

# THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper February 6, 2025

## Brand new dishwasher in Cypress Lake Dining Room to be installed this month

Joann Seow  
NEWS WRITER

Paper plates, plastic utensils and plastic cups have become the norm in Cypress Lake Dining Room since the Fall 2024 semester. With the dishwasher being in the works of getting replaced for a longer than desired time, students have had to adapt to using disposable cutlery and tableware for all meals at the dining room.

Patrick Mould, the director of Retail Food and Beverage Services, spoke on getting the dishwasher replaced and the challenges faced in the process.

Mould stated, "The dishwasher's been ordered, and we're expecting it to be somewhere around the end of February when it will be installed and ready to go."

In the previous semester, when the dishwasher continuously failed to operate, the dining room hoped to get it replaced before the Spring 2025 semester began.

"We were hoping that we were gonna be able to accomplish it over the break, but it just didn't happen," said Mould.

Mould shared that the current dishwasher had been around since

the time when the Student Union was rebuilt in the spring of 2015. With its age, it is inevitable that the dishwasher has had to undergo multiple repair and maintenance works.

The increasing volume of students contributed to the pressing conditions of the dishwasher, as it is simply unable to accommodate the influx of dishes that need to be washed. Hence, it had to be replaced by a bigger and better dishwasher, one that would be able to better accommodate large volumes.

Furthermore, the costs of purchasing disposable cutlery and tableware became another pressing issue that pushed for a new dishwasher to be installed as quickly as possible.

Mould said, "Having to purchase all these disposables has been costing a lot of money as well so that's another reason why we want to get the dishwasher back up and running, to avoid the cost associated with having to purchase the disposable."

Unfortunately, due to challenges in the process of finding a suitable dishwasher, the situation remained stagnant for an extended period of time.

One of the biggest challenges faced was identifying a dishwasher that would



Photo by Alyus Dick

Paper plates used for burgers in the Cypress Lake Dining Hall.

be able to handle the large volume of students who patronize the dining room daily.

"It was a process of trying to identify the right dishwasher, we didn't want to order one and it not be able to accommodate the need," Mould explained.

He added, "Unfortunately trying to identify the right dishwasher, get it ordered, get it shipped, just took us a little longer than expected."

After a tedious process of trying to find a suitable dishwasher, "The dishwasher has been ordered, it is being shipped," Mould said.

When asked about his opinion on the current situation in the dining room with disposable cutlery and tableware, Mould said, "Ideally the disposables aren't the way to go, I mean we want to serve people on plates and real glasses."

"Hopefully students wouldn't have to put up with it much longer," he added.

Leigha Russ, a senior political science major, shared, "I feel that the plates and utensils they have now, although aesthetically not appealing as the former ones we've had, are way more sanitary and clean."

Russ continued, "I believe that if we

paid for the 'real dining experience,' then we should be able to receive it."

Aaliyah Arvie is a sophomore majoring in speech pathology. She shared, "I would say the pro with using disposables is that they don't have to worry about doing the dishes, we can just throw it away."

While there have been a few advantages with the usage of disposable cutlery and tableware, a big concern with disposables is the amount of waste generated on a daily basis.

Arvie shared such a thought, she said, "The con is some things may not be disposed easily so it might take it a long time to throw away."

Students have also reported facing issues with the plastic cups being too small, the plastic cutlery being too weak and the paper plates being too flimsy.

Hopefully, once the new dishwasher arrives, the Cypress Lake Dining Room will see massive improvements in the quality of their dishware and the overall dining experience.

Mould expressed, "We just appreciate the students being understanding about the situation and we've been working very hard to get it resolved as quickly as possible."



Photo by Alyus Dick

Plastic cups in the Cypress Lake Dining Hall.

## SGA gets confirmation for a proposal to extend the registration for classes

Kayla Woods-Crane  
NEWS WRITER

The Student Government Association's (SGA) proposal to lengthen the registration time period and withdrawal period has been approved and will go into effect in the Fall 2025 semester.

The proposal extends the drop/add date for classes at the beginning of a semester from five days to eight days. The proposal will also extend the deadline to drop a class with a "W" or withdraw, by 1 1/2 to two weeks, but those numbers are not official yet.

Cade Roy, president of SGA, ran on this policy point last spring during the election. He was very passionate about this policy and knew he wanted to do the work to get it done. "This was something that I felt students would greatly benefit from, being able to make a better decision about what classes they want to stay in for the semester. I mean, they're paying thousands of dollars for it," Roy said.

If a student drops a class within the time allotted for it, the student will be reimbursed.

If a student drops and replaces a class within the time allotted, then their payment evens out.

Dropping a class after the drop/add date has passed means the student will not be reimbursed for the class.

For Roy, making sure students could firmly decide if they wanted to stay in those classes before paying for them was

very important. Roy said, "It was trying to just solve making sure students get into a core schedule they could manage for the rest of the semester before they have to pay for those classes. If you drop/add in that period, you will get reimbursed."

Roy heard a lot of student complaints about not knowing whether to withdraw from a class because they didn't have all their grades yet.

He believed extending the withdrawal date was the best solution so students could have more information to decide without altering professors' operations within their classes.

"You can't really make the best decision possible to stay in that class or not, withdraw or not. So if they get just a little extra breathing room and a week and a half and two weeks just ended up being the most we could get."

Stefon Clay, a freshman majoring in business administration, explained how he ended up with a "W" because he dropped a class too late. He wanted to get a feel for the class so by the time he decided to drop it, the date had passed. Clay said, "I feel like that would be a good proposal because it would give us more time to see if we like the class or not, and then we could drop it without it going towards our transcript."

Marlon Turner, a freshman majoring in business marketing, also missed the deadline to drop a class. "I wanted to drop a class, but I ran out of time. By the time I had the opportunity to drop I lost the opportunity to drop it. I found out

my teacher was not a good teacher [...] it was too late," Turner said.

Anya Hansens, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice, explained why she thought the proposal was a good idea.

"I think the proposal is a good idea because during the first few weeks of school, we're not focused on adding or dropping, we're focused on if we can get through the classes first. [...] We don't even get a chance to start classes before we have to decide if we want to drop them or not. I think it would be better to have extra days."

Roy explained compromise with the administration was helpful in making SGA's proposal a part of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. "What we accomplished here with the drop date extensions, it wasn't everything we

wanted, obviously, so you have to come towards some sort of middle ground, but it's still a win," Roy said.

Next fall, SGA will also be launching a syllabus bank through the Edith Garland Dupré Library. This database will catalog every course syllabi from previous semesters so students can see what a class entails or how a professor teaches before deciding to register for the class.

This semester the library will do a trial run of the database, giving professors the choice to opt in or not.

Roy hopes the database one day becomes the University's policy. Roy said, "If you could take that stress off students for classes to drop or add a class or see the syllabi, then I feel like I did my job."



Graphic by Lauren Gerald

### Health

#### NEW BIRD FLU MAKES GAINS

The avian influenza A (H5N1) has led to a new bird flu that is now affecting more than just farm animals.

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### Candids

#### ABORTION HORN-HONKING PROTEST

On Jan. 30 where The American TFP protested against abortion and students from the University formed a counterprotest in response.

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### Sports

#### THE COURTS HAVE GROWN COLD

The Cajuns lose yet another basketball game on the courts, allowing the South Alabama Jaguars to take home the win.

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### Allons

#### RELATIONSHIPS ARE A STATE OF MIND

Allons editor, Nyria Mustiful, analyzes the connection between attachment styles and relationships.

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# Louisiana among few states to improve in math and reading

**Geonna Tipton**  
NEWS WRITER

Students in Louisiana have been improving in the classroom since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every two years, the National Assessment of Educational Progress evaluates grade levels throughout America, and last year, in 2024, eighth grade and fourth grade students were tested on math and reading.

The scores were released early January and not many were pleased with the results. On average the test scores in most states were lower than their previous scores pre-COVID-19 that

were evaluated in 2019. This led people to wonder what led to that drop in academic achievement.

Ty'Anna Dupree, a freshman majoring in criminal justice, commented, "After Covid, it seems like a lot of people stopped caring about the education of children and most teachers don't actually educate anymore."

Many aspects could have contributed to the present day lower test scores. When COVID-19 hit, it forced everyone indoors and many students were forced into online classrooms. Making that transition from online to in-person after the COVID-19 pandemic affected many students and teachers alike.

However, Louisiana was one of the few states that has witnessed scores that are above their pre-COVID-19 counterparts in certain grade levels. For fourth grade math, the score was raised by four points in comparison even though it was two points lower than the national average.

For fourth grade reading, the score was six points higher than pre-COVID-19 results and two points higher than the national average.

Even though there were no significant changes in the numbers, there were still major improvements. Louisiana's fourth graders jumped 26 spots in the national rankings, placing them in 16th place nationwide.

Their scores have shown the nation how much they've grown in the academic field.

When taking into consideration that the majority of states have not reached the point where their test scores are higher than their pre-COVID-19 results, Louisiana reaching that goal is a huge accomplishment.

Not all of Louisiana's scores were up to par though. For eighth grade students, results in math are lower by five points in comparison to 2019 scores and the current national average.

On the other hand, eighth grade scores in reading have remained the same over the years, with the national average being the only variable changing.

In the past, Louisiana has made changes to their early education systems. For instance, when they installed their first ever K-2 accountability plan, which evaluates school's performances of their youngest students, and the third grade retention bill, which allows students to

be held back if they are not able to read at grade level by third grade.

Those changes could have contributed to this success in fourth grade scores, but there are not any changes being made for the older students which could have contributed to the continued decreased score for eighth graders in math.

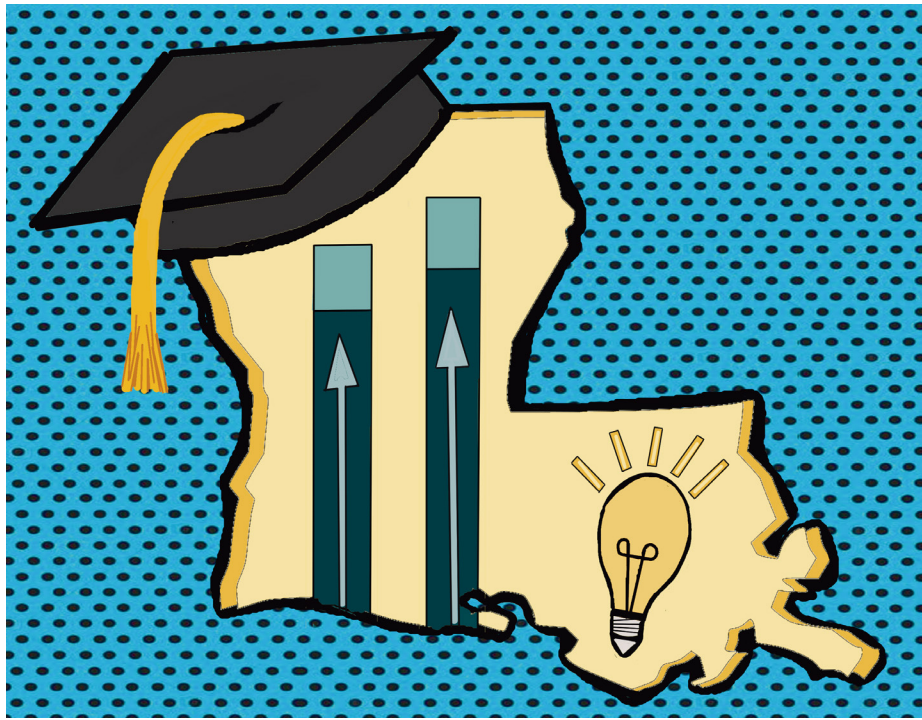
If there are laws being passed to ensure the success of younger students then there should be some to ensure the success of older ones.

Portia Davis, a junior majoring in speech pathology, commented, "I feel like there should be laws to help eighth graders excel academically because they are about to enter high school and they need to be ready for that educational shift. So if they have changes to help fourth graders then they should have changes to help eighth graders as well."

There could be other leading factors that contributed to lower scores for eighth graders. Dupree stated, "I feel like the eighth graders now are more exposed to a lot more than eighth graders were in 2019. Now they have chat GPT, TikTok, and social media and they see all of this stuff that eighth graders in 2019 probably didn't see. I feel like technology, politics and the government plays a part in the education system for eighth graders in 2025 versus 2019."

Louisiana is definitely proud of its academic performance at the fourth grade level since it does take time and active effort to boost test scores statewide.

So the laws that have been implemented have been proven to be successful.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

## Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

### Jan. 31

- At 5:46 p.m., a black bicycle with lime green letters was stolen from the rack in front of Agnes Edwards Hall. A suspect was identified and a warrant for his arrest was requested.

### Jan. 30

- At 5:55 p.m., officers received a walk in complaint in regards to a hit-and-run that occurred at Olivier Parking Tower involving a gray 2024 Honda Civic and gray 2021 Jeep Renegade.
- At 4:06 p.m., officers responded to a hit-and-run that occurred at Olivier Parking Tower involving a silver 2020 Volvo XC90 and bronze 2017 Kia Soul.
- At 11:27 a.m., officers observed and responded to a theft in progress involving a white, "HONK AGAINST ABORTION" sign during a protest outside of Dupré Library.
- At 12:25 a.m., officers were dispatched to a subject operating a gray 2010 Volvo while intoxicated on Fraternity Row. An arrest was made by the Lafayette Police Department.

### Jan. 29

- At 8:33 p.m., officers were notified of a stolen black Nike backpack from the Agnes Edwards Food Court, which contained an HP laptop and black JBL earbuds and case.
- At 12:26 a.m., officers were dispatched to Harris Hall in regards to a damaged property complaint involving a damaged drywall.

### Jan. 28

- At 6:04 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Bonin Hall in regards to a silver 2019 Honda Civic whose rear quarter panel was damaged.








### Jan. 27

- At 1:20 p.m., a physical altercation occurred at Coronna Hall.
- At 12:00 p.m., officers responded to a damaged property reference at the rear parking lot area at the Cajundome and Convention Center, where white double doors and metal hinges on a shed had been damaged.

### Jan. 26

- At 12:07 a.m., a traffic stop was conducted on E. Lewis Street of a silver 1999 Dodge where 1 gram of Marijuana, wooden box with drug paraphernalia and glass smoking bong was found. An arrest was made.

## Weather

Thursday 2/6	Friday 2/7	Saturday 2/8	Sunday 2/9	Monday 2/10	Tuesday 2/11	Wednesday 2/12
						
High: 82 F Low: 65 F	High: 79 F Low: 65 F	High: 82 F Low: 64 F	High: 77 F Low: 49 F	High: 66 F Low: 50 F	High: 64 F Low: 52 F	High: 62 F Low: 52 F

**Jenna Kimball**  
WEATHER WRITER

- Around a 20% chance of rain all week with 40% chance Tuesday and Wednesday in Lafayette.
- Red tide warning has been issued in Southwest Florida.

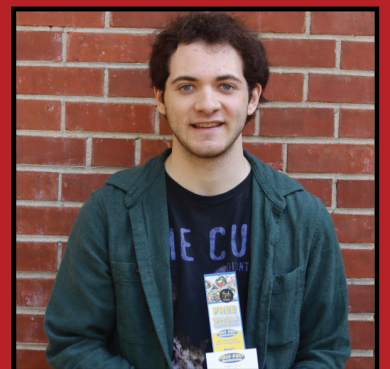
- Major rain/snow storms expected to hit the west coast throughout the week..

## WHERE'S ALLAN?



I'm struggling in my statistics class, so I went to find help. Where am I?

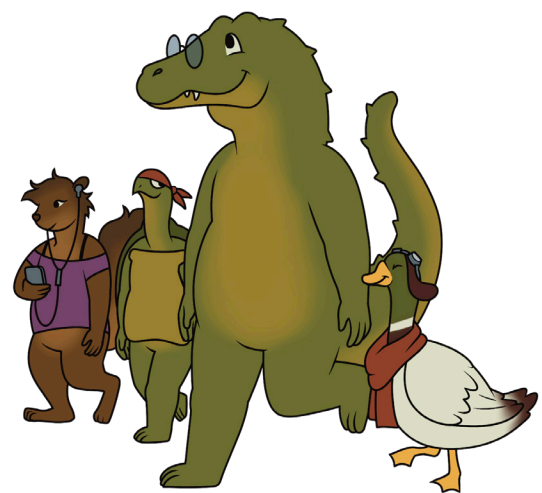
Last Issue's Answer:  
Wellness Center



Last week's Where's Allan winner, **Reese Provost**, a senior in biology, shared, "I love learning, so the research opportunities at UL have been enjoyable."

### 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.



## Politics

# Trump's new executive orders

**Andrew Courville**

POLITICS WRITER

President Donald Trump caused a frenzy in Washington D.C. by signing 26 executive orders (EO) in the 12 hours following his inauguration on Jan. 20th. This sets a new record for the number of executive orders signed by any US president on their first day in office, including Joe Biden (who signed eight).

EOs are official directives from the president that change the federal government in some manner, according to the American Bar Association. The Federal Register hosts all documents of the U.S. government.

Executive Orders often have the force of a law passed by Congress but don't require its approval. It also only applies to the federal government, so state laws can typically conflict with it. They can only be nullified by the Supreme Court declaring them unconstitutional or a sitting U.S. president signing a competing EO.

For example, Trump signed Executive Order 14162 removing the US from the Paris Climate Accords, the largest international treaty to combat the detrimental effects of climate change.

This reversed Biden's executive order which brought the U.S. back into the agreement in 2021.

Trump also declared a national energy emergency to address an alleged energy shortage. Despite the U.S. being the world's largest oil and gas producer and a net energy exporter under the Biden administration, Trump expanded this even further by leasing more federal lands to fossil fuel companies, including Alaska, and relaxing several fossil fuel regulations.

Trump has nearly upended the US foreign and immigration policy. For example, EO 14160 redefines birthright citizenship. Although it's currently being challenged in court, if it succeeds, it will remove and prevent citizenship for persons born on US soil if the mother was in the country temporarily, or if neither parent is a lawful permanent resident or citizen.

By declaring a national emergency at the Mexican border, Trump vows to secure the southern border and stop the entry of illegal immigrants, cartels and gangs into the country. For the moment, the majority of immigration at the border has slowed. The administration has already taken steps to, among other

provisions, deport individuals violating new regulations, increase the military presence on the border and reinstate the Remain in Mexico policy.

In other international repercussions, Trump has begun the formal process of withdrawing the U.S. from the World Health Organization, designated several drug and crime cartels as terrorist organizations and halted all U.S. foreign aid and the Refugee Admissions Program for review to ensure an "America first foreign policy." It is unclear when Trump will reopen the southern border and asylum processing. After pausing all federal hiring except for the military and law enforcement, Trump ended all Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs in the federal government. Another EO threatens withholding federal funding and contracts for companies and institutions like universities and K-12 schools that don't do the same.

EO 14152 reinstates a reformed version of Schedule F, permitting the president to replace more federal employees with ones fully dedicated to fulfilling the agendas of the president. The aim is to prioritize merit based hiring.

In education, the Department of Education still stands despite heavy speculation. Another EO stresses the importance of school choice and ending "anti-American ideologies" which are "deliberately blocking parental oversight" such as critical race theory and gender ideology. His change in the federal policy on transgender rights has drawn criticism and lawsuits from civil rights groups. Executive Order 14168 states the federal government recognizes only 2 genders, among other provisions, although its definition conflicts with biological definitions.

The ban on TikTok was postponed by 75 days through EO 14166, allowing TikTok more time to find a U.S. based owner or face a permanent ban on US soil.

A relatively unpopular action was pardoning 1,583 individuals involved in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. capitol in 2021. They include some peaceful protestors and others convicted of damaging federal property, threatening violence against members of Congress, seditious conspiracy and assaulting and harming law enforcement officers.

Trump said the Justice Department, which has also dropped its cases against him, was holding the Jan. 6 rioters as "political prisoners."

He unexpectedly followed through on a post election promise to rename the "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America" and "Mount Denali" in Alaska to "Mount McKinley" to "Honor American Greatness." Although a small change at first glance, it undermines the cultural importance of places like Mount Denali to the native Athabaskan tribe.

Such name changes won't have any international bearing.

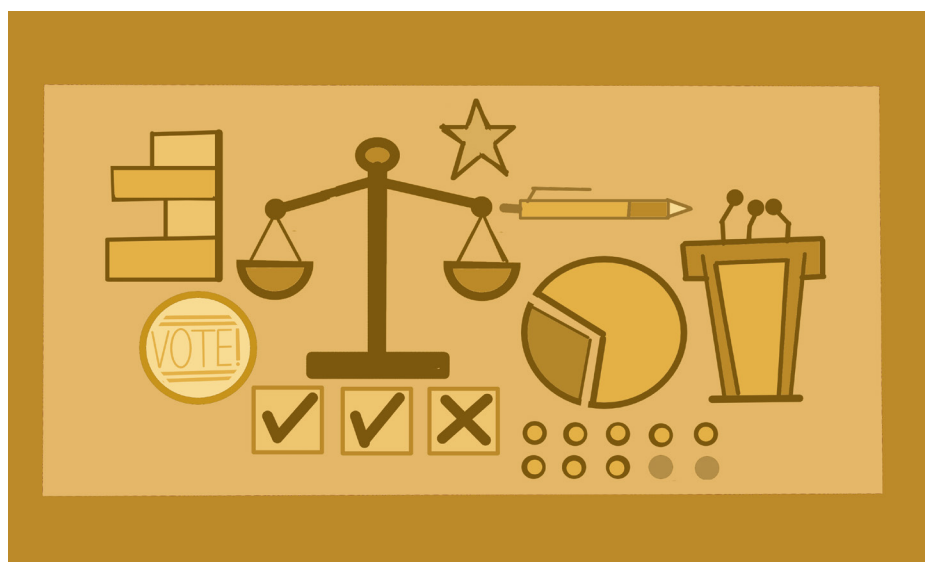
The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has been brought to life.

Tech magnate Elon Musk was originally supposed to co-lead DOGE with Vivek Ramaswamy, who has officially left the administration amongst rumors that he may run to be the Governor of Ohio in 2026. Trump hopes DOGE will supervise reducing the size of government.

Tariffs, a hallmark of Trump's campaign for lowering the cost of consumer goods, are expected to begin in February against Mexico and Canada.

Trump experienced some pushback from Republicans when he attempted to pause all federal funding programs for review. The order was quickly rescinded.

The president's mandate places the country in a wildly different place than it was on January 19th, and the America first agenda will produce fundamental changes if his initiatives pass scrutiny from the judiciary, Congress and the American people.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

## Health

## The bird flu outbreak in the U.S.

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**

MANAGING EDITOR

It is the season of "getting sick." As students are becoming comfortable with their semester at university following what seemed to be a chilly winter for Louisiana, one cannot ignore the coughs and heavy sniffles echoing through a classroom.

The common cold and flu is usually the culprit to the yearly wintery sickness, but humans are not the only ones getting sick right now.

The avian influenza A (H5N1) virus leads to the bird flu, infecting mostly birds and cows, according to the Cleveland Clinic. However, if humans consume improperly cooked infected birds' eggs or beef or work closely with infected animals in farms, then they can acquire the virus as well. The bird flu's H5N1 strain was announced "widespread" in the state of Massachusetts on Jan. 29.

Despite avian influenza being the main virus, one of its strains, H5N1, is the current frenzy in the U.S. H5 subtypes are the most regular subtypes to infect humans in the past, although it is rare.

Louisiana reported its first severe case of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus on Dec. 18, 2024, where a patient was hospitalized. On Jan. 6 this year, the Louisiana Department of Health reported the death of the patient. Although, the patient was over 65 years old and had underlying medical conditions.

On Jan. 24, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry reported a case of H5N1 in a feral domesticated cat in Plaquemines Parish. As of now, no human cases of H5N1 have been reported recently in Louisiana, but the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified 67 human cases throughout the nation so far.

Animals who contract avian influenza

virus usually do not show symptoms and can spread it to other animals around them because of mutations.

Animals that have the bird flu often die. However, it can hence be tricky to identify which animals are sick, especially when dealing with animals that humans consume, like chickens and cattle.

The CDC reports that there is an outbreak in bird flu in dairy cattle in many states in the U.S. along with sporadic, or inconsistent, outbreaks in poultry flocks. Hence, if one has noticed that eggs at local supermarkets seem a little higher than before, it may be because of the bird flu.

Standard procedure when a case of bird flu is identified at a farm follows mass slaughter of nearly the entire flock of chickens. This leads to less eggs being produced, a higher demand and hence, higher priced eggs. Despite chicken slaughter, cattle are not slaughtered if they have the bird flu, according to AP News.

Humans can contract H5N1 if they come in contact with bodily fluids, like droppings or milk, of an infected animal.

Drinking raw milk from cattle currently seems to be the way humans get sick with bird flu.

Fully cooking meat to appropriate temperatures and drinking pasteurized milk prevent humans from contracting H5N1.

Symptoms of bird flu in humans include pink eye, fever, cough, sore throat, muscle ache, nausea and vomiting, runny nose, difficulty breathing and diarrhea, although not limited to these.

If such symptoms are observed, one should see a medical professional immediately for treatment, as untreated bird flu can lead to pneumonia or, more severely, sepsis (bacteria in bloodstream), leading to infection of the brain.

## Arts and Culture

## Renowned pianist visits campus

**Jenna Kimball**

NEWS WRITER

On Monday, Feb. 10, guest pianist Antonio Di Cristofano will be performing at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus in Angelle Hall. The event will take place in the Ducrest-Gilfry Auditorium at 7 p.m. and costs \$20 for general admission, \$10 for UL Lafayette faculty and staff, and students get in completely free with their student ID.

Tickets will be available to be purchased online until 5 p.m. the day before the event, or they can be bought with cash or check at the door.

The concert is put on by the UL Lafayette School of Music, the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra and the Thistlewood Foundation.

This will be Cristofano's first time playing at UL Lafayette, and he will be performing a variety of music by romantic composers such as Chopin's Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31, Brahms' Klavierstucke, Op. 118 and Rachmaninoff's prelude in D minor, Op. 23, No. 4.

This event will be the third in the Richard Goula Distinguished Piano Series hosted by the School of Music and the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra.

According to Professor Choi, the series seeks to "...honor the legacy of Richard Goula—a distinguished geologist and geophysicist, gifted classical pianist, acclaimed painter and dedicated botanist." Goula started the Thistlewood Foundation to contribute to the arts and botany in Lafayette.

The day before the concert, Sunday, Feb. 9, Cristofano will be teaching a piano masterclass for piano students in the Angelle Hall choir room from 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

This class will be free and open for the public to join and observe.

Cristofano was taught at a conservatory in France by Maestro

Antonio Bacchelli and Maestro Massimiliano Damerini. After earning his piano diploma he went on to perform in various places all around the world.

Some of these places include Weill Hall in New York, the Isaac Stern Auditorium in Carnegie Hall, the Great Hall of the Konzerthaus in Vienna, Moscow, China and many other infamous locations.

Throughout his piano playing career, Cristofano has received the Paul Harrys Fellow Culture Award three times, along with the Grifone d'Oro from the city of Grosseto. In between recitals and performances, he has worked as a guest professor in a conservatory in China and a professor at an academy in Vienna.

Professor Choi says, "The Goula Piano Concert Series presents an invaluable opportunity to experience exceptional performances by talented pianists. I truly hope that more community members will recognize the importance of this series and make the effort to attend the concerts."

The next musician in the Richard Goula Distinguished Piano Series will be pianist Tanya Bannister collaborating with flutist Andrea Loewy on Thursday, April 24.



## THE VERMILION

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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. 15

## INSTRUCTIONS

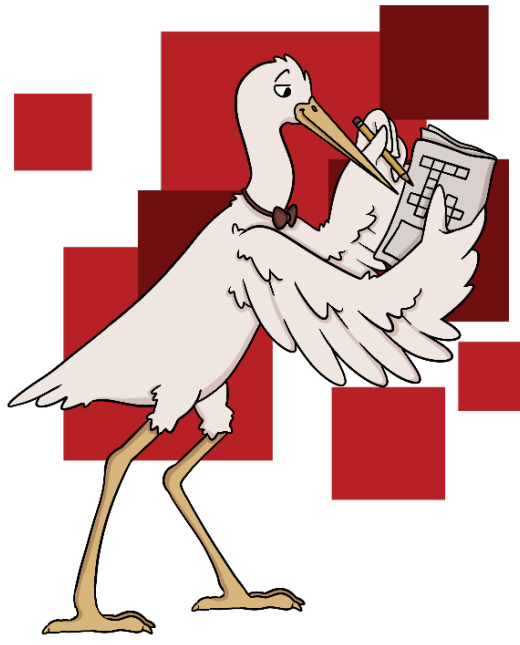
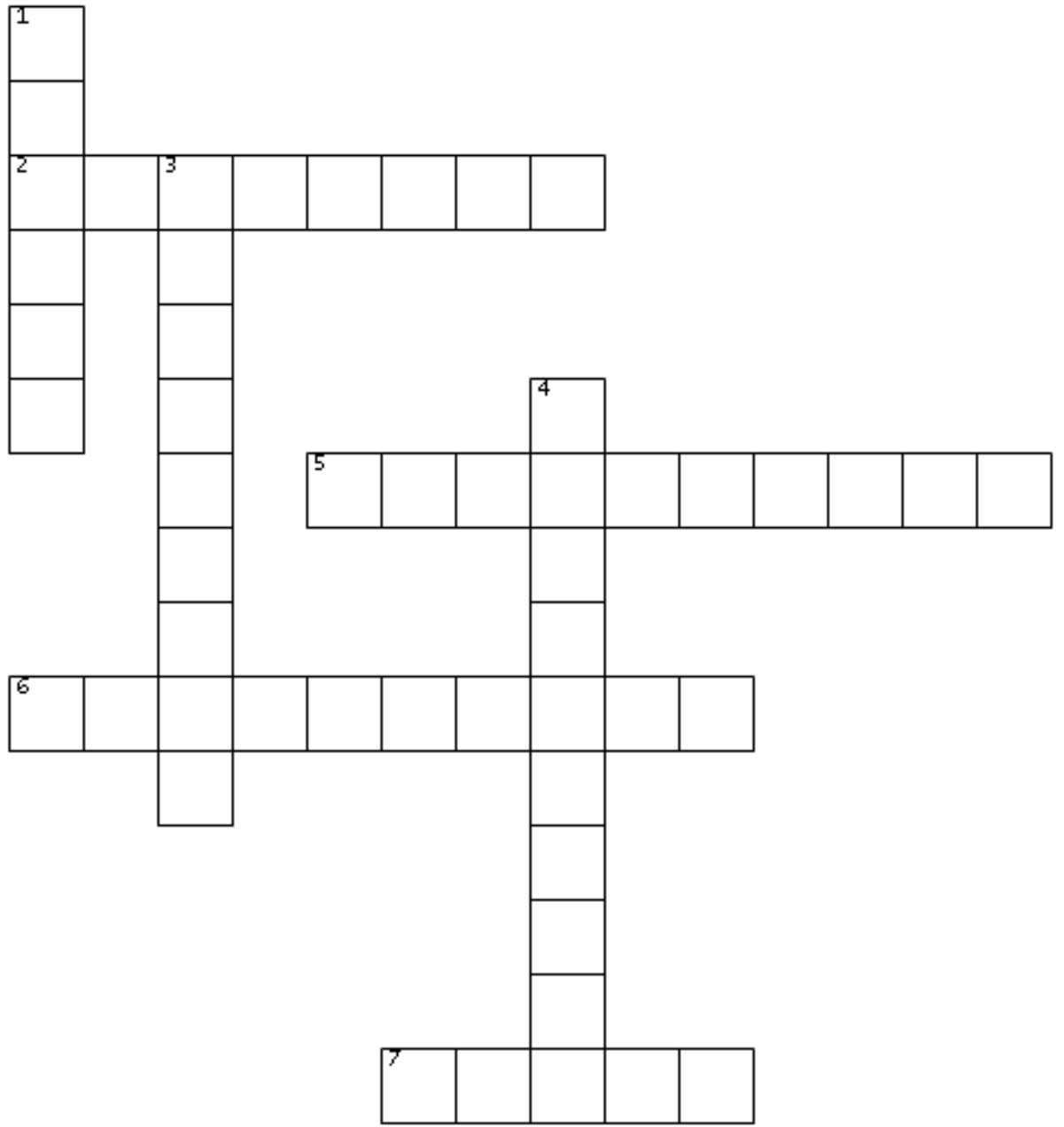
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

### ACROSS

- 2. What did Louisiana start to look like with the snow?
- 5. Louisiana fourth graders jumped to 16th place \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. What does a "W" stand for?
- 7. Who scored 17 points in the UL vs USA game (last name)?

### DOWN

- 1. What is the most common attachment style?
- 3. Which occasions women's sharp shooter scored 24 points on 66% true shooting against the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers (last name)?
- 4. A new \_\_\_\_\_ is to be installed in the Cypress Lake Dining Room by the end of February.



## Cajun Candid's Abortion/Pro-choice Protests

Photos by Makayla Walker



**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**  
MANAGING EDITOR

On Thursday, Jan. 30, members of The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (The American TFP) came to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to hold a horn honking protest against abortion.

The American TFP members protested in front of Dupré Library, holding signs that read "HONK AGAINST ABORTION," chanting and passing out flyers. A counter-protest gathered in front of Judice-Rickels Hall, with members holding signs reading, "HONK for WOMEN'S RIGHTS" and "NO UTERUS, NO OPINION."

Some counter-protesters also began a linedance behind The American TFP member protesters with music playing in the background when reporters from The Vermilion were present. The UL Lafayette Police Department came onto the scene to disperse the interruption.

River Luna, a freshman nursing major, from the counter-protest stated, "I think it's honestly hypocritical because one of their signs say, 'Abortion separates parents from kids forever,' but they don't care about all the kids in the foster care system, they don't care about all the kids getting separated from their parents with all the immigration and deportation."

Another counter-protester, Mikayla Evans, a freshman interior design major, stated, "This is supposed to be a safe space for the students, and to have them coming on campus and degrading women like this, it's not fun or fair at all."

The Vermilion attempted to speak with members of The American TFP, but they denied the request for an interview. "I'd rather not give an interview. You all are too leftist for us."



# Sports

## Cajuns cannot buy a basket in a crushing overtime loss 62-58

**Tavin Anthony**  
SPORTS WRITER

The Cajuns were coming off of a big win on the road against the Texas State Bobcats (70-61). I'm not one to jump to conclusions, but they may be reading my articles.

Last week I shared my thoughts about their unwillingness to space the floor and inability to hit quality perimeter shots. This game simply debunked those critiques.

Louisiana combined for 10 threes on 17 attempts behind the marksmanship of guards Chancellor White and Kentrell Garnett. White was a monster off the bench with 14 points and four made threes.

Garnett, in usual fashion, contributed to the long-range assault with three makes from distance. The apparent differences that led to the Cajun victory was scoring on transition and the bench production.

The Cajuns had 15 fastbreak points to the Bobcats' five. The Louisiana bench also outscored Texas State's 35-26.

Bobcats guard, Kaden Gumbs, had a game-high 17 points to go along with six rebounds and two steals. He was the only player to have consistent success against the rugged Cajun defense.

With the Cajuns shooting at a season-high 58.8% from three in the win, there was a lot to build off of as they headed back to the Cajundome for a date with the 14-8 South Alabama Jaguars.

One thing that stuck with the Cajuns from last game was their hunger to shoot the ball.

They were advantageous in their shot selections as proven by the attempts alone. They attempted 17 threes in their win against the Bobcats, surpassing that mark in just the first half alone.

The Jaguars weren't far behind with 14 attempts but the difference was in the results. They shot an abysmal 7.1% from deep compared to the Cajuns'

respectable 38.9%. With a shooting split that bad it was no surprise that Louisiana was up 31-18 at half.

Now, the average fan would look at that score and be pretty comfortable with the margin going into the second half. However, knowing the context of shots and the level of difficulty on some of them, the Ragin' Cajuns' lead didn't seem too sustainable.

One of the reasons South Alabama has been so good this year is because of their impenetrable zone defense, and they ran it all night against us. They played great defense in the first half, forcing us into a couple late shot clock scenarios and deep contested threes.

It just so happened our shots were falling. In the second half, the Jaguars did the exact same thing but the results were more in their favor.

It was really a tale of two halves, with the Cajuns pulling the short end of the stick. They attempted 19 more threes in the second half but only made four of them. The Jaguars didn't shoot nearly as many but were slightly more efficient going 3-10.

However, that's not why they came back. It was the efforts of guard Myles Corey off the bench. He didn't shoot particularly well, especially at the free throw line, but it was his energy that kept the Jaguars in it.

He was a blur on transition, applying constant pressure on the back-pedaling Louisiana defense. He got to the paint almost at will, drawing fouls left and right, which in turn left the Cajuns disgruntled.

The combination of Corey's lightning pace and the Jaguars' stingy defense made room for a 12-2 run that brought South Alabama back to within three points with 12:35 remaining.

The game would continue to go back and forth until Cajuns suddenly stopped raging. It was an absolutely catastrophic conclusion, and that might be an understatement.

After a made three-pointer by

Christian Wright with 6:42 remaining, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns would go on to not make a single field goal for the remainder of regulation. They only scored three points, all from the charity stripe.

In over six minutes of action, the Cajuns went 0-8 from the field. And in that timespan, South Alabama tied the game 56-56, forcing overtime.

In overtime, the snowball effect continued. It was so ice-cold that Cajun fans were reminiscing about the blizzard from a couple weeks ago.

Mo El Moutaouakkil started the period off strong with an aggressive layup, getting the crowd out of their seats.

However, that would be the last time the fans were out of their seats for anything positive.

That basket was made at the 4:43 mark of the overtime period. As if according to plan, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns would proceed to not make a single point after that.

Not a layup, a jumper, a floater, a fade-away corner three or even a simple granny shot from half-court. Why not call down a drunk fan to get a bucket?

We need investigators to dig into the South Alabama bench because there must have been some level of Space Jam sorcery that took away Louisiana's skills.

Sure, I didn't think our offense in the first half was sustainable enough, but to go on two separate dry spells in the clutch is inexcusable.

Surprisingly, it wasn't hard for the Jaguars to outscore us in overtime as they finished the night victorious (62-58).

Granted we faced a top conference opponent, but we simply had no answer for their zone down the stretch. Guys looked lost and stood around for almost entire possessions leading to poor shot quality.

Next game, the Cajuns will be going on the road to visit the (11-12) Georgia Southern Eagles on Wednesday, Feb. 5.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Mostapha El Moutaouakkil(8) takes a difficult shot over Kent State's defense 11.4.24.

## Ragin' Cajuns fall in SBC standings with losses to App. St. and Coastal

**Isaac Henry**  
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns women's basketball team lost both their matchups last week, against both the Appalachian State Mountaineers on Thursday, Jan. 30, and the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers on Saturday, Feb. 1.

These losses ended another fruitless road trip for the Cajuns, dragging their conference record down to 5-6.

During a Jan. 27 press conference in preparation for the team's trip, Head Coach Garry Brodhead talked about what he expected from the trip and what new matchups the team might face.

"I have no clue too much about [matchups] going into this next series," Brodhead said. "App State's got a new coach, we don't know their system as good, it'll be the first time, and then Coastal is playing really well."

"It's gonna be a tough series to go out and try to get some wins, but we got what we got and I think we're probably gonna have eight players [in rotation] again for this."

Asked further about the element of surprise around App State and what, if anything he could expect in such a pivotal game, Brodhead pointed to their pace and floor-spacing ability.

"They've kinda calmed down a little bit, but they've got good guard play," Brodhead said. "They shoot the ball pretty good, and they always were able to run transition and find open people."

"Their inside game was never really that strong, but shooting threes and that kind of stuff. I don't know at this point exactly what they're running to be able to get those things."

He added that an assistant had been

scouting the matchup and had prepared some tape for him and the team.

Brodhead also discussed what he looks for in wins to get the players focused on positively.

"I actually talked last week about our strengths," Brodhead said. "You build confidence off of playing off of your strengths and I wanted our players to play off their strengths. Don't worry about your weakness."

"Some of these kids that came off the bench that hadn't played that much had to do a little bit more, rebound more. I think that was the biggest thing for us: can we rebound and defend a little bit better?"

Brodhead went in-depth about the growth of players like freshman Ashtyn Jones and what he wants to develop in his frontcourt players.

"I was more impressed by [Jones'] scoring from the inside in the paint," Brodhead said of Jones' play against Troy. "I've been preaching all year with our hybrids, 'Use the backboard, really for thirteen years I've been preaching."

"You've gotta be able to learn how to use the backboard and a lot of these kids these days don't really like to, and she's one that has bought into it, and I think it's elevated her game."

The No.-4-in-conference Mountaineers and Cajuns played as gritty of a match as expected Thursday, going run for run and, in a dead heat, holding each other scoreless for over four minutes in the third quarter.

Through the game, senior guard Nubia Benedith took on facilitating the offense, playing 37 minutes and recording a career-high 22 points (leading all players), going 7-14 from the field and hitting all six of her free throws.

Unfortunately, the Cajuns fell behind at the end of the third thanks to a brutal series of momentum-killing turnovers and transition baskets which the team never managed to get back, losing 61-52.

Against the Chanticleers, the teams again kept things pretty close as the Cajuns overcame an early barrage to have the score within five midway through the fourth quarter. Coastal only needed to maintain their lead down the stretch, though, which they did, with their guards Mallory Bruce and Dalanna Carter scoring the needed buckets in

clutch time to bring the score to 77-68.

Benedith had a harder time in this one, scraping together 4-9 from the field (no free throws) and committing five turnovers. Whereas she struggled, Erica Lafayette took over, leading all scorers with 24 points on 6-13 from the field and 66% true shooting.

Next up for the team is a game back in the Cajundome against a non-conference opponent, the Miami Red Hawks, on Saturday, Feb. 8, followed by a match against the Texas State Bobcats on Wednesday, Feb. 12.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Ashlyn Jones(00) pushes the ball down the court on a fast-break against the James Madison Dukes Jan. 2.

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# Allons

## Attachment styles: How well do you connect with other people?

**Nyria Mustiful**  
ALLONS EDITOR

Have you ever been in a relationship, regardless of the kind, and for some reason, there's just this consistent disconnect between you and the person? Maybe you're the kind of person that likes to address conflict immediately, whereas they're the kind of person that needs a day to process things.

You could also end up in a situation where a person initially shows interest in you, you reciprocate that energy, and after a couple of months, that person pulls away.

These situations can be incredibly frustrating, especially if you and/or the other person don't understand yourselves well enough to effectively communicate these differences and why they exist. I've been in situations like these myself and, due to my personal interest in psychology, I decided to look into how these kinds of things come about. When researching, I stumbled upon the attachment theory.

Attachment theory was jointly created by psychoanalysts John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth, beginning in 1950. Although both had done significant research surrounding the topic prior to meeting, things began to come together once Ainsworth produced experimental evidence from her study she conducted in Uganda.

According to an article from the National Library of Medicine, entitled "A Review of Attachment Theory in the Context of Adolescent Parenting", attachment theory "explains positive maternal-infant attachment as a dyadic relationship between the infant and the mother that provides the infant with a secure base from which to explore the world."

Based on a person's relationship with their mother, a person can develop a specific attachment style, which can affect their personal relationships throughout their life.

The attachment style categorization originated from Ainsworth's "Strange Situation" procedure. In that procedure, a series of stressors was invoked upon one year-old children. Based on their responses, Ainsworth was able to

categorize their attachment styles into three different groups.

The original three categories, or styles, were secure, anxious and resistant.

Over time, and with more research being conducted on the subject, psychologists and psychoanalysts were able to come up with more names and categorizations for the attachment styles that were a bit more specific to a person's behaviors in regards to attachment.

Currently, the four attachment styles are secure, anxious, avoidant, and disorganized. Each of them have their own attributes, though some may have slight similarities.

Secure attachment is the most common of the four styles. People with secure attachments typically have a positive relationship with others, as well as themselves.

They also find it easier to cultivate trusting and healthy relationships/bonds with others, due to having that sort of relationship with their initial caregiver.

Anxious attachment derives from an inconsistent and unreliable relationship that was had with the primary caregiver. This causes the individual to have a fear of rejection and abandonment.

People with an anxious attachment

style have a hard time trusting others, as well as themselves, and they usually need constant reassurance and validation from others.

Avoidant attachment stems from a person having a very dismissive or emotionally unavailable caregiver as a child. People with avoidant attachment prefer independence over vulnerability, and suppress their emotions to avoid making deep connections with others due to their fear of the relationship failing.

Disorganized attachment, also known as fearful avoidant, is sort of like a mixture between anxious and avoidant attachment. Individuals with this attachment style tend to struggle between desiring intimate connections and pulling away out of fear.

After doing my due diligence and some introspective thinking, I realized that I have a disorganized attachment style. Originally, especially when I was younger, I would definitely have said that I had an anxious attachment style, as that's what resonated with me the most. However, as time has passed and situations have occurred, I realized that I am now in a space where I have allowed myself to develop a slight aversion to intimacy and partnership.

The more that I research and understand the attachment styles, the more I begin to think that I actually may have had disorganized attachment all along.

I may have just been more anxious in the various relationships I've encountered.

As far as how my attachment style has manifested in my relationships and how it's affected them, I would say that it played a big role.

I feel like I've definitely attracted very avoidant individuals, which makes sense, because my primary caregiver is avoidant.

However, I do think that as I pursue secure attachment, I believe that I have been able to see the patterns within myself, as well as others, and make better decisions based on those.

Learning about the attachment styles has given me a greater understanding of the human mind, as well as how we as people connect with others.

Everything is not linear, and at some point, a person's baggage will get in the way.

It is up to you, as a partner, friend, family member etc., to decide whether or not you're willing to go through the ebbs and flows of their healing journey.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

## Making new friends: All thanks to staying in for 'Sneaux-Mageddon'

**Ja'lyn Braud**  
ALLONS WRITER

As many of us know, this past week has been a miracle in itself, from around 10 inches of snow on southern Louisiana soil to no school for a week straight. Yet the funny thing is, as much as I enjoyed both of these astonishing events, my most cherished moment was being stuck in the house.

Currently, I live in a house with 16 people. I know, I know, it seems like a lot but in actuality, we really do not see each other that often. This is typically because of the fact that we are all insanely busy with work and school. The house itself is split between three bedrooms, with two people in each. Then there are six dorm rooms that reside on the outside with about two people in each, excluding myself and one other person.

When I first moved in, it was in the middle of the 2024 fall semester; due to

personal issues occurring in my previous residency, I was in a desperate attempt to get out. Thankfully, with the help of a close friend, I was able to move in.

A blessing in disguise I might add, because this also meant that I was now jumping into a random house that I had no prior knowledge of before. I will say, however, it has been a great place to live but in the beginning, it was difficult coming in as the new girl whereas everyone else was already connected with one another.

In all honesty, it was definitely weird for me at the start. I barely knew anyone's names, pretty much everyone was older than me and I had never even talked to the majority of them—the transition was not the easiest, to say the least.

Throughout the rest of that semester I kind of just minded my business, only talked to the people I did know, and essentially moved on with my life. However, when the spring semester

rolled around, the case did not stay the same.

With only three days of school, we were already out on what felt like another winter break. The snow was constantly pouring in and South Louisiana became the new Colorado. It was honestly a miracle.

Since we students had no other options, other than to play in the snow or snuggle up with some hot chocolate, my fellow housemates and I saw each other incredibly often. Being stuck in the house destined us all to converse with one another.

This opportunity allowed me to connect better with those I lived with. Throughout that week, I managed to have multiple one-on-one conversations with each person. I will not lie, I was not looking for a conversation with each person, it sort of just happened.

Do not get me wrong, I am not complaining in any way, but I find it

intriguing how easily we were able to relate with one another. Whether it was something simple, like talking about coffee or being able to share deeper and more personal topics.

On one of the days that week, another girl and I had both ended up on the couch, trying to accomplish some schoolwork.

All I can say is one word led to another and we both relayed personal struggles to each other. It seems silly, but I genuinely felt bonded to her after that.

On the day of what seemed like a blizzard, the whole house decided that we wanted to go on campus and explore. From wrestling in the snow to taking scenic pictures, my heart had never felt so much joy before.

The laughs, the screams, the snowball fights, every moment was pure delight. My smile had never left my face that day.

Conversations sparked more and more for me and I finally felt connected to the house. Not that I had tension with anyone before, but now, I am even more delighted to see their faces when I get the chance. Now we watch movies, do homework together, and even hang out outside of the house.

It is the small little moments like these that I lacked over the fall semester.

At the time, I did not feel like I was necessarily missing anything but now that I have gained these relationships, I would hate to see them go.

I will say, however, that now that school has started, our schedules have amped up again. I see everyone, every now and then but not at a constant rate like that week.

Yet, somehow, I feel a sense of security in my relationship with them.

I have so much love for these people it is indescribable, and not to be niche but I finally feel like I fit in, and it feels really good.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

# Beaucoup

## College Housing

The Beaucoup section writes about their experience with on and off-campus housing. Below are their thoughts.



Photos by Caitlyn Comeaux

### Ramudhi Kariyawasam

MANAGING EDITOR

During my time at college, I have lived, and continue to live, off-campus with my family.

Living with my family while continuing my education helped me avoid missing them because I don't know what I would do without them.

However, a part of me wishes that I had taken the decision to live on-campus, as it provides a different

perspective. I know many colleagues that live on-campus, and from what I have observed, their lives seem to be quite convenient, as they have all University resources close to them and get to live with friends. When you live on-campus, you get an experience, one that teaches you about the various people and personalities in this world and how to ultimately get along with them. So, although I love living off-campus, a part of me regrets the experience I could have had.

### Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS EDITOR

Currently, I stay in Legacy Park Apartments on campus. Overall, I would say that I enjoy my on-campus living experience. However, there are a few minute details that don't sit well with me. Firstly, the ventilation in my bathroom is not regularly cleaned, which contributes to the spawning of black mold, particularly in my toilet.

I had an issue with black mold last year

in my dorm, so I know that it is from the vents.

Secondly, the outdated infrastructure in Legacy leads to things malfunctioning or breaking consistently, such as the air conditioning. I don't know about others, but I don't want to be in 80 degree weather with no AC and only a tiny fan to keep cool. Other than those problems, my apartment is fine. I don't think I'd prefer to live off campus, nevertheless, because I don't currently have a vehicle, so commuting would be a pain.

### Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

I would say one of the best decisions I made was deciding to live at home during college. It is nice to have a support system nearby and being close to my parents I know that I have two people who will always have my back. In my house I have my desk which gives me a place to do my work. I like having that dedicated space

where I can write my essays and articles.

Sometimes I do think about what my life would be like if I did live on campus, but overall I never had any regrets living with my parents. I know that I have time after college to live by myself and I value the time I can spend with my family and friends. My house is a place where I can unwind and relax. To me it is always nice to have a familiar place to come back to after a long day of classes.

### Kay Padilla

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I have lived in Baker Hall and Legacy Park Apartments on campus. I have not had a bad experience living on campus, so far. Occasionally, I get the odd experience of people banging on doors, or being a little too loud, but that is a thing that happens in any apartment-like living situation.

One upside I like about living in Legacy is not having to do multiple fire

drills a semester and being woken up from a nap or interrupted during a study session.

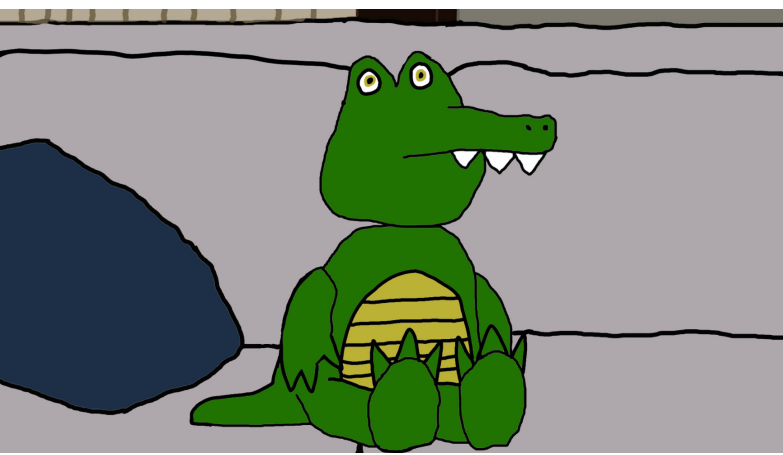
I like having a full functioning kitchen that I only have to share with my roommate instead of an entire building.

There are occasionally maintenance requests I have to do, but the maintenance crew has never let me down.

I don't think living off-campus would be for me, I have everything I need within walking distance and I don't have to worry about monthly rent.

## Senior Art Exhibition

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Department of Visual Arts presented the 2024 Fall Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Senior Exhibitions, where they showcased the capstone work of graduating seniors. The exhibition ran from November 25 to December 4 in the Fletcher Hall Gallery, with an opening reception on Monday, November 25.



### Brock Thibodeaux

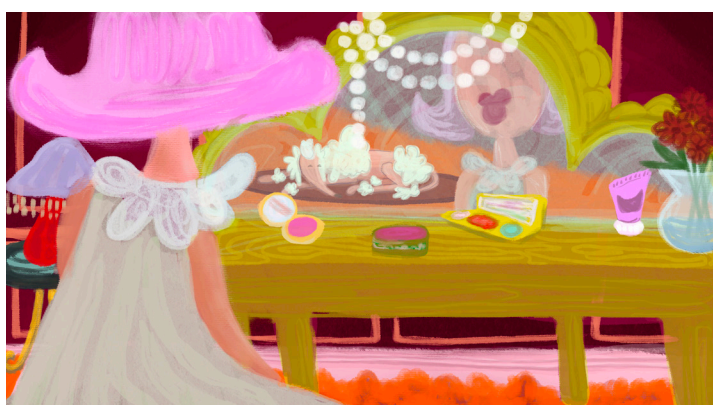
COMPUTER ART & ANIMATION

"This piece is a narrative story about an art student who is almost finished with college and recounts major events leading up to this day. Most of the animation involves objects that morph into an entirely different object."

### Baylee Bourque

METALWORK & JEWELRY

"An exploration in glass enamel firing is used to show the process of transformation threw collage pieces that can be wall hung or worn. Inspired by local nature cycles, memories and dream diary entries this is a body of work about coming to terms with mortality and understanding the unknown."



### Alayna Wall

COMPUTER ART & ANIMATION

"Alayna Wall, 23, is a BFA candidate whose work delves into the impact of image-driven culture on personal identity. Her latest piece, Reflection, challenges conventional notions of self-care, revealing how beauty ideals and media-fueled expectations can turn self-expression into a cycle of overconsumption. Through symbolic storytelling, Alayna prompts viewers to reconsider what it means to truly care for oneself beyond superficial standards."

### Ashbriane Hines

PHOTOGRAPHY

"My work explores the complex nature of addiction and oral fixations. By portraying individuals engaging in behaviors like vaping, smoking, drinking, and compulsive actions such as thumb-sucking, nail-biting, etc. I use photography to highlight the varied ways people cope through addictive substances and habits. Through this visually dynamic piece, I invite viewers to confront the often-hidden patterns of dependency in everyday life."



# SOUNDING OFF

**"What is the superior water bottle?"**



**Whitley Victor**

BIOLOGY JUNIOR

*"I love my Owala, just because it's easy and I do not have to tip it over to drink out of it."*



**Semora Kennon**

POLITICAL SCIENCE SOPHOMORE

*"I love a Stanley, but I don't like the 40 ounce with just a regular straw. I love the ones with the top, the screw on top. It's new. It just came out."*



**Chris Kelly**

PSYCHOLOGY FRESHMAN

*"I personally have a Stanley, but I think Owala's are the best. I really want an Owala."*



**Angelina Bo**

NURSING FRESHMAN

*"An Owala because it has a better closing mechanism than a Stanley. And you can also sip from it and pour from it."*



**Jakayla Moore**

NURSING FRESHMAN

*"I think Stanley, even though it is so popular, it's a no for me because it leaks a lot."*



**Thien Hoang**

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

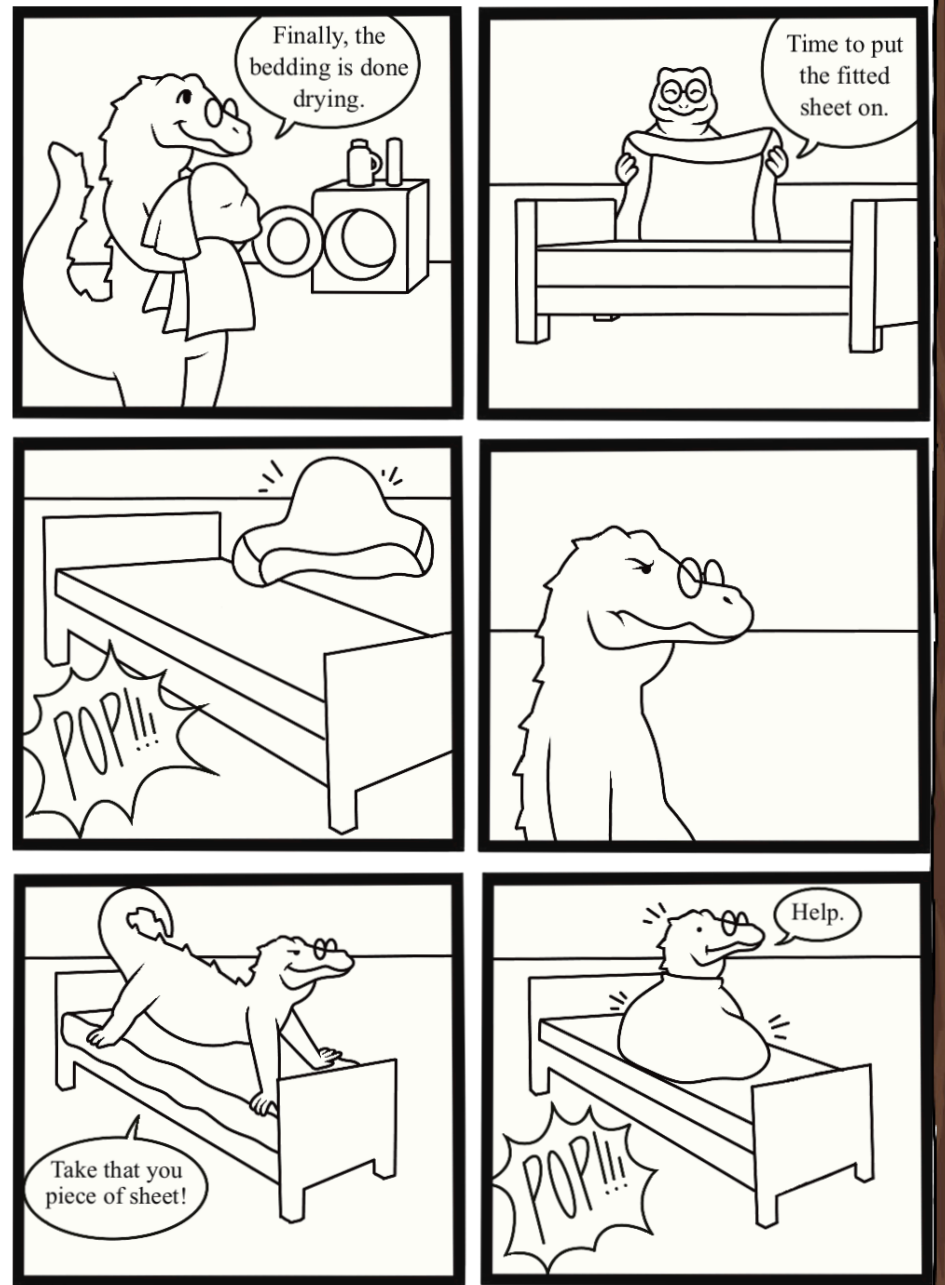
*"I don't really have an opinion, I don't really have a water bottle."*

*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

# Piece of Sheet



Comic by Lauren Gerald

**Have any leads?**



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