

# THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper October 16, 2025

## Cost-cutting strategies amidst budget deficit

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS EDITOR

In an effort to address a \$25 million deficit, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette announced significant cost-cutting strategies on top of cuts in auxiliary and operational spendings that hit when the 2025-26 fiscal year began.

In a town hall meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, the University's leaders, administration, faculty and staff gathered in the Bayou Bijou Theater at the Student Union to hear Interim President Dr. Jamie Hebert share updates and address concerns about how the University intends to achieve financial stability.

On Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, faculty members received an announcement over email that the University closed the Office of Sustainability and Community Engagement and restructured the Office of Communications and Marketing, as well as the Office of Auxiliary Services, eliminating six staff positions in total. Concerns arose with regards to the possibility of further job reductions and restructuring of offices and departments across campus.

Current vacant positions are also unlikely to be filled, with exceptions to positions that are of higher necessity and importance to the University.

This is to curb further spendings on payroll.

During the town hall meeting, Hebert shared that payroll accounts for approximately 60% of the University's expenditure.

He also presented that while there has been a \$20 million loss in revenue from a drop in enrollment in the past

decade, there has been a \$40 million rise in payroll from increased employment. Hence, job reductions could lead to a significant amount of savings.

While Hebert admitted that some job reductions are to be expected, he assured that the University will do what it can to reduce a large number of reductions in staff, continuously stressing their goal to "minimize the human impact," as they acknowledge the role that the faculty and staff play in contribution to the student experience.

Hebert also expressed, "Each position represents a colleague and a friend, and I want to acknowledge the very real effect this has on the members of our campus community."

In response to a question posed from an audience member during the town hall regarding the duration of the budget realignment process, Hebert stated that the University aims to "hit fiscal stability" by May or June 2026.

While fiscal stability is still far ahead on the horizon, significant cost-cutting measures that were announced put the University a big step towards the goal.

Of the \$25 million deficit, spending reductions implemented across campus have already saved about \$14.5 million to \$15 million, making up for a huge portion of the debt.

Most departments, including the President's Office, Athletics, Advancement, Student Affairs, Research and Administration and Finance had to reduce operational spendings by 10%.

Academic Affairs reduced operational spendings by 5% to lessen the impact on UL Lafayette's core mission of teaching and learning.

As further part of the University's

efforts to save money in this fiscally-constraining time, commencement will now be held as a one-day event at the Cajundome with two sessions, effective from this semester onwards.

This strategy is expected to save the University an estimated \$65,000.

For Fall 2025 Commencement, College of the Arts, B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration, College of Engineering and College of Nursing and Health Sciences will be on Dec. 19 at 9 a.m.

College of Education and Human Development, College of Liberal Arts, Ray P. Authement College of Sciences and University College will be on Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.

Come January 2026, UL Lafayette will also end its lease with local hotel, Wingate by Wyndham, which has accommodated student housing overflow since August 2024.

This strategy is expected to save the University about \$900,000. The University also had WoodSpring Suites as a satellite housing location, however, students residing there were relocated back to on-campus housing in Spring 2025.

During the town hall, Hebert shared that the University is actively taking feedback for ideas on finding additional savings or potential revenue streams through an online form, attributing this to the fact that the people of this campus would have more eyes on areas which the administration may not be as aware or knowledgeable of.

As a collaborative effort, and with changes in leadership, perhaps UL Lafayette will be able to navigate through this time of fiscal uncertainty without further major impacts on the people of this community.

This is a developing story.



Photo by Alyus Dick  
Tabling event for Fete de la Tere April 16, 2024

## Will R1 status be affected by deficit?

**Jenna Kimball**  
NEWS WRITER

Budget cuts that are taking place this semester at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are making some students question whether or not the University's R1 status will be lost.

In order to maintain the title, \$50 million has to be put towards research



Photo by Alyus Dick  
Louisiana's R1 research flag located in the Quad.

endeavors and at least 70 doctoral degrees must be awarded per year. Currently, the University is awarding around 80 doctoral degrees yearly and it is unlikely that that number will decrease.

The vice president for Administration and Finance, Dr. Edwin Litolff, said, "Back in 2010, there was \$69 million in research and it's pretty much gone up... a little bit here... and then all of a sudden, it's really grown over these last couple years. It was last reported at \$225 million in research." He continued, "So I can't see that number dropping that much. No way, no way."

To lose the R1 status, over \$175 million would have to be deducted from the research fund, which according to Litolff, is extremely unlikely.

According to [carnegiefoundation.org](http://carnegiefoundation.org), this system of ranking research institutes has evolved from the Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education (CCIHE), which began in 1970.

The system allows for higher education schools to be grouped together based on factors like size, award levels and programs.

The American Council of Education (ACE) later came together with the

CCIHE to expand the classification system and make the characteristics broader.

Any university that offers Pell Grants to students must submit their data into the Integrated Post Secondary Data System (IPEDS) each year. By going to [nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov), anybody can access the IPEDS data that's been entered.

ACE uses this public empirical information about the universities and colleges to calculate which institutions to group together and how.

Even with the R1 status being relatively stable, some students are worried about how the budget cuts will affect them.

Sophia Perez, a sophomore biology major, said, "It's upsetting that they would prioritize our stuff that doesn't really matter in the school... we're an R1 school so you'd hope that they want to help us more." In contrast, Mina Thalanh, a sophomore sociology student, said, "I'm stable, my financial aid and TOPS cover my stuff so I'm not worried."

Litolff said, "What I think we're going to see is an 18-24 month time period to turn around the finances of the University, so I look at this as just a short time period where we tighten our belt... We have enrollment growth this year, right? So the enrollment growth will

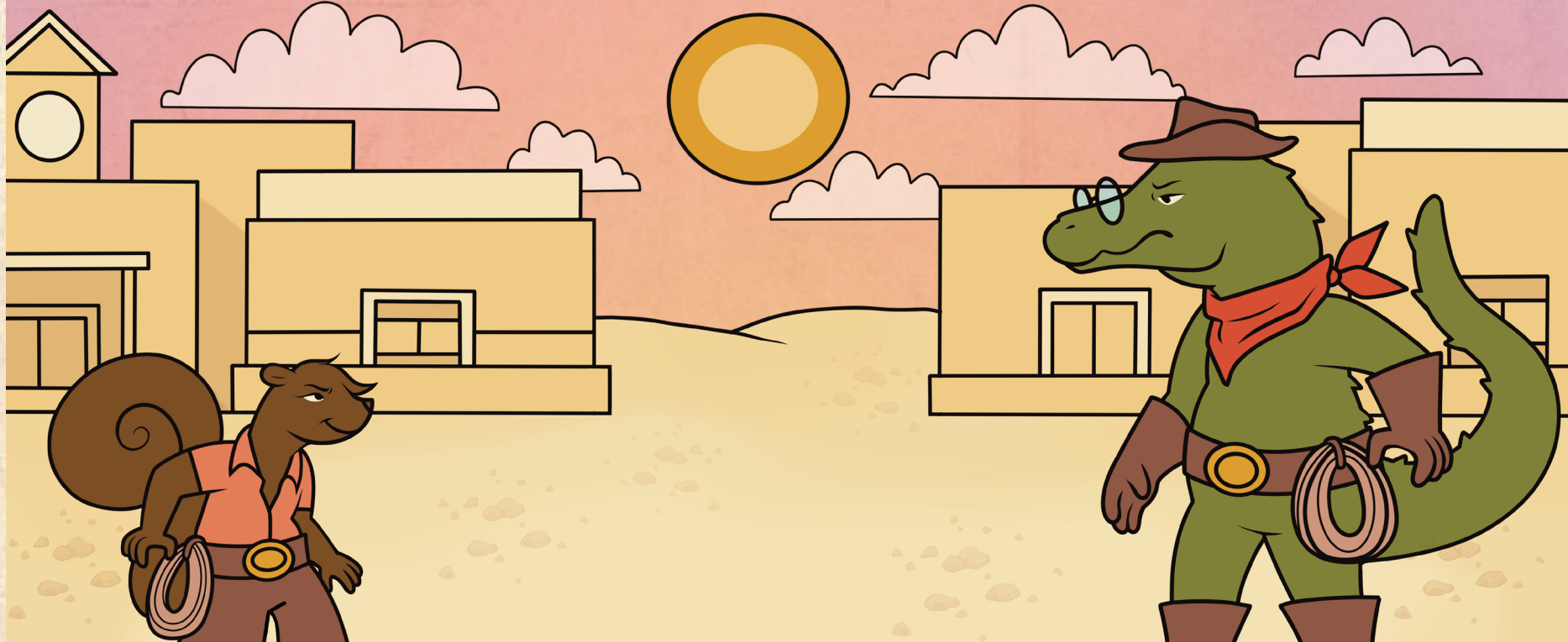
help us and I think in 18-24 months we'll be starting to look back at what degree programs do we add? What programs do we have for growth?"

He continued, "So we lost 1700 students from here to here, and that's about \$19 million a year. Now we've been up the last two years, we went up again this year, so the trend is going up and tuition went up this year. So with that, we're in a positive direction. What happened is, at the same time, we added over 500 employees, which added \$40 million to the payroll. So you're up \$40 million in payroll and you're down \$19 million annually in tuition and fees."

Litolff suggested letting professors and staff members leave on their own, whether it be for retirement, relocation or other reasons, and instead of replacing them with new staff, allowing already existing staff to take on their duties.

He commented, "Everybody has their peaks and valleys... and I think what we've got to do is figure out, okay, how do we match the demands to the employees and resources as people retire, as people leave?"

Budget cuts could offer changes to various aspects of campus life, however UL Lafayette's R1 research status will likely not be affected.



### News

#### NEW AFFORDABLE PROGRAM

The Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program allows undergraduate students a jumpstart into their higher education.

PAGE 2

### Health

#### DEBUNKING TYLENOL CLAIMS

The World Health Organization and other major medical officials reject and debunk Trump's claims relating to Tylenol and autism.

PAGE 3

### Sports

#### SETTING UP THE SEASON

The Ragin' Cajuns volleyball team is halfway through the season with an impressive 10 wins over their six losses.

PAGE 5

### Beaucoup

#### DANCE THE WEEKEND AWAY

The Beaucoup section visits Festivals Acadiens et Créoles in Girard Park and tells about the music, food and many festivities.

PAGE 7

# The new ABM program provides a cheaper route to a master's degree

**Kayla Woods-Crane**  
MANAGING EDITOR

With rising tuition prices and advising for the spring semester coming up, students must start thinking about their future.

If that future involves going to graduate school, then the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has an affordable program to accelerate students in their respective master's programs.

The Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) program allows senior students to take graduate level courses that simultaneously contribute to their bachelor's and master's degree. To be eligible for admission into the program, a student has to be a senior with a minimum of 90 credit hours and at least 30 credit hours left to graduate. They also

need an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2. If they are a transfer student, they need to have completed at least 24 hours of coursework at the University.

Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, the dean of Graduate School, said the program is similar to dual enrollment in high school. Farmer-Kaiser explained this program gives students the opportunity to get started on their graduate level coursework at an affordable price, gives students a headstart in their programs and provides familiar surroundings as they make their transition into graduate school.

For example, if a student planned on using the TOPS scholarship, as long as the student maintained undergraduate status, at least taking 12 credit hours during a semester, then they only have to pay for the undergraduate tuition.

Along with affordability, Farmer-Kaiser emphasized how the ABM program might make it easier for some students to transition into graduate school.

"From a student perspective, you know these faculty, you know this community, you know this campus, and so it's an ease into a master's program."

Farmer-Kaiser said the earlier students know about this program, the better, so they can begin speaking with their advisor and asking questions. She emphasized communication with teachers and program leaders to understand how to begin admission to the program and when to begin.

Matthew Gary, a senior majoring in jazz studies, said, over email, he found out about the program through a presentation by the School of Music in the fall of 2024. He will be graduating with his bachelor's degree this December and beginning his graduate degree in January, with a semester head start because of the ABM program.

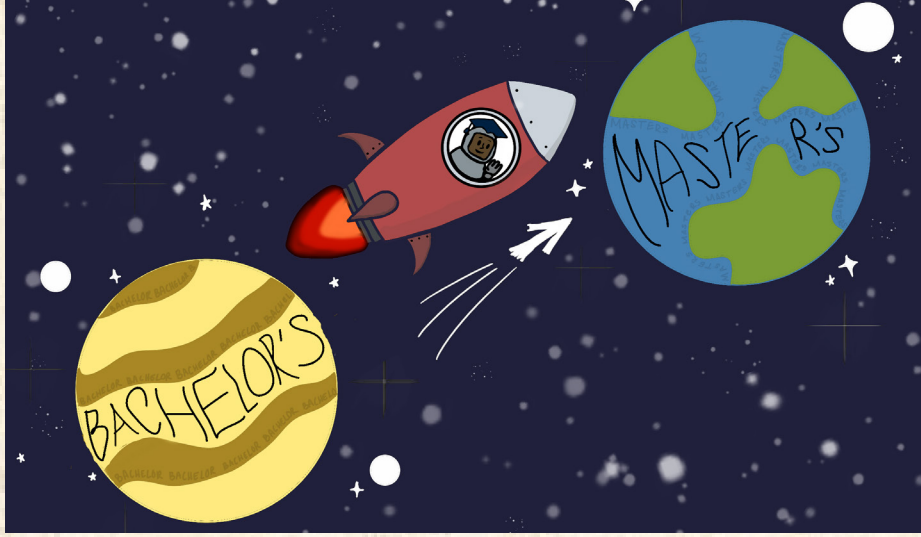
Gary began the ABM program in the spring of 2025, with two graduate level courses and is currently taking one graduate course this semester. He was the first student to enroll in the College of Arts for the ABM program. Gary said he has enjoyed the preview to graduate level coursework and is grateful for the ability to finish his master's degree in a shorter amount of time. Despite his happiness with the program, Gary shared he does not think the ABM program is for everyone. "As a music major, if I was taking both senior-level undergraduate and graduate courses in music, I would

not have the mental bandwidth to pass a math class," he explained. Gary recommended that students interested in the program speak to full-time graduate students about the expectations and demands of the courses they'd be taking.

Vincent Marin, a student currently getting his master's degree in mechanical engineering, said, over email, he started the ABM in the fall of 2024 and is on track to finish his graduate degree by the spring of 2026. He said the program was terrific for him because of the early experience he received in his research area. Marin recommended students talk to researchers on campus in areas they are interested in early on because, for him, the communication between teacher and student is very important in graduate school.

Since the program started last fall, Farmer-Kaiser urged that interested students should ask about different programs they want to get a master's degree in, even if they are not currently offered by the ABM program. "I really need undergrads to ask their advisors about it because that encourages those programs to get on the ball and create a BM program," she explained.

The graduate programs currently offered through the ABM program include communication, English, French and multiple engineering concentrations, among others. According to Farmer-Kaiser, by fall of 2026 they will add a physics program. To learn more about the programs offered and the requirements for admission, go to [louisiana.edu/graduateschool](http://louisiana.edu/graduateschool).



Graphic by Remaya Bell

## Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

### Oct. 11

- At 8:05 p.m., officers responded to E. Lewis St. regarding the reckless operation of a 2023 black Dodge Charger. No arrests were made.
- At 3:59 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Hilton Garden Inn in reference to an individual refusing to leave the property. An arrest was made and the subject was booked into Lafayette Parish Correctional Center.

### Oct. 10

- At 4:00 p.m., officers were dispatched to Olivier Parking Tower in reference to a parking lot hit-and-run between a 2024 black Kia Forte and an unknown second vehicle. No charges were pursued.
- At 11:21 a.m., officers were dispatched to Huger Hall in response to a threat made online. No arrests were made.
- At 1:57 a.m., officers were dispatched to Legacy Park Apartments in reference to suspicious circumstances. No arrests were made.

### Oct. 8

- At 4:15 p.m., officers were dispatched to Griffin Hall in reference to the report of a stolen gray and black electric scooter.
- At 9:58 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Olivier Parking Tower in reference to a parking lot hit-and-run between a 2015 white Ford F-150 and a 2017 white Honda Accord that occurred on Oct. 1. No arrests were made.
- At 3:35 a.m., officers were advised of a suspicious vehicle in the Girard Park Parking Tower. Marijuana was found in a 2012 gray Ford Focus. Two arrests were made.

### Oct. 7

- At 8:32 p.m., officers responded to a large group of people standing outside of Baker Hall. No arrests were made.
- At 8:50 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Girard Park Parking Tower to investigate a crash that occurred between a 2023 white Hyundai 719 and a 2022 gray Chevrolet Silverado.

### Oct. 6

- At 3:19 p.m., officers received a walk-in report of a possible theft that took place in the Student Union of a pair of Sony 1000XM4 headphones.

## WANTED

### WHERE'S ALLAN?



Out in the country, you know how it goes. I'm covered in dust, so I came here to wash my clothes. Where am I?








**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 receive the prize. 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.



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER AFTER READING!**

## Weather

Thursday 10/16	Friday 10/17	Saturday 10/18	Sunday 10/19	Monday 10/20	Tuesday 10/21	Wednesday 10/22
						
High: 87 F Low: 65 F	High: 86 F Low: 69 F	High: 87 F Low: 70 F	High: 86 F Low: 69 F	High: 84 F Low: 66 F	High: 85 F Low: 67 F	High: 82 F Low: 62 F

**Kayla Woods-Crane**  
MANAGING EDITOR

- Nor'easter to bring gusty winds and heavy rain to the Northeast with chances of flooding.
- Priscilla and Raymond have been bringing significant rainfall to the Southwest over the weekend.

- La Niña conditions are currently present and favored to persist through the winter, according to NOAA.

## Politics

# Cassidy confronts RFK Jr. amid declining public trust in vaccines

**Leilani Chester**  
NEWS WRITER

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), vaccines have saved 154 million lives, but deepening mistrust of science and government has put public health at risk. That divide took center stage on Sept. 17 when Senator Bill Cassidy led a Senate Health Committee hearing questioning Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. over his dismissal of CDC Director, Dr. Susan Monarez.

Dr. Monarez was fired a month after she was sworn in, following a tense conversation with Kennedy about trust and vaccine policy. According to accounts of the meeting, Kennedy told Monarez to fire several CDC officials without cause, and commit to approving all recommendations of his newly appointed advisor panel. Monarez told him, "If he could not trust me, he could fire me." Two days later, the White

House dismissed her, saying she did not align with the administration's "Make America Healthy Again" movement.

Kennedy announced her dismissal on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. In response, four senior CDC officials: Dr. Debra Houry, Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, Dr. Daniel Jernigan and Dr. Jennifer Layden resigned, cited growing concern that the agency was being politicized and that health decisions were being shaped by ideology rather than science.

Cassidy hesitated to confirm Kennedy as HHS secretary earlier this year, doing so only after Kennedy promised to protect access to vaccinations and maintain an "unprecedentedly close, collaborative working relationship" with him. During the hearing, Cassidy pressed Kennedy about the firing, as well as recent moves to remove COVID-19 vaccines from the CDC's recommended list and halt funding for mRNA vaccine research.

This dispute comes as preventable diseases are once again spreading across the country. Vaccine hesitancy, defined by the WHO as the refusal or delay in acceptance of vaccination, has led to outbreaks of illnesses like measles and polio in the United States.

Louisiana has seen a particular rise in whooping cough, with the state's Department of Health reporting 164 cases in the first four months of 2025, more than in any year since at least 1989. Forty people have been hospitalized since September 2024, most of them infants. Two babies have died, marking the first whooping-cough deaths in the state since 2018.

Public health experts trace much of the modern anti-vaccine movement to misinformation spread after a now-retracted study falsely linking vaccines to autism. Although the study was debunked decades ago, its impact persists.

Dr. Mark LaCour, a psychology professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who studies vaccine hesitancy, explained vaccines remain among the most scrutinized and monitored medical technologies in existence. "It's one of the most well researched, overly cautious, overly vigilant, monitored technologies," he said. "It undergoes more safety surveillance than any other pharmaceutical product."

Public trust in health authorities has waned, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic. LaCour said that loss of confidence may have as much to do with communication as with science. "Maybe it's not such a bad thing that they behave in a way to where they treat public trust as a thing to be earned and

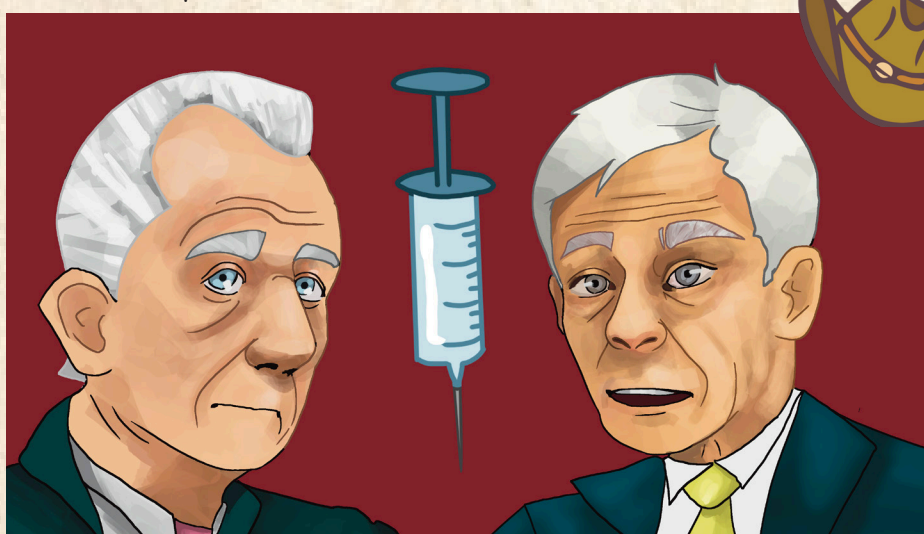
maintained, rather than a thing that, like, you're allowed to be upset about if you lose it," he said.

Growing distrust came to a tragic head on Aug. 8, when a gunman opened fire at the CDC headquarters in Atlanta. The shooter, who believed the COVID-19 vaccine caused his health issues, killed DeKalb County police officer David Rose, before taking his own life. The attack renewed concern about how misinformation and fear can escalate into real-world harm.

The attack highlighted the dangers of misinformation, but such a violent action does not represent every person who questions vaccines. LaCour emphasized that the anti-vaccine movement is not uniform. "It really is a diverse group, and you don't want to paint them with too many broad strokes," he said.

Cassidy said the committee's goal is to ensure public health decisions remain grounded in science, not politics. The senator warned that when leadership fails to communicate clearly or acts out of ideology, it erodes the very trust that vaccination programs depend on.

The hearing underscored how much the national conversation about vaccines has shifted. Once a matter of scientific consensus, it is now an issue of political identity. As Kennedy defends his policies under growing scrutiny, and as diseases like whooping cough and measles reemerge, Cassidy's committee faces the challenge of balancing oversight with restoring public confidence.



Graphic by Charlotte Alexander

## Health

## Global response to Tylenol rumors

**Reese Provost**  
NEWS WRITER

On Monday, Sept. 22, President Donald Trump issued a press release backed by the United States Department of Health, claiming that tylenol usage during pregnancy increases risk of the offspring acquiring autism or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Tylenol, also known as its chemical name acetaminophen in the U.S. and paracetamol in Europe, is known as a non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug. This means that tylenol acts in a way that blocks inflammatory pathways during stress or infection in the body, ultimately resulting in pain and fever relief. Given its ease of access and non-consequential nature, Tylenol is the recommended pain-reliever for pregnant women.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), autism, or autism spectrum disorders (ASD), can be defined as conditions with characteristics such as impaired social interaction and communication and abnormal activity and behavioural patterns.

The WHO also says that though the specific causes of autism are not necessarily clear, it is considered that autism can be acquired from parent to offspring.

It can also be acquired in a fetus whose mother ingests toxic chemicals such as pollutants or heavy metals, or high-strength drugs.

This is because anything the mother ingests can cross into the placenta, which then can be ingested by the fetus. Adverse health conditions of the mother, such as high fever during pregnancy, can also have a neurological effect on the child.

In response to Trump, WHO issued statements from multiple individuals from health agencies around the world. In an interview with NBC News, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), stated that "a large amount of data from pregnant women who used paracetamol

during pregnancy indicates no risk of malformations on the developing fetus or on newborns."

The Ministry of Health of New Zealand stated that paracetamol is one of the safest drugs to take during pregnancy. The German Health Ministry and Scott White, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Women's Health Committee chair, both refuted Trump's claim on behalf of the mother.

White stated, "I'm really worried about the messaging that says pregnant women should just tough it out, that pregnant women should be denied access to pain relief, which is a fundamental human right. It's every woman's right."

Trump also went on to claim that certain additives in vaccines have the capacity to cause autism, which WHO also firmly argued against.

In response to this claim, Tarik Jašarević, a spokesperson of WHO, stated that "We know that vaccines do not cause autism. Vaccines, as I said, save countless lives. So, this is something that science has proven, and these things should not be really questioned."

Vaccines have been developed over years of extensive research and have been shown to save lives. The safety of vaccines are also taken seriously by the researchers who develop and manufacture them.

As of the writing of this article, there are studies that have researched and are currently researching correlation between autism and usage of tylenol during pregnancy, but there is not yet plausible evidence that there is a direct cause between the two.



## Arts and Culture

## Homecoming 2025, Cajun Country

**Jake Allelo**  
NEWS WRITER

The 2025 Homecoming week for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette began on Sunday, Oct. 12 and will end on Saturday, Oct. 18. The 2025 Homecoming theme is Cajun Country.

The University, University Program Center (UPC) and Alumni Association will come together, as always, to hold events throughout the week.

University Traditions board member and sophomore Justice Robinson says UPC "hopes that all students truly enjoy homecoming and the homecoming events that we put on this year, and hope it encourages them to continue to come to the events and build the school spirit."

The first of the student events, on Oct. 12, is the Paint Your Pride Window Painting. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., student organizations will get to show off their artistic capabilities on the windows of the Student Union.

On Oct. 13, the UPC is hosting the Homecoming Kick-Off from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Student Union Porch. From 4-7 p.m., the Alumni Association is hosting a Food Truck Round-Up, classic car show and pumpkin patch at Park De Oaks Food Truck Park. That night, the Blackham Coliseum houses the Homecoming Fashion Show from 7-9 p.m.

On Oct. 14, local Lafayette businesses will participate in Paint the Town Red from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Then, from 5-10 p.m., Movie Night is in Bayou Bijou at the Student Union, where the film Sinners by director Ryan Coogler can be viewed.

On Oct. 15, local Lafayette schools will also decorate and compete for Paint the Town Red from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the UPC is directing Wear Red, Get Fed, along with a Campus Cupboard Donation Drive. The always-entertaining Cajuns Got Talent event takes place that night from 6-8 p.m.

The crescendo of Homecoming Week

begins on Oct. 16, where the Yell like Hell Pep Rally will be in the Blackham Coliseum from 7-9 p.m. On Oct. 17, there are four events, which will be rounded out by the homecoming football game against Southern Mississippi University.

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Angelle Hall, the Christiana Smith African American Alumni Chapter celebrates their 33rd Sweet Sounds of Sharing event. From 2-5 p.m., the California Ragin' Cajun Club will be hosting Bayou Bonanza: Homecoming Edition at the Ragin' Cajun Cafe. Both the homecoming Parade and Alumni Tailgate will begin at 12 p.m.

The 2025 homecoming court is led by queen Ava Welborn, a senior in hospitality management, and king Sean Myers, a senior in strategic communication, both of whom are well known for their outstanding presence in Greek life.

The other members of the court are Camilie Brown, Brenden Daigle, Tabitha Detiller, Avery-Grace Hebert, Eliana Manuel, Zackari Rodgers, Avery Toups and Christian Steward.

On the topic of his nomination, Steward explained his excitement, joy and pride over the distinction. "It is truly an honor to be selected for this year's 2025 Homecoming Court. This is an opportunity to represent the university at the highest level and express my Ragin' Cajun spirit. This is not just a title; it's about celebrating the university that has done so much for me."

Amy Armstrong, CEO of the Alumni Association, helps stress the importance of what the homecoming court means to our university. "The Homecoming Court is the cream of the crop. They are student leaders who are serving the university, serving the university community, and for alumni, that's important to us... we are very proud of them."

Information regarding all Homecoming 2025 events, both student and alumni, can be found on the University's website.

## THE VERMILION

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

## 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. 6

## 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. Who came together with the CCIHE to expand the Carnegie Classification System (acronym)?
4. Students interested in the ABM program must be in what year of school?
6. The 2025 Sun Belt Conference championships for volleyball will take place in \_\_\_\_, Alabama.
7. Started as a quarterback at Louisiana before becoming a receiver (last name).
8. What is the fiberglass pelican's name at Hub City Diner?

### DOWN

1. Come January 2026, UL Lafayette will also end its \_\_\_\_ with local hotel, Wingate by Wyndham.
2. What do we have to be willing to support so that it can start?
5. The subgenre of punk that focused on feminism and sexism in the scene (two words).



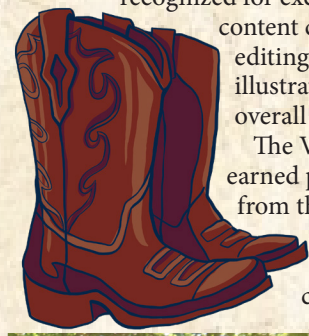
# The Vermilion newspaper wins its third consecutive first-place award

## Student Publications

THE VERMILION STAFF

For the third year in a row, The Vermilion, UL Lafayette's student newspaper has earned a first-place award from the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) in New York in their national student newspaper competition.

The Vermilion staff—made up of 30 students from 12 different majors—was recognized for excellence in content coverage, editing, art, illustrations and overall quality. The Vermilion earned perfect scores from the ASPA in page design and creativity.



"Producing a weekly newspaper is like tending to a garden; writers plant seeds, editors water them, designers provide sunlight. Without each step, nothing grows," said Kay Padilla, Editor-in-Chief of The Vermilion for 2024-25.

Padilla continued, "Within The Vermilion, there are so many moving parts that have to intricately connect every week. All of our staffers have to produce their assignments, no matter the obstacles thrown at them. The Vermilion staff is comprised of different skill sets, opinions and creativity. Being a place where everyone can feel uplifted empowers them to continue to exceed their job expectations. That organic drive from every staffer is what makes the student newspaper successful."

"The Vermilion's national recognition this year didn't come to be because of one entity; it was rather the collective

effort of a hardworking, talented and diverse student staff," said Ramudhi Kariyawasam, The Vermilion's Managing and News editor for 2024-25.

"Our team not only has ambition for newspaper production, but a deep appreciation for creativity and the truth. Our journey to these achievements does not necessarily signal perfection; we are in fact imperfect, but we learn and grow to produce a newspaper that shares how even the most difficult challenges can prosper into some good. I am beyond honored for The Vermilion's first place win and am rooting for many more achievements to come." Kariyawasam stated.

The Vermilion staff has earned 16 regional and national awards in the past six years, including four consecutive awards from ASPA.

In 2023, The Vermilion, won seven

awards, including best overall newspaper at the Southeastern Journalism Conference, where it competed against student papers from Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Memphis, Arkansas State, Troy and ULM.

"The Vermilion staff has been consistent in producing an extremely high level of content that is well received by our students, staff, faculty and alumni," said Matthew Tarver, director of Student Publications.

"For more than 120 years, The Vermilion staff has overcome any internal or external obstacles, to develop professional-level skills while effectively preserving campus life and events for future generations."

Edith Garland Dupré started The Vermilion in 1904, and the newspaper is one of the oldest student organizations on campus.



Photo by Morgan Parker

Members of the 2024-25 Vermilion staff include (front row) Joann Seow; Kayla Woods-Crane; Caitlyn Comeaux; Kay Padilla, Editor-in-Chief; Ramudhi Kariyawasam, Managing and News editor, (middle row) Sadie Burrell, Vallen Power, Ellie Schmidt; Isabelle Brumley; (back row) Alyus Dick; Charles Martin; Jarrett Roberts.

# Sports

## Offense stalls in Cajuns' 24-14 loss

**Charles Martin**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Ragin' Cajuns traveled to Harrisburg, Virginia to take on the James Madison Dukes in a clash of the preseason favorites. This was considered a top matchup in the Sun Belt Conference going into the game, as both teams were favored at the start of the season to meet in the SBC Championship.

That heavyweight title proved justified in the first half as both teams' defenses balled out. Louisiana ran out of steam by the fourth quarter though, thanks to a stalling offense. The elite JMU defense proved itself as it forced the Cajuns into five straight three and outs before the game sealing endzone interception.

The Dukes sent the Cajuns back home with a 24-14 loss, knocking them down to 2-4 on the year. This has been the Cajuns worst start to a season since 2016, with that team also starting 2-4.

The game started with the Cajuns receiving the kickoff, bringing out Lunch Winfield in his first career start. The punter came out after the offense went three and out in the first two minutes of the game.

Louisiana's defense, after getting run over against Marshall the week before, adapted a bend, but not break mentality as the Dukes began their first drive. JMU marched 52 yards down the field before the Cajuns forced a fumble, recovering it as their first of three turnovers during the game.

The offense rewarded the defense's effort with another three and out, punting the ball right back to JMU. The Dukes spent the rest of the first quarter marching down the field, methodically moving and chewing clock.

JMU got to 4th and two on the Cajuns 10-yard line. With time winding down on the clock the Dukes hurried to the line to pick up the first down before the end of the first quarter. The Louisiana defense came in clutch once again, stopping the Dukes a yard short and forcing a turnover on downs.

Louisiana's offense finally came alive at the start of the second. Starting at their own 20-yard line, the Cajuns drove 80 yards in six plays, including a 40-yard bomb to Robert Williams.

The drive capped off with a five-yard touchdown to tight end Brock Chappell.

The defense then forced another fumble two plays into JMU's drive, setting the offense up in field goal range. After failing to gain a first down the Cajuns did just that, setting up for a 51-yard field goal. The Dukes blocked it, swinging momentum in their favor.

They used that momentum to quickly drive down field to tie the game 7-7. Lunch and the offense replied immediately. On the third play of their next drive Lunch found quarterback-turned-receiver Dale Martin on a slant which he took 69 yards to the house. Following the point after touchdown, the Cajuns found themselves up once more 14-7.

The next two drives both ended in punts by the Dukes and the Cajuns. On JMU's last drive of the first half they set up for a field goal, which they missed. This gave Louisiana a chance to score before half.

The Cajun offense quickly moved 68 yards down the field with less than a minute left in the half. With four seconds left on the clock and no timeouts, Head Coach Michael Desormeaux decided to go for it. In a half that saw Louisiana's run game stuffed repeatedly, they decided to run it here, only needing a yard.

They were absolutely stuffed, the elite JMU defensive line showing their

dominance at the line of scrimmage. Time expired and they went into the half up 14-7.

The Dukes received the ball at the start of the second and instantly scored a 62-yard touchdown with an excellent trick play that saw JMU's Landon Ellis wide open, tying the game 14-14.

This was the only score of the third quarter. The remainder of the quarter saw quick Cajun three and outs followed by long JMU drives that ended without scores because of clutch plays from the defense.

As one could imagine, this is not a way to win a football game. Eventually the Dukes broke the stalemate, starting the fourth quarter with a touchdown to Ellis, his third of the day against the Cajuns. JMU was now in the lead 21-14.

The Cajuns punted twice more, and the Dukes extended their lead with a field goal to make it 24-14.

Louisiana tried to get one more score, getting to JMU's 25-yard line, the closest they got to the endzone the entire second half.

Lunch forced a ball into tight coverage in the endzone, it was deflected up and intercepted by JMU to seal the game.

The absence of Zylan Perry was felt,

as this game was the worst rushing performance by the Cajuns all season, only gaining 45 yards on 28 carries. Lunch was the leading rusher with 23 yards on 15 carries followed by Bill Davis with 21 yards on nine carries.

The passing game was probably the best it had been all season, with Lunch passing for 243 yards, two touchdowns and an interception, completing 14 of his 28 attempts.

Lunch seemed uncomfortable, with multiple instances of him wanting to scramble yet staying in the pocket anyway.

It seems the Louisiana coaching staff are trying to hold back on his scrambling, yet continued to call designed quarterback runs that went nowhere.

The Cajuns are not quite in panic mode yet, with six games left they need to go 4-2 at the minimum to make a bowl game.

They still even have a chance to win the west in the Sun Belt Conference if they win out. The coaching staff has to shape up and the team has to rally, because right now there is a very real prospect of Louisiana missing a bowl game.

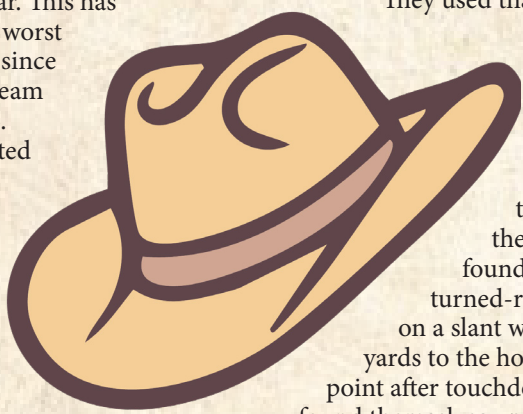


Photo by Alyus Dick

Lunch Winfield (2) looks for an open receiver against the Marshall Thundering Herd Oct. 12

## Volleyball is 10-6 as the season ramps up

**Caitlyn Comeaux**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For 2025, the Ragin' Cajuns volleyball team currently holds 10 wins and six losses as we approach the latter half of the season. Led by Head Coach Kristi Gray, the Cajuns have travelled as far west as Texas and as far east as Georgia over the course of seven home games, seven away games, and two games held at a neutral, third-party location..

The 17-player team contains 11 new players for this year's roster, a big change compared to last year. The blend of students, from veteran upperclassmen to freshmen and transfers, has brought a variety of skills to the court. The team currently contains four liberos, four outside hitters, four middle blockers, two opposite hitters and three setters.

The season began impressively strong with a three-game win streak in the opening weekend against Texas Southern University, Tarleton State University and University of New Orleans. Following a loss to Stephen

F. Austin State University, the Cajuns had another three-game winning streak against Sam Houston State University, Abilene Christian University and Alcorn State University.

After a loss to Ole Miss, the Cajuns picked up a third three-game win streak against Southern University, Nicholls State University, and Texas State University, before losing their last game of September in a second match against Texas State.

October was kicked off with one win and one loss in two matches against Appalachian State University. That weekend, the Cajuns held a pink-out game for breast cancer awareness month on Oct. 4; both the Cajuns and the crowd donned bright pink attire.

This past weekend, both games against the University of Southern Mississippi ended in a loss. The hope is to pick up another win, if not a fourth winning streak, in the next game which will take place on Oct. 16 at 6:00 p.m. in a home game against Troy University. All home volleyball games for the University of

Louisiana at Lafayette take place in the Earl K. Long gymnasium.

This is Gray's 5th year coaching the University's volleyball team, being named head coach in 2021. Previously, Gray served as head volleyball coach at Odessa College, a two-year institution out of Odessa, Texas. Comparing the two, Gray noted, "One thing that I loved about coming here was having the resources, with the assistant coaches, the strength coach, the athletic trainer and the administration...everything that they were able to provide here for me to be successful."

Also, since Odessa is a two-year institution, Gray remarked that she had to recruit an entirely new team pretty much every year.

The player retention and network of athletic assistance helps both Gray and the Cajuns put their all into every season.

When it comes to coaching, Gray prioritizes both high energy and transparency with her players, saying, "I want to help shape them into the best people that they can be on and off the court."

She explained, "I'm very proud of what this team has accomplished so far this year... we're continuing to grow and get better

everyday." The team is training extensively, up to 20 hours per week, across Monday to Thursday.

Over the previous years, the Cajuns finished with a win-to-loss ratio of 15-11 in 2021, 15-13 in 2022, 19-13 in 2023 and 9-16 in 2024. With 10 wins so far in 2025, the Cajuns are going strong, with 10 more games to look forward to across the rest of this month and into Nov. 14.

One of the biggest things Gray attributes to the Cajuns' strong performance is good communication and great culture. Specifically Gray mentioned, "We have a really good group in terms of how they get along with each other." She also noted that this is one of the most athletic teams they have had.

The blend of intense training, strong players and an even stronger team bond keep motivation high.

After each point scored by the Cajuns, fellow players on the sidelines are just as hyped as the crowd seeing the team succeed, from sets to spikes.

Gray has so far led the Cajuns to 68 wins.

This year's volleyball crowd has had more than five thousand people in attendance already. Also, the team has already broken their own single-game record attendance twice this season, with the current record-high attendance in one game being 989 people.

The team is on track for more record-setting attendance as the semester continues and their fanbase grows.

If the Cajuns hold strong, they could be a formidable contender within the Sun Belt Conference. The Sun Belt Conference championships will take place in Foley, Alabama from Nov. 20-23; the announcement of which teams will be in attendance is eagerly anticipated.



Photo by Caitlyn Comeaux

Nene Hawkins (25) Sets against App State Oct. 4



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# Allons

## The politics of punk culture

**Ashlee Blue**  
ALLONS WRITER

For almost 10 years now, I've been a member of various alternative music scenes, all beginning from when my friend showed me a Breaking Benjamin song on their cracked iPod at summer camp. To me, being alternative has always been so much more than just a fashion genre; it was an integral part of my identity.

Therefore, it was very important to find an alternative subculture that I felt at home in. When I was about 13, I stumbled upon the song "Holiday in Cambodia" by the Dead Kennedys. It wasn't just a catchy song or a good band (both of which are nonetheless true), it was very viscerally something I had never really heard before: punk.

I consider being punk on the same level identity-wise as being an Aquarius. That isn't me putting an emphasis on the way I dress—what the general public considers to be all of what punk is—but a statement to two important aspects of

my identity: my politics and the music I listen to.

In the punk subculture, it's impossible to separate music and politics; this is something that has been argued over for years, but something I feel very strongly about.

In the 1970s, punk rock emerged as an alternative to the overproduction of mainstream music. It was an outlet for those unsatisfied with the world around them to express themselves without being censored by a radio. More often than not, these specific issues had to do with politics and the government.

From the beginning, punk rock established itself as a leftist movement. In the United Kingdom, The Clash took a stance against police oppression and racism with songs such as "Police & Thieves" and "White Riot." Additionally, early punk bands such as The Ruts, The Clash and Sham 69 played shows in support of the "Rock Against Racism" movement.

In the United States, the Dead Kennedys' 1980 album "Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables" explored numerous political topics, such as the exploitation of the working class as a result of capitalism ("Kill the Poor" and "Let's Lynch the Landlord") as well as military



Graphic by Cade Plaisance

propaganda and blind patriotism ("When Ya Get Drafted").

The Dead Kennedys were also responsible for organizing a series of "Rock Against Reagan" shows in protest of President Ronald Reagan and his administration.

An anti-capitalism, and specifically a pro-anarchy, viewpoint is at the center of punk. This is where the line between true punk and the mainstream idea of punk starts to differ.

While mainstream media often portrays anarchist punks as promoting chaos, true anarchism is a political theory that rejects hierarchy and aims for a society free from exploitation and oppression.

While punk is a left-leaning political subculture, it's important to emphasize it is a radical left-leaning subculture, meaning that it rejects moderately leftist political theories such as liberalism.

While liberals often adopt a pro-capitalist, anti-gun and reformist position, leftists operate on an anti-capitalist, pro-gun and revolutionary stance.

Besides anti-government sentiments, punk is a notoriously feminist and pro-LGBTQ+ subculture. In the 1990s, bands such as Bratmobile and Bikini Kill spearheaded the "Riot Grrrl" movement, breaking up the male-dominated aspect of the scene that had prevailed for so long.

These bands addressed issues such

as sexism, sexual violence and gender norms.

In the 1980s and 90s, a subgenre of punk called "queercore" emerged as a response to the heteronormativity of the punk scene. Bands such as Pansy Division and Limp Wrist critiqued homophobia and carved out a place for the LGBTQ+ community in the scene.

This brings about the ultimate question of a decades long debate: is it possible to be punk and not share these radical leftist views? My answer to that question is a resounding no.

The two aspects that make punk what it is is music and politics; these two are inseparable from each other. You can't only listen to the music or only believe in the politics, you have to do both.

When people pick one over the other, or claim they're punk because they spike their hair and put patches on a jacket, the scene loses its authenticity.

This "poseur" problem has spanned decades. In 1986, the Dead Kennedys warned of this issue with "Chickenshit Conformist." In 2003, NOFX warned of it again with "The Separation of Church and Skate."

Punk isn't a static movement, and it isn't perfect; punk scenes around the world still struggle with breaking free from its male-dominated, heteronormative past.

Despite its flaws, the one thing you can't change about it are its political roots. If you don't agree with it, don't call yourself punk.



## Why should we have to pick sides?

**Ja'lyn Braud**  
ALLONS WRITER

"An embodiment of different qualities." Oh, how I wish I could've heard it in those terms. That's how I would define my experience being biracial.

However, society has its own ways of doing things.

Instead of growing up embracing the idea that I was biracial, mixed with white and black, I ended up regretting it.

"Why couldn't both my parents be the same race?" A question that made itself at home in my mind only because I was constantly faced with the comments of "too black," "white-washed," etc., growing up.

At first, the concept is dressed up as a blessing, only when it comes to physical appearance. To be tanned or

light-skinned with curly hair that seems manageable, people think that you must feel on top of the world. But frankly, who cares? To only be liked or pursued because you have physical attributes people admire and not because of who you actually are, is not as good as it seems.

It wasn't until I hit middle school that other students took notice of my skin color. I wasn't dark enough to be fully black, and I wasn't light enough to be fully white.

This made it insanely hard to find a group to call my own. Other kids started putting me into this stereotypical box simply because of the fact that I was mixed, shaping me in ways I wish I never had to experience.

It wasn't uncommon for my classmates to tell me straight to my face that I was

too whitewashed, which I didn't even know was a thing.

Growing up, it was my mom and grandparents who raised me, who, if you couldn't guess, are white. Therefore, I was bound to pick up their cultural behaviors compared to others, making others upset that I wasn't behaving differently.

To be called whitewashed essentially means that I was not black enough by others' standards. By using this term, we are saying that because we have a certain skin color, we are assumed to act a certain way.

Can we please understand now, as a society, how derogatory that statement is? In our underdeveloped minds, we put these notions that to not be whitewashed, specifically when it comes to being black, you have to listen to enough rap music, have enough slang in your speech or

conform to whatever other stereotypes we place on certain cultures.

How can we be okay with throwing this term around? Why, as people of color, are we stereotyping ourselves? Just to do what, stop certain people from being in our clique? It's so disheartening.

So then I must argue, how do we fight for equality between races and cultures? If we truly want to be understood by others, no matter our ethnicity, then we have to allow other people who are different from us into our lives so that we can grow in relationship with one another instead of allowing tension to form. We have to be willing to let them in and not judge them by our differences in our lifestyles.

By being so comfortable with this dynamic, as someone who is biracial, I have gone a number of years wondering if I'd ever fit in with anyone.

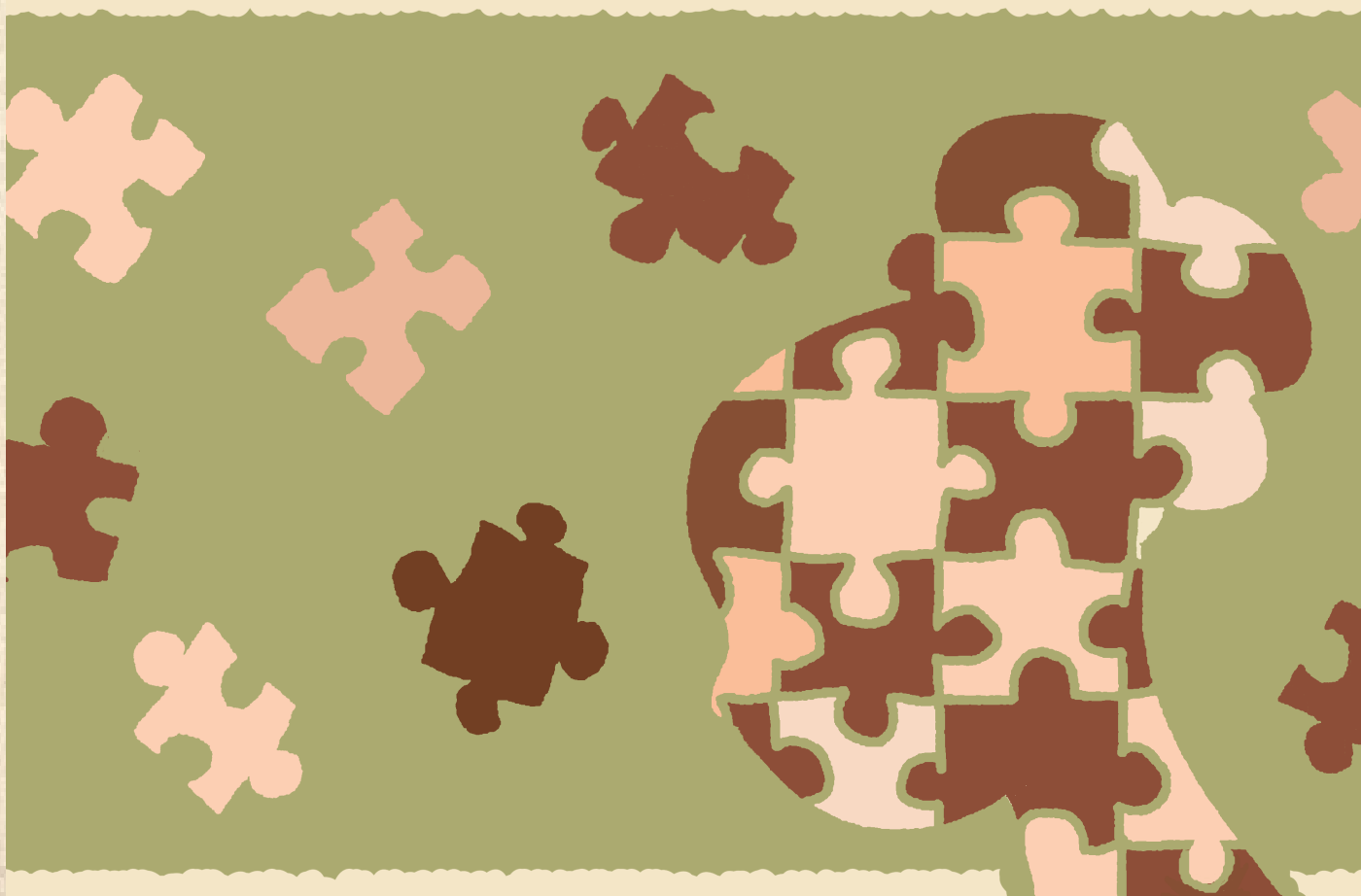
It wasn't until later in high school that I finally found a friend group that I felt comfortable in. Which I am forever grateful for.

Now, no matter the thoughts I get now or comments I hold onto from the past, I can truly be comfortable in who I am. I now understand I was created the way I was for a reason, and am able to find joy in that.

For a long time, I looked at myself as the mixed girl who was too dark but was always whitewashed. Now I have the privilege, through the love of others, that I can just look at myself as Ja'lyn, and never before have I realized all the beauty encompassed in this statement until now.

All in all, people aren't always the best; that's just the truth, and they will try to bring you down in any way, shape, or form. But let's be real. Being mixed wasn't always easy, and no one should ever experience more difficulties in life simply because of their race.

As a society, we need to stop building all these unnecessary walls and just start letting people into our lives. We need to learn to love, serve and support others who are fighting for equality. Not just in the world, but in our minds too, because change can't start if we never have the intention of supporting it.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

# Beaucoup

## Festivals Acadiens et Créoles

The Beaucoup writers attended Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, below are their thoughts.



Photos by Morgan Parker



### Jenna Kimball NEWS WRITER

On Saturday, I went with a friend to Festivals Acadiens et Créoles in Girard Park.

It was my first time ever going so I wasn't really sure what to expect, but it turned out to be a really cool experience.

There was music in every corner and food and drink trucks everywhere.

There were so many people, we got

separated trying to find the bathroom and had to call each other to reunite.

My friend and I had gone out to eat right before the festival so we weren't very hungry, but we got Dippin' Dots and a soda for dessert from one of the food trucks. There weren't any empty open seats by the time we were ready to sit down, so we found a spot in the grass and enjoyed our food.

Overall, the festival was amazing and I can't wait to go again next year.

### Caitlyn Comeaux EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every year, I know festival weekend rolls around when I wake up to the sound of Zydeco music from outside my apartment. I should go more often considering how close I live to Girard Park. I went early on Saturday morning, and the heat was not as unbearable as I expected; I still, however, highly recommend wearing some form of SPF. The music was great and I could

hear it from all corners of the park. I walked around the food vendors while listening to the sound of accordions and laughing children. To beat the heat, I got a wedding cake-flavored snowball and stood under the shade of an oak tree while I watched the music performance.

I didn't stay long before I went to the Dupré library to cool off, but I had so much fun dancing and enjoying the sunshine. I left mildly sunburned, in need of a nap and humming one of the songs from the festival setlist.

### Morgan Parker LACADIEN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Festivals Acadiens et Créoles was a great experience of music and art. Although this year I didn't try the food, my friends and I enjoyed the festivities. My favorite art booth was the UL Lafayette Ceramics booth where the students were able to display their art and do live demonstrations of pottery-making. I was able to talk with Professor John Gargano, head of the ceramics department, who has been teaching at

UL Lafayette for 25 years. My favorite band at Festival this year was probably The Doopsie Family, including Rocky Doopsie, who I found out has a ton of credits to his name including performing with Beyoncé.

In addition to music and art, there were also some generally cool people including these two artists playing music around the festival on two washboards shaped like fish. Festival Acadiens, although being a great time, was hot and frequent breaks and steps into the shade absolutely make the festival bearable.

### Reese Provost NEWS WRITER

The first time I attended Festival Acadiens was completely by chance. I ran into some friends on campus who were already going, and they convinced me to go with them. Since then, I have made it a point to go every year, and every time I find something new to enjoy.

This year, I paid special attention to the music.

I was never the biggest fan of Cajun, Creole or Zydeco music, but watching it

live makes it enjoyable for me. Watching each member of a band put so much care and attention into the instrument they're playing to make a song with their other band members is always an impactful experience.

Watching the crowds dance, and even dancing myself, was just as good as watching the band play. I only watched one band's set too. There were plenty of other bands waiting to share their music also. Anyone interested should stop by and experience the festival for themselves.

### Food Review

# Retro diner comfort with Cajun flair: Lafayette's own Hub City Diner

### Isabelle Brumley BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 1412 S. College Rd., Hub City Diner is a retro diner-esque restaurant in the heart of Lafayette. They are known for their good food and laid-back atmosphere. They specialize in casual dishes such as burgers, salads, deluxe platters, sandwiches and desserts.

The menu features a diverse selection of breakfast options, including several types of omelets and classic diner favorites such as pancakes, BLTs, sausages, beignets and hash browns. For lunch and dinner, they offer dishes like Grilled Catfish, Mom's Famous Meatloaf, the Diner Burger and the Diner Club Sandwich, along with a variety of other meals.

This location was established initially as Stansbury's Café in 1965 by Charles Goodson, Pat Mould and George Graham. It was situated in Lafayette's Oil Center area and was later transformed into Hub City Diner in 1990.

Jimmy Guidry acquired the restaurant in 1998. The diner featured a clear 1950s theme, blending elements of Louisiana culture with local flavors and themed dishes. In 2022, longtime manager James Redmon assumed ownership of the establishment.

The atmosphere of the restaurant was warm and welcoming. The decor was

full diner nostalgia with framed pictures of local history, records and even a ceramic pelican dressed as Elvis Presley named Pelvis. My favorite part of the atmosphere was the classic rock music playing the whole time we dined there.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this restaurant on Monday, Oct. 6. As we walked in, several employees greeted us at the door, and the hostess told us to sit anywhere we'd like since it wasn't too busy. After we sat down, our waitress greeted us and handed us our menus. Looking at the menu, I was impressed as always. This place is the perfect classic diner hangout spot for any generation.

The appetizer section of the menu featured a couple of casual classics, including Onion Rings, Sweet Potato Fries, Fried Mushrooms, Atomic Q's and Fried Dill Pickles. For our appetizer, we decided on the Fried Dill Pickles, which, according to the menu, are a diner favorite.

Our entrees, since we went during lunch, came from the lunch and dinner menu. The entrees included some of the items I mentioned earlier, as well as Grilled Cheese & Soup, Chicken Caesar Salad, Red Beans and Rice, Heart Happy Grilled Chicken, Grilled Turkey Burger, The Original Reuben and Chicken & Sausage Gumbo.

I decided to go with the 3-Way Hamburger Steak with mashed potatoes

and broccoli, while my colleague chose the Deluxe Chicken Sandwich with curly Q's (fries).

The 3-Way Hamburger Steak consisted of nearly a pound of ground beef with cheese, onions and brown gravy. The Deluxe Chicken Sandwich contained a grilled marinated chicken breast, fully dressed on toasted rye with mayo, lettuce, tomato, Swiss cheese and bacon.

Our appetizer arrived soon after we ordered. There were so many fried pickles that they were falling off the plate. The pickles were hot and fresh out of the fryer. They tasted even yummier than other fried pickles I have tried. I am proud to say that I order these consistently every time I go here.

The entrees arrived after we finished our appetizer. My food came on a blue plate since it was the Blue Plate Special of the day. They were not kidding when they said it was half a pound of ground meat. It smelled just like my grandmother's and tasted scarily similar. The seasoning on the meat and the gravy was just perfect. The broccoli and potatoes were both well-seasoned and tender.

My colleague's sandwich was equally as impressive. The top of the bread was beautifully swirled, as rye bread is, and it was dressed with fresh ingredients and Cajun-seasoned curly fries.

After we finished all of our lunch,

I interviewed Coty Latiolais, a senior majoring in computer science at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a shift leader. "I've been here for 12 years now. I started this as my first job. I started as a host and like three months later the boss asked me to be a shift leader. They asked me to serve so I started having more responsibilities... picking up a clipboard and just telling people what to do."

"The money I make here just goes pretty much towards my education. I'm in charge of the front of house... I count the money, I lock the doors, and I make sure everyone is happy and fed... It's really like we're a family here... It's a good place to be."

"We're in the heart of Lafayette and honestly, the longer I've been here, the easier it's gotten... they work with my college schedule... people don't really leave here... It's such a good job, we don't really have a high turnover rate."

The culture of this restaurant was apparent during my entire stay here. In the countless times I have been here, they have never failed to serve me with a smile on their face. The staff always genuinely enjoy what they do, and that positive energy makes all the difference.

If you would like to visit this restaurant, they are open Monday through Saturday from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt

(Left) Sign outside Hub City Diner; (Middle) Interior; (Right) Fried Pickles

# SOUNDING OFF

**"What are you most looking forward to during homecoming week?"**



**Alaya Aarren**  
NURSING FRESHMAN

*"The different events. Stomp The Yard, I'm looking forward to that. The parade. And this is my first homecoming. I'm excited..."*



**Paris Williams**  
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

*"The parties."*



**Nathan Vines**  
ART EDUCATION SENIOR

*"I do really like the window painting. And I like all the events on campus. I mean, those are fun to go to."*



**Octayvien Tate**  
BIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

*"I'm looking forward to the football game."*



**Brylee Richard**  
BIOLOGY FRESHMAN

*"I am not, like, a very involved school person, but I'll probably say the game, meeting the new people...."*



**Gabriel Roy**  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

*"I would also have to say the game because I don't really have any other plans but my friends are going...."*

*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 Kayla Woods-Crane and Alyus Dick.*

## COMIC

# Be The Cowboy



Comic by Lauren Gerald



**Vermilion Awards**

- UL Ragin' Recognition**  
2025- Marketing Award
- American Scholastic Press**  
2024- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2023- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2022- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Southeastern Journalism Conference**  
2023- 1<sup>st</sup> Place "Best Overall Newspaper"

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**L'Acadien 2024-2025 STAINED GLASS**

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Tabling Events:  
Oct. 29 - Dupre Library  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Quad and Union Pier dates TBA

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