

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 November 21, 2024

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated interacts with the community on campus

Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS EDITOR

Being of “Service to All Mankind” is one of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated’s five basic mission tenets, as well as promoting “unity and friendship amongst college women,” and their annual regional cluster meeting, held at the Cajundome Convention Center on Nov. 16, 2024, allowed the members of the organization to continue to uphold those values amongst themselves and their community.

The Epsilon Beta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, chartered at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, along with the North and South Central clusters of the organization, participated in the annual cluster retreat meeting, which is intended for the members to come together to discuss important organizational issues, as well as socialize and enjoy each other’s company.

This particular meeting was a special one for multiple reasons, according to Shawn Simmons, the South Central regional director for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. “It will bring together, really, for the first time in our region’s history, where North and South Louisiana clusters, because they’re actually two different clusters, are having one meeting,” says Simmons.

At this cluster retreat meeting, over 1,300 members from both the North and South Louisiana clusters came together to discuss topics that will help their chapters in their program efforts and in their operations, as well as lots of opportunities for picture taking, reconnecting and really collaborating with each other, according to Simmons.

Simmons is fairly new to her position, only having taken office in July, however,

she has made it a priority to inform the ladies of new updates that have come along the way.

“We’ll have a presentation on our programs, including how to make those more impactful, and then we’ll have a presentation on connection and social action, which will basically be about our post election efforts, asking ourselves, “What can we do, as we are active voices in our local government?,” says Simmons.

Another highlight of the cluster retreat meeting was the generous donation of food items, toiletries and other necessities to Campus Cupboard, an on-campus location where students can get free access to those items when they are in need. Due to the cluster meeting being held in Lafayette this year, the North and South Louisiana clusters, along with the Epsilon Beta chapter, came together and decided to give back to the University community with this donation.

Kalea Dixon, the president of the Epsilon Beta chapter, shed some light on what this donation means to the chapter, as well as the campus community. “This is very important to our chapter because we’re able to get recognition on campus, as well as on campus. Since so many people are bringing in donations for Campus Cupboard, it just brings light to AKA and what we stand for, which is community service.”

Another representative from the Epsilon Beta chapter, secretary Alasca Wilson, spoke to the event’s correlation to Alpha Kappa Alpha’s organizational initiatives. “One of the initiatives we are focused on with this event is ‘Uplift Our Local Community’, so donating to the Campus Cupboard gives students the opportunity to get the resources that they need, in case they can’t afford it, or they don’t have access to it.”

The University, in tandem with Campus Cupboard was overjoyed to receive the donation from the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. To express the gratitude of the University, as well as accept the donation on its behalf, vice president of Student Affairs, Patricia Cottonham was in attendance.

As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the head of the department that governs Campus Cupboard, Cottonham was thrilled to be in attendance and shared some insight

by our local undergraduate chapter, Epsilon Beta, that we live out our tenet of ‘Service to All Mankind’ in a way that impacts the local campus, so we decided to donate to the food pantry.”

Cottonham also illuminated how important this donation is to Campus Cupboard, along with the University population. “We know the food pantry is very important to our campus. You know, our national statistics tell us that close to 30% of deal with or struggle from some form of food insecurity. Food insecurity doesn’t just mean that



Photo by Alyus Dick

Vice President of Student Affairs Cottonham poses with members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and South Central regional director, Shawn Simmons.

on the impact of the donation from the University’s perspective.

“One of the sorority’s platforms is servicing our community, and within that, making sure the sorority has a presence in our community. Under that platform, we have decided to address the issue of food insecurity. It was very appropriate that while being hosted

you don’t have any food to eat. Food insecurity could also mean that you don’t have good food to eat.”

“I am happy, on behalf of the University, to accept the generous donation from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, so that we will be able to stock our shelves, and we will be able to provide food for our students.”

Students staying in hotels to move onto campus in the spring semester

Kayla Woods-Crane

NEWS WRITER

Students of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, that live in both The WoodSpring Suites, an extended stay hotel, and Wingate by Wyndham are expected to move onto campus for the Spring 2025 semester.

Dawn Miller, the director of Property Management, said, “Yes, all students are going to be assigned to a space on campus by the start of the Spring 2025 semester.”

When asked where the extra space came from, Miller explained how students move around, creating the space.

“There is always attrition from Fall to Spring semester due to graduating

students and students that choose not to return to the university. These cancellations will allow us the ability to place all students from the hotel to on campus.”

Housing on campus has become more strenuous with the high numbers of enrollment the University is experiencing. If the University is still experiencing a lack of housing for students next semester, Miller said, “the university will still have an agreement in place with the Wingate hotel which will allow us to place students that cannot be assigned on campus.”

As for next academic year, the university is looking at options and plans that will help place students.”

Miller noted that while “it can be overwhelming to have all on campus

properties full, it is also exciting. It shows that students want to live on campus. They want to experience the great programming and campus access that living on campus provides students.”

Miller concluded that the “University Housing and Residential Life will continue to strive to provide our students the best experience on campus and at our extended locations.”

Haley Mendez, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, is a resident of the Wingate by Wyndham.

Mendez spoke positively of her experience at the hotel. “My stay at the hotel has been great so far. I have not had any problems with anything. The shuttles have improved, sometimes there are hiccups here and there but not too bad. I love my roommate and have made friends here,” Mendez said.

Mendez has not heard any mentions of moving out yet, but that does not bother her since she likes living at the hotel.

Mendez said if she were to leave she would miss many things about the hotel. “I would definitely miss the quietness there is here at my hotel. Certain eating areas that are closer to me. I just like how smaller it feels and it’s not too much. I feel like that is what I will miss the most.”

Though she has gotten used to living at the hotel, Mendez noted accessibility of campus as something she would enjoy having. “If I were to move on campus, I would look forward to being in my friends’ dorms a lot more frequently. Not having to wake up extra early to arrive at class, instead taking my time. Getting to events and meetings

would be better. Just being on campus. Everything is more accessible,” Mendez said.

Trevante Jones, a freshman majoring in computer science, currently stays at the WoodSpring Suites.

So far, Jones’s experience at the hotel has been good, besides the Wi-Fi.

When asked how he felt about moving onto campus, Jones expressed his ambivalence towards the situation and how he believes the hotels are better than campus, particularly the hotel beds.

“I don’t feel any different about it. I just feel like being at the hotel is low-key better. I sleep very good at night. It is kind of hard for me to get up sometimes because it feels good to lay in the bed.”

Jones revealed he would miss the community that he was able to be a part of at the hotel. “I’ll say the people around there. They are cool. You just knock on their door. All of us are like family in there, so if anybody got something that you need you can go ask them. It is like we’re all family,” Jones said.

For most first-time freshmen, on-campus residence halls include Bonin Hall, Coronna Hall, Baker Hall and the first three floors of Agnes Edwards Hall.

For sophomores, juniors and seniors, on-campus housing includes Huger Hall, Legacy Park Apartments and The Heritage Apartments for students 20 years and older.

The university also has apartment-style family housing for students who are married or have dependent children.

With a growing freshman class, the University is making clear attempts to try and accommodate for its growing demand.



Photo by Makayla Walker

Hallway inside of residence hall.

News

LIVE OUT YOUR GREATNESS

Alyson Habtez shares her coaching story as she strives to be an inspiration to beginner athletes.

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Arts and Culture

AN ARAB-CAJUN MIX

The Arabic Culture Club invites people to check out their organization on campus.

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Allons

AMERICA MOVING FORWARD?

Trump is president-elect. The country is now wondering what he plans on doing next.

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Beaucoup

DON'T FREAK OUT!

At this point in the semester, we’re all stressed out. Here’s some ways on how you could help yourself.

PAGE 7

Alyson Habetz blazed the trail for young female athletes in L.A.

Joann Seow
NEWS WRITER

Alyson Habetz, appointed to serve as the fifth head coach in Louisiana Softball's storied history on June 25, 2024, is an inspiration to young female athletes and legend in the fields of baseball and softball.

Habetz's journey as an athlete was anything but ordinary. When asked to share her story, Habetz said, "I feel like I was born with a ball in my hands because I had four older brothers and a dad who coached baseball, so baseball was always my passion." Habetz is the youngest of eight children, and the daughter of Deanna and the late Leonard Habetz of Crowley, Louisiana.

Habetz shared that at the age of 10, she had the chance to meet Tommy Lasorda, the manager for the Los Angeles Dodgers at the time. She said, "I met him, and after meeting him, I wanted to play for the Dodgers." He gave her his business card and told her to write to him. She said, "I wrote him, never thinking he would respond but he responded to every letter I sent and we became pen pals."

She added, "When I got to high school there was a Louisiana rule that said girls weren't allowed to play on boys teams. I was devastated because if I am gonna

play for the Dodgers, I gotta play high school baseball."

In response to how she felt about not being able to play high school baseball, Habetz said, "I'd been playing since I was seven, I only played baseball, I was a baseball player. So it was the norm for me and for everyone in my community, they knew I played baseball. So to play in high school was kind of the natural next step."

"To not play because I was a girl, what do you mean I can't play baseball?" she added.

In order to fight for the sport that she had known and loved since she was little, Habetz ended up taking the state of Louisiana to court. During which time, she would get frequent calls of encouragement from Lasorda. She also had support from her family and the community. Thanks to her strong support network and her love and passion for baseball, she gained the strength to power through the court case at just 15 years old.

Habetz ended up winning the court case. After about a year and a half, Louisiana finally changed the rule, and she got to play in her junior and senior year of high school. Habetz became the first girl in the state of Louisiana to play high school baseball.

Habetz shared that she learned a lot

from that experience of taking Louisiana to court, "If you truly believe in something and you know you are doing the right thing for the right reasons then you should fight for it."

After high school, Habetz received a scholarship to play basketball for University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) – now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She also eventually tried out for the softball team after discovering the sport and its similarities to baseball. Habetz was a 1,000-point performer in basketball and as a member of the softball squad, earned third team All-America, All-South Region, All-Louisiana and Academic All-America honors. In 1993, Habetz and the Ragin' Cajuns made it all the way to the Women's College World Series.

After graduating from USL in 1995, Habetz went on to play baseball in the professional league with the Colorado Silver Bullets for three years, and with the Long Beach Aces for a year.

Patrick Murphy, Louisiana Softball assistant coach at the time when Habetz was on the team, called her to help build the softball program at the University of Alabama. Habetz was still playing for the Aces and also preparing to go to law school when she received the offer. She went on to coach Alabama for 25 years.

Habetz helped guide Alabama to six Southeastern Conference (SEC) regular season titles, five SEC Tournament titles and 14 Women's College World Series appearances. In 2012, the Crimson Tide won its first national championship, the first for any SEC program.

Habetz helped build Alabama's softball program from a time when fastpitch softball was an unfamiliar form of softball. She shared that watching the sport grow in not just the school, but also the state of Alabama was a fulfilling experience for her. She said, "What an amazing journey in the sense of helping build the program, just being a part of something that's bigger than yourself and watching it grow."

Habetz shared that in her coaching

experience with Alabama, she had preached for selfless team play. She said, "The fabric of the program was something called mudita; mudita means having vicarious joy for someone else's success as if it were your own."

Habetz said that she hopes to coach the Louisiana Softball team in a similar way. She said, "Hopefully in my time here, that's the blueprint that I coach from in the sense of being selfless and playing for something bigger than me and really loving my teammates and having a bunch of sisters who just fight for each other and with each other."

She added, "When you have athletes who are together and truly fighting for each other and they love each other then the trophy is filled with a lot of the special memories, the blood sweat and tears that they all have together."

Habetz is an inspiration to all the athletes under her guidance. Her passion and sincerity in guiding her players is shown in her desire to help them become the best version of themselves and knowing their purpose, value and worth as a player and as a person.

Habetz said, "They all have greatness within, they just sometimes don't see it, cause they're too busy comparing themselves to someone else." She added, "I'm passionate about finding their greatness and bringing it out, whatever it takes, so they can have fulfillment in showing off their greatness, however that may look like."

In response to the growth of sports for females, Habetz shared, "Sports in general for females has grown so much, it provides more opportunities for little girls to dream of one day playing professionally or one day playing in college."

Habetz's journey and experience as a female athlete in Louisiana paved the way for many young female athletes in the state to have equal opportunities to play the sports that they love. She said, "It's truly fulfilling to know that you were kind of a part of that journey and watched it grow."



Photo provided by Alyson Habetz
News clipping of the Lady Cajun Softball team in The ADVERTISER.

Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Nov. 16

- At 7:46 p.m., an officer was dispatched to 121 Reinhardt St. in response to a private lost crash involving a black 2022 Ford F-150 and a white 2017 Ford van.
- At 2:51 p.m., officers were dispatched to an attempted bicycle theft, of which the property involved included a black Jasion electric bicycle, a brake and a black u-lock.
- At 5:22 a.m., officers were dispatched to Bonin Hall in regards to found property, which included one blue pill, allegedly Adderall.

Nov. 15

- At 8:00 p.m., officers were dispatched to Bonin Hall in response to a physical altercation. Both individuals were arrested and released on misdemeanor summons.








Nov. 13

- At 8:06 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a parking lot crash on the fifth level of Girard Park Circle Parking Tower involving a gray 2010 Toyota Corolla and a blue 2001 Chevrolet pick-up. No injuries were reported.

Nov. 12

- At 6:25 p.m., officers were dispatched to Huger Hall in regards to an injury.
- At 5:45 p.m., officers were dispatched to Heritage Apartments in regards to a theft involving an Apple iPad with a marble case and cracked screen.
- At 4:25 p.m., officers were dispatched to Blackham Coliseum in reference to a suspicious circumstance complaint.
- At 1:01 p.m., officers were dispatched to Girard Park Circle Parking Tower in regards to a hit-and-run. Following investigation, the incident was determined to be a parking lot crash, involving a blue 2013 Honda CR-V and a white 2018 Chevrolet Malibu.

Weather

Thursday 11/21	Friday 11/22	Saturday 11/23	Sunday 11/24	Monday 11/25	Tuesday 11/26	Wednesday 11/27
 High: 67 F Low: 43 F	 High: 67 F Low: 43 F	 High: 69 F Low: 51 F	 High: 76 F Low: 61 F	 High: 77 F Low: 61 F	 High: 73 F Low: 53 F	 High: 70 F Low: 53 F

Geonna Tipton
WEATHER WRITER

- A dust storm is wreaking havoc on parts of central California.
- Tropical storm Sara is causing danger and flood threats in Central America.

WHERE'S ALLAN?



I went to order Chick-fil-A, but I remembered I ordered a new outfit. Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer:
Fairyvillage in tree
by Stephens Hall

Last week's Where's Allan winner, **Amelia Cowart**, a first-year chemistry major, shared that she enjoys Dungeons and Dragons and that Montgomery Hall is her favorite hall on campus!



Win a free sandwich from Roly Poly

The first UL student to recognize where The Vermilion's mascot, Allan the Alligator, was photographed on campus will win a free sandwich from Roly Poly on Coolidge Street in Lafayette. The first UL student to email the correct location of Allan to **TheVermilion@louisiana.edu** will win. The Vermilion will continue this contest each week until the end of the semester. Participants cannot win more than once a semester, and must be attentive to their emails.

- Rain and storms are moving from central to eastern U.S.

Food Review

Shane's Famous Quesadilla Burgers: Delicious and savory

Isabelle Brumley
FOOD REVIEWER

Located on W. Pinhook Rd., Shane's Famous Quesadilla Burger became a local favorite thanks to its creative twist on the classic burger. This is the place to be if you crave something unique and satisfying. Instead of a regular burger bun, Shane's uses crispy, cheesy quesadillas to hold together a burger.



Photo by Lily Cartinez

The "Shroom" Burger with Caramelized Red Onions on the side.

In addition to their famous quesadilla burger, they offer a variety of delicious options, including Cajun tacos, burgers, sandwiches, loaded fries, salads and chicken wings.

The first opening was in 2023, and Shane Vallot, a former University of Louisiana at Lafayette football player, quickly became a standout in Lafayette's food scene. Despite being a newcomer, it has earned a loyal following thanks to its creative take on the classic burger. Vallot's idea to replace the standard burger bun with quesadillas is a twist that sets it apart from anything else in the area.

Due to its popularity, this restaurant will expand to a new location at 3822 W.

Congress Street, formerly Smitty's Wing, in early December.

The space is simple but cozy, with a mix of modern and rustic touches, exposed brick, wood accents and a clean, open layout.

There's an easygoing, casual energy to the place, and it feels like the spot you could come to for a quick bite or to hang out with friends. They have an array of the University's merchandise and pictures of customers and employees on the walls.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this Cajun establishment on Thursday, Nov. 14.

As we walked in, we were greeted by the cashier and seated by our server. The amazing smells in the air immediately told me the food would be exceptional. As an appetizer, we chose to order mac and cheese fries.

Looking at the menu, I was overwhelmed by the amount of food. It felt like they had everything. We noticed a few items that caught our eye and that I had never seen before.

The quesadilla burger immediately stood out, with its unique twist on the classic burger that promised something different and exciting. The Cajun tacos are also a mix of bold, zesty flavors, blending traditional Cajun spices with fresh ingredients for a flavorful experience.

Our mac and cheese fries soon arrived hot and ready to dig into. The crispy fries were topped with creamy cheese and a hearty layer of macaroni and cheese, making for a rich and satisfying dish.

We finally decided to order our entrees. I ordered the Cajun chicken tenders and fries, while my colleague ordered the "Shroom" burger. The chicken tenders were crispy and seasoned with just the right spice, while the fries were golden and perfectly crispy. My colleague's burger arrived piled high with sautéed mushrooms and

melted cheese, making it look as mouth watering as it sounded.

After we finished our meal, I decided to interview Jase Zachary, a senior kinesiology major at UL Lafayette, "I am a server here, and my favorite part about working here is the people I work with. It's a pretty chill environment. The food is amazing here, and I love being part of a team that makes it all come together."

Due to their imminent move, the team has been busy preparing for the transition, making sure everything runs smoothly and that customers continue to have a great experience. The location change has added a bit of excitement to the mix, but it's clear that they're focused on making the move as seamless as possible while maintaining the quality of their food and service.

After our meal, we ordered dessert to wrap up our evening. We chose the Cajun brownie. This three-layer brownie surprised us with its rich, fudgy texture. I was happy to end the evening with such a delicious dessert.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Shane's Famous Quesadilla Burger. The food exceeded my expectations, with large portions and unique aspects of the meals.

If you want to visit this establishment, it is open Monday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch, and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for dinner.

On Friday and Saturday, it's open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Photo by Lily Cartinez

Mac N' Cheese Fries at Shane's Famous Quesadilla Burgers.

Have any leads?



Scan the QR code below to submit any topics you'd like The Vermilion to look into



Arts and Culture

The UL Lafayette Arabic culture club comes to our Cajun country

Jenna Kimball
NEWS WRITER

The Arabic Culture Club, or ACC, is an organization at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette that is dedicated to bringing diverse Arabic culture to Cajun country and establishing strongholds for international students to stand up and become leaders. This is done through movie nights, karaoke nights, table talks, meetings and bake sales that the club presents for the UL Lafayette student body.

These events are open for any students who want to participate. The president of the ACC, Azme Abbas, a senior biology major, says that it is a "friendly club for everyone to come hang out and meet new people."

There are about 30-50 students who are consistently active, however numbers vary for every event.

The club does fundraisers, community work and encourages members to participate in the Big Event each year.

One of the events hosted by the ACC is called Table Talk. This is where members of the club set up a table on Rex Street and talk about certain topics with students who are passing by.

These talks are a chance for members of the Arabic club to chat with other UL Lafayette students about current events and Arabic culture such as religion or holidays. These table talks are also the setting of many bake sales that serve as fundraisers for various causes around the world.

A specific cultural aspect that the club has held table talks about is Ramadan, a major annual celebration in Arabic

culture in which fasting, prayer and community are prioritized.

Another way that the club connects international students with other UL Lafayette students is by inviting the international students to lead a talk about their home country. This is a chance for others to learn about diverse countries and cultures while helping to make international students feel more at home.

The ACC collaborates with many other student organizations like the Student Government Association, or SGA, to put on events.

Abbas says that the club "works closely with SGA to help be the voice for international students."

Most semesters, the Arabic Culture Club hosts an athletic event against a separate UL Lafayette student organization.

This semester, the ACC will host a soccer match against the UL Muslim Student Association, or MSA. The match was held on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. on the intramural fields.

The ACC is supported by Zeus Mediterranean Kitchen, so there is food present at almost every meeting and event.

According to Abbas, the ACC encourages all students to join in and become a part of the club and they "invite younger students to join the board to learn to be the voices of tomorrow."

Getting involved in the Arabic Culture Club is an excellent way to learn more about diverse cultures and also help transition international students into UL Lafayette's Cajun culture.

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.

SUBMISSIONS

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.

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Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 11

INSTRUCTIONS

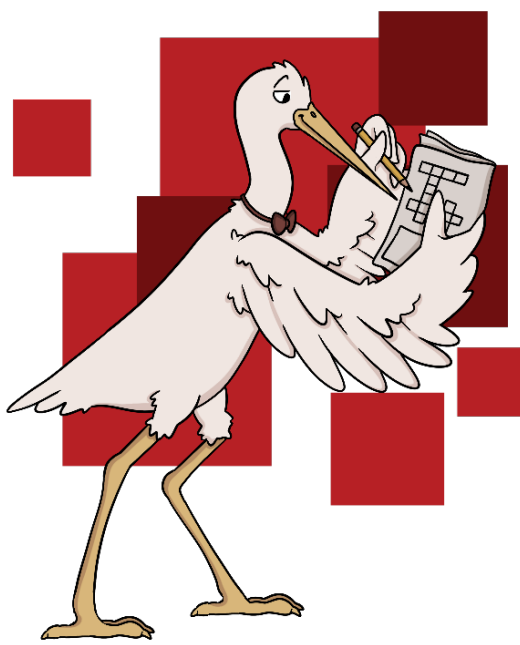
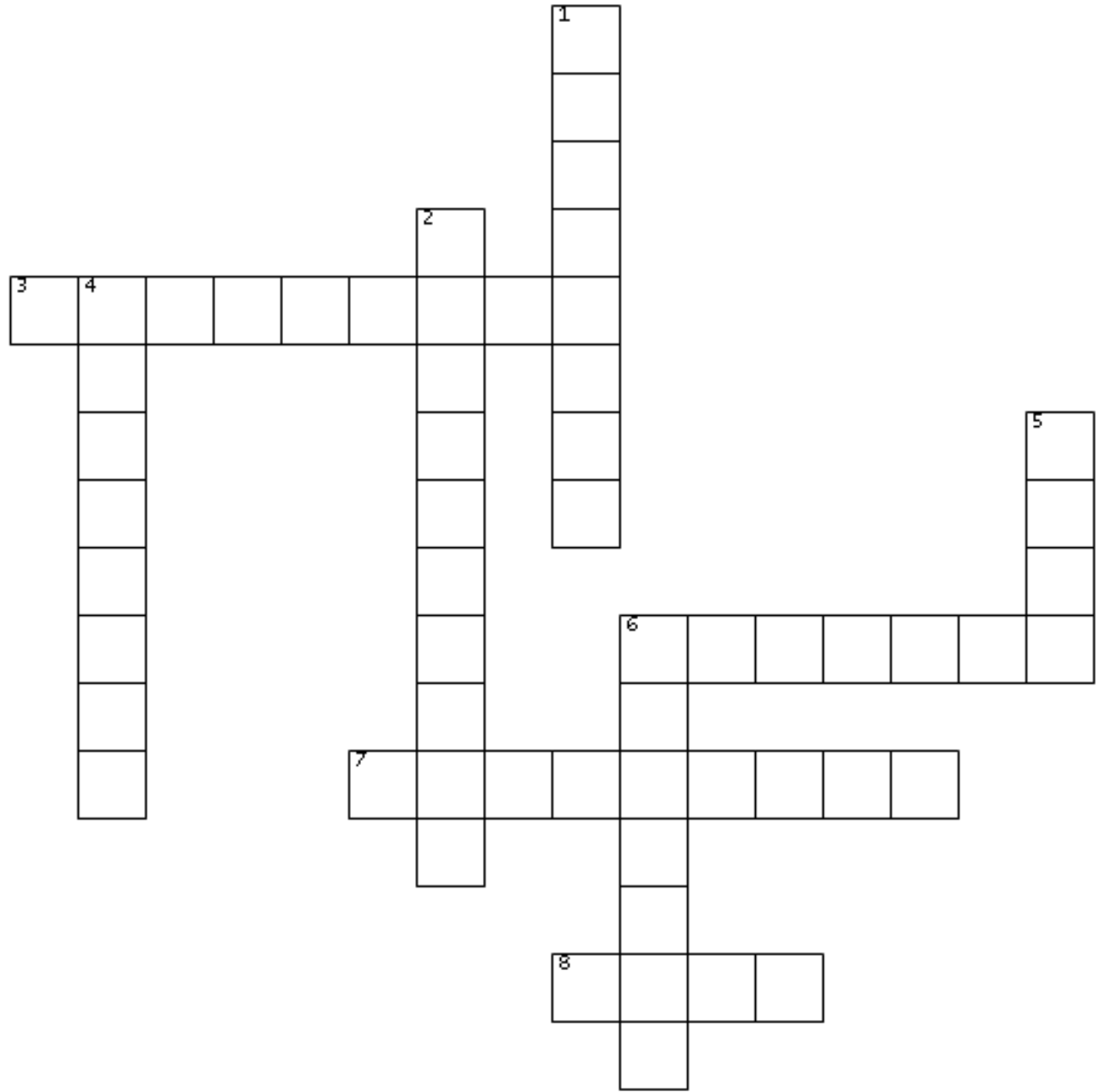
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 3. Trump suggests abolishing the Department of _____.
- 6. The first professional baseball league team that Alyson Habetz played for is the Colorado Silver ____.
- 7. Who is the vice president of Student Affairs (last name)?
- 8. What does Trevante Jones not like about the hotel?

DOWN

- 1. How do many people react to the fear of ketchup?
- 2. Who is out for the Pels with a left hamstring strain (last name)?
- 4. Which Cajuns volleyball senior hitter aced her final serve against Georgia Southern (last name)?
- 5. What is the name of the Mediterranean restaurant that supports the ACC?
- 6. What kind of dessert did Isabelle Brumley get?



Cajun Candids Church Groundbreaking

Photos by Joe Bozzelle



Sports

Cajuns fall 24-22 to the Jaguars, despite heroic efforts by Fields

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

The win streak for the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns has come to an end. The Cajuns fell to the South Alabama Jaguars last Saturday 24-22, despite a valiant second half effort from the team led by backup quarterback Chandler Fields.

This was the Cajuns first loss since their loss to Tulane, their second at home despite being undefeated on the road.

The Cajuns still have a chance to clinch the Sun Belt Championship and host it if they win out.

The Jags came into Cajun Field ready and prepared to play, especially compared to the sluggishness the Cajuns played with in the first half.

The defense especially seemed confused for much of the first half of the game.

Louisiana would get the ball to start the game first, starting at their own 34-yard line thanks to a good return by Zylan Perry.

The Cajuns would drive 40 yards down the field, converting a fourth down along the way before failing another

fourth down conversion to turn the ball over to the Jags.

Not letting this chance go to waste, the Jags would quickly drive down field, their offense cooking the Cajun defense as they scored a touchdown after moving downfield 74 yards in nine plays.

The Cajuns next drive would stall out after six plays, forcing the team to punt the ball back to South Alabama.

South Alabama would quickly convert that touchdown for another touchdown, going up 14-0 early in the game.

Louisiana would finally get on the board with their third drive of the game thanks to the leg of Kenneth Almendares who easily made a 35 yard field goal to make it a 14-3 game, it would be the only points the Cajuns would score in the half.

South Alabama would score yet another touchdown, going 75 yards in 10 plays to increase their lead 21-3.

The rest of the half would be South Alabama punts and Louisiana turnovers, including a Ben Wooldridge interception that helped set the Jags up for a field goal to end the half up 24-3.

Whatever happened during halftime woke the team up though as the Cajuns came out of the tunnel after half was

completely different from their first half counterparts.

The defense would quickly force South Alabama to punt the ball during their opening drive, giving Louisiana the chance to finally score.

Louisiana's first drive of the half would be slow and methodical, a perfect drive for the Cajuns, though a toll was levied upon the team.

On the fourth play of the 15 play drive, Wooldridge would scramble for a 12 yard gain and a first down, but would injure himself going down and taking him out for the rest of the game.

In his place senior, backup Chandler Fields, who had started the last four games of the season in 2023, would come out to finish the game.

Fields was just what the Cajuns offense needed as he led the team down the field to the redzone, where the team was stopped and forced to kick a field goal to cut the lead 24-6. Louisiana would get the ball back again as the defense began to play clutch, forcing the Jags to turn the ball over on downs, setting up the offense in great field position.

Despite the great play by the defense, the offense once again stalled in the red zone. Crucial passes were dropped in the red zone despite great placement by Fields who was playing much better than the previous season.

Louisiana was once again forced to go for three despite being down multiple possessions and being in the red zone. Luckily for the Cajuns, the defense were playing lights out and forced another Jag punt.

The Cajuns would waste no time on this drive, as on the third play of the drive Fields would roll out left looking for a receiver.

While being chased by a defender he told running back Dre'lyn Washington to go deep and Fields would find him, throwing deep on the run and connecting with the back for a 66 yard touchdown.

An Almendares PAT would finally put the Cajuns within one possession of tying the game as they were only down 24-16.

Defense would once again try their best to save the day as freshman safety Kody Jackson would intercept a deep pass to give the offense a chance to tie the game.

Fields and the Cajun offense would not let the defense down.

Louisiana would move down field to the two yard line where Fields would punch in the touchdown with a QB run.

The Cajuns would go for two to tie the game, running another QB run for Fields.

The two point conversion would fail, as despite seeming to get in a flag for illegal formation would put an end to the hope for a comeback.

South Alabama would kneel the ball to end the game, sealing the Cajuns 24-22 loss despite a spot in the SBC Championship on the line.

Fields did his best, showing how much he prepared as he was thrust into a situation many others would crumble in. Fields would finish the game completing 14/17 of his passes for 185 yards and a touchdown, with an additional 28 yards and a touchdown on the ground.

The biggest reason for the Cajuns loss was the lack of a good run game. Louisiana out rushed the Jags 137-68, yet the Cajuns could not run where it mattered the most, the redzone.

The Cajuns leading rusher for the game was Bill Davis who only gained 50 yards on 16 carries, an average of 3.1 yards per carry.

Washington averaged 8.2 yards per carry but was only given five carries the entire game.

Harvey Broussard and Lance LeGendre would lead the team in receptions and receiving yards but only Washington ended the game with a receiving touchdown.

Defensively, the Cajuns performed much better in the second, led by Tyrone Lewis Jr. who ended the game with nine tackles, including 1.5 TFLs.

The Cajuns will have another chance this Saturday to clinch a spot in the Championship game with a win against Troy, and will still be able to host the game if they win out.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Louisiana gets ready to snap the ball against the South Alabama Jaguars Nov. 16.

Siena DeCambra ends volleyball season with last shot service ace

Isaac Henry
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns women's volleyball season came to an end Friday, Nov. 15 in a 3-1 victory over the Georgia Southern Eagles.

In a press conference held Nov. 11, before the week's final series opener, Head Coach Kristi Gray summed up the season, crediting the team with great toughness in spite of some of the big losses the season brought.

"I think there's something to be said for winning seven out of eight five-set matches throughout the year," Gray said. "I think just for us, being so young and inexperienced, it's there, that winning mentality. We gotta continue to figure out what that is moving forward."

Friday's game served as the team's Senior Night, and Gray was quick to honor her graduating class, but stressed that this final pair of games was also a good test for who will have the opportunity to step into starting roles next season.

"Honoring our seniors, we have five this year. Looking forward to honoring them the best we can Thursday, Friday," Gray said. "Yes we are honoring them, we do play a really good Georgia Southern team, but we are looking at things for the future for us."

Speaking about how the Cajuns were viewed as a major upset threat to the Eagles, Gray recounted that a conference coach had called Louisiana a scary team in that aspect.

"The way that he had said it, it was a compliment. We are very capable of turning it on and going and beating opponents," Gray said. "The other side of it is we are so young that sometimes we get the other end of it, but if we come out and play well I think it can be a very good match."

The first game of the series served as the Cajuns' black-out game and saw the Eagles' talents on full display, nearly doubling the Cajuns in total kills and shutting them out 3-0.

The Eagles displayed great accuracy on attacks, scoring on over 28% of their attempts while committing fewer errors than the Cajuns all match.

Junior hitter Cailin Demps led the Cajuns in total points for the match with 9.5 on very high attempt volume. Gray singled out Demps as a future leader for the team next season.

"I think Cailin Demps is gonna be the best one for that. She's not really a vocal leader. She came in and it wasn't a role that she expected to have," Gray said.

"She has a great voice and we know that she is capable of taking on that role and there are glimpses of it that she has, but I think that she is going to be a very, very strong leader for us moving forward."

In the Friday night game, the Cajuns came out with a ton of urgency, showing up the Eagles in two razor-close sets before closing out the match with a 25-16 fourth set.

The Cajuns forwards played with a lot of intensity, with Demps and fellow

junior hitter Lauryn Hill combining for 78 kill attempts. Senior Cami Hicks and freshman Chelsea Gilmore also stepped up and contributed on offense throughout the match.

On the match point, Cajuns senior hitter Siena DeCambra checked into the game to serve, and serve she did, scoring a winning ace on the final play of her collegiate career.

In finishing with a 5-9 conference record, the Cajuns missed out on a trip to the Sun Belt Conference Championship tournament, but Gray emphasized that the season result shouldn't diminish the senior class' overall legacy in the program.

"As a coach, you get so fixated and lost in watching film and seeing what you need to do to improve, just because of the way that our season has gone with the adversity and the record and all of that, but it shouldn't overshadow what these seniors have done for us," Gray said.

"What they've accomplished from day one of us as a staff getting here, just completely turning over this program. You can see what they've done to build it within the community, within the conference, and I think that's something to be said for, what they've done for us, and so I'm very grateful for them for that."



Photo by Alyus Dick

Ragin' Cajuns celebrate after a score.

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Allons

Will Trump's second term turn out eventful or just politics as usual?

Andrew Courville
POLITICS WRITER

Donald Trump's second term will have massive effects on every aspect of America with many concerned about the next four years turning for the worst. However, from immigration and the economy to education and LGBTQ+ rights, one must separate the facts from fears.

Project 2025 is the primary source of what many believe will make the next four years a regime. However, take note that the document was authored by numerous conservative organizations and individuals, some of whom were part of Trump's first term staff. It was not written or endorsed by Trump, even if some of his allies do.

Trump claimed at the September Presidential Debate with Harris, "I haven't read it. I don't want to read it - purposefully." Trump publicly follows the official Republican platform, Agenda 47, which is notably milder than the Heritage Foundation's proposals.

The Associated Press published in October that Trump's words overlapped with Project 2025.

Trump's first term cycled through numerous cabinet officials and people he didn't know or lacked the experience to manage national policies. This time, expect mostly Trump loyalists and polished politicians.

Immigration was one of the top issues this cycle. Trump and Project 2025 both assert the use of the National Guard and police to curtail immigration, limit immigration from certain countries, deport millions of immigrants illegally residing in the country and end excessive welfare for immigrants, all based on the unfounded premise that immigrants commit crime and traffic drugs at higher rates than American citizens.

Project 2025 simply suggests reinstating all of Trump's policies from his first term, including "Remain in Mexico."

Trump also tapped Tom Homan, the writer for Project 2025's Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Neither Trump nor Homan offer a step-by-step playbook for mass deportations.

The economy is always a huge topic in elections. Trump wants to pass a universal 10% tariff on all imports, and higher imports on certain products from

China and Mexico. Simple economics, though, indicate that this is a risky road, since the U.S. might not have the infrastructure to support itself. The same can be said of lowering taxes on income and corporations, significant sources of government revenue.

Regarding climate change, Trump plans to repeal much of the Inflation Reduction Act, which Biden passed into law in 2022. The law prepares the economy toward a green energy transition and to combat climate change, the largest investment of its kind in American history.

Trump and Project 2025 agree that climate change is far overstated, and the government shouldn't dictate unnecessary economic intervention.

Trump and Project 2025 both support tremendous cutdowns in the size of the federal government. Trump claims regulation and bureaucracy inherently inhibit the economy. Hence, he proposed creation of the Department of Government Efficiency, co-headed by business moguls Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. Trump also proposes expanding executive powers to allow him to fire and replace more government employees.

Musk claims he can reduce the size of government by a third. Ramaswamy has suggested gutting agencies like the IRS, National Hurricane Service and FBI. The proposed Department of Government

Efficiency will serve only an advisory role.

Among the departments to face serious curtailment will be the Department of Health and Human Services. Trump tapped notorious anti-vaxxer and environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to be the secretary. If Trump and the subsidiary agencies let Kennedy run wild, expect a decrease in government funded vaccine research and healthcare funds, cutbacks of the CDC, and possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Trump and Project 2025 want to abolish the Department of Education, asserting that states should have more control over education. However, it would take approval from Congress. Even if he can't get rid of it, the department is responsible for managing student loans, FAFSA and TOPS, so even downsizing would require moving those programs elsewhere.

Trump claims to block federal funding for institutions of higher learning and K-12 schools promoting "woke" content like Critical Race Theory, gender ideology and inappropriate content for children regarding sexual orientation, race and politics. He aligns with Jeff Landry's proposals to bring some religious aspects of Christianity into the public school system.

It's unclear where the boundaries on LGBTQ+ rights exactly lie. It could

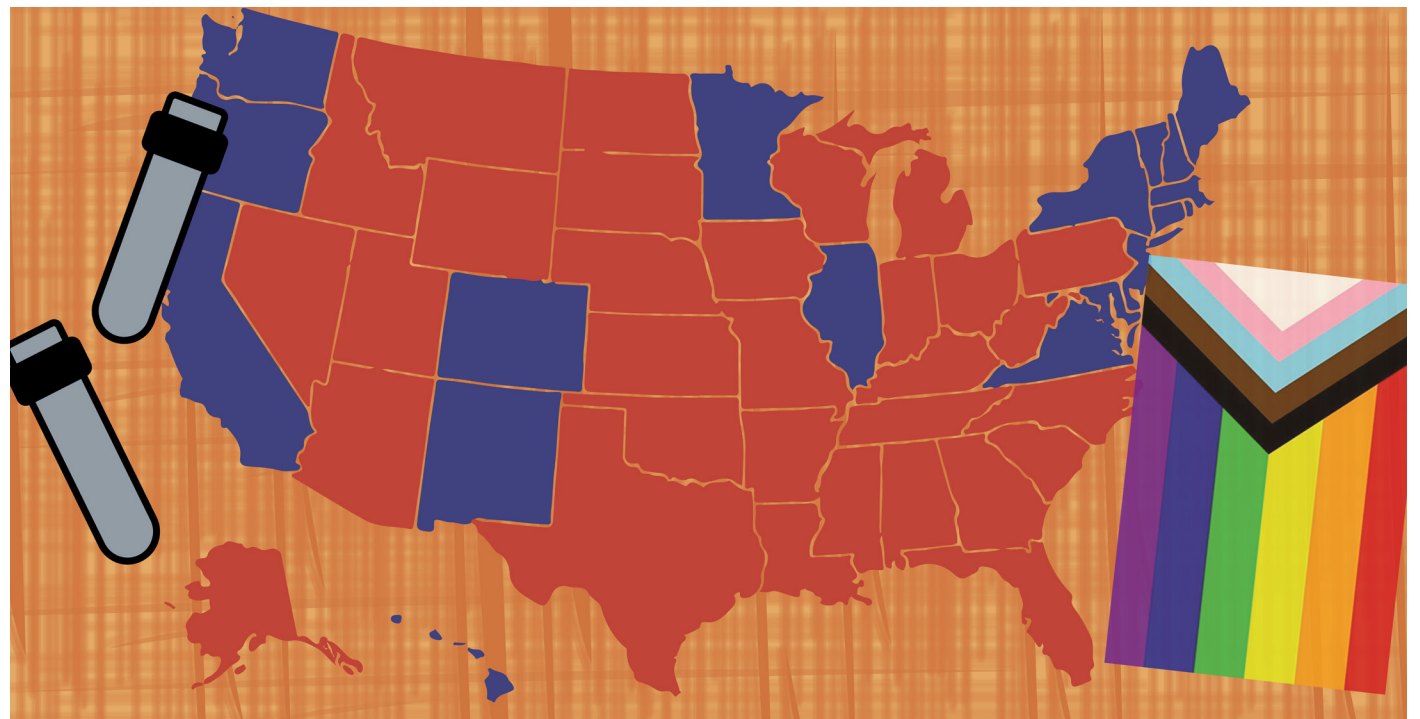
extend to gender neutral bathrooms and use of pronouns in the classroom. However, he certainly supports ending pro-transgender legislation like hormone inhibitors and gender-affirming care for youth.

Project 2025 suggests purging mentions of LGBTQ+ terminology from all government legislation and documents.

It's crucial to remember that this is all speculative. Republicans may have a majority in the House and Senate, but that doesn't mean everything Trump wants will get passed. Surrounding himself with allies could make the executive branch ineffective. A Congress of Republicans doesn't equate to a Congress of Trump loyalists, and the Supreme Court could label actions unconstitutional.

Numerous Democratic state governors like Gavin Newsom in California and Jay Pritzker in Illinois have announced Governors Safeguarding Democracy to challenge the more radical elements of Trump's administration from impacting their states.

Overall, although Trump has the ability to pass much of his agenda, checks and balances from numerous corners will try to restrain him from doing anything "dangerous." This is not the end of America as we know it, even though it may look severely different in 2029.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

Mortuusequusphobia: What it's like living with the fear of ketchup

Ja'Lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

Served along with fries, burgers and really anything else, ketchup is and has always been a universal love for many.

However, unfamiliar to most, there is a small part of the world where ketchup only provokes unpleasant feelings of disgust and even terror, just from the mere sight of it. This small part of the world is where I reside. Whilst most people are afraid of snakes or bugs, mortuusequusphobia has haunted me for years.

It's hard for me to realize how others find delight, and even pleasure, when indulging in the condiment—experiencing the sweet, tangy and "delightful" sensation. However, all that I am able to sense is the looming presence that it holds over me when I must face it at the dinner table. The idea of it sends

a shiver down my spine, with disgusting visions of its red, sticky residue being poured over perfectly good food, now ruined.

Truly, I could not tell you how the fear arose. Since I was a child, I have felt disturbed by the taste. The smell is offensive and sharp; even the word itself repulses me.

My uneasiness towards it had grown more and more until a genuine horror came of it. It's a feeling that is illogical, a sensation in my brain that is deeply planted and cannot be reverted by any means.

Many do not understand the struggle it is to face a fear that those around them love so much. The hardest part is not necessarily avoiding ketchup, but watching others bliss in its existence.

The action of slathering it on a burger patty, or simply dipping chicken nuggets into it, churns my soul into a

dreadful state. The way it rests on a plate, undisturbed, waiting to make a mess..... yuck.

Everywhere I go, there it is: lurking on tables, smeared along someone's plate or even hiding squished in its small packet tucked within an order of fries.

The hardest thing to handle is when someone nearby squeezes a bottle and I am forced to hear the ominous squelching noise. My chest tightens and my breath comes short as I see the worst, most hideous factor of ketchup: its inconsistency. The form of it becomes a liquid that splats unevenly on one's plate, not only shooting irregularly—causing chaos in my mind to rumble. Is it going to splash on me?

When this watery residue comes out it becomes so seemingly inedible. My mind fumbles trying to make sense that people will still resort to eating it. How one can still delight in this substance after witnessing such an action is beyond me.

Many people do not understand this fear. They see it as a joke, saying things like, "It's just ketchup," as if that makes me feel peace over it. I am unable to pretend it is just nothing. The discomfort is constant, and the anxiety is strong when people bring it too close to me.

However, I can proudly say, I've become an expert at avoidance, smoothly walking on the opposite side of condiment aisles, asking servers to remove it from my meal and carefully slipping somewhere else when someone inevitably douses their food in it.

Back in high school, everyone took this fear lightly. I remember so vividly the day

some friends and I went out to eat, when a guy from school passed us and started talking.

Everything seemed to be going normal, until one of my friends giddily mentioned that I was afraid of ketchup. I knew it was coming. I was waiting for the disbelief, the shock, the laughter. However, I was not ready for what he did next.

So intrigued by my distress over the condiment, he grabbed the bottle of ketchup across the table and shot the slimy concoction all over me. My body launched itself out of the chair as I wailed my eyes out. Its uneasy red color was smeared against my skin, the unsettling smell on my clothes. Nothing else in my life could compare to the level of trauma that I had faced.

As much as I try to and want to avoid it, it seems to linger with me no matter what. Whether a fast food worker puts extra packets in my to-go bag, or a restaurant delivers it with my meal.

It is not that I want to make a big deal out of this sauce, but the world must be reminded of this little corner of people who are terrified of what most people cherish.

Yes, I understand that this is not a rational fear, ketchup cannot physically hurt me, but it is still a fear, one I am willing to accept and stand by. Just like any other irrational fear: heights, spiders, tight spaces, ketchup is mine and I am willing to take any measures needed to avoid it at all costs.

And besides, the world is full of many other condiments, right?



Graphic by Elizabeth Dybendal

Beaucoup

School Stress

The Beaucoup section writes about ways they deal with academic stress and things that help them manage their busy routines.



Graphic by Sonya Breaux

Sadie Lynn Burrell
ILLUSTRATOR

As someone who gets anxious easily, managing academic stress is very important so I can continue to function effectively as a student.

One way I manage stress is by compartmentalizing my thoughts to focus on one thing at a time. For example, when I am worried about school as well as other things in my life, I push the other thoughts to the side and

focus on the things I have to work on for class.

The most important thing I try to do is to pace myself. I work on the most pressing things first and then go back for things with a later due date. In between doing this, though, I take frequent breaks where I watch a video, doodle or get a snack.

Knowing I have a break to look forward to makes me more motivated to get work done and reaching it feels like a reward.

Geonna Tipton
NEWS WRITER

Managing academic stress can be difficult. It is like trying to sail a ship on dry land sometimes, and then trying to figure out how to make the water appear again. For me, handling stress in general was never easy. I would be stumped for a few days at a time and get nothing done. However, since I moved to college I have been able to handle it better. When I get stressed, I take a long shower to relax

and then eat some of my favorite comfort foods.

Not only that, but sometimes I will take a walk around campus or watch some comfort shows to calm down and relax my mind.

One thing I've learned is that there is no right or wrong way to handle stress. It can vary from person to person. So when my boat begins to sail on dry land, I try to relax and ease my mind because I know the water will come back eventually.

Ellie Schmidt
LAYOUT MANAGER

I manage stress by using a lot of to-do lists to stay organized and focused. When I feel overwhelmed, I sit down and write everything out that I need to accomplish, breaking each task into smaller, manageable steps. This makes big projects less intimidating and allows me to work through them with less stress. Self-care is also very essential for me. Taking time to myself to relax helps me calm down when I'm overwhelmed.

Moving to Lafayette from Shreveport was very hard for me. At first, I felt lonely and overwhelmed by the new environment, but surrounding myself with supportive friends has made a huge difference. They've helped me feel at home here, and having a strong social circle has improved my mental well-being.

Another big part of managing my stress is my kitten, who provides a lot of comfort and joy. Taking care of her keeps me grounded and helps me recharge when I'm feeling mentally drained.

Ramudhi Kariyawasam
MANAGING EDITOR

At this point in my life, stress comes as no stranger. It is not some peculiar or alien word that describes the disastrous and unexplained physiological damage it does to the human body. Rather to me, it is a word that describes every single day of any given moment of my existence. Stress.

With all due honesty, stress has been such a large component of my career, that I've grown numb to it. I know, it sounds horrible. It should never, ever come to

be that way because that is the worst impact it can have on you. Recognizing that stress has become numb to me is also good though, because it allows me to take action when I know too well the world around me is spinning faster than I am.

To combat this physiological monster, I attempt my hardest to dedicate a few hours a week to my hobbies: playing guitar, taking a walk at the park, dominating pickleball. Although a few hours a week is definitely not enough, it is what I can manage at the time. That's all that matters. Moving forward one step at a time.

Student Organization Ads

Racket Dampeners for Sale!

The ULL Tennis Club is selling custom printed racket dampeners! Help support our club and decorate your racket!

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Want to Join?
Reach out to us on our Instagram, Facebook, or our email! We have weekly practices from 6-8 at the tennis courts at Bourgeois Hall!

Our practices:

Monday Structured Practice Level: Intermediate	Wednesday Structured Practice Level: All	Thursday Hit Day Level: All
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SOUNDING OFF

"If you could give yourself advice for next semester, what would it be?"



Tray Salone
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

"I would tell myself to stay ahead of classes and study."



Karis Kiker
SECONDARY EDUCATION SENIOR

"My advice would be to stay on top of my work and not procrastinate."



Noa Barras
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SOPHOMORE

"I would advise myself to manage my time better, and to keep my priorities in line and focus on what is most beneficial to me."



Karen Woods
SECONDARY EDUCATION FRESHMAN

"To not be as nervous. College is not as scary as it seems. It is a lot more lax. The professors are here to help us..."



Zack Semien
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"It will probably be to focus up, because my next semester is gonna be a little bit harder than this one, class wise."



Dalaen Attle
SECONDARY EDUCATION SOPHOMORE

"Prioritize correctly and manage your time wisely."

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 Makayla Walker.

COMIC

Don't Look!



Comic by Lauren Gerald

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Deadline for submissions is Nov. 24 at 10 a.m.

