

# THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper  March 14, 2024

## 11th anniversary of The Big Event: Day of service at UL Lafayette on March 16

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**  
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's student-led and largest day of community service, The Big Event, is set to occur on Saturday, March 16.

The Big Event will be hosted by the Office of First Year Experiences and the Office of Sustainability on campus and expand throughout Lafayette Parish, contributing to communal beautification efforts and organizations.

The presenting sponsor of this year's event is Parish Proud, a non-profit placemaking organization known for its advocacy and great strides in environmental conservation and community engagement.

Kylee Falcon, a junior and executive director of The Big Event, elaborated more on the event's purpose, outreach and new additions incorporated into the 2024 program.

"The Big Event is this huge community service event we put on campus for our students. It's a great opportunity for our students to get more connected with the community," Falcon said.

The upcoming Big Event will be UL Lafayette's 11th year hosting the program.

The event will work directly with sites in the university, areas within Lafayette and beyond the city.

"It's a lot of on-campus and around-campus litter sites, cleaning up local communities, local businesses, local parks. We also send our students out; we have a few sites in Broussard this year," Falcon said.

Several external organizations provide the service sites for The Big Event.

"A lot of our sites come from outside organizations, so we'll work with Habitat for Humanity, Second Harvest," Falcon continued.

As for the structure of the gathering, Falcon mentioned that the attendees can expect an opening ceremony, new entertainment and much community engagement.

Parish Proud itself will have nearly 100 volunteers at its site alone, the most prominent site of involvement in the event.

Falcon also mentioned a few new incorporations into the program.

"This year, we opened our horizons up to alumni, so now we have alumni volunteers. We are also opening up to Upward Bound, which is a program for high school students who are looking to set higher education."

When asked what students can learn from participating in the event, Falcon hoped students would understand their impact on society and enjoy their experiences in helping their community.

"I want students to know that they've made an impact, that their time there was valuable to our community and event. That's our main focus at The Big Event, that we give our students some outreach to the community and some fun volunteering," Falcon concluded.

UL Lafayette students also shared their past experiences with The Big Event.

A junior and accounting major, Caleb Overby attended The Big Event in 2023 with UL Lafayette's Institute for Management Accountants (IMA).

"Last year, we helped clean up the Lafayette Community Center. One of our members helped some of their accounting work, some of us helped



Photo by Andre Broussard

Students turned out in 2023 to The Big Event to help improve their campus and the surrounding community.

them straighten up the place and others went to clean the neighborhood," Overby said.

"It felt really good being able to give back to the community and help out," Overby highlighted.

"The whole school was out doing different things and just being the big difference by each of us doing our little parts."

Madison Dressler, a senior and biology/chemistry double major, attended The Big Event in 2022.

Dressler participated in the event with the university's Biology Society and mainly helped clean the Downtown Lafayette area.

The Big Event is one of the largest

events organized by the university that brings students together to support causes that are fundamental to maintaining their community.

Texas A&M University was the first to establish The Big Event in 1982, which later became widespread throughout the country.

UL Lafayette incorporated The Big Event in 2013.

The entirely student-organized effort is supported by the Office of First Year Experiences and the Office of Sustainability.

The Big Event is an opportunity for UL Lafayette students to engage with one another and make a lasting mark in their community.

## Graduate school: What it is, who it's for and how it can help to shape your future career

**Adhamm Safford**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

College students coming towards the end of their time in undergraduate often start searching for jobs and thinking about potential careers, but continuing their studies through a graduate program may be a worthwhile option.

After earning their bachelor's degree, students can further their studies in a graduate program, either pursuing a master's or doctoral degree.

Generally, a graduate program has students going deeper into their specific field, gaining more specialized knowledge as they work towards the completion of a dissertation, thesis, or other large-scale project.

Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, a professor of history and dean of the graduate school at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, spoke on a major change students undergo as they transition from undergraduate to graduate studies.

"The other thing that's really awesome

about graduate education is that you're working with your faculty in a new way. And that can be intimidating for sure, but what's happening when you're in a graduate program is that you're moving from being a student to being an expert in the field, and their colleague," Farmer-Kaiser said.

Advanced degrees open up different career paths, such as working as a faculty member at a university. Farmer-Kaiser shared that advanced degrees increase the income earned over a lifetime significantly, as well as provide much stronger employment stability.

The National Center for Education Statistics found that among full-time workers between 25-34, those with a master's degree or higher earned 21 percent more than those with a bachelor's degree.

UL Lafayette is constantly building upon and adding to their catalog of graduate programs, and while Farmer-Kaiser encouraged students to apply to UL Lafayette's graduate school, she also

suggested applying to multiple different graduate schools.

Some factors that may influence which graduate schools are worth applying to include their tuition and fees, if they offer any sort of funding to help cover those, as well as the faculty at that school since graduate programs entail working closely with them.

Funding often comes in the form of assistantships and fellowships. Assistantships generally provide a monthly stipend, a tuition waiver and possibly a fee waiver.

In return, the graduate student works for the university, usually as a teaching assistant, research assistant or sometimes in one of the university's administrative offices.

The work itself can range from teaching classes to working in a lab, and generally involves 20 hours of work each week.

A fellowship is usually the highest level of funding provided to graduate students. They offer a stipend that generally pays higher than an assistantship, as well as a tuition and fee waiver.

They may also include a year or two years of non-service support, where funding is provided but you don't have to perform work for the university.

"So no teaching obligations, no research obligations, your job is to go to class, get your research and writing done, and move forward," Farmer-Kaiser said.

Graduate school is an option not just for students who know that the career they want to go into requires an advanced degree, but also for those still figuring out what it is they want to do.

"If you're not sure what pathways are available to you, but you know you love history, or creative writing, or nursing or so forth, a master's program is a really

great way to start," Farmer-Kaiser said. "Your mind's gonna be opened to not only new research in the field of study and so forth, but you're also going to potentially find new doors to walk through."

An advanced degree can also be pursued while working in a full-time, professional career.


Many graduate schools, including UL Lafayette, offer online programs, as well as programs with a hybrid model where students come in two days out of the week for in-person classes, and supplement that with online learning during the rest of the week.

Farmer-Kaiser, who was a first-generation college student, emphasized that any student can find their place in graduate school, but what it takes most of all to be successful in graduate school is resilience.

"Grad school involves failure. When we do research, we're oftentimes figuring out what doesn't work and what's missing and what we don't know. And so your ability to handle that is critical to being successful in grad school. Brilliance helps, no question, but it's resilience that's going to finish a graduate degree," Farmer-Kaiser said.

For those considering graduate school, the time to start building your application is during your undergraduate studies. Putting together that application can be a complicated process, but in April, UL Lafayette will be hosting a series of Zoom sessions covering that process, including do's and don'ts, the GRE, letters of reference, writing a statement of purpose and getting funding for graduate school.

These sessions will be held on Tuesdays at noon from April 2-23. More information and registration can be found at [louisiana.edu/graduateschool](http://louisiana.edu/graduateschool).



roundtable discussions with  
staff of the graduate school

FOUR TUESDAYS. FOUR TOPICS.

APRIL 2. do's & don'ts of applying to grad school	All sessions are virtual at noon on Zoom.
APRIL 9. GRE, GPAs & letters of reference	For more information and registration, go to
APRIL 16. writing your statement of purpose (personal essay)	<a href="http://louisiana.edu/graduateschool">louisiana.edu/graduateschool</a>
APRIL 23. grad school funding & financing	

Graphic courtesy of UL Lafayette's Graduate School

### News

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MARCHES ON

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# Women's History Month 2024: Celebrating women's triumphs

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS WRITER

National Women's History month is celebrated every March, honoring the remarkable women in American history who paved the way for society.

In conjunction with this celebration, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Women's Leadership Conference will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21 at the Cajundome Convention Center.

The conference is structured to foster personal and professional development, and includes breakout sessions and networking opportunities.

The theme of this year's conference, which will be hosted by UL Lafayette's Office for Campus Diversity, is "The Future of Work – The Role of Women in a Changing Landscape."

UL Lafayette alumna Claire Babineaux-Fontenot will be the keynote speaker for the conference. She is the chief executive officer of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization and the second-largest American charity.

Babineaux-Fontenot was also among Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2020.

The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for personal and professional leadership development that is centered on the needs of women from various cultural backgrounds.

Students, faculty, staff and community members are welcome to register for the conference.

The National Women's History Month's theme for 2024 celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion."

The theme recognizes women throughout the country who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from lives and institutions.

It also highlights the importance of letting different voices be heard, despite differences in culture, race and socio-economic backgrounds.

There is great value in hearing from women of diverse backgrounds as the perspectives offered will be much more dynamic.

Women have valuable insights to contribute, and all should be given the opportunity to showcase their talents and skills, as well as voice out their thoughts and opinions.

Today, women have been trying to prove that fairness in institutions and social interactions is critical in order for society to be just and equal.

Jalana Willis is a sophomore majoring in criminal justice. When asked if she had ever experienced unfair treatment for being a woman, she shared, "Yes when I was left out of certain topics, you know how you get that 'you won't understand because you're a girl!'"

While unkind comments like the one mentioned by Willis may seem harmless, they reflect the underlying gender biases and discrimination in society.

It takes courage for women to advocate for practical goals like equity, diversity and inclusion when established forces aim to misinterpret, exploit or discredit them.

Women's History Month celebrates the women who have been courageous in pushing for reforms that are reaching for those goals.

An influential woman in American history is Sojourner Truth, an African-American abolitionist who dedicated her life to fighting and defending gender equality.

In 1828, she became the first Black woman to win a custody court battle against a white man, and was able to recover her son from slavery.

At the Ohio Women's Rights Convention of 1851, Truth delivered a speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?" that



Photo by Andre Broussard

Kiwana McClung, chief diversity officer, with Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, who will be the keynote speaker at this year's Women's Leadership Conference.

stirred hearts and became widely told during the Civil War era.

Important female figures like Truth shaped society into what it is today. While gender equality and equity is still an ongoing and progressive fight, the efforts of these women have no doubt left a lasting impact.

Besides influential female leaders, all women in the community that make society a better place should be celebrated as well.

Aspen LeBlanc, a freshman majoring in marketing, says that the most inspirational female figure in her life would be her mother.

"Definitely my mom, she raised three kids by herself, no child support, she owns her own business, that's a very strong woman right there," LeBlanc said.

Breanna Sommers, a senior majoring in music media, also agreed that her mother is the most influential female figure in her life.

"My mum, she's just a very resilient and strong person, she brought me up well and taught me important things," Sommers said.

Mothers are, without a doubt, one

of the most important female figures in the community. From birthing to raising their children, they ensure the continuation of generations to come.

With the continuous efforts of feminists pushing for equal rights, the younger generations are able to experience better equality and a more diverse community.

Jade Allen is a freshman majoring in visual arts. When asked what being a woman means to her in today's society, she stated, "Being a woman in today's society can be whatever you make of it. For ages, women have always been told what they can or cannot be, but I feel like we are granted the privilege to be able to choose what we want now."

Surely enough, society has come a long way in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion.

This would not have been possible without the efforts of the brave and determined female figures who fought for the rights of all women.

Hence, Women's History Month 2024 honors these women as well as celebrates all women in society who strive to defy gender stereotypes and inequality.

## Police Reports

Compiled by Kay Padilla

### Mar. 9

- At 3:33 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a medical emergency at the Cajundome Convention Center. Acadian Ambulance and Lafayette Fire assisted.
- At 9:35 a.m., officers were dispatched to Olivier Parking Tower in reference to a parking lot crash involving a red 2004 Honda Pilot and a gray 2020 Kia Sorento.

### Mar. 8

- At 2:38 p.m., officers received a walk-in complaint to a harassment complaint. An investigation was conducted.

### Mar. 7

- At 4:03 p.m., officers were dispatched to the parking lot along the 500 block of E. Saint Mary Blvd. in reference to a disturbance between a student and a Transportation Services Employee. It was determined the student damaged two Parking and Transit wheel locks. The student was arrested and released on a summons.
- At 10:52 a.m., officers were dispatched to a physical encounter in progress between two individuals at the Heritage Apartments bridge area. Officers located both subjects. Both parties did not wish to pursue charges.

### Mar. 5

- At 5:17 p.m., officers responded to a parking lot crash in Legacy Park Apartments involving two pickup trucks.
- At 3:48 p.m., a walk-in complaint was received of a missing light blue bicycle but the complainant was unable to recall where they had left it.
- At 11:51 a.m., officers were dispatched to Parker Hall in reference to a physical altercation between two employees. Neither party wished to pursue charges.

### Mar. 4

- At 9:38 a.m., officers received a complaint of possible identity theft.
- At 8:35 a.m., a two vehicle crash occurred near W. Congress Street involving a white 2022 Mazda CX3 and a black 2010 GMC Sierra.

### Mar. 3

- At 3:12 a.m., officers responded to a disturbance at Bonin Hall. An investigation was conducted.

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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#### EDITORIAL STAFF

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Adhamm Safford  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Sarah Guidry  
**NEWS EDITOR** Adhamm Safford  
**LAYOUT EDITOR** Sarah Guidry  
**SPORTS EDITOR** Charles Martin

**EMAIL** thevermilion@louisiana.edu **BUSINESS** 482-6110 **MAIL** P.O. Box 43721 Lafayette, LA 70504-4813 **LOCATION** 101 BOUCHER DRIVE LAFAYETTE, LA

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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

# UL Lafayette's satellite program

**Bruce Tete**  
NEWS WRITER

Since 2007, students at University of Louisiana of Louisiana at Lafayette have been designing, building and launching real satellites into the Earth's orbit. The Cajun Advanced Picosatellite Experiment program, or CAPE, is the student-led program which allows engineering students to come together, learn advanced engineering skills and apply them to the exploration of the final frontier.

CAPE specializes in cubesats, which are extremely lightweight and small compared to most satellites. Following their invention in the late '90s, cubesats

were not widely used or given much press. Despite that, many professors from universities all over the world were starting their own cubesat experiments, especially since cubesats are so much lighter, and therefore cheaper to launch into space.

Professor of practice and electrical engineering, Dr. Paul Darby, was one such professor.

"With cubesats you can pretty much have a volunteer army of students who are going to do it on the cheap and build these cheap satellites for a few thousand dollars as opposed to a few million," said Darby.

Despite the profound economic advantage that cubesats granted, they

didn't seem to be on NASA's radar. So to get UL Lafayette's first satellite CAPE 1 launched, Darby instead had to ask Russia for help.

Rocket technology is considered military technology, so an American was required to personally deliver CAPE 1 to the launchsite in Kazakhstan and place it in the rocket, while the Russians were not allowed to know what was inside of the satellite.

The program's first satellite was a fairly simple device featuring mostly control and communication systems, but since then, CAPE 1's successors have come a long way. After attracting NASA's attention, CAPE was finally able to procure rocket launches from the agency.

Projects became more complex with each iteration, with CAPE 3 featuring an experimental credit card-sized radiation detector that will hopefully one day be used by astronauts.

CAPE 1 through 3 were each roughly four inch wide cubes, but CAPE 4, the current satellite under development, is more like three of those cubes stacked upon each other. CAPE 4 will feature Armor 2, a follow up to the radiation detector experiment, a power system, and a star tracker— which will track the position of celestial bodies. The satellite will also have payloads from other universities for the first time in the program's history.

But that's not all CAPE has up its sleeve, the follow up to CAPE 4, CAPE Twiggs, will have Robert Twiggs, co-inventor and "founding father" of the cubesat, working with UL Lafayette as a collaborator and mentor. CAPE Twiggs will be much more complex than previous satellites, upon entering orbit, it will eject 20 smaller "thin satellites", six of which will be given to highschools in the Lafayette area, for students to program their own experiments.

When asked where he hopes to see

CAPE in ten years from now, Darby answered: the Moon!

"It is not trivial. Radiation can destroy circuits, it can corrupt computer programs so you've got to provide designed safe guards for radiation, because once you get out of low earth orbit, it gets a lot more intense," Darby said.

Most satellites are designed and built by highly experienced (and expensive) engineers. But with the exception of Darby and Garth Likens, the full-time program manager, CAPE is completely composed and led by students.

Ethan LeBlanc, a senior majoring in engineering working at CAPE, said, "We recruit basically since freshman [year]... and of course, they won't likely have any of the experience we need to actually work on a satellite, so we take it upon ourselves to train and catch them up and teach them as much as we can."

Underclassmen often attend weekly classes taught by seniors, allowing them to learn the advanced material they need.

CAPE provides a unique opportunity for students allowing them to not only learn more advanced material, but as program manager Likens put it: "This is an opportunity to work as a team and collaborate with other people... It's a space to actually apply the fundamentals of engineering that maybe in other classes and laboratories you don't have the opportunity to organically apply?"

If students want to experience that space for themselves, they will be welcomed to visit the CAPE lab during Engineering and Technology Week from March 18-22.

Besides the various advantages CAPE provides to students' educations and resumes, at the end of the day, students get to leave their fingerprints on something real and tangible that will last forever, or at least until it falls back down and burns up in the atmosphere.

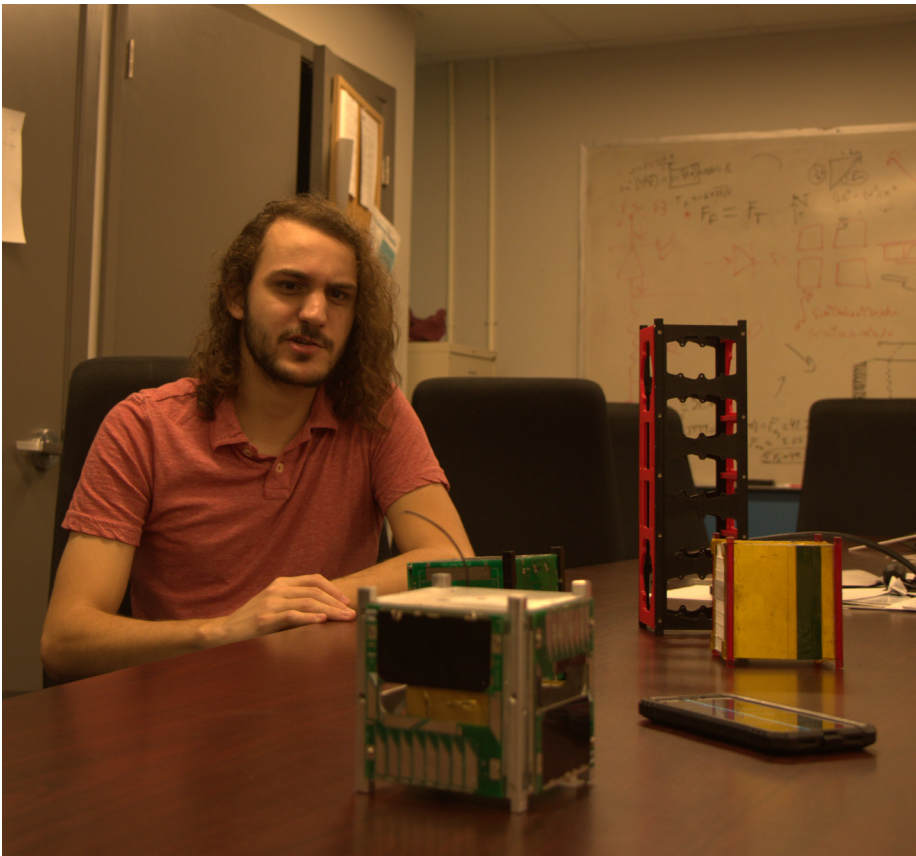


Photo by Joann Seow

Ethan LeBlanc discusses his work with UL Lafayette's CAPE program.

## Sports

# Ragin' Cajuns Softball wins against Oklahoma, breaks 71-game streak

**Kaydence Vital**  
SPORTS WRITER

The 2024 Louisiana Softball season is truly starting off to an excellent start. The team recently went to a tournament in Oklahoma, facing off against five teams, and breaking Oklahoma's 71-game winning streak.

In the tournament opener, the Cajuns experienced the thrill of a comeback in the fifth inning only to have the lead taken away from them a half-inning later in a 12-10 loss to Miami University on March 1.

Sophie Pisko's grand slam in the fifth vaulted Louisiana (8-10) into a 9-8 lead, completing the storm back from an 8-1 deficit. The Ragin' Cajuns received a solo home run from Victoria Valdez trimming the deficit to 12-10 with two-outs in the seventh.

Denali Loecker drew an eight-pitch

walk to give Pisko's another chance to stun the Redhawks, however a ground ball was induced, and shortstop Reagan Bartholomew fielded it to halt the two-out rally.

Pisko placed Louisiana with five RBI, highlighted by the grand slam. Loecker had the other multiple-RBI effort: her scoring double in the fourth inning sparking a three-run frame and hit-by-pitch RBI in the fifth setting up Pisko's grand slam.

The Redhawks posted four home runs in the contest with each one coming during the sprint out to the 8-1 lead. Louisiana was dealt its first loss against a non-power 5 team this season. UL entered the game with an 8-1 mark when scoring three runs or more.

As the tournament continued, the Cajuns went against Oklahoma in their first game on March 2. The three-time defending national champion Sooners

(17-0) parlayed three doubles in the first inning into a quick 3-0 lead. An inning later, a leadoff home run and RBI double ignited a four-spot that stretched the Oklahoma lead to 7-0.

Louisiana (8-11) threatened in the third inning when Maddie Hayden, Mihyia Davis, and Laney Credeur all singled in succession to load the bases with no outs. However, a diving catch in the right field and a double play got the Sooners out of the jam.

After a scoreless third the Sooners manufactured a run with their sixth double of the game, wild pitch and an RBI ground out.

The Cajuns continued to get traffic, placing at least one runner on base path in the fourth and fifth inning. The Sooners, though, would get the putout needed each time to keep UL off the board. The Cajuns lost 0-8 this game but met up with Oklahoma again at the end

of the tournament.

The same day, Louisiana went up against Liberty University. A Maddie Hayden double and a wild pitch in the sixth inning set up the winning tally as Louisiana captured a 1-0 win.

With Hayden on third base after the double and wild pitch sequence, Sam Roe lifted a sacrifice fly into right field that broke a scoreless stalemate between the Cajuns (9-11) and Flames (8-10).

Sam Landry, who pitched seven innings of two-hit shutout softball, finished her masterpiece by retiring Liberty in the seventh. Landry struck out five and kept the Flames from advancing a runner past second base the entire contest.

The Cajuns defense came up with its biggest play in the fifth inning after Liberty had a runner in scoring position with one out. Mihyia Davis snagged a sinking fly ball to center field and doubled off the runner to the end of the frame.

The Flames never rediscovered momentum and the last six batters were retired, and Hayden delivered the one key hit Louisiana had been looking for.

On the last day of the tournament, they went up against Liberty University but unfortunately lost 1-7.

To end the tournament, Louisiana snapped Oklahoma's NCAA record 71-game winning streak with a 7-5 (8inn.) win on March 3.

Louisiana never trailed in defeating the Sooners after scoring the game's first run on a Jourdyn Campbel solo home run in the second inning.

An RBI single from Cecilia Vasquez and bases loaded walked by Mihyia Davis increased the edge to 3-0 in the fourth inning, keeping UL ahead even though Oklahoma struck in the bottom half with a two-run homer from Kinzie Hansen.

Louisiana recorded its first win over the nation's No.1 team since topping Florida at the 2008 Women's College World Series. With the win, the Cajuns regained the all-time series lead over Oklahoma at 16-15.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Sam Landry (12) prepares to pitch at the game against Baylor on Feb. 18.

# Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Morgan Parker

No. 19

## INSTRUCTIONS

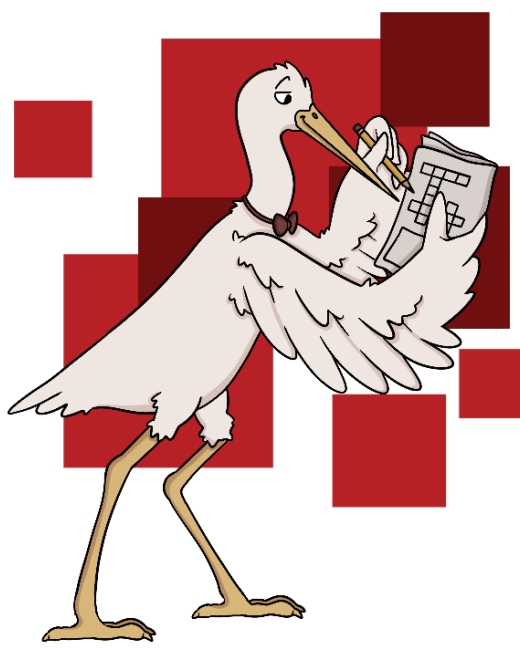
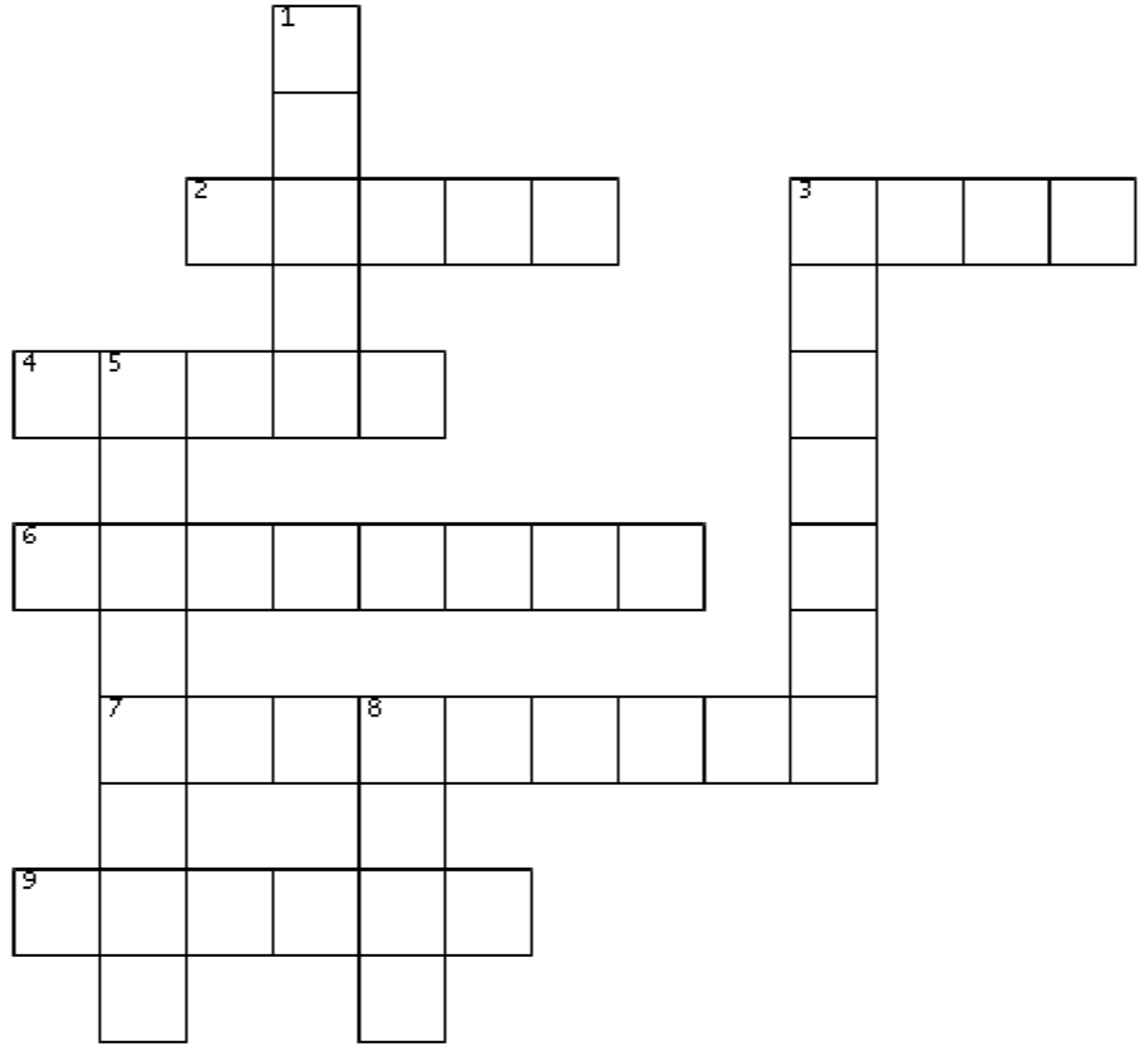
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

### ACROSS

- 2. An African-American abolitionist who dedicated her life to fighting and defending gender equality (last name)
- 3. The student-led space program which allows engineering students to come together.
- 4. Who created Sherlock Holmes? (last name)
- 6. This year's Big Event will mark which year of operation?
- 7. Who wrote A Moveable Feast? (last name)
- 9. Which Cajuns batter hit a center-field double at the Cajuns vs. Tulane baseball game? (last name)

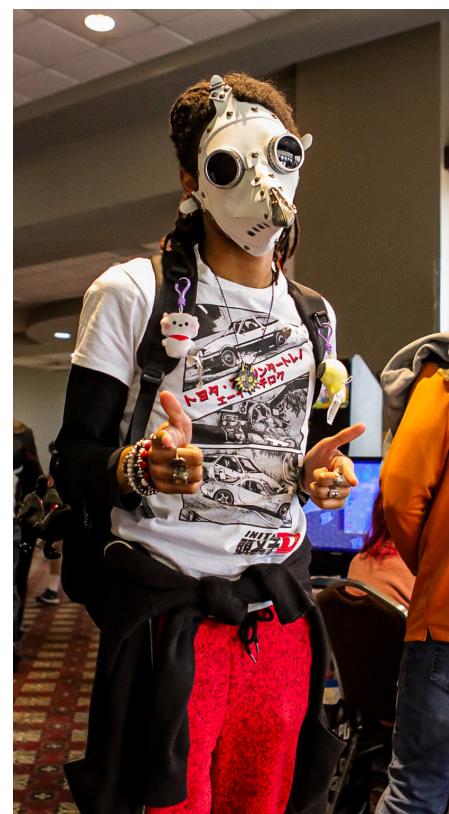
### DOWN

- 1. UL Lafayette is offering a Zoom course on applying to graduate schools in \_\_\_\_.
- 3. What genre are Beyonce's two new singles identified as?
- 5. Whose win streak did Louisiana break at the softball game?
- 8. What is the name of the governor who signed legislation protecting IVF fertilization clinics from future lawsuits? (last name)



## Cajun Candid's Louisiana Comic Con

Photos by Alyus Dick



# Extra innings win: Cajuns snap slump with walk-off vs. Tulane

**Isaac Henry**  
SPORTS WRITER

On Friday, March 8, Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns baseball began its home series against the Tulane Green Wave. Coming off of three straight losses the prior weekend, the Cajuns needed some positive momentum badly, and a 3-0 shutout of the Northwestern State Demons on Wednesday seemed to provide that.

In Friday's match against Tulane, LP Langevin drew his second start of the season, but would have to wait 30 minutes after two at-bats due to a rain delay at the park.

Once things got going properly, Langevin ran into some trouble, allowing a full-count walk and a two-RBI double to Tulane's Connor Rasmussen to open the scoring.

The Cajuns would answer in their half of the inning, as Tulane's starter Luc Fladda would also have control issues, issuing a walk on four straight balls to open. A fielding error early by Tulane shortstop Marcus Cline let Maddox Mandino score, 2-1.

A series of well-timed sac flies would tack on another three runs for the Cajuns in the bottom of the third. Mason Zambo and Conor Higgs seemingly blew the game wide open in the sixth, creating another four runs to put the score at 8-2.

Back-to-back home runs in the

seventh and a litany of hits in the eighth put Tulane right back in the driver's seat, though, and Jackson Linn would land a two-RBI single to put the Tide back up. The Cajuns, unable to answer, were saddled with another loss, 8-11.

Head coach Matt Deggs voiced some frustration at the wasted opportunity, but seemed confident that this was a blip rather than a trend after the game.

"Yeah, it's 8-2 in seven, and with our bullpen fully stocked, that's uncharacteristic of us," Deggs said in a postgame interview with ESPN Southwest Louisiana. "I'll take those odds any day of the week."

"Got a good performance offensively, LP [Langevin] did great for having to start in the rain, give up two cheap runs there because of a wet baseball, he's got no grip," Deggs said, citing Langevin's first-inning woes.

"But we've got to finish that game, winning is hard at this level. Once you get that lead, you've gotta finish somebody off."

Saturday afternoon, Andrew Herrmann got a start for the first time since the LSU match. Similarly to that start, Herrmann had some luck on his side for this appearance, as his only mistakes (allowing three single-run home runs) didn't prevent him from keeping the Tide's offense stifled through eight innings.

Meanwhile, the Cajuns ground down on offense, with RBI from Kyle DeBarge

and Duncan Pastore coming early. Their opportunity to change the complexion of the game would come in the eighth, where down 2-3, Trey LaFleur hit a home run to left-center to take the lead back, 4-3.

The Cajuns' Jack Martinez came in for the final inning, and actually blew his save when Tulane's Brady Marget smacked a single down the left foul line on a 1-2 count, evening the score at 4-4. The Cajuns left two stranded on base in the bottom of the ninth, and extra innings seemed to promise another disaster.

Fortunately, Martinez shook off a full count in the top of the tenth and retired

the side in effortless fashion, giving the Cajuns bats another chance, where they capitalized. Lee Amedee hit a center-field double, and LaFleur ran home. Ballgame.

This game will hopefully serve as a proof-of-concept for the team: great pitching can punish what good hitting sometimes can't. Next up at home for the Cajuns is a three-game series against the Arkansas State Red Wolves starting Friday, March 15, followed by a midweek match against the Southern Jaguars on March 19.

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Photo by Alyus Dick

Conor Higgs (33) in batting stance against the Rice Owls on Feb. 25.

## Allons

# S.B. 159 is harming the birth rate of babies, contradicting their beliefs

**Kay Padilla**  
ALLONS EDITOR

In the wake of the overturn of Roe v. Wade in 2022, the state of Alabama enacted one of the strictest abortion laws in the country, only allowing them if there was a serious health risk to the mother. It did not come as a surprise when they decided to criminalize IVF "in vitro fertilization" treatments.

The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are considered to be children under Alabama's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act. This decision stems from three couples, the Aysennes, the LePages and the Fondes, trying to sue a fertility clinic and a hospital after they lost frozen embryos during an accident at a storage facility.

In December 2020, an alleged patient at the Mobile Infirmity Medical Center managed to gain access to the clinic, enter the cryogenic nursery and remove several embryos, including the embryos that belonged to the Aysennes, the LePages, and the Fondes, from their containers. The patient burned their hands on the containers, due to the extremely cold temperatures, and the embryos fell to the floor.

After the Circuit Court of Mobile County, Alabama dismissed Case No. SC-2022-0515, the couples decided to keep pursuing this lawsuit and appealed it. After much turmoil and back and forth, Justice Jay Mitchell of the Alabama

Supreme Court ruled that the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act applied to extrauterine children, unborn children who are located outside of a biological uterus.

The ruling makes clear that they decided such because the IVF center artificially gestated the embryos in question to "a few days" of age and then placed them in the cryogenic nursery. This is viewed as keeping the extrauterine embryos "alive" at a fixed stage until they are used in IVF implantation treatments.

The Alabama Court stands on their belief that life begins at conception, as they have stated plenty of times in their initial ruling. They said that once the embryos fell onto the floor, they were killed. The court supported its decision by relying on wording added to the Alabama Constitution in 2018 stating that Alabama protects the "rights of the unborn child."

The Alabama Court cited "philosophical grounds" like Niel M. Gorsuch's "The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia," arguing that "human life is fundamentally and inherently valuable," as well as the Alabama Constitution that "invoked the favor and guidance of Almighty God" that "all men... are endowed [with life] by their Creator."

Granting "personhood" to frozen embryos impacted fertility treatments in Alabama severely. IVF services were paused because of this initial ruling

leaving multiple families without their scheduled embryo transfers.

After weeks of protests and cries for help from expecting parents and IVF treatment clinics, Governor Kay Ivey signed legislation protecting IVF fertilization clinics from future lawsuits. This was enough to get IVF providers back to their clinics and resume their services. This would seem like amazing news, but it really is not.

Senate Bill 159 does grant criminal immunity to clinics, storage facilities, doctors and others involved in the IVF process for "death or damage to an embryo." But it only does that, it does not un-grant embryos personhood. Frozen embryos in the state of Alabama still have the same rights as children and in a sense as humans.

The wording in both the ruling and the bill is very strategic. The ruling outright said that children were killed, but simultaneously continued to call these said children "Embryo A" through "Embryo D." S.B. 159 states that no one is being held criminally responsible for destroying embryos and the members affected may only get monetary compensation for the in-vitro cycles damaged.

This ruling was never about the original lawsuits for negligence, wantonness and compensatory damages for mental and emotional distress. It was about pushing forth a far-right, Pro-Life, fundamentally Christian agenda that fertilized eggs are human beings.

I acknowledge that I am not a mother, nor have I gone through the IVF process to become pregnant. But I am aware of IVF treatment through family and friends in my life. IVF is a tool being used by many couples and parents looking to start or expand their family. Most Americans deal with fertility issues, so IVF has become a staple in solving this issue and helping people have babies.

It was mind-boggling to see that many far-right Christian Republicans viewed IVF embryos as being unethical. Their main point is that too many embryos are being created unnecessarily and then "discarded."

During the IVF process, many eggs are fertilized which turn into embryos. This is because IVF implantation is not

always successful. It is easy to fertilize an egg, but the uterus ultimately decides whether to implant or not. It is a biological process that has no set "yes or no" answer. Demonizing this strenuous, stressful and at times traumatic series of events negatively shines a light on people simply wanting to become parents.

I cannot understand why a method of creating babies for people who cannot do it naturally is being bashed. I thought we wanted babies to be born. Why are we focusing on granting frozen embryos more rights than the parents of these said "children?"

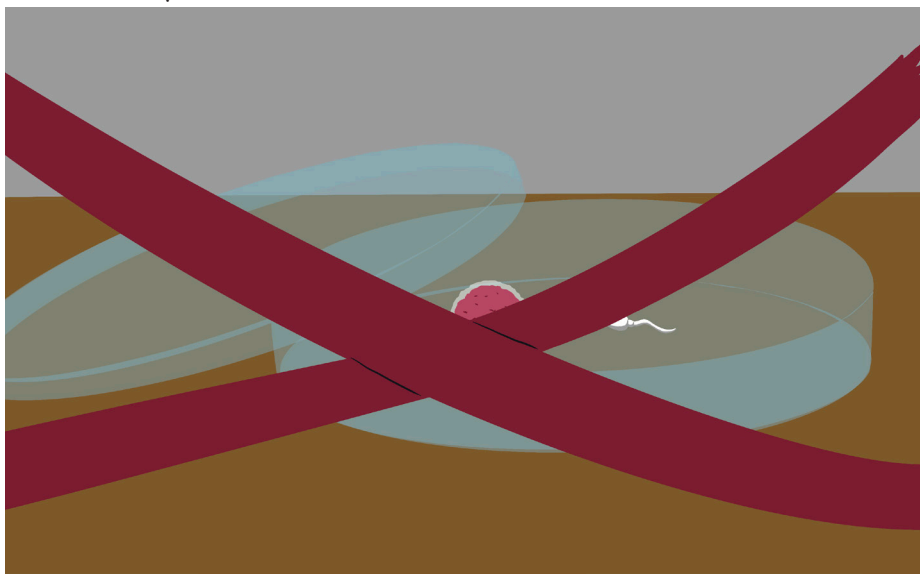
Far-right conservatives believe that having a lot of "unused babies" referring to frozen embryos is unethical because those "babies" will be discarded, donated to science or offered up for embryo adoption.

Both the ruling and the bill led to nowhere. In reality, they led to even more confusion and questions. The parents of the destroyed embryos cannot get any sort of criminal compensation and frozen embryos are now considered the same as "out of uterus" children.

The IVF clinic and the storage facility that destroyed their embryos are no longer responsible for the discrepancies on their part and never will be. And mothers, surrogates and people who will be implanted with these embryos are now going to be held criminally responsible for killing their "children."

The internet discourse has been insane as well. Some have even asked Alabama lawmakers if their embryos can have social security numbers, so they can claim their newfound children on their tax returns. I know the politics in question is extremely messed up when the internet Republicans and Democrats agree.

They also agree that this initial ruling has sent the IVF community and service providers nationwide into a frenzy. Soon many red states are going to follow Alabama's lead and severely harm the IVF families and clinics. This bill and ruling are helping absolutely no one. What it is doing is stopping the creation and birth of countless babies. "Saving" babies was never the goal with these nonsense rulings and bills, controlling who gets to create life is.



Graphic by Meg Norwood

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# Beyoncé may like to “hold ‘em” in Texas, but I won’t be joining

**Nyria Mustiful**

ALLONS WRITER

During Super Bowl LVIII, Beyoncé and Verizon teamed up to make a smashing Super Bowl commercial entitled “Can’t B Broken.” The commercial was comparing Beyoncé’s ability to break the internet to Verizon’s new high speed wireless service. At the end of the commercial, she announces into the phone she’s holding to drop her new music.

The two songs Beyoncé dropped are called “Texas Hold ‘Em” and “16 Carriages,” and they are labeled as country music. Once they were released, the nation was in an uproar, seeming to respond well to her choice of genre and the songs overall. I, however, cannot say that I had the same response.

When I had initially seen the songs were out, I was honestly not surprised nor enthusiastic. Beyoncé wore Western attire to both the Super Bowl and the Grammys the weekend before. The same Grammys at which her husband received the Lifetime Achievement award while complaining about how she has never won Album of the Year at the highly-regarded ceremony.

I immediately knew that this entire release, and even her new album, are simply just her latest plays at whatever awards she doesn’t have in her vast trophy case. However, I didn’t want to completely write everything off before I heard the songs.

I listened to “Texas Hold ‘Em” first. I’m truly sorry to all those that believe this song was so revolutionary, but it was honestly so uninteresting to me. It sounded really stereotypical and didn’t present anything extraordinary to the ear. The aesthetic of the song was giving “catch-all gimmick.”

My first thought of comparison was to this song from “Hannah Montana: The Movie” entitled “Hoedown Throwdown.” I think we’d all agree that my comparison

of a Beyoncé song to a song from an imaginary pop star says enough.

Within a minute of listening, I turned off “Texas Hold ‘Em” and braced myself for “16 Carriages.” I think this one would be my favorite out of the two, but not by that far of a margin. I enjoyed the vocals on the song and I could appreciate the lyricism as well. I just still wasn’t getting a country song from it. It sounded as if she took what she thought was a country beat and then slapped an R&B song on it, somehow making it country, at least in her mind.

I listen to a lot of country music, old and new, and her two singles just don’t match up with the likes of the songs in that category. For her sake, I truly hope that she does a better job at capturing the essence of country in her album. I think what disappointed me most about the release was the apparent reasoning behind it.

It became painstakingly clear, after Jay Z’s Grammys speech, that Beyoncé believes that it’s her time to win Album of the Year, especially after winning the most Grammys in history.

While others may see it as resilient or empowering, I see it as desperate and unnecessary. Beyoncé has achieved so many wonderful feats as an artist, activist, actress and so much more. This attempt at a win via genre shift is truly a pointless endeavor, from many standpoints.

Once Beyoncé’s new singles began getting some flack, people, in particular members of Beyoncé’s fandom, began to revert to their typical “if someone like Taylor Swift would’ve done it” comparison to avoid confronting the mediocrity of the music their idol has produced. In my humble opinion, the Taylor Swift comparison is done to death.

Why is it that people can’t just accept that they are two separate artists and leave things be? Why can’t people accept that Taylor Swift just simply translates better globally than Beyoncé? Why can’t

people just let the two of them be great? My guess is that they’re all too busy thirsting for gossip to quell how mundane everything else is.

Taylor Swift started out in country music at the age of about 16 and switched to pop fairly soon after her first two albums. Yes, she dabbles in other sounds every now and again, but a Taylor album will always sound as such. The same basic formula of wanderlust, heartbreak and femininity gets us every time.

Honestly, I think Beyoncé spends too much time and energy on trying to get us to like her music rather than making something truly real.

I, personally, feel like I could relate to more of her younger music than her newer stuff.

I mean she’s played every angle she could have, from rapping with her husband to making songs “for the culture” to being the newest icon of the LGBTQIA+ community.

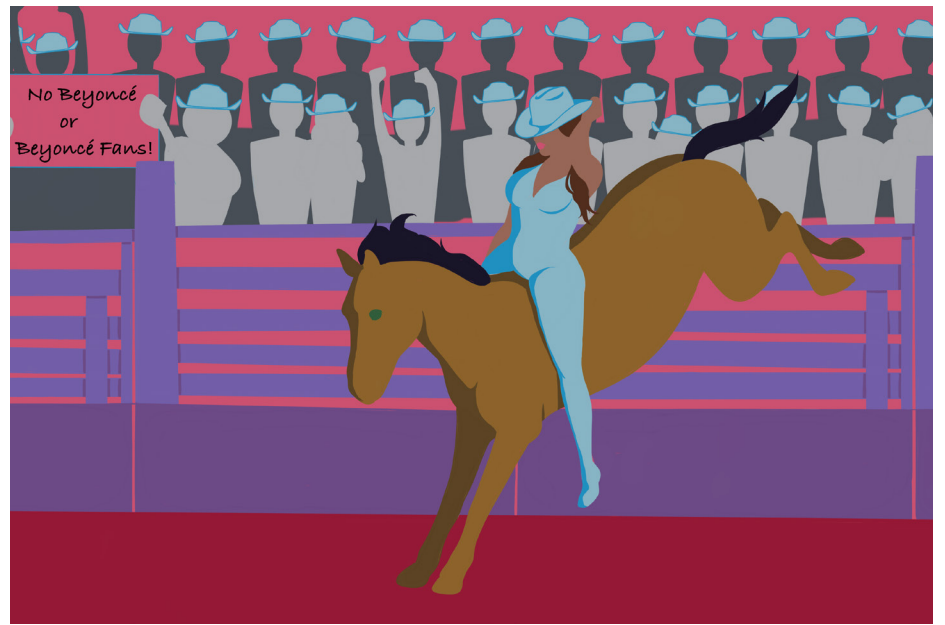
My point is that I believe she has lost her authenticity and relatability as an artist. After all, I truly believe that those

are two main ingredients to success as an artist. Think of all the new artists that have come up over the last ten years: Billie Eilish, SZA, Summer Walker, Kacey Musgraves, Jelly Roll, etc.

These people captivated us by producing music that made us all sit back and retrospectively ponder all of our mistakes. From my perspective, Beyoncé doesn’t really make music like that anymore and that’s why she hasn’t collected the accolades she seems to covet so dearly.

Unfortunately, I believe that popularity and notoriety alone will make way for her new music to sky rocket in the charts and amass her even more of a fortune. She’s already become the first Black woman to top Billboard’s “Hot Country Songs” chart, with “Texas Hold ‘Em” debuting at #1.

There’s no telling how well her new album, supposedly entitled “Act II” will fare once released, but let’s hope that if it blows up, that it be because it was actually worth a listen and not because she’s Beyoncé.



Graphic by Lillian Babineaux

# Stop selling fanfiction, keep it free

**Marie Ducote**

ALLONS WRITER

A big part of any fandom is the writing and sharing of fan fiction. People write fan fiction not for the money or the fame. They write it because they have a deep love for the fandom they are in. For many it is a creative outlet, a way to practice your writing skills anonymously and get anonymous feedback from readers.

Websites like Archive of Our Own (AO3), Fanfiction.net and Wattpad are staples in fandom spaces for being places to post your works for free and for everyone to enjoy. It can be a fun way to interact with your fellow fans. Some fan fiction have reached infamous status such

as “My Immortal” and “Manacled” (both based on Harry Potter).

But as long as there has been a deep love of the practice there has been dislike of it. Opponents of fan fiction say that it is not creative because you are pulling from previously existing work.

There is an unwritten rule among people who read or write fan fiction that you do not make a profit off of it because it is based on an existing intellectual property. Many authors and copyright holders are fine with fanwork and encourage it because it builds a positive relationship and they know no profit can be made.

Fan fiction falls under fair use which, according to the NYU Journal of

Intellectual Property & Entertainment Law, “is an area of copyright law that allows for freedom of expression when using unlicensed copyrighted works in very limited and specific incidences, as established in 17 U.S.C. § 107.” It can exist but the problem arises when a profit starts being made.

Fan fiction is considered a derivative work because its origins can be found in an existing piece of fiction. But within fan fiction, the author has taken this existing world and put their own spin on it through creating original characters that exist inside this universe or taking the existing characters and making up their own stories.

There has been a growing trend online of people taking somebody else’s fanfic making it into a physical book (bookbinding). They then sell it online (on websites like Etsy) and make a profit off of it.

Which if you have been reading so far is seen as a big no no because the binder is taking the work off the internet without the author’s permission (although some do get the author’s permission). Or paying self publishing websites like Lulu and Barnes & Noble Press to get on demand copies of the fan fiction.

But sometimes they are making a profit off of the work without the author’s knowledge. And some do find a loophole around selling the fanfic by saying the buyer is paying for the cost of materials and not the fanfic itself.

Like most topics these days I learned about this from TikTok with many longtime readers and writers of fan fiction reminding everyone that it already exists in a legal gray area and the monetization of it can result in the mass taking down of everyone’s favorite stories. With many videos giving the alternative of learning how to bind for your own personal library and pointing out the positive that you are gaining a new skill.

I agree with this statement. The reason why so many people like fan fiction is because it is written for fun and it builds a sense of community.

Now is fan fiction still being sold? Yes they are but they go through a process known as “filing off the serial numbers.” Basically the author changes the copyrighted material and changes them into original ideas, but still keeps the basic plot.

You have probably picked up one of these books while browsing at the bookstore or library. Some of the most famous examples of this practice are “Fifty Shades of Grey” (“Twilight”), “After” (Harry Styles) and “The Love Hypothesis” (Reylo/Star Wars, the cover people look suspiciously like Adam Driver and Daisy Ridley). The aforementioned “Manacled” is being reinvented as the upcoming fantasy “Alchemised.”

Some writers have gotten meta with incorporating fan fiction as a plot device within their books. Like in Rainbow Rowell’s 2013 young adult novel “Fangirl” where the main character Cath is writing a fanfic called “Carry On Simon” based on the Harry Potter-esque book series Simon Snow.

Rowell in 2015 released the book “Carry On: The Rise and Fall of Simon Snow” inspired by what Cath writes. She ended up releasing two sequels to the book “Wayward Son” (2018) and “Any Way the Wind Blows” (2021).

To say that fan fiction is not creative because it is not an original idea is ridiculous. Many of our most beloved works of fiction have their basis in something else. How many times have you seen a retelling of the “Cinderella” story?

George Lucas has said his inspiration for “Star Wars” were pulp heroes like Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon (the serials had an opening scrawl just like “Star Wars”). Along with Joseph Campbell book “The Hero with a Thousand Faces” which introduced the concept of the hero’s journey. Stories have been told and retold throughout human history.

And fan fiction has existed in some way for centuries. When Arthur Conan Doyle decided to “kill off” his most famous creation Sherlock Holmes in the short story “The Final Problem” (1893) fans in mourning and anger decided to write their own Sherlock Holmes stories.

The first modern fan fiction has its origins in the very first “Star Trek” fanzine “Spockanalia” (1967). Now with the internet, fan fiction is more accessible.

I am going to leave you with an author’s note. Please let fan fiction stay free; it is the only way it will be kept online.



Graphic by Lucy Shields

# Hayfever has got me feeling hot

**Amare Auzenne**

ALLONS WRITER

“When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest,” is a quote from Ernest Hemingway’s “A Moveable Feast,” and seems to be a common sentiment amongst the populace. Spring is a time of new beginnings, the flowers bloom, the birds start chirping again, my eyes itch and I have to haul across campus in the middle of downpour to keep from using one of my three missed attendances. A fun time is had by all.

Of course, my facetiousness should only serve to exemplify my message: I cannot bring myself to care about all this nice nonsense about spring that will be spewed for eternity when I can’t stand the season. There’s nothing beautiful about a season you have to suffer through bleary-eyed. Flowers you can neither smell nor see because of the very same substance which makes them bloom.

There’s a level of incompatibility between me, and presumably folks like me, that is suppressed by an overwhelming favor for the switch up March tends to pull. Coming in like a

lion, never going out like a lamb, spring announces itself with a suffocating humidity more often than not. The smell of ozone hits, and you know a sharp temperature rise from the livid, joyous death of winter will come soon.

That’s only the most obvious of symptoms however, wading through the swamp that is the air in this season is something everyone notices. For those of us who have suffered through phys-ed in the grass with no Claritin in our system, it hits with a wave of congestion and an untreatable itch. The urge to mar your eyeballs only briefly solved by eye drops, or in a pinch, fountain water

The helplessness of feeling the intense need to remove your sight vessels from your skull and set them in a sterile fluid just overtakes a sect of the populace like clockwork every year. Nothing to be said of the alternate, and oftentimes parallel, path of congestion. The absolute embarrassment of being rendered a mouth breather against your will. A body always working against your urge to not hyperventilate all day.

A nose that vacillates between being a snot factory and less portable than the Red Sea sans Moses.

The rawness of having rubbed the sides of your nose with so many napkins or tissue that only prevent you from looking like a dribbling idiot, a stopgap measure. A suite of symptoms whose only cure is the passing of these most wretched of months. A suite that doesn’t even account for the regional menace that is the increase in insectoid activity.

Somehow, in spite of its beloved qualities, the season of the mosquito’s

rise somehow never catches allegations that stick. The malaria menaces and the bump bandits start coming out in full force around the time that it starts getting far more convenient to show off their attack areas. Spring’s symbiosis with annoying bugs not ending there, it also starts bringing out the wasps. An entomophobe’s personal torture months, rolled in with a premade funeral bouquet.

Wall after wall is put between me and enjoying the supposed beauty of blooming nature. The comparative hostility of the environment compared to the winding down of the cooler seasons is just intolerable to me. Gone is the permanent briskness of winter, and the beautiful decay of autumn, left is only the rearing of the ugly head of the all consuming, year after year heatwave. I can’t even say I get down with the increased sunshine.

The days get longer, the nights get shorter, and the time I have to spend with my dreaded enemy, the Sun, increases bit by bit as the early spring showers begin to dry up. I mourn the lead up to the winter solstice with every effervescent sunrise and pray for its swift return with every sunset. Springing forward for that extra hour of sunlight every year, of course, bears mentioning as a personal lowpoint.

Perhaps I’m simply a dower, sunhating ghoul, but I just can’t get on with spring. We’re well acquainted, we just can’t vibe. So this one goes out for the rest of the vampires and things that go bump in the night, stuck trapped in the season of bloom for yet another year; cheers to the eventual death of the season of life.



Graphic by Caitlyn Chase

## Beaucoup

### “The Tempest”

The Beaucoup section experienced “The Tempest” performed by the students of the UL Lafayette Theatre Program. Here are their thoughts.



Photos by Joe Bozzelle and Morgan Parker



**Adhamm Safford**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I’ve always had a somewhat contentious relationship with Shakespeare, which I may now have to blame solely on my high school making us read him on our own or having disinterested, monotone teens take turns reading aloud. While I still don’t have the greatest appreciation for him, the university’s production of “The Tempest” has swayed me a bit.

It can’t be easy to memorize and perform Shakespearean English, but every actor perfectly took to their role. Even when I had no idea what was being said, the emotions still came across clearly. I was especially drawn to the

performances of Sara Birk as Prospero and Brooke Murphy as Miranda.

The costumes, hair and make-up were all stand-outs for me (if someone from the theatre department is reading this, I’d really like to have Prospero’s coat, please get in touch with me), as well as the unique staging. The stage resembled a skatepark’s halfpipe, transforming from a ship to a far-flung island. The “Immersive Experience” It was definitely unique, being so close to the actors and seeing characters crawl out from under things nearby or run around behind me.

This is an easy show for me to recommend, even if you’re not familiar or fond of Shakespeare. The work done by the cast and team is what really brings it all together and makes for an engaging time.

**Meg Norwood**

ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Once again, I was excited to watch yet another amazing performance put together by the students in the Performing Arts.

The stage set up for “The Tempest” was arranged differently than any other performance I have seen before, with the stage shaped like a cross with ramps on the left and right ends and included “interactive” extra seating close up to the stage. This arrangement also included a screen projection in the right top corner of the stage that was used to present the weather or any magic being used by Prospero or Ariel.

The audience was already immersed into the experience before the performance even began with the setting of the lights, audio to emulate ship creaking and wind blowing, and three of the cast members playing as crew mates wandering around on the stage.

Throughout “The Tempest,” there was amazing costume design, audio and light usage done wonderfully for not only the environment but to also invoke specific emotions in certain scenes. I believe each character was perfectly cast and the acting itself was fantastic.

I loved every minute of this performance. It was truly one of the best performances I have seen by the Performing Arts!

**Sarah Guidry**

MANAGING EDITOR

“The Tempest” was by far the most elaborate and amazing production I have seen from the Performing Arts Department. The first thing that really stood out to me was the stage and how the seating was arranged. The stage was built to function as a ship, the ground, and had steps which were used in some scenes.

There were also crawl spaces that the character Caliban crawled out of, which added more to the immersed environment. There were seats arranged

close to the stage that could be purchased, which put you even closer to the actors. Ambient sounds and a projector further added to the immersion of the production.

The cast was so amazing. Everyone fit their role very well and I have to say that my favorite character was Ariel, the wind spirit. He was so sassy and it made for some really humorous scenes. Every one of the actors deserves all of the praise and recognition because they worked so hard to make sure the play was enjoyable for all.

Overall, the play was an amazing experience, and if it is ever put on again, I would highly recommend attending!

**Marie Ducote**

ALLONS WRITER

This was my first time seeing a Shakespeare play performed and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Shakespeare was not something I read much of in my classes at school. I went into the play not knowing what it was about. The costumes and lighting were beautiful. I also liked the use of sound effects to emphasize current scenes.

This also gave the play an immersive

element with the actors coming from all over the theatre for their scene. Performance highlights were Nick Mackowiak as Ariel and Brooke Murphy as Miranda. All of the performances were fantastic.

I liked the fantasy elements of “The Tempest” along with the comedic elements. I was not able to go to last semester’s play “Along the Nile.” The plays the theatre department put on are always the highlight of the semester for me. The plays are a nice break before the stress of finals kick in.

# SOUNDING OFF

**"What is something that you have created that you are most proud of?"**



**Camryn Detillier**  
KINESIOLOGY FRESHMAN

*"My confidence... coming to college is a big change. I've created growth ever since August. I'm proud of that."*



**Madison Lacaze**  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SOPHOMORE

*"My brand that I created, Livin' For Sweetness. We're a freeze-dried candy brand."*



**Destiny Aubry**  
HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT JUNIOR

*"I started my own small business. I do custom cups, custom apparel... Destiny's Creative Cuts."*



**Rachael Conaway**  
MOVING IMAGE ARTS FRESHMAN

*"I was in theater for five years in high school, and I made a lot of props and sets for the shows."*



**Jackson Spivey**  
INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN

*"I guess my reputation... I am very proud of the reputation I've built among friends and family by being reliable and informative."*



**Ray Selle**  
THEATRE SOPHOMORE

*"I've created silly little stories based off of my friend's interests that bother her and all of her friends. That's my favorite thing."*

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 and Adhamm Safford.

COMIC

## Alligator Music



Comic by Lauren Gerald

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