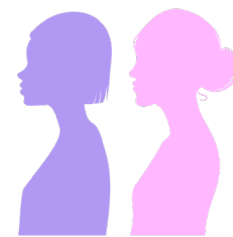




THE VERMILION

Womens History Month



The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper



March 20, 2025

Residential safety: It takes more than one

Ramudhi Kariyawasam
MANAGING EDITOR

It is the hope of students, and their parents, who choose to dedicate another four years of their lives to earn a good education and life experience to do just that; but interruptions, frustrations and unexpected events are just as inevitable in their college career.

A recent incident in a residential hall at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has brought into question the safety of students who live on campus.

On Feb. 2, at 11:42 p.m., a resident assistant (RA) from Baker Hall called the UL Lafayette Police Department (ULPD) about a suspected drug violation, when they smelled marijuana coming from a certain dorm.

According to Sergeant Lance Frederick, public information officer, a ULPD officer responded to the call and visited the dorm; the resident of the dorm gave permission to the officer to search the residence. While searching, the officer found a male subject hiding in a closet.

ULPD identified the subject and learned that he had an active warrant for resisting an officer (RS 14:108) issued by the Department for an incident in which he was involved previously in September 2024.

Officials transported the subject to the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office jail and booked him, further unveiling that he had two additional active warrants: armed robbery (RS 14:64) and attempted first-degree murder (RS 14:30).

The subject had these two pre-

existing active warrants at the time of an incident, which took place at the University in September last year. According to a ULPD police report, on Sept. 26, at 8:09 p.m., officers responded to a physical fight, in front of Chick-fil-A by the Student Union, between the subject and another party. Both parties did not pursue charges.

"While investigating the fight, the same individual gave false information to our officers. After, it was learned that it wasn't that person's information, and we found their information, they put a warrant out for his arrest for providing false information, which is resisting an officer," Frederick said.

According to RS 14:108(B), resisting an officer includes, but is not limited to, providing false information about one's identity. Officials reason that the subject provided false information to avoid proper identification and the revealing of his two initial warrants for armed robbery and attempted first-degree murder. At this time, it is unclear how the subject entered Baker Hall.

Dawn Miller, the director of property management for the Office of University Housing and the Student Union, took the time to speak on this matter.

According to Miller, in order to enter most residential halls, students must scan their University ID card to permit entry; upon entry, students must scan their ID again at the front desk before proceeding to their dorm. Afterwards, there are additional locations to scan their IDs before they can reach their dorm. Students ID cards only permit entry into their assigned residential hall and dorm room floor, in most instances.

The front desk in the lobby has scheduled student staff between the hours of 7 a.m. until midnight during all week days to monitor activity and arrival or departure of students and guests.

The Office of University Housing also has security guards from Lofton Staffing & Security Services present at the front desk from midnight until 7 a.m. all week. Currently, every residential hall has one security guard, with the exception of Agnes Edwards Hall, which has a security guard on the second, third and fourth floors, Miller explained.

Both student staff and security guards are required to carry out the same procedures for student resident entry and guest policies.

The subject of interest was found before midnight, therefore likely having entered prior to security guard arrival. Miller confirmed, "There was a student staff scheduled to be there," and that this student staff was present at the desk.

Frederick shared that there are certain times of the day where the flow of traffic into and out of the residential halls is overwhelming and hard to monitor, one such time being after dinner. "If you're a student worker or one security guard [...] you have to have a physical barrier in place to queue a line to get them in," Frederick said.

Although the mode of entry remains with student ID scans, when large groups of students are entering a hall at once, people tend to hold the doors open for one another, overriding the individual need to scan an ID and simultaneously missing proper identification.

"From what we can tell, the resident let them in, so when the resident came through, the guest came with them. They did not sign in at the front desk," Miller shared.

Based on these events, there was no chargeable crime in any of the events that unfolded that night. There was neither any evidence suggesting the host knew about the subject's active warrants nor physical, attainable amounts of narcotics at the scene for an arrest, by law. However, there were major housing policies broken, such as having a non-registered guest inside the residential dorm and alleged drug use.

According to the UL Lafayette Housing Handbook, students may have guests at their residence, but should

accompany them at all times; guests of the opposite sex are only allowed during visitation hours, marked from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

A guest can be a student who visits a residential hall different from their assigned hall, a student of the opposite sex in the same residential hall or a non-student that is or is not affiliated with the University. Different procedures follow for overnight stays.

The Vermilion visited several residential dorms as a guest to understand the policies followed by the front desk staff.

The main entrance, front desk of Baker, Huger and Agnes Edwards halls had a student staff at the time of visitation. There was a physical guest sign-in sheet book, which asked for basic identification information of the guest and the student resident host, the date and time of check-in and check-out. The Vermilion voluntarily signed in, as none of the front desk staff inquired about or required it. Most students at these residential halls scanned their IDs only at the main entrance door, but rarely ever at the front desk.

The Vermilion also reached out to students at Louisiana State University (LSU), another public institute, to understand their housing policies.

Jyrah Leday, a junior, and Sean Stephenson, a sophomore, at LSU, shared that residents must scan their LSU ID to enter their hall and, in some cases, to enter their dorm room.

According to the LSU Living on Campus Handbook, LSU-affiliated guests must present their LSU ID when requested by an RA or employee. If the guest is not affiliated with LSU, they are required to meet their student host at the Residential Life community's front door. The guests are to be escorted by the student host at all times and can be asked to present a state or federal ID by an RA or employee.

Hence, both UL Lafayette and LSU have similar guidelines and policies in place for student residents and guests.

What this incident brings to light, however, is the overall safety at UL Lafayette.

It is essential to note that there are already security measures in place to ensure everyone is protected.

➤ See **SAFETY** on page 3



Photo by Alyus Dick
Sign in front of Baker Hall

ULPD is tackling crime on campus

Kayla Woods-Crane
NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Police Department (ULPD) uses Flock Safety automated license plate readers to capture video evidence of crime, and to locate stolen vehicles or vehicles in connection with a crime.

Sergeant Lance Frederick, a ULPD public information officer, said the camera scans the license plate of a vehicle, and if that vehicle was reported stolen, the platform would locate local law enforcement so the vehicle could be recovered.

Frederick explained why ULPD decided to use Flock Safety technology. "The University and the Police Department are dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming experience to our students, visitors, faculty and staff. In order to do that, the Police Department has to keep up with technology and the growing UL and Lafayette community," Frederick said.

Frederick also gave an example of how the cameras have worked on campus. He explained that a vehicle was stolen from a parking lot on campus and was located shortly after being reported missing by the owner using the Flock Safety platform. Frederick said over email, "It has been extremely helpful to our agency."

When asked how safe they felt on campus, most students said they felt like their possessions and themselves were safe. Jaden Miller, a senior majoring in

general studies, said he felt safe due to the constant police presence around campus. "The cops roll around 24-7, so I feel secure. Even at 3 o'clock in the morning, I see them riding so," Miller said.

Similarly, Collin Guillory, a junior majoring in kinesiology, also said he felt safe due to the police presence. Despite the police surveillance, Guillory explained that he thought the security camera was a great idea because the police can't be everywhere at once.

"Police is not gonna be here on every corner catching everybody so it's good that they got cameras on every corner of the parking lot to see. They can catch every angle, scope out every scene, every car, every road that someone's parked on [...]," Guillory said.

Some students described their experience with vehicle crime on campus. Last November, Denim Day, a junior majoring in general studies, was alerted by police that his car was among a group of cars broken into overnight. Luckily, nothing was stolen from his car, but the experience made him more vigilant about locking his doors and parking in front of cameras.

"I seen they was trying to crack down on it a lot and it made me feel okay, but still after that [...] every day I come in and I make sure... even if my car already locked, I'll make sure it's locked again, [...] so I won't have that again."

Day said he thought the Flock Safety technology was a good way for ULPD to deter and solve crimes because it is a quicker way to identify vehicles that

are involved. "I like it. I just hope that nobody really gets into this situation to where they have to [...] use it," Day said.

Holden Brown, a sophomore majoring in nursing, almost had his hubcap stolen but did not report it to ULPD. Although Brown already feels safe, he said the Flock Safety technology does make him feel safer. "Because it's a better chance of them getting caught and not doing it again, so I think so," Brown said.

Flock Safety cameras only detect license plates and vehicles, not faces, people, gender or race. ULPD began operating 50 automated license plate readers in April 2024. They store the data collected from the cameras for 30 days. According to the Flock Safety transparency portal, ULPD has detected 211,105 vehicles in the last 30 days. The Lafayette Police Department also uses Flock Safety. There have been 651,517 vehicles detected in the last 30 days.

According to the FBI, property crimes in Lafayette increased from 2021 to 2023. In 2021, there were 4,534 crimes reported, and in 2023, there were 5,586. The crimes included in property crimes were arson, burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft.

In 2023, the rate of burglary in Lafayette was 136 people per 100,000 people.

It was higher than the state average, 37 people per 100,000 people. For more information about crime on campus, visit police.louisiana.edu and view the daily crime and fire log.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Flock camera located on Hebrard Blvd.

News

WLC 2025

Details regarding the 18th annual Women's Leadership Conference held on Mar. 13th.

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RUSSIA V. UKRAINE

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NEW COACH IN TOWN

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Beaucoup

HILLIARD RODIN EXHIBIT

The Beaucoup section visit the Hilliard Museum and speak on their experience.

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2025 WLC: Celebrating leaders

Nyria Mustiful
ALLONS EDITOR

The 18th annual Women's Leadership Conference was held this past Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025, at the Cajundome Convention Center. The conference was hosted by the Office of Campus Inclusion at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and organized by the conference committee. The conference committee is composed of 31 male and female faculty and staff, and is spearheaded by the University's Chief Inclusion Officer, Professor Kiwana McClung.

Doors opened at 7:30 a.m., with guests being greeted by members of the conference committee located at tables by the entrance. At these tables, guests were able to retrieve their name tags for the event, as well as complimentary goodie bags, which included a pink tumbler with the conference logo engraved on it, pink glasses and a pen from the UL Federal Credit Union.

Once guests gathered these materials, they were guided into the event space. At the door to the space, greeters gave out raffle tickets for future door prize raffles. Inside the space, multiple round tables were set up with pink centerpieces.

A self-serve continental breakfast,

including muffins, fruit and orange juice was provided. At 8:15 a.m., Professor McClung took to the stage to offer a welcome to everyone from the conference staff and the Office of Campus Inclusion.

In her opening remarks, McClung discussed the meaning of the conference theme and the intended impact of the theme as well. "It reflects the powerful role we all play in shaping the future. As women, we carry with us wisdom, strength and vision to guide the generations that follow, whether through mentorship, leadership or simply sharing our stories. Today, we are laying the foundation for a brighter tomorrow," McClung said.

McClung also discussed the educational tracks of the event's sessions, spoke about the special sessions and panels held during breakout sessions and acknowledged the returning guests from previous conference years.

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Patricia Cottonham also got on stage and offered a welcome to guests on behalf of the University. "The University, along with our university partners, are pleased to plan this day where women come together and learn from each other, to lean on each other and to leave feeling empowered and energized."

After the welcome, guests were ushered into a "Pre-Session Uplift" by Tonya Bolden-Ball, a member of the conference committee and the regional director at Ochsner Health, one of the sponsors for the event. The uplift activity involved participants dancing the "Cupid Shuffle" to help them wake up, get energized and get ready for the amazing sessions that lie ahead.

Morning breakout sessions were from 9-9:45 a.m. to 10-10:45 a.m., with 15-minute breaks, before and after, for participants to be able to visit the exhibitors' tables to learn more about their organizations and businesses. Sessions differed in topics, all corresponding to one of the four educational tracks derived from the conference theme.

All guests were given a pink card with all of the exhibitor logos on it to be utilized for a game of "Exhibitor Bingo." Guests were to go to each exhibitor table, learn information from the individual businesses and/or organizations and get the person at the table to sign their card. This particular bingo game was "Blackout", meaning guests had to make sure they got every exhibitor to fill out their card in order for them to win.

After the morning sessions, guests migrated back to the main event space for lunch and the keynote address. The keynote speaker for the conference was Mrs. Jan Latiolais Hargrave. Hargrave is one of the nation's leading behavioral authority and body language experts, specializing in helping individuals with their body language and interpretations in personal and professional settings.

Hargrave is the CEO of Jan Hargrave and Associates, a consulting firm owned and operated by Hargrave to service a variety of clientele in the realm of body language expertise. She has authored many books, including, but not limited to, "Let Me Hear Your Body Talk" and "Freeway to Love" with comedian and television host, Steve Harvey.

During her speech at the conference, Hargrave enlightened the audience by telling the guests that in her research, she

found that 55% of our communication comes from our bodies, compared to 38% with our voices.

Hargrave began engaging the conference guests by conducting a little activity that essentially was a true/false questionnaire, but with questions about body language activity. The questions ranged from situations dealing with lying, avoiding conversation, relationships and feelings.

Once the audience was done answering the questions, Hargrave began speaking and identifying the different cues associated with each of the questions she asked, and therefore rendering the real answer of each question. The president of the University, Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, even aided Hargrave in a handshake demonstration for attendees.

The conference continued with awards being given to three individuals that have made a distinct impact in leadership, not only in the campus community at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, but within the Lafayette and Acadiana community as well. The three honorees included Dr. Bobby B. DeCuir, Monica Rougeau and Jalisa R. Jones, who received the Sarah Rabant Trailblazer award, Rising Leader award and Emerging Leader award, respectively.

Guests were able to attend two more breakout sessions after the luncheon and awards, from 1-1:45 p.m. and 2-2:45 p.m. Once everyone was done with sessions, guests returned to the main event space to gather the rest of their exhibitor bingo signatures and socialize before the end of the conference.

The conference concluded with closing remarks from Professor Kiwana McClung, as well as the last few door prizes being awarded to guests with winning tickets.

Overall, the 18th annual Women's Leadership Conference was an experience full of empowerment and encouragement for all women in leadership to continue blazing ahead and inspiring future generations to come.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Students at Women's Leadership Conference

Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Mar. 15

- At 7:41 p.m., an officer responded to threats being made at Baker Hall.
- At 7:41 p.m., officers working a baseball game at Russo Park were advised of a physical fight in progress near the concessions stands. Three arrests were made.
- At 2:56 p.m., an individual reported that their black KQi1 scooter had been stolen from Legacy Park Apartments.
- At 1:37 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Baker Hall in regards to a complaint concerning stolen clothes and verbal threats.
- At 12:15 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on 100 Smith St. of a grey 2008 Acura. An arrest was made.

Mar. 14

- At 8:52 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the University Maintenance Shop in regards to a burglary involving Milwaukee SDS Hammer Drill, 18V battery, drill bites and a Dewalt finishing nail gun.

Mar. 12

- At 11:40 p.m., officers were dispatched to Heritage Apartments to assist an individual in gathering their belongings, it was determined a battery had occurred against them. The subject responsible was arrested.
- At 8:53 p.m., officers were dispatched to Baker Hall in response to housing locating narcotic equipment. An arrest was made.

Mar. 11

- At 6:25 p.m., officers were dispatched to Heritage Apartments in regards to an individual making threats with a gun. A grey 2010 Ford Mustang, a black 9 mm handgun, 15 9 mm bullets and a pink bong were involved.

Mar. 10

- At 2:31 a.m., two individuals were arrested at Agnes Edwards Hall due to possessing approximately 14 grams of marijuana.

WHERE'S ALLAN?



Man, I just got told I need to order a new textbook for class. Let's hope they have a copy here! Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer:
Charger Station in Student Union

Last week's Where's Allan winner, **Joshua Brown**, a senior majoring in accounting. He is the president of the Delta Sigma Pi Professional Business fraternity, Kappa Xi chapter on campus, which is a professional fraternity for business majors.










Win a free sandwich from Roly Poly

The first UL student to recognize where The Vermilion's mascot, Allan the Alligator, was photographed on campus will win a free sandwich from Roly Poly on Coolidge Street in Lafayette.

The first UL student to email the correct location of Allan to **TheVermilion@louisiana.edu** will win. The Vermilion will continue this contest each week until the end of the semester.

Participants cannot win more than once a semester, and must be attentive to their emails.

Weather

Thursday 3/20	Friday 3/21	Saturday 3/22	Sunday 3/23	Monday 3/24	Tuesday 3/25	Wednesday 3/26
 High: 66 F Low: 39 F	 High: 70 F Low: 54 F	 High: 81 F Low: 62 F	 High: 78 F Low: 60 F	 High: 72 F Low: 49 F	 High: 72 F Low: 54 F	 High: 78 F Low: 55 F

Ramudhi Kariyawasam
MANAGING EDITOR

- Guatemala's volcano, Fuego, erupts with lava on Mar. 15, causing hundreds of residents to evacuate.
- Tornado on Mar. 15 caused devastating damage to parts of Mississippi.

- California wildfires subside and move closer toward recovery.

Politics

The US voted in favor of Russia at the UN: What does it mean?

Gracie Cormier

POLITICS WRITER

At the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly in late February, the United States joined Russia in voting against placing blame on Russia for the invasion of Ukraine in 2021 on three U.N. resolutions. The vote was a divergence from previous relations, as European allies voted in favor of the same resolutions.

The votes on the resolutions included one Europe-backed resolution that highlighted Moscow's aggression and demanded an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine. On another resolution, the U.S. abstained from voting on a competing resolution that attacked Europeans.

While the U.N. assembly votes are a measure of global opinion and not legally binding, the U.S. pushed for a vote on the original draft of the second resolution in the U.N. Security Council, where decisions are legally binding.

The result from that vote was 10-0 with five European countries abstaining. The countries that abstained were Britain, Denmark, France, Greece and Slovenia.

These votes come as divides between the U.S. and its allies widen. A week before, the U.S. and Russia met to discuss the conflict. In this discussion, President Donald Trump implied that Ukraine is to blame for the war. In response to Ukraine's objections to being excluded from this meeting, Trump stated, "You should have never started it. You could have made a deal."

Many European allies have taken issue with Trump's disregard to them in favor of direct negotiation with Russia. French

Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron organized a meeting with European leaders shortly after the U.S. meeting.

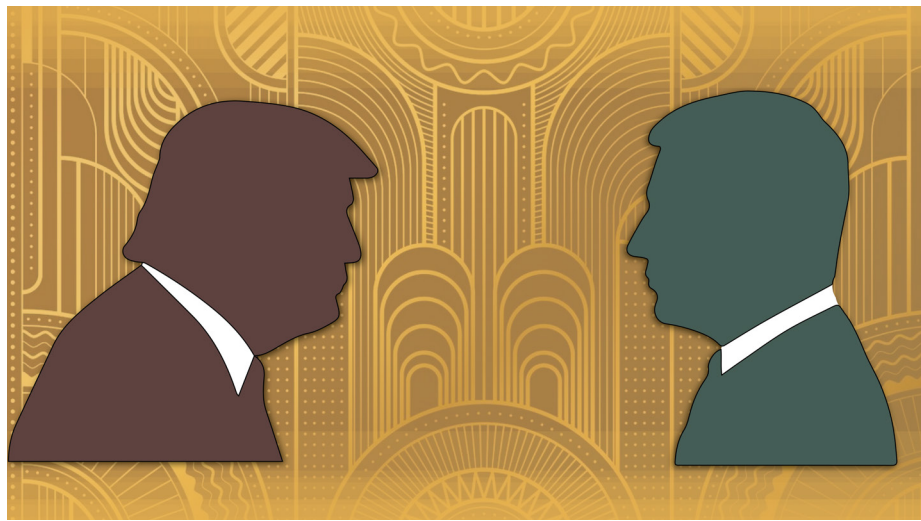
Divisions between the U.S. and Ukraine are also becoming more significant, especially after the meeting with Russia and Trump calling President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a "dictator." President Trump has additionally made false claims that Ukraine started the war and has called for the country to end the conflict.

Many people believe that the recent shift in power from President Joe Biden to Trump is largely responsible for the growing tensions between the U.S. and its allies.

Elliott Camel, a freshman biology major at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette who has "been following most of the events [of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine] since they took place," weighed in on the conversation. Camel said, "I believe that there is a significant shift in the mindset due to the recent change of power in the executive office."

"I now believe that, while the United States and Russia are seeking a cease fire agreement, I have reason to believe that the United States is more interested in ending the conflict and appeasing Russia rather than defending Ukraine, and I believe that we have given up some of our patriotic and democratic values for the sake of an easy out, so to speak."

When asked to expand on the significance of the change in power, Camel noted Trump's campaign promises to end the war in Ukraine. He went further to explain the problem he sees in the president's method of ending the war. He said, "While trying to make



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

do on his promises, he's neglecting what is actually being fought for, which is the right of Ukraine to have their own sovereignty, free from Russian oppression."

Another UL Lafayette student, senior criminal justice major Freddie Albert, weighed in on the conversation. When asked about what he believed the significance of the votes were, Albert said, "It's definitely not surprising, considering who's in office."

He added, "I guess it is significant, but it's not surprising." Albert shared his hopes for the end of the conflict, saying, "In a perfect world, in an ideal world, we would all sit down and we'll talk it out."

Albert expressed that his actual expectations for the war were more bleak. He said that he expects, "Probably a lot of people dying, and it sounds very scary and it's very messed up, but that sounds like what it's going to be if things keep trending towards what I'm seeing."

So, hopefully, I'm wrong. Hopefully, I'm very wrong."

Sydney Jones, a freshman political science major, also added to the conversation. She expressed her hopes for the end of the war, saying that she wants to see a reduction in global tensions and peace. "I'm pretty sure everybody wants world peace, and that's one thing that, throughout the years, people will say that we will never get, but I still feel like a resolution."

"We have to ensure long term stability in the region." She continued, "Support for Ukraine, stronger international law enforcement, accountability for war crimes, and things of that nature."

The world continues to watch as ceasefire deals are discussed and war continues to wage in Ukraine.

The United States's response will be crucial to how the conflict continues to develop, and the votes at the U.N. give a clearer understanding of Trump's intentions.

SAFETY

Continued from page 1

Nevertheless, this incident merely shows how one mishap, such as holding the door open for others, not scanning an ID at a specific location or student staff not upholding their job's procedures, can lead to possibly much harsher consequences.

University housing, administration and law enforcement are actively attempting to find solutions to prevent future instances alike.

Miller said, "We definitely need to look at how can we enhance our front desk security to where we have a little bit more control over students coming in, non-students coming in, and how to properly educate our students on how important it is to stop at the desk, register your guest. We're not going to tell you, 'You can't have a guest.' We just need to know who's in the building."

Being a student staff at a residential hall front desk is, for some, their first job; hence, educating them more thoroughly about the procedures they must follow is another goal of the University.

The Office of University Housing and ULPD are also working towards increasing ULPD presence at the residential halls.

Cade Roy, the president of the Student Government Association and a senior political science major, shared, "We as students often also have to be more cautious about [...] who we're bringing onto campus and into dorm halls, and especially if we just met them and they're not a student."

"You see problems, and we've heard it too, [...] at night, even with the night guards," Roy continued.

The University is currently working on a form that is exclusive for staff and RAs, at this time, to report any issues regarding the security guards.

The University is actively working towards not only implementing new safety measures, but also educating student residents about what individual procedures they must all follow to protect themselves and those around them.

These implementations are planned to

go into effect as immediately as possible.

"We want to make sure that the residents understand that we are not doing these policies to make their life on campus miserable, it's more because we have to think of everyone [...] how it would affect a building of almost 500 students if something terrible would happen," Miller said.

"This is their home [...] everybody comes from a different background and a different home environment, and we want to try to make everyone that moves into the building comfortable and enjoy their time in the building," Miller stated.

Dr. Patricia Cottonham, the vice president of the Office of Student Affairs, shared, "The entire University, especially the president of the University, is committed to providing a safe, nurturing [...] space for our students anywhere around campus; in this particular case, we are talking about [...] those students who live on campus."

"We realize that this is home away from home, and we want our students to have a [...] very good experience while they are here."

"The University will continue to have discussions, we will continue to have partnerships, we will continue to address this issue until [...] it's handled," Cottonham stated.

These discussions alone have brought to question the mere nature of events the University can work to prevent, but it appears that the truth of it all, in this case, is that existing and future safety measures alone will not entirely ensure someone's security.

It is rather the collective effort put forth by all individuals—University student residents, staff, security guards, law enforcement, faculty and administration—that will ultimately make sure similar events, either of lesser or more seriousness, will be prevented.

UL Lafayette and all its facilities continue to remain as a drug-free and gun-free campus.

The Franklin Police Department shared with The Vermilion that the subject is currently in jail at St. Mary's Sheriff's Office.

Arts and Culture

Having roommates in college

Jenna Kimball

NEWS WRITER

On Wednesday, Mar. 12, there was an off-campus housing fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Student Union at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for all students who were interested in learning more about off-campus housing options.

Places like The Edge at Lafayette, Theater Street Apartments and The Quarters Student Living had booths that students could visit to get information and take-home goodies. Many of the booths had give-aways such as cups, candy, water bottles, hats, pens and much more.

One of the biggest factors, other than cost and vicinity, that students take into consideration when deciding where to live, is their roommates.

The majority of students who live in a residential hall on campus live with one or more roommates. This is not true for all students, but even most of those who are currently living alone have had experience living with another student at some point.

When asked about her experience with roommates, Yvonne Givens, a senior criminal justice major said, "I don't like having a roommate because I, sometimes, like my own space and my own privacy."

Others, like Leshyra Gillum, a senior psychology major, said, "It forces you to socialize and so it kind of helps you get into this world where you're gonna have to socialize with people that you don't know, people who come from different backgrounds and different teachings and all of these things."

On-campus housing is a slightly more cost-efficient housing option, however, it is generally a smaller living space.

When living in one of the halls on campus, students can choose to live with other students or they can live in a room by themselves with a shared bathroom.

Daijon Whiticar, a freshman nursing major, said, "I feel like if I had

to recommend to other people, I feel like you should just choose someone that you would get along with. I would recommend a single suite, to be honest, so you could get your own privacy because you get your own room and you just share the bathroom and the sink."

The Quarters Student Living, Theater Street Apartments and The Edge at Lafayette all offer many different floor plans so that students have options when it comes to how many people they share their apartment with.

The Quarters Student Living is located at 501 Stewart Street and is pet friendly, includes in-home washers and dryers, fully furnished apartments, a breakfast bar, an outdoor swimming pool, a fitness center, a business center, a movie theater room and much more.

The Edge at Lafayette is located at 1400 North Bertrand Drive and includes fully furnished apartments, in-unit washers and dryers, a 24/7 clubhouse, private study rooms, a movie theater, a swimming pool and much more.

Theater Street Apartments is located at 200 Theater Street and is pet friendly, includes in-home washers and dryers, a fitness center and cyber lounge, a pickleball court, a volleyball court, a pet park, barbecue grills, a picnic area and much more.

When it comes to housing options, UL Lafayette has many options to choose from.

Whether looking for more privacy and quiet or more socialization and companionship, there is something for everyone.



THE VERMILION

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No. 20

INSTRUCTIONS

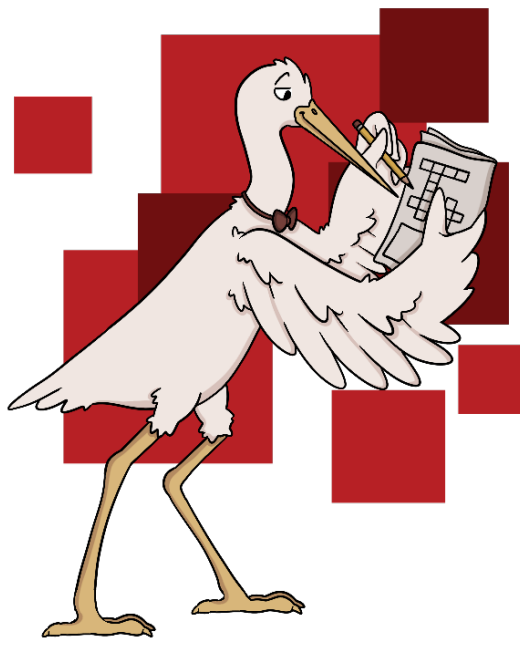
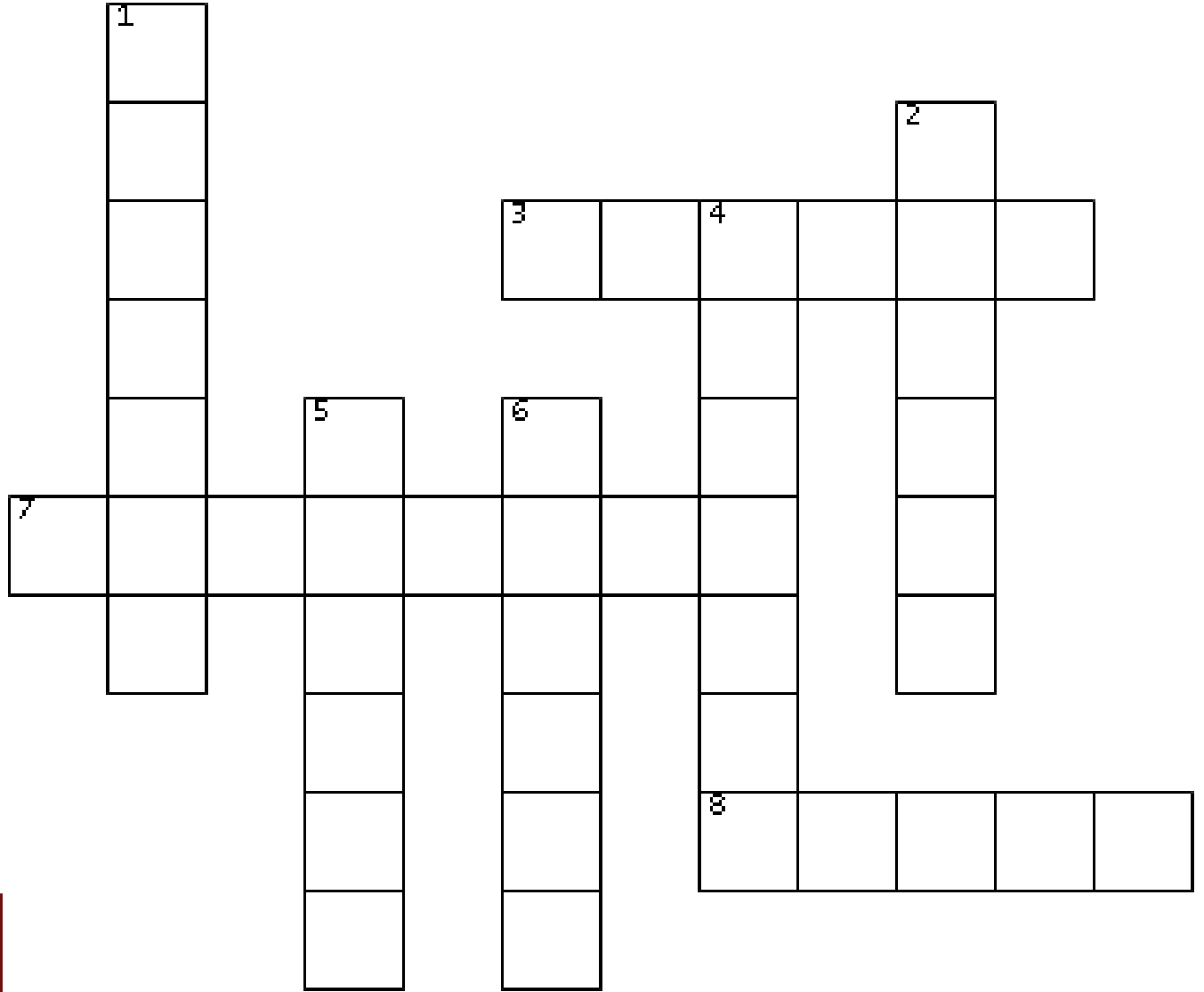
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 3. Which European leader organized a meeting following the meeting between the United States and Russia (last name)?
- 7. What is Kayla Woods-Crane's favorite Beyoncé album?
- 8. Who won Big 12 Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year last season (last name)?

DOWN

- 1. What was the first name of the owner of Pimon Thai?
- 2. Landon used to view UL Lafayette's environment with ____.
- 4. What kind of new tech is the ULPD using?
- 5. Who recorded the most hits in the Troy series (last name)?
- 6. Who co-authored Jan Hargrave's book "Freeway to Love" (last name)?



Women's History Month Vermilion Women Staff

Photos by Alyus Dick

Kay Padilla, Ramudhi Kariyawasam

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MANAGING EDITOR

March is Women's History Month, which highlights the contributions of women in history and society. The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA), a non-profit American organization dedicated to honoring and preserving women's history declared this year's theme as "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations."

Women's History Month was first championed as an extended week from International Women's Day, celebrated on Mar. 8, and through many Congressional resolutions the month-long dedication was born.

Every year since 1988, U.S. Presidents and their Administrations have made proclamations on Women's History Month speaking on their views, goals and the accomplishments they have made towards gender equality.

The first female Editor-in-Chief of The Vermilion, by available record, was Marion Hockey in 1927. For L'Acadien Yearbook, the first female Editor-in-Chief was Catherine Buchanan in 1914. Today, nearly 73% of the staff at The Vermilion are female.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette also honors Women's History Month by holding its annual Women's Leadership Conference, further empowering women and leadership.



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Ellie Schmidt; Layout Manager



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Nyria Mustiful; Allons Editor



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Kayla Woods-Crane; News Writer



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Marie Ducote; Allons Writer



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Sonya Breaux; Illustrator

Sports

There's a new man in charge!

Tavin Anthony
SPORTS WRITER

On Mar. 10, 2025, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns men's basketball team announced Quannas White as their new head coach.

For the past 11 years, White served as an assistant coach for Tulane University, Western Kentucky University and most recently, the University of Houston.

His most significant body of work was his time with Houston, where he collected 235 wins and only 43 losses in eight years. This also included eight conference titles and seven consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Houston has shown a consistent level of dominance during White's tenure maintaining a Top 10 national ranking the last four seasons. Not to mention, the Cougars are currently the second-best team in the nation, according to the Associated Press.

After their most recent win being in

the Big 12 Championship, the Cougars accumulated their fourth straight season of at least 30 wins. They are now 30-4 with a 19-1 record against conference opponents.

Their season isn't over yet, as they'll try to emulate their previous success in March Madness, including a Sweet 16 appearance last season.

Or even better, their Final Four run in 2021, where they would eventually fall to the first-ranked Baylor Bears.

Houston's dominance in the regular season and success in the postseason has earned them so much respect across the country, and it's a big deal for the Ragin' Cajuns to get a guy who has experienced what it's like to win and be on such a big stage every year.

Usually, a green flag that we see in modern coaching hires is if they have any high-level basketball experience. White, being a former player, has that and it enables him to connect with

players on a more personal level.

White is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, where he graduated from St. Augustine High School. In his senior year, he averaged 17 points per game and won a LHSAA Class 5A state championship.

After earning All-Conference honors at Midland (Texas) Junior College as a sophomore, White transferred to the University of Oklahoma where he really excelled.

He averaged 7.6 points and 4.7 assists per game, leading the Sooners to the 2002 NCAA Final Four. He was named to the Big 12 All-Newcomer Team and the NCAA Tournament All-West Regional Team.

In his senior season, White led Oklahoma back into March Madness, this time making it to the 2003 NCAA Elite Eight where he averaged 8.6 points and 4.1 assists per game.

He went on to play in the NBA

D-league and professionally in France and Germany. This goes to show he's not only successful on the sidelines but on the court as well. White's ability to relate to players is a major factor in his ability to recruit them.

Houston has produced some great, young talent in the NBA, most recently first rounders Quentin Grimes (2021), Marcus Sasser (2023) and Jarace Walker (2023).

Grimes, in particular, is having a breakout season for the Philadelphia 76ers. In March, he's averaging 26.1 points, five rebounds, 4.4 assists and 2.1 steals on 53.5% shooting.

Houston's last drafted player was second rounder Jamal Shead in 2024. Shead had an extremely special college career becoming the first player in league history to win Big 12 Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year in the same season. He's now playing solid minutes for the Toronto Raptors.

Louisiana noticed White's keen ability to recruit and develop special players. He wants his guys to be successful and learn as much as they can while in his care.

"Quannas is a man of high integrity, character and faith. He's an elite recruiter and regarded as one of the best player development coaches in the industry," vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics, Dr. Bryan Maggard said.

Listening to his press conference after accepting the job gave me a lot of hope. With his capabilities, he might be able to recruit the next LeBron James.

The Cajuns are in need of talent, after seeing the majority of the starters pack their bags before this season. A change of culture needs to be in place and White provides that.

He's a winner. He's done it at a high level both as a player and an assistant coach. Now is his opportunity to run his own program and instill that winning culture.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Quannas White signals to the crowd after landing in Lafayette.

Disappointing start to SBC play as Ragin' Cajuns lose to No. 21 Trojans

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

Louisiana began conference play this past weekend at home against the best team in the Sun Belt, No. 21 Troy. Both the batters and pitchers struggled at various points of the series, leading to the Cajuns dropping their first conference series before Sunday's game.

Game one on Friday night would be a close game for the Cajuns, falling to the Trojans 4-3 despite going up 2-0 after the first inning.

The Cajuns managed to start off the game getting runners on base thanks to fielding errors and bad pitching from Troy. This chance was seized by Jose Torres who drove a ball through the center to send Brooks Wright and Caleb Stelly home to bring the Cajuns up 2-0.

Both Troy and Louisiana would go scoreless in the second before the Trojans would take the lead in the third. Starting pitcher Matthew Holzhammer, who had been performing well in the start thus far, walked two batters before giving up an easy pitch that would leave the park for a three-run homer.

Holzhammer would finish the inning and would start the fourth. An easy ground out to short would be ruined by an error by shortstop Connor Cuff, putting a Trojan on base. An attempt to steal would be ended by the arm of Torres who would throw out the would-be stealer from behind home plate.

Holzhammer would strike out the next batter, but would give up his second home run of the night, this prompted coach Matt Deggs to make a change on the mound. Replacing Holzhammer would be Andrew Herrmann.

Herrmann would give up a single before getting the third out to end the fourth. He would pitch the rest of the game, only allowing three hits and giving up no runs. He would strike out six batters while only walking one, a truly

excellent relief effort by the senior.

Sadly, though, the Cajun batters could not repay the great effort of Herrmann on the mound. Louisiana would only score one more run in the bottom of the fifth.

Conor Higgs would reach first on a fielder's choice, stealing second while Stelly was up to bat. Stelly would then hit a double in left field, Higgs getting home from second to make it 4-3.

In the remaining four innings, Louisiana would fail to score despite getting four runners on base, continuing a season long trend of stranding runners.

Louisiana as a whole struggled with batting, with no batters getting more than one hit in the game. The most productive of these one hit wonders was Stelly and Torres, who both had RBIs with their hits.

Game two on Saturday, which had been moved a bit later for projected bad weather that never arrived, was much of the same in terms of bad pitching.

Louisiana would lose 8-5, their third straight loss.

JR Tollett would get the start on the mound and would perform well in his first three innings, only allowing a run while Louisiana's batters scored four runs for a comfortable 4-1 lead.

The game would be completely lost in the fourth inning as Tollett, despite not being under any pressure, would sell the game in its entirety. He would allow five runs, three in the fourth and two more in the fifth before being taken off the mound for Riley Marcotte.

Marcotte would perform well in the time he pitched, only giving up a hit in 1.2 innings and striking out two batters before being pulled in Aidan Grab.

Grab would finish out the game though his performance was far from satisfactory. He would allow two runs despite only allowing one hit. This was due to walking three batters and hitting one with a pitch.

Despite the struggles on the mound,

the Cajun batters gave it their best shot at trying to bring the game back after taking an early lead.

Jose Torres was the best at the plate once again for Louisiana, recording three hits in five at bats including a pair of RBIs. Conor Higgs and Caleb Stelly were just as good at the top of the lineup, each going two for four at the plate. Higgs batted in a run and found home both times he got on base thanks to the batters following behind him.

The biggest problem for Louisiana at the plate is the back part of the lineup, with only two of the last four batters recorded a hit in the entire game.

The Cajuns now sit at 8-12 on the season, a start many did not expect at the beginning of the season. They have not played game three of the series as of this writing.

Louisiana needs to figure things out quickly going into conference play if they want to make a regional again this year.



Photo by Alyus Dick

JR Tollett (20) pitching against Troy Trojans Mar. 15.

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Allons

Let's put it this way: "Beyoncé v. Taylor Swift" feud must rest

Nyria Mustiful

ALLONS EDITOR

Though Taylor Swift is commonly thought of as a pop icon, her roots began in country music with her first self-titled album, "Taylor Swift." The top three songs from this album, in my opinion, are "Picture to Burn," "Tim McGraw" and "Teardrops on My Guitar." I think all Swifties would agree with my choices, though they would also include "Our Song."

"Picture to Burn" is the essence of teenage angst and heartbreak. Without even realising it, this song was my intro to narcissistic behavior from a guy. "Tim McGraw" is my favorite song from the album. "Teardrops on My Guitar" always made me emotional, as it was about unrequited love.

"Fearless," Swift's first venture into pop, was one heck of a crossover album, if I do say so myself. My favorite song from this album is "Fifteen."

For my 15th birthday, my aunt brought me to school and she played this song in the car.

"Speak Now" was Swift's first fully pop record and it showed that she was fully committed to the genre. "Enchanted" still makes me cry to this day, so it will forever be my favorite from the album. "Back to December" and "Sparks Fly" are my next two favorites.

I feel like my favorite song from "Red" is a cop-out, only because it's not really from the album.

The song is called "Safe and Sound," and it's from the first "Hunger Games" film. Nonetheless, it's still the best song from that era, in my opinion.

"1989," my favorite album from Swift, has endless bops and little skips.

My favorites are "Clean," "New Romantics" and "You Are In Love." This album needs no explanation.

"reputation" gave "good girl gone bad" energy and I loved every minute of it. "Call It What You Want," "Getaway Car" and "End Game" are the songs that just did it for me.

I'm not the biggest fan of "Lover," but I can admit that it had some really good songs.

I think I was just somewhat thrown

off by how we went from a super badass album to floating in la-la land.

My favorites from the album are "The Man," "Cornelia Street" and "Cruel Summer."

I can't think of "folklore" and "evermore" without thinking of them both, and I didn't really fancy them much, so they'll be talked about together here.

I will say that "evermore" was my preferred album of the two. My favorites from "folklore" are "exile" and "invisible string," and my favorites from "evermore" are "willow," "cowboy like me" and "champagne problems."

"Midnights" was mid at best and I truly have no favorite songs from that album.

I apologize in advance to all my fellow Swifties who love this album.

Though "The Tortured Poets Department" had two separate releases, I'm going to just talk about it altogether.

I know many were iffy about this album, but the penmanship alone made this one of my all-time favorites.

My top songs were "The Albatross," "So Long, London," "So High School," "I Hate It Here" and "My Boy Only Breaks His Favorite Toys."

Kayla Woods-Crane

ALLONS WRITER

Beyoncé's first solo album, "Dangerously in Love," was proof that she would survive as a solo artist. This album had popular songs like "Baby Boy" and "Naughty Girl," so choosing my top three was hard.

In the end I went with "Crazy in Love," "Me, Myself, and I" and, the severely underrated, "Signs."

Beyoncé and Jay Z are electric on songs together, so naturally I chose "Crazy In Love." "Me, Myself, and I" is one of her best empowerment songs.

I enjoyed "Signs" because it is catchy and provides a crash course in Zodiac signs at the same time.

Her next album, "B'Day" was another solid entry. Again, Beyoncé and Jay Z know how to make great music, so "Deja Vu" made my top three.

My next favorite is "Listen," a song written for the film adaptation of the Broadway play, "Dreamgirls."

Beyoncé's acting is not as good as her music, but this song gave life to her performance.

My best song on this album was "Irreplaceable." Her storytelling was so

engaging that I felt like I kicked out my cheating boyfriend too.

I have a soft spot in my heart for Beyoncé's third album, "I am... Sasha Fierce," because my mom played it repeatedly. My favorites were "If I Were a Boy," "Halo" and "Disappear." I really enjoyed her ballads because of her ability to build up emotion. She is able to create intense highs and lows, which make for an emotional experience.

In 2011, Beyoncé released her fourth album, creatively titled, "4."

My favorites were "Dance for you," "Love on Top" and "Countdown." The beats on "Dance for you" and "Countdown" were different but equally enjoyable. I picked "Love on Top" because of how difficult it is to sing.

"Beyoncé" was inescapable when it came out, and for good reason because it's really good. "Partition" was instantly my favorite since the French theme is so chic.

My other favorites were "Drunk in Love," because of the cultural impact, and "Pretty Hurts" because of its message.

It was not as hard to choose favorites from my favorite album, "Lemonade." "Daddy's Lessons," "Love Drought" and "All Night" immediately stood out to me.

In 2024 the rest of the world got introduced to country Beyoncé, but I met her on "Daddy's Lessons" and I loved what I heard. "Love Drought" and "All Night" allowed me to embody Beyoncé's emotions.

"Renaissance" is a dance album and "Virgos Groove," "Plastic off the Sofa" and "Heated" made me want to get up and dance. Those songs got tens across the board from me.

Finally, I listened to Beyoncé's most needlessly debated album, "Cowboy Carter." My favorite songs from this album were "2 Hands 2 Heaven," "2 Most Wanted" and "16 Carriages." When I heard "2 Most Wanted," Miley Cyrus and Beyoncé sang beautifully together.

Listening to "2 Hands to Heaven" managed to transport me to the desert where I spontaneously started dancing. In "16 Carriages," Beyoncé delivered a classic ballad about growing up that deeply resonated with me.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

Nearly two years into university

Landon Fruge

ALLONS WRITER

The Spring 2025 semester has reached its midway point finally. In all honesty, it feels strange that we are already this far into the semester. In some of my classes, it already feels as if we are reaching the end of the semester when it's only the midpoint. Either way though, this means that I am slowly, but surely, approaching the end of my sophomore year.

It kind of used to freak me out considering how I am soon to be more than halfway through my college experience.

Now though, I'm confident enough that by the time I'm out of college I will be ready to start working my dream jobs.

Over the past year and half I've spent in college, I feel as if I've learned a lot, not just in terms of my major, but about myself and of college life itself. I can confidently say that I'm not the same person I was when I came into college, at least not entirely the same.

In terms of campus stuff, I can say that being here for nearly two years and living on campus has given me a pretty decent memory of the layout of the college for sure.

I used to be kinda worried about how I might find my way to classes and make it to class on time, but now I've managed to get a pretty decent layout on where to go and how long it takes to get from place to place. Despite having the layout down in my memory, there are many buildings

which I don't recognize the names of.

As much as I enjoy having memorized the layout of campus though, it does come with one issue. As a result, the campus lost the wonder in my mind it once had. When I first attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, I always enjoyed going outside and walking about campus, mainly around the swamp.

Now though, walking around campus no longer holds the same feeling of wonder. I've become so used to all the different buildings and areas that it just feels normal. The swamp is still a beautiful place, but I rarely visit it now due to work, so I only ever truly see it in passing. Going from place to place became more of a task rather than a feeling of exploration.

As strange of a feeling this is though, it is only natural. Once you get used to a place it makes sense that it would start to become boring after a while. Even though this is the case, I don't think that makes the campus any less fantastical. I still enjoy looking around when the flowers start to bloom. My view of the campus is not the only thing though that has changed over the course of my time here. I became more extroverted and started to hang out with people more, as well as become more outward about the things I enjoy, like "One Piece". Then there is also my own workflow that has begun to change.

During the beginning of my college life, I used to be a bit more honed in my homework.

I would walk around outside some days to help me think, other times I might just sit in my dorm listening to music until I got struck with an idea.

As time went on, however, I began to procrastinate a lot. My belief is that the work just kinda got to me.

Having spent most of high school trying to keep up straight A's just wore

out my brain and so once work began to pick up in college my standard procrastination just started to become worse and worse. I began to hit what felt like a burnout.

This level of procrastination would end up becoming so bad that I would end up staying up nearly an entire night working on a project literally the night before it was due.

Despite this, I always managed to turn everything in on time and come out with a good grade. This went on for a long time, occasionally I would try working on stuff early but it never truly would last long.

For me, this would remain a constant up until about a week ago when my luck finally caught up with me. I was working on a project last minute and in the end I had to turn in a slightly unfinished project.

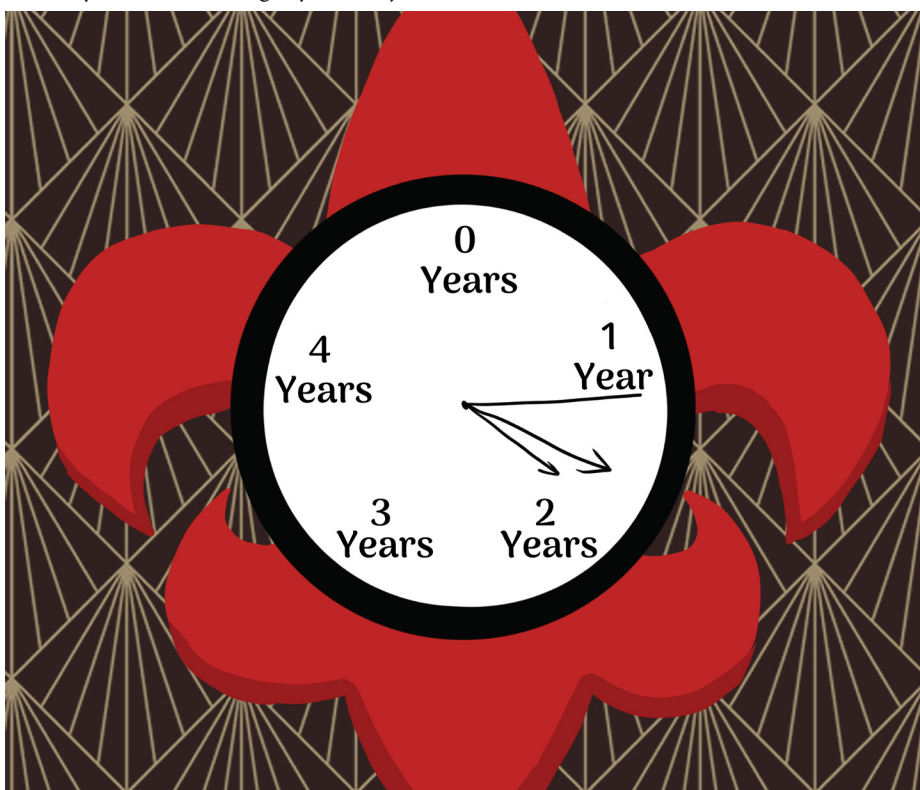
After this moment it struck me, I truly felt that surge of motivation I needed to finally put a stop to my procrastination habit.

Still, I can't fully say that my procrastination has stopped yet. After all, due to my ADHD, it is inevitable that at times I will procrastinate.

I can say though that my level of procrastination has begun to change. I've been trying my best to make sure to get projects and homework done as soon as I am able to, rather than waiting till the night before like usual.

The curve of my procrastination habit is probably one of the biggest changes I've experienced over my time as a student at UL Lafayette, and I'm looking forward to the rest of my time here and seeing how much I will change as a person. Hopefully by the time I graduate, my procrastination habit will be a thing of the past.

That, however, is something I shall have to wait and see.

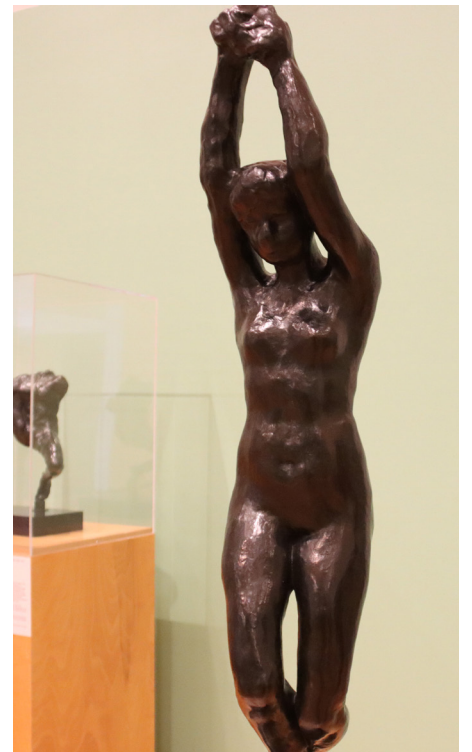


Graphic by Landon Fruge

Beaucoup

Hilliard Art Museum

The Beaucoup section visits the Hilliard Art Museum; below are their thoughts.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt

Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

This was my first time visiting the Hilliard Art Museum, and I was impressed by it. When you first walk in, you are greeted by a cute little gift shop featuring art-themed trinkets, books, clothing and jewelry. The main art exhibit of the museum was “Rodin: Toward Modernity.” The exhibit featured 40 bronze structures that Auguste Rodin created in the late 1800s.

Looking at each art piece, I was amazed at the detail of each structure. Some were life-sized, while others were

individual parts of the human body or smaller versions of people.

Upstairs featured a set of pieces called “Take Place: A Home in Four Movements” by Kevin Brisco Jr. This exhibit brought back some aspects of my childhood; for example, the window air conditioner painting reminded me of visiting my grandma’s old house.

My favorite art piece out of all of them was “The Gates of Hell.” Every time I look at that piece, I can’t help but stare at the intensity of the figures.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at the Hilliard and will return soon for the upcoming exhibits.

Nyria Mustful

ALLONS EDITOR

Oh, the joys of visiting the Hilliard once more!

This time, though, I feel as though I had a very well-rounded experience that exposed me to so many different types of art besides paintings. The exhibit entitled “Rodin: Toward Modernity” was a showcase of Auguste Rodin’s sculpture work.

I’ve never been much of a sculpture fan, but he did make one of my favorite statues, called “The Thinker,” so I was

looking forward to seeing his other works. I saw this artwork in front of the Rodin exhibit and I wanted to try and buy a part of it (even though I know it would take me years to afford it). It was this teapot made out of welded metal items, surrounded by teacups made in a similar fashion, only the teacups were this eggshell color and were composed of pearls, seashells and other random items, like baby shoes.

Once again, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Hilliard Art Museum and I’m excited to go back for what else is in store!

Marie Ducote

ALLONS WRITER

Rodin is a sculptor I have always heard of, but I have never seen any of his work. So, when this exhibit was announced, it piqued my interest to see some of his works in person.

I was amazed by the scale and details of the sculptures. Many of Rodin’s works have to do with movements of the human body.

While looking at the sculptors I felt

like they could have come to life at any second. A few highlights of the exhibit for me were the bust of French author Victor Hugo, the sculpture called “Hand of God” and one of my favorite pieces I saw was a photo mural of the “Gates of Hell.” This last piece I mentioned, surprised me with the detail that was in the artwork, and my eyes kept darting to a new thing.

I hope to go back again to see some pieces I might have missed on my first visit.

Kaelin Palmer

PHOTOGRAPHER

The Hilliard Art Museum has always been a place where I go to relax, look at exhibits and escape the stressful moments of being a college student. When visiting again, I saw their art exhibit, Rodin: Toward Modernity, which was broken down into four categories: Burghers of Calais, The Gates of Hell, Portraiture and Fragments. Beautiful bronze statues were placed throughout the floor against an

aesthetically pleasing teal background.

One quote I’ll remember the most is, “There is a muse who whispers inspiration to the poet.” written by Judith Sobol. This exhibit aimed to express the power of all parts of the human body, which I believe was successfully done. The museum even had a spot upstairs where we could draw, color, piece things together and write postcards. If you’re a student just wanting to let off some steam or relax, Hilliard Art Museum is definitely the right place to do so.

Food Review

Pimon Thai: Lafayette’s Thai gem

Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 4650 Johnston St., Pimon Thai is a Thai restaurant specializing in authentic Thai dishes. They offer a wide selection of classic dishes from the country, such as curry, pad thai, stir fry, seafood and soups. Locals enjoy this restaurant for its well-priced meals and good food.

Their daily lunch specials, which are available Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., include Pad Kee Mau (spicy hot basil and chili pepper with wide rice noodles), Pad Nam Hoi (oyster sauce stir fry), Pad Ped (red chili curry paste with sweet basil and mixed vegetables) and Gang Panang (curry, ground roasted herbs and shredded lime leaves with your choice of meat).

Pimon Thai was established in 1996 as Lafayette’s original Thai restaurant. In 2011, they moved to their current location due to their growing popularity. Within almost 30 years of business, they have become the locals go-to spot for original Thai food.

The atmosphere of this restaurant was a beautiful sight. Their walls are covered in Thai-themed art and decor, which makes the restaurant stand out. Some of my favorite pieces were elegant in some ways and vibrant in others. The

warm lighting features complemented the restaurant well. The restaurant’s bar area was the center point despite being slightly tucked away.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this restaurant during lunchtime on Wednesday, Mar. 12. As we walked in, we were greeted by the host and seated at a table next to the window, which we got to choose. Now, I am no expert in Thai food, so looking at the menu, I had no idea what to choose. The number of different renditions of stir fry, curries, and pad thai was impressive, to say the least.

The menu’s appetizer section contained an assortment of salads, soups, rolls, fried shrimp and squid. We decided to get fried shrimp as our appetizer. To our surprise, our waitress brought us an on-the-house soup that contained chicken soon after we ordered our appetizer. I usually do not like soup, but that was one of the best soups I have tasted. The flavor was strong, but not too overwhelming.

The entree section, as I mentioned earlier in the lunch specials, contained lots of different choices. I ended up going with the Beef and Broccoli while my colleague chose the Pad Radnah (soybean based sauce with broccoli and sprouts over a bed of lightly fried rice noodles) with chicken. All of the entrees

had an arrangement of spices such as mild, medium, hot and Thai hot. We both got the mild spice level.

Our appetizer came out within a few minutes after we ordered our entrees. The fried shrimp came with this sweet and sour sauce that complemented well with the shrimp.

Our meals came out shortly after we finished our soup and fried shrimp. My beef and broccoli came with white rice and was topped with carrots. When I took my first bite of rice with the beef and broccoli, I was pleasantly surprised since my last Thai food experience did not go well. Everything in the meal was perfectly tender and seasoned.

My colleague shared a similar experience with her Pad Radnah. It contained chicken and was topped with broccoli and carrots. Since this was her first time trying Thai food, she was hesitant at first, but as soon as she took the first bite, she was in flavor heaven. We tried each other’s meals and I will certainly be getting that dish the next time I visit this place.

After we finished our meals, I decided to interview the owner of Pimon Thai, Montree Boonniam. “I took over in 2011...this is original authentic Thai food, like a lot of people come back as regulars, oh yeah they love our place.”

“See about January until February

22, we went on a vacation overseas to Thailand. It shut down for seven weeks, when we first came back people were lined up to come in. They missed our food.”

“Other Thai places around here have no flavor, no taste. You have to be real Thai, to make Thai. Each dish has a different taste...and this is the best restaurant I have ever owned. We fit good over here because it’s Cajun land over here.”

When asked if he recommends this place as a workplace for students, he said “We have had a lot of former students that have worked here in the early years, they graduate to become a doctor, nurse or lawyer. I let them work and I let them eat what they want to eat. They used to make good, real good tips.”

The sense of community in this place was apparent. After serving the locals for so long, this establishment has perfected, in my opinion, their restaurant. The food is definitely authentic, and the staff was some of the sweetest people I have ever met.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Pimon Thai. Talking to the owner and trying some of the best Thai food ever was a pleasure. If you would like to visit this restaurant, they are open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and are closed on Sundays.



Photo by Ellie Schmidt

Pad Radnah, Beef and Broccoli and the inside of Pimon Thai

SOUNDING OFF

"Where's the best place to get crawfish in Lafayette?"



Janai Lowe
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"Bulldog, very much The Bulldog."



Jessye Garriet
BIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"The Bulldog, because of the vibes there."



Ivy Blackburn
MARKETING SOPHOMORE

"Bulldog."



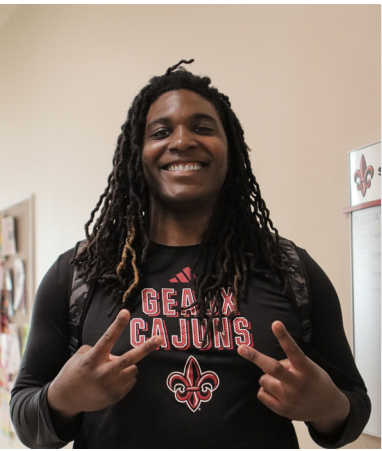
Alyson Guidry
VISUAL ARTS FRESHMAN

"Bulldog."



Mya Mercier
NURSING FRESHMAN

"Fiery Crab."



John Bragg
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"The best place to get crawfish, in my opinion, is The Bulldog."

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 and Alyus Dick.

COMIC

Miscommunication



Comic by Lauren Gerald

RAGIN' RESCUE CRAFT SALE!

Wednesday, March 26
10 AM - 2 PM at The Quad

Scrunchies, stickers, and other home-made crafts! Proceeds go to caring for the campus cats!

Know how to craft?
Donate:



