

THE VERMILLION

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UL Lafayette launches a new ULink site for more customizable user experience

Gabriella Enamorado

NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette launched the new ULink site on Feb. 5. The new ULink allows students to easily access topics such as registration and student schedules, and allows students to customize their ULink for easier access and a better experience.

The platform that the old ULink is on is being discontinued this year. Due to this, the university had rebuilt ULink on a new platform called Ellucian Experience. It was made into the Banner systems and many other systems across campus so that everything was in one place and was more easily accessible to students and employees.

Aimée Abshire, the senior director of web and digital strategy at UL Lafayette, said that the updated ULink gives students a chance to customize their experience and allows for a better experience.

“ULink gives students the power to customize their experience. They can hide cards on their homepage that they don’t use frequently, and add and organize the ones that they use most

often,” Abshire said. “It makes for a more effective user experience.”

UL Lafayette had help to make this new ULink for the university and the help was a strong partnership between IT and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

This team who created the new ULink for UL Lafayette had members of each office, which had brought expertise and a unique perspective to the making of the new ULink.

“Their goal was to provide a streamlined, customizable and user-friendly experience to campus,” said Abshire.

On the new ULink, there are boxes called cards. These cards can be moved and or removed from the students’ view depending on the needs of the student.

Students are also allowed to add cards to their ULink if needed. The customization of cards allows for students to access the cards and tasks that they use the most.

The cards allow students to access what they use more frequently while also having access to everything else that they may need.

The main goal of the new updated

ULink was for students and employees to be able to have a customizable experience that would make their overall experience better.

While the look of the new ULink may seem different, every link and box in the old ULink were recreated on the new ULink, so all of the information should look similar and familiar to users.

The discover or search feature on the new ULink makes this version of ULink easier to use which should be easier for students to access and navigate.

Knowing the main goal for what the IT and the Office of Communications and Marketing wanted to accomplish allowed for ideas to come together that would make access to the new ULink easier to navigate.

It’s also customizable and allows for students, employees and staff to have a better user experience than what they had experienced with the old ULink.

Last year, a survey was sent out across campus and there were over 800 responses about what students and employees did and did not like about the old ULink so that students and employees could give ideas for cards and layouts of the new ULink.

“We used the survey feedback to guide our work in the redesign. The number one request in the survey was customization,” said Abshire. “Before developing the new ULink, we conducted focus groups that included students, faculty, and staff to ask what they wanted to see and be able to do in the new ULink. They provided us with ideas for cards, layout, and overall design.”

Feedback is important when it involves a new and better experience for students and employees.

With that in mind, the new ULink was created with the input and guidance of the people on UL Lafayette campus that

need to access it daily for their work and studies.

Joshua Brown, a sophomore majoring in English with a concentration in professional writing likes being able to change the order of the cards on the new ULink.

“I think the ability to reorder the options is amazing and I do like that it’s more modern feel compared to the old one,” said Brown. “However, I do feel like it lost a bit of its charm? Which is a weird thing to complain about but it feels so much more bland to me. I’m sure with time I’ll come to like the new ULink more, but as of now, I think it sacrificed cohesion for convenience, but I definitely wouldn’t say it was a downgrade.”

With customization in mind due to student responses and input on the topic of the new ULink, it was added for students to create a space that allowed them to access things easier than before. Even though it is a bit different and will take time for students and employees to get used to, the main goal was for students to navigate ULink easier.

“The new ULink was created with the input and guidance of students. It is designed to provide you with a user-friendly way to engage with the University and complete important tasks in your student journey,” Abshire said.

The new updated ULink allows students to have a better experience in accessing important tasks while also allowing them to customize their ULink that helps make their experience better for them.

With these goals in mind, there will also be a mobile app, in companion to the new ULink which will be released in March. According to Abshire, it will provide campus with a customizable, mobile-friendly, and reliable ULink experience.

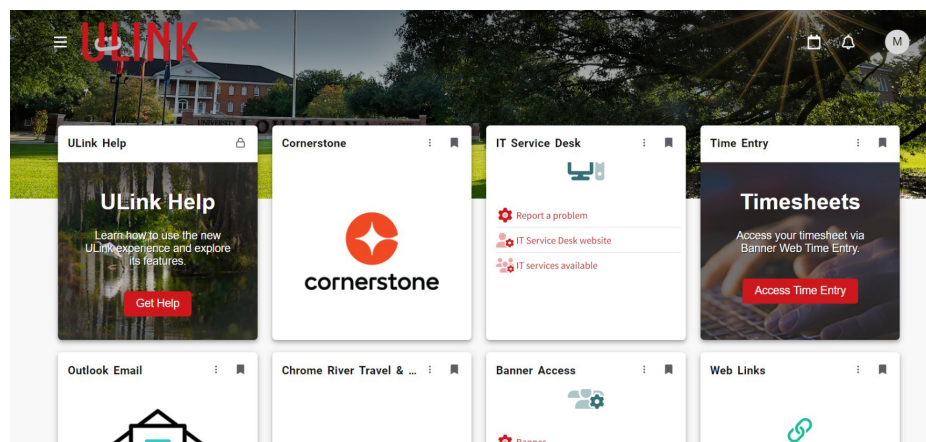


Photo by Morgan Parker

Screenshot of the new ULink website and its updated layout.

UL Lafayette faculty and students share their strategies for developing a self-care routine

Ramudhi Kariyawasam

NEWS WRITER

Paper after paper, exam after exam, projects, reports, quizzes, meetings, work, it never ends. With each tomorrow, careers are strived for, assignments are turned in, and a long day’s work is done, but what about the sole human being who does it all?

According to Inside Higher Ed’s 2023 Student Voice Survey, nearly “56 percent of students overall have experienced chronic stress in college,” where “six in 10 students want to eat a healthier diet, get more sleep and get more exercise.”

When swamped with exams, papers, work, family and so much more, it’s often easy to become subjected to tiredness and ultimately throw away the option of exercise, a healthy meal, and quality rest, especially when they seem hard to access.

True, it can be a challenge to incorporate a “healthier” lifestyle into an already restless one, but planning out a holistic, well-rounded daily routine can save years of mental health crises and critical health complications.

Dr. Chris Hayes is the physician and supervisor of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Student Health Services (SHS) at Saucier Wellness Center.

Hayes explained, “Self-care is treating yourself the way you would want someone to treat you, being conscious of your own limitations, your own mental health, emotional health, and physical health requirements and making them a priority.”

To ensure well-rounded health, especially with the modern student schedule, Hayes advised to eat three

meals a day with a variety of foods (high-protein breakfast, fruits, vegetables) and have a good sleep schedule.

“Try to prioritize eating healthy meals and sleeping as best you can with the schedule that you’re given. Try to get a planner; put everything in your planner,” Hayes said.

“If you have all that planned out, then it’s easier to fit things in like a puzzle. If you plan things ahead, and you try to stay organized in your life, you can do more stuff,” Hayes continued.

When asked about the services offered at SHS and other services on campus, Hayes added, “At Bourgeois, there’s exercise classes and lots of support for physical wellness.”

“Here at Student Health Services, we do student wellness physicals, we also see for minor illnesses. There is a counseling center that provides free counseling, unlimited number of office visits, to students and staff,” Hayes concluded.

Saucier Wellness Center is a great resource available to all students on campus for wellbeing matters. Appointments are suggested and can be scheduled by calling the office.

From a student perspective, a similar message was elaborated.

Aspyn Vickery, a senior majoring in biology, ensures she has a set routine besides her school and work schedules, including working out at the gym, eating a good diet, socializing with family and friends, and getting outdoors to run or hike.

Vickery advocates exercising, socializing and especially eating better food. “How you feel in your head is what you eat.”

“Exercising makes you more confident and comfortable, and you can meet people. It’s not always going to be easy, nothing’s easy, but there are two different types of hard,” said Vickery.

Alexandra Chistroserdov is a sophomore and biology major. With an intense class schedule and work-study, she emphasized making the time for her hobbies.

“I dedicate three hours each Saturday to draw, usually comics, but sometimes standalone pieces,” Chistroserdov said.

When asked for suggestions, Chistroserdov said, “to dedicate a routine time or day specifically for self-care. This can be on weekends, before going to bed, when waking up in the morning, etc. as long as it’s a routine.”

There seems to be an emphasis on

organization. When students plan their day, it essentially sets their priorities: what to focus on and what to put on the back burner.

Of course, there will be times when random circumstances get in the way—a surprise assignment, an extra shift at work, a flat tire. However, setting a plan with probable substitutions can go a long way.

How people choose to handle the situation, despite the difficulty, changes the outcome.

Setting priorities eliminates the distractions blocking one from accomplishing one’s hopes. There is always a choice, two sides to every day and situation.

As J.W. von Goethe best said, “Everything is hard before it is easy.”



Photo by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

The front of Saucier Wellness Center, home to Student Health Services.

News

BROADENING HORIZONS

Get the details on the various programs and destinations for the university’s study abroad program for this year.

PAGE 2

Sports

SOFTBALL HITS HARD

The Ragin’ Cajuns start off their softball season, showcasing the great potential in their team and individual players.

PAGE 3

Allons

SIMPING FOR THE SIMPSONS

Allons writer Marie Ducote discusses her love for the long-running television series “The Simpsons,” and their iconic titular family.

PAGE 6

Beaucoup

MOVIES ON MEMORY LANE

Vermilion staff members write about their favorite films and what it is that they most like about them.

PAGE 7

Study abroad planning to offer students six locations this year

Ellie Moore
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Study Abroad program has exciting plans for the summer of 2024. Six locations are being planned this year with multiple course options for students.

The courses in Costa Rica will be a masters in business administration and an international business course. For England, students will be taking courses in engineering or psychology. Management and visual arts and design will be studied in Italy. In Ireland, English courses will be offered, but they can be cross listed as anthropology or humanities courses. A management course will be offered in Romania. In South Korea a criminal justice course will be offered, but it can be cross listed as a political science, history or anthropology course.

Ireland is a new location that was added for the summer of 2023. This year,

for the summer of 2024, South Korea and Romania have been added as well.

Participating in the study abroad program can be very beneficial for students. Dr. Rose Honegger, UL Lafayette's associate director of global engagement, shared her excitement regarding new locations and opportunities study abroad provides for students.

"We are excited to diversify our study abroad portfolio to include other parts of the world because we believe it's important for our students before they graduate to gain a global perspective, so that when you enter the marketplace, you have personally experienced what it's like to be in a new place and to meet others who may have a different perspective," Honegger said.

Honegger explained there is a high probability that students will end up in a workplace where they will be collaborating with colleagues or clients that may be from different places in the

world, so experiencing different cultures can be beneficial to students.

Honegger further explained the benefits of being able to include studying abroad on a resume.

"We truly believe that students that have experienced study abroad, when they highlight that in their resume, they're going to catch the attention of the recruiter. That seems to always be something that potential employers are very interested in because that sets you apart from others," Honegger said.

Honegger continued, "So, we encourage students upon return from their study abroad to come and talk to us so that we can help you to translate all of those skills you developed while you were abroad in a different country and put those skills onto your resume so that can help propel you for your next journey after graduation."

Zayira Quiroz, UL Lafayette's global programs coordinator, shared the skills she sees students acquire while studying

abroad, namely the ability to be flexible and adaptable.

"The skills that I see are most important that we get from study abroad are flexibility and adaptability because you have to adapt to new environments, a new culture, a new language sometimes, so that translates in the workplace as well. Recruiters see how flexible and teachable you are," Quiroz said.

In addition to summers abroad, students can also take a semester abroad. UL Lafayette has different partnerships with universities in France, Mexico and Spain. Students pay tuition through UL Lafayette and then go and study for a semester in another country.

This is a good option for students that want to do something longer and want to be fully immersed in the culture for a longer period of time. Students will have to visit the study abroad office, Room 136 in the Student Union, to discuss options that will work for them regarding what they want to study and where.



Photo provided by Zayira Quiroz
Students visited Costa Rica as part of Study Abroad in the summer of 2022.



Photo provided by Zayira Quiroz
Students in England during the summer of 2022.

Police Reports

Compiled by Kay Padilla and Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Feb. 17

- At 5:54 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle burglary at the Hilliard Art Museum. A Michael Kors purse, \$500 in cash, and two debit cards were stolen.

Feb. 16

- At 8:47 a.m., officers responded to a parking lot crash that occurred in the Cajun Field parking area. A 2015 Kia Optima and a John Deere Gator were involved.

Feb. 11

- At 10:49 p.m., an officer reported a fleet crash at Hebrard Boulevard and University Avenue involving a 2017 white Ford Interceptor.

Feb. 10

- At 5:38 p.m., officers were advised of a suspicious person hiding in the bushes on campus. A non-student stated the individual needed medical attention. The individual was transported to Lafayette General Medical Center by Acadian Ambulance.
- At 7:41 a.m., an officer responded to a vehicle burglary in Cajun Field where a firearm was stolen. A 2017 red Ford F-350 and 2019 silver Toyota were involved in which a fully loaded black Glock Gen 4 9MM was stolen.

Feb. 8

- At 6:39 p.m., a call was received from Lafayette 911 in reference to a medical call at the Cajundome Convention Center. Officers responded along with Acadiana Ambulance.

Feb. 7

- At 6:38 a.m., officers received a report of cyberstalking. An arrest was made.

Feb. 6

- At 2:57 a.m., officers observed an illegally parked vehicle while patrolling Tulane Ave. A male in a 2017 black Dodge Challenger was arrested. Marijuana, a black container and a pink grinder were found in the vehicle.

Feb. 5

- At 8:57 p.m., officers were dispatched to Baker Hall in reference to suspects attempting a forced entry into a dorm room. An arrest was made.

Scan the QR code on the right to share ideas, topics, and issues we should cover at The Vermilion, UL Lafayette's student newspaper. Scan the code on the left to be taken to The Vermilion's website.

Student Publications

THE VERMILION

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All letters to the editor and guest editorials must include the author's full name and phone number and be no longer than 400 words in length. Submissions are edited for libel and vulgarity only. Editorial and columns reflect the author's opinion and not those of The Vermilion staff. All advertisements must be submitted by the Friday before publication at thevermilion@louisiana.edu. © 2024 Communications Committee of UL Lafayette. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Texas fights federal government on the escalating crisis at border

Adhamm Safford
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tensions surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border have escalated between U.S. President Joe Biden and Texas, with Texas Governor Greg Abbott blocking federal Border Patrol agents from accessing the border and attempting to grant state and local police the authority to arrest migrants without authorization from the federal government.

Abbot has fenced off Shelby Park in the border city of Eagle Pass, a common site of illegal crossings from Mexico, preventing federal Border Patrol agents from entering. Large groups of migrants turn up in Eagle Pass, waiting for an appointment in order to make their case for seeking asylum.

Others attempt to cross the Rio Grande to get farther into America, resulting in Abbott to install a floating barrier in the river as part of his ongoing plan to secure the border known as Operation Lone Star, which draws funding from Texas tax dollars and donations.

Abbott publicly stated that the state wouldn't allow Border Patrol onto the property, and the Department of Homeland Security reported that three migrants, two of which were children, drowned in the Rio Grande after the Texas Military Department and Texas National Guard prevented federal agents from accessing the area to attempt a rescue.

In a statement regarding the incident, Homeland Security said that "The Texas governor's policies are cruel, dangerous, and inhumane, and Texas's blatant disregard for federal authority over immigration poses grave risks." The Texas Military Department responded, claiming that two of the bodies had

already been retrieved by Mexican authorities and that Border Patrol was asking to pursue two other migrants.

Razor wire was also installed along the banks of the Rio Grande, which the Supreme Court ruled Border Patrol had the authority to cut and remove. Texas stated that, despite that, they would continue to install wire barriers.

The Biden Administration is currently suing Texas over a bill that Abbott signed into law in December of last year and would go into effect on March 5. The law would make immigration a state issue, empowering Texas law enforcement to arrest and charge migrants, first with a misdemeanor, then a felony on a second offense, and either force them to return to Mexico or prosecute them.

The law is a direct challenge to the U.S. federal government, who has had the authority over issues pertaining to immigration, and is likely to eventually end up in the Supreme Court. Biden's administration has said the law conflicts with multiple federal laws and interferes with the federal government's role in foreign policy.

The Mexican government has also opposed the law, saying that the law "will result in the separation of families, discrimination and racial profiling."

"Mexico also expresses its concern regarding the package of legislative measures that will affect the human rights of the more than 10 million people of Mexican origin residing in Texas, by fostering hostile environments that may lead to hate acts or crimes against migrant communities," the statement said.

Abbott announced on Feb. 16 an expansion to Texas' border control with the creation of a Forward Operating Base to house the Texas National Guard.

The announcement also included Abbott's other actions in securing the border, such as securing over \$11 billion in funding, appointing a "Border czar," busing migrants to other states, designating Mexican cartels as terrorist groups, deploying a new "Texas Tactical Border Force," and acquiring steel panels to build the Texas border wall.

By the end of 2023, migrant encounters hit a record high, with 250,000 encounters in December, though that fell to 124,000 this past January.

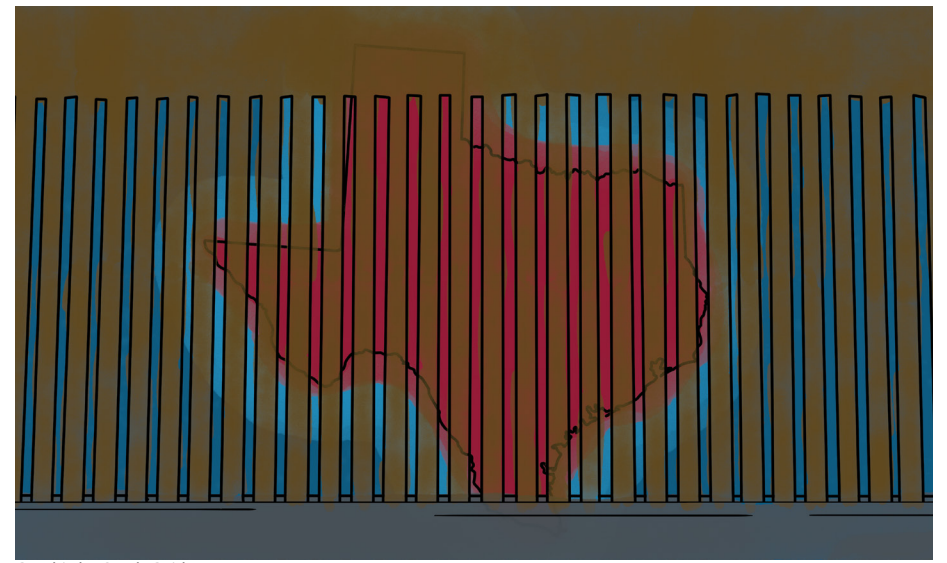
Many of these migrants are seeking asylum, fleeing from violence and persecution from their home countries, though there is a divide in the discussion on how legitimate their claims are.

According to The New York Times, detractors of the immigration system says it allows migrants to claim they're seeking asylum and remain in the country for years as they wait for their case to be heard. Advocates of and

experts on immigration, meanwhile, claim that all migrants have the right to seek asylum and "attempts to bar or limit them are both illegal and immoral."

Asylum-seekers, as part of an initial screening, must establish in front of a judge that they cannot return to their home country due to "persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion."

Biden, meanwhile, has been urging for greater power over the border. On Jan. 26, Biden released a statement urging Congress to pass into law a bill that would give the President the ability to shut down the border when it becomes overwhelmed, which Biden has said he would do immediately. He has also requested funding for additional Border Patrol agents, immigration judges, asylum officers and "cutting-edge inspection machines" to detect fentanyl at the border.



Graphic by Sarah Guidry

Sports

Cajuns start their baseball season off with a win against Wright State

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

It was opening weekend for college baseball across the nation and the Ragin Cajuns opened it by hosting Wright State at M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field at Russo Stadium.

The Cajuns enter this season under head coach Matt Deggs who is starting his fifth season as the head coach. He is joined by first year pitching coach, former Louisiana ace, Gunner Leger.

Starting the long road to the postseason and Omaha, the Cajuns would start in the rain on Friday, Feb. 16 against the Wright State Raiders.

Getting the nod to start for the Cajuns on the mound was junior Jack Martinez who transferred from Trinity University in Texas following the 2023 season.

Martinez started quickly getting the first two batters out with fly outs to left and right field, only taking three pitches to do so. Wright State's third batter, Jay Luikart, would hit the first pitch of his at bat into center field for a base hit.

It would be the Cajuns turn to bat, a quick turn though as the Cajuns went three up and three down in quick succession to Wright State pitcher Jake Shikar.

The next inning would see both teams go three up, three down with the Wright State batters all grounding out and two

Cajuns batters striking out by swinging and looking.

At the bottom of the third senior first baseman, Trey LaFleur would step up to the plate and would make contact on the first pitch and send it flying down the left field line out of the park.

The crowd erupted as LaFleur rounded the diamond, the first homerun of the season that would put the Cajuns up 0-1.

The Raiders would reply the next inning though as an error by left fielder Maddox Mandino would allow Luikart to get to second. The Raiders would advance him to third before a sacrificial fly would bring him home to tie the game 1-1.

The fifth and sixth innings would see little action outside of a double by junior outfielder Conor Higgs and Cajuns bringing David Christie out of the bullpen to pitch for the sixth.

In the seventh inning the Cajuns would once again switch pitchers bringing up sophomore Steven Cash. Cash would strike out the batter up to face him before he was switched out for redshirt sophomore Blake McGehee.

McGehee started out decently, getting his first batter out with a grounder to shortstop, then he had a pitch hit for a single. The runner was able to advance to second off of a wild pitch from McGehee.

Wright State's next batter would help take the lead as he hit a double allowing the runner to score, making the game 2-1. McGehee would recover though and strike out the next batter, managing to end the inning without allowing more runs.

The Cajuns would end the seventh without reaching base once. The eighth would see another pitcher change for the Cajuns as junior LP Langevin would take the mound.

Langevin would give up a hit and walk two, one was intentional, but did not allow any runs during the inning, nor any runs during the ninth.

The Cajuns would be unable to score in the bottom of the eighth, but Langevin managed to keep the Raiders scoreless, striking out two batters to keep the Cajuns in it.

Entering the bottom of the ninth the Cajuns would be up the bat, down one hoping to win the game. The Raiders would switch pitchers, bringing up Jay Luikart to try and end the Cajuns.

The first to bat would be Maddox Mandino, but he would be intentionally walked, bringing Duncan Pastore up. Pastore would hit a single bringing Mandino to second.

Second baseman John Taylor would strikeout swinging, the Cajuns first out of the inning. Next would be pinch hitter sophomore Luke Yuhasz. During this at bat both Pastore and Mandino would steal, both successfully advancing to second and third.

Yuhasz would then manage to reach first due to a throwing error. This would allow the other two runners to advance, including Mandino who would bring in the tying run.

With a score of 2-2 and only one out the Cajuns had a chance to win with a runner in scoring position. Higgs would be intentionally walked to load the bases, bringing junior catcher Jose Torres to bat. This was Torres first game with the Cajuns, having transferred from San Jacinto JC this past year.

Torres would swing at the first pitch, missing it for a strike. The next pitch though he would make contact with, sending it deep into left field where it would be caught. As soon as it was

caught, Pastore would tag up and advance home for the win.

The first game of the season was an excellent start grabbing a win despite the rain that had fallen for most of the game. The second game though would not go as well.

At one in the afternoon the Cajuns and Raiders would meet once again at Russo Park. This game had far more emphasis on batting as both teams would score more than the combined score of the night before.

At pitcher the Cajuns would start freshman Chase Morgan who did well until he got to the third inning.

After getting the first two batters out the third batter would manage to get a single to left field. This would start a series which allowed two batters to score runs while an error by center fielder Conor Higgs would allow two more runners to score.

Morgan would manage to stop the bleeding though striking out a batter to end the top half of the third. That would be his last inning though as he was taken off at the beginning of the fourth.

The Cajuns had scored two runs in the second inning thanks to a single by Josh Alexander and RBIs by both Trey LaFleur and Luke Yuhasz.

The fourth inning would see both teams score runs as Wright State scored two runs and Louisiana replied by scoring three runs of their own.

Both teams would score one more run in the final five innings bringing the game to a final score of 7-6.

On Sunday the Cajuns would finish off the series by claiming their second win 5-3 over the Raiders. The Cajuns would pull away for the win in the bottom of the eighth with back to back homers by Luke Yuhasz and Clay Wargo.

They would extend their lead an additional run in the eighth with an RBI from Josh Alexander bringing in Trey LaFleur who had singled in the previous at bat.

The Cajuns start the year off with an overall record of 2-1 after winning the series against Wright State.. The Cajuns will be back in Lafayette for a series against Rice this weekend starting with a game on Friday, Feb. 23.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Jack Martinez, a junior pitcher, pitching in Friday night's game against the Wright State Raiders.

Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Morgan Parker

No. 16

INSTRUCTIONS

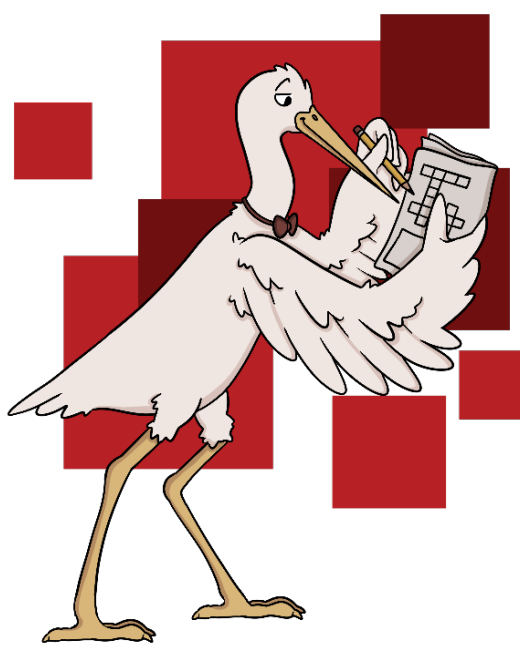
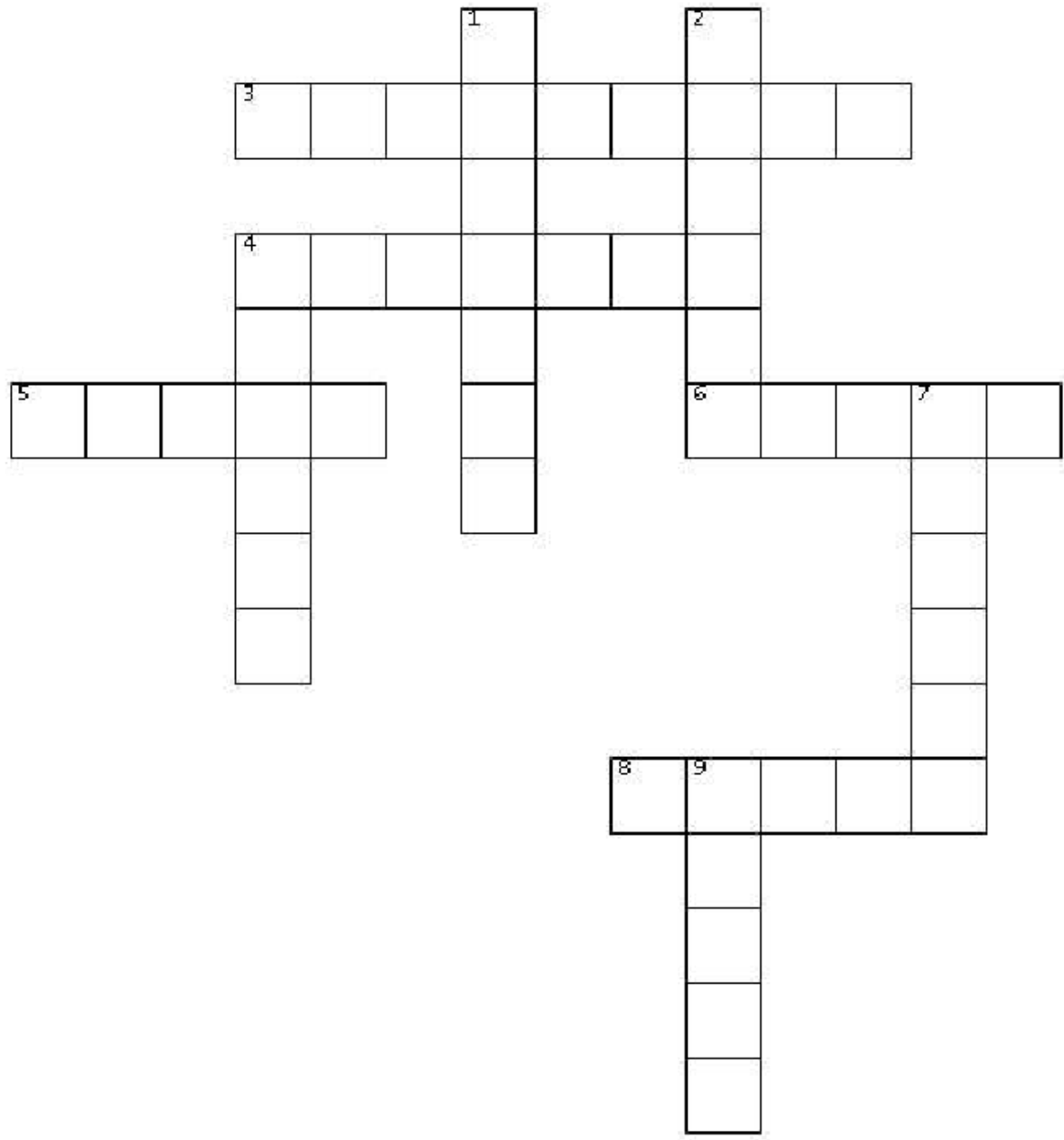
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

3. A UL Lafayette hall that offers exercising classes.
4. Who hit the first homerun of the baseball season (last name)?
5. Ellucian Experience is the program that ____ was built on.
6. Who bought Lisa her first sax?
8. Governor of Texas who is fighting the federal government about authority over the border (last name).

DOWN

1. What location was added in 2023 to the summer study abroad program?
2. In which grade did Nyria Mustiful's friend steal her crush from her?
4. Who opened with two scoreless frames and three strikeouts (last name)?
7. What does Landon think is the key factor of something falling into inspiration?
9. What city in North Carolina was the App. State game held in?



Cajun Candids King Cake Tasting in Randolph Hall

Photos by Alyus Dick



2024 softball season has begun

Kaydence Vital
SPORTS WRITER

The 2024 softball season has officially begun. The women started their season with the 38th annual Louisiana Classics. The classic started Feb. 8 and lasted through Feb. 11.

The tournament started off with the Cajuns taking on Chattanooga. Sophie Piskos, Victoria Valdez and Maddie Hayden each produced four RBI in charging the attack as number 21 Louisiana Softball downed Chattanooga 21-2 (5 inn.) in the opening game of the season.

Louisiana produced multiple runs in all four at bats-scoring at least five runs three times- and fired off 17 runs in two-out situations. The Ragin' Cajuns hit a crisp 11-of-16 with two-outs.

Patience was the other key for the Cajuns, drawing 10 walk offs of Chattanooga pitching led by three from Laney Credeur. All five Cajuns pitchers saw time and combined to limit the Mocs to four hits over five innings.

Sam Landry opened with two scoreless frames and three strikeouts while Lexie

Delbrey proved to be the most effective afterwards, facing only one over the minimum over 1-1/3 innings of scoreless softball.

Sam Roe launched the first home run of the season, a three-run line drive shot that highlighted an eight-run first inning for Louisiana. The second home run was courtesy of Piskos' bat and the two-run towering lift to straightaway center in the fourth inning capped off the scoring.

The tournament continued Friday, Feb. 9 where the Cajuns took home a clean sweep against Cal and Chattanooga.

A no-hitter from Sam Landry and two clutch swings from Jourdyn Campbell highlighted a Friday sweep for the Cajuns. Landry retired the first 13 batters she faced and was hit batter and one miscue away from a perfect game in the Cajuns 8-0 (6 inn.) run-rule win over Pac-12 member California to start the day.

In her first plate appearance of the nightcap against Chattanooga, Campbell drove a two-run single up the middle advancing the early lead for Louisiana in the first inning to 3-0. Lexie Delbrey and Denali Loecker combined to strand

11 Mocs baserunners in the contest to preserve the 5-2 win for Louisiana.

Delbrey caught pinch hitter Alyssa Orlando looking at strike three with the bases loaded in the fourth inning of a 3-1 game and Loecker struck out five during her three innings of relief.

Louisiana closes the Louisiana Classic with split results. Brooke Ellestad jumpstarted the early morning matchup with New Mexico, launching a towering three-run home run off the scoreboard in right field in the first inning.

The Lobos scratched single runs in the second and third inning to trim Louisiana's lead to 3-2, but the Cajuns responded in the home half of the third. A clutch two-out single from Victoria Valdez, that was misplayed, put in motion in the second three-run frame of the contest stretching the lead to 6-2.

Lauren Allred's two-run double in the fourth and a pair of fielder's choice RBI grounders in the fifth moved the Cajuns' lead into run-rule territory. Ellestad and Allred combined for five RBI. The home run was Ellestad's first as a Cajun while the double put Allred into the hit column for the first time on the weekend.

The weekend finale against California saw the visiting Bears grab the lead in the third inning with a squeeze play and hold the advantage through the sixth inning.

Louisiana drew even in the seventh inning after Ellestad led off with a double and wound-up scoring after a pair of wild pitches occurred during a brief rain shower.

The Bears staved off the walk-off this time, though, successfully fielding a bunt from Cecilia Vasquez and pitcher Randi Roelling inducing a pop up from Mihyia Davis with Alexa Langeliers standing on third.

The loss spoiled the Cajuns' attempt at a clean sweep of the season-opening Louisiana Classics and was just the second defeat on Opening Weekend in the Gerry Glasco era (now 29-2).

The Cajuns played Mississippi on Tuesday, February 13, and took a hitting loss of 1-9.

As the Cajuns softball team continues their season, there is great potential for the rest of the season and the individuality to show in different players. Cannot wait for a great 2024 season from the team.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Mihyia Davis, a sophomore, reaching second base after a successful hit at the Cajuns versus California game on February 11, 2024.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Laney Credeur, a junior, batting at the Cajuns versus California game on February 11, 2024.

Why Cajuns basketball needs a win after dropping a game to App. State

Isaac Henry
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns went into Boone, North Carolina on Feb. 17 looking to get back on track and threaten for a top spot in the Sun Belt Conference. Instead, a series of late-game mistakes closed their third week of February with a loss to the Appalachian State Mountaineers, 85-73.

With six minutes left in the game, the Cajuns were just three points behind, but two devastating 3-pointers by freshman App State guard Jordan Marsh (the game's leading scorer), a series of empty Cajuns possessions and some unfortunate turnovers prevented the comeback push.

The result, on top of a Feb. 7 loss to the Georgia State Panthers, means the Cajuns now hold a 9-5 conference record, three games back of No. 1-seeded App State in the standings.

Junior forward Kobe Julien, one of the Cajuns' best offensive weapons, has struggled in his last three games, hitting just 9-of-36 shots from the field in that stretch. He's also missed his last 10 3-point shots.

This reflects in the team's performance from beyond the arc, which against Old Dominion on Feb. 15 and the aforementioned App State game dipped to around 28%, well below the team's conference average of about 35%. The team also managed to draw just five free-throw attempts against App State to the opposing 17.

A part of the problem has been the decision-making in transition offense. "We were fantastic in the half-court, I think we had our highest score of the

year in on our analytics page offensively and defensively, but we did not convert in transition the way we need to," head coach Bob Marlin said in a Feb. 12 press conference after a win over Old Dominion.

"We've gotta finish. It's about attacking the basket, getting to the free-throw line if it's a two-on-one. We pitched it ahead a couple times yesterday and shot a one-on-three 3-point shot," Marlin said. While taking a transition three can be effective in the right hands, Marlin made clear it's not the philosophy of the team.

Transfer forward Hosana Kitenge managed to tie Marsh's efforts in the App State match with 23 points to go along with 13 rebounds to mark his third consecutive double-double and his fifth of the season.

"We wanna play for championships. I mean, we want to win the league, and that Georgia State game was a major setback, because that game took away one that we had to play with," Marlin said.

"We've got some tough games down the stretch, four of the six are on the road," Marlin said. "They're all important... I think the most important part, again, is if you finish in the top-4 in a 14-team league, that's pretty solid," Marlin said, adding that making the bye round of the SBC Championship Tournament is the goal of the late regular season.

"It's going to be a challenge, but I feel confident that we can finish in the top 4 if we continue to play good basketball," Marlin said. "We've got to avoid Marshall in a tie scenario and then we've gotta beat Southern Miss.

"We do feel confident. This is a close-

knit group, and now is where the rubber hits the road in this next month. It's time," Marlin said.

On recent free-throw discrepancies, Marlin said, "Twenty percent of our games, we've shot more free throws than our opponents, and we've won eight of our last nine. Figure that out." As of now, just four games remain on the men's

schedule before the SBC Tournament. Winning out may be the Cajuns' only hope for that coveted top spot. Next up is a trip north to take on the ULM Warhawks on Feb. 22.

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Photo by Alyus Dick

Kentrell Garnet (22) starts a dribble against the South Alabama Jaguars on Feb. 3.

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Allons

How 'The Simpsons' became the iconic family of television shows

Marie Ducote
ALLONS WRITER

On April 29, 2018, "The Simpsons" became the longest-running scripted American primetime television series with the airing of its 636th episode "Forgive and Regret" (season 29 episode 18). The previous record holder was "Gunsmoke" (1955-1975) with 635 episodes. As of writing this "The Simpsons" is on season 35 with 761 episodes and still counting.

When I am asked what my favorite show is, my default answer is always "The Simpsons." I don't remember a time when I was not watching the show. I have seasons one through 16 on DVD.

At 4-and-a-half years old my dad took me to see "The Simpsons Movie" (2007). I have been twice to "The Simpsons" themed park Springfield at Universal Studios Hollywood. "The Simpsons" Lego set is proudly displayed in my house (it opens like a doll house!). I even have a



Graphic by Lucy Shields

Troy McClure action figure sitting in my room.

It is hard to imagine a time where "The Simpsons" was not a dominant part of our pop culture. Even if you have not seen an episode you could probably name one of the characters or quote Homer's famous catchphrase (D'oh!). Or when "The Simpsons" comes up in conversations you might think about Homer going into the shrub gif to the countless clips and memes that are popular on the internet. People even think the show has predicted the future.

The influence of "The Simpsons" can be seen in music, a great example being Mitski's third album "bury me at makeout creek" (2014) is a quote from the episode "Faith Off" (season 11 episode 11).

Now that you can watch every episode ever made on Disney+ new fans are discovering classic episodes that made the show what it is.

But since "The Simpsons" has graced our screens since 1989 ("Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire") and is just so ingrained within our television landscape that we forget what made the show a hit in the first place. "The Simpsons" began as a series of 48 shorts on the sketch show "The Tracey Ullman Show" between 1987-89 created by Matt Groening. The very first appearance of the family was in the short "Good Night"

The cartoon repopularized the adult animated primetime sitcom and would pave the way for numerous other shows like "King of the Hill" (1997-2010), "South Park" (1997-present), "Family Guy" (1999-2002, 2005-present) and "Futurama" (1999-2003, 2008-2013, 2023-present also created by Groening). More recent examples of the show's reach is apparent in "Bob's Burgers" (2011-present), "Rick and Morty"

(2013-present) and "Bojack Horseman" (2014-2020).

Creator of "Family Guy" Seth MacFarlane in a 2007 Vanity Fair "Simpsons Family Values" commented on the door "The Simpsons" opened.

"It's like what sci-fi fans say about Star Trek: it created an audience for that genre," said MacFarlane. "I think The Simpsons created an audience for prime-time animation that had not been there for many, many years. As far as I'm concerned, they basically re-invented the wheel. They created what is in many ways—you could classify it as—a wholly new medium. It's just wholly original."

Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie satirize the American nuclear family. We all know the archetypes: the house in suburbia, the housewife, the breadwinner father, a cat and dog and the troublemaker son, the precocious daughter and the baby. These characters have existed throughout TV's long history in sitcoms such as "Leave It to Beaver" (1958-1963) and "The Brady Bunch" (1969-1974).

These types of shows were still popular when "The Simpsons" first premiered. The top rated show of the 1989-1990 television season was "The Cosby Show" (1984-1992). Other highlights are "The Wonder Years" (1988-1993) and "Full House" (1987-1995).

In a typical comedy the dysfunction that has plagued the family will come to a resolution by the end of the half-hour and the kids will have learned a nice moral lesson that they will take with them throughout their life. "The Simpsons" subverts this status quo, and even though Marge and Homer love each other deeply they are still part of a dysfunctional family.

All the characters have flaws that they

do not hide. Bart by the next episode will still be pulling pranks on the unsuspecting citizens of Springfield. And Lisa will still be the teacher's pet. Homer will still be a regular at Moe's Tavern after work at the nuclear power plant.

What I have always enjoyed about the show is how dedicated the family are to each other. One episode in particular is season nine episode three "Lisa's Sax" where in flashbacks the viewer learns that Homer used the air conditioner replacement money to buy Lisa a saxophone, an instrument that has become a staple of her character.

"The Way We Was" (season two episode 12) shows the first meeting of Marge and Homer in high school detention. For Homer it is love at first sight and as Marge walks into the classroom he witnesses her walking in slow motion with The Carpenter's version of "(They Long to Be) Close to You" playing the moment he sets his eyes on her. This song will play a key role in many emotional scenes between the couple.

Even though it takes Marge a little longer to realize her feelings for Homer he still carries the torch for her and he says what has to be one of my favorite quotes from the show, "I got a problem once you stop this car. I'm going to hug you, and kiss you, and I'll never be able to let you go. And I've never have."

These tender moments of love between the family bring balance to the conflicts they get into. The characters have survived throughout the decades because the audience relates deeply to them.

As more shows have followed in "The Simpsons" footsteps the cartoon has found more ways to lampoon the absurdities of everyday life and they will probably be doing so for more years to come.

Sketching the line between taking inspiration and plagiarizing media

Landon Fruge
ALLONS WRITER

Today there are so many movies, games, books, videos, drawings and shows available to the public to watch and/or listen to.

When it comes to making your own work though, it is always nice to find your own inspiration to help and guide you into making your very own masterpiece.

With so many ideas out in the open today it is so easy to find possible inspiration for your own story. At the same time though it can lead to some similarities between your own ideas and those that already exist and probably came from your source of inspiration. Though this may sound like a bad thing, it typically is not. Having references or similarities to other media is typically something to be slightly expected.

There are so many ideas that have been used already that anything you make is bound to have some sort of similarity to another. However, there is a point that this reference or similarity could go way past the line of just being nothing more than an example of possible inspiration. When it gets to this point it starts to become a crime by the name of plagiarism.

Now as for where this line between inspiration and plagiarism starts to get drawn is what I would like to discuss for today.

To start off I think it would make the most sense to discuss one of the most drastic and noticeable types of examples of being on this line of being inspired by something or plagiarizing.

These being the knock off movies trying to cash in on something famous. We've all heard of these types of knock-off movies before.

Typically these types of movies don't even bother to hide it half the time either. They are usually immediately recognizable as knockoffs the moment you see them. Stuff like "Tappy Toes" ("Happy Feet"), "Atlantic Rim" ("Pacific Rim"), "Frozen Land" ("Frozen") and "The Little Panda Fighter" ("Kung Fu Panda"). Personally, I cannot describe

any of these movies and what happens in them as for the sake of my own sanity I would rather not watch them.

However, their covers, I feel, already tell enough of a story. These types of movie covers typically are a direct copy of the associated movie they are copying, whether it be similar poses and characters with their own lazily drawn versions of the characters or the practically carbon copy of the title's art style.

They immediately show they are nothing more than horribly lazy and rushed movies made to cash off the success of newly famous movies.

Another really good example of a piece of media falling on this line would be fan projects. More specifically fan games of Five Nights At Freddy's. There are so many fan projects based on this series that I can't even begin to count the number of fan projects that exist. Between games, songs and horror animations all inspired by the franchise, there are probably at least more than 100 total fan projects inspired by the series out there today.

Though there are many fan projects, I would say most of them are a good example of someone or a group of people being inspired by a franchise. When it comes to fan games typically they to some degree have a similar story or characters, but they will usually include several new mechanics adding on to what the original games had as well as including either their own characters or already existing characters with a new art style or look to them.

Sure there are some that are just shameless rip offs with little to no effort put into them, but there are so many really good ones at the same time. Even ones including the same characters from the original franchise have their own sense of uniqueness to them as well. These ones will typically give the same old story from the original game with the creator's own spin to it, all the while accompanied by really cool redesigns for the original characters.

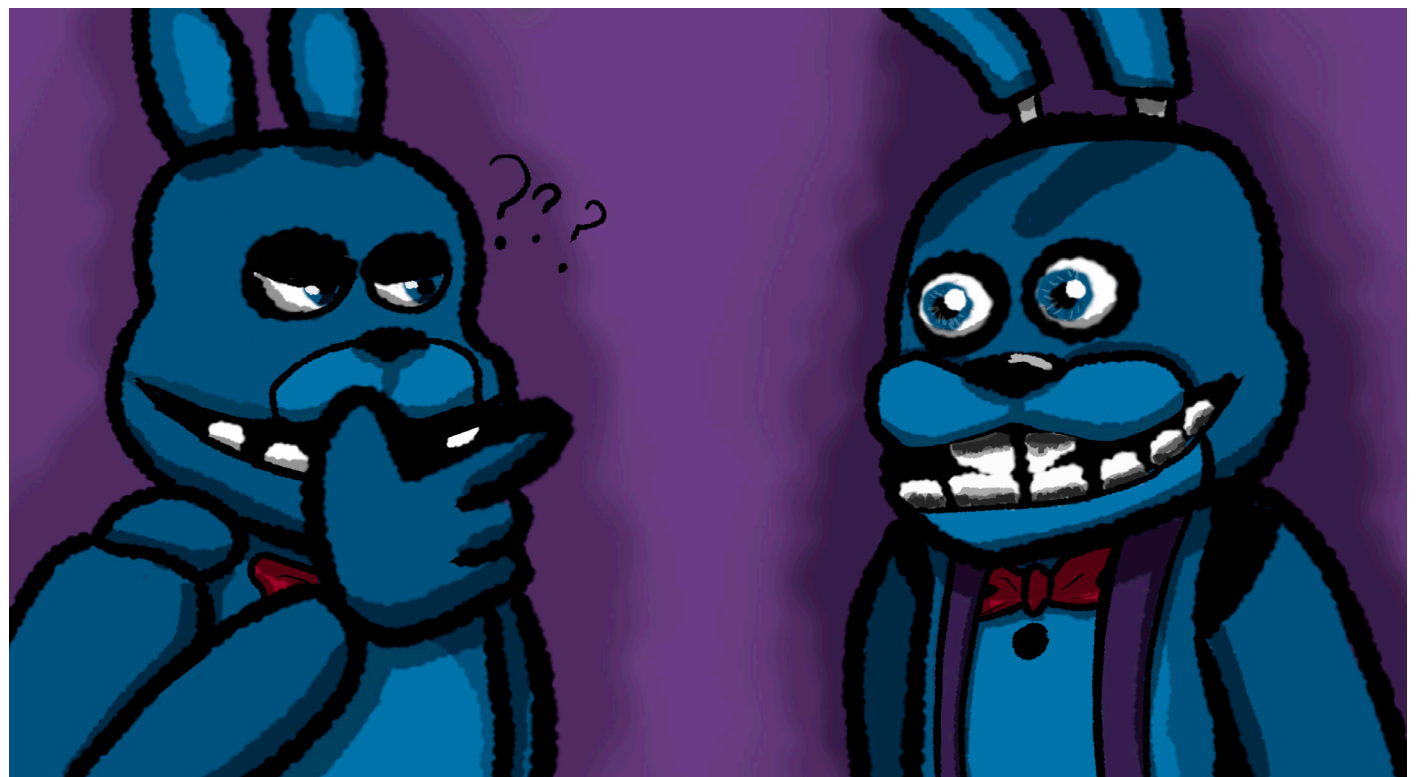
Then you have fan projects like The Walten Files which takes from the original idea of people stuffed inside animatronics and possessing them, but

instead of making it the typical, "Bad owner person is killing and putting them into suits," situation, it instead has its own story. The series is not complete and there are still many mysteries left to be uncovered, but it is obvious that this is very much its own thing with its own original story.

When looking for an example of inspiration done right, I feel Five Nights at Freddy's fan projects are a perfect example of this. They show a level of love for the original series that can't be described as well as a level of unique creativity between each individual project.

In my personal opinion, I think one of the defining factors on whether or not something falls on the side of plagiarism or inspiration in the end all falls onto effort.

When enough effort is put into something it gives it its own individuality and comes across less as a shameless copy of an already existing story and instead more like a love letter to the idea in which the thing being created is based on.



Graphic by Landon Fruge

Being a girl's girl might be the norm but I'm not a normal girl

Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS WRITER

As the daughter of a single mother and someone who has a family full of strong, independent women, I was always taught the importance of thriving in my femininity and connecting with other women. My mom would always have this tribe of women around her that would show up for her the minute she needed them. Some of those relationships are at least 10 years old. Watching this, naturally, I wanted the same thing for myself.

In elementary school, I was this bubbly ball of energy that wanted to talk to everyone around me, especially other girls. I was so desperate to make friends with them that I would continue to hang out with them after they had done something foul towards me. For example, one girl that I was friends with knew that I had a crush on this particular boy in fourth grade and she went and dated him.

In middle school, things got worse because we were more exposed to mature concepts such as going out unsupervised, sex, drugs, alcohol, etc. I was fairly innocent back then, which was very uncommon at my middle school among girls. The crowd I hung out with was down to do any and everything, which made me the odd man out. While they were altering their uniforms to showcase their blossoming assets, I was reading books or practicing violin.

I distinctly remember this huge blowout I had with a couple of my friends back then because the two of them were interested in the same guy

and I had intel on who the guy really liked.

I've always been a fairly honest person, so naturally, I told them that he would talk crap about both of them to his friends and that he wasn't interested in either of them, however, he seemed to dislike one less than the other so I told her she would have the better chance.

Long story short, those people don't even speak to me anymore and they probably never will. At the time, I didn't understand what I did wrong, but in the age of social media, of course, there's now a term that explains everything. According to the definition provided by numerous TikTok videos, my friends were mad at me because I wasn't being a "girl's girl". If that term sounds stupid to you, don't worry because I think it does too.

Apparently, being a "girl's girl" means that you as a woman prioritize your relationships with women, are passionate about said relationships and relentlessly go out of your way to support other women. For any woman reading this article that might even consider being my friend, here's a friendly warning: I am NOT a "girl's girl". Truthfully, I don't believe that I will ever be again in life.

You know that saying that goes "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." That's exactly how I feel when I initially think about making friends with women. It's borderline traumatizing sometimes. I know that might sound a bit dramatic but I've been in enough horrible female friendships to the point where that is my reality. Most of my past ones have



Graphic by Meg Norwood

been full of mess, drama, lies, deceit, jealousy, manipulation and much worse.

I thought that once I got to college, it would get better. I was terribly mistaken. One of my "friends" from freshman year did something so unspeakable and unforgivable that every ounce of trust I had for her dissipated. It was my first year in college and I was already failing at making friends. Do you see my point now? I'm sure that by now, most of you believe that I'm the problem and I wholeheartedly believe that's true. I just don't typically mesh well with other women.

I'm not sure what it is about me, but regardless, it is what it is. Out of curiosity and maybe a bit of determination, I continued to try to make friends with women and though there were many failures, a couple of people have risen to the occasion and proven that there could still be hope for

me in the realm of having lady friends. It's only like 3-5 people though so I'm not getting my hopes up too high.

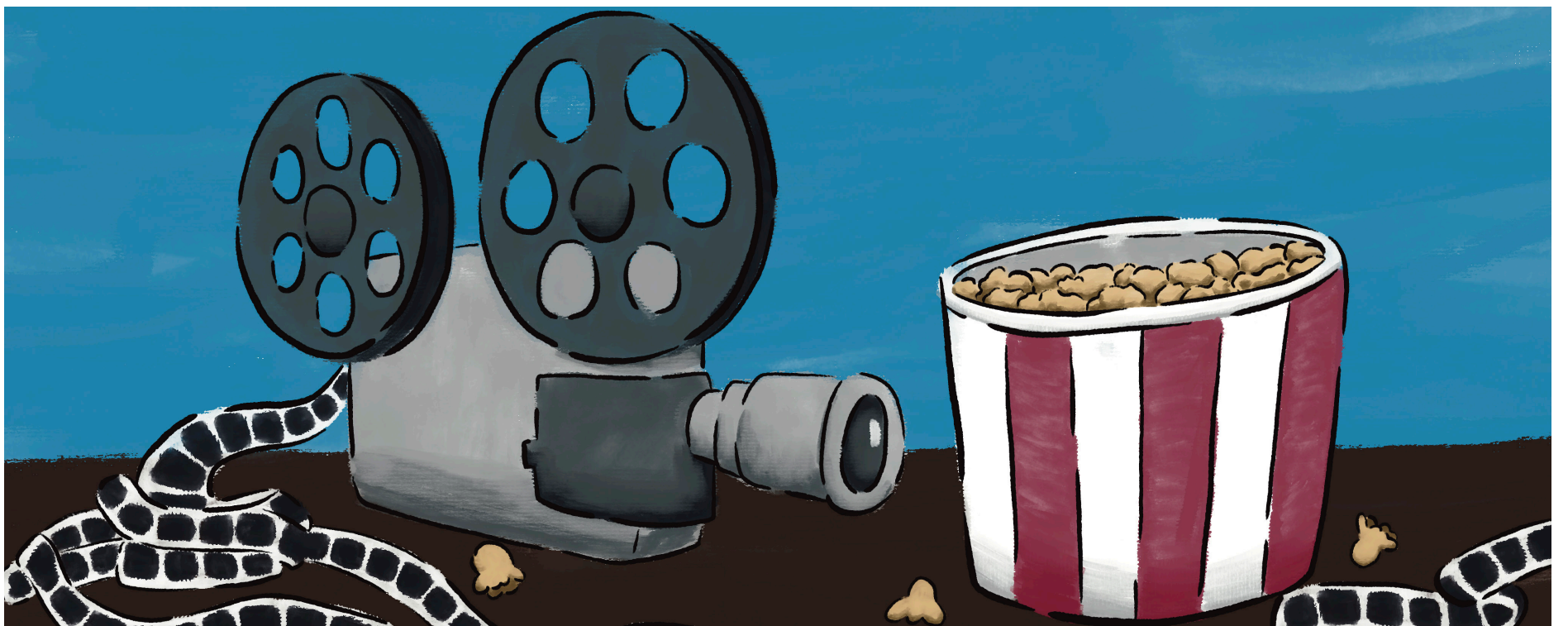
As I reflect on the person I used to be, I'm pretty sure that I used to pride myself on being a "girl's girl". I believe that it used to be an essential part of my personality and a big identity marker for me among my peers. Now, all I really care about when making friends is what the individual brings to the table. Most of my friends are males and that's because it just seems to be less complicated with them.

For a short while, I thought that not being a "girl's girl" made me less of a woman all around, especially considering that most women around me are. Then, I realized that was just my tendency to self-deprecate kicking in and I'm perfectly fine just the way I am. Being a "girl's girl" may be the new norm among female friendships and that's okay. I'm not a "girl's girl" and that's okay too.

Beaucoup

Movies that Pop!

The Beaucoup section writes about their favorite movie, why and if others would agree with their decision. Here are their thoughts.



Graphic by Meg Norwood

Kay Padilla

ALLONS EDITOR

I think my favorite movie may be controversial because it is "Cars." I have been a Lightning McQueen fan since I was a child. And now that I am almost 20 years old it continues to be my favorite movie.

The storytelling is great. I love a good cocky hotshot main character humbled by being forced to live in a rinky dink town. It also shows a story of accepting your faults and becoming a better person, or car. I am also a sucker for main

characters being taught by retired old people.

It is great writing is what I am trying to say. But the world of "Cars" also dives deeper because it has been able to show more representation of cultures and regions better than most human franchises. These are literal anthropomorphic vehicles, and they show more diversity through literal cars and planes.

I think other people would also say "Cars" is their favorite movie because everyone knows Lightning McQueen, whether you like the movie or not.

Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS WRITER

Personally, I believe that the best movie ever is "Fat Albert." It's the perfect combination of comedy, romance and action, which makes it a film for everyone. The best part of the film is honestly the music. I'm really big on scores and soundtracks in a film and this film has such a good balance of hip-hop and R&B music, which are two of my favorite genres.

I also really enjoyed the casting of the film.

The main character of the film, Doris Robertson, was played by Kyla Pratt, who is best known for her voice acting role as Penny Proud in hit animated series, "The Proud Family."

I feel like "Fat Albert" is pretty unheard of, so I don't believe that people would agree with my opinion, but I think that everyone should try to watch the movie at least once.

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

The 2001 juke-box musical "Moulin Rouge!" directed by Baz Luhrmann is such a self-indulgent movie that it just always puts a smile on my face when I rewatch it. I love everything about it, the use of pop songs for emotional scenes.

The pitch perfect casting of Ewan McGregor as Christian and Nicole Kidman as Satine. I still shed a tear when Christian holds a dying Satine in

his arms and they are saying their final words to each other. The film mixes tragedy and comedy perfectly.

Luhrmann draws inspiration from old Hollywood musicals, Giacomo Puccini's opera "La bohème" (1896) and the tragic myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. When the characters start to sing "Come What May" and "El Tango de Roxanne" I sing along with them. The entire movie is filled with every color imaginable. Anyone who watches the movie will be singing along to it by the end.

Amare Auzenne

ALLONS WRITER

My favorite film has been cemented since I was 12, not because of things like cinematography or pure acting prowess, though the performances in the film are magnetic, but because of the raw chemistry that oozed off the script. Quentin Tarantino's debut film "Reservoir Dogs" is what I believe to be his best work because it plays to his biggest strengths: writing some of the bounciest character dynamics in Hollywood,

and walking a tightrope of tension and comedy over the run time.

A film more akin to a recorded play than a cinematic masterpiece, its relative simplicity in shot composition or visual tricks aren't necessarily masked by how good the script is, but their sparseness serves to heighten the few times when they are used, and the locked room nature of the heist team trying to suss out the traitor. It's a film that, regardless of the many times I watch it, never gets old no matter how precise I get the timing of the twists down.

SOUNDING OFF

"What exams do you have coming up, and how do you prepare?"



Hannah Garrison
PSYCHOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"I literally just took one today, it was U.S History Since 1867. It went pretty good."



Diego Acosta
BUSINESS MARKETING FRESHMAN

"I don't think I have any exams, I do have an essay that's due soon... not confident about it because I'm supposed to do a book analysis on a book I haven't read."



Catherine Sonnier
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SENIOR

"I had one last week, and I always make Quizlets to study for exams. And I typically send them to the GroupMe that they make so everybody can study it."



Mia Johnston
LINGUISTICS FRESHMAN

"I'm in a creative writing course, and towards the end of the semester we have our second round of workshops."



Randalyn Paul
PUBLIC RELATIONS JUNIOR

"I don't have any exams. I'm in like organizations so I have stuff to do for that, anything else not really."



Jack Snyder
PSYCHOLOGY JUNIOR

"I have an exam next week. How I'm preparing for it, might not like my answer, but I will be waiting until the day before and going over all the slideshows."

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 Adhamm Safford and Julia McDow.

COMIC

Junk Food



Comic by Lauren Gerald


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