.

## UL magazine La Louisiane set to continue production with new issue releasing 2022

**Adhamm Safford**  
NEWS WRITER

After a pause in production, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s magazine, La Louisiane, will be putting out another issue in 2022.

La Louisiane is the yearly university-run magazine that highlights the accomplishments of the university, its students, its alumni and its faculty.

According to Jennifer Stephens, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications, the magazine covers a wide range of topics that people involved with the university would want to know about.

“We think about students. We think about alumni. We think about donors. We think about community members, legislators, what is important for all those groups to know about the institution,” she said. “We have an athletics feature. We have different academic features. So we go through and try to get the best of the best of what’s happening at the institution.”

She spoke on the importance of La Louisiane, and how it helps to highlight

UL Lafayette’s accomplishments.

“There are all these different things that are occurring, and people who shape the future of the university need to understand the value that it brings,” Stephens said.

The last issue of La Louisiane was produced in Fall 2019. It featured stories such as the university’s collection of preserved crustaceans being transferred to the Smithsonian, UL Lafayette being selected by NASA to develop a biorefinery system to supply water and air for future missions on Mars and a highlight of the university’s Campus Cupboard, which provides food and groceries to students in need.

The magazine has both a faculty editor and a student editor, who work together to decide what stories will be featured in the issue. Faculty, undergraduate and graduate students are involved in various aspects of the production.

“They are very much in the mix and receive assignments and have an opportunity to impact and shape all of the activities that are happening,” said Stephens.

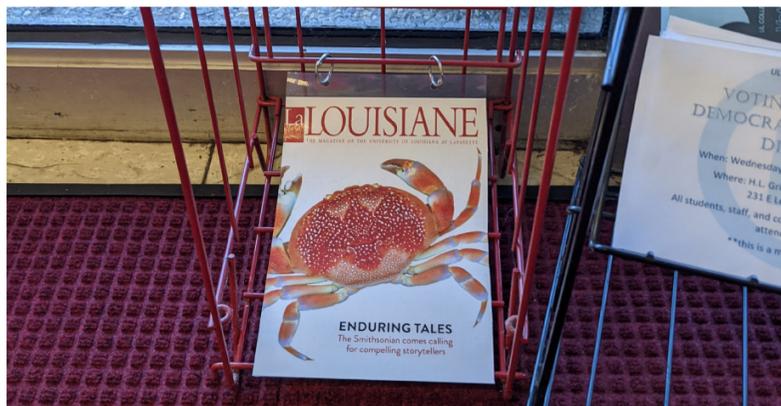


Photo by Malik Jones / The Vermilion

Production of La Louisiane took a short break after the release of the Fall 2019 issue due to the retirement of an editor and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic soon after.

“If it had not been for COVID, we would have never paused the production of the magazine. It’s kind of a jewel, it’s such a great feature for us,” Stephens said.

The magazine is set to return to production, with the next issue due out

in 2022.

“We’re already in the planning phases for the 2022 publication,” said Stephens. “We have a new editor as of September 2021, and so we’ve done a good bit of planning. But we’ll have an issue each year moving forward.”

Once the next issue is produced, it’ll be available at different locations around campus for students to take without any additional fee.

## UL COVID-19 dashboard reports 4 new cases last week, university total at 1300

**Amelia Jennings**  
MANAGING EDITOR

There were four new COVID-19 cases among students, faculty and staff at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette during the week of Oct. 30, according to the university’s COVID-19 dashboard

on Nov. 15.

According to the dashboard as of Monday at 5:13 p.m., the university reported that 244 students and 262 faculty and staff members contracted the virus, and 794 students have told the university they’ve tested positive. This means there have been a total of 1,300 cases among students, faculty and staff at

UL Lafayette.

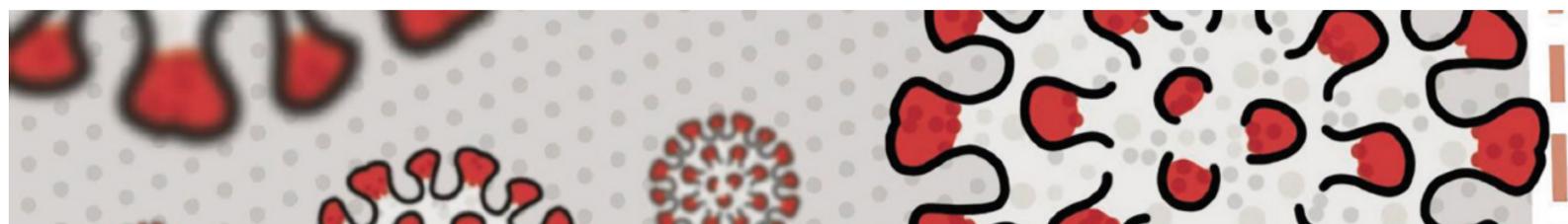
Confirmed positive tests include tests taken by Student Health Services and UL Lafayette Athletics, as well as tests submitted to the university’s human resources department by faculty, staff and student workers. Self-reported tests were taken by off-campus health care providers. Students in this category

sent their results to the dean of students themselves, according to the dashboard.

As of Monday, the dashboard displays total positive tests since Jan. 4, 2020.

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

Follow The Vermilion on Twitter @TheVermilion for more updates



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# First generation college students recognized with week of events on UL Lafayette campus

**Brittany Lejeune**  
NEWS WRITER

First generation college students were recognized for an entire week with the First2Geaux celebration at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. This was an opportunity for all students on campus to self-identify as first-generation students and participate in the events that recognized their achievement.

Cheydon Woods, a member of the planning committee for the First2Geaux celebration, described the week.

"First2Geaux celebration is a national celebration that happens on campuses at both four year and two year universities across the country to celebrate students who are either the first to attend a university or the first to complete a four year or two year degree in their family including their parents and their siblings," Woods said.

The First2Geaux celebration was full of different types of events that students could participate in and the university basketball game that took place during the week was dedicated to the First2Geaux students. Finally, the week ended with dessert at the Student Union to finish off the celebration.

There was also an ongoing social media campaign and Twitter chat that allowed students to show their pride and support for first-generation students.

Among the students that are first in their family to attend college were students Hailey Langlois, a moving image arts major, and Brandon Richardson, a business administration major, who are working toward their bachelor's degrees at UL Lafayette.

"I decided to attend college in order to set myself up to have access to any opportunity the world brought me. I wanted to have a degree in order to support my career choice," Langlois said. "My major is moving image arts with a concentration in visual arts. My goal for graduation is to graduate with a 3.5 GPA or higher with an internship lined up."

Many first-generation students have set high goals for themselves and find the motivation to graduate and complete

their degree from their families and backgrounds.

"The main reason I wanted to attend college was because I wanted to gain financial independence for me and my future family," Richardson said. "Thankfully, I was offered a generous scholarship offer, and in my opinion, you miss 100% of the chances you don't take."

First-generation students are completing a new undertaking that can be difficult not only for them, but other students as well. Navigating the process of different requirements such as financial aid or scheduling classes can be challenging.

First-generation students may struggle with finding support and other people with experience to assist them. However they can connect with their professors and access the free resources on campus to receive guidance and answers to their questions.

"The biggest challenge I faced was not having someone to turn to when I needed advice because I didn't know many people who went to college. However, using resources on campus and rushing a fraternity I was able to connect with other people who dealt with the same issues with college that I was. I found a support group of like minded individuals thanks to the men of Lambda Chi Alpha at UL," Richardson said.

The university wants first-generation students to succeed and acknowledge their hard work and progress. Graduating college is a milestone that students are accomplishing not only for them but also for their families and future.

"It means a lot to me and my family because I am achieving something that they were never able to because life got in the way. I am putting all of their sacrifices to good use and it was their dream for me to graduate," Langlois said.

For first-generation students completing their degree is something they are proud to achieve. First2Geaux allows the opportunity for these students to be recognized, supported and express their pride to be the first in their family to achieve this accomplishment.

## Police Reports

Compiled by Adhamm Safford

### Nov. 15

- At 9:35 a.m., a fire was reported at Cajun Village. The fire and police departments responded.

### Nov. 13

- At 6:31 p.m., a theft was reported at the UL Alumni House of a leather purse containing a wallet, various cards, a license and \$140 in cash.

### Nov. 12

- At 11:20 p.m., a vehicle was reported driving around near the fountain in the Quad.

### Nov. 10

- At 6:53 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Hilton Garden Inn in reference to someone refusing to leave after being asked to several times.
- At 8:00 a.m., a collision occurred between a gray 2019 Chevrolet Colorado and a 2011 John Deere Gator 4x2.

### Nov. 9

- At 9:50 a.m., someone reported her gray 2021 Kia Forte was involved in a hit-and-run at Legacy Park.
- At 5:13 p.m., someone reported his black and blue Nishiki bicycle was stolen from Harris and Bonin Halls.



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# University Program Council hosts silent disco for students following all COVID-19 guidelines

**Lena Foster**  
NEWS DIRECTOR

The University Program Council (UPC) will be hosting their annual silent disco night on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom, at the time of writing on Nov. 15.

A silent disco is an increasingly popular event that colleges can host where students get the opportunity to listen to music through rechargeable, multi-channel headphones. Students have three options when it comes to the channels they can choose to listen to. These channels are controlled by members of UPC.

The COVID-19 school policy will be enforced during the event.

"Silent Disco night is kind of like an event we want to bring to students before finals week, to enjoy the atmosphere while still being safe in the comfort of others as well," Breana Stander, one of the entertainment coordinators for UPC, said.

According to Stander, the most effective way to ensure everyone gets a chance to participate in the event is with the shift system they have in place. Students will go in during a certain shift-time and once that time is up, the next round of students will be allowed in.

They will use colorized bands to help distinguish who belongs on what shift. After each shift, members of UPC will sanitize and charge the headphones for the next person.

Although some complications might come up such as some students not being able to come in with their friends during



Photo by Malik Jones / The Vermilion

A student poses for a photo at the silent disco held on April 14, 2021.

the same shift, UPC members plan to create an environment for everyone to still enjoy themselves.

According to Stander, if someone is alone or feeling uncomfortable, it's up to the UPC staff members to engage with that person and try to create a fun space.

"Our staff's responsibility is to make sure that everyone's comfortable," Stander said.

UPC encourages students to give

feedback on events like UPC's Silent Disco in order to see what type of activities students like and dislike.

Stander said whether it's more neon lights or changes to the music, UPC will continue to improve what's needed to create events for the students.

According to Stander, the staff are working to have the event every semester, however, because it is one of the most requested, they don't want to exhaust it

too much to where students are no longer excited for it.

"We don't want to have too many silent discos in one semester or in a one-year setting," Stander said, "We don't want it to be played out being that it's such a popular event, and people actually do enjoy it."

In order to get into the event, students will need their Ragin' Cajun card to get credits for participating.

## THE VERMILION

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## SUBMISSIONS

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# Sports

## Sun Belt Conference expansion brings new challenges to UL Ragin' Cajuns

Zachary Nagy  
SPORTS WRITER

As the major conferences in collegiate athletics continue to realign, the Sun Belt has seen an incredible amount of interest from talented programs. With Power Five schools making significant changes, it has trickled down to the smaller programs as well.

Breaking down the Sun Belt Conference, we've already seen the committee accept four new schools into the mix: Southern Miss, Marshall, Old Dominion and James Madison. All four of which are talented in their respective sports.

Let's break down each and what they offer to the conference that our Cajuns just-about run:

For Southern Miss, they bring talent to the table. Whether it be in football, basketball, baseball or any major sport, they compete at the highest level. The most important sport moving to the Sun Belt, for them, is their baseball program.

Their baseball program is notoriously productive and with the Ragin' Cajuns historically running the Sun Belt in baseball, it'll be a nice adjustment having a true competitor in the Southern Miss Golden Eagles.

Sun Belt Conference Commissioner Keith Gill showed his gratitude for the addition of Southern Miss during their expansion conference in late October.

"We are thrilled to welcome The University of Southern Mississippi

to the Sun Belt," Gill said. "Southern Miss brings a host of strengths to our conference. They are competitive across all of their sports, have a strong brand and are supported by a great fan base. The electric atmosphere surrounding their games is a tradition we are proud to now be a part of."

Moving onto Marshall, the addition of the Thundering Herd is just about as big as it gets for us. With just extraordinary football and soccer programs, throwing them into the mix makes this conference that much more competitive.

Leaving a truly overrated conference in Conference USA, it was time for Marshall to join a conference that has real competition. Accepting their invitation in late October, it showed they were ready to make the move and compete at the highest level.

Marshall provides a great fan base with talented athletic programs that can boost the Sun Belt to an even better standing.

The third team to accept an invitation to the Sun Belt is Old Dominion. Looking to grow their athletics to a higher level with greater competition, it seemed like a no brainer for the Monarchs to accept this invitation.

Transitioning their football program to the FBS level in 2014, now seemed like the best opportunity to make the jump.

Old Dominion provides excellent athletic teams with a great fan base to come along with it. The Sun Belt Conference is known for their passionate fans, so it seems like it's a given that Old



Graphic by Julia Mcdow / The Vermilion

Dominion will fit in perfectly.

"We are thrilled to welcome Old Dominion University to the Sun Belt," Gill said. "ODU brings a host of strengths to our conference. They are competitive across all of their sports, have a strong brand and are supported by a great fan base."

The final domino to fall in the Sun Belt expansion comes in James Madison University. Officially accepting their invitation in early November, the FCS powerhouse is ready to show they're prepared for brighter lights.

After winning the FCS national title in 2016 and reaching the championship game two more times since then, they'll begin their adjustment instantly. Their football program is exceptional,

consistently being at the top of the totem pole, but the addition of their other sports is something worth noting.

Competing in the Colonial Athletic Conference, it's sure to be a tough adjustment at first for them, but time will tell as they begin gaining more notoriety with the bigger programs.

With the addition of Southern Miss, Marshall, Old Dominion and James Madison, the Sun Belt Conference now totals 16 teams, making them one of the largest among all active conferences in the country.

These four schools will begin competing in the Sun Belt Conference no later than July 1, 2023 as they begin their transition period.

## Unusual week in NFL season: Josh Allen outplays Josh Allen in Jaguars vs. Bills

Isaac Henry  
SPORTS WRITER

On Nov. 7, during Week 9 of the NFL season, the Buffalo Bills, in a close race for the lead of their division, flew to Jacksonville to play the Jaguars, who carry one of the worst records in the NFL. The Bills proceeded to lose 9-6. No touchdowns were scored by either team in an absolutely atrocious display of offense.

Out of the ashes of this mess came a record that well may stand the test of time for decades. The Bill's star quarterback, Josh Allen, was pressured all game by the Jags' front four, allowing four sacks. One of those crucial sacks came courtesy of a 6'5", 262 pound edge rusher also named Josh Allen, a Jaguars defender who was selected to the NFL Pro Bowl his rookie season. This marks the first time since 1982, when sacks became an official statistic, that a player has sacked another player of the same name.

The Bills' Allen also put up his worst QB rating of the year so far at 62.7, mostly attributable to his turnovers: two interceptions and a lost fumble. His second interception was an errant throw out of a sack late in the third quarter,



Photo via NBC Sports

Josh Allen vs Josh Allen at the Buffalo Bills vs Jaguars game, Nov. 7, 2021.

which landed right in the hands of a lurking Josh Allen. His lone fumble, coming in Jags' territory with a potential game-winning drive on the line, was recovered by—you guessed it—Josh Allen.

Meanwhile, in Cincinnati, quarterback Baker Mayfield and company did what they do best: destroy the Bengals. Mayfield ended the day 14 of 21 for 218 yards and two touchdowns, good for a QB rating of 132.6, his best so

far this season. Running back Nick Chubb rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns on just 14 carries for a mind-boggling 9.79 yards per attempt.

Mayfield's record improves to 6-1 in his favor against the Bengals. This pair have had some of their best career games against the Bengals, including a five touchdown, 297 yard game last year from Mayfield on nearly 80% completion. Chubb has had four different 100-plus rushing yard games against Cincinnati.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from this game is the player who didn't show up for Cleveland: star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.

Beckham was released Friday, Nov. 5 amid a very disruptive controversy sparked by his father. Beckham Sr. complained on social media about his son's lack of targets, resulting in the Browns excusing him from multiple practices and Beckham allegedly telling his head coach that he no longer wanted to be on the team.

Beckham has not had double-digit targets in a game since week one of the 2020 season; for reference, Jarvis Landry, widely considered the "WR2" in Cleveland, saw 10 passes thrown his way just a week before Beckham's release.

The general consensus is that the quarterback, Mayfield, and the wide receiver, Beckham, were never on the same page to begin with. That five touchdown game mentioned above came during a stretch of games with Beckham sidelined due to injury. Many point blame at Mayfield for not finding an often-open Beckham, while others criticize Beckham for being a distraction to the team and not working with the Browns' offensive system.

## Ragin' Cajuns crush basketball season

Zachary Nagy  
SPORTS WRITER

The Ragin' Cajuns kicked off their 2021-22 men's basketball season against West Florida in a dominant fashion. With contributions from just about every player on the roster, it was a thrilling start to the season, toppling West Florida 81-47.

The main takeaway from the Nov. 9 opener was the play of Cajuns' big men Theo Akwuba and Arizona transfer Jordan Brown. The two were flawless in their action on the floor, putting up efficient numbers throughout.

"I thought we did a nice job of getting the ball inside early," UL Lafayette coach Bob Marlin said. "Jordan and Theo did a nice job around the goal for us shooting the ball. We shot a nice percentage in the first half."

The hometown hero and St. John's transfer, Greg Williams Jr., played sporadically in his first official game in the Cajundome, totaling five points and four rebounds. It'll be imperative for this team to let Williams get more volume as his game is extremely polished and ready for the bright lights. Coach Marlin

detailed his overall thoughts on Williams' debut and what else he'd like to see from the Lafayette native.

"I thought Greg Williams was really good tonight, too," Marlin said. "Greg did a real nice job from an overall standpoint in the game. Typical line for him. He was 1-for-1 from 3, didn't shoot it a lot, set other people up, had a couple assists, blocked a shot and just did a good job in his 15 minutes."

To close out the second half, Cajun fans had the chance to see a star in the making with Carencro stud Joe Charles. In limited action, Charles made his presence known on both ends of the floor, even hitting a few three-pointers in his debut.

In the blowout victory, Charles showed what he's capable of and made the most of his seven minutes of playing time. It was important for Coach Marlin to get him some time on the floor to get those first game jitters out of the way and boy did he maximize his opportunity.

"Joe's done so well I told the staff yesterday that I'm not against starting Joe," Marlin said. "He's been outstanding in practice. You saw him knock in those two 3's once he got the jitters out of the



Graphic by Danielle Kemp / The Vermilion

way. He's going to be a really good player."

Another exciting takeaway from Tuesday's game was the chance to see walk-on Kentrell Garnett get his first collegiate start. Totaling 10 points and getting others involved, the former Catholic High standout showed he's capable of playing in big-time minutes for Coach Marlin's squad.

Garnett has taken tremendous strides this offseason. The growth in his game is extremely evident and this Cajuns staff clearly sees him being a focal point in this

offense for the next few seasons.

The starting five of this Ragin' Cajuns team is lethal and as the bench continues getting a feel for their role on this squad, it's hard not to be excited about what this unit can do the rest of this season.

Coach Marlin's group will be back in action inside the Cajundome against Xavier (New Orleans) on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Follow The Vermilion on Twitter @TheVermilion for more updates

# Allons

## Aly & AJ newest album embraces new direction with laid-back atmosphere

Marie Ducote  
COLUMNIST

Over the summer, the sister duo Aly & AJ released their first album since 2007's "Insomniatic" called "A Touch of the Beat Gets You Up on Your Feet Gets You Out and Then Into the Sun." If Aly & AJ somehow sound familiar, it is probably from their 2007 hit "Potential Breakup Song." The music video was played heavily on Disney Channel, and the sisters were featured on many shows on the channel during that time.

Beginning a sort of comeback with two EPs, 2017's "Ten Years" and 2019's "Sanctuary," the sisters have regularly made new music.

Two stand-alone releases in 2020, "Attack of Panic" and "Joan of Arc on the Dance Floor," definitely have more electronic elements than the guitar-based and soft rock leanings of their most recent album. This change of sound shows that the sisters are not afraid to experiment in different genres.

This most recent album invokes a laid-back atmosphere. It is perfect for those days when you just want to drive around town with the car top down, listening to songs about love and heartbreak.

"Slow Dancing" is a heartbreaking ballad about lost love and wanting to go back to simpler things. "Move the kitchen table out to the lawn/Roll up the rug, the stereo's on/All I can imagine is bein' in your arms." The singers are nostalgic for a time when everything was perfect, and just want to be dancing with the one they love.

"Paradise" leans into the electronic elements of their previous work but still fits perfectly into the album's sound. The sisters' harmonizing is infused with a very heavy beat. The lyrics describe wanting to find their paradise, but wondering if "paradise" is enough, "Been through the fields and walked through the water/To find a place unlike our own/Cut through the trees and pushed even further/If we've arrived, how would we know?"



Graphic by Meg Norwood

"Listen!!!" includes the guitar skills and background vocals of the legendary Nancy Wilson of Heart. Wilson's signature guitar style infuses the track with a palpable sense of tension, complementing Aly & AJ's singing of anger and frustration. This frustration is heard in the lyrics, "I tried to empathize/ But you're so dismissive/Night after night/I expressed what I feared from the start/That your heart would never..." The narrator is tired of not being heard in their relationship and wants out.

"Don't Need Nothing" has this catchy hook that is repeated throughout, "A touch of the beat/Gets you up on your feet/Gets you out and then into the sun." I think it is very fitting that the album title comes from this song, and this phrase is the centerpiece of the album and ties everything together. "Don't Need Nothing" is a track that gets your feet tapping.

"Personal Cathedrals" paints this

narrative of boring parties and young love. The first verse includes, "Bleeding sunset on a desert view/A sea of cocktails but every drink is empty/Cold shoulders and bad perfume (Ooh,ooh)/ Ring the bell, it's a cattle call/You self-park too?/How did we end up on the edge of the infinity pool?/I won't jump in without you."

"This most recent album invokes a laid-back atmosphere. It is perfect for those days when you just want to drive around town with the car top down, listening to songs about love and heartbreak."

The entire song has this dreaminess to it, and this part of the chorus amplifies

that. "They treat these lonely dance floors/Like personal cathedrals/Even diamonds here don't shine." The story continues in the second verse with the narrator fed up at this party and just wants to be alone with their significant other, "I'm at my end here but I'm hanging on (Ooh,ooh)/All I can do is nod my head or play dead/Who's the fool celebrating who? Could this be any less cool?/You laugh and say I love you." I think the reason why this song is a favorite of mine is because of the storytelling that is woven through.

"A Touch of the Beat..." feels like a fresh start for the duo. All of us have changed quite a bit since 2007; Aly & AJ show us it is okay to enjoy some guilty pleasures from our time as young kids while looking forward and creating music for today.

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## 'Vagabond:' The story of a lost soul discovering what's truly important in life

Adhamm Safford  
COLUMNIST

A lot of action manga follow an almost-standard formula: there's a main character and he needs to get stronger because he wants to be the best in the world, or something similarly grand. Dragon Ball, Naruto, One Piece and countless others follow this formula. It's tried-and-true, and pretty hard to mess up.

But, it can be a little repetitive, especially for a manga that runs for a long time. The author just has to keep finding new ways to up the stakes and force the protagonist to be even stronger. That's the crux of all conflicts within these kinds of manga: the protagonist needs to figure out how to get stronger. But there's a manga that deconstructs that formula, and instead becomes about a man figuring out why he even wants to get stronger in the first place.

"Vagabond" by Takehiko Inoue is a fictionalized version of the story of real-life ronin Miyamoto Musashi, who was undefeated in 61 duels and became one of the most renowned swordsmen in Japan.

The story starts about the way you'd expect: a young Musashi decides that he wants to be the strongest in the world, "invincible under the sun." So he begins to travel throughout feudal Japan, dueling and beating people, and growing stronger and more experienced with each fight.

Throughout, there are small moments where this goal is briefly questioned. But, there's a specific point when it becomes

very clear that "Vagabond" is starkly different from the other manga of its kind.

Musashi eventually meets a man named Yagyu, a legendary samurai and the head of a clan. Musashi takes on an entire castle to get to him, but when he finds him, he's just an old man, ill and bed-ridden. He tries to kill Yagyu in his sleep, but he wakes up and manages to fend Musashi off while remaining in bed, and momentarily thinking that Musashi was his young nephew playing around.

"Musashi's journey towards being invincible is one born out of an all-consuming self-obsession, and it's only by confronting this that he's able to grow and mature."

Stunned, Musashi gives up, and asks Yagyu what it means to be "invincible." Yagyu's response makes Musashi storm out, and his words continue to echo long after the encounter. It's from these words that the entire theme and tone of the manga change.

"Invincible" is just a word."

From this point on, Musashi's entire journey is called into question. In trying to become invincible, he became entangled in a cycle of endless violence, cutting down everyone who stands in his way. But for what? What does he have to show for it?

This is amplified later on when he



Graphic by Allan Skinner

suffers a major injury during a fight. While other manga might have the character be in bed for a while and then just train even harder afterwards, "Vagabond" doesn't do that. Musashi is injured for the rest of the manga, forcing him to slow down. For a while, he can't even stand up.

He begins to consider what is truly important in life, what he really wants out of it. He talks about the idea of finding someone to settle down with and making a home he can always return to, instead of aimlessly wandering Japan looking for fights.

In a manga that was earlier on almost entirely about fighting, now Musashi

is forced to sit with his thoughts. And somehow, that's even more compelling than the thrilling battles that came before.

Musashi's journey towards being invincible is one born out of an all-consuming self-obsession, and it's only by confronting this that he's able to grow and mature. I think everyone, at some point in their lives, has to ask themselves the same question that Musashi does: what's the point of it all? It's important to take the time to ask yourself why you're doing the things that you are. You only have one life, one chance to live the way you truly want to.

### ATTENTION!

# THE VERMILION

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# UL student picks up issue of The Vermilion in first recorded instance

**Cole Broussard**  
DESIGN MANAGER

SATIRE — For what is likely the first time in recorded university history, a student has picked up a copy of The Vermilion at a newsstand in Griffin Hall.

The shocking, unexpected event took place on Friday, Nov. 12 at 3 p.m.

It was witnessed by one of the little orphan boys who hands out The Vermilion in busy thoroughfares shouting “Extra, extra! Read all about it!”

If his name wasn't so insignificant, we'd print it here.

Normally, these orphans go home penniless. Unable to buy rations of gruel for their aging families, they're often forced to lose fingers operating printing presses in The Vermilion's basement.

However with this recent development, our hungry, seven-fingered orphan can afford a loaf of bread with the Buffalo nickel given to him by the passing student.

The generous student, who wishes to remain anonymous, told The Vermilion that he was excited to become a part of university history. For over 100 years, students toiled away producing a paper that no one read. Now, everything has changed.

“Well, I didn't exactly read the paper. I needed something to hide the Scantrons I steal from the university bookstore, and The Vermilion was the perfect size,” the student said.

Following this news, the university



Graphic by Cole Broussard

issued a statement praising The Vermilion for the first time ever. The statement also announced that the public execution of The Vermilion's editorial staff has been postponed, which comes as a relief to some and a disappointment to others.

Staff writers know what they're signing up for when they join, and we're all prepared to lay down our lives in pursuit of the truth. For instance, if everything in this story wasn't 100% true, I'd be strapped to an electric chair waiting for Cayenne the Pepper to flip the switch

as we speak.

That's also why The Vermilion never makes any mistakes, ever. If you think you found a mistake and feel the urge to leave a comment on our social media, go right ahead. We're writing this stuff under the threat of painful death, and you're sitting on a toilet scrolling through Facebook. We are not the same.

The Vermilion's relationship with the university has always been tense. Ever since our founder, Eleanor B. Vermilion, was accused of witchcraft and tried for her crimes, university administration has

kept a watchful eye over the paper.

What they don't know is that Eleanor was actually a super witch, and that when she was sentenced to death, she cursed campus for always and eternity.

Today, we call that curse “UL Parking and Transit” or “The Office of Transportation Services.”

Hopefully, the fact that someone has picked up a copy of The Vermilion means that the curse is broken. And as more students become aware that we exist, the more powerful we shall become.

# Being who you are when other people have preconceived notions about you

**Amelia Jennings**  
MANAGING EDITOR

It is easy to feel unwanted when you change. When you no longer fit the narrative that others have created, and you stretch to bend the cardboard of your box, you might make those around you nervous. People don't like change, whether in themselves or in those that were once like them

I fall into two categories, both of whom pride themselves on acceptance, and yet have given me the biggest kicking.

I am a bisexual person and a Christian. And I gotta say, sometimes it sucks.

It feels like both groups have a hard time dealing with one part of me or the other, and while I know God loves me, and I have friends and family that love me, telling people these things is always nerve-racking to the core.

“Both Jesus and all of scripture approve of no other sexual union than that between a husband and wife. This is the uncontested historical teaching of Judaism and Christianity,” reads an article by Glenn Stanton, director of global family formation studies at Focus on the Family.

And maybe that's true. I am not going to say that it isn't, but I cannot believe that God made me the way I am and others of the LGBT community the way that they are so that they would have to live alone in celibacy or completely unhappy in a marriage built on non-attraction.

He also writes that all children deserve a mother and a father, and I will not argue with that completely, and instead say that children deserve both parents, and need maternal and paternal figures in their lives. This could be with aunts, uncles, grandparents etc.

I know wonderful and successful people who are the children of gay parents. I also

know people who grew up in a “normal” household who are in a very bad place right now.

I am a bit of a mess at the moment myself, and I would rather have my dad, but I had paternal figures in my life, and I think I am doing pretty well all things considered.

I do understand why my LGBT friends would be distrusting of me. Christians, like the man above, do not help to paint an image of love and acceptance.

I know people who have been abused in the name of God and I have heard horror stories about conversion therapy, so it is understandable why those walls would be put up.

However, not every Christian is like that, and such behavior is so unchristlike it is ridiculous. Think of the story of Mary Magdalene:

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” John 8:3-7.

This woman was a prostitute, but Jesus still loved her and warned those that were trying to hurt her that they were no more innocent than she. God does not go about hurting people for sinning. He has endless love and forgiveness, as should the rest of us for those around us.

Regardless as to whether gay sex is a sin or not (in my opinion it isn't, as



Graphic by Julia McDow

long as you are married) it isn't anyone else's business. It's between you and your Creator.

But what I am asking you to do, for me and those around you, is to open your mind to those who are different than yourself and listen, truly listen to what they have to say. That is one of the only ways to grow as a person, and help

devillainize those that you think are wrong.

Because of stigma, my life has been made more difficult than it needs to be, and it makes me want to be less of who I am. Am I going to be? No. But I still have that fear that I should be, and that isn't fair to anyone.

## THE VERMILION

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# SOUNDING OFF

“What is your biggest problem with UL?”



**Brett Guidry**  
MUSIC FRESHMAN

“The fact that I can’t use my DB at Chi Alpha.”



**Jafar Malahmeh**  
BIOLOGY FRESHMAN

“The cafeteria food can be improved.”



**Daland Lee**  
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN FRESHMAN

“The caf’ isn’t what it should be and the food court is low quality.”



**Spencer Vosloh**  
COMPUTER SCIENCE SENIOR

“There is not a big selection of food on campus, especially since Chick-fil-a closed down.”



**Stryder Husak**  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SOPHOMORE

“ULink is unintuitive. The website is confusing and difficult to use even after a year of using it.”



**Colin Lofton**  
MARKETING JUNIOR

“Currently it’s Chick-fil-a being closed in the food court. The bigger picture is issues around campus not being fixed in a timely manner.”

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Radio Acadie



## The Vermilion Voice

### A student-run podcast

### Hear this week’s headlines in audio form!

Available this Wednesday on most podcast platforms.  
(Coming soon to Spotify)

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 Malik Jones.