

# THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 February 29, 2024

## Wind and Jazz Ensembles perform free concert on March 3 with Allen Vizzutti

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble will be performing a concert together, titled “A Double-Bill,” featuring special guest artist Allen Vizzutti, world renowned trumpet virtuoso.

The concert will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm in Angelle Auditorium. Admission to the concert is free.

Vizzutti will be performing two dazzling works accompanied by the University Wind Ensemble, and four tunes accompanied by UL Lafayette Jazz Ensemble.

Several of the works that will be played are also his very own compositions.

Vizzutti’s four-day visit to Lafayette will also include clinics for UL Lafayette students and local high schools.

His mini-residency is sponsored by UL Lafayette Concerts Committee, Lafayette Music, UL Lafayette Bands and the Yamaha Corporation.

Vizzutti is one of the world’s top trumpet virtuosos and is a rare artist that is equally at home with classical and jazz styles.

According to his biography, he has performed with a rainbow of artists and ensembles including Chick Corea, the NBC Tonight Show Band and the New Tokyo Philharmonic.

During his fulfilling career, Vizzutti has also had an extensive schedule of guest appearances throughout North America, South America, Europe, Japan, Australia, Asia and New Zealand.

His love of expression through composition has led to premier performances by groups such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Royal Philharmonic of London.

Vizzutti has also performed on over 150 motion picture soundtracks such

as “Back to the Future” and “Star Trek,” as well as countless television shows, commercials and recordings with artists such as Frank Sinatra and Barbra Streisand.

A few members of the University Wind Ensemble have expressed their excitement in meeting Vizzutti and being able to perform alongside him.

Trumpet player Riley Hopkins, a freshman majoring in music business, shared “This is like a once in a lifetime opportunity and it’s very exciting and surreal, it makes the college experience.”

Dr. William Hochkeppel, director of bands, stated, “If you’re a trumpet player like he (Hopkins) is, you’re getting to meet the big star.”

It certainly is most exciting to welcome a guest artist of such high caliber.

Vizzutti is sure to have an immense amount of knowledge to offer, especially to young aspiring musicians like Hopkins, during his short visit.

As Vizzutti will only be arriving in Lafayette a few days before the day of the concert, the University Wind Ensemble and UL Lafayette Jazz Ensemble are only able to have one day to rehearse with him.

When asked how the bands have been rehearsing without Vizzutti, Hochkeppel shared, “We have to rehearse it for the most part without ever hearing what he does.”

Even though it may have been an obstacle to tackle, not being able to physically rehearse with Vizzutti, this has however enhanced the curiosity and excitement of the band members.

Horn player Grant Roper, a junior in music theory and composition, expressed, “My favorite memory is coming from playing “My Italian Heart” and hearing Dr. Hochkeppel explain here is what Vizzutti is going to do when we rehearse with him and so it makes

me further look forward to meeting him, rehearsing with him and seeing how the piece kind of clicks once he joins us.”

The University Wind Ensemble and UL Lafayette Jazz Ensemble have been tirelessly working towards this concert, ensuring they put their utmost effort into creating a wonderful show.

Throughout their preparation journey, the band members have also made precious memories and forged a closer connection with one another.

Percussion player August Bailey IV, a freshman majoring in music business, shared, “We all had such a good time, we’re laughing, we’re smiling, we’re practicing, it’s just really fun to play, it was a good memory because we all kind of just connected a lot more in that moment.”

As there is a strong sense of unity within the ensemble members, the audience can look forward to hearing them play in harmonious and melodious unison.

The University Wind Ensemble, founded 30 years ago by Dr. Hochkeppel is an elite ensemble of the school’s finest

wind and percussion players. They have been featured at invitational festivals across central France and the Riviera, as well as a nine-day tour of the Central Highlands of Mexico.

The UL Lafayette Bands include The Pride of Acadiana Marching Band, Symphonic Winds, Concert Band, two Pep Bands and the UL Lafayette Jazz Ensemble.

Although the UL Lafayette Bands have been upholding a strong reputation and recognized for their immense potential, many people on campus still lack knowledge of the UL Lafayette Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble.

“We wish that everybody knew what we have happening here,” Hochkeppel said.

This concert would be an excellent opportunity for students to hear both the UL Lafayette Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble, as well as learn more about them.

Students can be sure to be blown away by the symphonic tunes played by the two ensembles as they accompany Vizzutti.



Photo by Kayla Crane

Students in rehearsal for the upcoming concert.

## UL’s Office of Distance Learning shares more on their online program and national success

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**  
NEWS WRITER

Another milestone has been reached by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, as its online program has been ranked one of the highest in the nation by the U.S. News & World Reports.

The 2024 Best Online Bachelor’s Program ranks UL Lafayette’s online bachelor’s program at No. 57, followed by spectacular sub-rankings of online programs in business, nursing, those for veterans and the online master’s program in business administration.

Hope Aucoin, the assistant director of Communication and Marketing for Distance Learning, emphasized UL Lafayette’s online program’s history, growth and achievements.

“The Office of Distance Learning started in 2010 to facilitate online programs by supporting faculty teaching online and students learning online,” Aucoin said.

The online courses are specifically developed by the department to which they belong, and the Office of Distance Learning’s “function is really to support them in that effort.”

Aucoin continued, “We have an enrollment team focused on helping students enroll and then helping them once they are enrolled to succeed as an online student. And then we have our instructional support team that works with faculty to become certified to teach online courses, then help them design online courses.”

The office first began with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

“The Master of Sciences and Nursing was one of the first programs offered online and then the RN to BSN program for registered nurses who have an associate’s degree, they can come into the program and earn their bachelor’s degree,” said Aucoin.

Since the beginning of the online program, the office has grown to include

many more courses besides those in nursing. Aucoin explained that the university “has consistently added new online degrees over the years,” and the goal remains “to offer new online programs as the opportunities arise and as we see the need from a student perspective.”

Aucoin further shared on the nationally recognized online program, what it means for them and the university and other prominent achievements.

“These rankings and other rankings, they don’t much inform on what we do,” Aucoin said.

Though she added that they do serve to remind the university of what it’s accomplished so far.

“They give us an acknowledgment of what we’ve been doing over several years to ensure that we have all the things in place that students need to succeed in their online degree programs and afterwards,” Aucoin highlighted.

She added that this past December, the RN to BSN program had its 3000th graduate.

When asked about the benefits of an online education, Aucoin said that an online degree can help students “gain the credentials they need to advance their career or pursue a new one without leaving their current position, while being able to balance the other priorities they have.”

“Online degree programs are the difference between being able to advance their education, being able to advance their careers, and not,” Aucoin concluded.

A few UL Lafayette students also took the time to share their experiences with online education.

Samantha Watson, an undergraduate

junior and chemistry major, shared her experience with online learning.

“My biggest advantage would be going back and being able to review any material they have posted at my own pace,” Watson said.

However, Watson emphasized that, in general, an in-person education was more challenging.

“The level of education was different,” Watson said.

Ashton Andrepont, a senior studying computer science, provided thoughts from his online experiences, stating they were highly accessible, and you could sometimes pace yourself, but that something was missing from the experience.

“You don’t get to make any connections with your teachers,” shared Andrepont.

Onyeka Nwaezeapu, an undergraduate junior and biology major currently enrolled in some UL online courses, expressed what online programs have taught her.

“It’s given me a more sense of responsibility. It’s seriously a sense of, ‘hey, check your email once a week.’ You have to, that’s the only way they’re contacting you. It is a sense of responsibility and independence,” said Nwaezeapu.

Compared to long ago, students now have the choice to personalize their education to which best suits them.

Whether students prefer an online or in-person education, both can teach and broaden their skills to prepare them for future careers.

UL Lafayette’s Office of Distance Learning has been helping students achieve such professional strides for over 10 years and continues to do so.



Photo by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Student studying for their online courses.

### News

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# Those wrongfully sentenced to life, IPNO's efforts to free them

**Adhamm Safford**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since its founding in 2001, Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) has been working to free innocent people who've been unjustly sentenced in Louisiana, and has exonerated 68 people wrongfully sentenced to life in prison.

Louisiana has one of the highest incarceration rates in the U.S., only recently losing its first place spot to Mississippi. The U.S. itself has the highest number of prisoners in the world, with nearly 2 million people behind bars. Roughly 25% of the world's prison population is in America.

Wrongful and unjust convictions, whether that be sentencing someone who didn't commit any crimes, or issuing a sentence that isn't appropriate for the crime, are what IPNO looks to resolve through post-conviction work.

IPNO receives requests for assistance from prisoners in Louisiana who fill out a written application for help, at no cost to them. IPNO's team of legal experts, attorneys and investigators then look at the case to determine if the client is indeed innocent. They then have to bring the case back to the court that originally convicted their client and present the new evidence to them.

Larry Moses is one of the people that IPNO exonerated. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison, but IPNO's investigation revealed that this conviction was based on a false testimony from a witness who'd seen Moses with his ex-girlfriend and wanted to get back at him.

Moses, however, was out-of-town and had multiple alibi witnesses, while the witness "provided inconsistent accounts of the crime and admitted to others that he was setting Mr. Moses up," according to IPNO.

Evidence was hidden by the

prosecutors, and Moses was spared the death penalty only by one vote. He served 29 years in prison before he was finally exonerated.

This takes a lot of time and work as Susan Simon, a retired attorney and new member of IPNO's board of directors, shared.

"If you've committed a crime and you're in prison for life, it's a very tough road. But if you're in prison for something you didn't do and you spend 29 years like Mr. Moses... To never give up hope is just a strength of fortitude and character that I am honestly in awe of," Simon said.

The difficulties often don't end with exoneration, however, as they leave prison to a world that's changed and may have become completely alien to them. Their families may no longer be around, or they may have to adjust to technology, such as cell phones, that wasn't around before they started their sentence. IPNO continues to support its clients after their release, and attempts to get them readjusted as best they can.

IPNO's belief is that wrongful sentences and convictions could end with a smaller, more focused, more accurate and more accountable criminal justice system. Their work carries over to trying to tackle some of the root, systemic issues underlying the criminal justice system.

"One of the things they try to do is also to work toward changing the laws and policies and cultures that end up where you're in prison because you're poor, and in Louisiana, often a person of color. Our rates of incarceration are so disproportionate to our population rates," Simon said.

She added that much of our population is not fairly and properly represented.

"We have a huge population of people of color. And yet if you look at our sheriffs, our district attorneys, it's a very small amount of people that are elected

that are people of color, and that needs to change. So it's changing laws, it's political, it's getting out and working to make these changes," Simon said.

Currently, Louisiana's legislature is in a special session regarding bills targeting criminal justice. Among these are bills that would add further restrictions to parole that effectively abolish it, harsher sentences for various crimes, increased immunity to liability for law enforcement, removing oversight from the public defender system and putting absolute power in one person that answers to the governor and limitations on post-conviction appeals.

House Bill 4, one that would heavily affect IPNO's work, would make a post-conviction appeal impossible if more than two years have passed since the conviction, and you had pled guilty to the crime. Oftentimes, people make plea bargains where, despite innocence, they plead guilty under the belief that it would be better for them.

"Their attorney, the judge, says 'You need to plead guilty, it'll go better for you, you'll be able to get out of prison.' And they end up with these sheer sentences that they've actually pled to when they're actually innocent," Simon said.

IPNO's 4th Annual Stand for Justice, which has sold out tickets, seeks to bring further awareness to IPNO's work and the faults in the criminal justice system. Moses and Barney Holt, both exonerated by IPNO, will be in attendance to speak on their personal stories, and Senator Gerald Boudreaux is being honored with the 2024 IPNO Justice Award for his work for justice and equity. It will be held on March 5 at the Downtown Convention Centre in Lafayette.

Speaking on Louisiana's prison system in particular, Simon attributed our high incarceration rate to, chiefly, systemic racism and economic disparity.

"When you cannot afford to hire a



Photo provided by Innocence Project New Orleans

Larry Moses, who IPNO helped exonerate of a wrongful life sentence, will be speaking at the 4th Annual Stand for Justice on March 5.

lawyer, when you are subject to different rules based upon the color of your skin, I think that is how you account for it," Simon said. "If you go to Angola to visit, you might see a number of Black men working in a plantation field being guarded by white men on horses. It looks awful familiar to the history books."

Simon said that the best thing people can do is to be informed and read about what's happening around them, what laws are being proposed.

"And then realize that it's their responsibility to take a stand for things they believe in. They can write, they can call, they can contact the people that are in power now and say 'We don't want this.' They can help elect people that are for criminal justice changes and to make sure our justice system is just. I think that is how people can help," Simon said. "They can vote, they can support, they can give money to IPNO who's representing innocent people. I think there's a lot of ways you can get involved."

## Police Reports

Compiled by Kay Padilla

### Feb. 24

- At 9:34 p.m., officers were advised of a group of subjects in Olivier Parking Tower with masks and knives in the stairwell.

### Feb. 23

- At 5:01 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Boucher Street in reference to a single-vehicle crash. A white 2019 Ram 1000 was involved.
- At 4:28 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a hit-and-run that occurred at the Olivier Parking Tower. The vehicles involved were a white 2020 Honda Civic and a silver 2014 Nissan Sentra. The suspect was issued a misdemeanor summons.
- At 9:11 a.m., officers were dispatched to Legacy Park Apartments in reference to a parking lot crash involving a maroon 2018 Mazda 3 and a white 2021 Ford bus.

### Feb. 21

- At 11:13 a.m., officers were dispatched to Legacy Park Apartments in reference to a fight in progress. The call was upgraded to Battery of a Dating Partner. The property involved was a pink iPhone 13, a pink iPad 10 in a pink case and an Apple Watch 3. An arrest was made.
- At 12:17 p.m., officers were dispatched to Harris Hall in reference to a battery that had taken place.

### Feb. 18


- At 4:00 p.m., officers were dispatched to Bourgeois Hall in reference to an individual with a gun.
- At 2:53 a.m., officers responded to Agnes Edwards Hall in reference to an intoxicated individual.











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**Student Publications**

#### THE VERMILION

A weekly student publication of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The paper is distributed on Thursdays except on holidays and semester breaks. The Vermilion is supported in part by student-assessed fees. Views expressed in The Vermilion do not necessarily reflect those of UL Lafayette administrators, faculty, staff or other students.

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# Governor Jeff Landry proposes next year's conservative budget

**Bruce Tete**  
NEWS WRITER

On Feb. 12, Republican Governor Jeff Landry gave his first budget proposal for the next financial year.

The more fiscally conservative budget mainly focuses on public safety and policing while not changing much else in regards to health, education or financial investment.

The total state operating budget includes \$44.2 billion, \$22 billion of which are federal funds. The budget is \$3 billion less than the previous year largely due to a loss of federal funding. With this smaller budget, most spending is remaining the same as the current year with a few exceptions.

While no new policies or programs have been proposed regarding health, education or the financial sector, the governor runs a tough-on-crime platform. Landry has put aside \$51.5 million for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to fund the longer sentences and harsher penalties he hopes to enact. However, longer sentences will mean more prison funding down the line, in order for facilities to support inmates serving those longer sentences.

Along with the \$51.5 million, the prison system will also be receiving a portion of a \$127 million repair fund which will be used for a new water system, air conditioning and fire alarms for one of the detention facilities.

Part of that repair fund will also be used to buy 238 new vehicles for the state police who are another large recipient of state funds in this budget. The state police will be receiving an additional \$42.1 million to help fund Troop NOLA, which will station 40 state troopers in the French Quarter of New Orleans in order to crack down on crime.

And with drug-related crimes being another one of Landry's targets for the next year, he has allocated an additional \$5.7 million to the state judicial system for drug crime prosecutions.

When asked what Landry's priority should be for this year, University of Louisiana at Lafayette student Tamiyah Rhines, a sophomore nursing major said, "I think he should be more willing to listen to the public... Louisiana has a lot of schools that don't have much funding. The education here isn't as good as other schools so I feel like he should be willing to fix that and raise the pay of teachers."

Last year instead of granting teachers a permanent pay raise, the state issued \$2,000 stipends to all public teachers across the state. While the \$198 million program is still in effect for next year, Landry has proposed some changes for it.

Instead of the stipends being given

to all teachers across the board, the governor instead wants to target STEM teachers and other hard-to-fill positions. He also wants to target regions that especially struggle with education and hiring new teachers, as a way to incentivize more educators.

Many factors influenced the choice to give teachers a stipend instead of a permanent pay raise like many teachers are asking for. Not only has the state Department of Education lost \$900 million of federal funds for COVID support but a 45 cent sales tax is expected to not be renewed in 2025, lowering state revenue.

Concerning the governor's change to the stipend program, Caitlin Jackson, a freshman engineering major said, "I was

in school band for years and I've always been very creative and I can imagine the struggle [of being a teacher]. We already lost our band director because of the school board.

And we struggled to find new ones and then the new ones left. And so I think the non-STEM teachers deserve their flowers too."

Many UL Lafayette students expressed concerns not only regarding the state's education system but also state infrastructure and road conditions. Luckily we do have a \$325 million surplus of state funds from the previous year, \$211.5 million of which will be used for road and bridge construction and repairs, as well as coastal restoration projects.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Landry's campaign website

Jeff Landry's proposed budget includes more money to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

## Sports

### Louisiana Legends: Elijah Mitchell

**Kaydence Vital**  
SPORTS WRITER

Sports tell a story, being able to play those sports is the challenge, and being able to move up in those sports is an opportunity. Former Louisiana running back, Elijah Mitchell, took that opportunity.

Mitchell started off his season as a Ragin' Cajun in 2017. His freshman year he appeared in five games but missed the second half of the season due to injury. He finished fifth on the team in rushing yards (273), second in average yards per carry (6.1) and tied third in rushing touchdowns (4).

He caught three passes for 25 yards and one receiving touchdown, racked up

56 yards rushing on 11 attempts, scoring first career touchdown in first career appearance during the season opener against Southeastern.

He made his first career touchdown reception (19 yards), while gaining 84 yards on eight carries, scoring a rushing touchdown, to finish with 103 all-purpose yards and two touchdowns at Tulsa.

In 2018, he started in 13 games and ended the year with 1334 yards from scrimmage and 16 touchdowns. His 16 touchdowns were the most on the team and total yards from scrimmage were the second highest. To finish out, he was also the only person in the conference who had one 100-yard rushing and one 100-yard receiving game.

Fast forward to his senior year, 2020, where Mitchell appeared in 10 games and starred in nine contests. He earned First-Team All-Sun Belt Conference honors and led Louisiana in rushing, toting the ball 141 times for 878 yards and eight touchdowns.

His yardage total was third in the conference and ranked 23rd nationally. His eight rushing scores were the fifth most in the Sunbelt and tied for 41st nationally.

With his 41 rushing scores, he is now one of five Ragin' Cajuns in program history with more than 40 rushing touchdowns.

Mitchell finished his career ranked the MVP of the 2020 SERVPRO First Responder Bowl. He opened his 2020

against Iowa State with 46-yards on eight carries and had a monster game against Georgia State (Sep. 19).

His 164 rushing yards against Georgia State was the second highest rushing output of his career. He has now gone over the century mark 11 times in his career.

Following his stellar performance, he was named the Sunbelt Offensive Player of the Week for the third time in his career.

When they played Coastal Carolina (Oct. 14), Mitchell's 59-yard touchdown run was the second 50+ yard touchdown of his career since his longest rush, a 65-yard touchdown run against Arkansas State in 2018. He also rushed for 39 yards on nine carries and scored twice against Carolina.

The Senior running back led Louisiana in rushing against UAB, carrying the ball 21 times for 67 yards, while totaling two catches for 18 yards, and carried the ball 17 times for 96 yards in the team's win at Texas State (Oct. 31).

Elijah Mitchell finished his Senior Year as a Cajun by finishing off in the team's bowl game against UTSA, carrying the ball 19 times for 127 yards and a touchdown. His 127 yards were the most by a Ragin' Cajun in a bowl game in program history.

One thing he is most proud of is when he led his team to a win in the final game of the 2020 season. He dedicated the game to the late Coach Looney, their offensive line coach, who passed away of a heart attack in August at a team workout.

Elijah then went on to play professionally and got drafted to the 49ers in 2021. Currently, in the past 2023 season, he has a record of 281 yards, 2 touchdowns, 75 carries and an average of 3.75. The 49ers made it to the Super Bowl 2024, and our very own Elijah Mitchell was a part of that. Cannot wait to see where the rest of his career takes him.



Photo provided by Louisiana Athletics

Elijah Mitchell (#15) stiff arms UTSA linebacker Tyler Mahnke while carrying the ball during the 2020 First Responder Bowl

# Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Morgan Parker

No. 17

## INSTRUCTIONS

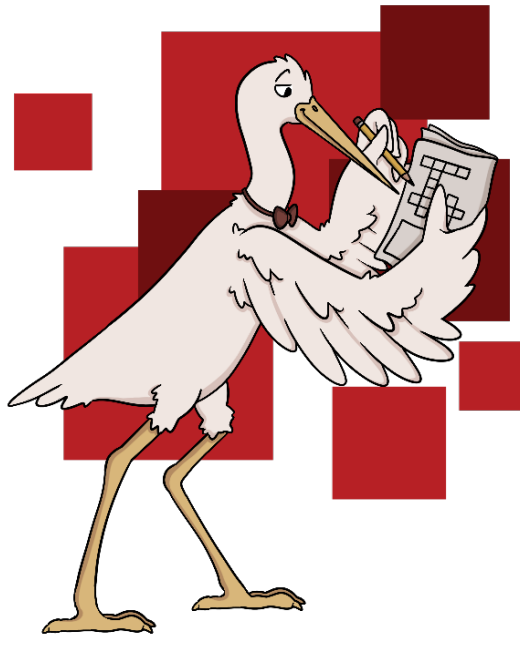
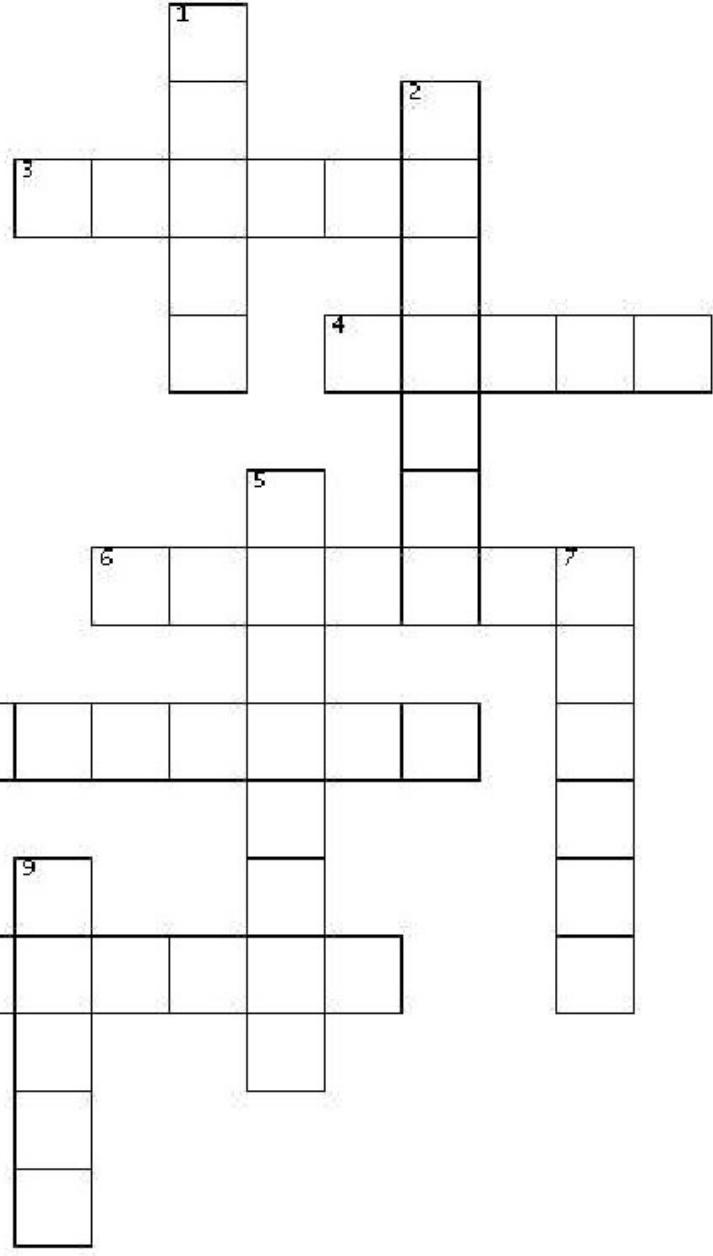
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

### ACROSS

- 3. What do students have to personalize their education to best suit them?
- 4. A retired attorney and new member of IPNO's board of directors (last name)
- 6. What type of restoration projects will the surplus of state funds from last year be used for?
- 8. World renowned trumpet virtuoso who is equally at home with classical and jazz styles (last name)
- 10. Which Cajun's basketball starter had the 'hot hand' against Southern Miss? (last name).

### DOWN

- 1. A YouTube creator that uses shorter form, one-person sketches.
- 2. What Christian group did Nyria Mustiful become a part of on campus?
- 5. Which Cajuns pitcher got the start on Feb. 24 game against Rice? (last name)
- 7. What was the name of the coach Elijah Mitchell dedicated a win to? (last name)
- 9. What is the name of Lisa Frankenstein's new stepsister?



## Cajun Candids Symphonic Winds Concert

Photos by Joe Bozzelle



# Slow starts on offense lead to back-to-back losses for Cajuns

**Isaac Henry**  
SPORTS WRITER

In their second home series of the season, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns dropped two in a row to the Rice Horned Owls on Feb. 24 and 25, 1-2 and 1-6 respectively.

After a good opening week against the Wright State Raiders, offensive struggles reared their head.

Head coach Matt Deggs had a lot of good to say about the development of the team after the Wright State matchup.

"For the foreseeable future, [we want to] invest, kind of like we did with [Dex] Kjerstad in '13, invest in bats, in Josh Alexander. That's a big-league talent. So is Luke [Yuhasz], so is [Trey] LaFleur," Deggs said in a Feb. 19 press conference.

Deggs also spoke briefly on the pressure of maintaining a successful program in spite of the pressure of expectations.

"As long as they can give us something, we can invest in them, because like it or not, you've got to work

to win every game with RPI hanging over your head, you just do," Deggs said.

"I wish it wasn't that way, but it is. I wish you could pick a subset of games and say, 'These are our RPI games,' or maybe RPI starts after conference, but it doesn't," Deggs said. "So that ties your hands."

In Friday's offering, Jack Martinez got the call to start for the Cajuns. Immediately, the Owls made his job as hard as possible, drawing two full-count walks and a 3-1 walk in the first inning, culminating in a Manny Garza sac fly to put the first points on the board.

In the Cajuns' first offensive showing, Rice's Parker Smith coaxed a looking strikeout. Kyle DeBarge tried and failed to steal second, and a groundout quickly ended the proceedings.

The pitching would prevail until the top of the third, when Garza would again take a swing and would earn himself another RBI, this time boosted by an untimely error by Cajuns' center fielder Josh Alexander.

After barely getting out of the rest

of the inning and allowing a single to start the fourth, the Cajuns would pull Martinez and put senior David Christie on the mound. The Cajuns still couldn't get out of their own way on offense, as any momentum was eaten by either an error or an excellent defensive stop, like a groundout into a double play in the fourth.

The Cajuns did eventually mount a comeback attempt starting in the sixth. Caleb Stelly extended the offense with a successful steal of second, and Luke Yuhasz hit a sac fly to bring him in. The team very nearly tied it in the eighth where a Lee Amedee hit-by-pitch take and a Trey LaFleur single set the stage for at least one run, but the Owls' Davion Hickson shut down the bats with two straight groundouts to seal the eventual final score.

Saturday's match was similarly one-sided, but the Owls seemed much more comfortable in the box for this one. Chase Morgan started for the Cajuns, and he almost immediately got himself into trouble.

He allowed Kyte McDonald to single, then hit Pierce Gallo with a pitch, and finally allowed RBI's to Garza and Jack Riedel respectively. The rest of the game went by in a blur, as the Cajuns ended up using four different pitchers in relief, including previous LP Langevin, a starter in the Wright State series.

When asked before about restraining from overuse of Langevin specifically, Deggs said, "That's a thing. I wish we had like two or three of him. That's a thing, and I think Gunner [Leger] is probably the voice of reason on that side of it. He's more like Coach [Robicheaux] than he is like me and that's probably a good thing, cause I like LP."

Next up for the Cajuns is the Sunday, Feb. 25 game against the Owls to wrap up the series, then a midweek matchup against the Northwestern State Demons on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

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Photo by Alyus Dick

Cono Higgs (33) celebrates after hitting a home-run versus Rice.

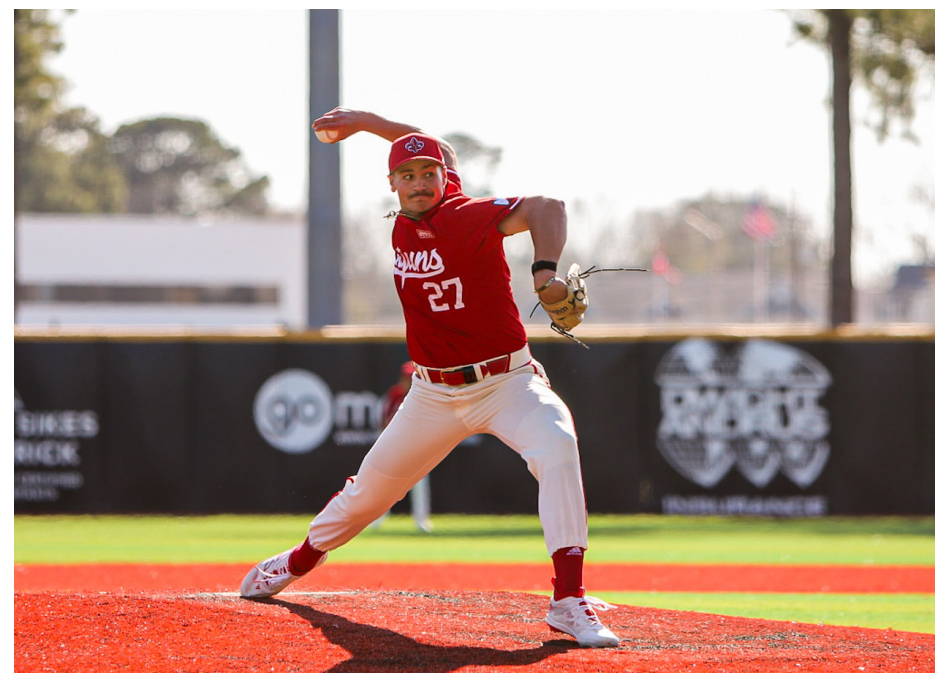


Photo by Alyus Dick

Matthew Holzhammer (27) delivers final strikeout to seal the game versus Rice.

## Ragin' Cajuns Basketball's leaders fall short at the worst possible time

**Isaac Henry**  
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns lost their final away game of the season to the Southern Miss Golden Eagles on Feb. 24. The Cajuns struggled on offense all game and led at no point past the first-minute mark as the Eagles coasted to a fairly comfortable 82-71 win.

The Cajuns had a chance to come back late in the game as they pulled to within five points with five minutes remaining, but Eagles senior guards Andre Curbelo and Mo Arnold stepped up with back-to-back 3-pointers to help shut the door.

This, along with losses to Appalachian State and UL Monroe, marks three consecutive losses for Cajuns basketball for a 9-7 conference record and a plummet to five games back of No. 1-seeded App State in the Sun Belt standings.

It's terrible timing for this kind of slump, as the team is in a dead heat for the No. 4 seed which would give the team a bye week in the SBC Tournament.

So why has the team struggled to put up 80 points in a contest, which so far in 2024 has locked in a win every time?

Kobe Julien is still in a shooting slump. He has continued to struggle in the three losses, hitting 14-of-39 shots from the field in those matches, including 1-10 on 3-point shots.

At the end of the day, the Cajuns don't have a consistent 3-point offense at all. When they try to shoot a typical amount of threes, it looks bad. In all three losses they've tried to put up an effort on that front and they've only gotten close-to-acceptable returns on investment once.

"We didn't shoot the ball well, we're 1-for-10 from three," said head coach Bob Marlin during a Feb. 19 press conference.

"We've gotta get Kentrell [Garnett], Kobe, and Joe [Charles] shooting the ball like they're capable of shooting it. We had open looks, we just didn't make them," Marlin said.

After making strides in rebounding efficiency lately, the Cajuns also got crushed on that end in the Southern Miss game, 46-29, which allowed the Eagles a whopping 24 second-chance points.

Even forward Hosana Kitenge couldn't get much of his usual rhythm going against the Eagles' defense, managing just 2-7 and five rebounds, way below his standard production. Joe Charles had the hot hand in the game, going 10-18 with seven rebounds.

Fans aren't looking at players after this disappointment, though. Coach Marlin has been the target of much of the criticism among fans, as his comments about free-throw discrepancy in games have been picked apart repeatedly online.

"We did what we needed to do against App State, we rebounded the ball well, shot free throws well, but unfortunately, we only shot five, and they got 17," said Marlin during that same Feb. 19 press conference.

"That's the eighth time since I've been here that a team has had less than 10 fouls against us... It's happened eight times in 14 years, and then three times this year," said Marlin.

Marlin recognized the lost opportunity with the loss to App State: "The App game was important for a lot of reasons. We've had a lot of success there, they've only beaten us one time in Boone and one time here in Lafayette. They haven't been here since '19, so five years. We will play them next season."

"We felt like if we ran the table, you'd have a chance to win and you'd

automatically be third, but it would hang a loss on those guys. So everybody else in the conference was pulling for us," Marlin said.

With just two games left in this team's

season and the race for the bye out of their hands, the focus must be on putting up the best performances possible in the Cajundome against Troy on Feb. 28 and Southern Mississippi on March 1.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Kobe Julien (4) puts up a contested layup over the Georgia State defense on Feb. 7

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# Allons

## I had a killer time at the movie theater with 'Lisa Frankenstein'

**Marie Ducote**

ALLONS WRITER

In my heart I am truly a hopeless romantic. Give me a soppy love story and I will watch it and weep. We can all name our favorite couples, Han Solo/Princess Leia, Anakin Skywalker/Padme, Troy/Gabriella, Leslie/Ben, Rose/Jack and Satine/Christian. Well now I have a new movie to cry to every Valentine's Day: "Lisa Frankenstein" (2024).

It's 1989 and 18-year-old outcast Lisa Swallows (Kathryn Newton) would rather spend time in Bachelor's Grove Cemetery at her favorite Victorian man's grave (Cole Sprouse) who died tragically young. She talks and reads to the bust that is attached to the grave, Lisa's life has changed a lot since her mother's tragic murder. Her dad remarried and she has a new stepsister named Taffy (Liza Soberano).

One night green lightning strikes and Lisa's wish comes true, the undead man of her dreams comes alive. Lisa and the Creature go on a killing spree to replace the limbs he is missing. Each time Lisa sticks her new beau in a tanning bed and he comes a little bit more re-animated. The ending will shock you!

The title alone of this movie does give you a clue that this is a twist on "Frankenstein." A story that has been reinvented many times throughout pop culture. With "Lisa Frankenstein" asking the question "What if we combine "Frankenstein," John Hughes' movies and the horrors of being a teenage girl?" You think all of these contrasting elements would not work together, but they surprisingly do with very few errors.

What made me interested in the film were the taglines of the posters "She's slaying, he's decaying" and "If you can't meet your perfect boyfriend...make him."

They sum up the plot pretty well. This was a solid directorial debut from Zelda Williams. You can tell that Williams took inspiration from old school horror movies and '80s teen comedies.

The script was written by "Jennifer's Body" screenwriter Diablo Cody. This was my first time watching something written by Cody and it makes me interested in finally watching "Jennifer's Body." The writing had the right amount of morbid humor.

One of my favorite pastimes is watching B-level horror movies because the plots and dialogue are always bizarre and the production looks like they had the budget of a dime. This movie had a similar feel to it, but with a bigger budget. And this movie is no different mixing horror and comedy together which made it a blast to watch in the theater. The actors understood what type of movie they were in and played the characters so eccentrically.

Lisa is weird and as a fellow weird girl I felt a kinship in her love of old horror movies and The Cure. She goes full mad scientist and it was refreshing to watch a film where the mad scientist type character was a girl and not a guy with a God Complex. Newton nails the awkwardness and unhinged moments of Lisa.

Her character growth is indicated by replacing her bright sweaters and subtle makeup for a more traditional goth look of dark makeup, black tutu, black polka dots and corset tops. Her wardrobe was to die for (pun intended). Also side note I love that her room is very girlish and pink, but the walls are filled with Universal monster movie posters (specifically 1932's "The Mummy" and 1935's "Bride of Frankenstein") and the band Bauhaus.

In many reviews of the film Soberano performance is highlighted and I agree. Soberano's cheerful demeanor in her acting is a contrast with the angst that Newton brings to her performance.

Cody could have easily written Taffy as the stereotypical evil stepsister whose only goal in life is to make Lisa's life a living hell, but she doesn't. Taffy even though she does not fully understand Lisa she does try to get her out of her shell.

Sprouse is mute (a few grunts here and there) a majority of the movie and because of this he relies heavily on body language to portray the Creature. I felt sympathy for his character while watching the film. His and Newton's chemistry made me root for these two crazy kids to make it.

Surreal moments inspired by silent films particularly Georges Melies "A Trip to the Moon" (1902) gives "Lisa Frankenstein" a dreamlike quality. Even though it is classified as a horror movie it has a PG-13 rating so it's not that gore heavy, but I do not think that takes away from the viewing experience. With clever camera angles and the aforementioned surreal moments it makes up for the movie not being scary.

This horror-comedy reminded me of "Heathers" (1988) with its subject matter of two teen love birds murdering people and the zany one-liners. Another movie I recommend if you liked "Lisa Frankenstein" is one of my favorite horror movies "Re-Animator" (1985) because like with "Heathers" it deals with the complications of bringing the dead back to life and the hilarity that comes with it.

"Lisa Frankenstein" was a nice change of pace from all the franchise movies that have been coming out in recent years. The film had me dying of laughter!



Graphic by Lillian Babineaux

## One girl's journey of Christian life in college and today's crazy world

**Nyria Mustiful**

ALLONS WRITER

Almost 20 years ago, I was born into what I believed to be one of the most religious families on the planet. That is until I grew up and saw all the fundamentalist Christians across the globe, which massively changed my point of view. Even still, I would say that my family is still really religious.

I was heavily involved in church from an early age. My grandma arranged my first church solo at 2 years old, singing "This Little Light of Mine," which I'm pretty sure is every kid's introductory church song, but that's neither here nor there. I don't remember much of that moment, but I do know from then on, I was in choir at every church I was a part of. I also know that I was in vacation bible school, Sunday school and every other children's church activity.

As I got older and the world started changing in front of my eyes, my opinion on religion began to change. I was overtaken by peer pressure in grade school, so I learned quickly that it wasn't "cool" to be a wholesome Christian girl. Anytime I spoke up about my faith, I was either a prude, an annoying goody two-shoes or a likely enemy of the LGBTQIA+ community.

In high school, I completely dissociated from Christianity. Once I had been introduced to the occult, the power of the universe and astrology, I thought there was no going back. It was certainly not as complicated as being a Christian. Then again, I was a hormonal sex-crazed teenager who had very little self confidence and intense people pleasing tendencies, so I feel like the straying away made sense for the time.

If I had to identify a period of my life that showed me just how much I need God, it would be college. My first year in college was incredibly traumatic and I kept trying to push through, but I needed guidance and wisdom. I needed a source of strength and someone to rely on, especially since family and friends had let me down in that department. During that dark time, something just led me to God.

I'm sure that sounds super cheesy and like textbook preaching, but I don't really know how else to put it. Obviously, once I started trying to build a relationship with God, everything wasn't automatically peaches and cream. I was still struggling with having faith in Him, obeying His word and following a Christian lifestyle in a college environment.

I don't know if any of you all know this, but college is like a hot pot of sin. I don't necessarily mean that in a bad way either. College is definitely a place for young adults to find themselves and learn more about the world, but that can include persistent temptation when it comes to living a Christian life.

I, by no means, am free of sin. I've probably indulged in the typical college life more than most of the people I know. However, now that I am even more dedicated to strengthening my relationship with God, I've noticed just how difficult staying on the straight and narrow path is.

Peer pressure is even more intense now, and it isn't even how it was when I was younger. Back then it was kids telling me I had to do something to be cool. Now, just being around people in sin-provoking situations is a bit much for me.

It's also not very comforting that there are "Christians" who come on campus and harass students for "participating in sin" just because they belong to a particular community or have differentiating viewpoints. It places a sort of stigma on the religion as a whole and, for those of us that aren't fundamentalist bigots, creates a very narrow window of acceptance from others.

Just to be very clear, it is not our place as Christians, or even as people, to judge others for how they choose to live their lives and any real Christian would know that. This also lends into politics and society in general.

I don't know who died and said that Christianity, or religion in general, had a place in politics, but I wish I could have a very unpleasant word with them. Yes, I acknowledge that religion can influence people's personal values, but that doesn't mean that religion should be deliberately

inputted into every little decision that is made. Especially not when the religion is being defiled and desecrated by ignorant bigots so that they can appeal to other ignorant bigots.

Cherry picking Bible verses and pointing the finger at opposing views has gotten this country into so much trouble that you'd think by now, people would be wondering if God even likes us at all. My personal opinion is that if anyone is curious what He has to say about anything, He left it for us in His word. Please, take a look at it for yourself so that you can be educated and have a defense against those who haven't done so themselves.

There are groups here on campus, such

as Chi Alpha, Baptist Collegiate Ministry and Delight Ministries, that are meant to be safe havens for students that want to be open in their faith and I've found some comfort in that. I recently became a member of Delight myself and I'm so happy to have found a group of Christian women dedicated to connecting more with Christ, just like I am.

Joining Delight and spending more time with God helped me realize that I don't have to be ashamed of my religion anymore than I have to be ashamed of the clothes on my back. The most important thing for me is that I've come to know who God is and how much he cares for me, which is much more valuable than what anyone else has to say about it.



Graphic by Caitlyn Chase

# Observations on irony's cultural representation on the internet

**Amare Auzenne**  
ALLONS WRITER

Irony is a tool familiar to anyone who makes use of complex language as we understand it. The contrast between what is expected and what happens is a great feature of storytelling as we understand it as well as joke telling. There is however, another definitionally different version of irony which gripped the internet for many years.

An irony that formulated itself in the image of an emotionally detached surrealism whose elements have become irksome to the public.

The internet landscape of the current day may be vastly different from that of old, so old that I myself don't remember large swathes of it, but the ways in which it echoes that same landscape can be striking when examined.

The ever-escalating clickbait game of current year reflecting the meta of the (now-extinct) reply girl, the energy of much of old sketch comedy YouTube being disseminated in the form of shorter form one-person sketches (like those of Caleb City or ProZD) and irony as loose cultural movement fading into a kind of background.

It can be hard to grasp the place of irony on the internet upon first blush. The veneer of the smug commenter can be impenetrable and not worth the time to crack; people using their anonymity for the worse with sarcasm as their sword and buckler. A behavior undoubtedly familiar to anyone who has spent five minutes on the World Wide Web, but one particularly memorable to those with a lived

memory of commentary YouTube circa 2016.

The festerings of pre-Adpocalypse commentary YouTube has likely had sweeping effects that will be noted for years to come. Neglecting some of the most serious and lasting effects, I'd instead like to zero in on the nature of many channels as thinly veiled harassment campaigns. Some drama channels, such as (the aptly named) DramaAlert hosted by "Killer" Keemstar masking beef behind targeted "reporting" and perhaps even more infamously Leafy and his ilk.

Permanently banned off the platform in 2020, LeafyIsHere was perhaps one of the most toxic figures of the mid-2010s internet. The poster child of the commentary community, for better or worse, for years to come Leafy is now appropriately seated in the minds of most users as what he was: an opportunist and a serial harasser.

This association, sadly, lagged behind his influence on culture and before it was pinned to him, his "defense" of his behavior would become staple.

Claims of engaging in "satire" plastered not only Leafy's content, but that of his contemporaries. Oftentimes a stock defense for what could easily otherwise be termed as harassment campaigns or cyberbullying, that while being called occasionally, was not rendered unacceptable and unprofitable in the YouTube climate of the time.

Misapplication of satire as mainstage cyberbullying instead of the use of classical irony to point to societal flaws muddied waters.

Muddied waters that lead to

understanding irony in a different way, an understanding of irony as a diffused artistic movement on the internet, a movement which through being overrun by the likes of Leafy lost its vision and favor. The Something Awful Forums, birthplace to much of internet culture as we know it today and origin point of more relevant modern splinter sites Reddit and 4chan, was home to nascent ironic posting on a particular board: FYAD.

FYAD was a notorious free-for-all sub-forum meant to serve as a PvP-on trashposting area for the Goons (account holding Something Awful Forums users). While there many a poster would adopt a character they would trollishly use in the sub-forum for laughs, and this was reflected back at them by other characters of the sort.

While the worst of the board was

genuine engagement with the same people whom it mocked, the same people who would get the board shut down after site creator Rich "Lowtax" Kyanka took note of the fully grown -phobic and Neo-Nazi presence on the board, the best of FYAD produced creators like dril and as noted in Taylor Wofford's oral history of FYAD at Vice, many of its best posters became ground floor "Weird Twitter" posters.

Surreal audio visual experiences such as video creator CBoyardee's Dilbert series stand the test of time as a measuring stick for what sincere ironic expression looked like in its heyday, but that's not how we measure those things anymore. We measure irony by the played out r/SurrealMemes of the late 2010s, by the LeafyIsHeres of the world and worst of all by the Nazis of FYAD's last days.



Graphic by Meg Norwood

## Beaucoup

### The Major Multiverse

The Beaucoup section expresses what they may have majored in if they had not studied their current major.



Graphic by Sarah Guidry

**Adhamm Safford**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I'm fairly happy with my English/creative writing major, even though I was somewhat uncertain with what I wanted to do when I first started college. Eventually, I settled into my major and discovered my love for reading and passion for telling stories. I'm honestly kinda lucky I never felt the urge to change majors.

But if I were to do something else, I think I would've majored in physics. I think trying to discover the inner workings of our world and the universe is fascinating, and in a way, a lot of physics is still just telling stories, but ones that model how we think things work.

I also just think it'd be cool to be able to tell people I'm a physicist. If there's one thing I regret about my English major, it's that I wish I could have really specialized knowledge in a field people don't think about or use daily.

**Nyria Mustiful**  
ALLONS WRITER

If I am going to major in something different than my current one, it would be music education (vocal). I've been singing since I was a little girl and though I decided not to pursue it as a career, I still find so much joy in singing and in music. I remember how fun and exciting it was to further my abilities and have wonderful teachers that wholeheartedly believed in me. I would love to be able to give that gift to other people.

One of the reasons why I never chose that as a major is because until recently, I didn't want to be a teacher of any kind.

Basically, every woman in my family is a teacher and watching them do it made it clear to me that I didn't want to do it, at least with children. Another reason I didn't choose that major is because I was afraid that I wasn't good enough at singing to teach someone else how to do it.

Though I'm very happy with my current career path, I would still like to explore this idea in some capacity. Music and singing are such big parts of my life and I figure that if I can share my thoughts with the world, I should consider sharing my voice with the world too.

**Sarah Guidry**  
MANAGING EDITOR

If I wasn't in my current major of visual arts, I would be majoring in biology. More specifically focused in pathology, which is the study of the causes and effects of diseases. I always found science very interesting growing up and was very successful in all my science classes.

Through my college-level classes, I learned more about pathogens and found an interest in diseases and the effects they can have on the human body. My second

elective biology course was taught by an animal pathologist and she further fueled my interest in the field.

I feel that the main reason I chose not to pursue biology is because my love of art and creating overpowered it. I've been very talented in art since I was a child and it became a very therapeutic practice for me later in life. After having little to no space to express my creativity in high school, I chose to pursue it in college. I feel like it was the best decision for me as I have learned a lot and met some of the most inspiring people through my major.

**Kay Padilla**  
ALLONS EDITOR

My current major is political science. I love it deeply, no matter how often I scream at my textbooks and the plethora of scholarly articles I have to annotate and review. Political science challenges my world views, politics, personal philosophy and my writing skills. I was born to question everything, and I work those brain muscles every day.

However, I often feel like I lack

creativity in my studies. The most creative thing I can do is pick my own research topic or choose which type of medium to present my final projects on. I am a creative person, I like to paint, draw, sculpt etc. I may not be good at it but in my free time, that is what I do.

I wish I would have majored in art. Any type of art really, they are all as equally challenging and changes you as a person. Art would have challenged the creative side of my brain and forced me out of my comfort zone.

# SOUNDING OFF

**"What is the biggest lie you have told or been told?"**



**Amaya Givens**  
NURSING SOPHOMORE

*"That I am going to stop procrastinating, that's a lie I told myself."*



**Emily Drouin**  
BIOLOGY JUNIOR

*"That I'll pay off my credit card eventually because I buy a lot of things."*



**Elise Riley**  
PSYCHOLOGY JUNIOR

*"When I was in high school I would make my mom text me to come home if I didn't want to hang out with my friends anymore."*



**Samantha Ramshur**  
ACCOUNTING SENIOR

*"The biggest lie I have been told is that accounting is easy."*



**Brionna Stallion**  
PRE-DENTAL HYGIENE SOPHOMORE

*"I messed up my mom's dinner table and I told her that the heat from the noodles went through the table, but it was nail polish."*



**Noah McCollum**  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SUPER SENIOR

*"I told people that I was going to be an architect, but that's not my major."*

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 Kay Padilla & Adhamm Safford.

## COMIC

# Self-Defense



Comic by Lauren Gerald



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