

# THE VERMILION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper February 27, 2025

## Mardi Gras: What to know about safety

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS WRITER

As Mardi Gras festivities kickstart in Lafayette, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Police Department (ULPD) and Lafayette Police Department (Lafayette PD) begin to roll out security measures as safety precautions for students and parade attendees.

In preparation for the first parade, “Krewe of Rio,” that took place on Saturday, Feb. 22, the Lafayette Consolidated Government Public Works Department began placing barricades along parade routes on Feb. 20-21.

The roadways that were barricaded include the intersection at Jefferson St. and Simcoe St. to the intersection at Johnston St. and Vermilion St, continuing down to the intersection at Johnston St. and North College Rd. and along the parade route to Cajun Field Gate 1 at Reinhardt Dr., heading toward Congress St. Students, faculty and staff are advised to take alternate routes to campus and be aware of traffic.

Lieutenant Michael Louviere, public information officer with ULPD, spoke on the safety precautions that ULPD is taking to ensure the safety of students when attending parades near campus or in the city.

Commenting on the barricades, Louviere said, “We want to make sure that the people that are attending the parades or trying to enjoy the festivities, is that they mind the barricades, not try to defeat the barricades.”

Louviere advised parade attendees to be mindful of the barricades at all times and to not attempt to pass through them once the parade has begun. Attendees should also never attempt to get in front of or behind parade floats.

He added, “That’s the purpose of the barricades, to try to get that extra level of safety for the attendees.”

According to Louviere, the Lafayette PD and ULPD are also concerned with

any vehicle type incidents or assaults, be it incidental or intentional, especially at major intersections.

Louviere shared, “We’re utilizing large vehicles to be able to further protect the attendees at these parades, on these parade routes, whether that be fire trucks, buses, dump trucks. Whatever it takes to be able to put a barrier between a possible vehicle entering large gatherings of people.”

ULPD is also implementing a similar measure at Cajun Field, which they have always been doing for football games as well. Sergeant Lance Frederick, also a public information officer with ULPD, shared that there are always vehicles parked where spectators go to walk into Cajun Field, which prevents other vehicles from passing through. He said, “It’s purposeful to be able to allow people to walk through but not enough a vehicle to pass.”

Under the jurisdiction of the ULPD, the festival at Cajun Field, “Le Festival de Mardi Gras à Lafayette,” will see heightened security measures as well. Louviere shared, “First off, we have a large number of law enforcement officers that work to not only give that visual representation of safety and security.”

According to Louviere, ULPD has also reached out to other agencies involved in the area to request for more manpower. Louviere said, “We’ve actually reached out to two sheriff’s offices, one being Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s office and St. Martin Parish Sheriff’s office to be able to help us in manning the amount of positions we need to cover.”

Besides the heavy presence of law enforcement officers, ULPD will also put fencing up around the festival grounds. Louviere said, “What that does is that helps protect from just anybody walking into the festival grounds. And we’re able to put key entry and exit points where officers man that position and also help

prevent any weapons from entering.”

There will also be heavy staffing so that any problematic situations can be resolved quickly and that any potential risks will be mitigated efficiently. Other technologies that will be used include metal detectors, surveillance cameras and a surveillance trailer with a microphone that allows for announcements to be made in the case of an emergency evacuation.

With regards to risk management, Louviere said, “We do threat assessments and risk mitigation, and we use risk mitigation strategies to be able to determine what is needed and what potential risks there are involved, and we try to limit the amount of risk.”

Besides the security measures that are implemented by ULPD and the Lafayette PD, ULPD also advised students and parade goers to be responsible for their own safety and to stay aware of how to maintain caution and vigilance at all times. Louviere commented, “No matter how hard we try to be able to make the most safe environment, there are still ways that things can happen. So while we want them, everyone that is attending this event to have a great time, we want to ensure that they have the best time by giving these safety tips.”

Students should travel in groups to and from parking spots and to be

aware of their surroundings. In the case where the group is separated, plans should be made to meet up. Belongings should be kept in the trunk of vehicles, or anywhere that is not in plain sight. Valuables, including identification cards, keys and cash, should be kept in front pockets and any bulky purses or expensive jewelry should be refrained.

Students are also advised to have a ride sharing application downloaded beforehand with all information entered in the event that they need a ride back. Students should also always keep someone informed of their whereabouts. The legal drinking age being 21 should always be kept in mind, and students are advised to drink responsibly and safely.

With unpredictable weather lately, students should also check the weather forecast frequently and dress accordingly. Attempt to stay in well-lit areas and avoid dark and quiet streets and alleys, and to find the nearest law enforcement officer if separated from friends.

Lastly, ULPD highly encourages students to download the UL Shield application to report any emergencies and to receive emergency notifications. The benefit of the app is that it works anywhere, so students are able to receive real-time notifications in the situation where there is a dangerous area to be avoided.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

## Housing: Students voice concerns

**Kayla Woods-Crane**  
NEWS WRITER

Being able to live on campus during college can make a big difference in a student’s experience. On-campus living gives students the opportunity to create their own small community while also having easier access to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s campus, even after classes are over.

Though the benefits of living on campus are enough to define a college experience, a negative experience with on-campus housing has the possibility of ruining an otherwise good experience.

When asked about their housing experience, most students did not have many concerns. Raheem Harris, a junior majoring in business, currently lives in The Heritage Apartments and has had no issues with housing. For him, everything has been a relatively relaxed process. When a student did have something to say, maintenance was cited as a main concern. Alexandria Scott, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice, is a resident assistant, or RA, and has to answer the duty phone and help her

residents respond to issues. To her, one of the biggest issues are maintenance requests not being completed, requiring students to keep calling about them.

“Because we have so many residents with so many problems, some things are... deemed as emergency, and then some things aren’t,” Scott said. “So... if a resident calls at a certain time, they wouldn’t get something fixed, because it’s not technically an emergency.”

Scott Hebert, the director of Facility Management for the University, confirmed the process of receiving a work order Alexandria Scott described. Hebert said when a student places a work order, maintenance aims to go and look at the issue within 24 hours to decide the severity level of the order.

“Once the technicians go in and make an assessment of what’s going on, they will come back and prioritize which work orders need to be addressed first, if it can be addressed right then and there, they’ll do it,” Hebert said. “If not, they’ll come back, reorganize it, prioritize it, order any parts they need to have [...] to get it addressed.”

This year, for the month of January, Hebert said there were 2,572 open work

orders for maintenance to address for the whole university, and 2,124 are housing related. Of the 2,124, they were able to complete 862 of the orders, leaving 1,262 orders left over from January. To address the large amount of housing requests there is a maintenance team just for housing issues. The team has people from a specific trade, like plumbing or carpentry, on one team dedicated to tackle housing work orders.

Another big concern some students raised was how students with housing scholarships from the University are not allowed to live in The Heritage Apartments and have very limited space in Legacy Apartments.

Noa Barras, a sophomore majoring in strategic communication, is a scholarship student who currently lives in Agnes Edwards Hall, but previously wanted to live in Legacy Apartments with her friends. “It just really stinks because, especially for scholarship students..., we clearly don’t get any priority at all, which is a huge bummer. But you know... I’m grateful to have on campus housing,” Barras said.

Similarly, Megan Moore, a sophomore majoring in architecture, wanted to

live in Legacy Park Apartments with her friends next year. Her friends have scholarships and she doesn’t, so they knew there was a strong chance they would not be able to get the apartment they wanted when applying.

Moore was disappointed to find that even though her and her friends were in a roommate group, the website would not allow her to place them in the open apartment they had seen while applying for housing. “And I do think, personally, that it’s unfair to scholarship students, but I’m sure that there’s a reason that it is the way that it is, but that doesn’t mean that I like it,” Moore said.

Barras also felt like the communication between housing and students is not always clear. In her experience, trying to communicate with housing has been very difficult at times. “I feel like nothing is communicated very well to us, and whenever we actually try to resolve issues, it usually takes a long time, or they’re just very vague about what we need to do,” Barras said.

The Office of University Housing did not respond to a request for an interview.



### Arts And Culture

#### LOST TRADITIONS

The Krewe of Roux, from traditional parade to Mardi Gras ball.  
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### Sports

#### CORNHUSKERS SHUCKED

Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns upset Nebraska Cornhuskers in Saturday’s doubleheader.  
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### Allons

#### STRESS OF LIFE

Allons writer Marie Ducote writes about dealing with stress and how to relieve it.  
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### Food Review

#### SO FRESH, SO CLEAN

Scratch Farm Kitchen, locally sourced and locally delicious.  
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# B.A.S.E. is dancing into view

**Geonna Tipton**  
NEWS WRITER

On Thursday, Feb. 20, an organization named B.A.S.E., the Black Artistic Soul Ensemble, decided to host an event free to both the public and to students and faculty at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in order to honor and celebrate Black History Month.

The event, Rooted in Black Joy, started at 7 p.m. but doors opened at 6:30 p.m. so people could have time to find a seat before the show began. It was located at McLaurin Gym next to the Student Union.

B.A.S.E. was founded in 2021 by Brittany Benjamin and Dominique



Photo by Alyus Dick  
Infinity Dance Group performs at the Rooted in Black Joy showcase Feb. 20.

Fotenot. The new president of B.A.S.E., LaMya McGee, a senior majoring in dance, spoke on how B.A.S.E. came to be. She stated, "They just wanted to have a space strictly for black dancers to feel safe and be creative without discrimination."

McGee also addressed what Rooted in Black Joy was when she commented, "This event is just like a space for black creators to have a concert that's specifically for us."

A member of B.A.S.E., Kristen Sylvester, a freshman majoring in dance, when asked about how being a part of B.A.S.E. made her feel, commented, "It definitely makes me feel like I can be a black girl and dance and still be able to do everything else other people can do. Like, it's an outlet for me to really, get my, you know, name out there."

The pamphlets that were handed out at Rooted in Black Joy explained exactly what type of event its spectators came to see. It stated, "Rooted in Black joy is the inaugural Black History Month Showcase offering a space for current students to share artistic works that honor and engage with Black culture. This year's theme, "Black Joy," celebrates the profound and collective experiences of joy within Black communities."

It continued, "An essential source of resilience, healing, and renewal. It serves as a means of restoring the body, mind and spirit in response to the ongoing trauma and systemic challenges that Black people continue to navigate. This celebration will carry forward through the efforts of B.A.S.E., the Black Artistic

Soul Ensemble, ensuring its continued impact and legacy."

Another aspect that was mentioned was the creator behind the entire event, Lydia Young-Green. Ms. Young-Green served as the director of the whole performance, making it from the ground up.

Rooted in Black Joy consisted of many unique performances. To begin the show, the president of the NAACP, Ms. Kaitlin Absent, played the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," on the saxophone. Her spotlight kicked off the event to a great start with some music to listen to.

Next, a background speech was given on the importance of Black history, followed by the first dance performance which highlighted the dancers Braedon Johnson, LaMya McGee, A'Myra Menard, Mariah Ross, Kristen Sylvester and Danisha Williams. The dancers performed choreography to the song "Glory" by Common featuring John Legend.

After the first group of talented dancers, the NPHC members stood and gave a brief intro to their sororities and fraternities that they were presidents of. Following their intros came another group of dancers as members of the Infinity Dance Group performed to the song "8 Count Girl" by MrSetteitoff.

By this point, the event was halfway done, but the talented showcases raged on. Next was a performance that featured Kristen Sylvester and her younger sister, Kari Sylvester, as they

danced to the song "Master Blaster" by Stevie Wonder. The sister duo was a beautiful sight to see. As they cleared the dance floor, the president of the NAACP stood again to give a brief introduction to what the NAACP is known for.

Second to last in the list of performances was Aubrey Becker, Jayda Becker, Kaylor Chiles, Monae Funzie, Chloe Jackson, Karson Moore, Jaycee Sion, Christian Smith, Zoe Stewart and Kari Sylvester as they danced together to "Here I Come" by Barrington Levy.

To wrap up the night the Infinity Dance Group put on a show to multiple songs which included, "One , Two Step" by Ciara, "Big Difference" by Nicki Minaj, "Put It On Da Floor" by Latto and "Cut Up" by Thug Brothers.

Rooted in Black Joy was full of entertaining surprises, beautiful choreography and talented dancers.

The event definitely has a lot to look forward to, as B.A.S.E. plans to continue to put on this event for many years to come.



## WHERE'S ALLAN?



After a long day of classes here is where I come back, after I have grabbed a snack. Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer:  
Walk Of Honor

Last week's Where's Allan winner, **Alia Sonnier**, a junior art education major, shared that she is new to South Louisiana and enjoys the traditions and community on campus, like Mardi Gras!



### 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](mailto: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.



## Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

### Feb. 23

- At 9:34 a.m., an officer was dispatched to Olivier Parking Tower in regards to a parking lot crash involving a white 2015 Ford Fusion and white 2012 Chevrolet Malibu. No injuries were reported.

### Feb. 22

- At 8:38 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Alumni Center in regards to a damaged bathroom cabinet.

### Feb. 21

- At 9:42 p.m., officers were dispatched to Coronna Hall in response to a narcotics complaint, in which 4 grams of marijuana, white rolling tray, copper-colored grinder and pipe were property involved. An arrest was made.
- At 12:50 p.m., officers were dispatched to Coronna Hall in regards to a theft of food and drinks.
- At 8:32 a.m., an officer was dispatched to Cajun Field in regards to a parking lot crash involving a white 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander and black 2021 Honda Civic.
- At 1:27 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on McKinley St. by the Student Union of a blue 2013 Nissan Altima. A plastic baggie containing 8 grams of marijuana was found. An arrest was made.

### Feb. 20

- At 2:55 p.m., a theft that occurred at the Student Union was reported and involved a metal letter.

### Feb. 19

- At 6:34 p.m., ULPD received a call about a suspicious person at Baker Hall in a black 2016 Dodge Charger.

### Feb. 17

- At 4:24 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Hilton Garden Inn by the Cajundome in regards to found property, which involved a black SIG Sauer P365 handgun and 9 mm bullets.



## Weather

Thursday 2/27	Friday 2/28	Saturday 3/1	Sunday 3/2	Monday 3/3	Tuesday 3/4	Wednesday 3/5
High: 69 F Low: 43 F	High: 70 F Low: 46 F	High: 75 F Low: 48 F	High: 76 F Low: 57 F	High: 74 F Low: 63 F	High: 75 F Low: 58 F	High: 73 F Low: 49 F

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**  
WEATHER WRITER

•New York state is under a crisis as immense lake-effect snow has buried parts of the state, collapsed roofs, and damaged buildings, leaving residents in extreme conditions.

•Louisiana temperature will see a slight increase from last week and appears to hover around the low-to-mid 70s F as we move into March.  
•Most U.S. states will see an increase in warmer temperatures as the colder temperatures die down.

## Politics

# State Surgeon General Changes Louisiana's Vaccination Policies

**Andrew Courville**

POLITICS WRITER

Louisiana Surgeon General Ralph Abraham sent a memo to its subsidiary agencies on Feb. 13, declaring an end to the promotion of mass vaccinations, according to the Associated Press news. The department will still provide vaccines.

A second letter published on the Department of Health's website stated that stopping the promotion of vaccines that don't improve public health is critical to restoring trust in science. It only mentioned the COVID-19 vaccine.

Abraham asserts that vaccine companies know "that the products pushed will benefit some and cause harm to others, but public health pushes them anyway with a one-size-fits-all, collectivist mentality whose main objective is maximal compliance."

Abraham refers to vaccine side effects. Most often, they temporarily cause muscle aches or weaken one's immune system, in rare cases cause an allergic reaction, and even more rarely a severe disability or health crisis. Injecting a vaccine is like taking a martial arts class. The vaccine is the mentor that trains the body to defend itself, most often by raising body temperature or increasing blood flow.

Religious and health objections can exempt one from a shot because most people are eligible for vaccines, thus the public is safe through herd immunity.

It should be clarified that vaccines in Louisiana are still allowed. The primary change is an end to government sponsored advertisements on social media, commercials and government websites and a decrease in government-funded research.

Hospitals and other locations can still require vaccinated employees, save any religious or health objections, according to a 2022 Louisiana Supreme Court Ruling.

As a public institution, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette currently requires documented proof of vaccination or proof of immunity as per state law. It is unclear yet whether the University policy will require changes.

There are numerous types of vaccines, all of which have a long history of research. Some vaccines like MMR or Smallpox are "live-attenuated." They are small, weakened versions of the virus, and only require a one-time shot. They offer the most risk of causing a weakened immune system, and you should be cautious of taking one if your immune system is already compromised.

Messenger RNA vaccines, like those used for COVID-19, use proteins mimicking the real virus. They take much less time to develop, but require multiple booster shots to develop full immunity. It's similar to inactivated vaccines that inject a killed version of the virus (used for flu and polio).

Pew Research Center conducted research in 2022 and 2023 showing that 88% of U.S. adults support MMR vaccination for children, although a lower 62% support the COVID-19 vaccine.

Professor Beth Rauhaus, Head of the Political Science Department, commented that other groups may "follow suit and halt their commitment to community preparedness." In the future, Rauhaus noted a potential "lack of awareness among the public

regarding the spread of diseases or illnesses in particular parishes throughout the state, or... of how to obtain recommended vaccines."

Psychology Professor Mark LaCour, who is currently doing research on vaccine hesitancy, provided a medical and societal standpoint. Getting seasonal vaccines can be "especially frustrating if you (or someone you know) receives a vaccine but still ends up with the flu (or COVID)." He notes that misleading information may appear alongside credible sources like the World Health Organization.

LaCour states that vaccines are proven safe through extensive testing and they must "undergo continuous surveillance for safety even after FDA approval." He said that this particular policy change could be a "drop in the bucket. In general, though, when more people skip vaccines, we get more hospitalizations."

Although vaccination may now become a personal choice, LaCour urges people to watch for "misleading information... from people who are very confident and sincere in their concerns but are still completely wrong." He implores getting information from verified specialists rather than media figures. Students across campus had varying degrees of support. Brenley Murry, a biology major, said the policy change is "incredibly harmful, considering vaccinations are an incredibly important blockage to prevent other students from contaminating each other... vaccinations may be less common."

Jillian Crochet, a pre-veterinary major, commented, "I don't think this really affects me, because I'm still educated about vaccines and everything. I'm still going to get vaccines."

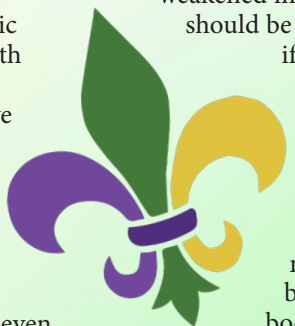
An anonymous student said it wasn't the best idea because "you have to ease that into society," rather than just a sudden change.

Computer science major Sydney Harrell, stated that "some people see it as freedom," but is really a "gross oversimplification of the situation." She said that "people don't think about how it'll affect them in the future," when in reality they don't know if they'll need an organ transplant that'll make them more susceptible to preventable diseases or contract a highly lethal virus like polio.

Notably, the Surgeon General's statement was released hours after Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a notable vaccine skeptic, and former presidential candidate, was confirmed by the Senate to be President Trump's Secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services. The policy change indicates how Louisiana intends to cooperate with the federal administration.

The vote was along party lines, with Mitch McConnell being the only Republican to vote against him. Louisiana's Bill Cassidy, initially wary of approving Kennedy, threw in his support once Kennedy agreed to allow the Senate to weigh in on the department appointments.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute of Health are all under the Department of Health.



## Health

## The conundrum around "healthy"

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**

MANAGING EDITOR

Times are moving and advancing, and with those steps towards the future, it appears people are caught up in lives that demand far more from them, reducing the opportunities to look after themselves. The words "health" and "healthy" seem to be everywhere: conversations, social media, billboards, restaurants, stores and more.

It seems that health these days is influenced, told and taught, more than it is a reflection of one's self. Going to the gym and drinking matcha and protein drinks can be steps to obtain a healthy body, but it is vital to note that "healthy" is different for everyone.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

It is quite typical to assume that if an individual fits a certain physical stereotype, then they are healthy, leading to a train of people trying to assume just that because that is what society has preconditioned.

To be healthy does not mean to have muscles, clear skin or be thin. In fact, people can be in all of those three conditions and be unhealthy, simply showing that healthiness is, just as people, diverse. It is essentially how one treats their foundation that will truly determine their health.

In physical health, there are a couple of factors to consider: daily diet and activity.

The diet stems down to MyPlate, established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which shares that each of the three meals taken daily should contain vegetables, proteins, grains, fruits and dairy.

When eating this balanced plate each day, it is important to also avoid frying, especially the protein. If one chooses to

fry, air fry is currently the best form of frying because it uses little to no oil.

Physical health would not be complete without physical activity. Being active can vary depending on each person's life and schedule and does not have to mimic what the world paints as exercise. One does not have to go to the gym to be physically fit, as daily-weekly activities like walking, bicycling, swimming and any other recreational sport can help one obtain a physically fit body.

Taking both these factors, one may assume they are the foundations of health.

Strikingly, one's mental health and one's diet and physical fitness are interdependent of each other; in other words, mental health is prominent in what determines if one is healthy.

Acquiring good mental health as university students may be difficult and frustrating at times, given the academics, jobs, relationships and many more they have to manage.

However, a dedicated time to oneself that involves their hobbies or interests can be one such way of taking care of their mental health.

Spending 30 minutes dancing, playing pickleball, painting, gardening, cooking or socializing are a few such examples. Also, note that these activities are either related to diet or physical exercise, going back to the fact that mental wellbeing is interconnected with food and physical health.

As college students, consider grocery shopping at stores that match one's budget, and cook meals at home, rather than buying food from fast food franchises daily. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette also has a free recreational sports facility at Bourgeois Hall, which includes a gym, swimming pool, courts for racket-based sports and more.

In the end, it is not what time doesn't allow, it is what time can accomplish.

## Arts and Culture

## The history of the Krewe of Roux

**Jenna Kimball**

NEWS WRITER

Krewe of Roux is now known as simply a Mardi Gras themed ball that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette hosts. In the past, however, it was also a tradition to produce a Krewe of Roux Mardi Gras parade.

The parade was a tradition for more than 30 years and was hosted by the University Program Center, along with multiple student organizations.

Each organization was tasked with choosing a duke and a maid as representatives.

The maidens and dukes each got one cake and whoever got the baby from each cake was named the king and queen.

Other king cakes and drinks were also provided for guests who came out to watch the festivities take place.

A few days later, the actual Krewe of Roux parade would take place.

Student organizations could choose to ride in floats and throw goodies while the parade traveled from the Blackham Coliseum to Johnston Street, onto St. Mary Street and ended at the alumni center on campus.

Over time, the parade changed from advisor to advisor.

Michelle Bernard, the director in the Office of University Camps and former Krewe of Roux advisor said, "The event evolved during the years I advised the student committee, and they adjusted the parade from a full, big float parade to a campus parade that was only a walking parade with wagons decorated as floats."

She continued, "It remained this way until the next advisor took over, which is when the ball was added, and the parade was dropped."

Many students claim that if UL Lafayette still had a Mardi Gras parade like the Krewe of Roux parade, they would be there every year.

When asked if he would attend

the parade if the University Program Council still hosted it, Gaines Ledet, a freshman electrical engineering major said, "I'm not too big on those kinds of events, but I mean, if I was that kind of person, maybe, considering it's kind of like the thing in this state. To be honest, why wouldn't you go?"

The old tradition of a Krewe of Roux parade was a sure-fire way to show the Louisiana Mardi Gras celebration.

Though the parade came to an end around 2015, the Krewe of Roux Ball was created in its place. The 2025 ball took place this year on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and it was an open event for all students with their student ID.

Mardi Gras is a celebration of life that Louisianians have taken part in for decades, whether it's by catching beads thrown from festive floats, finding the baby in a king cake or dancing at the Krewe of Roux ball.

Even though the Krewe of Roux parade is no longer a tradition for the students at UL Lafayette, there are loads of other parades and festivities to partake in all around the Lafayette area throughout the whole Mardi Gras season.



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## THE VERMILION

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

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## SUBMISSIONS

All letters to the editor and guest editorials must include the author's full name and phone number and be no longer than 400 words in length. Submissions are edited for libel and vulgarity only. Editorial and columns reflect the author's opinion and not those of The Vermilion staff. All advertisements must be submitted by the Friday before publication at thevermilion@louisiana.edu.

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# Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 18

## INSTRUCTIONS

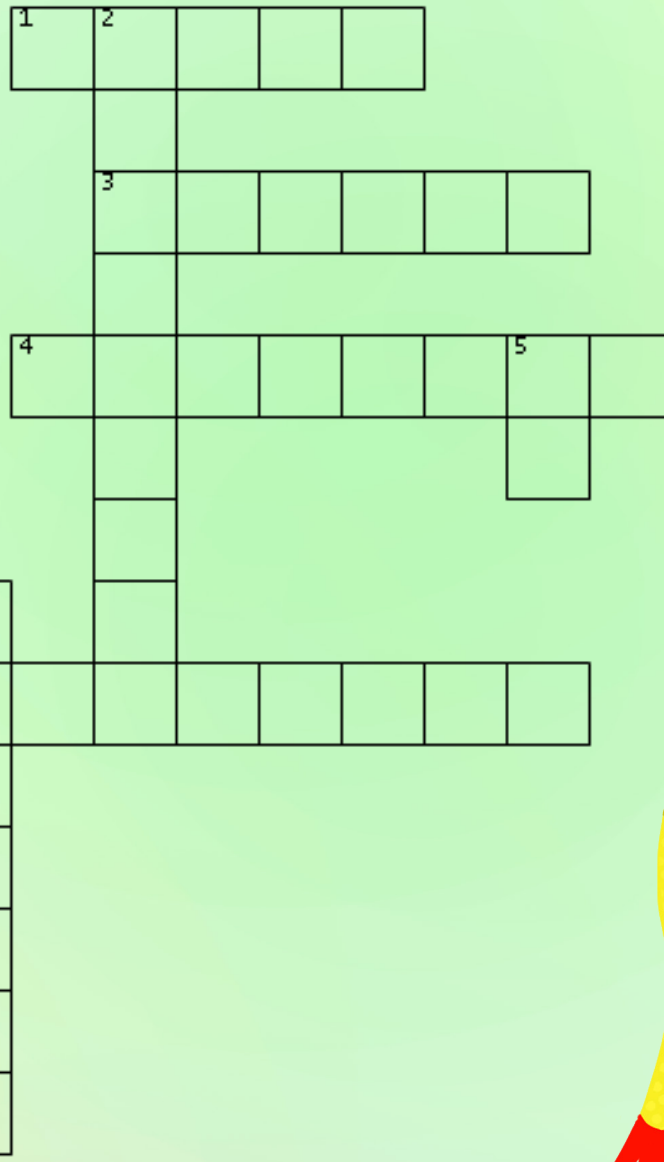
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

### ACROSS

- Who led the softball team with three hits against Houston (last name)?
- ULPD highly encourages students to download the UL \_\_ application to report any emergencies and to receive emergency notifications.
- Who pitched full game on Saturday (last name)?
- What apartment complex can't scholarship students live in?
- Rooted in \_\_ Joy was the event put on by Ms. Lydia Young-Green.

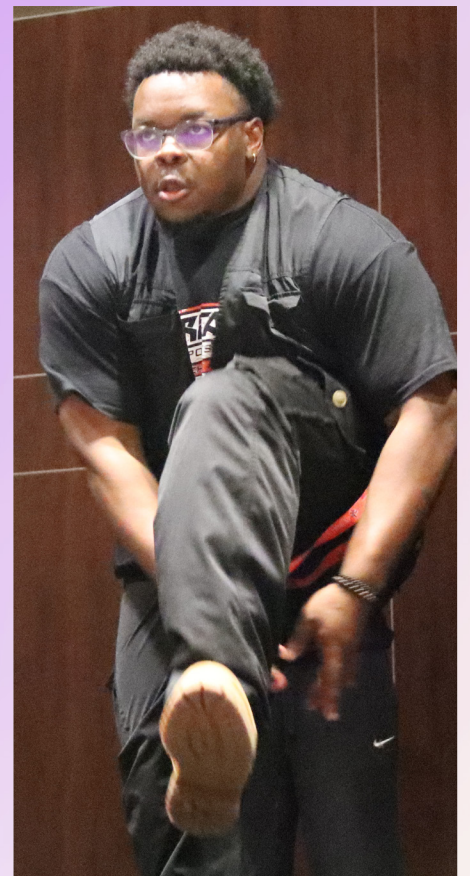
### DOWN

- The COVID-19 vaccine is a \_\_\_\_ RNA vaccine.
- Is Ja'lyn Braud a huge fan of Mardi Gras?
- Landon Fruge has never experienced a \_\_\_\_ run.



## Cajun Candids Afro Fest

Photos by Makayla Walker



# Sports



## UPSET! Cajuns route Nebraska

**Charles Martin**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite the mistakes made in the first series of the season against San Jose State, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns would already be met with one of their toughest challenges of the year, as the No. 23 Nebraska Cornhuskers came to town.

It would be a tough challenge for the Cajuns to take down the Cornhuskers, who had already beaten a top 25 team in No. 15 Vanderbilt the week before. As long as mistakes could be cut down, then it could be a competitive game.

Many mistakes were made on Friday (Feb. 21) as the Cornhuskers took game one of the series 6-1.

That scoreline is not indicative of the quality of the Cornhusker bats though, instead it is a reflection of terrible fielding. The Cajuns finished the night with four errors, all four of them leading to runs scored by the Cornhuskers.

Louisiana's fielders somehow found a way to screw up even the simplest of routine plays. This would be very apparent in the very first inning. The Cornhuskers had runners in scoring position at second and third with their four hole, Case Sanderson, up to bat.

On a 3-2 pitch Sanderson would hit



Photo by Alyus Dick

Blake McGehee(29) pitches against the Nebraska Cornhuskers Feb. 23.

into left field, the ball dropping just before Connor Higgs. Higgs would throw to third baseman Connor Cuff as a runner rounded third. Cuff dropped the catch which would have led to a run if the runner did not slip rounding third.

The bobbled catch did see Sanderson take off for second as Cuff got control of the ball. Cuff would throw toward second, but the throw was short and bounced into Lee Amedee who was unable to bring it in. That allowed the runner at third to run in for the Cornhuskers to go up 2-0.

Cuff would make another error on a routine play, snatching up a ground ball for an easy out at first but dropping the ball before he could throw. Both Amedee and Higgs would make errors of their own later in the game leading to runs.

The only good play from a fielder came at the top of the sixth when catcher Jose Torres showed off his arm with a strike to the shortstop to get a Cornhusker out on an attempted steal.

Pitching was questionable from Chase Morgan and the bullpen that followed after he was pulled at the top of the fifth.

Morgan was not on the top of his game, giving up five hits in four innings of play. He also went down having given up four runs, but only one of those was an earned run. Morgan was pitching from the stretch or was just tense in general most of the night, with his fielders doing little to help him.

He did record six strikeouts with only one walk, though it does not reflect well when looking at his pitch count. It makes sense that he was pulled after the fourth, since he threw 71 pitches in only four innings. James Trimble came on to replace Morgan, but he looked tense as well. He would be pulled after throwing 32 pitches in 1.1 innings and giving up three straight walks.

Parker Dillhoff would finish the sixth inning for the Cajuns in only three pitches before being pulled at the top of the seventh for Tate Hess. Hess did well in the seventh inning but would give up two runs in the eighth causing him to be pulled as well.

The game would be closed by a trio of pitchers Matt Gaither, Alex Rosario and Griffin Hebert. They combined in allowing no hits or runs for the rest of

the game. Offensively, the Cajuns could not get the bats going, only recording four hits and failing to advance runners once someone got on base.

The most effective batter was Amedee who went two for three at the plate. This included the Cajuns' one run which was an Amedee solo shot out of right field in the bottom of the second. Right fielder Brooks Wright also went two for three at the plate but was unable to get home.

The Cajuns would get a chance to redeem themselves on Saturday (Feb. 22) as Louisiana and Nebraska played a doubleheader, the first game starting at 1pm.

Louisiana did not take Friday's disaster to heart, or if they did, they used it to fuel their 4-1 upset over the Cornhuskers. The Cajuns did a complete 180 of the previous game, playing perfect, mistake-free baseball with excellent pitching off the mound with good production from the bats.

All of the credit goes to the Louisiana pitchers Blake McGehee and Dylan Theut, who combined to pitch all nine innings, only allowing four hits and one run to the Cornhusker batters. Not only that, but they combined for 13 strikeouts, seven from McGehee and six from Theut.

The Cornhuskers simply could not find an answer to hit off of the pair as they looked completely different from their season debuts against San Jose State the week prior. Nebraska could not even hope for a bad pitch as neither pitcher gave up a single walk the entire game, forcing the Cornhuskers to either strike out or get put out.

The pitchers did not have to worry about scoring as the Cajun batters started showing what they are capable of.

The scoring started off in the first, similar to Friday's game. Unlike Nebraska though, the Cajuns did not get their run off of bad fielding. Brooks Wright, batting first, got on base with a walk.

From there, he would steal second and advance to third with the help of Caleb Stelly. He would find home with a center field single from Lee Amedee, giving the Cajuns a 1-0 lead.

That lead would increase in the bottom of the fourth when Connor

Higgs would swing on a 2-1 pitch and send it out of right center for his first home run of the season, helping the Cajuns go up 2-0.

The last two runs for the Cajuns would come in the seventh after Higgs would hit a double down the right field line. A wild pitch would send him home and see Casey Artigues reach first despite striking out swinging.

Mark Collins would pinch run for Artigues and would get home following yet another wild pitch by Nebraska.

Nebraska's lone run would come in the ninth but would not be enough to spark a comeback from the Cornhuskers.

The two would once again meet for the second game of the doubleheader a few hours later to decide the series.

And the Cajuns kept things rolling as they swept the now tired Cornhuskers 10-2, winning the series against Nebraska 2-1.

Louisiana turned 13 hits into 10 runs, getting off to a hot start with five runs in the second inning, from there the Cajuns never let Nebraska sniff the lead as they continued to score throughout the game.

The Cajuns were also helped by three Cornhusker fielding errors and the fact that Louisiana forced them to use their bullpen, making Nebraska bring out seven pitchers throughout the entire game.

Louisiana, though, had only one man on the mound. Andrew Herrmann, the 6'3" lefty senior, pitched a complete game in his first start of the season. He refused to give up the mound throughout the game and pitched spectacularly.

Herrmann, in nine innings pitched, threw 117 pitches and only allowed five hits and two earned runs.

He also finished the game with nine strikeouts, with only one walk given up to Nebraska. The only thing to tarnish this incredible game was an error made by Herrmann.

The Cajuns finished the weekend playing excellent baseball, all the more spectacular when compared to the first game of the season.

If the team can continue to play in the form they showed Saturday then this team might be able to make some noise in summer.

## Ragin' Cajuns clutch up in an epic comeback victory against Houston

**Tavin Anthony**  
SPORTS WRITER

Louisiana softball was looking to bounce back after suffering a shutout loss to the Ole Miss Rebels at home. This past weekend, they hosted the Ragin' Cajuns Invitational II, where the Cajuns would go undefeated.

The first game was against the 9-3 Houston Cougars. The entire game was a dogfight with no team being able to fully take control.

In the first two innings, it was the Cajuns creating strong momentum. Pitcher Mallory Wheeler caught fire at the mound, not allowing a single hit.

Offensively, it was the dynamic duo of Emily Smith and Cecilia Vasquez lighting up the plate. They punched in back-to-back homers in the first to set the tone.

In the second, it was slap-hitter Kayla Falterman mustering up an RBI single to second base. After a couple series of walks, the Cajuns found themselves with bases loaded with two outs.

The energy at Lamson Park was at an all-time high at this point with a chance to go up even bigger. Unfortunately, Vasquez would get out at third base unassisted, halting the Cajuns' potential 6-0 lead.

The level of disappointment in the park was like waiting all day for a Shamrock shake at McDonald's, just for the ice cream machine to be broken. But it was too cold for that anyway. The Cajuns wanted more and wouldn't let an opportunity like that slip again.

But before that, the Cougars had to make their presence felt with a strong fourth inning bringing in five runs on five hits. Bethany Noble subbed in at

pitcher mid-way through the inning as Wheeler began to stall out.

That wouldn't stop the Cougars from securing a three-run homer to take the lead (6-3). It wasn't looking good for the Cajuns. Some fans were clearly disgruntled and worried. Kids weren't running around anymore.

An old man had his head down in a bag of popcorn for at least 20 minutes. Well no, he was probably just asleep.

But, the Cajuns were not out of this fight. The sad atmosphere quickly cleared as they responded at the bottom of the fourth. The Cajuns were at the top of the order where our best hitters continued to have a day. Falterman and Smith had consecutive singles with Vasquez cleaning it up with an RBI.

Roe tacked on another RBI bringing in Smith for a run, and Vasquez advanced home on a throwing error on the same play. The Cajuns were in need of a rebuttal, and the girls continued to make play after play at bat.

With the score tied 6-6 heading into the fifth, it was the defense that stood strong the rest of the way. It was very kind of Noble to give the Cougars that three-run homer in the fourth because it would be the last thing they celebrated for.

In the final three innings, she had five strikeouts and only allowed two hits in the sixth and seventh. The elite defense of the Cajuns paved the way for the offense to take it home in the bottom of the seventh.

Mia Liscano led off with a single to second base. Then before we knew it, after a series of walks, it was Vasquez back at bat with bases loaded and one out.

She was already having herself a day

swinging the bat, and I know Cougar fans wanted to turn the game off just seeing her step up to the plate. There are three things in life that are certain: death, taxes and Vasquez bringing one home.

She would tie the game 7-7 with her RBI, bringing in Liscano. Up to bat, with the entire world on her shoulders, it was lefty outfielder Laney Credeur. Her entire at-bat felt like five hours of nail-biting torture.

It got to a full count with the suspense at its peak. Time began to move in slow-motion for Credeur. At this moment, she completely embodied the cold, windy environment around her. The ice in her veins was on full display as the next pitch would be the final play of the game.

In the clutch, it was Credeur sending a line-drive RBI single up the middle to win the game (8-7).

The field erupted in cheer, even the old man with the popcorn was up clapping.

Our leading batters were Smith (3-4, HR, RBI), Vasquez (2-4, HR, 3 RBI) and Credeur (2-2, double, RBI).

Liscano and Falterman each had two hits making it five players with multiple hits.

Although it was a close game, we dominated at the plate with 13 total hits and no strikeouts.

The second game of the invitational was against the Kansas City Kangaroos. Due to the weather, it was shortened to six innings. The Cajuns would make easy work of the Kangaroos (9-2).

The series against Houston that was scheduled for Feb. 23 was cancelled because of the continuous rain.


Louisiana's next game will be against Rutgers on Feb. 28 at Jane B. Moore Field in Auburn, Alabama.





Photo by Alyus Dick

Mia Norwood(11), Sam Roe(18), and Kayla Falterman(29) storm Laney Credeur(15) after her game winning base-hit against the Houston Cougars Feb. 22.

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# Allons

## How do you deal with stress?

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

I think that all college students at one point or another have experienced stress. It might be from a class that you just can't catch a break in. An essay you waited to do until the night before it was due. You may have just taken a test and now are waiting anxiously for your grade back.

All of these things I have just described I have experienced at one point in my years of being in school. For as much as I enjoy learning and most of the work I am given, I have a tendency to get overwhelmed with it, especially if I have more than one assignment due on the same day. I am fortunate that I have professors that understand that we have a full workload and will give extensions with no questions asked.

When it comes to stress, I am not the best at dealing with it. I have a tendency to break down in tears when something becomes particularly overwhelming for me. For the longest time, I was a nail biter and I just recently stopped biting them. Now, this is not the first time I have stopped biting my nails. I have gone periods without biting my nails, but always seem to start biting them again.

This time though I plan on permanently breaking this habit. I have

mentioned this before, but I still live at home. When I was in high school, I thought that I was going to move out at the end of high school and go off to college out of state. Then, I turned 18 during the pandemic and I realized I was not ready to move out yet. I took a look at what the next four years would entail and saw that having that support system of my parents and extended family was crucial to me succeeding in college.

How does one deal with stress though? Honestly, I am still trying to figure that out. For example, sometimes I question if drinking too much caffeine contributes to my stress. I know myself well enough to see the patterns of what causes me to go into a spiral.

I have looked up how to deal with stress and all the advice tells me the same things. Some of the advice that pops up the most are get more sleep, exercise more (I spend half of my school day in the Griffin Hall stairwell, I get enough exercise), take a break and find a creative outlet.

I can agree that I need to take a break. Sometimes I can get wrapped up in my head with work and do not realize how exhausted I actually am. I was trying to think about if I have a creative outlet and I finally realized that my creative outlet is my job.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

It is strange to say a job is a creative outlet, but hear me out. Writing my opinion pieces is a break from the very structured essay I frequently have to produce, especially this semester because I am working on some of my first semester-long research project that I know I will both enjoy and stress out about. Having a place where I can just write about my thoughts is a great way to relieve the stress that I do feel.

Other ways that I like to relax is by rewatching an episode of a show I like. Or I might read a book and listen to music. If I am really in the mood for

music I might pick a record and play it on my turntable. When I know that I need to step away from my computer I might walk to the grocery store that is not that far from where I live. Maybe I will put on my favorite romantic comedy in the background while I work. If you would like to know what my favorite rom-com is, it is 2013's "Austenland."

Stress is a part of life that, at the end of the day, I just have to deal with.

I have to make the effort to stop myself when I feel too tired or when I know stepping away from it will benefit me in the long run.

## Growing up without Mardi Gras

Ja'lyn Braud

ALLONS ASSISTANT EDITOR

If you do not know anything about Louisiana, the one thing you must know is that we take Mardi Gras very seriously. It is the absolute biggest holiday celebrated here and pretty much every single person takes part in it, except for me.

All my life I grew up only being able to watch the parades on TV and forced to listen to the stories of Mardi Gras but never able to take part in them myself. The other kids would show off their beads and trinkets while proudly exclaiming about the types of floats they saw, and all I could relate to was the slice of king cake I had.

Every year I was filled with more and more anticipation, awaiting the day my family would take me to a parade. However, that day never came.

I will not lie, it honestly sucked not being able to celebrate this holiday. It is such a huge thing celebrated in Louisiana, which caused a part of me to always feel left out. My mom never really had a real reason for not letting me participate. Mainly just, "Because I said so." And so, that answer had to be enough for me.

I will say that I managed the majority of the years, becoming comfortable with the fact that I was never going to be allowed to participate. However, once hitting highschool, this feeling of comfortability quickly left. The older I got, the harder it actually became for me to be okay with this notion.

During my junior year of highschool, all my friends had planned to get together, drive out to New Orleans and go to one of the parades held there. Yet, even at the age of 16, I still could not convince my mom to allow me to go.

Granted, as time has progressed, parades have gotten crazier. Nonetheless, parents were going to be present, and we swore that we would not leave their sight. We had it all planned out, but the attempt was deemed unsuccessful.

Even though I could not go, my friends still went anyway. Which I must say, I do not blame them; I never once would have expected them to give up their fun under the inconvenience of my situation.

Nonetheless, it was hard to just sit back and watch, forced to see their fun on every social media platform and never once being able to enjoy it for myself. Missing this time with them had really just felt like a huge slap in the face.

By being isolated from such a big holiday, loneliness easily took hold of me. Specifically during this time, every year. Everyone I knew was celebrating Mardi Gras, and the feeling of just watching on the sidelines was absolutely miserable.

To be stuck at home everyday during the Mardi Gras break, sitting and wondering what it would be like if I could see a parade for once, well, that was just a fantasy. A very distant fantasy. To just experience Mardi Gras as a whole would, honestly, be a dream come true for me.

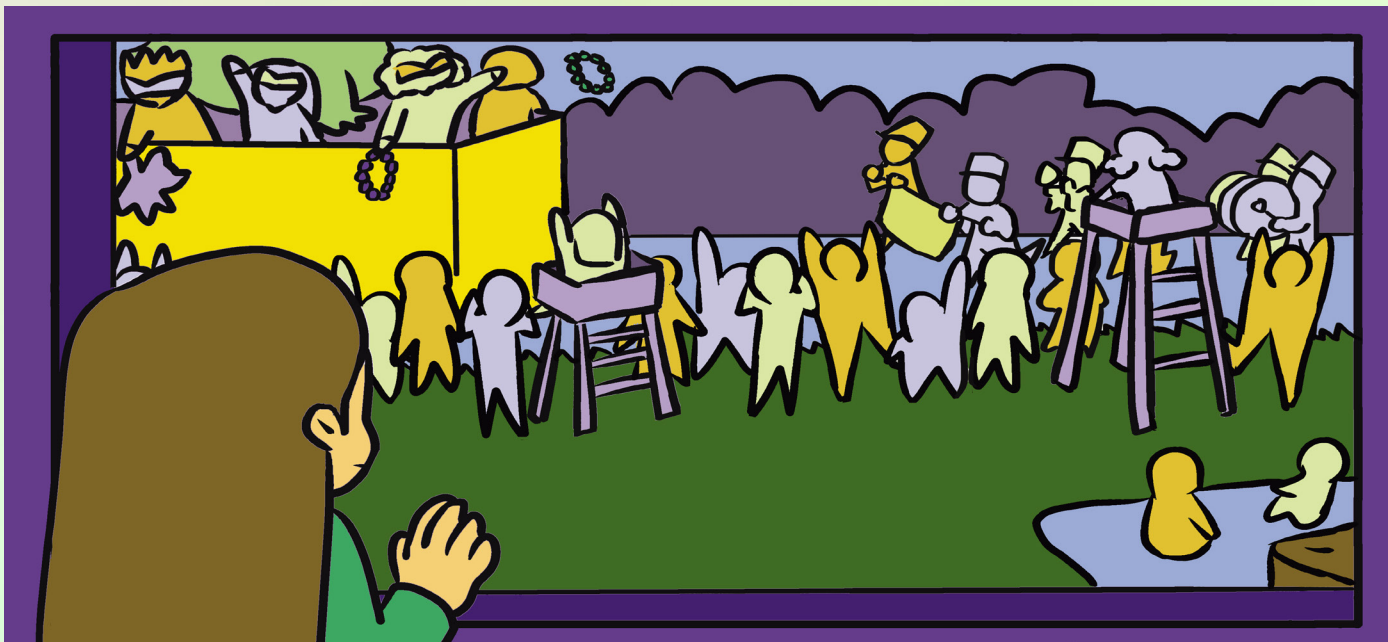
As someone who has lived in Louisiana their whole life, a part of me felt like I was being stripped from my identity. It is hard to explain to some, but Mardi Gras is such a big piece of Louisiana's culture, my culture. It is more than just a random celebration but a tradition that has become a way of life for many of us here in Louisiana.

The joy and community that it brings is unreachable. To not be able to celebrate this, makes me feel like I cannot acknowledge all of myself. It provides such a fun opportunity to spend genuine and valuable time with the people I love. In all wholeheartedness, by being refused the right to partake in this celebration, it created a void, and some disdain towards me towards it.

Over the years, I found myself quickly gaining resentment towards Mardi Gras. I took those feelings of isolation and turned them against the holiday itself. Now, unfortunately, I still feel this way. Maybe not as strongly though. I have grown enough as a person to not feel physical anger towards a holiday but I am still not the strongest fan of Mardi Gras.

When you go so long without taking part in a celebration, it's hard to find love for it. So in all honesty, I simply do not care for Mardi Gras. Which really sucks for how big a role it plays in my culture.

However with all these opinions within me, part of me still wishes for the opportunity to attend a parade. At least once in my lifetime. And then, maybe, I can finally be able to participate in this wonderful Louisiana experience.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell



# Beaucoup



## Rio Parada

The Beaucoup section celebrates Mardi Gras by attending Rio Parada. Below are their thoughts.



Photos by Ramudhi Kariyawasam and Kay Padilla



### Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Rio Parada was my first time going to a Mardi Gras parade in Lafayette since I was 12, and it was eventful. While the cold and rain did not stop me from catching all possible beads, every moment was thrilling. I have never experienced a parade like this in my hometown, so I was pleased to see all of the large, vibrantly colored floats.

The parade started with police motorcycles sweeping the streets, followed by a marching band and

dancers. Then, the floats arrived. The parade theme was apparent through the floats, which nodded to their Brazilian theme. I enjoyed seeing the rich colors on the floats and catching anything imaginable.

I caught this stuffed animal that I was rather proud of: a bright pink flamingo that is now sitting on my desk as I write this. While protecting the flamingo from the rain with all my might, I also caught a few beads, cups, and even glasses that lit up. Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Rio Parada and hope to attend next year.

### Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

Wow! This year's Rio parade was a cold and wet one. I was surprised at the amount of rain that was coming down as we were trying to catch beads. We started off our parade journey by getting some food at Izzo's and escaping the cold for a bit. The food was reasonably priced and very good.

Then, we were off waiting for the parade to start. Excitement built up in us as we heard the police sirens and now

the parade has begun. All the floats had music and people throwing beads, stuffed animals, glasses that light up and many more.

Compared to last year, there were not as many people out. Which makes sense because the rain was freezing. I would rather be cold with no rain, than cold with rain.

I was wrapped in my raincoat and sweater and I was still freezing.

My favorite part of the parade was being with my friends and having a great time.

### Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS EDITOR

Once again, the Rio parade did not disappoint. The weather, on the other hand, left me in a consistent state of discomfort and frigidness. It was raining cats and dogs outside in the midst of it being around 47 degrees. I, being anemic, did not enjoy being out in the cold one bit. At one point, I even believed that I

was going into hypothermic shock.

Still, I had an amazing time with my coworkers. Rain or shine, we came together and celebrated Mardi Gras with cute outfits, and even face glitter! I ended up catching some cool trinkets and beads, which is always a plus. Although it took me a long time to defrost, I wouldn't change a thing about my experience. Even literal rain couldn't rain on our parade!

### Kay Padilla

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This is my second time ever attending the Rio parade. I am used to the big, loud and long Houma parades, so Rio became one of my favorites due to its calm and short route! I can enjoy the parade, catch a few beads and spend time with my friends.

This year was a little different due to the cold and the rain, but the rain never

stops me. We walked across the rails to get some burritos to eat while waiting for the parade to start. While the wind wanted to take my umbrella away, I clung onto it with all my might.

Once the parade started, I forgot I was cold and that my socks were wet. I was able to catch a few beads, a turtle stuffie, light-up sunglasses and a light-up sword. I cheered extra loud for the dancers and the bands that were performing in the rain.

## Food Review

# Lafayette's Scratch Farm Kitchen delivers big on freshness & flavor

### Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 2918 Johnston St., Scratch Farm Kitchen is a local restaurant that specializes in farm-fresh dishes. All of their ingredients are locally sourced from farmers.

Lafayette locals enjoy the restaurant's comfortable and laid-back atmosphere and commitment to being environmentally friendly.

The restaurant serves various breakfast/lunch dishes and drinks, including breakfast plates, wraps, bowls, burgers, salads, soups, teas and lemonades.

Scratch Farm Kitchen started out as a food truck in Moncus Park. With the help of her former partner, Kelsey Leger, and owner Jamie Harson, Harson brought her farm-to-table cuisine to people's plates by drawing on her expertise at her family farm in Duson, LA. After growing in popularity, the restaurant soon moved to the Winnwood Shopping Center on Johnston St. in 2023.

The atmosphere of the restaurant was comforting. Walking in, you are greeted with a beautiful mural on the wall that was painted by a University of Louisiana at Lafayette alumni and an array of plants and ambient lighting.

The ceilings caught my eye; they had bags of vegetables and fruits hanging to

display their farm-based business.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this restaurant on Thursday, Feb. 20. As we walked in, we were prompted to order at the front before sitting down. While waiting in line, we looked at some items they sold: plants, earrings, farm-based food, drinks and stained-glass art.

We decided to look at the food and drink menu as we finished looking at the items. I was astonished to see the number of different teas and lemonades that they sold: lavender lemonade, ginger lemonade, chai iced tea and hibiscus iced tea, to name a few.

The menu contained various healthy options such as a veggie burger, comfort bowl, homemade salads, breakfast/lunch wraps and many more.

I got the sweet black tea with chicken salad toast and some hash potatoes while my colleague ordered the lavender lemonade with the breakfast burrito. For her burrito proteins, she chose chicken and mushrooms.

After we ordered, we sat down at our table. While sitting, I decided to take a deeper look at the restaurant.

Their bar was the center of the place, with surrounding tables. String lights covered the walls, and the air smelled like fresh flowers and good food.

Our drinks came out within five minutes. My tea was perfectly sweet and

brewed, while my colleagues' lemonade was vibrantly purple. According to her, the lavender in the lemonade was not too overwhelming and complimented the sweetness of the lemons well.

Our meals came out within 20 minutes of ordering. I was very surprised to see both of our plates, they were so colorful. The vegetables and fruits were clearly fresh on both of our meals, and their presentation was impeccable.

Taking a bite of my salad was heavenly. I can personally say that I have never tasted anything more fresh. With the salad containing lettuce, chicken salad, feta cheese, tomatoes, fruit, slaw and dressing, my tastebuds were overwhelmed with flavor and excitement.

My colleagues' breakfast burrito was equally as impressive. We certainly did not expect it to be very large, but it indeed was. The burrito contained two farm-fresh eggs, hash potatoes, chicken, mushrooms, sauce and cheese. The eggs were not too runny and perfectly cooked.

After we finished our meals, I decided to interview the senior line cook, Anthony Burley, a junior at the University.

When asked about his overall experience, "It's a very refreshing, actually, compared to the lot of the other restaurants I've worked at. So, basically, like, the entire process of acquiring

ingredients is drastically different than any other experience you would have working in a restaurant..."

"You know rather than getting a semi-truck full of boxes in the morning, there's like old men with their grandchildren coming in with bags and crates of, like, dirty vegetables and stuff..."

When asked about his favorite aspect of the restaurant he stated, "I would say our direct investment back into the community is really good, just because, like I said, we directly buy goods from people that are basically selling the land that we live on..."

Burley also recommended this place as a workplace for college students. "Actually, most of us over here are students... we're very flexible in most regards, so long as you have something to bring to the table."

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Scratch Farm Kitchen.

The meals were highly priced, but for the amount of food you get and the quality of the food, it was well worth it. The staff was wonderful, I enjoyed learning about the restaurant.

If you would like to visit the restaurant, it is open Tuesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and closed on Sunday and Monday.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt

From left to right: Lavender lemonade, breakfast burrito and sweet black tea.

# SOUNDING OFF



**"What is the best parade in Louisiana?"**



**Caleb Saboy**  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SOPHOMORE

*"It's gotta be the Rio parade, it's probably the most fun and has the best music, and then it is at night so it makes it even better."*



**Tamia Green**  
SOCIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

*"I'm going to say Endymion. I feel like it is one of the biggest parades, and you are entertained the entire parade; they actually throw stuff the entire time."*



**Liz Hartzell**  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT JUNIOR

*"I think it's the King's Parade. That's one of my favorite ones but that's just because I like to go on the rides."*



**Taylor Auzout**  
PSYCHOLOGY FRESHMAN

*"The best parade in Louisiana in my opinion is Endymion back in New Orleans, because it is very big, very bright colors, and has a lot of different bands."*



**Brynn Brasseux**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SOPHOMORE

*"The Rio parade is the best because of the atmosphere and everytime I go, I always run into someone I know and it ends up being super"*



**Lanie Broussard**  
MARKETING SOPHOMORE

*"The Iris parade in New Orleans because everything is bigger and better, and the throws are better, and I just love the production and the costumes."*

*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

# DIY Mardi Gras



Comic by Lauren Gerald

