

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper January 23, 2025

TPUSA hosted a “transgender ideology” talk on Transgender Remembrance Day

Ramudhi Kariyawasam, Kay Padilla

MANAGING EDITOR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In November 2024, Chloe Cole, a political activist who opposes gender-affirming care in minors following her own detransition, spoke to University of Louisiana at Lafayette students during a talk hosted by the University’s Turning Point USA (TPUSA) chapter.

Cole, born a female at birth, began her transition process during her early adolescence and detransitioned when she was 17 years old.

Now 20, she travels around the nation sharing her story and advocating caution of gender transitioning in minors.

Many people in the community viewed the topic of the talk as an anti-trans speech. The main discourse came from TPUSA holding the event on national Transgender Remembrance Day, historically Nov. 20.

As a result, students from the University held a protest on Nov. 11 in the Student Union porch, calling for TPUSA to at least move the date of Cole’s talk so that it does not infringe on Transgender Remembrance Day.

UL Lafayette’s LGBTQ+ community, along with supporters, gathered that day to voice their opinions and concern towards the University for allowing and TPUSA for hosting a widely-viewed anti-trans speech on Transgender Remembrance Day.

TPUSA at UL Lafayette is an independent branch of a national, political-based organization and is student-run.

Its beliefs, mission and events do not reflect those of the University, as is the case with all the student-run organizations. Because UL Lafayette is a public, federally-funded institution, it adheres to the UL Lafayette’s Free Speech Policy, “It is not the

responsibility of the University to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other applicable laws (‘Free Speech Laws’), including without limitation ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.”

The UL Lafayette Police Department was actively present to provide security on Nov. 20. Sergeant Lance Frederick, public information officer for ULPD, shared, “The department did reach out to both parties involved to assure their safety and their right to freedom of speech. After reaching out through different means, we were unable to make contact with all parties involved. Our request was not declined from either party.”

The series of events on Nov. 20 began with a prove-me-wrong question session with Cole at 11 a.m. at the Student Union porch. At approximately 4 p.m., the University’s Giving Love, Acceptance, Safety and Support club (ULGLASS) held their annual vigil to remember all the transgender individuals who have passed away in 2024, along with 2023 as the vigil was not held that year.

Members of the UL Lafayette community, extending from students, faculty, administration and clergy gathered to pay respects to those who have passed.

The leaders of ULGLASS began by reading the names of the transgender people who have died from anti-trans violence during the last two years in the U.S. In 2024 alone, 34 trans-individuals passed away, among those names was Basil Brown, a UL Lafayette student.

Brown’s death left a mark on the lives of students, fueling their drive to protest against Cole’s talk.

Proceeding the name-reading, the



Photo by Alyus Dick

Members of the UL Lafayette community attending the vigil.

vigil began with the leaders sharing the importance of Transgender Remembrance Day, reflecting on past experiences and advocating for hope and being one’s true self. Robin Duhon, a junior acting major, stated, “Day of Remembrance reminds non-transgender people we are their sons, daughters, parents, friends and lovers. Day of Remembrance gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who have died by anti-transgender violence.”

Sam Wall, a senior strategic communications major, shared, “in the last couple years, we’ve seen hate speech written on our sidewalks, benches, posters and even spoken at us. But with that, there has also been an enormous outpouring of love and kind messages spread across our families.”

Jessica Trahan, director of Wesley United Campus Ministry, said, “You look to your right, and if you look to your left, you’re not going to look at a face that is not a beloved child of God. [...] Regardless of what humans, even

church people, might have to say about that, we do not know God’s heart, but we do know God’s love, [...] know that people get it wrong, but God does not.”

Trahan spoke to vigil attendees that despite Christianity being wielded by Cole and TPUSA at UL Lafayette, they were equally entitled to the love of God as much as anyone else.

Multiple members of the community in attendance shared immensely emotional experiences about the hardships they have faced during their lives for solely being unique.

As the crowd grieved for those who they had lost and the prejudice they had faced, in that moment, they were also united in being a beacon of hope and support for one another, whether they were transgender or not.

TPUSA’s event followed at 6 p.m. at Bayou Bijou in the Student Union. Prior to entering, all attendees were to register for the event. ULPD officers performed full body scans to permit entrance.

➤ See *TPUSA* on page 7

2025 began with terror attacks in US

Kayla Woods-Crane

NEWS WRITER

On New Year’s day, the United States experienced two separate attacks, one in New Orleans and the other in Las Vegas.

On Jan. 1, at 3:15 a.m., 42-year-old, Shamsud-Din Jabbar drove a rented Ford F-150 pickup truck around a police car, blocking the Canal Street entrance to Bourbon Street, onto a sidewalk. Jabbar drove at an accelerated speed, ramming into the crowd, killing 14 people and injuring countless others celebrating the new year.

After running into construction equipment, Jabbar exited the vehicle and began firing at the crowd and law enforcement. Police officers began firing back and killed Jabbar at the scene. Law enforcement recovered weapons, a potential Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and an Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) flag from the vehicle. Other potential IEDs were also found around the French Quarter.

Hours later in Las Vegas, 37-year-old Matthew Livelsberger, shot himself in a Tesla Cybertruck before the

vehicle exploded outside of Trump International Hotel. The explosion, caused by a large amount of fireworks inside the car, was mostly contained by the vehicle but did cause minor injuries to seven people. There was no damage to the hotel.

Although the attacks happened on the same day, they are not connected. Both of the attackers were working alone.

The New Orleans attack was investigated as a terrorist attack. Born and raised in the United States, Jabbar was an army veteran who lived in Texas. In the hours before the attack, Jabbar posted five videos onto Facebook where he professed his allegiance to ISIS.

Similarly, Livelsberger was also an army soldier. He was a member of the U.S. Special Army Forces and recently returned from an assignment in Germany with approved leave.

The explosion in Las Vegas only injured a few people but was planned to harm many more.

The ages of those killed in the New Orleans attack ranged from 18 to 63, with most being in their twenties.

Nikyra Dedeaux, an 18-year-old from Gulfport, Mississippi, was the youngest of the victims. She was an aspiring nurse and had a job at a hospital as she was preparing to start college.

Hubert Gauthreaux, was from Gretna, Louisiana. The 21-year-old is remembered by his family for his passion for baseball and sense of humor. His family described him as a “light” in their lives.

Kareem Badawi was a freshman at the University of Alabama, majoring in mechanical engineering. The 23-year-old was from Baton Rouge and a native of Louisiana. His family described him as smart, athletic, but above all, kind.

Matthew Tenedorio, a 25-year-old from Picayune, Mississippi, was an

audio-visual technician at the New Orleans Superdome. In a press release from the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans, Tenedorio was described as talented with a bright future.

William “Billy” DiMaio, a 25-year-old, was from Holmdel, New Jersey. He worked as an account executive for broadcasting company Audacy, in their New York office.

Bill DiMaio described him as “a good and humble kid,” according to The Associated Press.

Andrew Dauphin worked in Birmingham, Alabama as a supplier process engineer at American Honda Motor Company. The 26-year-old graduated in 2023 from Auburn University.

The president of the university, Christopher B. Roberts, released a statement on the university’s Instagram, sending his “sincere condolences to the family and loved ones” of Dauphin.

Martin Bech was from Lafayette, Louisiana, graduating from St. Thomas More Catholic High School. He went on to play football at Princeton University before graduating college in 2021. His former coach described the 27-year-old as charismatic and intelligent.

Nicole Perez was a 27-year-old single mother to her 4-year-old son, Melvin. She worked at Kimmy’s Deli in Metairie, Louisiana, where she had been recently promoted to manager, according to The Associated Press.

Edward Pettifer was a 31-year-old British citizen from London. In a statement from his family, Pettifer was described as a “wonderful son, brother, grandson, nephew and a friend to so many.”

Reggie Hunter was from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The 37-year-old father of two had gotten off of work and decided to head down to New Orleans

on a whim. Shirell Jackson, Hunter’s cousin, described him as “full of light,” according to BBC News.

Elliot Wilkinson, a 40-year-old native of Slidell, Louisiana, loved New Orleans and had longed to go back. According to his brother Cecil Wilkinson, Elliot Wilkinson struggled with depression. His mother hopes “people remember her son for the good things he brought into the world, rather than the challenges he faced,” according to ABC News.

Brandon Taylor was a restaurant cook in the New Orleans area. His friend, O’Kieth Gibson, told NOLA.com that Taylor “was a fun loving person, full of energy.” The 43-year-old was recently engaged to his fiancée Heather Genusa.

Latasha Polk, a 47-year-old nursing assistant, was the last victim to be identified from the attack. Her mother, Lanisha Butler, told ABC News her daughter “was a sweet, loving person, a great mother, sweet to the world. A hard working woman would do whatever for her child.” Polk was from New Orleans and is survived by her son, Chistopher.

Terrence Kennedy was the oldest victim of the attack in New Orleans. The 63-year-old was a native of New Orleans.

His niece, Monisha James, described her uncle as a “Just a sweet, kind, loving, helpful person that would not harm anyone,” to The Associated Press.

In the aftermath of the attack, concerns over safety in the French Quarter have been raised.

New Orleans will host the Super Bowl on Feb. 9, and the annual chaos of Mardi Gras season is already looming over the city.

As for the country, these tragic attacks are an eerie introduction into a contentious year, as President-elect Donald Trump returns to office.



Graphic by Elizabeth Dybendal

News

TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE

Israel and Hamas, after 15 months at war, have agreed to a temporary ceasefire.

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Politics

THE LEGACY OF BIDEN

A look back at the achievement and failures of President Joe Biden’s four years in office.

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Sports

LADY CAJUNS VS. TROJANS

The Trojans defeated the Lady Cajuns women’s basketball team 81-73.

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Beaucoup

SPRING SEMESTER EXCITEMENT

The Beaucoup section writes about what their favorite part of a new semester is.

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Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal to see the exchange of hostages

Joann Seow
NEWS WRITER

After 15-months of war, “Israel and Hamas have reached a ceasefire and hostage release agreement to halt more than a year of fighting in the Gaza Strip,” according to CBS News.

Based on BBC News, “the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people is one of the longest-running and most violent disputes in the world,” with its origins dating back to more than a century. The latest war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas fighters led an unprecedented attack from Gaza and killed about 1,200 people in Israel and took more than 250 hostages.

Hamas described the attack as a response to “decades of Israeli oppression, the killings of Palestinians and years-long blockade of the Gaza Strip.”

In retaliation, a massive Israeli military offensive launched ground operations in Gaza and more than 46,700 people were killed, with the majority being women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The massive killings and loss of innocent lives triggered responses from humanitarians worldwide. “Days before Israel marked a year since the 7 October attacks, UN humanitarian agencies signed a declaration demanding an end to appalling human suffering and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.”

With a population of about 2.3 million people, the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated places on Earth.

Though many people in Gaza were living below the poverty line and were dependent on food aid, life was mostly peaceful before the Oct. 7 attack.

Post-attack, families were broken apart, homes and schools were destroyed and surviving Palestinians took shelter in packed refugee camps.

Life as they knew it became bleak, and they constantly lived in fear and devastation.

According to AP News, more than 1 million Palestinians were packed into Rafah and were forced to live among “the massive sprawl of tens of thousands of tents.”

Rafah was “the last safe place in Gaza,” however, it was not long until the

Israeli military bombarded the camp and pushed out all Palestinian refugees, who fled and set up a number of new tent cities that were “scattered across southern and central Gaza.”

The Israeli military continued to invade and attack Gaza, intensifying their attacks since the ceasefire deal was announced.

While the ceasefire had yet to take effect, Israeli troops continued to strike.

The ceasefire and hostage release agreement was announced by U.S. President Joe Biden and Qatar’s prime minister separately.

According to the White House, President Biden made the announcement on Jan. 15 in his farewell address to the nation, speaking from the Oval Office.

“After eight months of nonstop negotiation, my administration — by my administration, a ceasefire and a hostage deal has been reached by Israel and Hamas, the elements of which I laid out in great detail in May of this year,” Biden said.

According to CBS News, the deal was developed and negotiated under Biden’s administration, while the implementation of the deal will, for the most part, be under President-elect Donald Trump’s administration, after Trump takes office.

“President Biden’s administration worked closely with their counterparts on Trump’s team,” with Biden’s top Middle East advisor, Brett McGurk, and Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, mostly working “arm-in-arm” during the negotiations.

The long-awaited ceasefire was set to start at 1:30 a.m. EST on Sunday, Jan. 19, 8:30 a.m. local time in Gaza.

The ceasefire deal is temporary and subject to changes according to violations of the agreement.

The ceasefire deal would “consist of three phases, each lasting about 42 days.” “During the first phase, Hamas would release 33 women and children hostages,

as well as hostages over 50 years old.”

“For each woman or child hostage returned to Israel, Israel is expected to release 30 Palestinian women and children from its prisons.

Hamas would release all hostages over 50 years of age, and Israel would release 30 Palestinian prisoners aged 50 or older.”

Biden said Americans will be among the first wave of hostages released.

“During the exchange of hostages and prisoners, there would be a complete ceasefire in Gaza to allow aid to enter.” Furthermore, “international aid groups and the United Nations would resume operations in Gaza, and would begin reconstruction of the enclave’s infrastructure, such as water, electricity and sewage systems.”

As for the second phase, “the deal would involve the release of all remaining male Israeli hostages and the withdrawal of all IDF forces from Gaza.”

Finally, “the third phase would include the exchange of bodies of deceased hostages and prisoners and the beginning of the reconstruction of Gaza.”

According to AP News, “during the third week of the ceasefire, the sides are to open negotiations on “Phase 2” that aims to end the war altogether.”

While the ceasefire deal is generally good news, it is not a guarantee that the war will be ended or that all the ones held captive in Gaza will be released.

How the deal proceeds and the outcome of it depends on the cooperation of both the Hamas’ military and Israeli military.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, “We must protect our ability to return to fighting if we need.”

As of right now, the families of hostages and prisoners remain hopeful for a long-awaited reunion with their loved ones, alive or deceased. Humanitarian aid groups are also on standby to provide aid while military troops pull back.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Jan. 18

- At 5:46 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Wingate Hotel in response to a drug violation, involving a plastic bag containing 4 grams of marijuana. An arrest was made.

Jan. 17

- At 9:04 p.m., an officer responded to a harassment call from the Wingate Hotel.
- At 1:30 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the gravel parking lot at Cajun Village in response to a vehicle crash involving a white 2017 Mazda CX-3 and a white 2023 Toyota RAV4. No injuries were reported.

Jan. 15

- At 12:33 a.m., an officer responded to a suspicious person on 500 McKinley Street. An arrest was made.

Jan. 14

- At 2:01 p.m., officers were informed of a damaged door in Coronna Hall. An investigation was conducted.








Jan. 13

- At 11:45 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a grey 2023 Nissan, where 158 grams of marijuana, a plastic container with a green leaf substance, a black Glock 19 and 15 9 mm rounds of ammunition were found. An arrest was made.

Jan. 12

- At 4:30 p.m., an officer responded to an animal cruelty complaint during the Mid-Winter Fair Rodeo at the Blackham Coliseum.


Weather

Thursday 1/23	Friday 1/24	Saturday 1/25	Sunday 1/26	Monday 1/27	Tuesday 1/28	Wednesday 1/29
 High: 45 F Low: 27 F	 High: 48 F Low: 34 F	 High: 59 F Low: 52 F	 High: 72 F Low: 57 F	 High: 69 F Low: 51 F	 High: 65 F Low: 51 F	 High: 68 F Low: 50 F

Jenna Kimball
WEATHER WRITER

- California wildfires have now claimed at least 27 lives.
- The United States Presidential Inauguration has been moved inside due to dangerous cold weather.

WHERE'S ALLAN?



I wasn't feeling too well,
I think I have pinkeye, where am I?

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.

- A cold weather advisory was in place from Monday 1/20 to Wednesday 1/22.

Food Review

'The best pizza in Lafayette': Jim Deggy's delivers the flavor

Isabelle Brumley

FOOD REVIEWER

Located in downtown Lafayette, Jim Deggy's Brick Oven Pizza and Brewery is a beloved spot for delicious pizza. Locals and tourists alike may enjoy delicious pies directly from the brick oven at Jim Deggy's, which is well-known for its laid-back yet lively atmosphere. The restaurant also serves a selection of house-brewed beers.

They offer a variety of pizzas, including the classics along with their own specialties, while also offering a variety of house made craft beers.

The story of Jim Deggy's Brick Oven Pizza and Brewery began in Pineville, Louisiana as a local food truck in 2018. The grandfather of the DeGregorio family (Deggys) had a love for New York style pizza, which influenced the family to open up a restaurant in his honor. The food truck's growing popularity led

to an opening of a restaurant in 2020. They expanded to Lafayette in 2024.

This restaurant had a very laid-back atmosphere with warm lighting covering the inside of the building. The classic brick walls and rustic feel of the place brought feelings of nostalgia. The primary focus of this place is of course the massive brick oven they have in the kitchen. The bar covers the middle section of the place, acting as a social haven.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this restaurant on Wednesday, Jan. 15. As we walked in, we were happily greeted by the staff and were seated at our table. We grabbed our menus and began to browse.

For our appetizers, we decided to get the asiago spinach artichoke dip and cheese bread. Within a few minutes, our starters arrived. One thing I noticed about the chips for the spinach artichoke dip was that they

tasted a lot like beignets. I found this unique, so I asked our waiter about the recipe, and he informed me that it is the same dough that they use for beignets. Our cheese bread was equally just as delicious.

It was proving to be difficult to choose a pizza. They had so many appetizing choices to choose from. I ended up deciding on the Swamp Monster which contained pesto, mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes, goat cheese, bacon and a balsamic glaze. My colleague could not decide so she asked our server to choose for her.

Our pizzas came out piping hot and ready to eat. The Swamp Monster definitely lived up to its name with delicious bacon and boudin piled on top of it. The bacon and boudin complemented well with the pesto base of the pizza.

My colleagues' pizza looked equally as delicious. Our waiter informed us the names of the pizzas that were chosen for her meal, the Honey P and Pop. The Honey P pizza was the first half of the pizza and contained pepperoni, goat cheese and hot honey drizzle, while the Pop pizza contained pepperoni, boudin, and pepper jack cheese.

My colleague described the taste of the pizzas as a mixture of bold, spicy and sweet flavors that just melt in your mouth.

After finishing our meal, I decided to interview our waiter, Jones. "I have been working here for eight months, and what I like most about working here is definitely my coworkers. It's a very friendly atmosphere and no one here is trying to boss anyone around, we treat each other as equals."

He also informed me that they have live music every Friday and Saturday from 6-9 p.m. "We have a bunch of local artists that set up on the stage



Photo by Ellie Schmidt

Honey P pizza at Jim Deggy's Brick Oven Pizza.

every week. We try to treat them well and maintain a healthy relationship with them so they will come back. The restaurant gives everyone a chance to spread their platform."

As we were concluding our interviews, we began to crave a sweet treat, so we ordered beignets off of the dessert section of the menu.

The beignets were rich but not too sweet, with the perfect amount of powdered sugar sprinkled on top.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Jim Deggy's Brick Oven Pizza & Brewery.

The food was flavorful, and the staff made sure our experience was enjoyable from start to finish.

I will never forget the hospitality that made me feel like I was at home.

If you would like to visit this establishment, they are open Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are closed on Mondays.



Photo by Ellie Schmidt

Jim Deggy's Brick Oven Pizza sign indoors.

Politics

The last four years under Biden

Andrew Courville

POLITICS WRITER

President Joseph Biden ends his term with a 39% approval rating, according to an AP-NORC poll. Biden oversaw monumental shifts in America, from the economy and healthcare to foreign relations and energy.

Biden's term began with his Build Back Better agenda to revitalize the economy. He first signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan to recover from the pandemic via stimulus payments to families through child tax credits and unemployment benefits. It also supported key industries including agriculture, public health, small business and education.

Other legislation which was supposed to be part of Build Back Better struggled in Congress. They were eventually renegotiated into several other laws.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act dedicated \$1.2 trillion into transportation and clean energy infrastructure, broadband internet access and pipelines.

The CHIPS and Science Act invests \$280 billion to increase high tech research and domestic production of semiconductor chips, a crucial component in most electronics. Through grants, loans and tax benefits to American companies, it decreases the U.S. reliance on states like Taiwan and South Korea, which could create a national security crisis if those nations are threatened.

The Inflation Reduction Act raised the minimum corporate tax rate, invested \$369 billion in clean energy infrastructure, allowed medicare to lower prescription drug prices and aimed to decrease the federal deficit by \$300 billion by 2031.

Contrarily, these laws also lack some funding measures and take time to implement due to procedures like

contract negotiation and acquiring construction materials.

Biden also fell short in permanently expanding subsidies and eligibility for Social Security, the Affordable Care Act and child tax credits. His student loan forgiveness plan was struck down by the Supreme Court. He attempted to establish a generous repayment program via an executive order, but it is still being contested in court and will likely be reversed by Trump.

Despite its many shortcomings, the economy has impressively shaped up. Despite inflation sticking stubbornly above 2.5% since 2021, Biden's term was also marked by a consistently low unemployment rate, landing at 4.1% in December. The economy has gained a net 15.7 million jobs since before the pandemic, and GDP has grown a healthy 2.3% per year since 2021.

In foreign affairs, Biden has had just as many successes as failures. The wars in Ukraine and Gaza along with the tumultuous withdrawal from Afghanistan will always tarnish his legacy.

However, it's worth noting that Biden was chiefly responsible for rallying support for sanctions on Russia, sending military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine to hold back the Russian advance and strengthening NATO.

Biden also toiled in intense ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Hamas leadership. A final agreement was signed on Saturday. It will take months to fulfill, including military occupation of Gaza and both sides releasing hostages (among them seven American citizens).

As the country enters a new era, the nation optimistically waits for President Donald Trump to repair what his predecessors have been unable to do and build on their achievements.

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Arts and Culture

UL Lafayette in Breaking Ground

Geonna Tipton

NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's dance program announced that they will be participating in the dance festival 'Breaking Ground' in Arizona. Dancers that will be participating included assistant professor of dance in performance arts, John Alex McBride and assistant professor in performance arts, Micheal Crotty.

Preparing for this remarkable opportunity however, required a lot of effort from the dancers. The dancers had to go through a challenging training period to hone their skills over a short period of time. Micheal Crotty commented, "The work was built over an extensive two week period followed by pickup rehearsals to build the work with the choreographer, Fabio Liberti."

UL Lafayette's dance program constantly includes different talented choreographers from around the world to help teach and grow the skills of their dancers. For the dance festival they chose the skilled Fabio Liberti to lead the show. Fabio Liberti is an Italian choreographer who has engaged full time in different dance companies around the world, including places like Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Denmark. He has abundant experience as both a dancer and a choreographer, which in turn helped him create several award winning pieces. Additionally, Liberti founded his own company, MUOVI, in Denmark to produce his own work.

UL Lafayette's dance program expressed excitement to work with Liberti for Breaking Ground and will continue to host more professional dancers and choreographers well into the future. However, just because the dancers are being trained by talented experts does not mean that they are not talented themselves.

The dancers performing at the dance festival are some of UL Lafayette's best dancers, especially since they could perfect their performances with only a small time frame to prepare. Being able to manage that time crunch of learning a new production along with the usual duties within the college campus can be challenging for anyone, but for these dancers they see these challenges as a new opportunity to represent UL Lafayette.

Micheal Crotty mentioned, "More than anything, we are grateful for the opportunity to share this work and represent ourselves and UL Lafayette's Dance Program. We do feel prepared and excited for this opportunity."

The dance program offers many opportunities for dancers to showcase what they learned throughout the year though. They have their mainstage productions, annual State of LA Danse production in the fall and additional performance opportunities like Oiseaux Tristes, 15 Scores and Eau de Danse. Breaking Ground is only one of the events that UL Lafayette's dancers can be a part of.

Additionally, students under the performance arts major are required to audition for all pieces in order to be included in the mainstage production each semester and if casted not only are they required to accept the roles offered to them, but attendance at rehearsals and arriving on time ready to work is mandatory.

The program aims to push its dancers to be the best of their ability both on and off the dance floor. The dancers learn skills they need to perform like endurance and coordination but they also learn skills they need in a business environment like time management skills and flexibility with job offerings. Therefore, when special events like Breaking Ground arrive they are able to show the world what UL Lafayette's dancers are capable of.

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 thevermillion@louisiana.edu.

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Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 12

INSTRUCTIONS

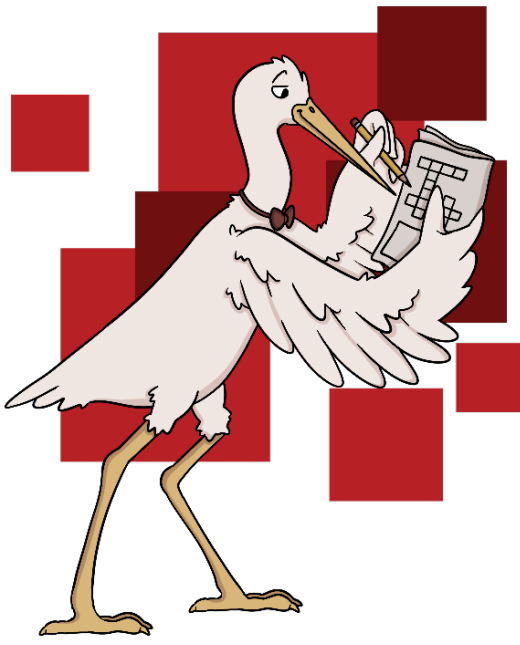
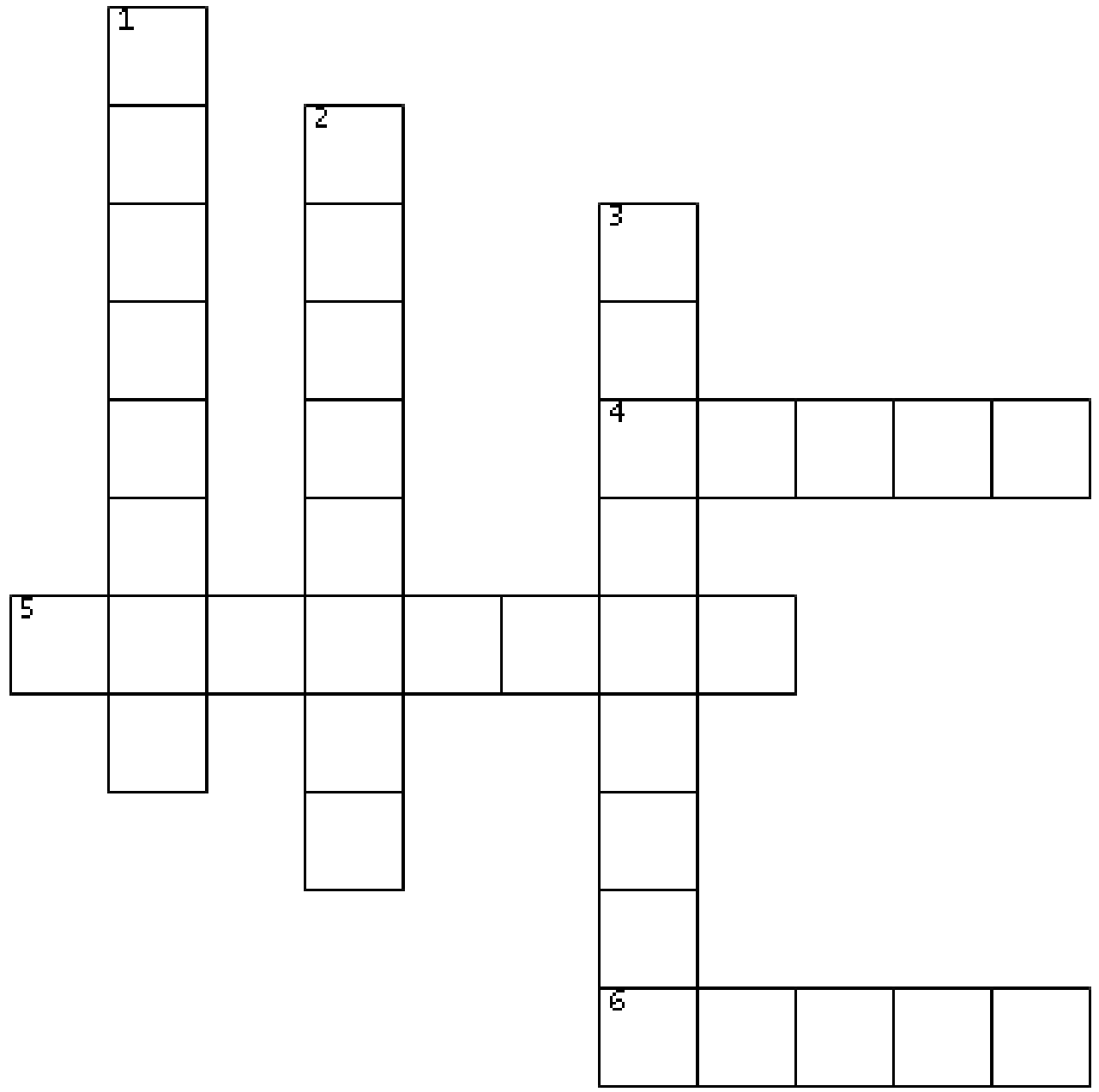
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 4. Who led the Cajuns in rushing?
- 5. National Transgender Remembrance Day is historically on the 20th of _____.
- 6. What color is Elphaba in the movie "Wicked"?

DOWN

- 1. Which Cajuns women's guard led the team in scoring vs. the Troy Trojans in basketball?
- 2. What kind of dessert did Isabelle Brumley get?
- 3. What skill did Nyria Mustiful begin implementing recently to manage money?



Cajun Candids

Welcome Back

Photos by Ellie Schmidt



Sports

Basketball: three-point volume eludes the women's team again

Isaac Henry
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns women's basketball team lost the second game of their most recent road trip against the Troy Trojans on Saturday, Jan. 18, 81-73, bringing their conference record to a middling 4-3.

During a press conference held Jan.

13 before the trip, Head Coach Garry Brodhead anticipated the toughness of both the Arkansas State Red Wolves, who the Cajuns lost to in overtime the previous match, and the Trojans.

"Arkansas State, we haven't had as much success as we'd like to," Brodhead said. "Troy is a tough team to play. Both of them are playing similar. Seems like Arkansas State's changed their system a

little bit to play a little bit faster, shooting threes, press the whole game, so it's gonna be anxious to see. Both games will be tough, so can we withstand that?"

Asked specifically about the outstanding pace of the Trojans and his desire to slow the game down, Brodhead was candid on how he felt the game would be won.

"I don't think our program can withstand the whole forty minutes of playing like Troy," Brodhead said. "You gotta know when to run and when not to run, cause they want you to continue to be like them and keep coming."

"I always felt like you're never out [of] a game with Troy, you gotta realize you can go down by ten and within five minutes you're back even again."

Brodhead gave a glowing review of junior guard Jaylyn James, who had come off the bench to great effect in recent games.

"She did good. She's one of them that's pretty much always in shape. Her body type allows her to just get up and down the floor. She plays with a lot of high energy," Brodhead said.

"I don't think enough people give her credit for how she's really bought into our defense. You have a scorer that you're putting out there that can really guard."

In what was a sloppy game for both teams Saturday (17 turnovers each!), the Trojans won the points off turnovers battle handily 21-13.

The difference was mostly made up by the fast break, where the speed of the Trojan guards made an impact.

After keeping up well with the Trojans through the first half, 35-36, Brodhead's fears came to call. The Cajun's offense proceeded to completely stall out in the face of the Trojans' effort and adjustments, giving up 13 unanswered points to start the third quarter and managing a mere nine points in the period.

From there, the flow of the game never

got back into a space for the Cajuns to make a run.

The Trojans kept running, the team didn't shoot as well as typical and stops were hard to generate.

Cajuns senior guard Tamiah Robinson led all scorers for the game with 21 points on 6-14 from the field with seven made free throws, just her fourth game with 20+ points as a Cajun.

The Cajuns sharpshooter and current leading scorer on the season Erica Lafayette had a tough game, going 4-12 from the field and just 2-6 from distance when we've seen better efficiency on volume lately.

Brodhead stressed again that physicality and transition play continues to be the most important facet of the team to him.

"Any time that you have any type of system, if the kids believe in it, it seems like it works a little better," Brodhead said. "I think on the road, that's one of the things that we really, really preach, we may not be making shots like we're capable of, the offense may not be as productive as we want it to be, but you can always defend."

He also talked about the way the team's continued buy-in solidifies the system regardless of the atmosphere.

"I think they're starting to believe in making stops. When we make stops and we play good defense, our offense seems to get better and vice versa, so I think that's the thing," Brodhead said.

"Ever since I've been here, I don't think the road really bothers us that much. Maybe we don't match up with the team that good, but the road's not as bad."

Next up for the team is a return to the Cajundome to continue conference play against the Arkansas State Red Wolves on Thursday, Jan. 23, followed by a rematch with Troy on Saturday, Jan. 25.

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Photo by Alyus Dick

The Cajuns help up Aasia Sam (10) during a game against the James Madison Dukes on Jan. 2.

What is the next step for Louisiana?

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

Head Coach Michael Desormeaux and the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns put together a good season, the first of Desormeaux's tenure as the head coach. The team started out hot, going 8-1 in the first nine games of the season before crashing down.

It started with the game against South Alabama, the second game in a three home game stretch. Louisiana was just coming off a dominant 55-19 win over Arkansas State before welcoming the Jaguars from Mobile, Alabama.

The game looked like it would be a blowout after the Jags went up 24-3 at half, and even more so as starting quarterback Ben Wooldridge was forced to leave the game due to injury. There was not much fear as seasoned backup Chandler Fields would come in and nearly lead the Cajuns to a comeback victory, falling just short after a botched two-point conversion.

Fields would lead the Cajuns to back-to-back wins to end out the season, including a 51-30 massacre of Troy, which helped the Cajuns win the Western division of the Sun Belt.

As the best team in the Sun Belt, Louisiana was able to host Marshall for the Sun Belt Championship game. Things would quickly go south for the Cajuns though after Fields got hurt early in the game, forcing true freshman Daniel Beale to take the field.

After that, it was all Marshall as they ran away with the game, taking home the Sun Belt Conference trophy with a dominant 31-3 win, the first time in SBC history that a visiting team won the championship.

Louisiana would get a chance to redeem its season in the Isleta New Mexico Bowl against the TCU Horned Frogs. Many had the Cajuns counted out, but they had a chance to shock and upset the heavily favored TCU.

The Horned Frogs ran away with the game 34-3, the Cajuns simply rolling over for the Big XII team. Wooldridge, who had returned for this game to make his first and only bowl game start, and the offense simply could not move the bowl.

Even worse, the usually solid Cajuns secondary got sliced up by TCU quarterback Josh Hoover who threw for 252 yards and four touchdowns.

This humiliating loss is now Desormeaux's third straight bowl loss, his record now 1-3 in bowl games. Though an asterisk should be placed next to that stat as his one bowl win, the 2021 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, was with a team still largely made by Billy Naiper.

Despite this glaring issue that Desormeaux has in big games, Louisiana still gave him a contract extension for another five years. Though if he keeps his current bowl streak up he might not make all five.

Next year could prove to be a setback for the program, as many longtime starters are either graduating, transferring, or declaring for the draft.

There is hope in the transfer class that coach Desormeaux is putting together, highlighted by former four star quarterback Walker Howard.

Howard was a four star quarterback coming out of St. Thomas Moore in Lafayette before he committed to LSU in 2021, enrolling early in January 2022. Howard would sit for the 22' season, redshirting since Jayden Daniels was the starter.

Following the 22' season, Howard would transfer to Ole Miss, where he would sit behind Jaxson Dart for the '23 and '24' seasons, seeing minimal playtime. Howard would not get his chance to start for Ole Miss, with Austin Simmons being picked to be the heir to Dart.

Howard would thus enter the portal, coming home to Lafayette to play for

his hometown team. He is projected to be the starting quarterback for the 25' season, his first time starting since his senior season of high school.

The receiving core he will be throwing too is slightly depleted though. Both Lance LeGendre(49/826/6) and Jacob Bernard(28/375/0) played their last game as seniors while the other two top pass catchers in Harvey Broussard(31/486/3) and tight end Terrance Carter(48/689/4) transferred to Houston and Texas Tech respectively.

Here, the portal has also solved this receiver problem with the addition of Shelton Sampson Jr. The 6'3.5" redshirt freshman from LSU was a four star receiver in the class of 2023 from Catholic B.R.

The hope is that Sampson comes in and forms a connection with Howard similar to the connection between Wooldridge and Carter.

The Cajuns should still be able to rely on a solid run game as both Bill Davis(796 yards and 9 touchdowns)

and Zylan Perry(695 yards and 4 touchdowns) are returning, Dre'lyn Washington though, entering his senior season, transferred to Alabama.

Louisiana also lost many defensive starters starting with linebackers K.C. Ossai(115 tackles) to graduation and Carmyah Glass(75 tackles) to the transfer portal.

The biggest losses on defense though comes from the secondary as both Tyrone Lewis Jr(76 tackles and 4 ints) and Tyree Skipper(41 tackles and 4 ints) declared for the 2025 NFL draft.

The Cajuns will also be saying goodbye to the ever reliable Lou Groza award winning kicker, Kenneth Almendares who finished his last season with the Cajuns going for 28/31 on field goals, he was perfect inside 50 yards.

Next season is still far off and the offseason has just begun.

For now hope for the 2025 season can grow as underclassmen, transfers and recruits fill the holes left by the strong senior core.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Ben Wooldridge(10) preparing to take a snap against the Tulane Green Wave 9.21.24.

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Allons

Good vs. wicked: Taking a closer look at the infamous "Wicked"

Ja'lyn Braud

ALLONS WRITER

What does wicked truly mean? Many will say they know but lately, I have been tossing up the question myself since the film "Wicked" was released this past November.

In the year 2003, "Wicked" the Musical famously took over Broadway stages and, more recently, movie theatres. On the day the movie was released, I immediately ran to the nearest theatre in Lafayette, praying that tickets were not sold out yet. To my luck, I had the luxury of absorbing every ounce of the movie that night.

However, one showing was not enough.

Since then, I have seen the movie twice, listened to the soundtrack at least 50 times and programmed all my social media feeds with any edits, interviews and behind-the-scenes videos. It is no secret to say that my life has been completely and satisfyingly engulfed in this movie.

Unfortunately, though, there are many normal people in this world who have not yet formed crazy psychological attachments to "Wicked" like I, therefore it seems that the responsibility to inform my fellow peers of this masterpiece falls to someone like me.

For those who know little of the musical itself, "Wicked" tells the untold story of Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West and her relationship with Glinda, the Good Witch—the characters taken from *The Wizard of Oz*.

This tale between the two unveils such a complex yet beautiful relationship that challenges one to question my very first thought: what does wicked mean? This query begins immediately when you dive into the first song, "No One Mourns the Wicked." However, we will dwell on this later.

It is important to note that originally, Glinda and Elphaba had a great strain in their relationship; they essentially loathed each other, which is registered in the song "What Is This Feeling?" Eventually, though, their loathing for one another turned into love allowing them to become best friends.

After their friendship had been initiated, Glinda's first action was to

make Elphaba acceptable to the world—popular, in other words. All of her life, Glinda strived to find validation in others and found success in status, so it is only reasonable that she interacted with Elphaba this way. This was the only way she knew how to show her love.

On the other hand, Elphaba seems to be the complete opposite.

Due to her green skin and inherent powers, she is considered an outsider to the world. When others first meet her, she is faced with the tension of rejection, which, with the help of Glinda, later turns into acceptance. However, she is okay with Glinda's attempts at a makeover because she respects the way she was raised and is grateful to experience her love.

So, though the two are very different and butt heads at first, their dynamic flourishes into a beautiful friendship; one that continues to prosper I might add.

Well, at least that is what we would have thought prior to listening to "No One Mourns the Wicked" in the introduction.

As previously mentioned, at the very beginning of the movie, this song is

sung specifically by the Munchkins in Munchkinland and Glinda.

It deliberately puts Glinda in the role of singing about Elphaba's death as the Munchkins and the rest of Oz rejoice and celebrate.

Here we would originally assume that Glinda is good and the witch is wicked. Seems pretty simple, right?

However, as an audience member, once discovering their friendship, it is hard to imagine Glinda taking on such a drastic turn in their relationship, considering that they were best friends.

This is where it gets complicated.

One may argue that Glinda is the wicked one for treating her friend in the way that she did in this song, which I would agree with to some extent, just not completely.

Glinda sings about how the wicked are essentially left alone and unmissed, but what is different about her lyrics compared to the Munchkins is that she is claiming this title for herself.

When singing, all of Oz seems to enjoy the demise of the witch.

You can hear it in their voices, they are excited and constantly smiling, whereas

Glinda's persona seems to differ. She is upset in the song, but is trying to place a facade in front of Munchkinland in order to keep herself protected in her status and reputation.

In her perspective, she is the one in the wrong, she is the one left alone and she is the wicked that no one mourns.

When Glinda sings, one can tell that there is no enjoyment or positive emotion in her voice.

She says the same lyrics but there is no passion, no sign of celebration. She just heard the news about her best friend's death and is forced to pretend to be delighted.

Glinda knows that Elphaba is truly the good one while she, Glinda, was the wrong one, the enemy to those in Oz. Never intentionally but consequently.

Without watching "Wicked", whether it was the Broadway play or movie, it is inferred that the Wicked Witch of the West is indeed, well, wicked. Yet "Wicked" allows for us, the audience, to dive deeper into this theory of what being wicked really entails. So now I must ask you again, would you say you know what wicked truly means?



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

What happens once you graduate college and enter the real world?

Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS EDITOR

Recently, I came upon a very big milestone in my young adult life.

I am now a senior in college, with only one semester remaining after the current one.

Now, most people probably find this to be something worthy of celebration, but I had a different reaction.

Once I realized that I was a senior, I became, almost instantaneously, plagued with fear and worry. Cycling thoughts of "I'm not ready" and "I need more time" remain constant in my brain.

When people ask me why I'm so worried, I feel quite baffled. Why wouldn't I be worried about being thrust into a new face of life that I am completely unfamiliar with?

Once you exit college, you become fully responsible for yourself.

You are no longer a dependant of your parents, but a newly debuted functional member of society. Some people may get a taste of this while in college, but

for others, all of this is largely uncharted territory.

As crazy as it may sound, I am one of the individuals who has had a glimpse of post-college life while in school. I grew up in a low income household, so a large portion of the burden of support for my life in college falls on me. I do have help here and there from a few family members, but for the most part, it's all on me.

As true as that may be, I still feel disproportionately unprepared for post-college life, and the reason why is, in my opinion, all the reasoning I need. I am incredibly financially irresponsible. When I say irresponsible, I mean it in the most true sense of the word. Money will fly in and out of my pocket like birds fly in and out of the nest. The old folks had an expression for the phenomena: "Money burns my hand."

Though I'd naively deny it when I was younger, they couldn't have been more right. I have compulsive spending habits, specifically surrounding food and things I could utilize to "keep up with

the times." For example, if I received a check for \$500 on a Monday, I can almost assure you that by Friday, my account would have roughly \$150 in it, and most of the purchases would be food delivery or unnecessary online shopping purchases.

As far as savings go, I would put money in there, only to take it out once I got to a low amount in my checking account. Now, as a young adult with new bills such as rent, utilities and internet, it wouldn't behoove me to have such spending practices. In fact, the way I see it, I am a danger to my future prosperity if I don't become more financially responsible as soon as possible.

I've had many people over the past two weeks tell me that I'm being too hard on myself or I'm being completely irrational, but I can't help but feel otherwise. As an adult, you need to be able to manage your money responsibly, and I can't. However, as a part of my "New Year's Resolutions", I've decided that it's time for me to create better habits for myself and start being ready for the next phase of my life.

One thing that I've begun to implement is being able to distinguish between wants and needs. I struggle with this because sometimes, at least for me, things feel a bit more necessary than they actually are. I have become self aware enough to know that this is a compulsory instinct, fueled by the knowledge that I have money accessible to me and available to spend. To correct that, I have created a list of things that are true needs.

I surveyed people close to me, as I can't solely trust my own thoughts on the matter, and in establishing that list, I am able to identify things that I should be spending my money on. Now, this doesn't mean that I don't get to have anything that I want or that I am completely prohibited from spending money on treats for myself. This simply means that my needs are my top financial priority, as they would need to be when I'm out on my own.

Once I established this list, the next thing I began to implement is budgeting. This month, I received a refund from the school, so I took the amount I knew that I would be receiving and assessed how much I would be spending based on my needs, as well as any bills I had to pay. Once I was able to do that, I calculated the approximate amount of money I would have left to spend as I desired. I also allocated money to go into my savings account as well.

The last thing I've implemented is the "Is it something we can get later?" rule. When I want to make a purchase over \$100, I ask myself if it's something that I need immediately, or can it wait until I have a surplus of money. This just helps me keep my compulsive spending habits at bay.

As I continue my last year in college, I am constantly reminded that adulthood is an experience that, while rewarding and full of growth, is filled with challenges and complexities. Nonetheless, I'm sure that if I continue to strive to be better and grow, I will be just fine in the outside world.

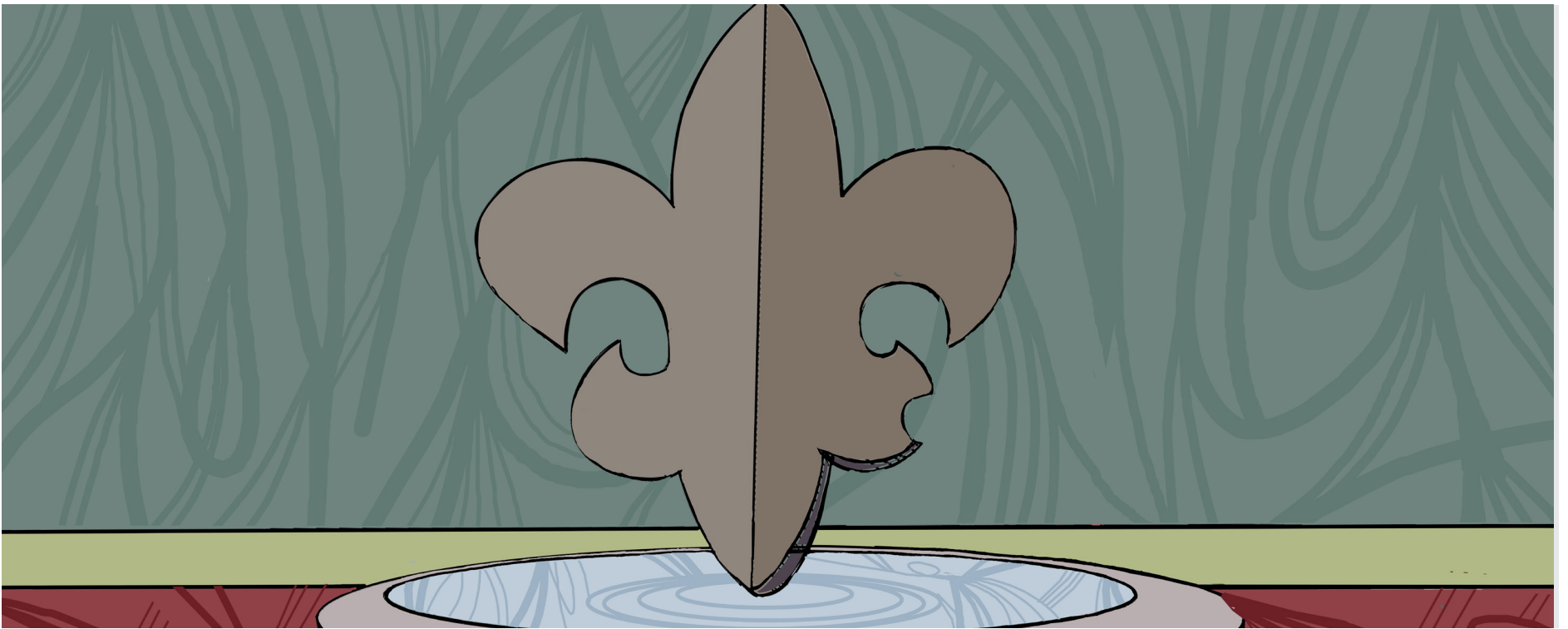


Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

Beaucoup

Spring Thrills

The Beaucoup section discusses what their favorite part of starting a new semester is.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

Geonna Tipton

NEWS WRITER

Starting a new semester can be challenging sometimes. Embracing new faces, new classes and new struggles can take a toll on anyone. So its understanding if new starts could be overwhelming for most. But for me, that's honestly my favorite part.

That feeling of a fresh start in a brand new semester is the best feeling in the

world. It can be very relaxing knowing that all the mistakes that were made in the previous semester are now a distant memory. They don't matter anymore. It's like your slate has been wiped clean.

To me, that's the best part of a new semester because it allows me to redo any experiences that didn't work well the last time. Overall, even though starting a new semester can be a difficult transition for some, for me, I believe it's a brand new opportunity in my college career.

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

It is hard to pick just one favorite thing about starting a new semester. Every semester I look forward to learning new things that I never knew before. The one thing I like about college is the freedom of picking classes that fit your area of study, but also the wide array of electives that are offered. Since this is my last semester of college I have been thinking back to some of the things I always look forward to at the beginning of each semester.

I am at the point in my classes where I start to see the same people in a majority of them. Having people I know already in the classes does make the first day jitters go away very easily. I also am always excited to know what I am going to read this year because I always discover my new favorite book.

A new semester also gets me back into a routine.

It has never bothered me that I sometimes have a class on Friday because it gets me up and out of my bed. I hope everyone has a wonderful spring semester!

TPUSA

Continued from page 1

Prior to the start of Cole's "Dangers of Transgender Ideology" talk, the president of TPUSA at UL Lafayette, Louis Cohn, a junior political science major, stated, "they tried to cancel us, they tried to push it back, but the University stayed steadfast in their commitment to free speech and to our right of expression," and voiced that TPUSA may have a different viewpoint, but their intent from the talk was to spread love, not hate.

Cole came onto stage for her speech. "While many things, I am a detransitioner. I'm an advocate for the safety of children and our health care systems. But most importantly, I advocate for our generation, which many in power are completely mistaken that we're just lost," Cole began. She further went onto describe her life story and transitioning, which Cole remarked as her confusion and misunderstanding.

The current generation is far more focused on the self, as terms like self-esteem, self-actualization and self-care serve towards the selfish nature of the modern generation, which ultimately leads to the present-day identity crisis, Cole shared.

The new generation is one that "lost the wisdom, the guidance and values that the previous generations had. We didn't have those anchors to ground ourselves," Cole added.

When such anchors are absent, Cole explained, individuals will stray further away from Christ, leading to falsehoods in identity, like "transgenderism."

Cole elaborated, "Feelings are not quantifiable. There is no gene, there is no anomaly on the brain or other physiological or genetic markers that make a person experience incongruence with their sex."

The gender dysphoria individuals who wish to be transgender experience should be acknowledged. "It's not easy for these individuals to experience on a daily basis, and we should have compassion for them," Cole said.

These feelings of distress and needing to be a different gender usually are concurrent with neurological disorders, like depression, anxiety, learning disabilities and trauma resulting from strained familial and social interactions, Cole expressed.

"Each of these factors can lead these vulnerable boys and girls to feel as though they don't have identity, they don't have a place where they belong or a purpose to live for. They are desperate to reinvent themselves, to find something meaningful to strive for."

Hence when those minors are placed within an environment that is a, Cole described, "warm and inviting place, such as transgender communities that are online or on campuses like this, [...] it can be incredibly comforting."

Cole further said that being a part of and listening to these communities can



Photo by Alyus Dick

Chloe Cole speaking in Bayou Bijou auditorium.

lead minors to ultimately conform to the decision that gender transitioning is the valid option for their cognitive dissonance. Popular culture and media further fuel those intentions and actions, leading to a loop of dissatisfaction that must be resolved by fixes, which often is temporary, Cole continued.

Cole's transitioning process began after she consulted with her doctors, that she was questioning her gender and did not want to be a girl anymore. The doctors, Cole elaborated, did not hesitate on her request but rather fully encouraged transitioning.

"It's a notorious tactic for these doctors, for these therapists and counselors to go to the parents of a gender-confused-child and going further and further down the path of transition at the expense of the parents, the family and the health and wellbeing of the child," Cole said.

"They were merciless towards my mother and father, and the lies they told them, the way they manipulated them into doing something they didn't want to."

The doctors insisted her parents sign-off on the transitioning of their child, given no alternative, that the only aftermath is the continuation of life or death, Cole shared. "At 13-years-old was when I began the process of medical intervention."

Cole received leuprolide, brand name Lupron, a gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist, which means it acts on the pituitary gland of the brain by regulating the release of sex-hormones. When administered to females on a daily basis, leuprolide can decrease estrogen, commonly known as the female hormone, levels.

Often the drug is prescribed to manage endometriosis and uterine fibroids in females and prostate cancer in males. However, it can also be used to accelerate the onset of puberty, based on the National Institutes of Health.

Cole additionally received testosterone injections each week, which increases the body's testosterone level. Testosterone is the predominant male hormone and accounts for the secondary sex characteristics of males, such as a deeper voice and increased

facial and body hair.

Calling himself Leo, Cole was then, in appearance, a teenage boy to all that came across him. Cole described the drugs and injections led her to be quite ill, as they can have severe side effects on certain individuals. "I was doing everything that I was told would make me happy and healthy and whole. So I kept looking for the problem," Cole said.

Due to this dissatisfaction and need for happiness, Cole looked to the next issue, which she described as her breasts. "Sure the testosterone was making me look like a teenage boy, but my breasts were not going away." After expressing this concern to Cole's doctors, surgery was performed to remove her breasts at 14-years-old.

"After they took off the bandages and took off the stitches, when I looked at the scars and the wounds and the skin grafts, I felt like a sick lab experiment," Cole shared. She recalled afterwards extremely regretting her transitioning, grieving what she had lost.

The experiences from medication side effects, body dysmorphia, regret about transitioning and eventually the use of a psychedelic drug, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), led Cole to detransition at 17-years-old.

"For those who choose to stop their transition, it is a journey that is marked by great grief and loss along the way, but at the end of the tunnel, you also find great personal growth."

Cole stopped the hormonal treatments suddenly as she explained she had no guidance from her doctors, leading her to become more ill from the abruptness.

She recollected feeling alone and helpless, regretting all that she could have become if she solely stayed a woman.

Later on, Cole concluded that the Christian community helped her to come unto Christ and appreciate who she was created to be. "I learned that in God's eyes, I only was His daughter because that is how He created me. And I was created in this way with love and intention, and even every hardship I went through was because He knew I could take it."

Members of ULGLASS attended to listen to Cole's talk and ask questions at the end. Several subjects were discussed such as the possible effects of LSD on Cole's decision to detransition and governmental decisions that may prevent minors from receiving medical treatments for non-transitioning reasons.

Cole's advocacy nationwide is primarily to stop gender transitioning in minors, as she voices that a minor does not have the capacity to determine a vast life change as that of becoming transgender. Cole blames the health care system for forcing such decisions on parents as the only solution to a child's temporary incongruence.

However, once adulthood is reached, Cole agrees that individuals can make decisions for themselves and choose how they may live.

Oftentimes, when a physician offers the option of transitioning, it is because they medically determine that the child is not in a stable mental state.

These children who are questioning their gender and voicing the need for change are often severely prone to self-harm.

Therefore, in order to prevent suicide, physicians are left with the only viable option, which is transition. Similarly, there are times when the transition process may not be the only treatment and is still advanced towards, leading to individuals who either appreciate their new selves or detransition.

Cole continues to voice governmental change in limiting gender-affirming care for children who wish to transition while ensuring that such treatments will not be withheld from children who were born with abnormal genetic and hormonal variations.



Photo by Kay Padilla

Students from the UL Lafayette community protest TPUSA's Chloe Cole event.

SOUNDING OFF

"What is your new year's resolution?"



Amari Foster
NURSING SOPHOMORE

"My new year's resolution is to pass in nursing school and to improve myself. I'm not really sure how yet but there's always room for improvement."



Gracie Rodriguez
PSYCHOLOGY FRESHMAN

"My new year's resolution is to say yes to more hangouts with people and to be my best self."



Malik Bage
EDUCATION FRESHMAN

"My new year's resolution is to keep doing what I'm doing and achieve what I want to achieve in life."



Zakiia Dorsey
KINESIOLOGY FRESHMAN

"I've been trying to workout more, get more healthy and I've been trying to get out more socially."



Kailee Mouret
GENERAL STUDIES JUNIOR

"My new year's resolution is to spend more time with my family, enjoying the little things and focusing on myself, mental health and physical health."



Daidra Moncrieffe
ACCOUNTING SENIOR

"My new year's resolution is to get closer to God and to overall pass all of my classes."

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

Boy's Night Out



Comic by Lauren Gerald

Have any leads?



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