

# THE VERMILION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper



April 10, 2025

## Giving back is Katelyn Bedwell's second nature: All about the Miss UL 2025 winner

**Kayla Woods-Crane**

NEWS WRITER

With her family and friends in the audience of the crowded auditorium, Katelyn Bedwell quietly awaited the results from the pageant. This wasn't her first time on this stage though, as she has participated in the Miss University of Louisiana at Lafayette USA Pageant three times before. It's her senior year, and with all the experience accrued from years past, Bedwell wasn't nervous as she waited to hear who won, because she prayed about it.

She knew there would be some disappointment if she was not able to achieve her goal of being Miss UL after four years of trying, but in the end she said to herself, "Maybe God put me in this pageant not so I could be Miss UL... maybe just to have this personal growth that has really turned me into the person I am today."

She said participating in the pageant was "one of the best decisions" she had ever made. Not only because it introduced her to kind and accomplished women on campus, but it also taught her how to be confident in herself. Growing up, in what Bedwell described as "middle of nowhere" Vermilion Parish, she had always been shy, so the pageant was how she decided to put herself out there her freshman year.

"I knew the second I stepped foot on campus that it was something that I really wanted and I was gonna give it my all, every single opportunity I had," she said.

Today, Bedwell is a co-director of philanthropy for her sorority, Tri Delta,

fundraising for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, a local cancer patient resource center. She is a senior nursing student, working 12-hour shifts at a local hospital, along with her classes. She is a third-year mentor for the UL LIFE program on campus, helping to teach a class of junior students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As co-directors of philanthropy, in 2024, Bedwell and Reese Godchaux spearheaded a fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital, which raised \$12,000 in two days. This year, the pair has organized a Philanthropy Week, which includes a myriad of fundraising events from Apr. 6 to Apr. 11, to raise money for Miles Perret.

After learning all that, people will sometimes ask her how she does it, and "honestly," Bedwell starts, "I'm not saying I don't have hard moments, but every single one of these organizations that I pour myself into pours right back into me."

Giving back to her community is second nature to Bedwell, after growing up with her mom and aunt, who both majored in nursing, and her grandmother, who became a social worker.

According to her, her family gave her the blueprint on what it meant to get a degree and use it to help others.

She'd always recognized the importance of giving support to others, but she had learned how to receive support from her community in the same way. In her junior year, she said, she struggled the most in her nursing classes and was on the brink of failure because she felt like she had to do it all on her own.

After attending her first study groups, though, Bedwell's grades began to improve.

Since then, she has been inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing, where she is recognized as a part of the top 35% of her nursing class, continuing to follow in the footsteps of her mother and aunt.

Along with the rest of the crowd, Bedwell's loved ones erupt in a loud round of applause as she is crowned the winner of the Miss UL 2025 pageant. Bedwell herself erupted with tears as she accepted her sash and crown from Annabelle Picou, 2024's winner.

"I didn't believe it," she said. The goal she had worked towards had finally come and she was shocked she had actually done it. Even days later, she says she is still "on cloud nine" after her win.

Bedwell is graduating this May and has taken a position to work as a nurse in an Acadia hospital. Though she is a

little nervous about beginning her reign, along with her new job, that feeling is overtaken by her excitement to dive into her duties. "I wanna do everything. If there's an opportunity to do something, send it to me," she said.

Speaking at Freshman Convocation and judging the Homecoming Fashion Show are high on the list of events she is eager to participate in.

Most of all, Bedwell wants to create more involvement between the University and Miles Perret.

Since she will be Miss UL as both a student and an alumni, Bedwell wants to use her reign as a way to show other alumni that graduating doesn't mean an end to being a part of the University. "I think it's gonna be special to take that journey as an alumni and just show people... once you turn the tassel, your college experience isn't over. You get to start giving back in a unique and different way."



Photo by Morgan Parker

Bedwell being crowned by Miss UL Lafayette USA 2024, Annabelle Picou

## Myanmar and Thailand struck by a powerful earthquake on Mar. 28

**Joann Seow**

NEWS WRITER

A 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on Mar. 28, aftershocks followed and the death toll continues to rise. The massive quake also rattled neighboring country, Thailand.

According to AP News, the death toll in Myanmar rose from above 150 as of Mar. 28 to 3,455 as of Apr. 5. The exact death toll remains unclear as emergency relief efforts and rescue operations continue. Currently, there are also 4,840 injured and 214 missing.

BBC News wrote, "The US Geological Survey's modelling estimates Myanmar's death toll could exceed 10,000, with losses surpassing annual economic output."

According to AP News, in Bangkok, Thailand, at least 18 people were killed, many at a construction site near the popular Chatuchak market, where an unfinished high-rise building collapsed. There were also 33 injured and 78 missing, primarily at the construction site.

BBC News reported that the earthquake's epicenter was located 10 miles northwest of Sagang, a town near Myanmar's second largest city, Mandalay, and about 125 miles north of the capital, Nay Pyi Taw. Aftershocks also followed, with a 6.4 magnitude quake striking just 12 minutes after the first quake hit. The latest aftershock on Mar. 30 had a magnitude of 5.1.

This quake was the second most powerful in the country's recorded history, after a 8.0 magnitude struck east of Mandalay in May 1912.

In Myanmar, there were extensive damages to infrastructure across the country. Quoting their military government's leader, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, AP News reported that 5,223 buildings, 1,824 schools, 2,752 Buddhist monasterial living quarters, 4,817 pagodas and temples, 167 hospitals and clinics, 169 bridges, 198 dams and 184 sections of the country's main highway were damaged by the earthquake.

In Bangkok, besides the collapse of the high-rise under construction, there

were no other prominent damages to infrastructure, except videos showing rooftop pools spilling over the sides of swaying buildings.

This led to the collapse of the high-rise being a striking occurrence, considering that Bangkok sits more than 621 miles from the epicenter of the quake.

With an ongoing civil war and dire humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, relief efforts have faced complications.

The civil war began after the army seized power from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

Myanmar's ruling military declared a temporary ceasefire in the country's civil war to facilitate relief efforts; this is slated to be a two-week pause in offensive military operations that will run until Apr. 22.

However, the resistance forces opposed to military rule have reserved the right to fight in self-defense.

AP News wrote, "Although reports of diplomatic activity focus on earthquake relief, there is awareness that the crisis in Myanmar cannot end until the war there stops, and the country's neighbors have been leading efforts to find a path for peace."

International rescue teams from at least 15 Asian and Western government rescue teams have come forward to aid Myanmar through this crisis, including from Russia, China, India and several other Southeast Asian countries.

The European Union, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and others have also announced millions of dollars in aid.

"Day after day, Chinese rescue teams haul children and elderly people from collapsed buildings as cameras beam the thanks of grateful survivors around the world. Russian medical teams show off field hospitals erected in a flash to tend

the wounded," as written by AP News.

While several countries have been actively aiding Myanmar, there has been an absence in rescue teams and disaster-response crews from the United States.

AP News also wrote, "While Myanmar's military junta and civil war have posed challenges, the U.S. government has worked with local partners there previously to successfully provide aid for decades, including after deadly storms in 2008 and 2023, aid officials say."

According to The New York Times, the lack of aid by the U.S. came as a result of Trump's administration dismantling the main American aid organization, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Three experienced aid workers with USAID, who were sent to Myanmar to assess how the U.S. could help with the earthquake relief efforts, were fired just days after arriving in Myanmar.

These firings were just among the thousands of terminated contracts. According to AP News, the Trump administration, through Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency teams, froze USAID funding, terminated thousands of contracts and fired all but a handful of its staff globally. It accused the agency of waste and of advancing liberal causes.

The New York Times wrote, "Six Democratic senators sent a letter to the Trump administration on Wednesday denouncing its lack of aid efforts in the earthquake zone, saying it was failing its first test of the nation's ability to continue humanitarian aid during the dismantlement of U.S.A.I.D."

In a time of diplomatic and humanitarian crises, several other nations rally to aid Myanmar in a race to save more lives and provide as much relief efforts as possible while the military ceasefire is still in effect.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

### News

#### LARGE POTENTIAL FRESHMAN CLASS

Low standards for incoming freshmen; housing shortages while UL expects their biggest class yet.

PAGE 2

### Health

#### CAFFEINE ISN'T ALL THAT BAD

Managing editor Ramudhi Kariyawasam goes over how to drink caffeine responsibly.

PAGE 3

### Allons

#### WRITING ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS

Allons writer Landon Fruge discusses how to properly adapt and write about mental illness.

PAGE 6

### Events

#### ELECTION SEASON AT UL

SGA held a forum for the big three nominees to go over their administration's goals.

PAGE 7

# Freshman applications rise; Low standards and housing shortage

**Jenna Kimball**  
NEWS WRITER

For the Fall 2025 semester, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has already received over 12,000 student applications (up 2 percent from last year), not to mention there is still quite a bit of time for more to apply. This upcoming class is expected to be one of the largest classes in the history of the University. Anyone can apply to UL Lafayette, but in order to be accepted into the school, applicants must meet certain standards.

Generally speaking, students must have an ACT English score of at least 18, an ACT Math score of 19 and a minimum 2.5 GPA for the Louisiana core four college preparatory curriculum. These basic requirements have been in place for over 10 years.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, the majority of Louisiana schools, including UL Lafayette, adopted a new

way of being accepted into schools.

Due to quarantine and lessened opportunities to take the ACT and SAT exams, students could choose to either apply using test scores, or they could apply and be accepted with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and a Louisiana core four college preparatory curriculum GPA of 2.5. Dr. DeWayne Bowie, the vice president for the Office of Enrollment Management, said, "A lot of research was showing that the best single predictor of college success for the students, particularly in that first semester, that first year, was the cumulative high school GPA and not ACT or SAT scores."

The last way that a student can be accepted is if they got close to the requirements, but fell short because of extenuating circumstances. In that case, they can submit a statement explaining what held them back from reaching the grades that they needed.

Bowie commented, "We do have a limited number of seats available for

students that we do a holistic review, so they'll submit an actual form to us and state their case, and then we have a committee that reviews those and looks at those holistically."

He continued, "So we look at more than just GPAs and ACTs, we also ask them about their involvement outside of the classroom, things like extracurricular activities."

Emily Wenzel, a sophomore nursing student, said, "I mean I'm an international student so I can compare to how we do it in Germany, ... basically everyone here takes the SAT or ACT, so... you can compare every student better because like not every high school has the same standards."

One way that UL Lafayette encourages possible students to choose their school is through Academic Signing Tour.

This is an event for those incoming students that have been awarded academic scholarships through the school.

Various staff members visit high schools around Acadiana and give the students a chance to come up one at a time and sign their certificates in front of family and friends. After signing, they get a lapel pin that was made specifically for the event and some Ragin' Cajun gear.

Dr. Bowie said, "In many schools, they invite the student body in as well. It's like a big pep rally, you know? And this is a way that we want to let students do well in the classroom and have earned an academic scholarship, this is our way of celebrating them and congratulating them and letting the world know these kids are doing well."

"We call it a tour because we have over 20 high schools that we're going to visit in the Acadiana region and we just completed our fifth one, so we still have a few weeks to go before we complete our tour."

One issue that many students are concerned about is housing.

As many students have experienced during the past couple semesters, UL Lafayette has had a major housing shortage, which has led to hotel housing off-campus.

Makiya Vallien, a sophomore nursing major, said, "They need to do better, like the hotels and stuff like that, that's wrong. They just need to do better."

Hailey Maldonado, a sophomore marketing major, said, "I was lucky to get a dorm, but I heard the hotels were not great and people had to pay higher rates and that's not what they signed up for. So I think they should really look into fixing that housing situation and maybe look at how many people they accept or get more housing, something along those lines."

With the Spring 2025 semester coming to a close, many new students are getting ready to move onto the UL Lafayette campus and join the Ragin' Cajun family.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

## Police Reports

Compiled by Ramudhi Kariyawasam

### Apr. 4

- At 7:36 a.m., officers were dispatched to The IEP in reference to a suspicious person complaint. A misdemeanor summons was issued.

### Apr. 3

- At 10:50 p.m., officers were dispatched to Bonin Hall in reference to a burglary of \$70. On Apr. 4, officers were notified the property was recovered.
- At 11:09 a.m., ULPD received a walk-in complaint in response to a suspicious circumstance of harassment at Angelle Hall.

### Apr. 2

- At 6:46 p.m., ULPD received a walk-in complaint in reference to a theft involving a Zales pearl ring, earrings, necklace and bracelet.
- At 2:34 p.m., an officer was dispatched to Rougeou Hall in regards to a theft of an Epson projector.
- At 12:00 a.m., officers were dispatched to Anges Edwards Hall in reference to an RA locating suspected narcotics, a green leafy substance suspected to be marijuana, in a restroom on the third floor.

### Mar. 31

- At 9:24 p.m., officers were dispatched to Coronna Hall in reference to a suspicious person. Property involved included approximately 30 grams of a green leafy substance, miscellaneous drug paraphernalia and a Glock 23 handgun. An arrest was made.
- At 2:55 p.m., officers were dispatched to Baker Hall in reference to a theft of a blue La Jolla Beach Cruiser bicycle.

### Mar. 30

- At 7:04 p.m., ULPD received a walk-in complaint about an assault which had occurred on Mar. 27, off-campus. ULPD and the Lafayette Police Department responded.

## WHERE'S ALLAN?










These bathrooms have no single stalls, and ghosts are rumored to be in these walls. Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer:  
Mural In Student Union

### Win a free sandwich from Roly Poly

The first UL student to recognize where The Vermilion's mascot, Allan the Alligator, was photographed on campus will win a free sandwich from Roly Poly on Coolidge Street in Lafayette. The first UL student to email the correct location of Allan to [TheVermilion@louisiana.edu](mailto:TheVermilion@louisiana.edu) will win. The Vermilion will continue this contest each week until the end of the semester. Participants cannot win more than once a semester, and must be attentive to their emails.

## Weather

Thursday 4/10	Friday 4/11	Saturday 4/12	Sunday 4/13	Monday 4/14	Tuesday 4/15	Wednesday 4/16
						
High: 80 F Low: 59 F	High: 81 F Low: 51 F	High: 78 F Low: 55 F	High: 80 F Low: 63 F	High: 83 F Low: 66 F	High: 86 F Low: 63 F	High: 83 F Low: 66 F

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**  
MANAGING EDITOR

- Severe weather in the Southeast over the past weekend continued to increase the death toll from storms last month.
- Parts of Texas experienced a spring snowfall instead of spring showers.

- With heavy rainfall this past weekend, buildings were floating away in the Kentucky River.

## Politics

# Trump now aims to terminate the Department of Education

**Andrew Courville**

POLITICS WRITER

As President Trump seeks global peace and enacts reciprocal tariffs, another target on the administration's mind is eliminating the federal Department of Education (DOE).

On Mar. 20, Trump signed an executive order allowing Education Secretary Linda McMahon to "take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education... while ensuring the effective and uninterrupted delivery of services, programs and benefits on which Americans rely."

The order places blame on the DOE's bureaucracy for the country's low proficiency rates in reading and math. In the press conference when he signed the bill, Trump also cited that the US spends more per pupil on education than any country in the world.

One should recognize that entirely

eliminating a federal department requires an act of Congress, which Trump would struggle to do with a slim majority in the House and the democrats likely prepared to filibuster in the Senate. However, McMahon has taken steps to minimize the department's influence.

On Mar. 11, the DOE's employees, over 4,000 in total, were told that they should expect many to be laid off or put on leave. McMahon tried to lay off over 1,300 employees by Mar. 21, although she was subsequently stopped by legal objections. Hundreds of others have allegedly taken buyout offers.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt expressed that education policies should be placed largely on the states. Leavitt expressed that core functions, like Pell Grants and student loans, would remain under the department's jurisdiction if elimination isn't possible. Meanwhile, other programs mandated

by Congress. For instance, Title I, which funds education in low-income communities, would probably be moved to other departments.

Trump later clarified that programs supporting disabled students could be moved to the Department of Health and Human Services and student loans could shift to the Small Business Administration.

The latest development to the situation occurred Apr. 2 when McMahon reached across the political aisle in a private meeting with 10 Democratic representatives. She faced harsh criticism for lacking a plan to reorganize the department after the layoffs. Regardless, California Representative Mark Takano was also pleased that she was willing to speak with them, unlike other federal appointees.

Dean Tracy Cross of the University College of Education and Human Development remarked that most countries with the highest performing education statistics have a centralized education system. As the U.S. exists currently, there are over 13,000 school districts and 50 state governments which all have varied standards. He stated that "if we have no way to coordinate that... we're not a very United States of America."

Cross also recognized that the reason why many want the DOE to be shut down is to increase efficiency by decreasing bureaucracy and government spending. However, he rebutted that even though it removes costs upfront, many of the programs mandated by federal law will simply have to be moved elsewhere. He did acknowledge that moving programs to other agencies is

ultimately better than eliminating them entirely.

Cross agreed that the DOE is not a perfect institution.

However, it also coordinates and offers grants, provides expertise in aspects that state and local governments might not and ensures every student receives quality education. It oversees compliance with the law for disadvantaged students like those with disabilities, has produced much academic research and provided many jobs over the years.

Students across campus were concerned about the effects of dismantling a federal agency.

Freshman physics major Jason Barry said, "I think it's unwise to dismantle an entire government department without a plan for what comes after."

Tajjah Handy, a biology major, said her "main concern is how it would affect my financial aid."

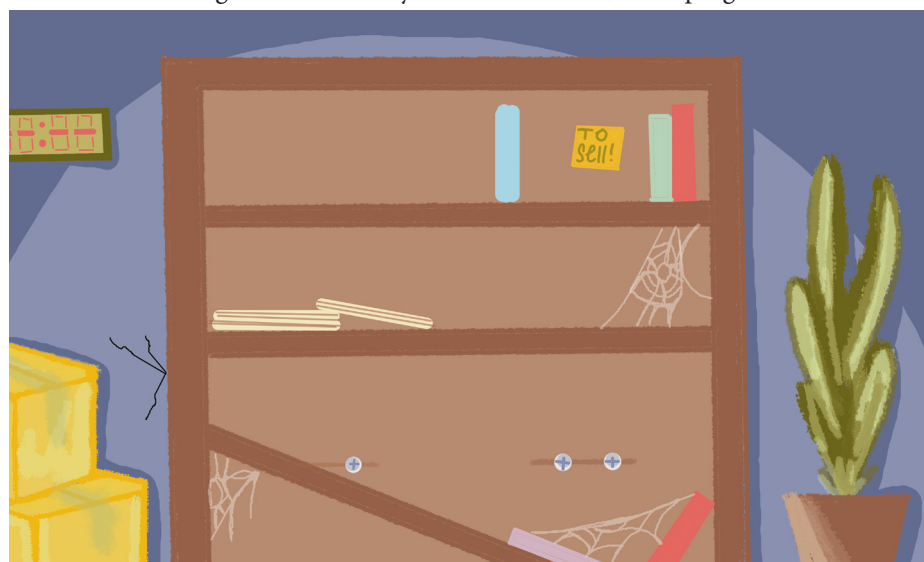
Adam Long, a freshman majoring in mass communications, described it as "appalling."

Each student's opinion largely remained the same when it was clarified that the administration looked to move many of its programs to other agencies.

These policy changes aren't isolated either.

Trump signed another executive order on Mar. 14, declaring an end to numerous other subsidiary cabinet agencies that don't require congressional approval, such as the Agency of Global Media and the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

The Department of Energy under Secretary Allen Wright also reported that they've found up to 8,500 nonessential positions they can cut.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

## Health

## Caffeine: How to ingest safely

**Ramudhi Kariyawasam**

MANAGING EDITOR

Caffeine has come to be a predominant component of people's everyday routine. Whether it be coffee, tea, soda or energy drinks, they make people feel more alert and energized. As it has become incorporated into many lifestyles, there has always been the negative aspects of caffeine intake.

There are a few ways caffeine can be bad. First, is the consumption level. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommends that people drink no more than 400 milligrams of caffeine a day.

In a typical 12-fluid-ounce drink, coffee has around 113-247 milligrams, tea has close to 37 or 71 milligrams (depending on green or black tea, respectively), caffeinated soda has 23-83 milligrams and energy drinks have 41-246 milligrams of caffeine. For coffee-drinkers, that's about two to three 12-fluid-ounce cups of coffee daily.

Going beyond 400 milligrams can be harmful, and in some cases, toxic. Consumers may experience symptoms like jitteriness, anxiety, heart palpitations and headaches in response to too much caffeine intake. It is important to also note that each person's metabolism varies, hence some people do not have to drink 400 milligrams to feel those symptoms. Close to 1,200 milligrams of caffeine or ½ teaspoons of pure caffeine may be fatal.

There are other sources of caffeine beyond coffee, tea, soda and energy drinks, so always ensure to read labels or check menus to calculate the expected amount of caffeine.

The second way caffeine can be bad is the manner in which it is taken. For instance, caffeine in combination with sugar. The American Heart Association suggests that women and men consume about 25 and 36 grams of added sugar per day, respectively, given they consume around 2,000 calories daily.

As an example, a 12-fluid-ounce chai latte at Starbucks has 32 grams of sugar; a soda contains nearly 42 grams of

added sugar. Both these drinks typically either surpasses or comes close to the recommended sugar-intake limit.

What makes added sugar unhealthy for the human body is how it is metabolized after intake. Natural sugars, those that are found in fruits and vegetables, are broken down slower over a period after consumption. However, added sugar—cane sugar, syrup, sweeteners, to name a few—that are added to food products to enhance flavor—is absorbed and metabolized much faster than natural sugars.

Sugars, both natural and added, are broken down to their monosaccharide form, which is likely glucose. This monosaccharide is the foundation for how the body produces energy. Excess glucose is regulated by insulin and stored away in the form of glycogen until the body requires energy again.

Hence, taking in too much sugar at once increases the amount of glucose in the body, and the body cannot produce sufficient amounts of insulin fast enough to store away all the glucose; this causes high blood sugar levels, as seen in diabetes.

So, generally attempt to drink coffee and tea without added sugar; for soda, consider carbonated water, which still has the sizzle of a typical soda just without the sugar. Energy drinks are what consumers should look out for most, in terms of both caffeine and sugar.

Lastly, be mindful of the frequency of caffeine intake.

It is recommended by doctors to drink coffee or tea in small increments throughout the day until 2 p.m. to ensure consumers are careful but also receive enough stimulant to feel energized.

Recall from The Vermilion's "Need good sleep? Here's how" that caffeine plays a large role in disrupting one's sleep routine.

Now, although caffeine seems to have many negative health effects, it can be similarly beneficial, if again, it is taken mindfully.

## Arts and Culture

## The 2025 Advance Leaf Awards

**Kay Padilla**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Vermilion was invited to attend the 2025 University of Louisiana at Lafayette Advance Leaf Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, Creativity, and Scholarship, which were held on Apr. 3 within B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration.

The Leaf Award celebrates students who have achieved excellence while completing a Student Research Experience (SRE) or disseminating information about an SRE they have worked on.

This year, Leaf Awards took a hands-on student approach. The location of the awards took place in room 103 of Moody Hall in order to showcase students and for families to sit in their classroom and feel student-like, explained Sherry Kraysky, the director of the Student Center for Research, Creativity and Scholarship (SCRCS).

With this student-centered approach, students were in charge of planning, catering and providing various other resources for the evening.

Students in HMG 407: Event Planning & Management, under the direction of Lisa K. Bowles, planned, designed and executed the Leaf Awards Ceremony, as well as helped serve food and beverages, offered hospitality and kept a clean environment.

Under the direction of Becky Dubois and Isabelle Ducote, the HMG 316 students planned and prepared the food and beverages for the mocktail hour and ceremony. Student volunteers from HMG 201: Introduction to Hospitality, 351: Restaurant Management and 408: Facilities Management also helped serve the event.

Music was provided by the UL Lafayette Student Jazz Combo 1, Logan

Turner on guitar, Evan Smith on bass and Hunter Landry on drums.

Lastly, students from the School of Architecture & Design, under the direction of Thomas Cline and Keegan McClain, produced the Leaf Award plaques.

This year, Leaf Awards inaugurated a new award, the Advance Advocate Challenge Coin, given to faculty and staff who have worked tirelessly in conjunction with SCRCS to encourage, assist and support undergraduate students with their research endeavors.

Recipients of the Challenge Coin this year were Dr. Sophie Plouviez, Dr. Farzad Ferdowsi, Dr. Christine Briggs, Tiffany Ellis, Andrea Broussard, Olivia Peltier, Amy Winsdor and Heidie Lindsey.

University Faculty and Staff nominated 51 undergraduate students, with some being nominated twice, out of 13,432 total undergraduate students enrolled at the University.

A few notable awardees were Jonas Schmidt, who won a Leaf Award last year in computer and informational sciences.

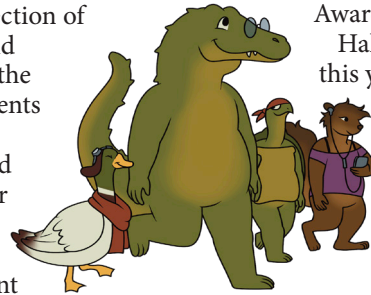
Abbey Poirier won a Leaf Award last year in social sciences, along with her award this year in exceptional performance and dissemination.

Ramudhi Kariyawasam won an award for Exceptional Performance in Dissemination; last year, she won a Leaf Award in Physical Sciences.

Hallie Blondiau won a Leaf Award this year for Exceptional Performance in Dissemination and the Provost Award. Paul Curry won a Leaf Award in Health and the Provost Award.

Cassidy Boudreaux won a Leaf Award in Humanities, Performing Arts and the Provost Award. Katherine Ashurst won a Leaf Award in Engineering & Technology, International Impact and the Provost Award.

To view the full list of nominees and winners, view Advance Leaf Awards on the University's website.



## 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. 23

## INSTRUCTIONS

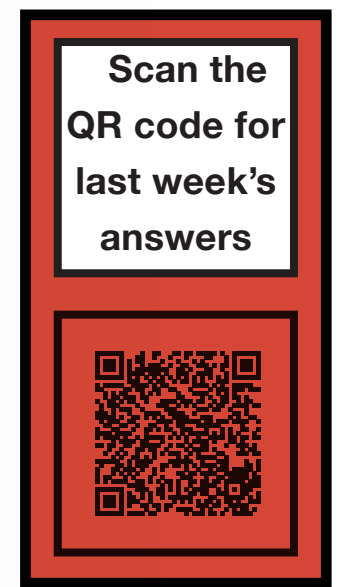
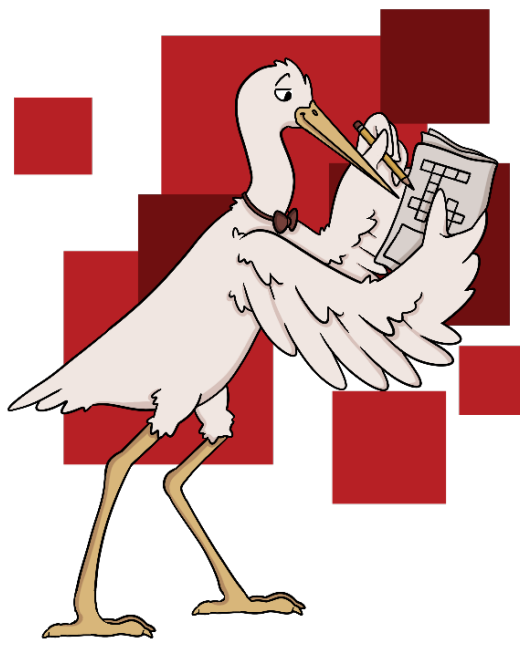
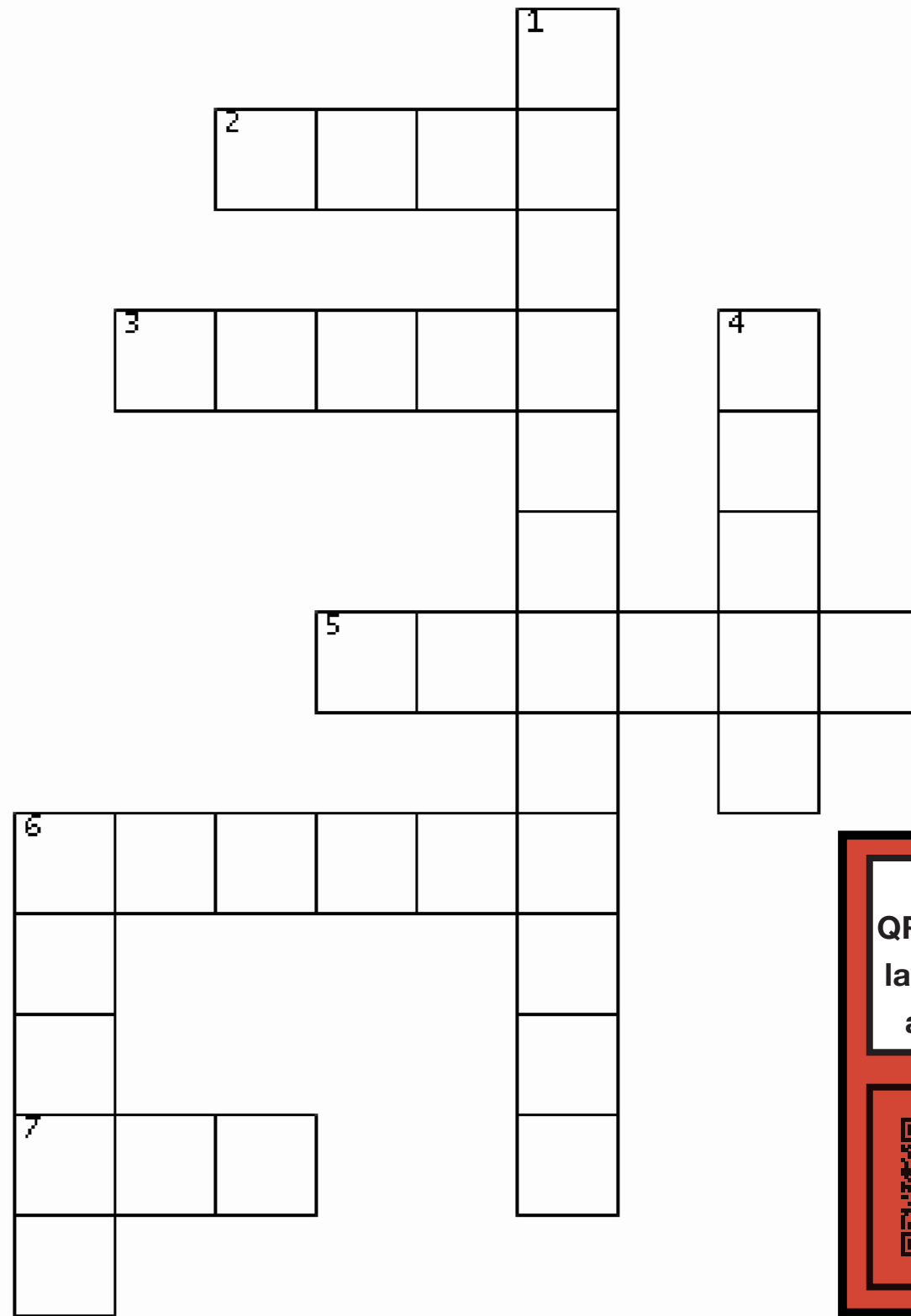
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

### ACROSS

- 2. Who had two RBIs for the Bobcats (last name)?
- 3. With an ongoing \_\_\_ war and dire humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, relief efforts have faced complications.
- 5. Within "Steven Universe," the character Peridot is widely believed to have \_\_\_.
- 6. Who wrote "Dracula" (last name)?
- 7. How many years have the basic requirements for admission been in place?

### DOWN

- 1. What is Katelyn Bedwell the co-director of?
- 4. The Dean of the University College of Education and Human Development is Dr. Tracy \_\_\_.
- 6. Which Cajuns freshman hit a home run in Saturday's late game against Troy (last name)?



## Cajun Candida SGA Forum

Photos by Alyus Dick



# Sports

## Texas State evens the series against Cajuns with a shutout

**Tavin Anthony**  
SPORTS WRITER

It was a not-so-beautiful day in Russo Park, as the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns welcomed back the Texas State Bobcats on Saturday for the second game of the series. The gray, gloomy skies were a clear indication of the kind of game it was going to be.

The Cajuns were coming off a 2-0 victory against the Bobcats the day before, so Texas State decided to even the series with an equal blow. They would win 2-0 thanks to the efforts of Samson Pugh and pitcher Jesus Tovar.

Honestly, neither team cared who won or lost. It seemed that they were both focused on the same goal, which was to

avoid getting rained on. I couldn't have been the only one in the park checking my phone every 30 seconds to make sure the weather app wasn't lying to me.

Both teams executed the plan to perfection as the game flew by. There wasn't a single hit until the top of the fourth, courtesy of the Bobcats, and there wasn't a single run until the top of the seventh, also courtesy of the Bobcats.

A little over an hour went by and we were already in the fifth inning. In large part, the pitching was solid for both teams. Tovar only allowed four hits, with a pair of strikeouts and assisted in three double plays. Andrew Herrmann played 8.1 innings, accumulating four strikeouts for the Cajuns.

Batters from both sides really

struggled to find a spark, especially early on. Not to mention the invisible, impenetrable force they were up against. Any solid contact made on the ball was quickly enveloped by the wind and brought back down for a fly out.

The wind speeds reached up to 21 mph during the game, making batters' lives harder, while also putting the outfielders to work tracking down the sporadic balls.

Caleb Stelly was responsible for the first Cajun hit in the fourth, but the momentum quickly died as Tovar would initiate a double play to end the inning.

Texas State's first run would come at the top of the seventh beginning with a walk to Alan Shibley. He would then advance to third off of a sacrifice

bunt and fly out. Pugh would take him home with a drive to the left to give the Bobcats a 1-0 lead.

The Ragin' Cajuns looked to respond in the bottom of the seventh when Lee Amedee reached on an infield single. Jose Torres then followed with a single to right, but Amedee was tagged out at third on an impressive throw from Shibley all the way from right field.

It definitely wasn't a bad decision by Amedee, considering it was the closest the Cajuns were to scoring. They were desperate for an opportunity and he was only out by an inch. It was more of a great defensive play by Shibley to throw across the field and secure the out.

That play was the defining moment in the game as the energy was sucked out of the park. The Cajuns would be shut out for the remaining two innings while the Bobcats would muster in another score in the ninth.

Reliever Tate Hess was in the game at this point. Shibley hit a single and shortly advanced to second after a sacrifice bunt. Pugh, a familiar culprit, delivered his second hit of the day with a left-field bomb.

It was a double that brought Shibley home, also giving Pugh his second RBI of the afternoon. That was the nail in the coffin for Cajun fans.

To make matters worse, it didn't even rain until much later in the evening. All of the suspense of whether or not we would get rained out was all for nothing. The plan to end the game as quickly as possible was unnecessary.

Most importantly, the weather app lied. I spent most of the game strategically mapping out the most efficient way to get to my car, just for a 10-minute, foot-dragging walk of agony.

The Cajuns now move to 16-17 on the season and 7-4 in conference play, dropping them to fourth in the standings.

Their next series will begin Friday, Apr. 11, against our sister school, Louisiana-Monroe (13-17). The Cajuns will travel up north to Lou St. Amant Field for the matchup.

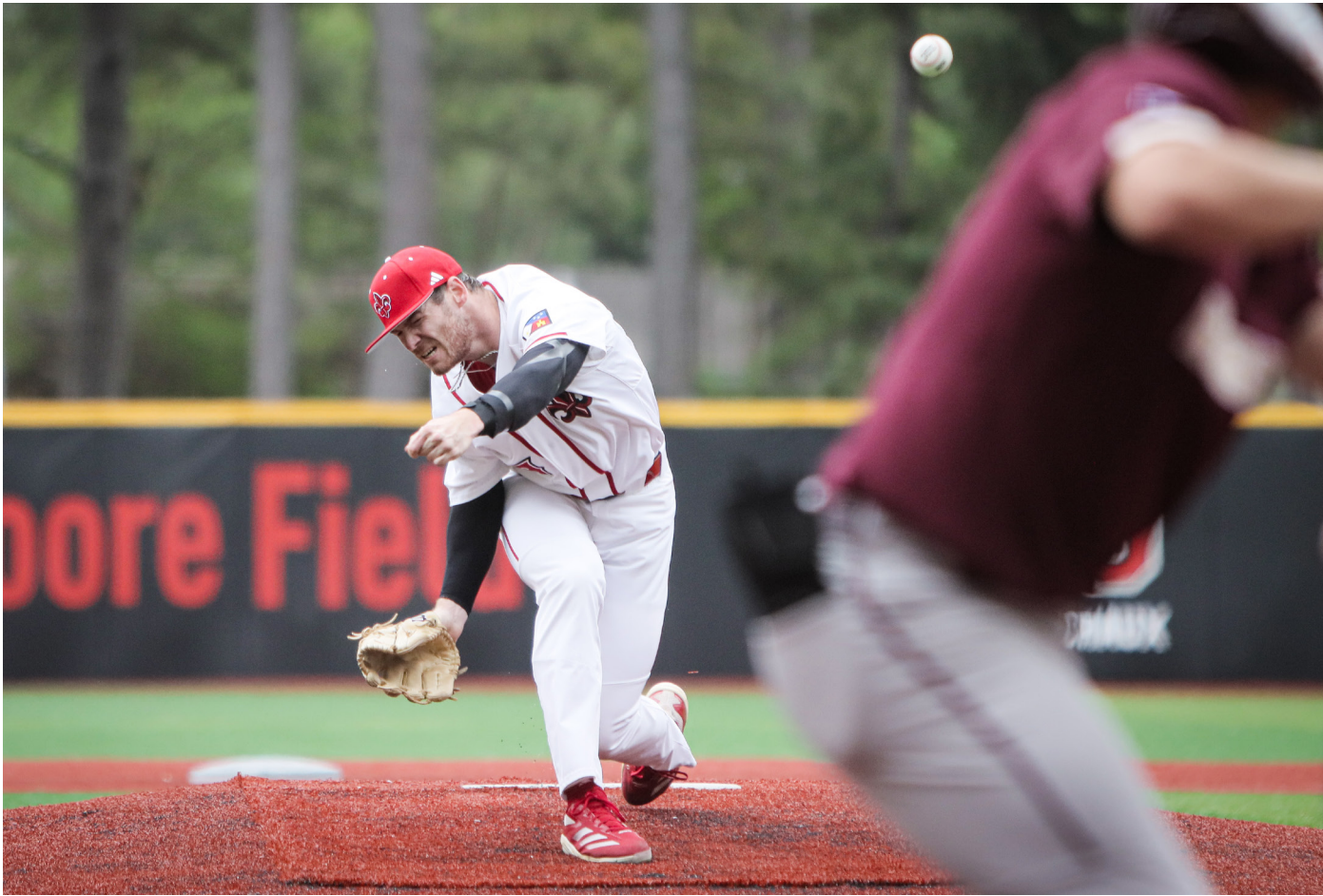


Photo by Alyus Dick

Andrew Herrmann (39) pitches against the Texas State Bobcats Apr. 5.

## Ragin' Cajuns softball loses third series of the season vs. Troy Trojans

**Isaac Henry**  
SPORTS WRITER

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns women's softball team dropped two of their games against the Troy Trojans in Alabama last weekend.

Losing the series brought the Cajuns to an even 19-19 in overall record and dropped their conference standing to 5-7. The Cajuns have not lost eight total conference games since the 2008 season.

In the matchup on Friday evening, Cajuns' starting pitcher Tyra Clary kept things clean early, allowing just two hits and no runs through the first four innings.

Louisiana generated a two-run lead off a double to left center courtesy of junior outfielder Erin Ardoin in the second inning, but Ardoin herself got left in scoring position after stealing third off of a wild pitch by Troy's Alyssa Faircloth.

The clean pitching wouldn't last forever, though. The Trojans offense suddenly awoke in the fifth inning, as their senior slugger Annie Orman hit a left-field home run off her second at-bat.

Sophomore utility player Makaley Boswell took advantage of her second time through the order with a left-side homer of her own to take the lead from the Cajuns, 3-2.

Freshman Caiden Oliva completed the trifecta of opposite-field home-run shots for the Trojans off their first pitch taken in the sixth inning, providing a nice insurance run for her team.

Now in desperation mode, the Cajuns offense started doing anything it could to generate runs, but ended up floundering to two outs, none on base in the seventh.

After a full-count walk and a single

pointed at third base, Troy's coaches decided to intentionally walk Cajuns senior Sam Roe, likely remembering her walk-off just a couple weeks prior.

What they didn't suspect is that Cecilia Vasquez could be just as clutch. She stepped up and delivered a two-RBI double deep to left-center, tying the game at 4-4.

Freshman Mallory Wheeler had come in for relief for the Cajuns, and she coaxed three straight ground outs to send the game to extra innings.

Unfortunately, the Cajuns weren't able to get anything going, and a brutal throwing error made under pressure by Vasquez got Troy the walk-off win, 5-4.

Saturday's first outing again featured a quiet first couple of innings, and again the Cajuns opened up first, as senior Maddie Hayden hit an RBI double to left to score the match's first run in the third inning.

Sam Roe would clean up the inning perfectly with another double deep to right-center field, taking a commanding 4-0 lead for the Cajuns and drawing a mound visit for Troy pitcher Mya Holt.

The Cajuns added another run when Ardoin stole home from third base off a catcher error. Troy mounted a lengthy rally in the fifth, loading the bases and scoring off a Mia Tidmore double, 5-3.

The Trojans struck again in the sixth, as senior hitter Cassidy Boltz hit a double to bring Oliva and McKinney home and tie the game.

The Cajuns had nothing offensively in the seventh, grounding out three straight at-bats to set up another heartbreaking loss, this time by a walk-off single to Boswell, 6-5.

For the second half of the double-

header, junior pitcher Bethaney Noble drew her ninth season start for the Cajuns, and immediately spiked fans' stress levels by hitting a batter and losing a full-count decision in the first inning, but escaped unscathed.

Yet again, the Cajuns led early off a Roe single batted in by freshman Mia Norwood, who was filling in at the flex spot for the game.

Noble did a good job avoiding the power of the Troy lineup for the game, coaxing fly outs from what were previously deep hits or home runs, and

so rendered the Trojans unable to answer late as usual.

The Cajuns put up more offense in the sixth, with another freshman, Emily Smith, stepping up and hitting a single-run homer to put the Cajuns up two runs. Ardoin got Vasquez home again on a double down the right field, and the Cajuns would win with no Troy shenanigans this time, 4-1.

Next up for the Cajuns is a return to Lamson for a weekend series against the James Madison Dukes, starting Friday, Apr. 11.

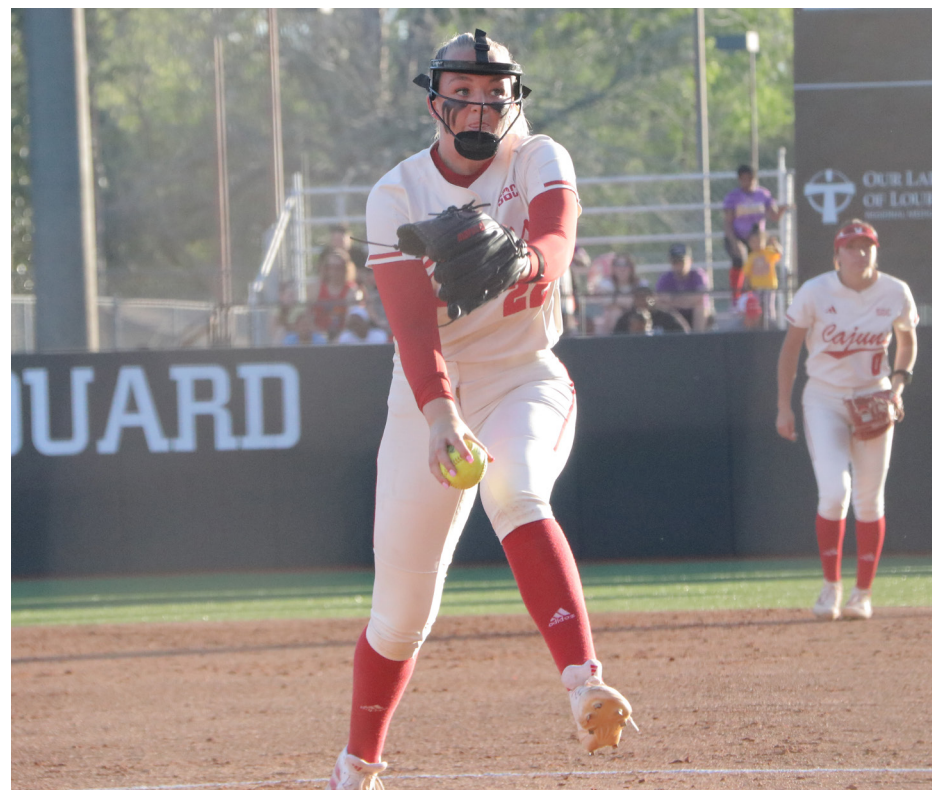


Photo by Makayla Walker

Tyra Clary (22) pitches against the LSU Tigers Mar. 25.

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# Allons

## Storytelling guide: Adapting mental illnesses and disorders

Landon Fruge  
ALLONS WRITER

Movies, books and video games all tend to tell a story that, in some part, take reference from issues or problems within our own world. One such example of this is the portrayal of mental illnesses and disorders. Many stories tend to try to adapt these things, but not all the time are they successful, and can end up doing more harm than good by romanticizing these things.

When it comes to writing about mental illnesses and disorders, I believe that there should be certain rules and ideas to keep in mind. First off, when adapting these things, there should be some level of research put into these things. When you try to adapt something like this without having any sort of knowledge of these things outside of baseline media interpretations, it can ruin your own reputation and make you seem ignorant.

Research is not only important when adapting mental illnesses and disorders, but also, in general, when writing a story. I mean, how would it look if I were to write a story about life living in another country with little to no knowledge of that country or the daily life of its people? It would make me look bad, as I did not put in any of the necessary work to correctly adapt whatever story I wished to tell.

Not doing enough research can also lead to some other issues when it comes to adapting mental illnesses and disorders. This is the inclusion of stereotypes within these characters. We have all seen these sorts of stereotypes within media. One common example is the depiction of dissociative identity disorder (DID) and the stereotype of having an “evil alter.”

For those that do not know, DID is a disorder in which a person may develop multiple alter selves for a multitude of reasons. The most common reason is the experience of severe and prolonged trauma during childhood, which results in the person developing separate personalities, also known as alters, in order to protect themselves from memories

of these events that led up to this trauma.

In many stories involving characters with DID, there is a common trope that these characters tend to have an evil or psychotic alter.

While I do like some characters with this archetype, such as the Green Goblin or Moon Knight, this trope is very overused a lot of times and can do harm to people with this disorder, portraying them as having this possible evil side.

When dealing with adapting mental disorders and illnesses, researching the topics alone is not the only necessity. It is also important to take a look at examples of these adaptations done right within a story.

There are many movies, shows, games and books in current day that do a great job of portraying these things.

A great example of this would be the adaptation of anxiety within the movie “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,” in which Puss in Boots is confronted by Death himself and, in many occasions, experiences anxiety attacks as a result.

One such scene, shows him running away as figures resembling Death appear left and right, haunting his mind until eventually he stops by a tree where he attempts to catch his breath but his breathing only gets quicker and heavier as his heart races faster and faster.

Suddenly, Perrito shows up and attempts to comfort him by laying his head on top of him. Puss eventually calms down as his heart and breathing start to steady.

Many people have agreed that this scene very accurately depicts how it feels to have an anxiety attack. In most movies and shows depicting anxiety, it tends to be a relatively quick thing where they just breathe into a bag and then suddenly they feel better. In here though, it lingers on this anxiety. It’s never fully something that goes away, and when it does fade, it is not an immediate thing.

Another good example of the portrayal of mental illness and disorders in media would be the show “Steven Universe,” in which it depicts a multitude of these illnesses and disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),

depression, autism and many more.

In some ways, each of these concepts can be aligned with one or more characters.

One example of this is the character known as Peridot. In the show Peridot is depicted as having difficulty when it comes to social interactions.

She tends to have trouble understanding things and at times can seem apathetic, but when explained these things in a more literal way or through the use of the show “Camp Pining Hearts,” which is a special interest of hers, she is able to be better understand the situation and is able to be more empathetic towards it.

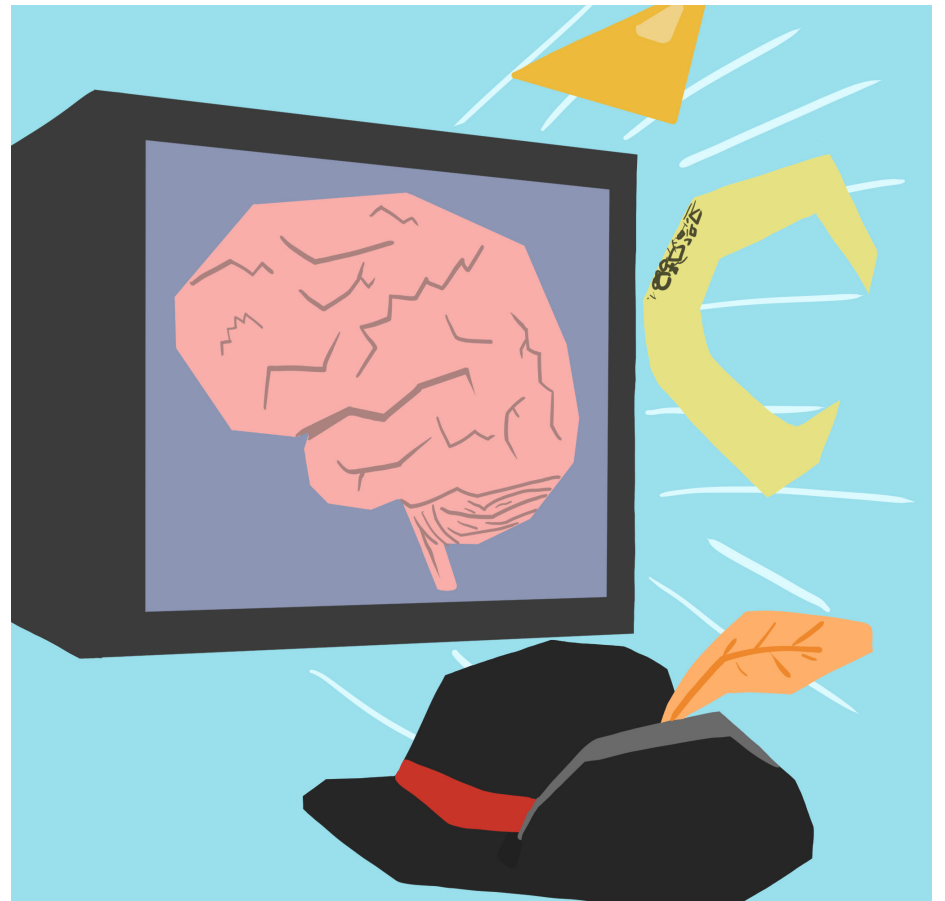
It is due to this and many other aspects of her character within the show that many believe her to be on the autism spectrum, and many of those people tend to agree that she is a great depiction of

this disorder as it very clearly represents what it is like to have autism.

Not only that but it doesn’t portray it in this negative light either, instead it rather makes her just seem special and stand out from others, which paints autism in a more positive light.

These are only a few examples of good depictions of mental illnesses and disorders within stories, and there are many more out there that I highly suggest checking out such as “The Owl House” or “Amphibia.” When writing about these topics, it is always best to make sure you have enough research to properly discuss them, so never be afraid to look at past works exploring these topics.

I’m sure in the following years there will be many more great stories that explore these topics and show the true nature of these illnesses and disorders, and shed a positive light on them.



Graphic by Landon Fruge

## I like reading and learning about gothic fiction a little too much

Marie Ducote  
ALLONS WRITER

We all have a fear, right? That thing that makes you jump in the night at the sound of the slightest creak in the house. We try to hide from fear, but we love participating in activities that make us face it. We face our fears through activities like, Halloween, watching horror movies and going to haunted houses. I believe all of our fascination with the more eerie side of life comes from a genre that has a long history in exploring the more unsettling parts of life.

The genre I am talking about is gothic fiction. I love gothic fiction, and the evolution of the genre is fascinating. What drew me to the genre was the old decaying castles, the supernatural elements and not knowing what will come next.

Horace Walpole’s 1764 novel “The Castle of Otranto” is considered the first gothic and horror novel. Walpole in this book would introduce many of the

staples of the genre such as a haunted castle, the supernatural, damsel in distress and violence.

After the publication of “The Castle of Otranto” many books would be published that followed in its footsteps. “The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Romantic Period” says this about the rising popularity of gothic fiction, “By the 1790s novels trading on horror, mystery, and faraway settings flooded the book market; meanwhile in theaters new special effects were devised to incarnate ghostly apparitions onstage.”

Ann Radcliffe, also known as “The Great Enchantress,” mixed terror with romance.

She became one of the key gothic writers and an influence to many. Radcliffe wrote five novels, with “The Mysteries of Udolpho” (1794) seen as an essential piece of gothic writing.

Radcliffe’s gothic romances usually followed female protagonists who encounter the supernatural in isolated settings. But the supernatural she encounters always seems to have a logical

explanation like the end of a “Scooby-Doo” episode.

In 1796 “The Monk” by Matthew Gregory Lewis (fun fact: he was 19 when he wrote it) was published and became a bestseller. What made “The Monk” famous and a popular book was its elements of violence and horror.

More insight on why “The Monk” is seen as an essential part of gothic history can be found in “The Norton Anthology;” “Within The Monk, mob violence competes with Ambrosio’s bloodlust as a source for horror, suggesting how Gothic stories, even when set in distant pasts and places, may have allowed the readers and writers of the 1790s to work through timely anxieties about power of crowds and the threat of revolution.”

Even though the genre was popular with the general public, it was not taken seriously by critics. Some people found the genre immoral, sensational and violent. The genre also attracted a large female base.

A great example of the public perception of gothic fiction can be

found in Jane Austen’s satire of the genre (“The Mysteries of Udolpho” is featured heavily) “Northanger Abbey” (1817). Austen defends both the novel and gothic fiction. The main character, Catherine Moreland, is a huge fan of the genre and her frequent reading of it makes her blur the lines between reality and fiction.

One example of how gothic fiction was considered a lower form of literature can be seen in Catherine’s conversation with John Thorpe. As the conversation develops Catherine learns John’s opinion of her taste in books, “Udolpho! Oh Lord! Not I; I never read novels; I have something else to do.”

As we move into the Victorian period we see the genre explode in books. Some of the most well known pieces of gothic literature came out during this time. Emily and Charlotte Bronte would bring us “Wuthering Heights” (my favorite book) and “Jane Eyre” both in 1847.

25 years before Bram Stoker gave us “Dracula,” Sheridan Le Fanu published “Carmilla” (1871-1872). “Carmilla” is seen as an influential work when it comes to books that feature vampires.

Lauren Nitschke in the article “How Did Victorian England Create Gothic Literature” suggests the genre’s tradition of embracing taboo subjects as a reason why it blossomed in the repression of the Victorian era.

Nitschke specifically highlights Charlotte Bronte writing, “English author Bronte knew all too well how society in Victorian England viewed women who diverged from the societal norm as projected by Queen Victoria, which was to be a faithful wife and productive childbearer first and foremost.” Robert Louis Stevenson would explore the duality of man and descent into evil in his classic story “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” (1886). A story that has been adapted numerous times.

Gothic literature has an ever evolving history that I hope to cover in a future article. Remember to always keep the nightlight on!

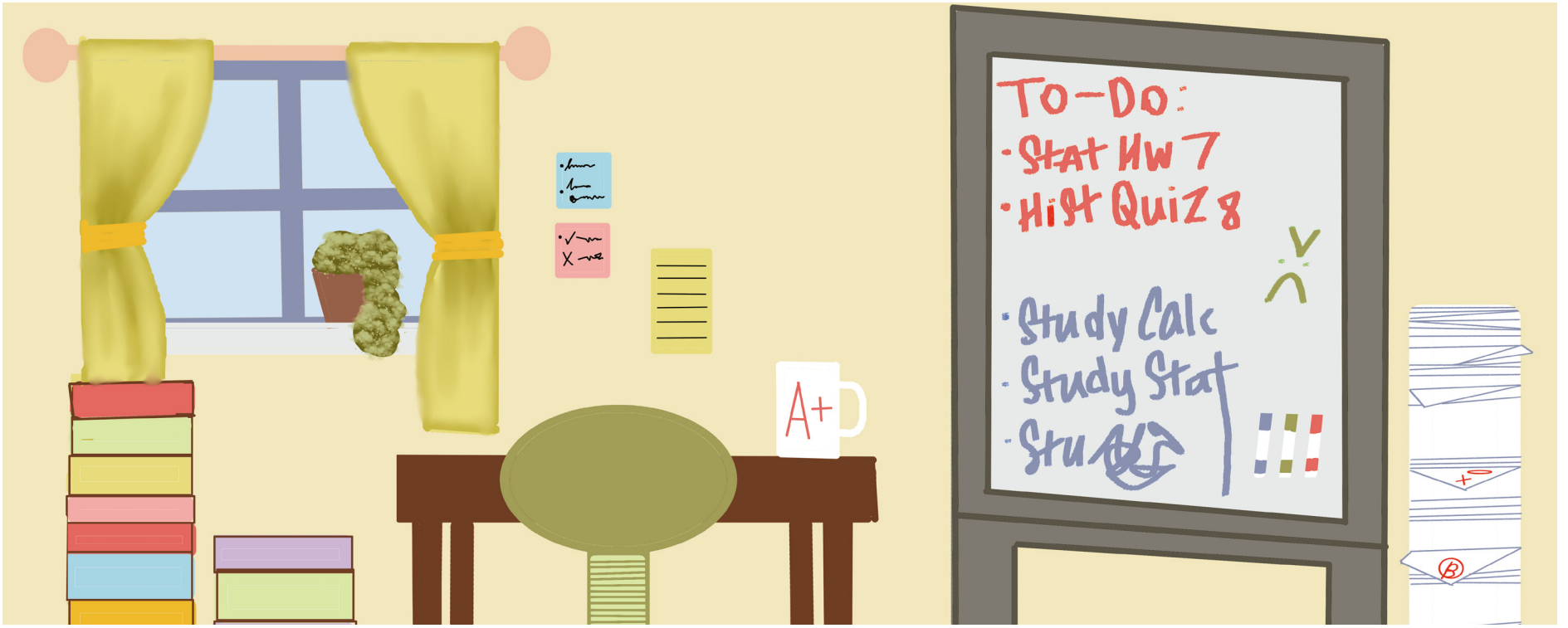


Graphic by Sarah Guidry and Caitlyn Comeaux

# Beaucoup

## Finals Prep

The Beaucoup section writes about how they plan to prepare for finals. Below are their thoughts.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

### Landon Fruge

ALLONS WRITER

As an art student, most of my finals don't typically involve any studying, outside of art history, which I tend to study for the day before or day of using Quizlet. Instead, most of my finals revolve around working on final projects, which we typically start on a couple of weeks before the projects are due.

In order to prepare for my final projects though, I tend to use the time I

have to work on it to ask any necessary questions and get any necessary feedback I need from my teachers. This helps me to make sure that I am doing everything correctly and that I can get the best possible grade I can get for my project.

Even with all the help though, it still can be very draining to focus on so much at once so I find taking a break every now and then, very helpful.

Especially considering how tasking, both physically and mentally, these projects tend to be.

### Kayla Woods-Crane

NEWS WRITER

For finals, I am preparing by trying to start all my assignments early. A lot of my final assignments are papers or projects, so I have been given a lot of time to think about them. I try not to procrastinate too much on assignments I've been given ahead of time.

For finals, I also like to go to the library to do my work. If I do any work in my

room I am destined to either fall asleep in my bed because I was doing my work there or get out of my uncomfortable desk chair into my bed, and fall asleep in my bed.

Lately, I have been busy doing school work, so now is really crunch time so I can enjoy my spring break. To manage the stress all of my final projects have given me, I just go to sleep. Sleep is the best medicine I have ever had for my stress, so a nice nap always does the trick.

### Ja'lyn Braud

ALLONS ASSISTANT EDITOR

Fortunately, as a freshman, I have been blessed to only have one final so far in each semester. So to prepare for this semester's final, I am honestly not stressing. Considering it is a geology test and non-cumulative, I feel that my normal study habits will suffice for the test.

However, I am a design major, meaning my final projects are due a week before

typical test finals, and this project, for sure, will have me pulling my hair out.

In regard to preparing, I will honestly be taking better precautions with time management to make sure I can accomplish the project in the allotted time.

Even though I have said this for every project I've been given, I will still probably end up in Fletcher Hall until 4:00 a.m., like usual.

So all in all, coffee and prayers will be my strength to get through the week.

### Vallen Power

LAYOUT DESIGNER

While I don't really have too many this semester, I've been doing a lot of studying for the few finals I have. I've spent hours in the library this past week alone rewriting my in-class notes in order to help remember them better and going over the material my teachers have provided for the final. It's been, needless to say, very stressful.

For a final project I have in a music based class, I've been listening to a lot of

songs similar in vibe to the two minute piece I need to compose. It's definitely my favorite project to work on right now and I'm pretty happy with it so far.

Otherwise, when I haven't been relentlessly studying or working on a project for finals, I've been trying to spend an hour or so playing video games, knitting, drawing or listening to music to help relieve some of the stress that's been weighing down on me.

Hanging out with friends also helps a lot, and it's nice to trade study tactics with them over finals.

## Events

# SGA big three candidates discuss about R1 status, policies and more

### Andrew Courville

POLITICS WRITER

The first party running for Student Government Association (SGA) election is Impact.

Onyeka Nwaezeapu is running for president, Brendan Daigle for vice president, and Zackari Rodgers for treasurer.

Nwaezeapu, a junior biology major with minors in chemistry and kinesiology, spotlighted "fixing clocks in classrooms, collaborating with mental health resources with other universities

around the state and inquiring about why online classes that are only offered online still have a fee" as the first three policies she'd look to implement amongst their platform.

When asked about how the party plans to differentiate itself from others in the nation regarding the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's prestigious R1 status, Nwaezeapu explained, "we're fighting for scholarly initiatives" and hopes to "incorporate town hall forums" so students can ask professors and faculty their questions of the University's functions.

Daigle, a sophomore majoring in computer science, expressed that to hold SGA accountable, he'd form "a developmental committee" made of SGA senators and then allow the student body to submit feedback forms on how to improve the university, which that committee would process.

They'd also implement a virtual "Cajun Wallet" on one's mobile device to allow any student "to get into the Caf, into your dorms, and also use it as a way to pay your fines" without worrying about having your Cajun Card at all times or signing into ULink.

Finally, Daigle explained Impact's plan for parking reforms, particularly for Greek Life, by ensuring that members of those organizations have their designated parking spaces on Fraternity and Sorority Row and at University sporting events.

Rodgers put the spotlight on student fee transparency over how SGA funds are being used.

This includes auditing fees and promoting resources that each organization provides. Rodgers stated, "no matter how big or small the organization may be, it's still vitally important to this campus."

### Kayla Woods-Crane

NEWS WRITER

Evolve is the second party running for the 2025 Student Government elections. The party includes Ava Welborn, the presidential nominee, Sean Meyers, the vice presidential nominee and Robert Batarash, the nominee for treasurer. Between them, they have been involved in several different organizations around campus. Welborn and Meyers are both SGA veterans, having participated in it for the past three years.

Upon being elected into the position,

Welborn said the party would prioritize mental health, wellness and athletics, the "M" and "A" of their "S.M.A.R.T." goals. Welborn cited that despite being the second largest public university in the state, servicing 19,000 students, the Saucier Wellness Center only has six counselors. She also emphasized having up-to-date equipment at Bourgeois Rec Center.

Lastly, Evolve wants to make sure student athletes are represented on campus. Currently, the Student-Athlete Academic Center is available for those students.

The center provides tutoring services, academic mentors and allows student athletes to check out laptops and calculators if needed.

Another goal of the party is improving technology on campus, the "T" of their "S.M.A.R.T." goals. Improving the Wi-Fi on campus, updating technology and implementing AI into the day-to-day life of the University.

During their respective parts of the forum, Meyers and Batarash both mentioned transparency and communication with students as an essential responsibility of being elected.

If elected as vice president, Meyers said his main responsibility is to make sure members of the Senate are doing their job, adding that if senators aren't, "then they shouldn't be there."

Continuing with transparency, as treasurer, Batarash wants students to know exactly where SGA funding is going.

During the Spring 2025 semester, students paid a \$7.50 fee to SGA. He plans on promoting surveys around campus in order to hear students' feedback on how SGA is allocating their funds.

### Ramudhi Kariyawasam

MANAGING EDITOR

This year is the first time in a while that the Student Government Association (SGA) has had an independent candidate run for president.

Jaylen Carter is a junior majoring in psychology. She began at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in Fall 2024. Carter was previously involved in SGA during her high school career, where she served as president during the last two years of high school at River Parishes Community College.

At the forum, Carter shared, "I've always had a passion for helping my

peers, helping others and bettering my academic achievement."

During the forum, the first question asked focused on how the party will elevate and differentiate the University as an R1 institution from others.

Carter stated, "To me what it means, we hold our students to a completely different standard across all boards, and my party plans to elevate on those subjects by continuing to hold students to those standards by providing more opportunities for our students to do research and expanding the ways they can do research and ways that they could benefit them beyond just the classroom, beyond just the career."

The second question addressed which three policies would first be implemented if elected for office. One policy Carter wishes to implement is giving the student body a platform to amplify their voice. "I do feel that there are times when voices can get unheard, things can get muted, things can get muffled. So one of my biggest things would be to always be able to better accommodate student disputes."

The second policy Carter wishes to implement is "mental health awareness and pushing those initiatives to our students to help them understand that they're here for them to use, to utilize."

The third policy Carter plans on implementing deals with parking reforms

and educating the student body about the parking ticketing system.

Lastly, when asked what the candidates wished the student body would know about why they are running for the next SGA president, Carter shared, "I have two years in my past occurring as an actual SGA president. [...] I've always enjoyed being an advocate for not only myself, but for others. [...] I find true joy in helping people find themselves. [...] I've decided to make it my lifelong goal, my lifelong passion, to help others, motivate others, advocate for others; make not only this university, but the world, for as long as I'm in it, a [...] much better place than I lived in."

# SOUNDING OFF

## "What are your plans for Spring Break?"



**Peyton Clement**  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SOPHOMORE

*"I'll probably be eating a lot of crawfish and sleeping."*



**Jean-Paul Bourgeois**  
BIOLOGY JUNIOR

*"I'm going to Panama City Beach with some friends."*



**Zoha Mahmood**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE FRESHMAN

*"Half of it, I'm going home, the other half I'm working and then going to Festival International."*



**Drew Van Eaton**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SENIOR

*"Catching up on some work I need to do with my internship,.. we're going to be setting up an experiment at the UL Solar farm..."*



**John Latona**  
ECONOMICS SOPHOMORE

*"Go home, spend time with family, and hang out with some friends that I don't get to see very often."*



**Ava Franatovich**  
NURSING FRESHMAN

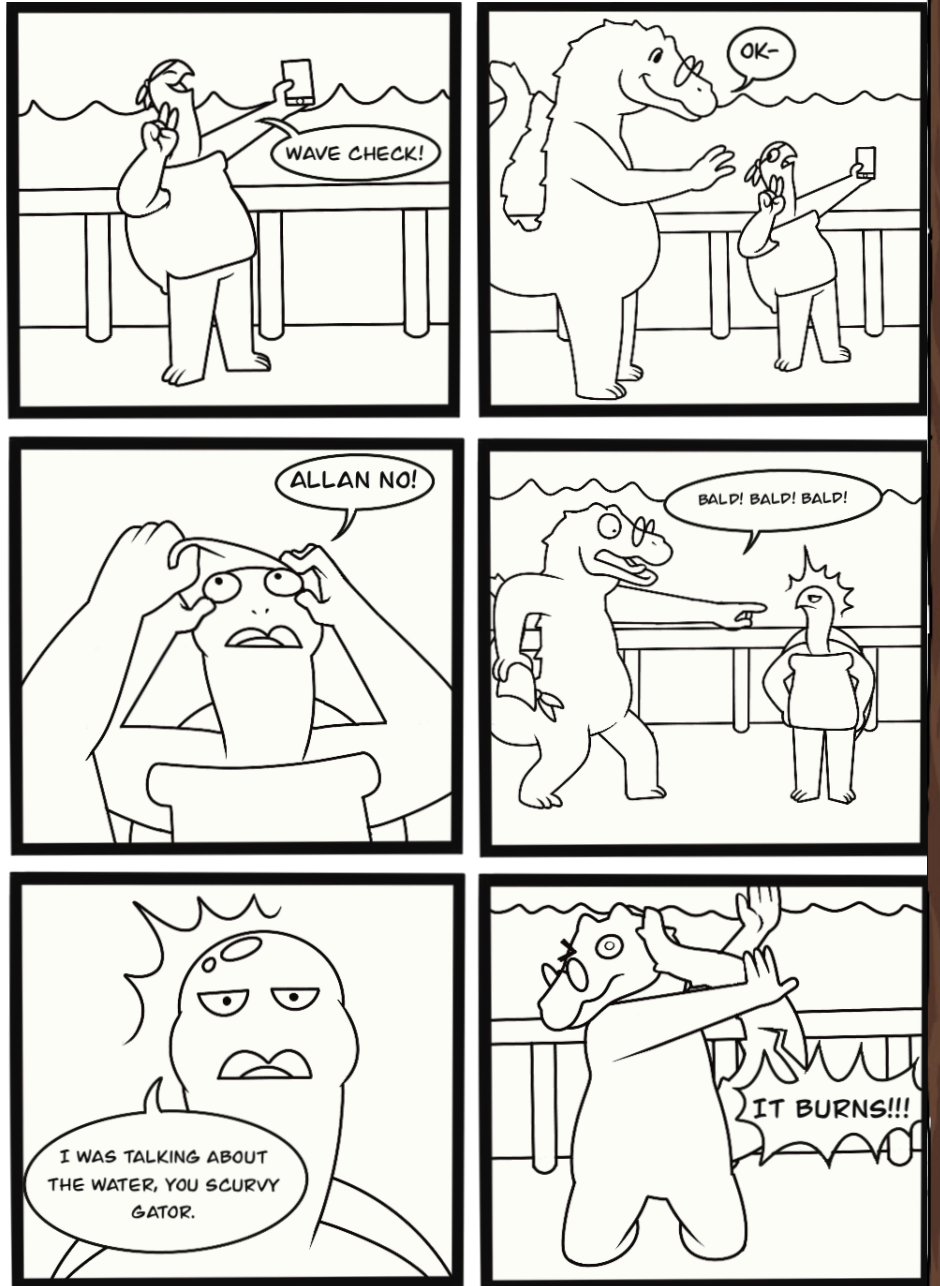
*"Go home and see my family because I haven't been home pretty much all semester, and I do plan on going to the beach."*

*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 Alyus Dick.*

### COMIC

## Wave Check!



Comic by Lauren Gerald

### Applications now being accepted for:



- Editor-in-Chief
- Business Manager

Students can apply on Handshake  
(Louisiana.joinhandshake.com)

Applications can also be picked up in  
Martin Hall 211.  
Applications are due April 14, 2025

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