

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper March 13, 2025

A brand new beginning for Our Lady of Wisdom and the Ragin' Cajun Catholics

Joann Seow
NEWS WRITER

After 83 years, Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center will be moving to a new home across the street from its current location. Construction has begun, with the parking lot around Earl K. Long Gymnasium and a portion of the sidewalk along Girard Park Cir. recently fenced off three weeks ago.

The new Church will be large enough to seat 584 people, and the new Student Center will be a 25,000 square foot facility.

The new home will be the mark of a new beginning for Our Lady of Wisdom and the Ragin' Cajun Catholics, as it will better facilitate the ministry's mission. It will also mark a new beginning for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, as the building will become a new landmark that beautifies the campus.

Mary Hernandez, the executive director of advancement at Our Lady of Wisdom, is one of the project leaders. She shared that the project was first proposed about 12 years ago, after concerns were posed from space constraints and old age of the current facility that led to disrepairs.

According to Hernandez, the ministry also saw large increases in numbers, which further strained the already limited space. "It was just very apparent that it was time for a new home for the students," Hernandez said.

Since then, the project embarked on a decade-long journey. Hernandez shared, "It's been quite a journey [...], gathering support, planning, designing, selecting the right architect."

Reverend Patrick Broussard, pastor and chaplain at Our Lady of Wisdom, is also among the project's leaders. Broussard and Hernandez shared that one of the main aims for the new Church and Student Center is for it to carry over the same sense of home and community that had been created at the current space.

The second aim for the Church is for it to be a representation of Catholic churches on campus. With regards to this, Hernandez said, "Because of that, we selected an architect who specializes



Photo by Alyus Dick
Our Lady of Wisdom Church construction

in Catholic art and architecture."

To bring the vision alive, the Church partnered with McCreery Architects from Washington, D.C. Commenting on the designing process of the new church, Broussard shared that the architects took into account the rich Acadian history of Lafayette. "It's very Acadian inspired," he said. Similarly, the student center was modeled after the work by architect and Acadiana native, A. Hays Town.

A big component of the project was the land acquisition process. The current land that the facility was built on was leased from the State of Louisiana as part of a 100-year lease plan which comes to an end in less than two decades. Hence, the ministry set out to acquire land for permanent ownership.

According to Scott Hebert, the director of facility management, the University swapped properties with the Diocese of Lafayette, with the 1.4 acres of land beside Earl K. Long Gym now belonging to the Diocese and the five acres of land at the health sciences campus belonging to the University.

In addition to the agreement, Hebert shared, "Once their church is built and occupied, the existing footprint of Wisdom reverts back to the university so that corner piece becomes University property." The agreement was mutually beneficial as it was necessary for the growth of both parties.

With the construction of the new Church and Student Center, several

disruptions are to be expected.

According to Hebert, a conflict that his office foresees to be potentially problematic is the construction of the new engineering building happening concurrently.

Hebert said, "What we've been doing is trying to coordinate closely with the Diocese and their team to figure out how we can accomplish both of these projects [...], but also not affect the significant impact to the students."

Expected disruptions include delivery trucks transporting construction materials for both projects, which may pose some danger especially to students walking around the construction site. However, Hebert ensured that the deliveries will be scheduled such that they pose as little inconvenience as possible.

Other disruptions include road closures, a significant loss of parking space and disrupted pedestrian pathways. The parking lot around Earl K. Long and a portion of the sidewalk along Girard Park Cir beside Earl K. Long were fenced off, which led to students having to re-route their pathways.

In terms of road closures, the affected road will be Girard Park Cir. and closures will not be prolonged. According to Hebert, road closures will be sporadic depending on the aspect of the construction being carried out, and only one lane will be closed.

"When that happens, there will be flaggers and traffic control individuals there provided by the contractors to allow traffic to still flow on one way, on one lane," Hebert assured.

Construction of the new Church and Student Center is projected to be completed by September of 2026, according to LEMOINE, the project's contractor.

According to Broussard, the new Catholic Student Center will include an adoration chapel, four Bible study rooms, a library, lecture hall, cafe and outdoor spaces like courtyards. There will also be a grand hall which will be a venue for events like wedding receptions and large conferences.

Broussard expressed, "It's exciting to think about all the new memories that

are going to be made in the new Student Center."

Hernandez shared that it has been a challenge managing the lack of space at the current Church and Student Center. With the increased capacity at the new facility, there will be more space for students to carry out meetings and activities, the ministry is also better able to host on a larger scale. She said, "We can bring in, [...], bigger, well known speakers and have more space to accommodate them."

Landon Richards, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, said, "This place is, [...], literally busting at the seams, like we have so many people here, [...] I think it would just be really good to have enough space to accommodate everyone."

Hernandez also shared that the new home will be largely significant for the students in terms of providing a space for them to nurture their minds and spirituality, aside from academics. She said, "We're happy to serve that part of students' needs."

Nolan Savoy, a freshman majoring in psychology, commented, "For UL to have such a huge building, [...], that has all the room, has all the space, has the beauty of every other church around this area, it's going to offer a lot more for UL students as a whole."

Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center has seen many generations create fond and lasting memories. While the space will be left behind, the legacy of the ministry and the spirit of the community will live on in the new home.

It will be a bittersweet goodbye to the space that has come a long way from when the Ragin' Cajun Catholic Student Ministry was the Newman Club in 1923 and when the Church was first built and dedicated on Mar. 23, 1942.

Our Lady of Wisdom is still seeking donations for the project. The project budget was \$35 million, as of Feb. 20, \$28 million has been raised from pledges and gifts. Hernandez expressed, "Every gift matters, every gift helps us to get to our goal." To make a donation, reach out to the ministry or visit the website ragincajuncatholics.org/ournewhome.

Efforts from SGA towards rainy days

Geonna Tipton
NEWS WRITER

The Student Government Association (SGA) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is holding true to one of their campaign promises this spring semester. SGA plans to open a new addition to the Career Closet specifically for rain gear like umbrellas, rain boots and raincoats. The intention is that this new addition will work exactly like the rest of the closet, where students will be able to take a certain amount of items per semester.

Additionally, SGA's partnership with Career Services is going to allow SGA to use some of the space in the closet for their idea. The National Guard has also decided to partake in this new innovation by offering to buy umbrellas to donate to SGA so they can start off the rain gear section of the Career Closet.

Emma Merchant, a freshman majoring in nursing, commented, "I feel like SGA is pretty involved in more than us students realize but I do feel like adding rain gear would be really awesome to do. I know many students utilize the career closet as it is but I think that would be a great addition."

The reasoning behind having this new aspect of the Closet stemmed from the unfortunate reality of having random rainy days on campus. Many students either forget to bring rain gear with them or simply don't have any to begin

with. Having rain gear at the Career Closet for students to use during these misfortunes would really help prevent a college student from going to class drenched in rain water.

Layla Campbell, a freshman majoring in engineering stated, "Even though I don't know much about SGA, I think that adding the rain gear to the Career Closet is a really good idea."

On another note, the location of the Career Closet also aids in the idea as well. Many college students at UL Lafayette ride the buses for transportation. Since the Career Closet is near a frequent bus stop, students will be able to quickly retrieve the rain gear they need upon getting off the bus.

UL Lafayette's SGA team is notorious for helping the students on and off campus. They make it their mission to make sure that all student's needs are met and that their voice is heard. They stand prepared to listen to and handle any situation that is brought their way, and they actively look for solutions to or ways to fix them.

Miami Johnson, a sophomore majoring in English, mentioned, "With how often I get caught in the rain on campus, having rain gear that I can grab in a pinch would be a lifesaver. It would definitely turn an annoying day into a better one. I appreciate SGA working to do things that matter to us on campus, as opposed to stuff that most students may never see."

SGA works similarly to an actual

government; they have their three branches, which includes the executive, legislative and judicial branches, with corresponding leaders and senators for each branch. The current president of SGA, who works within the executive branch, is Cade Roy, a graduating senior majoring in political science. Roy is a leading force with the new rain gear addition to the Career Closet and is actively working within SGA to make the idea a reality.

SGA as a whole contributes to the campus in more ways than one, however. Their mission is to support unity, teamwork, diversification, acknowledgement of excellence, mutual respect and a dedication to the positive development of each and every individual. Their goal is to meet the

news of current Ragin' Cajuns and lay the groundwork for those to come.

Makayla Dugas, a senior majoring in finance commented, "Honestly I don't pay much attention to SGA since I'm not really involved in any organizations other than Chi Alpha, but I think having the rain gear at the Career Closet is a really good idea."

SGA has student elections, so students have the ability to vote who they want apart from SGA. So, once again, SGA ensures that all the power is from the students. SGA noticed an issue with students not having what they need on rainy days, and is providing a solution to help fix that issue. Soon, all students will be able to reap the benefits of the new addition to the Career Closet in the semesters to come.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Entrance of the Career Closet & Campus Cupboard building

News

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The Building Institute to design research and entertainment park

Kayla Woods-Crane
NEWS WRITER

University of Louisiana at Lafayette architecture students have designed the first building, in a series of five buildings, for a research and entertainment park in Arnaudville, Louisiana.

This project is a joint venture between the non-profits, Levity and Les Deux Bayou S.T.E.A.M park, which are leasing the 5-acre property for the park, and the School of Architecture and Design's Building Institute.

The building they have designed, named the Aquahouse, is a restroom and shower facility for the park. According to Geoffrey Gjertson, an architecture professor and director of the Building Institute, a group of 15 students designed

the Aquahouse in the Fall 2024 semester.

The design has evolved into a second version due to a need for a simpler design and cost reduction. There are currently five students working on the project as an elective this semester.

If the funding for the Aquahouse is raised by May 2025, then ground will be broken and Gjertson will have 15 graduate and senior students begin construction on the building this summer.

"[...]And so it's an intensive project that students get, not only a lot of construction experience, but they understand how construction affects their design decisions, and they also learn collaboration and integration of all the different systems that have to happen in a building," Gjertson said.

For the Aquahouse to be fully funded, both the University and the non-profits will each need to raise \$80,000 for a combined total of \$160,000. If this goal is not met by May, then construction of the Aquahouse will be pushed back to the summer of 2026.

Currently, the University has raised \$20,000, but Gjertson is hopeful that enough money will be raised to keep the project on track for May construction. "So we're directly approaching the architectural community to try to get funding for the project. And they're funding not just the building, but they're funding for the experience, for the students," Gjertson said.

This experience is the first of many, as the Aquahouse is the first building in a series of five buildings to be designed and built by UL Lafayette students. The goal of these buildings is to accommodate many types of events and create a cultural hub for Arnaudville. Some of these events will include educational workshops, a farmers market, research projects and entertainment like renaissance fairs, steampunk fairs and music festivals.

These buildings are planned to be built every three years and will be directly influenced by at least 200 students. "I think students really want to do this kind of work. One of the reasons that I think students today go into many of their professions, especially architecture, is because they want to help their communities, they want to give back and they want to improve the community and the world," Gjertson said.

Along with improving the community comes a focus on sustainability in

architecture. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, buildings consume 75% of the electricity and 40% of the total energy used in the United States. They are the largest energy consumer in the United States.

With those facts in mind, the designs and planned construction for the buildings have been oriented around sustainability. Resilience, storm resistance and self sufficiency are also important aspects of sustainability.

According to Gjertson, the buildings will be built with recycled materials, like recycled plastics. For the Aquahouse specifically, construction will include a building block made from a special recyclable plastic. Gjertson explained the design will incorporate all the things it can to save energy and water.

The Building Institute is the University's building program that allows students the opportunity to develop, design and build their own designs for the greater Lafayette community. Since 2003, the program has built over 18 projects throughout the community, including its most recent project, the House of Cards. The House of Cards is a one room artist retreat, also built in Arnaudville.

The collaborators for the research and entertainment park are two non-profits based in Arnaudville. Levity is a think tank and multidisciplinary residency space that works on solving environmental issues using sustainable solutions.

Les Deux Bayou S.T.E.A.M park is a combination of science, entertainment, math, technology and cultural preservation.



Graphic by Sadie Burrell

Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Mar. 7

- At 4:19 a.m., officers responded to a call about cyberstalking at the Wingate Hotel.

Mar. 6

- At 10:39 p.m., officers were dispatched to Baker Hall in reference to a student's guests using illegal drugs. Three individuals were located and were non-residents. Around 1 gram of marijuana was found. Two of the subjects were arrested for Remaining After Forbidden and the other subject was charged with Simple Possession of Marijuana and Violation of Controlled Dangerous Substance.
- At 7:56 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Coronna Hall in reference to a fight. An arrest was made.

Mar. 5

- At 5:41 p.m., a resident of Baker Hall reported that some of their items—bath organizer and Lysol shower cleaner—may have been stolen by their roommate. The resident did not wish to pursue charges.
- At 4:48 a.m., officers responded to a damaged property complaint at Angelle Hall involving a surveillance camera.

Mar. 3

- At 6:34 p.m., officers were dispatched to Cajun Field in reference to an individual making threatening comments. An arrest was made.

Mar. 2


- At 8:34 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on the 1100th block of Jefferson Street of a brown 2013 Nissan Altima. An arrest was made.
- At 4:58 a.m., ULPD received a call about a suspicious subject at Bonin Hall. The subject then came to ULPD. Officers responded and an arrest was made. The subject was also transported to the hospital.

Mar. 1

- At 10:00 p.m., officers were advised of a subject causing a disturbance and instigating several fights at the Cajun Field during Le Festival de Mardi Gras. The subject was located and arrested.
- At 9:46 p.m., officers were informed of a large group of individuals fighting at Cajun Field during Le Festival Mardi Gras. The crowd dispersed after officers' arrival.
- At 8:52 p.m., officers working at Le Festival de Mardi Gras at the Cajun Field witnessed a physical flight of a large crowd in progress. The crowd was dispersed.
- At 12:20 a.m., an officer responded to a parking lot crash at the Cajundome Convention Center, which involved a red 2013 Chevrolet 1500 and a white 2024 Ford Transit.



WHERE'S ALLAN?






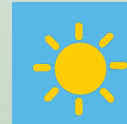



Walking from class to class all day, the task may seem rather large. Here I come to give my phone some charge. Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer: The Swamp

Win a free sandwich from Roly Poly!

The first 100 people to register at the Le Festival de Mardi Gras. After the 0:1gme was the registration on campus will win a free sandwich from Roly Poly on Friday March 15. The first 100 people to visit the event location on Friday at The Vermilion/Louisiana.edu will win. The Vermilion will continue to be open each week until the end of the semester. This offer is subject to availability and may be extended to this week.

Weather

Thursday 3/13	Friday 3/14	Saturday 3/15	Sunday 3/16	Monday 3/17	Tuesday 3/18	Wednesday 3/19
						
High: 82 F Low: 66 F	High: 82 F Low: 67 F	High: 75 F Low: 51 F	High: 77 F Low: 48 F	High: 77 F Low: 56 F	High: 80 F Low: 65 F	High: 78 F Low: 57 F

Isabelle Brumley
WEATHER WRITER

- Spring-like temperatures are entering Louisiana throughout the week.
- A winter storm hit northern Arizona on Friday, Mar. 7, leaving heavy snowfall and frigid temperatures.

- High winds will hit Lafayette on Friday, with speeds up to 30 mph.

Politics

Argentine President now in the middle of cryptocurrency scam

Gracie Cormier

POLITICS WRITER

President Javier Milei has been accused by multiple Argentine lawyers of committing fraud.

The instance that the complaints recognize is Milei's promotion of a cryptocurrency known as \$LIBRA.

The judge selection has taken place amidst Milei's claims that his actions were not of ill intent.

Milei posted the coin on X, formerly known as Twitter, with a statement about its usefulness for "economic growth." He aimed his statements toward small businesses, claiming that the coin would bolster their growth. He deleted the post promoting

\$LIBRA a few hours after his initial post.

The coin was developed independent from Milei, but it could be accessed by visiting a website named in reference to a common phrase that he used in his messages and speeches, "Viva la libertad." The specific type of fraud that prosecuting attorneys are accusing Milei of is colloquially referred to as a "rug pull," a developer releases a token to entice investors only to abandon it when the token is no longer valuable. The coin that Milei advertised crashed "within hours of its launch."

Plaintiff and lawyer, Jonatan Baldiviezo, claimed that Milei violated the Public Ethics Law on top of the fraud charges. Milei shared on X that

he was not aware of the currency's development and accused his political adversaries of exploiting the mistake.

The president's office made a statement denying Milei's involvement, and subsequent guilt, in the development of the coin. The office said, "The president shared a post on his personal accounts announcing the launch of KIP Protocol's project, as he does daily with many entrepreneurs who wish to launch projects in Argentina to create jobs and attract investments."

University of Louisiana at Lafayette student Taylor Prados, a freshman who will continue his pursuit of a degree in environmental science after a hiatus to participate in basic training, weighed in on the conversation.

He claimed to "have a decent understanding of cryptocurrency and a very good understanding of cryptocurrency scams."

Prados provided his perspective on the implications of Milei being accused of participating in a scam. "I think that as the President of Argentina, one of Milei's biggest responsibilities is to keep the people of his country safe," he said.

"By publicly promoting a cryptocurrency, Milei allowed ill-intentioned actors to take advantage of his influence over people that align with him politically and who may make decisions based off of his endorsements. Even if it wasn't his intention to scam people that would've invested into crypto because of his endorsement,

he should've taken into account his influence and the recent 'trend' of crypto scams before making his tweet," he continued.

Prados expressed a positive view of the precedent that Milei's possible conviction could set for global politics, saying that, "World leaders are not immune from their justice system and still have to answer for their crimes."

As for future application of digital currencies, Prados provided his concerns toward its development.

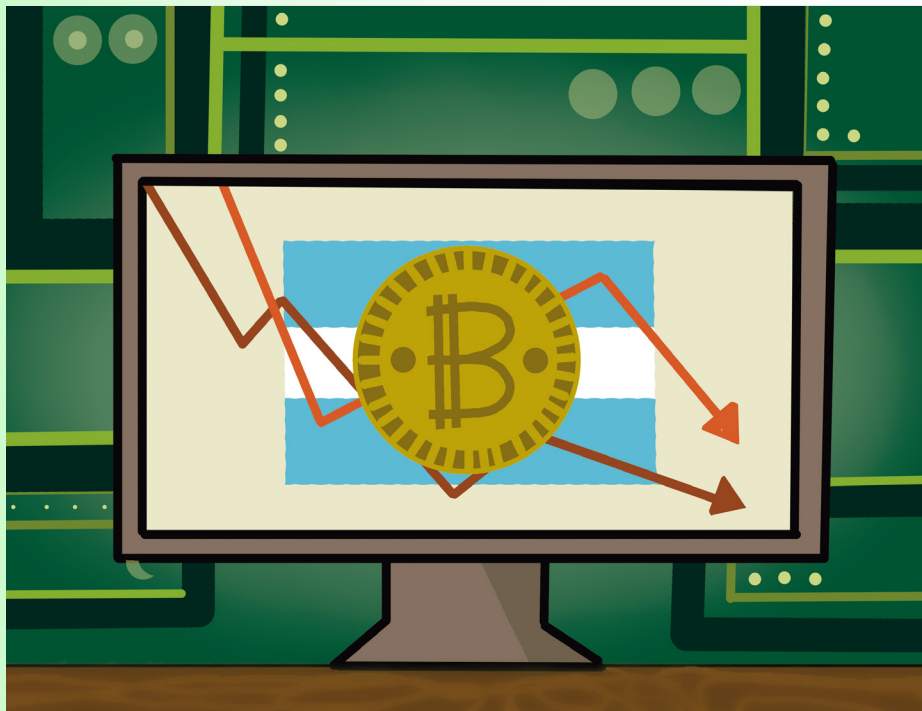
He noted his worry that the attempt to digitize currency allows politicians to gain more power over their citizens. He elaborated on this point, stating, "Without tangible

currency that the people of a country can handle, the government will be able to have more direct control over each individual that they hold power over." This scandal comes as Milei seeks election allies. According to Reuters, one pollster's data found that 53.1% of Argentines did not trust the president over the scandal.

Another pollster's data found that 46.6% of poll respondents held a negative view of Milei after the scandal compared to 36.2% beforehand.

The concern that many people have, currently, with the scandal is how it will affect Milei's performance in the next election.

Polling shows that it may have a damaging impact when voting, but the statistics may not count toward how Argentines will vote.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

Health

Bird flu prevention, cases increase

Ramudhi Kariyawasam

MANAGING EDITOR

The bird flu remains a concern in the United States (U.S.) as cases increase among birds and mammals, with a reported increase in human cases since Feb. 7, 2025.

As of Mar. 7, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported 70 human cases, with one human death since January 2025, which occurred in Louisiana. Currently, there is no significant risk to public health and no instances of person-to-person viral infection.

The main mode of transmission of H5N1, the virus that causes bird flu, onto humans remains from coming into contact with infected birds or other mammals. The bird flu outbreak began in January 2022 and has been detected in over 166 million poultry, 978 dairy herds and 12,467 wild birds.

What constitutes direct contact with H5N1 infected birds and mammals can vary. The most-at-risk group of individuals contracting H5N1 are those who work in farms or are in close proximity with these animals, as they are more likely to come into contact with an infected animal's bodily fluids or surfaces and droplets that have been contaminated with these bodily fluids.

For all other populations in the country, it is what people consume that may ultimately lead to an H5N1 infection. As the CDC reported, chicken flocks and dairy cattle are the most affected farm animals; these animals also happen to be the major sources of poultry and dairy for human consumption.

Hence, consumers may acquire the bird flu if they eat an infected chicken or dairy cattle's product.

Experts suggest fully cooking chicken and eggs at appropriate temperatures because high temperatures inactivate the virus, and avoiding feeding raw chicken to household pets at the moment, as uncooked chicken from an infected bird can lead the pet to get H5N1. One

product of a cat food brand, Wild Coast, has been recalled because of the risk of cats contracting the virus from eating raw chicken.

There are no concerns with beef because this meat comes from beef cattle, whereas milk comes from dairy cattle.

The grocery product consumers must be cautious towards is raw milk, as drinking raw milk remains a popular mode of transmission into humans. Raw milk houses all the bacteria and H5N1 that the dairy cattle carry, therefore drinking the milk will harm the individual. Opt for pasteurized milk, which has been rid of all bacteria along with viruses that can impact people's health.

When farm animals are infected with H5N1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) takes steps to prevent the products from reaching consumers; this usually involves mass depopulation or culling of chicken flocks. As this method has been effective in reducing transmission to humans, farmers have faced drastic disadvantages, as they have lost millions of chickens.

To address the disadvantage to farmers, while also maintaining public safety, the USDA conditionally approved a vaccine—a H5N2 subtype, killed virus—that will be manufactured by Zoetis. This vaccine will be used specifically on chicken flocks that have been detected to have H5N1.

The U.S. government, however, is unsure if they will proceed with the vaccination process.

The 70 human reported cases were mostly from exposure to cattle and poultry farms/culling operations. Currently, 13 states have had human cases of the bird flu; California, Washington and Colorado have reported 38, 11 and 10 cases, respectively, while all other 11 states have reported one human case. Louisiana, as of date, has only had one human case of the bird flu, which now is the only human death in the nation thus far from the virus.

Arts and Culture

Clean up kits within Dupre library

Jenna Kimball

NEWS WRITER

Many students around the University of Louisiana at Lafayette have been taking advantage of the Get Down and Clean Up kits that the Edith Garland Dupre library offers. Students can check out these kits using their student IDs and use the resources to help clean up litter around the roads in Lafayette.

The Get Down and Clean Up kit includes a trash grabber, trash bags, a neon reflective safety vest and instructions.

These resources are supplied to the school via the Keep Louisiana Beautiful program that strives to reduce litter and trash around the state of Louisiana. The kits are not only available in the Edith Garland Dupre library, but also in the Louisiana State Library and the Louisiana Public Library System.

The organization suggests turning on some music with a group of friends while students help clean up. They also recommend posting photos to social media so that Keep Louisiana Beautiful can shout out community members.

With Mardi Gras just having come to an end, now is a perfect time for students to be active in their community and help clean up their city and state.

Stephanie Robichaux, a member of the library staff said, "The kits are given to us by an organization so that students can check them out to go help clean up around campus. Are they used very often? Not really, but it's a really good idea."

She also said, "When I was a school teacher, I would have loved to have had this to go get my 4-H students and my library workers who always were willing to work weekends to help clean up Abbeville."

Joyce Algeria-Bernhard, a sophomore kinesiology major said, "Having the school just provide more like essentials or necessities just gives us more of an opportunity to like lean on the school more for simple things like that."

Aysa Jordan, a senior psychology

pre-medical major said, "I think other people should use it, I mean, it's definitely a way to give back."

The Keep Louisiana Beautiful program was founded in 2000 and has been receiving the President's Circle Award from the Keep America Beautiful program since 2015. The program hosts and participates in many events including "Love The Boot Week", webinars and conferences.

The mission of Keep Louisiana Beautiful is "to promote personal, corporate, and community responsibility for a clean and beautiful Louisiana."

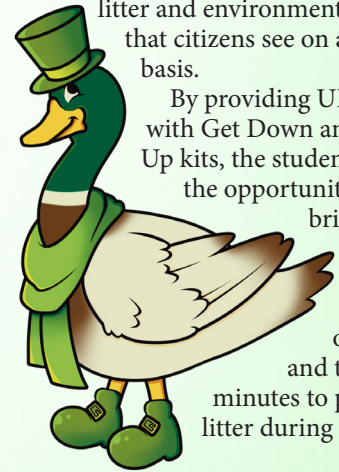
One way that the program does this is by improving policy and infrastructure through grants programs, advocacy and data collection. Another way is by strengthening environmental law enforcement through legislation support and a litter court handbook.

The third way that the program displays their mission is by influencing positive behavior through education, teacher training and public awareness campaigns.

Lastly, Keep Louisiana Beautiful helps to increase community capacity through litter cleanups, recycling collections, trainings and state conferences.

Though one small piece of trash on the side of the road seems like not a big deal, the amount of litter adds up and ultimately harms the city of Lafayette. Both Keep America Beautiful and Keep Louisiana Beautiful strive to reduce the litter and environmental issues that citizens see on a day-to-day basis.

By providing UL Lafayette with Get Down and Clean Up kits, the students are given the opportunity to help brighten their community simply by checking out a kit and taking a few minutes to pick up some litter during their day.



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. 19

INSTRUCTIONS

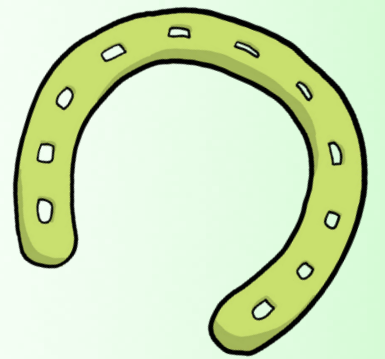
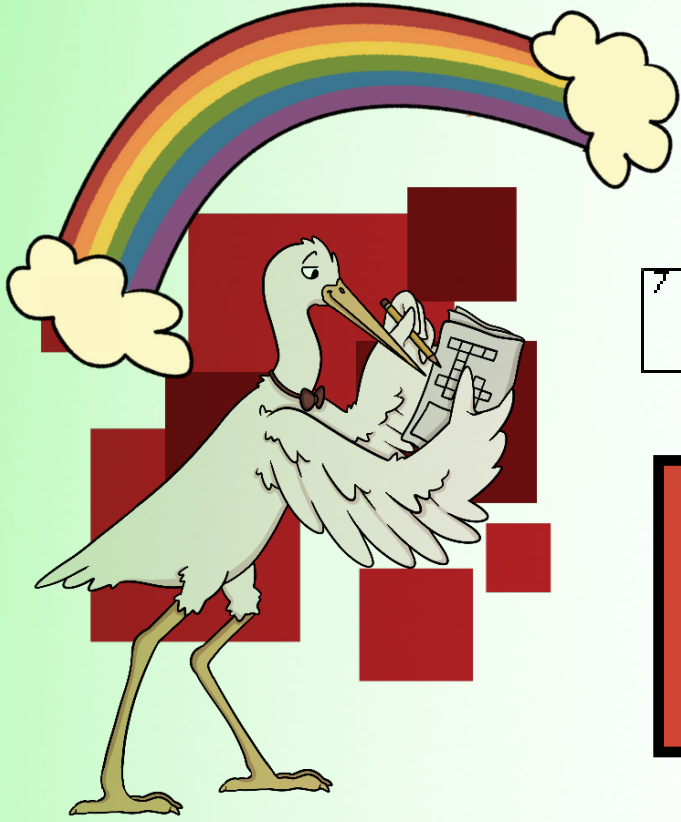
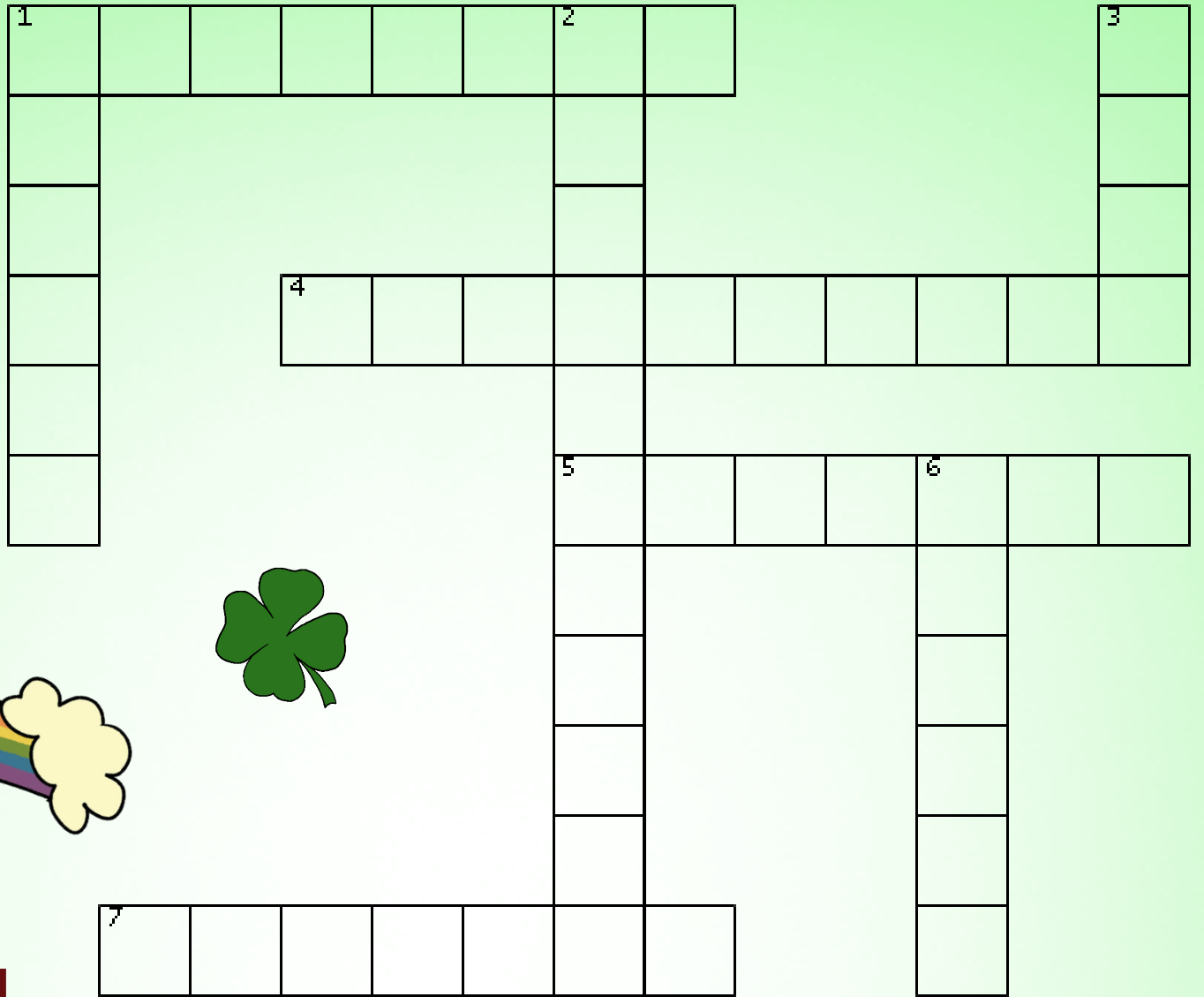
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

1. SGA is partnering with the ___ Guard to kick off their new idea.
4. What kind of cake did Isabelle Brumley get for dessert?
5. Pitcher started Saturday's game (last name).
7. The name of the college in "The Secret History."

DOWN

1. The Ragin' Cajun Catholic Student Ministry was the ___ Club in 1923.
2. Where is the park going to be?
3. What month is Spider-Man 4 expected to be released?
6. Which Cajuns hitter recorded RBI in both Saturday games (last name)?



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Sports

Cajuns bounce back with wins over Iowa and ranked Alabama

Isaac Henry
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns women's softball team split wins in both their matchups last weekend, going 2-2 in their Spring Break Showdown.

In Tuscaloosa, AL, the Cajuns faced the Iowa Hawkeyes and the No. 21-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide in a pair of doubleheaders on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 7-8.

These wins put the Cajuns at a 13-9 overall record and proved the team has the firepower and pitching prowess to compete with the best teams in the Sun Belt.

In a press conference held Feb. 24, Head Coach Alyson Habetz talked about what she needed from the team coming into high-level competition in the stretch before conference play.

"You're gonna have some doubleheaders, so you're gonna need some depth in the pitching staff, and hopefully the ability just to attack the pitching zone and not give up any freebies. That's the main thing," Habetz said.

When asked about the relationships among the players and the leadership of the team, Habetz expressed her confidence in the group and shared how she has empowered the seniors to lead.

"We've had some great leadership, even from new ones like Tyra [Clary] and Savannah [White] have stepped up, but like Laney [Credeur] talking after a practice this past week, she kinda held some players accountable," Habetz said.

"I talked to her after. She said, 'It was a little uncomfortable, but it actually felt good after I did it,' so them embracing that role and knowing that teammates are gonna respect them because they have already earned that respect."

Habetz also spoke about what she

expected from the Alabama crowd as she had served as associate head coach for the Tide until 2023.

"After being in Alabama for 25 years... just being with the Ragin' Cajuns is gonna be a little different feel probably. Moreso, they'll have a different feel about us when I'm in a different shade of red."

"But still, it's gonna be a challenge, it's gonna be a great opportunity for our team just to be in an SEC home at their facility and to be able to play in front of those crowds."

"Of course, going to Alabama will be probably emotional for me. It's my home away from home, and had been for 25 years, so I'm looking forward to that."

She also had great things to say about freshman Gabbie Stutes, who had played her way into the rotation at right field against Houston on Feb. 22.

"Gabbie Stutes, I can't say enough great things about her. She hadn't played the outfield probably for a little while, and we pretty much did a crash course on outfield this week and she was out there and did great. Just a great team player," Habetz said.

In both losses Friday, the Cajuns struggled against the opposing pitching, only managing a combined eight hits and two earned runs against the starting pitchers in both contests.

Late in the sixth inning against Iowa, down 4-0, the Cajuns would mount a comeback attempt, scoring off both a Sam Roe single and a bases-loaded hit by pitch. Iowa proceeded to call in its relief and shut the Cajuns out in the seventh to end the game 4-2.

Saturday's outings, by comparison, were gold mines on offense.

That's not to discount the pitching: Freshman Mallory Wheeler drew the start against Iowa, and proceeded to throw a shut-out, recording four strikeouts in the process.

The Cajuns got in scoring position early, sacrifice bunting in center fielder Maddie Hayden in the first inning. Hayden showed up again on offense next inning, singling to bring in another run.

Junior Erin Ardoin put the final run on the board with a triple deep to center field for a bit more insurance, 3-0.

Against the Crimson Tide, things almost got away from Cajuns senior pitcher Tyra Clary, as she allowed two early runs.

She would right the ship, though, coaxing five ground balls and a strikeout through the next five innings.

Hayden, Cecilia Vasquez and Kayla Falterman made sure scoring positions

didn't go to waste for the Cajuns, combining for four RBI across the third, fourth and sixth innings.

It was in the sixth that the Cajuns, in a bad spot due to a hit by pitch, struck out a full-count batter and turned a clean double play to carry their 4-2 lead into the seventh. The Tide managed to load the bases in the seventh, but only managed to score one more run on a fielding error, and a comebacker groundout secured the Cajuns win.

Next up for the team is a trip to Huntington, W.Va for the beginning of conference play against the Marshall Thundering Herd on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 24-25.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Bethany Noble (77) pitches against the Houston Cougars Feb. 22.



Yuhasz walks it off to upset No. 21 DBU

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second straight weekend, and the third time this season, the Cajuns would be taking on a ranked team. This past weekend they hosted No. 21 Dallas Baptist University at M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field at Russo Park. The biggest question for the Cajuns going into the series was pitching, All-Sun Belt player, RHP Chase Morgan was out with an injury.

The Cajuns would make use of their bullpen and batting during Friday night's upset win over the Patriots 6-5, clinched with a walk-off double courtesy of Luke Yuhasz.

Louisiana performed extremely well at the plate in Friday's game, earning six runs thanks to reliable batters, old and new.

Jose Torres led the way with two

hits in three at bats, earning an RBI in the process. The best hitter though was sophomore second baseman Sam Ardoin, getting three hits in four at bats including an RBI.

Yuhasz scored two hits as well, including his walk-off double. Freshman shortstop Owen Galt made an appearance as well, subbing in for Drew Markle, where he would score a hit in two at bats and earn a run.

While the Cajuns' bats were working to score, the pitching staff made sure the game did not get out of reach, though it was a close call.

The start was given to the big senior, Matthew Holzhammer, who would give another solid and reliable performance for the Cajuns in the three innings he pitched. He only gave up three hits and a run while striking out four Patriot batters.

Holzhammer would be replaced at the top of the fourth inning by Andrew Hermann. Hermann gave up four hits and struck out two, giving up a walk in the process. Hermann would be pulled during the sixth after giving up a homerun and a hit to back-to-back batters.

Replacing Hermann was James Trimble, who would quickly be pulled for Dylan Theut after walking his first two batters.

Theut would quickly finish the inning with back-to-back outs on a fielder's choice and a flyout. He would continue to perform well in the seventh, ending the Patriot attack in three batters despite walking one thanks to a 6-4-3 double play.

The Cajuns would move some players around on defense entering the top of the eighth, where Theut would have another 1-2-3 inning, getting himself on a good roll going into the final inning.

The ninth would not be so kind to Theut. He started out well, striking out the first two batters before he loaded the bases with walks and hitting a batter with a pitch. He would then give up hits to let DBU take the lead 5-3.

Theut would be taken off for junior RHP Alex Rosario who would get the last out of the inning.

The bottom of the ninth would be one of the best innings for Louisiana so far this season, seeing hit after hit from the Cajun lineup to secure the win 6-5.

Saturday's game under thick clouds would not be as kind to Louisiana who would lose the game 10-6.

The loss can mainly be put on one person, though mistakes throughout the

game would end up costing the Cajuns the win.

The start would be given to Parker Dillhoff who began the game the best way any pitcher could, forcing the first three batters out. That initial momentum would help the Cajuns earn a run to make the game 1-0 going into the second.

The second inning saw the game blow up in Dillhoff's and the Cajun's faces. Starting the inning by hitting the first batter, Dillhoff would proceed to give up five runs while only allowing two hits.

This performance would see him pulled for JR Tollet, who would pitch for most of the game.

Tollet pitched six innings before being pulled at the top of the eighth. In those six innings he gave up four hits and two runs, though only one being an earned run. In that span he also struck out five batters and only walked one.

Riley Marcotte would replace Tollet in the eighth, finishing the inning and pitching some of the ninth. During that period, he gave up the two final runs that sealed the Cajuns fate despite their efforts to come back.

Yuhasz would have another great game at the plate, scoring two hits in four at bats including an RBI, Torres being the only other decent batter getting two hits as well.

The third and final game against DBU on Sunday, Mar. 9 had not been played at the time this article was written.

Louisiana will begin conference play next weekend, taking on yet another ranked opponent, No. 19 Troy. The series will be played at home at M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field at Russo Park.

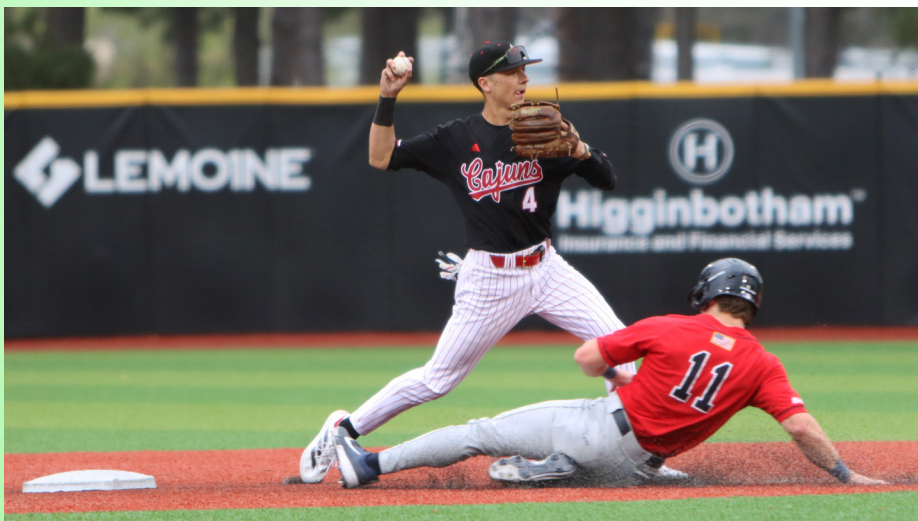





Photo by Jarrett Roberts

Sam Ardoin (4) turning a double play against Dallas Baptist University on Mar. 8.

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Allons



Where is the MCU going next?

Ja'lyn Braud

ASSISTANT ALLONS EDITOR

One of the most popular, and what I claim as the best, franchises to exist is the Marvel Cinematic Universe, or what most people know as the MCU.

Initially starting in 2008, and still going today, fans have been obsessed with this franchise for years. Movie after movie, you can expect the theatres to be filled to the brim, leaving the audience in awe and enticed for whatever comes next.

However, as the years have passed, this feeling has not been as prominent. More recently, fans have been catching themselves feeling disappointed in the work ethic and overall storylines of the latest movies.

After the two cinematic masterpieces, "Infinity War" and "Endgame," the MCU has not been on its game lately. After these movies were released, Marvel started producing multiple TV series. Some will claim that these series were done very well, like "WandaVision," "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier," or "Loki." Which, I too, strongly agree with, but I will save those tangents for another time.

On the other hand, some fans strongly disagree with this opinion. They look at series such as, "She-Hulk," and "Ms. Marvel," and can only find disgust and contempt within them. Which in some partiality, I can agree with this as well.

In this era of the MCU, with the production of the string of TV series, things start to get a little cloudy. Fans have products they absolutely love as well as loathe, which, unfortunately, has caused a division within the fandom.

It is really saddening to realize that some fans do not know whether or not they want to keep partaking in watching these films, especially since Marvel was once able to cling to the hearts of others so strongly. With the creation of deep and intentional plots, many people have developed emotional attachments to certain characters and narratives.

So to see these same people lose their love for something they have loved for so

long and have been so deeply connected to, is heartbreaking.

Speaking for myself, I would say that I was a late fan of the game. While most people are O.G.'s and have been watching the franchise since the first Iron Man, I did not really get involved until around the third Spider-Man, which is about 13 years apart. Though it seems I might not have much say, I promise I have watched in depth every single Marvel movie since I fell in love with these superhero films.

In addition to falling in love with these films, I also experienced the same heartbreak from them. Undergoing a sense of disappointment, I must admit, to know that Marvel might not make it back to their peak.

Beforehand, I would have told you that this division between fans is certain—that there was a clear line between those who refuse to look back at Marvel and those who still cling onto hope that the MCU they once loved will come back. And in all honesty, I do think that this hope has finally returned.

During this year, on Valentine's Day, "Captain America: Brave New World" was released. When first promoted, both fans and critics were skeptical about how the movie would turn out. Though "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier," which is the set up for the movie, was a success to some, it still gave Marvel plenty of room for error.

When first promoted, many expected the worst of the worst. Which is reasonable; considering how well the original Captain America movies went, it only makes sense. Nonetheless, fans were quickly misled and had an initial enjoyment towards the movie.

It was known that it would never be as good as the originals but fans had set the bar so low that "Captain America: Brave New World" easily met their expectations.

With such great reviews constantly swarming the feed of this movie, it seems that Marvel may finally be getting back on track again. The audiences have finally entered the theatres with the thrills and

excitement they once had, and you can see the love of Marvel slowly returning to the viewers.

Furthermore, this has really been shown through the excitement that people are throwing around with Marvel's latest announcement of releasing a Spider-Man 4. It is suggested to be released in July of 2026, but fans can only hope that it is released now.

With all the good news from "Captain America: Brave New World," fans seemed to have peaked in hope and are happily relying on the newest Spider-Man to give them the same satisfying feeling.

I am also thrilled to see both "Captain America: Brave New World" and the new Spider-Man. After experiencing many repeated let-downs from the MCU, my heart is only filled with pure excitement to see what is in store for me.

In all honesty, if these movies continue on the track they are on, I see a strong successful future for Marvel, with new generations to come enjoying every aspect.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

Does the book 'The Secret History' compare to a modern college life?

Ashlee Blue

ALLONS WRITER

Almost as far back as I can remember, college has occupied a place in my mind. By age seven, I was ready to attend college, pay taxes and work an office job (albeit in a romanticized, everything-works-out-for-me world). Before I had even come close to graduating elementary school, I decided that college was going to be better than elementary, middle, and high school combined.

My idea of college would have made some Hallmark executive rich if they had just copied and pasted it onto the script of a small-town weird kid coming-of-age movie.

I was convinced that the start of college would mark the end of all of my frustration; it was the place where I'd finally receive the freedom I'd been starved of, where I'd finally get the motivation to excel in school, where I'd

finally find people who genuinely liked and accepted me.

Then I grew up, got out of middle school and into therapy, and realized that life isn't so bad once you find the right crowd to go about it with. All my life I had dreamed of running away from my small town and into a safe haven of higher education, and yet as I approached my senior year of high school, I realized that going away was the last thing I wanted to do.

Don't get me wrong, I wanted to further my education as much as the next guy, but not if it meant losing the joy and companionship I found myself surrounded with after years of stumbling through life without it.

Then, between bouts of senioritis and debilitating anticipatory grief, I stumbled upon Donna Tartt's 1992 debut novel "The Secret History."

For those unaware, "The Secret History" is an inverted detective story, or

a story in which the commitment of the crime is revealed in the beginning, with the rest of the story focusing on how and why the crime was committed.

Written by Donna Tartt and released in 1992 as her debut novel, "The Secret History" tells the story of the murder of Bunny Corcoran, one of the six Classics students at Hampden College, through the eyes of his fellow student and the novel's protagonist, Richard Pape. Throughout the novel, Pape reflects on his time at Hampden and within the company of the other Classics students, all of whom are being manipulated and isolated by their professor, Julien Morrow.

Despite finishing all 592 pages in three days and concluding that it was the best thing I had ever read and everything I wanted to exhibit in my own writing style, Tartt's masterful way of storytelling is only half the reason "The Secret History" struck me as hard as it did. The

most impactful parts are the ones that, in my opinion, get overlooked the most, mainly the descriptions of simple day-to-day academic tasks.

Between the passages in Latin and literal murder, Tartt's protagonist studying or writing a paper seems pretty insignificant. Yet when I settled down to re-read this book after arriving back home from my senior trip, my room bare and in boxes, the strings of childhood officially cut, those details were the ones that I couldn't seem to escape; it was like looking into a crystal ball and seeing a future that could be mine within it (minus the murder, of course).

After a year of dreading any faint notion of college, I started to change my mind. While I knew my life wouldn't suddenly become a detective story at a private college in New England, I had hope that it would develop at least some of the aestheticism that seemed to accompany everything the novel's characters did.

I concluded that these next four years would go one of two ways; either I would become as motivated and organized as the 'studytok' accounts I followed, or I would end up like Richard Pape.

Now, three months into my second semester, I can see that I've become a little bit of both. While I have developed a newfound sense of personal responsibility, I've also fallen victim to a lot of the same struggles Richard Pape did: isolation, loneliness, academic pressure, and a struggle for identity. So far, I've been able to avoid the murder and moral corruption that Richard Pape also faced, but I'll update if any of that changes.

To me, "The Secret History" is one of the greatest stories of all time and I would recommend it to anyone at any point in their life, not just college freshmen. Though, if you are just beginning your college journey, I would recommend it even more; maybe you'll walk away from it with a new outlook on academia. And if that new outlook encompasses studying Greek and Roman classics with five other pretentious students, one of which you



Graphic by Izzy Lamb

Beaucoup

St. Patrick's Day

The Beaucoup section writes about celebrating St. Patrick's Day and its traditions.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

Sadie Lynn Burrell

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

I've never really considered myself someone who avidly celebrates Saint Patrick's Day, as I am not Irish nor am I much of a drinker. However, there is one tradition that I do enjoy partaking in. Every year, there are several parades that happen around Saint Patrick's Day that my family sometimes attends.

I remember loving the Saint Patrick's Day parades in Metairie and New

Orleans and trying my best to catch the Irish Spring soap they throw off of the floats. Even more exciting, in my opinion, is the Irish-Italian parade in Metairie. This one is a couple of days after St. Patrick's Day but is still very fun. They throw fruit and vegetables off of the floats and I love catching them to eat and take home.

If I am not at parades, I'm probably not celebrating the holiday, but every year I do try to wear green for the occasion.

Kaelin Palmer

PHOTOGRAPHER

On St. Patrick's Day, I usually find myself celebrating the tradition by wearing some shade of green. At first, I didn't care much about the holiday until I started getting pinched by friends and family, especially my grandmother. To avoid getting pinched the next time around, I made sure to wear green and return the favor to anyone who had pinched me before.

If I had told my younger self that I would one day celebrate St. Patrick's Day, she would have looked at me like I was crazy. But over the years, I've found some fun in it. I'll admit that the only thing that really stood out to me about this holiday was that people wear green and appreciate leprechauns. So, I'm definitely not a St. Patrick's Day enthusiast, but maybe by next year, I'll have learned a bit more about it.

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

The only times I ever remember celebrating St. Patrick's Day was in elementary school. I have some memories of learning about the history of the holiday and maybe getting candy. St. Patrick's is one of those holidays I don't have many memories celebrating in the way I have associated with Mardi Gras.

When I think about it, the only St. Patrick's Day movie I know of is the 2001

Disney Channel Original Movie "The Luck of the Irish." I remember that movie playing on Disney Channel every year.

I do own a Leprechaun plushy that my uncle bought for me when he went to Ireland. Thought that was pretty cool to mention. Maybe this year, I can do more to celebrate this holiday. There must be some event in Lafayette that commemorates the day.

Normally, though, I am at school during the day and I am always exhausted when I get home.

Kayla Woods-Crane

NEWS WRITER

Aside from looking for four leaf clovers in elementary school, I have never really celebrated St. Patrick's Day. I know it is a big holiday in the Midwestern and Northern parts of the country, but it has never really been big in the South.

I think that is a big reason why I haven't celebrated it seriously. Similarly, I never really cared about celebrating Mardi Gras until I started going to school

in South Louisiana. If St. Patrick's Day was as big here as Mardi Gras is, I am positive that I would be out in green clothes with clovers on my face.

It is cool to me how different America is regionally. The country is so big that one state can find a holiday really important, and two states away, depending on the region of those states, their important holidays are completely different. It is like our states are tiny countries with distinct cultures in one big country.

Food Review

Dwight's: Lafayette's go-to spot for crawfish and southern flavor

Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 4800 Johnston St., Dwight's is a local restaurant specializing in Cajun cuisine. From crawfish to daily plate lunches, Dwight's offers an array of dishes that show the Cajun and Creole cultures. Lafayette locals enjoy this restaurant due to its southern charm and good food.

The daily plate lunches, available from Monday to Friday, are incredibly mouthwatering. A few of their daily dishes include crawfish étouffée, shrimp po'boy, chicken and meatball fricassée, smothered pork steaks and fried fish. These dishes come with a choice of two sides, including but not limited to corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese and potato salad. The restaurant also features a weekly Sunday BBQ.

Dwight's started as a grocery store owned by Dwight Breaux in the mid-1970s. As the local community grew, they decided to open a restaurant in 1988. Within no time, they were able to establish themselves as a local go-to spot for Louisiana cuisine.

The atmosphere of the restaurant made me feel like I was back in my

hometown. Southern hospitality was the essence of this place. The inside had wood finishes with classic southern-themed artwork on the walls and holes in the tables that led to trash bins for crawfish shells.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this establishment on Thursday, Mar. 6. As we walked in, we were greeted by the hostess and seated at our table. The scent of fresh crawfish filled the restaurant, with nearly everyone seated enjoying pounds of crawfish. Looking at the dinner menu, I realized it was going to be a hard decision.

The menu's appetizer section included some Louisiana favorites such as fried pickles, alligator bites, onion rings, pork skins and fried mushrooms. We ultimately decided to get the fried pickles as our appetizer.

The entree section contained oysters, salads, po'boys, burgers, seafood baskets, crawfish, gumbo and other crawfish-based dishes. After trying to decide for nearly 10 minutes, my colleague and I agreed on 5 lbs of boiled crawfish and the Zydeco Ravioli to share between the two of us.

Our fried pickles came out within five minutes of ordering, along with our

side salad. The pickles were perfectly seasoned and crispy, while our salad was just as remarkable.

The first entree, Zydeco Ravioli, came out shortly after we finished our appetizer. I was amazed at the sight of this dish, fried ravioli topped with a cheesy and creamy crawfish sauce. This dish was truly something I had never seen or tasted before. Combining all of these ingredients was a flavorful experience.

Our boiled crawfish arrived steaming hot and ready to be eaten. We were both bound and determined to finish all five pounds. The crawfish was perfectly cooked, seasoned just right and well sized. The hole in the middle of our table was handy for reducing the mess.

After finishing all of the crawfish, I decided to interview the team leader, Laura Marie Lamb. "I have been working here since 2012. I really like all of the people I work with that's been here a long time. That's what makes it so great."

When asked about her favorite thing on the menu, she replied "Max's Special, it is a stuffed potato with crawfish étouffée on top. It's also really good if you add extra green onions on top."

As I was finishing my interview, I glanced at the menu's dessert section. I was astonished to see the number of different things they had—cobblers, cakes, ice cream, cookies, bread pudding and pies, to name a few. We ended up choosing the strawberry cream cake to finish our evening.

The sense of community in this place was good. A select number of employees have been serving this restaurant for decades and continue to dedicate themselves to serving the people of Lafayette. It seemed like all of the employees genuinely loved working with each other.

I understand why this place is essential to the community. The crawfish was priced well, and you get your money's worth from all the dishes.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at this restaurant. The food was mouthwatering and the staff was amazing.

If you would like to visit this restaurant, it is open Monday to Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday until 9 p.m., Saturday from 4:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photo by Ellie Schmidt

Dwight's Boiled Crawfish, Strawberry Creme Cake and indoor seating

SOUNDING OFF

"Do you have any television or movie recommendations?"



Kiara Mcwain
SOCIOLOGY SENIOR

"Yes, so recently I have been watching 'Sisters' and 'Zatima', which is a spin off of 'Sisters' on BET."



Dymond Vinson
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"I like 'The Rookie' a lot right now and '9-1-1'."



Autumn Davis
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN SOPHOMORE

"I would definitely recommend 'Arcane' or 'Yellowjackets' for TV, movie recommendations I would probably say 'Howl's Moving Castle'."



Hal Wyatt
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN SOPHOMORE

"'One Piece' actually, I was going to say 'Arcane' but 'One Piece'."



Brashayla Leday
PSYCHOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"I highly recommend 'Griselda.'"



Lee Williams
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SOPHOMORE

"Recently I have started watching 'Bojack' because a friend recommended it to me. A movie? Probably 'Get Out', it is one of my favorite movies by far."

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

St. Patty's Pirate



Comic by Lauren Gerald



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