

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 November 7, 2024

Love Like Karson: 'He was one of a kind'

Ramudhi Kariyawasam
MANAGING EDITOR

It was a typical Thursday morning at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, as students began their day and headed off to classes. Though, no one expected the unfortunate events that would unfold that day.

At approximately 9:05 a.m. on Sept. 19, a truck moving east on the 1700 block of West University Avenue attempted to turn left onto West Simcoe Street when it crashed with a motorcyclist, who was traveling west on the 1700 block of West University Avenue, detailed the press releases from Lafayette Police Department. The driver of the truck was cited for failure to yield left during the turn.

Karson Scott Estilette, a freshman from the university, was transported to Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center under critical conditions and



Photo provided by Estilette family
Estilette family on recent beach trip.

passed away the following morning on Sept. 20, due to the nature of his injuries.

Karson's funeral was held on Sept. 26 at the Melancon Funeral Home in Carencro, LA. His tragic death affected many at the university but at the same time, followed a mass of support and love for him.

He was the son of Cody Estilette (father) and Tina Estilette (mother) and big brother to Paislee Estilette (sister).

Family and friends, along with his high school principals, took the time to speak with The Vermillion about the everlasting legacy he left. Cody Estilette, his father, said, "Karson, he was one of a kind. He would give the shirt off his back. He was not about himself at all. He was a hard worker."

The 18-year-old began at UL Lafayette in August, majoring in mechanical engineering. He graduated high school from David Thibodeaux STEM Magnet Academy (DTSMA) in Lafayette, LA with aspirations to continue university later on in Florida and become an aerospace engineer.

Alexander Melton, director of District Progress and Compliance for LPSS and previous principal of DTSMA, shared, though not knowing him too well, "What I knew of him was that he was a good, smart kid who was in the engineering pathway. He challenged himself by taking advanced courses like DE and AP. More often than that, Karson was laughing about something he or someone else did. He had a great disposition," Melton said.

Sherri Livesay, principal of DTSMA, stated, "Karson graduated with my daughter from DTSMA in May. He was



Photo provided by Estilette family
Karson at his cousin's wedding.

always the kindest, sweetest student. You could tell he genuinely cared for humanity through his daily interactions with his peers and teachers."

Karson touched a plethora of lives, as he always had a genuine interest and love for others. After the death of a classmate last year in October from suicide, Karson compiled a website dedicated to his classmate, who he hardly knew. He attempted to bring about a system of counseling, in which students can reach out to upperclassmen with subjects they felt reluctant to speak about with, per say, their parents or teachers, in hopes of helping prevent future occurrences.

"He wrote this three page long intent of what he felt would help try to prevent something like this in the future. It came back, they were unable to do anything. But that was just his nature, was to try to solve and figure things out, and how to help anybody at any time."

Anisen Thibodeaux, a freshman mechanical engineering major and Karson's closest friend, recollected of his most fond times with Karson.

Thibodeaux has known Karson since their first grade year at J. Wallace James Elementary School. Although their paths separated when going off to middle and high school, they were able to stay in touch due to living down the street from one another.

"Karson was really goofy. Most people when they grow, they mature in a way that they lose that silliness in them, but Karson never really lost that. The last time he was at my house, which was not that long ago, he caught my microwave on fire trying to make popcorn," Thibodeaux said.

"We were very close friends since we were about 6 years old. We used to go camping together a lot, that's for the most part where we would hang out, since we didn't go to the same school."

"He was the type of person where you may not see him for two, three, four months, but then when you did see him, it's like y'all never left," Thibodeaux shared.

Karson Henry, a freshman mechanical engineering major at LA Tech and friend, stated, "I would probably say the best memories I have with Karson are going on vacation with his family. One was to a campground with them and a bunch of their friends and the other was earlier this year when we went to Broken Bow, Oklahoma."

"I am forever grateful for being able to go on these trips, and for the time the vacations allowed me to spend with Karson, from late nights staying up talking and eating food and playing games, most especially the long deep talks we would have, either in a hot tub somewhere, on the golf cart or wherever it may have been, our talks were always the best," Henry said.

"That little guy was such a little goober and an absolute blast to be around."

Brenden Ardoin, a freshman engineering technology and management major and friend, met Karson in sixth grade in physical education class. "He was always around and always in a good mood. It was hard NOT to be friends with him."

"My most fond memories of him are definitely the sleepovers at his house. I would be at his house multiple times a week. Whether it was just going sit for a little while or going to see him when we both got off work, I was there. We would always find something to laugh at, something to do, and Karson always made that fun," Ardoin said.

Abigail Dugas, a sophomore mathematics major and friend, has known Karson for eight years, since fifth grade of elementary school and graduated high school together this past May.

"We sat next to each other in our fifth grade class because he came right after me in alphabetical order. We didn't become close friends until middle school though. In middle school, we rode the same bus and were in most classes together, so we talked a lot more and became closer friends," Dugas elaborated.

"Karson was known for sleeping through most of his classes. Every morning, he would walk into calc with an energy drink. Not but 10 minutes later, he was sleeping. Our engineering class was probably the only one he hardly ever slept through."

Despite him sometimes dozing off in class, no one quite understood how he always received exceptional grades in school. "We were taking a course to get drone certified, and our teacher, Mr. Hansen, had a few drones that he would allow us to fly around the classroom. Karson always took advantage of them and would fly them all the time."

"Karson was also a big workaholic. He had an auto detailing business called 'Dress to Impress' and worked at Tokyo and Crawfish Hole in Carencro. When he wasn't busy, he was usually riding his Grom," Dugas said.

The Grom, better known as Karson's bright blue motorcycle, which he bought towards the end of June, meant the world to him. "His motorcycle, he loved that bike. Since the end of June to his crash, he had put about 6,500 miles on it," Thibodeaux shared.

"There would be days when he would call me, and I would ask him where he was, and he'd be like, 'I don't know,' because he would just drive in one direction for an hour and a half and end up in some random town with a population of 200 people."

During his days off, he would ride for hours on end to the most arbitrary places but always ended back home. As Karson would say, "I didn't know where I would end up, but I knew I would never get lost."

On the day of his accident, Karson decided to go home after his morning class in hopes of returning later in the afternoon. "A lot of times on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he had about a three-hour break in between classes. Most of the time, he would go to the Union and work on stuff. He had talked to Anisen's girlfriend just before he got on the bike and left. He was saying he was going to go home and relax before coming to his afternoon class. He made a mile and a half maybe from here, when the accident took place," his father noted.

On the day of his passing, Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center held a hero walk at the hospital in honor of Karson, who was an organ donor. His heart, liver and kidneys were able to save four lives, of which the heart's recipient was a young boy. According to his father, Karson signed up to be an organ donor when he first registered his motorcycle at the DMV in June. When his father asked why he chose to become an organ donor, he recalled Karson replying, "What am I going to do with it? It's not going to do me any good, but I can save someone else's life."

The Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) held a tribute walk on Nov. 3 honoring multiple organ donors, including Karson, for the lives they were able to save. The 5K walk through the woods was held in Carencro, LA with multiple teams dedicated to each donor and nearly 500 participants registered. Karson's father said that it is "another way to commemorate him and keep his memory in line with something we plan on partaking from here on out." The Estilette family plans on establishing a non-profit organization, "Love Like Karson" (LLK), in his memory. The organization aims to further illuminate the everloving character Karson brought to those around him to the community, in tribute to the impact that he left.

Karson's father, mother, along with four of his friends, also got tattoos on their arms of his name, date of birth and date of death, matching his exact handwriting. "One of my biggest fears with this whole thing was forgetting him, or just not thinking about him enough, which I don't think would ever happen, but knowing that I have something like this permanent..." Thibodeaux said, will help be a constant reminder each day of all he was.

Working nearly three jobs, Karson would often return home later in the evenings. "It was probably around 10:30 when he'd get home from work, he'd go



Photo provided by Estilette family
Karson's first day of college, on his Grom.

into the restroom, and that's when we'd say the concert would start. He'd go into the shower with the radio on his phone blaring, and he'd be singing in there, taking another 30 minutes," Karson's father remarked.

"Every single night, when he walked in at 10:30, the first thing he did was come into our bedroom and ask 'how was your day?' and then tell us about his day. We'd talk for a little bit and then it was a hug and kiss for mom and then walk around the bed to dad's side and hug and kiss goodnight, every single night."

In the not too distant past, during the final beach trip the family went on together, Karson desperately wanted to go parasailing. "I didn't want to go, but he wanted to go, so I'm going to go with him," his father said.

"The whole time we were in the air together, we were just talking about life, his plans and everything else... it was nice to have that time."

"It was maybe 10 minutes in the air, we had a lot of conversations, and it was all about the future. That's what he loved to talk about," Cody Estilette concluded.



Photo provided by Estilette family
Young Karson holding his baby sister.

Karson's 19th birthday will be this coming Saturday, Nov. 9, in which family and friends planned to do a bonfire and cookout at their house. His birthday will continue to be celebrated as previously planned, in his never fading remembrance. "He was like a brother to me. His family is like my family, his sister is like my sister, and losing him was very hard," Thibodeaux concluded.

Karson Estilette was universally known as a tremendously kind, caring and loyal young man. He worked hard for what he had, whether it was at his jobs, education or friends and family.

His funeral gathered nearly 720 visitors, which included not only his family and friends but coaches and lunch ladies from high school, students and professors from UL Lafayette as well as other members of the community.

He left an unwavering mark on any person he interacted with, for his kindness, goofiness, help and advice made almost anyone's day. Karson genuinely cared for humanity and effortlessly loved, not only those he knew but even those he did not.

His legacy will forever reflect his ambition, humor, intellect and most of all, empathy that will inspire others from generations to come to "Love Like Karson."

For any member of the UL Lafayette community needing help, the university's Counseling & Testing Center offers professional support at O.K. Allen Hall, Mondays through Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

News

LIGHTS, CAMERA, HOMECOMING!

Through Nov. 3 to Nov. 11, the university will host events to celebrate homecoming.

PAGE 2

Food Review

TACO LOVERS UNITE

This issue's food review takes readers to the taco truck Taqueria El Dólar #1.

PAGE 3

Sports

CAJUNS ARE VICTORIOUS!

The Ragin' Cajuns football team have their fifth straight win.

PAGE 5

Allons

THE CURE ARE BACK

Allons Writer Marie Ducote reviews the new Cure album, their first one in 16 years.

PAGE 6

Homecoming 2024 week

Kayla Woods-Crane
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette will have its Homecoming week beginning Sunday, Nov. 3 to Monday, Nov. 11. The university, in conjunction with the University Program Center and the UL Lafayette Alumni Association, will host events all week.

On Nov. 3, student organizations will paint Student Union windows in preparation for homecoming week during the Paint Your Pride Window Painting event.

On Nov. 4, the events include day one of the Juried Alumni Art Exhibition, which will continue until Nov. 8. It also includes the First 2 Geaux: Lanyard Giveaway, the Homecoming Community Engagement Fair, the Food Truck Roundup, the Sigma Nu Alumni Chapter Homecoming Social and the La Fleur Couture Fashion Show.

On Nov. 5, schools of the Lafayette community are invited to decorate their school or classroom with red, white and UL Lafayette themed decorations for the Paint the Town Red competition. On Nov. 6 Cajuns Got Talent, the annual homecoming talent show, will take place.

On Nov. 7, businesses of the Lafayette community are invited to decorate their business with red, white and UL Lafayette themed decorations for the Paint the Town Red competition. Other

events include the College of Liberal Arts Homecoming Reception and the College of the Arts 30th anniversary celebration. To conclude the day students can show their spirit at the Yell Like Hell pep rally.

Friday, Nov. 8, events include the First 2 Geaux: Tailgate, Ragin' Cajun Clubs Homecoming Hangout and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Homecoming Step Show. Saturday, Nov. 9, starting the day will be the homecoming parade and ending it will be the homecoming football game. The football team will be playing against Arkansas State University and the presentation of the homecoming court during half-time.

The 2024 homecoming king, Syed Jasim Reza Ali, is the son of the 2023 homecoming queen Faryal Atif. This is the first time a mother and son have won homecoming queen and king in consecutive years. When asked how she felt about her son's win, Atif said it was a mix of emotions, ranging from excited to overwhelmed. "I just feel like it's crazy. Surprised, excited, very overwhelming. How many times does this happen? [...] When they announced that he was on the court, I thought it was really exciting, but then when they announced that he was the king it was like what!"

Atif attributed her son's success to his involvement on campus. "His real involvement started at UL. I think the university is just so amazing. We have so

many opportunities for students and if you take advantage of that you can do so much," Atif said

Ali, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, is a part of several university organizations. He is serving as the vice president of the Student Government Association, he represented the College of Engineering as president and senator and served as his freshman class president. Ali is the president of Sigma Chi fraternity and he served as an orientation leader for SOUL Camp. He also was a research apprentice for the College of Engineering.

Though Atif disagreed when asked if her son got his need for involvement from her, excellence seems to run in the family. She got her undergraduate and graduate degree in English from UL Lafayette and is currently in the doctorate program. She works as a learning specialist at The Quad Louisiana and is the coordinator of student organizations in the Office of Student Engagement.

To her son and the whole homecoming court, Atif recommended they enjoy their time during homecoming week. "I just say enjoy and have fun. This week is so exciting. Make sure all your assignments are done and you submit everything [...] All the students are so deserving. They have done so much and it is good to see them recognized in this way, so just have fun because it will be over before they know it," Atif said.

On Nov. 10, the university will conclude its homecoming event with the Homecoming "To the Stars" Concert, by the University Wind Ensemble. Finally on Nov. 11, the university will have the Krewe De Coulee event to clean up after homecoming.

All events listed above are open to the public, and the university invites all of Lafayette and south Louisiana to enjoy homecoming. For more information about all university homecoming events go to calender.louisiana.edu

Planting one skill at a time

Geonna Tipton
NEWS WRITER

At the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Child Development Center the children have been expanding their knowledge outdoors by learning how to plant and take care of a variety of different vegetables.

The kids are aged from one to five years old and by gardening they are learning where their food comes from along with other skills they'd need prior to Kindergarten enrollment.

The kids plant different vegetables all year round.

Some of which include lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, herbs, tomatoes and bell peppers.

The overall care of the garden is built into the curriculum for the children.

So they learn how to harvest the plants, which pests and bugs are good for the garden and which ones eat the plant, and about all of the different seeds and sprouts.

All aspects of their education revolve around the garden, from math to science, fine motor skills and even art. Tying gardening into their education was an idea that stemmed from the program Seeds to Success.

The UL Lafayette Child Development Center joined the program about five years ago and have noticed that the children have enjoyed it thus far.

The center's PrK-4 teacher, Denise Hebert, commented, "The children have gained valuable knowledge from growing their own produce... We started the garden to help teach our students how our food is grown and that it takes work and dedication... It has been truly a rewarding process."

After the vegetables are harvested, the children get to taste test them and enjoy them for lunch.

So while the children are working hard outdoors in the garden, they are gaining valuable knowledge that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.



Photo provided by Paul Kieu / University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2024 Homecoming Court

Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Oct. 31

- At 7:34 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Heritage Apartments regarding a parking lot crash involving a silver 2015 Nissan Altima and bronze 2013 Kia Optima.

Oct. 29

- At 5:00 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a report of a theft, which included an ECOXGEAR speaker.
- At 4:51 p.m., an officer was dispatched in reference to a theft that occurred in the Student Union, which involved a Ninebot Scooter. The property was found on the ground between the Student Union and Wharton Hall.
- At 12:52 p.m., an officer was dispatched in regards to a theft of a black and blue RCB electric scooter outside of Dupre Library.
- At 11:04 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a theft outside of Oliver Hall involving a black with red details iScooter electric scooter and a Lamicall phone mount.
- At 9:23 a.m., officers were dispatched in reference to a burglary at the Cajundome.








Oct. 28

- At 7:22 p.m., officers were advised of a suspicious individual at Our Lady of the Lourdes St. Mary's Imaging Center.
- At 2:38 a.m., a resident of Baker Hall informed an officer that they lost their black wallet around Girard Park.

Oct. 27

- At 9:59 a.m., an officer was dispatched to a report of theft at the Cade Agricultural Research Center involving a wire bundle.

Weather

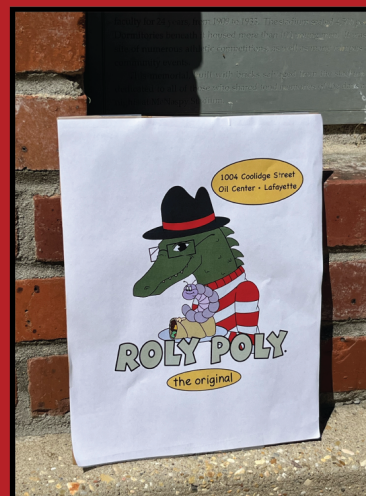
Thursday 11/7	Friday 11/8	Saturday 11/9	Sunday 11/10	Monday 11/11	Tuesday 11/12	Wednesday 11/13
 High: 84 F Low: 68 F	 High: 80 F Low: 67 F	 High: 82 F Low: 66 F	 High: 82 F Low: 66 F	 High: 81 F Low: 65 F	 High: 82 F Low: 67 F	 High: 80 F Low: 57 F

Isabelle Brumley
WEATHER WRITER

- Temperatures in Louisiana will remain above average over the next one to two weeks.
- Record Heat has hit all over the United States, with temperatures being over 90% above average in 2024.

- The next full moon will be on Friday, Nov. 15.

WHERE'S ALLAN?



I went to see my friend, the dean of Sciences, but stopped by to honor McNaspy. Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer:
Judice Rickels Hall

Last week's Where's Allan winner, **Vanel Porter**, a chemical engineering graduate student, shared she is excited for the new engineering building and is sorry for anyone who has to walk from the parking garage. But she says the building will be great and to read the newspaper!



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.

Food Review

Taste the streets of Mexico: Tacos and more at Taqueria El Dólar #1

Lili Nguyen

FOOD REVIEWER

In Lafayette, Louisiana, taco lovers are treated to a delightful experience at three popular taco trucks owned by the same family, each offering a vibrant selection of traditional Mexican fare. I recently visited the truck at 1918 W. University Street and was eager to explore their extensive menu. It is decorated with lights and is adorned with bright colors.

The truck offers a variety of tantalizing options like tostadas de ceviche, pollo asado, tostadas de carne, quesadillas, tortas, carne asada, enchiladas rancheras, tacos, mulitas, queso birria, sopas, taco plates, burritos, master burritos, elote and the ever-refreshing horchata. Meat lovers will find abundant choices, including steak, spicy pork, beef tongue (lengua), chicken, carnitas, tripa (tripe) and barbacoa.

This variety makes it a paradise for anyone craving authentic flavors. When I arrived, the truck was mostly empty, which allowed me to place my order without delay.

Initially, I had my heart set on lengua tacos, but upon learning that they

were priced at \$3.50 each, I opted for a more budget-friendly choice. Instead, I ordered the queso birria pizza, an horchata and four asada tacos.

My total came to \$31—\$20 for the pizza, \$3 for the horchata and \$8 for the tacos.

The staff provided me with a buzzing device to signal when my order was ready, and I waited in anticipation. Soon, a small line began to form behind me, filling the once-quiet truck area with a lively atmosphere.

A quick heads-up: this taco lot is cash-only, so be sure to bring cash with you. Within ten minutes, my beeper went off, signaling that my meal was ready.

The customer service was impressively quick and friendly, which added to the positive experience.

My queso birria pizza arrived in a cute pizza box and was surprisingly generous in size. Accompanying the pizza were pickled carrots, salsa verde, jalapeños, two containers of rich consomme (the savory broth in which the birria is cooked) and salsa roja.

The pizza was cut into six hearty slices, each one calling to be dipped. I savored my first bite, dipping a slice into the salsa verde and consomme. It

was pure bliss—a perfect combination of flavors that left me wanting more. The birria's richness, balanced by the tanginess of the salsa, made every bite satisfying.

While the horchata was refreshing, I found it a bit watered down compared to the creamy texture I usually enjoy. It was still a cool, pleasant drink on a warm day, but it lacked the creamy consistency that defines a truly great horchata.

Now, let's talk about the asada tacos. These little gems were packed with flavor and generously filled with meat, though they were on the smaller side. I paired them with the salsa verde for an extra kick, and the combination was fantastic.

While delicious, the smaller size of the tacos left me craving more; I would have preferred larger portions to make the experience even more satisfying.

Thinking back to past visits, I recalled a time when tacos here were only \$1.25 for regular meats like asada and \$1.50 for specialty meats such as lengua. Those were the days—back when a dozen tacos only cost \$15 to \$18, and I could indulge in a dozen tripe tacos every other week.

With prices now at \$3.50 each,

those days of feasting feel like a distant memory.

Given the current size, I typically need at least six tacos to feel full. In my opinion, it would be ideal if the tacos matched the generous portion size of the birria pizza slices, making them feel more like a complete meal rather than a snack. These taco trucks operate daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., making them accessible for both lunch and dinner. Their hours make them a fantastic late-night food option for those in the area.

Although there can occasionally be a language barrier with some of the staff, the communication is still smooth enough to get your order across, ensuring a welcoming experience.

Whether you're stopping by for a quick taco fix or treating yourself to their specialty dishes, these taco trucks deliver an experience that transports you straight to the heart of Mexican street food culture.

Despite the rising prices, these taco trucks remain my go-to spot for a quick and flavorful lunch or dinner. The vibrant atmosphere and authentic offerings keep me coming back, reminding me that some of the best food in Lafayette can still be found on the streets.



Photo by Joe Bozzelle

Queso birria pizza and Asada Tacos.



Photo by Joe Bozzelle

Taqueria El Dólar #1 Logo on the side of the truck.



"To The Stars"

The 2024 Homecoming Concert

University Wind Ensemble

Sunday, November 10

Angelle Auditorium, 2 pm— FREE!

LUMINESCENCE (Biedenbender)
ALL STARS ARE LOVE (with Dr. Kelly Bixby, soprano)
METEORIC (Ticheli)

SILVER SCREEN (Starring the Ragin' Cajuns & other legends)
SHOOTING STARS (Saucedo) & movie music by John Williams

Stars in the sky ~ ~ Stars among us ~ ~ Stars of stage & screen
(including our own silent movie) ~ ~ Stars in our hearts & minds



Arts and Culture

Celebrating our Homecoming 2024 with the UL Lafayette Ensemble

Jenna Kimball

NEWS WRITER

The 2024 Homecoming Concert at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will take place on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m., the day after the annual homecoming football game.

The theme for the performance this year will be "To the Stars," following the UL Lafayette general homecoming theme of "Starring the Ragin' Cajuns."

This will be the first year that the homecoming concert is taking place on a Sunday afternoon, as it is usually held on a Tuesday, but had to be moved due to United States election dates.

Around 40 students from the school of music will play pieces that follow various types of stars.

Two additional community members who are previous students at UL Lafayette will also perform.

The performance will consist of music from movies, including a well known John Wayne movie titled "The Cowboys," music about astronomical stars such as meteors and shooting stars, an imaginary film score for a silent film and much more.

This event will be completely free for the entire campus, alumni and general public who want to come and watch.

Dr. William Hochkeppel, a professor in the school of music, says that he would "love for the entire campus to come and watch our contribution to homecoming week."

The students who are performing in the concert practice twice a week for an hour and 15 minutes.

The actual show will be around the same amount of time.

Ricky Abshire is a senior music education major in the ensemble and says that the concert is a "great way to keep the homecoming spirits going even after the game." This is his fourth year playing the saxophone for the School of Music at UL Lafayette.

Abshire says that his favorite piece that the ensemble will be playing in the concert is "Silver Screen." This piece will be an imaginary film score played to a silent movie on a screen for the audience to watch. He says that this is his favorite because it "gives an image that everyone can make their own."

Many students in the school of music play in as many as four or five various ensembles throughout the semester, such as the Cajun or blues bands.

At the beginning of next year, students will have the opportunity to watch the UL Lafayette Jazz Ensemble perform with Grammy award winners, The New York Voices.

This event will take place on Jan. 15, 2025, right after the semester begins.

The School of Music students that will be performing in this major event have already begun practicing, as this will be a very high-stakes performance for the ensemble and for the school itself.

The amount of dedication and effort that this ensemble is putting into the 2024 homecoming concert will be blatantly apparent to anyone who chooses to watch it.

Homecoming spirit and Ragin' Cajun pride will be filling the seats, along with the hearts of the UL Lafayette ensemble.

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.

© 2024 Communications Committee of UL Lafayette. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

VERMILION STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Kay Padilla
MANAGING EDITOR Ramudhi Kariyawasam
NEWS EDITOR Ramudhi Kariyawasam
NEWS WRITER Joann Seow
NEWS WRITER Kayla Woods-Crane
FOOD REVIEWER Lili Nguyen
FOOD REVIEWER Isabelle Brumley
LAYOUT MANAGER Ellie Schmidt
LAYOUT DESIGNER Vallen Power
LAYOUT DESIGNER Landon Fruge
SPORTS EDITOR Charles Martin
SPORTS WRITER Tavin Anthony
SPORTS WRITER Isaac Henry

ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR Ellie Schmidt
ILLUSTRATOR Elizabeth Dybendal
ILLUSTRATOR Sadie Burrell
ILLUSTRATOR Isabella Lamb
ALLONS EDITOR Nyria Mustifal
ALLONS WRITER Marie Ducote
ALLONS WRITER Landon Fruge
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR Alyus Dick
PHOTOGRAPHER Joe Bozzelle
PHOTOGRAPHER Lily Cartinez
PHOTOGRAPHER Makayla Walker
COMIC ARTIST Lauren Gerard
GRADUATE ASSISTANT Jarrett Roberts

Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 9

INSTRUCTIONS

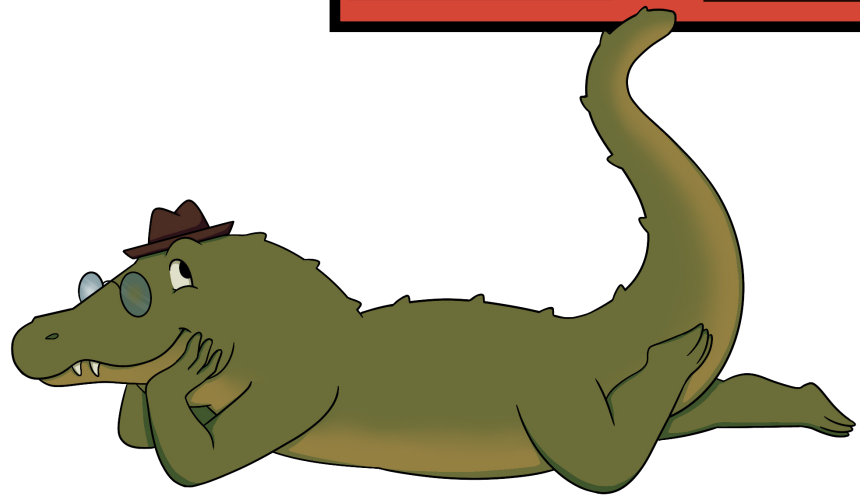
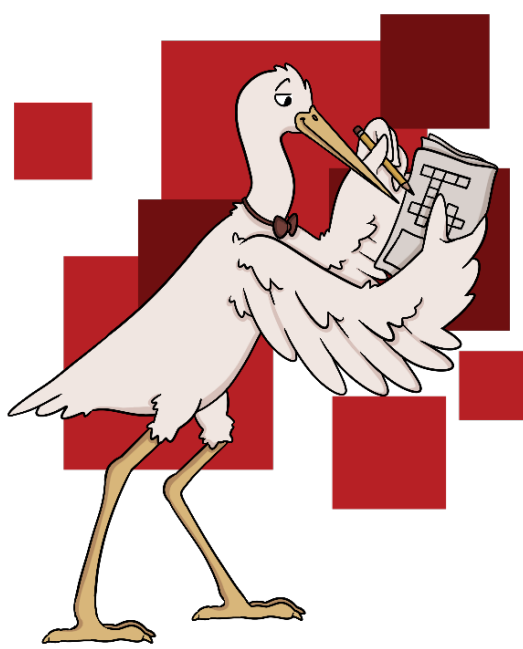
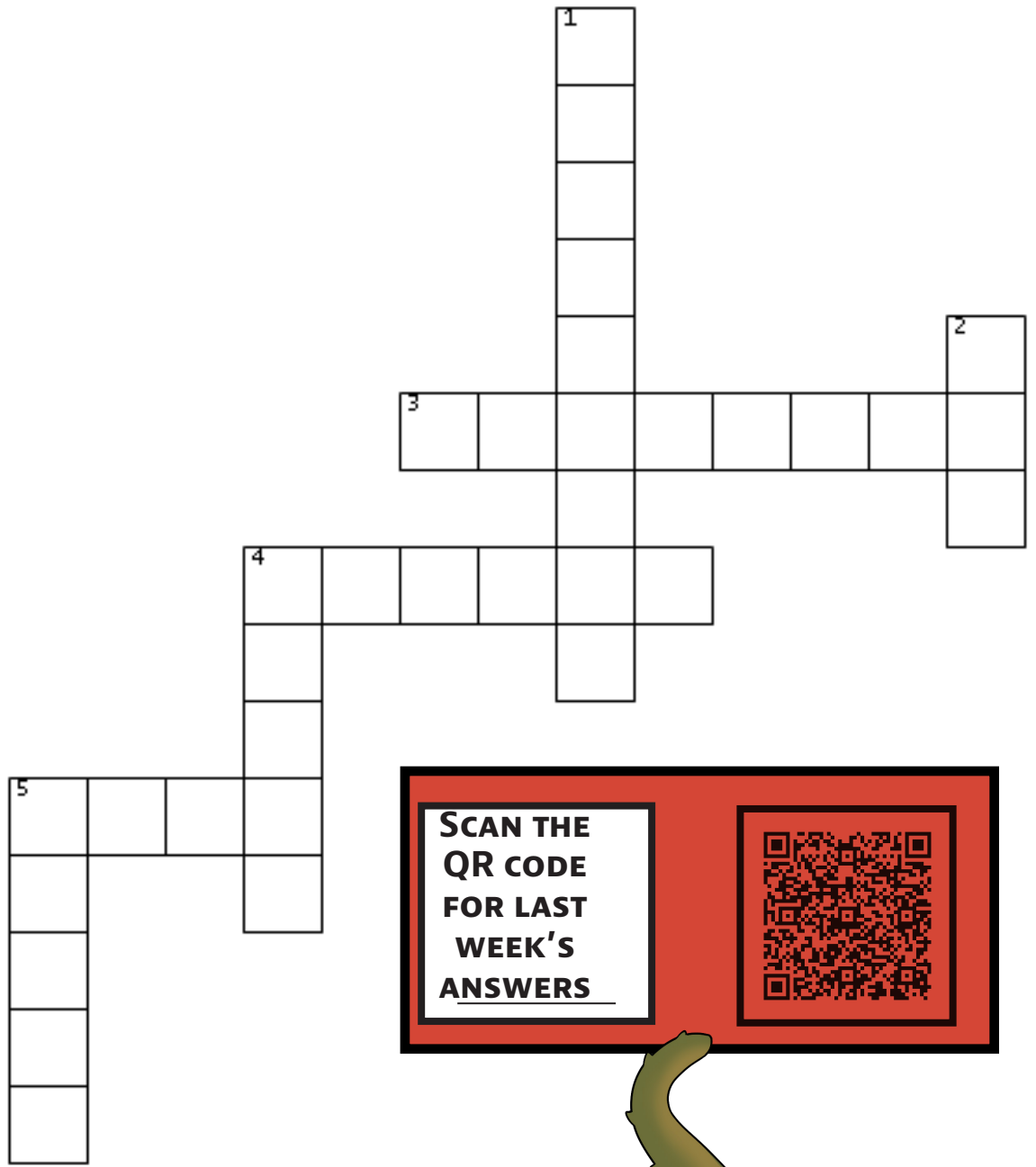
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 3. Showing the world through ___ different views can help build a world.
- 4. Faryal Atif is Jasim Ali's ____.
- 5. How much does it cost to watch the 2024 homecoming concert?

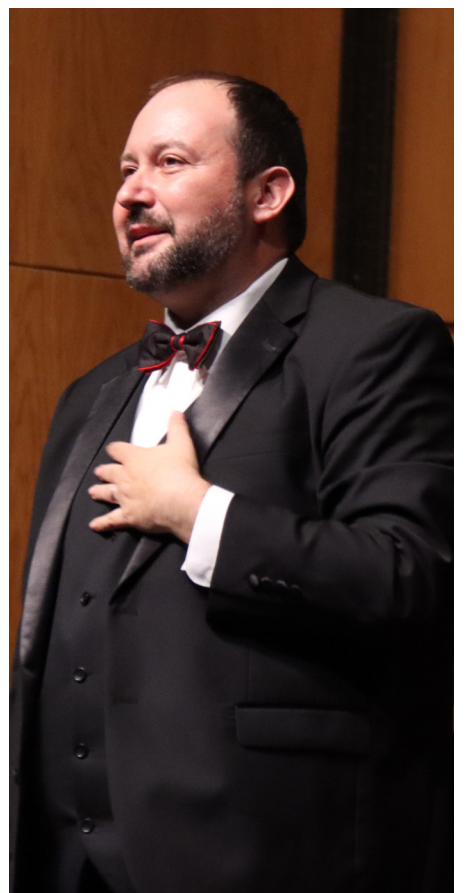
DOWN

- 1. Who are the Cajuns playing for homecoming?
- 2. The taco trucks Lili Nguyen visited are open until ___ at night.
- 4. Which Cajuns goalkeeper managed to record six saves against the Georgia State Panthers (last name)?
- 5. What Cure album was released in 1981?



Cajun Candida Fall Concert

Photos by Joe Bozzelle



Sports

Final Four: Cajuns atop the Sun Belt with only four games left

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Tuesday, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns traveled to San Marcos, Texas to take on the Texas State Bobcats. The Cajuns would win 23-17, marking their fifth straight win since their early season loss to Tulane.

Louisiana now sits as the last remaining undefeated team in Sun Belt Conference play with only four games left to play, three of them at home.

The Texas State game was not a high scoring game like their other games, Louisiana tying their least amount of points scored on the season.

Despite that, though, the Cajuns managed to escape what many would consider to be a trap game as it was

played on a Tuesday night against a mid-tier conference opponent.

The Cajuns would start the game down six after the Bobcats scored field goals on their first two drives, while the Cajuns were forced to punt on their first drive.

On their second drive though Louisiana would drive down the field, capping it with a 64-yard touchdown run by Dre'lyn Washington. The run was so successful due to the call to run a draw on third and 10 on the Cajuns own 36-yard line.

Much of the second quarter would not be productive for Texas State who would get three chances to score but would be forced to punt each time. It was even less productive as toward the end of the half starting quarterback Jordan McCloud

would be injured, not returning for the rest of the game.

The Cajuns would manage to score another touchdown before half, methodically moving down field with Ben Wooldridge dissecting the Bobcat defense with the calm poise of a veteran. The drive would end with a Caden Jensen one yard reception for the score. That would be the last touchdown scored by the Cajuns for the rest of the game.

There was a scare on Texas State's final drive as senior corner Keyon Martin suffered an alarming neck injury on a routine tackle. Thankfully he was rushed to a nearby hospital and received treatment, he was able to return with the rest of the team.

At the start of the second half, the Cajuns would get the ball first with the chance to expand their 14-6 lead over the Bobcats. They would quickly go three-and-out, punting the ball within the first two minutes of the half.

The Bobcats, now led by backup quarterback RJ Martinez, would not let this chance pass. Texas St would quickly move downfield for a touchdown and then make the two-point conversion to tie the game 14 all.

The Cajuns would end up leaving the rest of the scoring to Kenneth Almendares who would go 3/3 on his second half field goal attempts.

The defense helped the offense by holding the Bobcats offense to only three points in three drives, forcing turnovers on two of them, including Tyrone Lewis Jr's game sealing interception.

Ben Wooldridge, though he did not have a game like he did against Coastal, nonetheless had a good game against the Bobcats. He calmly led the offense and put the team in position to score, ensuring that by not turning the ball over through mistakes.

Wooldridge would finish the game with 252 passing yards, going 18/28 and a touchdown. He would also gain an additional 39 yards on the ground, once again showing off his ability to scramble when the time calls for it.

The running back for today's game that signed was Dre'lyn Washington. Washington received the most carries for the game, taking 10 carries for 94 yards including a 64-yard touchdown run for the Cajuns first points of the game.

Zylan Perry and Bill Davis would combine for 15 carries for only 39 yards, disappointing but not disastrous for a team with such a deep running back room.

Terrance Carter would once again lead the team in receptions, hauling in four catches for 46 yards. Lance LeGendre would lead the team in receiving yards though, converting three catches into 76 yards. Jacob Bernard and Robert Williams also contributed with a combined for five catches for 81 yards.

The defense was far more improved compared to previous weeks, managing to hold an opponent rusher to sub 100 yards for the first time since they played Southern Miss.

Louisiana's leading tacklers were tied between senior corner Amir McDaniel and Tyrone Lewis Jr. who also got the game sealing interception.

The Cajuns are now looking toward their last four conference games of the season. They play the Arkansas State Red Wolves this Saturday, Nov. 9 at 4:00 p.m. This will be the homecoming game and the first of three straight home games.

Louisiana has a chance to make the SBC Championship for the first time since 2021, not just attend but host it as well due to them being the last team standing with no losses to other Sun Belt opponents.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Dre'lyn Washington(20) runs against the Grambling State Tigers (Aug 31).

Cajuns soccer falls one win short of Sun Belt Conference Tournament

Isaac Henry
SPORTS WRITER

On Sunday, Oct. 27, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns soccer squad had one final afternoon to 1 perhaps keep its Sun Belt Conference Tournament chances alive against the Georgia State Panthers. The Cajuns lost the game 1-0, ending their season a match early.

As the match was set to be the team's Senior Day, Head Coach Chris McBride took time in an Oct. 21 press conference to mention some of the senior players to be honored. He first gave a nod to his most-tenured starters.

"It's huge. Not to separate the seniors at all, but obviously Hailly Waterhouse, Tatum Beck and Lucy Ortiz were part of the program here when we got here," McBride said.

"As a coach, when you come in, you're looking for young women who are gonna buy in to what you wanna do, and right from the word 'go' they bought into the vision that we had for the program and what it was gonna take to move us in the right direction."

"We're not where we wanna be yet, but those three young women who were in here and knew what it was like prior to being here, then we don't have that driving force moving forward."

McBride also took time to recognize the senior transfers the program had taken on.

"I always think you have to have some self-reflection and you have to have some openness in order to move in the direction that you wanna go," McBride said.

"For Mariella [Stephens] and Lauren Bennett who transferred in, they also had experiences at other programs, and they've been huge because they were

among the first people to buy into the vision of this staff and what we wanted to do."

"The five of them, they've been pivotal in how we've moved forward here. I think that you're always looking for some people to step up, and it's not been just this year."

"I think it's been since the very first moment that we got here, those voices, those presences, those attitudes, the work rate of those five have always stood above all else."

The Cajuns weren't able to generate their usual pressure in the Georgia State match, totaling just five shots (three on goal) all game.

Panthers keeper Jaddah Foos was able to save all three of the Cajuns' best scoring opportunities.

Then, in the 17th minute, Aaliyah Faddoul put the Panthers up with a majestic outside-the-box shot into the goal's top-left corner.

The Cajuns played with a lot of heart down the stretch. Keeper Natalie Mayes saved six shots in just the second half, but without a clean sheet, the effort was not enough.

As Louisiana-Monroe and Southern Mississippi had managed a conference win more than the Cajuns and the tournament format had been reduced to eight teams, the last ticket to Foley, Alabama remained just out of reach.

Up next on Thursday night, Oct. 31, was the Cajuns' final game of the season. The team traveled to Huntington, West Virginia to take on the Marshall Thundering Herd.

The Herd's Bailey Fisher opened the scoring, drawing a penalty kick in the 17th minute.

The Cajuns' Sydney Barnes responded later in the second half, converting on a

cross left alone in the middle of the box in the 62nd minute to equalize.

Just when it looked like the Cajuns would coast to another draw, Tatum Beck left her mark on the match. With less than ten minutes to play, Beck beat her defender off the dribble at the top of the box, cut back to the left, and put in a left-footed shot in the corner of the goal. The Cajuns held onto the lead and went out on top, 2-1.

McBride was lastly asked about the outgoing seniors' impact on the culture of women's soccer at Louisiana.

"I think right now for those guys, their

vision is just on the next game. I think right now, they're still self-reflecting after every game. I think they wanna make sure that they go out on the best note possible for the program.

"They've got a huge sense of camaraderie with their teammates for sure. They wanna do their teammates proud, they wanna set a legacy within the program, and they wanna make sure they're leaving the shirt better than they found it, which is always the goal."

Follow The Vermilion on Twitter
@TheVermilion for more content



Photo by Andre Broussard

Megan Bradley(17) takes a shot on a goal against the Troy Trojans (Oct 6).

Follow us on
social media!



@TheVermilion



@thevermilion



@The Vermilion

Allons

New Cure album induces some nostalgia along with perspective

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

I never thought I would be writing a review on a new Cure album, but finally, their 14th album, "Songs of a Lost World," (Nov. 1) has been released.

This is the band's first album since 2008's "4:13 Dream," and has been highly anticipated by fans for a while. A new album had been in the works for a few years now, and "Songs of a Lost World" was originally slated for release in 2019. All of the lyrics were written by lead singer Robert Smith (he also co-produced the album) and has been the only constant member of the band since their formation in 1976.

While doing background research on this album, I learned that the last album to be fully composed by Smith's was 1985's "The Head on the Door."

When I saw the band at the opening night of the appropriately titled tour "Shows of a Lost World" in New Orleans (summer of 2023), they played what were then unreleased songs from "Songs of a Lost World."

It was awesome hearing new Cure songs, and now, being able to hear them fully formed on this new album.

The album tracklist is eight songs, and with a runtime of 49 minutes, it leaves no room for filler from the first to the last song; everything feels important to the listening experience. Smith does not shy away from the fact that the band is getting older. The opening song "Alone" (this was also the first single released) opens with a long instrumental intro that sets the somber tone of many of the tracks.

The long intro also builds up momentum until the vocals finally come in. Smith's moody voice comes in at around the three minutes and 22 seconds mark with the lyrics, "This is the end of every song that we sing." "Alone" paints vivid imagery of being haunted by the past, "Cold and afraid, the ghosts of all that we've been."

While listening to the album, I started thinking about the legacy of the band. Their sound has changed a lot since the

guitar pop-punk sound of their debut, "Three Imaginary Boys" (1979). The bands '80s output solidified their goth rock sound, and they have come a long way since "Boys Don't Cry" (1979) and "Friday I'm in Love" (1992).

Many times throughout their career, they have shed that goth sound that made them so distinctive in the first place and have made more traditional pop songs that are beloved.

They have shown their musical versatility repeatedly. A song can make a singer immortal and their younger self is forever preserved within the recording of their voice.

"Songs" does feel like a reflection of their over four decades as a band. At times, I am transported back to the first time I listened to "Faith" (1981) and "Disintegration" (1989). I have a wave of nostalgia when I listen to these new songs.

The constant drumbeat that is the backbone of "All I Ever Am" reminds me of a beating heart getting louder as the emotions rise more. The lyrics like

"Alone" of reflecting and being haunted by the past. However, Smith is also faced with his own mortality and what type of future he faces when everything is done.

The lyrics that felt the most poignant in the song for me were, "I lose all my life like this/Reflecting time and memories/ And all for fear of what I'll find/If I just stop and empty out my mind/Of all the ghosts and all the dreams/All I hold to in belief/That all I ever am/Is somehow never quite all I am now."

Also, the second verse brings the point about mortality and aging, "My weary dance with age/And resignation moves me slow/Towards a dark and empty stage/ Where I can sing of all I know."

Classic Cure moments can be heard at many points in the album. "A Fragile Thing" (the second single released) words are one of the recurring topics for many of my favorite songs by the Cure which is love.

To me, there are two types of Cure love songs, the first are where the singer expresses his undying love for a girl (examples of this are "Lovesong," "Just

Like Heaven" and "Friday I'm in Love"). Then, there are the songs about love that express the heartbreak and betrayal it can bring to a person (examples are "This Is a Lie," and "Disintegration").

"A Fragile Thing" falls into the second category of love songs. The love in this song is done and all the singer has are the words his former partner said to him, "You make-believe you need me, but you try too hard and it feels so wrong/You promise me forever and you say it won't be long."

All the singer has left is to sing his heartbreak in this song, "Nothing you can do but sing, 'This love is a fragile thing.'"

The final song "Endsong" is over 10 minutes long and is the perfect way to end this album. It's orchestral and brings the reflections about the passing of time to an end, "Remembering the hopes and dreams I had and all I had to do/And wondering what became of that boy and the world he called his own/I'm outside in the dark wondering how I got so old."

The Cure is a band with still a lot to say and who knows who will come next.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

Building a world, piece by piece

Landon Fruge

ALLONS WRITER

When making a story of your own, there are many things to consider. What are the main character's motives? Who is the villain? What type of genre do I want this to be? One key concept, though that's probably the most important, is world building and how much of it you want.

You can make a story solely focused on the characters and explain very little about the world itself, or you can make the world expansive, giving the reader details about events, people and places within the world to make them feel immersed into the world itself.

World building is so fun to do, as it allows for the writer to come up with so many different ideas for a singular story, rather than focusing it solely on one aspect. It broadens the mind in a sense, allowing the brain's creativity to flow. There are so many possibilities for things to make when creating a world. Despite

all this though, it isn't necessarily the easiest thing to do. There are still some things to keep in mind when creating a world.

When creating a world, you need to make sure that the world remains consistent. This way there aren't any contradictions within the world, unless said contradictions are purposeful. For example, if you establish that the world is apocalyptic and that people have slowly started to become crazy, it wouldn't make sense to have it suddenly be a buddy cop story.

Another thing with world building is to maintain its comprehensibility. Since world building allows for so many possibilities, it is often that we as writers might over explain the world to the point that it is too difficult to even comprehend and can even cause the viewer to lose sense of the plot possibly due to over explanations of the world. It is best to explain the basics, and if you wish to explain more about your world

then show it through action rather than explanation.

One suggestion I can give with world building is to take a look at media that has perfected world building and how they did it so well. Some of the best examples that come to mind for me are things like "One Piece" and The Legend of Zelda: Tears of The Kingdom. Both of these have very large worlds that manage to blend perfectly into their respective stories.

One way that they accomplish this is that these two stories delve into not just the story of our main cast, but also the stories of those that they meet.

For example, in "One Piece" there are many side characters who, despite not being a part of the main cast, have been shown to have very tragic backstories that relate to the current state of the world. By connecting the history of these characters to the world itself, as well as to the protagonist's own challenge, it allows for the world of the story to be expanded in

such a way that doesn't result in it losing its own focus from the main story.

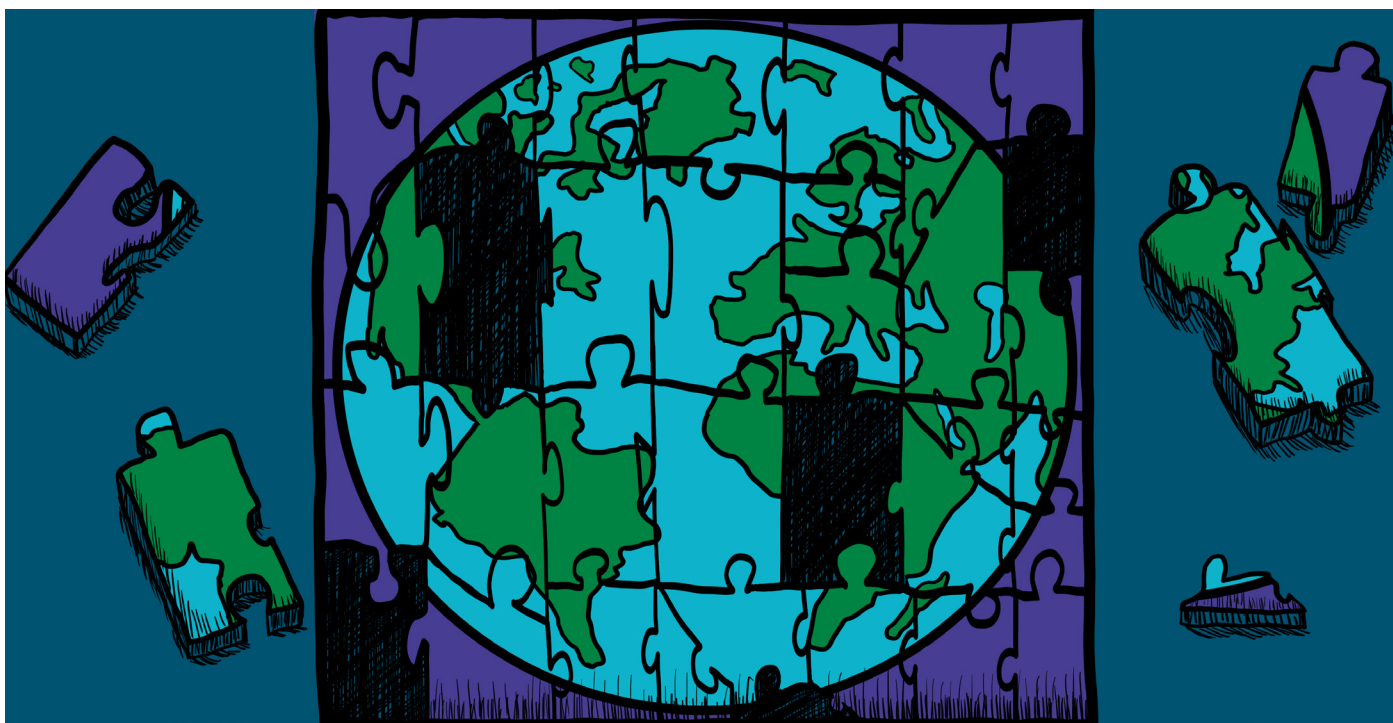
The Legend of Zelda: Tears of The Kingdom does this as well, but in a different way. Due to it being a game, this becomes optional. It allows the player to discover and learn about the world at their own pace and in whatever way they wish too. It offers up an expansive world to the player that the player can only truly discover if they choose to seek it out. Through its main game though, it still manages to give its player enough information to still understand the basics.

Another way to help build a world is to show the world through multiple different views. If you are seeing a world from the eyes of only one person, then it results in the view becoming biased in a sense. Through seeing it with multiple eyes, it provides the viewer with a larger and more expansive view on the world itself.

"One Piece" also does a great job of demonstrating this idea. Despite Luffy being the main character, he is not the only character we follow throughout the story. Many times we get to see the world through the eyes of citizens, members of the World Government and even Revolutionary Army members.

These moments allow the reader to gain a better view of the world itself and each of their opinions on the current status of the world. Without these moments, many extremely important details about the world currently unknown to Luffy and his crew would be lost to us readers and/or viewers. There is so much consistently going on within the world of "One Piece" that ties to the main story that, without these little details, it wouldn't be as intriguing as a result.

Despite how much fun and interesting world building can be, it is still a difficult task that needs care put into it in order for it to truly shine. Never be afraid to look towards existing media for inspiration on how to craft a world for your story. Inspiration is a very important tool.

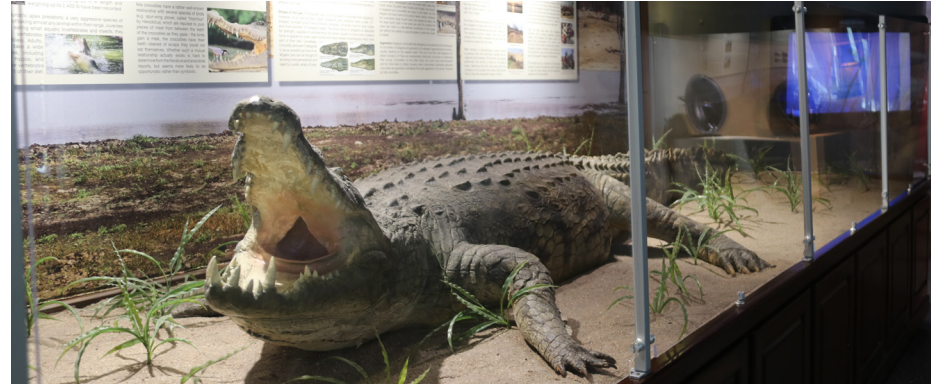


Graphic by Landon Fruge

Beaucoup

Science Museum

The Beaucoup section writes about their experience going to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum. Below are their thoughts.



Photos by Kay Padilla and Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Ramudhi Kariyawasam

MANAGING EDITOR

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to the Lafayette Science Museum, as not only was it impressively designed but also had friendly staff that warmly welcomed us to the establishment.

The museum displayed a variety of exhibits featuring air and spacecrafts, meteorites, paleontology and even a planetarium. My most favorite exhibit was indeed the paleontology exhibit, which showcased a plethora of prehistoric organisms. As a Jurassic Park

enthusiast, I genuinely enjoyed seeing their dinosaur collection. Another one of the museum's designs that I liked seeing included their air and spacecraft models that were suspended from the ceiling.

Each weekend, small, fun events are held at the museum.

During our visit, museum staff and volunteers held an exciting genetic experiment, in which they extracted DNA from a pumpkin.

All in all, the Lafayette Science Museum is a great visit for anyone in town, and includes a variety of activities that will suit any age.

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

I have been going to the science museum downtown for as long as I can remember. My dad would bring me to the planetarium shows when I was off from school.

What I like about the museum is its inviting environment and how helpful the employees were when we asked our questions.

One of my favorite parts was the paleontology exhibit because it reminded

me of "Night at the Museum." There were also, interactive elements in many of the exhibits, which I noticed engaged a lot of the families that were at the museum.

On the second floor of the museum, I saw a real Curlyhair Tarantula spider and it was so cool! Also on the second floor they had a display of mission and shuttle patches. They had models of different rockets which was exciting to see.

I highly recommend next time you want something fun to do on the weekends go to the science museum you will not regret it!

Kay Padilla

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This was my first time attending the science museum downtown. I took a geology class about dinosaurs with Dr. Jennifer Hargrave and she sparked my interest in the museum. I was very excited to see the dinosaur exhibits as Dr. Hargrave would always rave about them in class.

Seeing the fossils found all throughout the Acadiana and Louisiana region was exciting and daunting. It made me realize that Louisiana is very old. My brain

didn't compute that fossils are found everywhere on Earth.

Another exhibit I adored was the Air and Space craft areas. I adore anything aviation, but specifically NASA's space shuttles. My favorite piece was the signed Acadiana flag flown aboard the Atlantis space shuttle.

On my way out, I kept staring at the plasma ball exhibits. I wanted to touch them but the multiple warnings around them eventually deterred me. You are allowed to touch them, so I regret not taking all my metal jewelry off and touching it.

The Vermilion

GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum is located at 433 Jefferson Street. UL Lafayette students get free admissions. The museum is closed Monday and Tuesday and open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday. Saturday they are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The museum has many events and activities coming up, such as STEM Saturday, which happens every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum recommends these activities

for elementary and middle school age children, but anyone can come and learn about science.

Nov. 23 and 30 will be Pop-Up Science and will have family geared activities to help get children interested in science. Both STEM Saturday and Pop-Up Science are included in regular admissions.

The planetarium, which is located on the second floor of the museum, has a variety of shows throughout the day targeted to different age groups. Visit the website <https://lafayettesciencemuseum.org/> for more information.

Student Organization Ads

Ragin' Rescue Game Night!!

Friday, November 8
Helma Constantine B
4 PM - 6 PM

Join us for an evening of fun!

SOUNDING OFF

"Who would you pick to headline Homecoming?"



Coreyion Williams
NURSING FRESHMAN

"It would be Rob49."



Jayda Howard
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN

"Lewis Hamilton because he is just that guy."



Kameron Alexander
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"I would choose Demitrius Johnson because in my opinion, he is the greatest MMA fighter of all time and I love to watch him fight."



Shelby Tillman
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SOPHOMORE

"Lil Wayne because he is from Louisiana and I feel like he would be the best option for us."



Sean Spears
ARCHITECTURE FRESHMAN

"Tyler the Creator because he is fire."



Xzayvion Gaye
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FRESHMAN

"Bruno Mars because he has great vocals."

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

Photoshoot



Comic by Lauren Gerald

Looking to promote your events, meetings or memberships?

We are offering **FREE** student ad spaces on page 7! Only official **STUDENT** organizations are allowed to send in promotional ads.

We are accepting submissions for events happening between Nov. 14 and Nov. 21.

Email a digitized version of your flyer to **TheVermilion@louisiana.edu**.

Deadline for submissions is Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.

