

# THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 November 6, 2025

## Honoring the memory of Dr. Margarita Perez

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS EDITOR

On Oct. 22, 2025, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette family lost a beloved leader, colleague and friend. Dr. Margarita Perez, associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, passed away peacefully at the age of 50, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Perez devoted more than 25 years to higher education and student affairs, including the past decade at UL Lafayette.

As written in her obituary with Dignity Memorial, “Margarita was an exceptional leader, guided by empathy, integrity and an unwavering commitment to student well-being.”

“Her influence reached nearly every aspect of campus life and shaped the experiences of thousands of students. Colleagues and students alike admired her generosity of spirit and steadfast belief in the transformative power of education.”

Throughout her career at the University, Perez led with her heart, radiating joy and inspiring many with her kindness and positivity.

She went above and beyond her title and position and showed what it means to truly connect with the people in her community.

Kyle Duplantis, associate director of Student Engagement and Leadership, said, “Sometimes administrators at her level can be a little harder to reach, but I think she really flipped that script.”

Heidie Lindsey, associate dean of students and director of Student Engagement and Leadership, shared, “A friend of mine talked about when she went to go visit Margarita, maybe four or five days before she passed, and Margarita said, ‘Did I make a difference?’”

“She actually asked that. And that was crazy, because she’s pretty humble about it... I’m like... of course you made a difference.”

Wife to Perez and assistant dean of Graduate School, Stephanie Galendez, said, “She was giving so much of herself to everyone, and I really think she didn’t realize this to the full extent, but her

impact touched everyone,... her impact made everyone strive to be a better person.”

Dr. Patricia Cottonham, vice president for Student Affairs, said, “She was a passionate student affairs professional. She loved students. She loved making a difference in the lives of students.”

Perez led a life of service, dedicating herself to serving her community, truly embodying the qualities of a leader, especially one working in the field of student affairs. She was a strong advocate for students, always putting their needs first and finding ways to meet them.

Among her areas of student research, Perez was particularly concerned with accessibility and resources. She founded the Campus Cupboard, a resource for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff who require short-term assistance meeting their food needs. She championed this program to support students in need.

Candice Dazet, assistant director of Student Engagement and Leadership, said, “She embodied what it means to lead with heart, she always showed up for students and her colleagues and she... offered grace. She found ways to lift others up, and her belief in the power of access, support and opportunity for every student was at the core of who she was.”

Perez’s student advocacy did not go unrecognized.

“Earlier this month, she received the Dan Seymour Award, the highest honor from the Louisiana Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators in recognition of her lifetime of student advocacy,” according to a statement by Interim President Dr. Jaimie Hebert.

Aside from her professional career, Perez found joy in her love for her family and friends.

“She stayed close to this group of high school friends. I really admired that, and she really poured into all of those relationships,” Lindsey shared.

“She was a really good friend, and she was there... when their kids were born, when their kids graduated...” Known as “Ita” to the children of her dear friends and relatives, some of her happiest

moments were spent making memories with them.

Lindsey described Perez to be childlike as she found great joy in partaking in activities where she could feel young again.

“Over Christmas break, she would always take them to Dave & Buster’s, really, so she could play the video games and ride on the... motorcycle thing.”

“She was a big kid,” Lindsey said.

Perez was also a big lover of holiday traditions and celebratory occasions.

“She had the love of Christmas and the love of Mardi Gras, everything Louisiana, but she loved her family the most, and she considered everyone she met along her life’s journey as family.”

Across all areas of her life, Perez spread love, joy, compassion, positivity and genuinity to everyone who was blessed enough to have crossed paths with her. She was a light and a gift. While she will be dearly missed, she will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew her.

“It’s hard to find words to describe how much we’re going to miss her, because we definitely will miss her in a very big way. Her... absence is already felt, but we are grateful for knowing her. We’re grateful to her [for] being a member of our university community,” said Cottonham.

She continued, “We are grateful [for] the impact and influence that she had on students. So we’re going to... continue to work hard, dedicate ourselves to students, because we know that it’s exactly what she would want us to do.”

Throughout her battle with cancer, Perez remained strong and was present for her colleagues, students and loved ones for as long as her health permitted. “These last years since her diagnosis,... she stayed strong and she worried about us, worried about the University,” said Cottonham.

Galendez shared, “She fought her illness with grace, with courage and... a positive mindset. That’s truly what kept her going and continuing through all of her different challenges over the past three and a half years.”

A proud native of New Orleans, Perez was a graduate of Mount Carmel Academy. She earned a bachelor’s degree



Photo provided by the family of Margarita Perez Margarita Perez

in history and secondary education from Loyola University. She was initiated into the Epsilon Mu Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority at Loyola University.

Perez later earned a master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of New Orleans, and received a doctoral degree in educational leadership from UL Lafayette.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral services on Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 6367 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. and a memorial mass will be held at noon. A private burial will follow.

According to the wishes of Perez, instead of flowers, donations are encouraged to be made to UL Lafayette’s Campus Cupboard in her memory.

Cottonham shared, “In lieu of flowers, she wanted people to donate to the food pantry. So I think... as in life, even in her death... she is still... speaking volumes about who she was, where her heart is... and what she wanted for the students here at the University.”

Give at [bit.ly/M\\_Perez](https://bit.ly/M_Perez) or mail checks to UL Lafayette Foundation, P.O. Box 44290, Lafayette, LA 70504-4290, noting “Perez Memorial Gift.” Memorial gifts can also be made to Mount Carmel Academy “Sue Buras Leadership Fund,” 7027 Milne Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124 or given online at <https://www.mcacubs.com/giving/make-a-gift>.

## University eliminates 70 employees in order to address \$25 million deficit

**Kayla Woods-Crane**  
MANAGING EDITOR

On Oct. 23, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Interim President, Dr. Jaimie Hebert, announced in an email to faculty and staff that 70 employees across all divisions will be impacted by position eliminations, retirements, resignations and reassignments. In a follow-up email to faculty and staff the next day, Hebert explained that of the 70 positions impacted, 51 positions were eliminated.

Of the 51 eliminations, 28 were unclassified employees and 23 were classified employees, who are subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Rules. According to the email, the remaining 19 of the 70 eliminations were retirements, resignations and

reassignments. The 70 eliminations do not include the six from last month.

“These decisions were made after careful evaluation of University priorities and operational needs. I recognize how difficult this moment is for our campus... Our focus remains on creating a sustainable path forward that protects our academic mission and positions the University for long-term stability. We will continue to make decisions thoughtfully, communicate transparently and support one another as we move ahead,” Hebert said in the email.

These eliminations were all in an effort to address the \$25 million structural deficit the University is currently facing. Dr. Edwin Litolff, the chief financial officer for the University, explained the financial effect of the

eliminations will not be known for a couple months.

“It wasn’t cutting 30 people out of the department. It was more targeted and strategic looking at areas that we can adjust or change without impacting or having major impacts into the department... so that’s why I think it’s very hard to say, what’s the exact number.”

According to the Current, 554 positions were added from 2015 until March 2025, causing payroll to increase by \$40 million. As the amount of positions increased, UL Lafayette’s enrollment decreased by 1,700 students since 2015. “But when you look at a \$25 million annual hole, 75% of the University’s salaries, right? So we’ve got to adjust the salaries to be able to get to that,” Litolff said.

The University is mostly funded by student tuition and fees. Student enrollment has increased this fall with the largest freshman class to date. The school welcomed 3,214 first-time freshmen and had 16,100 degree-seeking students overall. The overall enrollment was 19,723 people, which was a 2.65% increase from Fall 2024.

Since enrollment is such an important part of the operating budget, there is concern that the University will not be able to retain the high enrollment it gained. Litolff explained if enrollment did decline they would adjust as needed. He continued, “The best thing is our enrollment has been up for three years, so as long as that trend continues or is even close, we’re going to be okay.”

The University has other ways it is addressing the deficit as well. One of the first big moves to address the deficit was to reduce budgets across all departments by 10%.

Along with the budget cuts, the University has limited staff traveling and special meals. According to Litolff, this will save \$14 million.

They will terminate leases to buses that are not being used for daily operations, which will save \$109,000. In September, Hebert announced they will be ending the contract with the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel, which provided overflow housing for students, ahead of the Spring 2026 semester.

Litolff said ending the contract will save \$900,000. He also stated that the University is looking into increasing commuter parking passes on campus in Girard Park Circle Parking Garage.

Regardless of the method, a key takeaway is the University will not immediately know exactly where it stands with the \$25 million deficit for a couple months.

For now, Litolff expressed that the University is focused on identifying what they can do to address the deficit and making changes as needed.

“And so as all these initiatives go into effect, we’re gonna see the cash flow improve. So as the cash flow analysis continues, then we have to adjust and make changes as we go. So at this point, we’re looking at it saying, right, we’ve got to assess what will this adjustment do to the end to make sure that we can get to the end of the fiscal year.”



Photo by Andre Broussard Students walking in The Quad

### News

#### MOLD ILLNESS

As mold spreads in dormitories across the country, it’s important to know how to prevent growth in one’s room.

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### Sports

#### FOOTBALLS LOOKBACK

Jake Allelo, overviews the current landscape of college football and how Ragin’ Cajun coach Desormeaux is handling a rough season.

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### Allons

#### SLAPSTICK COMEDY

Allons writer, Kinsey Waits, speaks about influential scientist Jane Goodall’s life and legacy in the field of wildlife conservation.

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### Beaucoup

#### ADVISING EXPERIENCES

The Beaucoup section writes about their experiences with the highs and lows of being advised for classes.

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# B.I. Moody III College of Business has a change in administration

**Jenna Kimball, Kayla Woods-Crane**  
NEWS WRITER, MANAGING EDITOR

Dr. Linda Nichols has retired as dean of B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration after five years in the role.

Nichols got her bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of New Orleans. She then attended Louisiana State University for her Ph.D. in accounting and a minor in finance.

She worked as dean of the Collins College of Business at the University of Tulsa before joining the Ragin' Cajun community in 2020 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Photo provided by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Staff photo of Dr. Linda Nichols

As a public accountant, Nichols won eight awards, published over 85 finance related articles and published a portfolio series titled "Oil and Gas Accounting: Upstream Operations."

The B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration quarterly newsletter stated, "During her tenure, Dean Nichols guided the College through two successful Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) re-accreditation reviews, ensuring that Moody remains among the most distinguished business schools in the world. Her vision and commitment to excellence strengthened our academic reputation and set a strong foundation for the future."

The newsletter also wrote, "Under her leadership, the College celebrated record-breaking support from alumni and community partners, securing millions in new donations and scholarships that will continue to transform student opportunities for years to come."

Dr. Brian Bolton, the new interim dean for the college, explained that he specifically appreciated Nichols' ability to maintain donor and alumni relationships. "She was just really good behind the scenes at establishing relationships and talking about the programs and talking about the needs with donors, alumni, industry partners within the community."

Nichols commented about her first years at UL Lafayette during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying that it was hard for her to work as the dean

of a college without really knowing her colleagues or students. "So it's very odd to come in as a dean and not meet your people working in the college, or most of them until the second and some of them the third year," she said.

Student success and support was very important for Nichols, so she was glad to have them back on campus after the pandemic.

Through revitalizing business organizations, creating new programs for student entrepreneurship and nurturing donor relations, Nichols made student opportunities a priority during her time at the University. "So I feel like... the accomplishments I'm most proud of have been in affecting... students' lives positively," she explained.

Bolton described how Nichols' leadership, after high turnover of deans of the college, provided him a great foundation to begin his tenure as interim dean.

"She was a wonderful leader, a rock... She was here for five years and was just a rock and steady visionary. She got us through two accreditation cycles. You know, that structured, professional, accounting, taking care of business approach was exactly what we needed. She left the college in great shape, and for me, it's an honor to succeed her."

He continued, saying, "She was just perfect... up until the end, and super helpful for me as I transition into the seat. You know... the college is better [after]... her five years and I'm certainly most appreciative."

On the topic of the timing of her

retirement. Nichols explained that now is a good time because of the end of the re-accreditation cycle for the college, making it feel like a natural finish.

"...This is a good time for me. So looking forward... to retirement, I still am going to stay... somewhat active, because I have to keep my mind occupied, and I don't want to become obsolete." Nichols plans to continue writing and research.

Spending time with her family is most important during this time. "I especially feel like last year, with accreditation, I didn't really get to spend much with them. Spending time with grandchildren is a big thing. Having more family time..."

Bolton attended the University of Colorado at Boulder to earn his Ph.D. in finance and economics.

He also received an MBA in finance and strategy from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southern Methodist University.

Before joining the staff at UL Lafayette, Bolton worked in the finance faculty in the School of Business at Portland State University and then as the associate director in the Global Board Center at the International Institute for Management Development Business School in Switzerland.

During his time at the University, he has not only won the inaugural Lagniappe Award for Leadership and Collaboration, he also founded the Louisiana Impact Research Awards Program.

## Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

### Nov. 1

- At 10:40 a.m., officers were dispatched to Sorority Row in reference to an injury, which Acadian Ambulance also responded to.

### Oct. 31

- At 1:05 p.m., officers responded to a possible drug law violation at the Wingate by Wyndham hotel.
- At 12:39 p.m., officers were dispatched to Huger Hall in reference to a narcotics violation.
- At 11:45 a.m., ULPD were contacted by the Hilliard Art Museum about making a report regarding the receiving of harassing phone calls.
- At 6:04 a.m., East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office requested assistance in reference to a reported incident involving a 2015 silver Toyota Prius.

### Oct. 30

- At 6:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to Agnes Edwards Hall in reference to a bike theft.
- At 1:19 p.m., officers dispatched to Rougeou Hall in reference to a theft involving a Ohlin's Fx125 shock absorber.

### Oct. 29

- At 10:25 a.m., officers dispatched to the Girard Park Circle Parking Tower in reference to a parking lot crash involving a gray 2023 Kia Forte and a red 2020 Ford Explorer. No injuries were reported.
- At 9:51 a.m., officers responded to a report of a hit-and-run bus accident located at 210 Girard Park Cir. Contact was made with the victim, and an investigation was conducted. It was determined that no crime had been committed.








### Oct. 28

- At 5:49 p.m., officers received a walk-in complaint in reference to a complaint of obscenity at the UL Lafayette Daycare Center. An arrest was made.

### Oct. 27

- At 8:10 p.m., a report of vandalism to a blue 2026 Honda CR-V was reported.
- At 10:36 a.m., officers responded to Bonin Hall in reference to criminal damage to a directional sign and paint peeled from a wall.
- At 4:46 a.m., officers responded to Coronna Hall for a follow-up on the unauthorized use of a grey 2021 Ford Bronco. An arrest was made.

## Weather

Thursday 11/6	Friday 11/7	Saturday 11/8	Sunday 11/9	Monday 11/10	Tuesday 11/11	Wednesday 11/12
 High: 79 F Low: 63 F	 High: 82 F Low: 63 F	 High: 81 F Low: 60 F	 High: 77 F Low: 48 F	 High: 67 F Low: 43 F	 High: 70 F Low: 55 F	 High: 76 F Low: 56 F

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS EDITOR

•Hurricane Melissa made a historic, catastrophic Category 5 landfall in Jamaica, then raked through southeast Cuba and the southeast Bahamas before swiping Bermuda, while it also wrung out days of prolific, flooding rainfall in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

•An atmospheric river is expected to bring heavy rainfall and gusty winds to the Pacific Northwest this week.

## WHERE'S ALLAN?



To get to my class, its not fair that I have to climb so many of this building's stairs. Where am I?

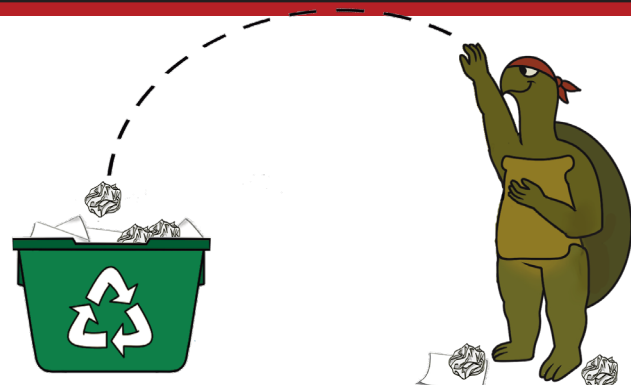
Last Issue's Answer:  
**Burke-Hawthorne Hall**



Last week's winner was **Cameron McNair**. McNair is a first-time freshman in civil engineering and a member of both the Pride of Acadiana, where he plays percussion, and the Reformed University Fellowship.

### 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, and email the correct location of Allan to **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!**

## Politics

# AI Red Scare: New ban on CCP software by Governor Landry

Gracie Cormier

POLITICS WRITER

An executive order signed by Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry on Sept. 29, 2025, banned free artificial intelligence (AI) programs made under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Louisiana schools, colleges and state agencies. The only named program in the order is DeepSeek, a Chinese AI software.

The order outlines the reasoning as one of security, citing a report on DeepSeek which stated that the software “engages in covert manipulation of information to ensure the results it presents align with CCP propaganda.” The report also warned that DeepSeek sends American data to the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

Data uploaded to servers in PRC is “subject-to the country’s cybersecurity and intelligence laws, which compel companies to share data with state authorities,” according to Landry’s order. He emphasizes the security risk, and adds that the use of DeepSeek has

already been banned by the United States Department of Commerce.

Landry’s stated purpose in the order is to protect “business, individual and student data” in accordance with the responsibility of federal and state laws which require agencies and educational institutions to do so.

The Louisiana order extends beyond DeepSeek and other technologies monitored by the CCP to software from other hostile foreign nations, but those nations remain unspecified. The principle focus stated in the executive order is to avoid the “Garbage In, Garbage Out” mechanism used by artificial intelligence systems being banned.

The implication of “Garbage In, Garbage Out” in this circumstance means that the information put into an AI system is the same quality of information a user will receive. The use of the phrase here criticizes the quality of DeepSeek and other AI systems that will be affected by this ban.

This ban prohibits state-issued devices

and state-regulated software from downloading the DeepSeek application or using it otherwise.

Therefore, no students at public universities or elementary education institutions will be able to use the software, having to opt instead for American AI systems or not use AI at all. The same is true for government and state employees using work devices.

Beyond the impacts on governmental and educational institutions, the order recognizes, first, that the ban is important due to the increasing importance of AI in the state system, work and society as a whole. Due to this importance, the focus on regulation of AI has proportionately become important.

Louisiana is not the first state in the United States to have banned DeepSeek in some capacity. Texas banned the software on government devices in January of this year.

New York, Virginia and Iowa banned the DeepSeek application in February, and Tennessee and Oklahoma banned it in March.

North Carolina banned the app on state devices, South Dakota banned it on government-issued devices and Alabama banned DeepSeek and other Chinese technologies from state devices.

The order also comes following a letter sent to Congress signed by 21 state attorneys general in March urging a bill to prohibit government devices from downloading and using DeepSeek. The letter encourages the passage of a bill of this nature for the purpose of preserving American secrets by preventing Chinese espionage.

However, despite this letter, there have still been no federally enacted, broad regulatory groups or widespread

regulations for the development or use of AI.

A publication from Congress.gov speaks more to the extent of federal regulation, stating that “outside of broad AI governance frameworks, most of the U.S. regulatory efforts regarding AI have centered on (1) federal agency assessments and enforcement of existing regulatory authorities, (2) exploration of whether individual agencies require additional authorities, and (3) securing voluntary commitments from industry.”

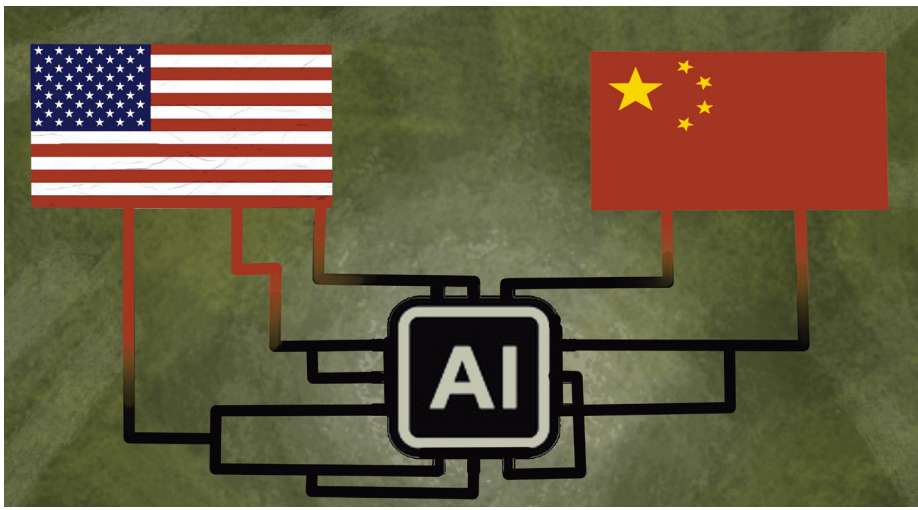
In this breakdown, the publication highlights the crucial areas of regulation from the U.S. government. With the rapid development of AI around the world and in the U.S. itself, this regulation may be lacking. With the largest regulation on AI coming directly from individual states, the country may be setting a precedent for how it handles this form of technological regulation.

If it becomes typical for state action to be the first line of defense in AI regulation, then the need for federal regulation may not disappear, but the landscape may significantly shift.

While there has been more than a negligible amount of laws passed regarding AI at the federal level or pertaining to federal business, the development speed of AI may be outpacing these laws.

Having the state be the main perpetrator of regulation may be able to expedite this process, ensuring safety. However, it could possibly prevent the federal government from taking accountability in securing the safety of its citizens.

With multiple states having passed similar laws to Louisiana, what is left to curate are regulations on American—and ally-made AI softwares.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

## Health

## How to respond to mold growth

Reese Provost

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Mold in university settings is quickly becoming a concern for health amongst college students, faculty and staff.

Many students living in university dormitories have recently become susceptible to mold poisoning. Mold can grow in a building because of several factors including leaky pipes, flooding, high humidity, poor ventilation and poor cleaning.

Mold produces spores that move through the air and more easily affects individuals with an allergy to mold.

Mold can still affect non-allergic individuals, but they may take longer to show symptoms, if at all. The common symptoms of mold poisoning include fatigue, sinus issues, nausea, intestinal distress and migraines. These symptoms can get in the way of someone’s health, potentially affecting work and studies.

It is also important to note that mold is a general term for a group of fungi that can develop spores.

Mold growing in these college buildings can include many different species, all of which can have different effects on an individual.

To determine whether one is affected with mold poisoning, they should immediately consult a healthcare provider and ask to be tested via an allergy, urine or blood test. If test results come back positive, it is crucial to avoid the source of the mold or make efforts to have living or work spaces cleaned and repaired. The next step would be to take medication to clear the sinuses and to reduce the inflammation caused by the mold.

This mold “epidemic” has received attention at different universities in the country.

Earlier this year, parents of university students at Ohio State filed a lawsuit against the university due to mold growing in their children’s dorm building.

The building, Lawrence Tower, holds 130 rooms, around 27 of which were tested positive for having mold.

Another instance occurred in September at the University of the South at Tennessee, also known as Sewanee. Both current and previous students filed a lawsuit against the university with evidence that rooms in the Johnson Hall dormitory had high, dangerous levels of fungal growth. The lawsuit was made in response to the university’s negligence to the students’ health concerns.

According to Changing the Air Foundation, one of the factors contributing to this nationally rising problem is the lack of consideration for creating a healthy living and learning place for these students.

In their words, the foundation states, “A lack of proactive prevention from universities is a part of the problem, but another main obstacle students are facing is schools’ failure to respond appropriately to this contamination.”

The first step to solving this issue starts with the identification of the mold. The second is the respective university’s willingness to improve the space in which the mold was found and improve other spaces so that mold does not grow there either.

Some ways to prevent mold growth include creating a deep cleaning schedule, use of proper cleaning products, cleaning spills, not leaving wet laundry out, keeping low room humidity and regular cleaning of the AC unit.

As previously stated, mold growth is becoming a serious problem in university settings.

It is important for students, faculty and staff to do what they can to prevent the growth and take necessary precautions for the identification and removal of it.

It is also just as critical for the respective university to listen to its students and employees and take the initiative to solve the problem.

## Arts and Culture

## Reviewing the debut of 'Big Love'

Leilani Chester

NEWS WRITER

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Theatre program’s recent production of “Big Love,” by Charles Mee, delivered a bold and modern twist on Aeschylus’ ancient Greek play “The Suppliants.” Set in a luxurious Italian villa, the show follows fifty brides fleeing arranged marriages to their fifty cousins. It explores love, power and freedom while blending humor with serious themes like gender politics, domestic violence and emotional turmoil.

The production reimaged the original tragedy for today’s world with wit and creativity. The grooms’ dramatic entrance by helicopter, paired with references to modern music and fashion, gave the show a fresh and playful edge. These moments of absurdity added humor and energy to a story rooted in struggle and resistance.

At the center of the play were three brides: Thyona, Olympia and Lydia. Thyona, portrayed with fiery conviction by Catherine Zaunbrecher, junior acting major, represented the angry feminist archetype, determined to fight against a world dominated by misogyny. Olympia, played by sophomore acting major Kaileigh O’Gwynn, in contrast, was the idealistic romantic who longed for love and care, serving as a foil to Thyona’s rage.

Lydia, played by junior acting major Alana Cutno, stood between them, torn between independence and affection, reflecting the complexities of love and identity.

Their conflicting views on love and marriage raised timeless questions. Is marriage truly about love, or is it a social transaction built on expectation and control? Each character embodied a different answer, shaped by experience and fear.

The contrast between Thyona’s distrust of men and Olympia’s longing for them offered a sharp commentary on gender

roles and the pressures women face.

The set design gave the production an ethereal, timeless feel, with Greek-inspired columns, winding vines and a grand bathtub at center stage.

The lighting added emotional depth, especially during the climax when the stage turned red as the sisters, desperate for justice, murdered their husbands. The dramatic shift in color created a haunting, unsettling atmosphere that mirrored their rage and inner conflict.

Despite its heavy themes, the show was punctuated with humor that kept it accessible and engaging. The helicopter entrance drew laughter, while the brides’ exaggerated gestures and banter added comic relief. These lighter moments balanced the intensity of the story and highlighted how easily comedy and tragedy coexist in human relationships.

The performances were consistently strong and deeply emotional. Constantine, the misogynistic groom played by junior acting major Nicholas Mackowiak, delivered a chilling and controlled performance that commanded attention, while Oed’s, played by senior acting major Tucker Dufrene, foolish antics brought laughter to the crowd.

The actresses playing Thyona and Olympia stood out for their conviction and emotional depth, and their chemistry with Lydia made the sisters’ bond believable and moving.

UL Lafayette’s “Big Love” was a powerful and thought-provoking theatrical experience. It succeeded not only in engaging the audience with its bold and modern take on a classic story, but also in sparking deeper conversations about the complexities of love, freedom and gender.

The show’s ability to weave humor and tragedy together in such a seamless way is a testament to the strength of both the script and the talented cast. “Big Love” was a must-see production that left audiences reflecting long after the curtain fell.

## THE VERMILION

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# Sports

## Injuries and aggravation hold Cajuns' football season captive

**Jake Allelo**  
SPORTS WRITER

The 2025-26 college football season has proven to be a dangerous time for head coaches, as 12 high-profile coaches in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) have already been fired.

Universities like Penn State, Arkansas, Oklahoma State, Virginia Tech, UCLA, Auburn, Florida and LSU have all fired their coaches for a combined total of just over \$175,000,000.

The message has become clear; around the country, fans and universities alike will not tolerate failure they believe is avoidable, and it doesn't matter how much money they have to pay to get you out.

With all of that being said, the Ragin' Cajuns have been in a season where avoidable losses have been unavoidable.

The Cajuns are currently 3-6, and have three games left in their season. In order to make bowl-game eligibility, they will need to win out in those three games against Texas State, Arkansas State and ULM.

For five straight years, Louisiana has made a bowl game. The past four of those years have been under the leadership of head coach Michael Desormeaux, who is himself a former Ragin' Cajun quarterback.

Desormeaux was hired in 2021, after former head coach Billy Napier accepted the position of Florida's head football coach; a job that Napier was fired from on Oct. 19. Desormeaux had been on the staff since 2016 and had served as interim head coach prior to Napier's arrival.

Heading into week 10 of the 2025-26 season, Desormeaux's record as a head coach is 38-24. With only two "losing" seasons, both just one game below a .500 win percentage.

This current season is proving to be the most testing and difficult one of the Desormeaux tenure. Six losses and a veritable mountain of injuries for his

team have put the former quarterback at the front door of fans' frustrations.

In the wake of this season's losses, members of the Cajun nation have used online spaces, particularly X and Instagram, to question Desormeaux's place in both the present and the future, along with his decision-making.

Particularly, the decision to periodically substitute quarterback Lunch Winfield for Walker Howard, proves to be the most head-scratching of his choices.

An issue arises when the distinction has to be made between criticism and hate. Listening to criticism is how you grow, but tuning out hate is how you stay focused.

As the hate flares up, individuals close to the program have lent their support. Much like former Cajuns' defensive back Tyrone Lewis Jr., who came to Desormeaux's defense in a public statement on X.

"One thing I've learned about being an athlete is that a coach can give you the blueprint to win a championship and it still wouldn't matter. You have to have a player led team! If you don't have that, the blueprint doesn't mean ish. Give coach and the staff some grace."

Along with Lewis Jr., former undergraduate assistant and quality-control coach Alex Hassinger called back to his experience on the team.

"Knowing Coach Des [Desormeaux] and how they operate there... those guys have an immense sense of belief in what they are doing. The team knows what they're capable of and if the team feels they haven't fulfilled that yet, they'll do whatever they can to get this right. Coach Des and his staff have always built a great team and culture and it will smooth out as the reps continue to stack."

This season is not totally without its positives though, as Winfield's emergence as a hero and hope for the Cajuns, puts this team in a better position than it is without him. Along

with a defense that has delivered time and time again, both sides of the ball have powered through many injuries to put this team back in a position to win.

In his media availability on Oct. 27, Desormeaux answered a question from KATC sports anchor and writer Jamarcus Fitzpatrick, addressing coaching pressures in modern college football.

"The pressure from the outside is very minimal, compared towards on the inside... When I accepted this job, I knew, and I know very well what the expectations are, what the standards are. It's a results-driven industry, and excuses are not something that are accepted... I feel more pressure about making sure I do things the right way inside of our building."

College football, at its current juncture, is a powderkeg. Athletes are more empowered than they've ever been, with NIL and the transfer portal providing a constant image of "greener pastures." Coaches have the opportunity to get generational money in their contracts, but the way things are now,

that is conditional. There is real, tangible "win now" pressure, and if coaches do not meet that condition, they get to watch games from home.

The important questions moving forward are: If the Cajuns do not make a bowl game, what does that entail for Coach Desormeaux, and if they do manage to miraculously win out, how much time does that buy him?

An organization wants to do right by its people, but it also has a duty to complete the task that has been set ahead of it.

Patience and belief are a virtue and a blessing all at the same time, but in an era where all of these schools are seemingly impatient, what does it mean to be patient?

This Cajuns' team is beyond capable, if this team now could've been the one who played that first game against Rice 10 weeks ago, a different tune would be sung. Such is the way of "coulds" and "ifs." Best of luck to Coach Desormeaux, his staff and the Cajuns putting their body on the line to win for this university. Geaux Cajuns.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Coach Desormeaux gives a pregame speech to his players Aug 31, 2024.

## Does the MLB need a salary cap?

**Charles Martin**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The MLB is one of the oldest professional sports leagues in the United States and Canada. It is a league steeped in history and traditions, separating itself from the other major leagues in the United States like the NHL, NFL and NBA. One of those differences is that the MLB does not have a salary cap.

The past few years have seen an increase in fans calling for the MLB to institute a salary cap, citing that the disparity between teams is starting to become too great. In fact, the MLB is looking to institute a cap once the league's collective bargaining agreement with the MLBPA expires on Dec. 1, 2026.

The MLB push for a salary cap has been around for some time, specifically from small market teams that do not pull in the revenue that giants like the

Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees do.

Yet now there are owners of big market teams calling for a salary cap, such as Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner. But why is that? Why would the MLB be pushing for a cap when the last time they pushed in 1994 it led to the World Series being canceled? Why would owners, and even fans, be willing to sacrifice the 2027 season if it means finally being able to institute a cap?

The source of all of this comes from the Dodgers, who have earned the ire of pretty much every baseball fan outside of Los Angeles. The Dodgers have won three World Series so far in the decade and have been top three in spending in four of the past five seasons.

Them winning, though, is not why fans have come to dislike the Dodgers, it has instead been their abuse of the economic system in the MLB. The first of

these abuses was the signing of two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani following the 2023 season.

The contract broke every single record in the book, as the Dodgers signed Ohtani to a \$700 million, 10-year contract. This was, at the time, the largest professional contract in the history of sports. The team was then able to sign pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto to a 12-year, \$325 million deal. How could the Dodgers afford two massive contracts? Deferred cash.

Ohtani's massive contract meant that he would be making \$70 million per year. And while that \$70 million does go down on the yearly payroll the team does not actually have to pay that. With the signing, Ohtani agreed to only take \$2 million per year for the entire length of his 10-year contract. The Dodgers will then finish paying out his contract the following 10 years after.

This has freed up the Dodgers to improve their team even more, turning it into a juggernaut. And that deal paid off immediately with back-to-back World Series titles in Ohtani's first two seasons with the team.

Many teams simply can not hope to match the Dodgers in terms of spending money, as they have control of both the lucrative LA market and the even more lucrative Japanese market thanks to the signings of Ohtani, Yamamoto and young star Rokai Sasaki.

Yet the signing that put true fear into the hearts of owners and angered fans was Juan Soto signing with the New York Mets.

Soto, coming off an incredible 2024 season with the Yankees, signed with the cross town rival Mets for 15-years and \$765 million. This shattered the record Ohtani and the Dodgers had set just a year earlier.

Now with the fans shouting for parity, the owners have a chance to finally get a

salary cap, but does a cap actually mean parity?

Over half the teams in the MLB have won a World Series since 2000 with 16 different teams having won the Fall Classic. That beats NHL (14), NFL (13) and NBA (12), all of which have salary caps. That has allowed for some absolutely electric series between teams.

Looking purely at this season, while the Dodgers, whose payroll for this year sits at \$350,024,106, did win a second straight World Series, not every team that spent big won big.

The most obvious culprit of this is the Mets, who spent the second most in the league with \$341,803,011, a good chunk being to pay for Juan Soto. Yet despite that they missed the playoffs entirely.

The Houston Astros, Texas Rangers, Atlanta Braves and Los Angeles Angels all missed the playoffs despite spending well over \$200 million on their payroll. Conversely the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Guardians made the playoffs despite being ranked 23 and 25 in payroll.

There were arguments around smaller markets not being able to compete, yet that was disproven this year as well. The Milwaukee Brewers spent just \$121,018,720, which was 22 in league spending and made it to the NLCS, beating the Chicago Cubs in the NLDS who spent nearly \$100 million more on their roster. Right now the call for a salary cap is so loud because of the Dodgers, they have played the system their way and have benefited from it, just like the Los Angeles Rams did in 2021 to win their Super Bowl.

This is nothing but a dynasty, something that comes around every now and then in sports. It will, like all dynasties, pass. Other teams will eventually come to take their spot. There is no need to rush things to fix a problem that really does not exist.



Graphic by Charlotte Alexander

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# Allons

## A history of slapstick comedy

**Andrew Courville**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I've been involved in the performing arts for 10 years. Comedy stands out to me as an art form, as laughter has been proven to improve one's relationships with others, sense of identity and well-being.

Slapstick comedy in particular uses concepts such as irony, absurd situations, sarcasm, cynicism and satire. It emphasizes pain, fear and humiliation as the funny part rather than words.

When discussing something hurtful out loud, one might find it easier to make light of the activities we're not good at or sarcastically mock a fictional character. You might find that laughing at someone else's misfortune is the solution to processing and unburdening yourself from your own shortcomings.

Slapstick history goes back millennia. Although its general parameters may stay the same, the types of jokes and method of depiction have not.

Slapstick is a subset of low comedy originating in ancient Greece through variety shows like miming. Modern miming is signified by its white face paint and black-and-white attire and sole reliance on the human body to indicate actions. A related genre, called pantomime, integrates elements of choir and dialogue.

Several millennia later, 1600s Italian theatre, specifically the commedia dell'arte genre, was heavily based on pantomime and Shakespearean plays. They required expressive actions, strong emotions and bright costumes.

Commedia dell'arte used a *batacchio*, two slats of wood attached at one end that loosely translates to "slap stick." With a flick of the wrist, the unconnected ends hit together, simulating an actor slapping another actor. This type of theatre was usually reserved for the wealthy, but access to the arts also expanded as citizens gained more civil liberties.

Vaudeville was a variety show genre that rose to prominence in the United States in the 1850s, featuring a series of unrelated performances, ranging from typical acts like song and dance routines to extravagant acrobats and trained animals. Its sister genre, burlesque,

originally began as a mockery of dramatic theatre. Both were more accessible to the middle class and featured generally happy-go-lucky, exhilarating, family-friendly acts.

By the early 1900s, vaudeville had been surpassed by burlesque in popularity, which had devolved into adult-only variety shows focusing on the sex appeal of the female body (including the striptease). Both forms died in the 1920s when many vaudeville and burlesque performers moved to the film and radio industry.

Actors like Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd and Lucille Ball are celebrities of early film, but Charlie Chaplin is likely the king. He's probably the most famous comedy star of the era. His career spanned from the onset of World War I to the 1970s.

Throughout history, war, poverty, sexual abuse and workers' rights are more common tropes in slapstick than Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. I find it fascinating how slapstick can make such serious concepts seem laughable. Chaplin's characters are generally fun-loving, working-class misfits, but often land themselves in messy situations.

Curiously, Lucille Ball, most notably the star of the "I Love Lucy" series,

was one of the few women to make a formative impact on slapstick in the early film era. By defying gender norms about acceptable behavior for a woman and what industry she ought to work in, she opened doors for more women to enter the industry.

Animation was an extension of the silent film era and newspaper cartoons, truly testing the extent to which violence could go. Mickey Mouse, at Walt Disney Animation Studios, was the first in the 1920s. It would be joined by other shows like "Looney Tunes," "Popeye the Sailor" and "Tom and Jerry." Many in this genre feature an ensemble cast of mostly anthropomorphic animals, all trying to eat, kidnap, kill or harass each other.

I put my foot down to say that Monty Python is the epitome of slapstick. This British comedy troupe of six guys was active from the 70s to the 90s.

Their television series, "Monty Python's Flying Circus," and various films are influential for all of slapstick today, including extensively breaking the fourth wall, cross-dressing characters and repeating jokes from their other works. No topic was forbidden, whether it was sex and elections, to death and gender stereotypes.

In some ways, slapstick has declined

in relevance. It is difficult to imagine someone else having as much cultural influence as Monty Python or Charlie Chaplin. Although some actors embody them well, like Rowan Atkinson as Mr. Bean, Mike Myers as the Cat in the Hat or Austin Powers and Jim Carrey in nearly anything.

Animated violence in "Looney Tunes," Disney, and even "Spongebob Squarepants" still exists. Online comedy groups and TV series like "Whose Line Is It Anyway," "I Mostly Blame Myself," "Comedy Central" and "Saturday Night Live" have continued for many years.

Slapstick is also immortalized in musical theatre, like in the Tony Award-winning costume designs of "Shrek" or the evolution of burlesque and vaudeville in "Gypsy."

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Theatre Program put on a traditional commedia dell'arte play in March of this year, called "Servant of Two Masters," which I, of course, thoroughly enjoyed. Later this November, they'll perform "Lucky Stiff," a modern musical similar to the movie "Weekend at Bernie's."

However, I'm staying wary. Entertainment evolves according to what the audience wants. Personally, I can't wait for the next big thing in slapstick.



Graphic by Charlotte Alexander

## What happened to 'Twin Peaks'?

**Ashlee Blue**  
ALLONS WRITER

If you've ever come into contact with a piece of media with a plot along the lines of happenings in a small town where things aren't quite right, you have "Twin Peaks" to thank.

Created by David Lynch and Mark Frost, "Twin Peaks" is a mystery-horror drama series that ran on ABC from 1990-91. The series operated on a single question: who killed Laura Palmer? Originating the "murder in a small town" archetype, "Twin Peaks" follows Special Agent Dale Cooper (Kyle MacLachlan) and his investigation into the town of Twin Peaks to solve the murder of Laura Palmer.

It's an understatement to say that "Twin Peaks" changed television history forever. Before "Twin Peaks," television existed in a box, literally and metaphorically; there were explicit expectations for what a TV show should be and how it should portray itself.

For example, television shows did not venture beyond one genre; a show was strictly a comedy, a soap opera, a mystery, etc. "Twin Peaks," however, was as much

a surrealist horror as it was a comedy-drama; it simply couldn't be contained in a single genre.

Additionally, its surrealist-horror aspect was a first for mainstream television. Lynch incorporated his trademark surrealism from his films into "Twin Peaks," making it one of, if not, the first surrealist television show.

TV had seen horror shows before, namely "The Twilight Zone," but none of those shows had been as explicitly scary as "Twin Peaks."

Lynch's disturbing imagery and cinematography was groundbreaking for 90s television; it paved the way for horror as a genre, giving it a place in mainstream television.

Along with introducing new concepts to television, "Twin Peaks" also reworked many age-old tropes. Before its premiere, most detective shows on TV solved its mystery within a few episodes, if not in the same episode.

"Twin Peaks" was the first to carry its mystery for over half of its run, not being solved until the middle of the second season. It proved to networks that audiences wouldn't be pushed away by complex narratives in favor of neat

resolutions at the end of each episode.

Lynch re-envisioned the people solving these mysteries, completely changing the way the FBI were portrayed on television. Before, FBI agents were portrayed as nothing more than fancy cops, working on mundane cases and on the same level as everyday police.

"Twin Peaks" protagonist, Agent Cooper, was more than just a cop in a suit, he was a Sherlock Holmes-coded detective with an inclination for the supernatural. Lynch shoehorned the idea that the FBI were only for cases out of the ordinary, cases that required skills the average sheriff didn't possess. This archetype was picked up by media such as "The X-Files" and "Silence of the Lambs," cementing it into mainstream culture.

All of this begs the question: if "Twin Peaks" is so good and changed television history forever, why doesn't anyone (excluding pretentious Lynch fans such as myself) talk about it?

The answer to that question lies resoundingly in "Twin Peaks'" disastrous second season.

During the second season's production, several outside forces pressured Lynch

and Frost to change their original narrative for the show. For example, despite the two never intending to actually reveal Laura Palmer's killer, pressure from ABC executives forced them to resolve the mystery in the middle of the season.

Since the series' central mystery was solved and audiences had no reason to keep watching, the show experienced a dip in viewership and a struggle in narrative direction in the episodes following.

In an attempt to keep audience attention, Lynch and Frost intended to focus on the show's second biggest storyline: Agent Cooper and Audrey Horne's relationship. This plan was quickly foiled by Lara Flynn Boyle, Kyle MacLachlan's then girlfriend, who disapproved of the characters' relationship.

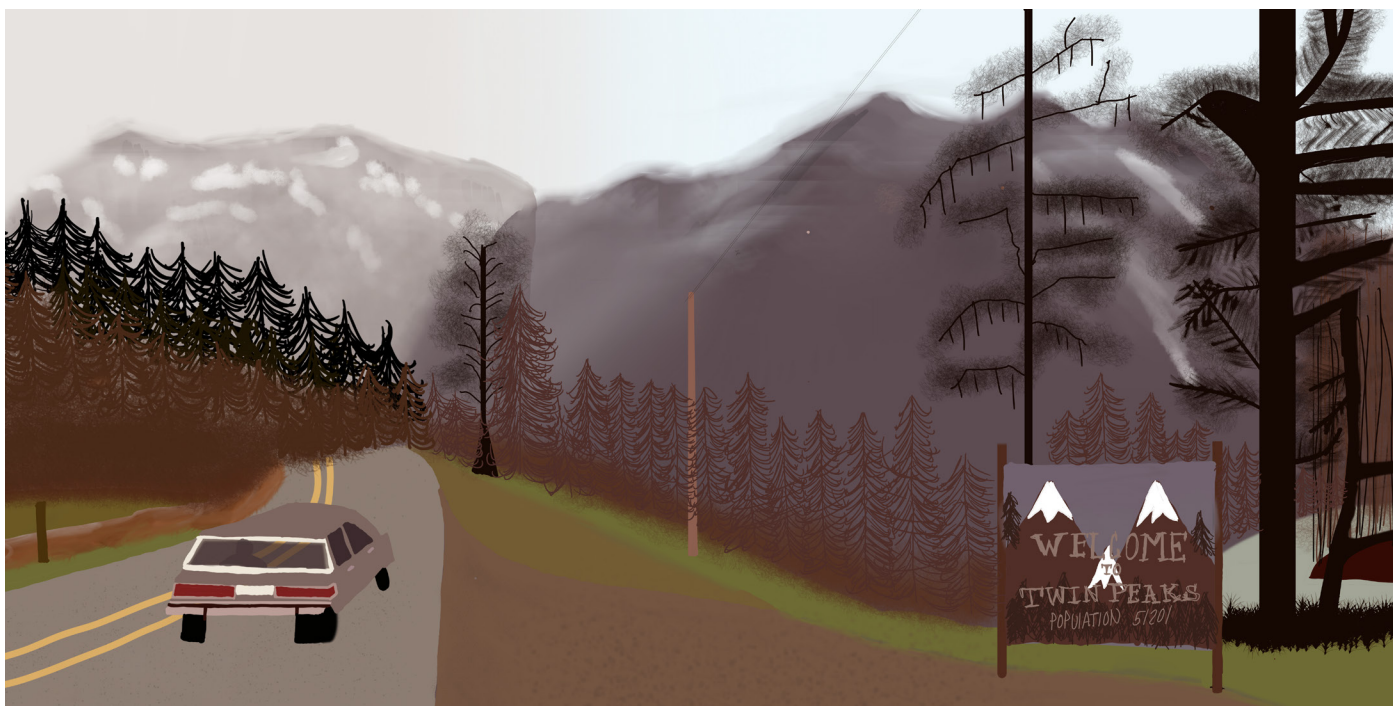
According to Sherilyn Fenn, Audrey Horne's actress, Boyle forced MacLachlan to refuse to do a relationship. This led to an awkward 180 in narrative direction; the characters' carefully built-up tension was suddenly abandoned and writers were left scrambling to come up with alternate storylines.

To add insult to injury, ABC constantly changed around the show's timeslot, initiating an even further decrease in viewership and ratings.

In early 1991, "Twin Peaks" was moved from its original timeslot for "six weeks out of eight," a decision Frost says prevented the show from maintaining audience interest.

After season two's fifteenth episode, ABC put "Twin Peaks" on an indefinite hiatus. Protests from viewers allowed the show to return for four weeks in March of 1991, but "Twin Peaks" was again put on hiatus after those four weeks. The season's final two episodes aired back-to-back in June, and "Twin Peaks" was not renewed for a third season.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances that fell upon it at the end, I wholeheartedly believe that "Twin Peaks" is the best TV show ever created. I encourage everybody and anybody to sit down and watch this series, I promise it will change your life.



Graphic by Remaya Bell

# Beaucoup

## Academic Advising

The Beaucoup section writes about their various advising experiences at the University.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

### Jenna Kimball

NEWS WRITER

In my experience, advising at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has been... a task.

It could definitely be worse, and I do believe that the school believes that they are preparing the students for the next semester by having us jump through all the hoops.

The actual advising session, once you finish everything else, is not that bad.

The part that makes it so frustrating sometimes, at least for me, is the stuff before the actual advising session. You have to go through the different modules and prepare various schedules and forms and it's all just a lot to figure out and stress about.

Then again, college is stressful and it could just be the fact that students are already stressed about other things, like classes, so when advising time comes around it feels overwhelming to add on another thing to worry about.

### Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Advising is beneficial for universities and their students when conducted by an actually decent advisor. When you come across the right advisor, they can give you ample details on what classes you have to take. A good one not only helps you choose the right courses but also provides guidance on degree requirements and career paths that align with your life goals.

I feel like advising on this campus is not all that bad. Well, the actual advising part is not that bad. Beforehand, planning all your classes and determining what you will take for the next semester is a demanding process. I encounter trouble in finding classes that are actually open for the semester, and it can be even more frustrating to navigate the course catalog and see classes that fill up too quickly or are restricted for various reasons.

Overall, advising is a valuable source, but there is room for some improvement.

### Sadie Lynn Burrell

GRAPHICS ASSISTANT EDITOR

As someone who has changed my major four times, I have gotten to see several different styles of advising, and for the most part, I've had a fairly positive experience. I have received good insight, taken enjoyable classes and was treated nicely when I said I changed my major and could no longer be advised by certain professors.

I was just advised on Wednesday, Oct.

29, and it was a good session. I went in with the classes I wanted for next semester, and my advisor said everything looked good and that I should be done with my general education classes soon. When I asked about doing certain types of projects for independent studies and my capstone, he agreed and said we will talk about them more in the future.

While my experience has been good, I do have several friends who were given bad advice or had to wait a long time to be advised.

### Vallen Power

LAYOUT DESIGNER

I always feel a little nervous about advising on campus every semester, if only because my advisor knows more about what classes I should be taking than I do. However, I do have some ways I like to prepare for it!

Usually, I look at my DegreeWorks and see what courses are available next semester to get an idea of what I might need to be taking.

I come up with a list of around five to six classes I want to take and then try to present it to my advisor, but I also know sometimes they may suggest something else.

I do like advising on campus, though. It's really nice to just be able to go straight to my advisor's office just after class for whenever I scheduled my appointment.

The only real downside is how long it can take for advisors to reach out about officially scheduling those advising sessions.

## Food Review

# Charming new cafe located in the heart of Lafayette: Magnolia Pantry

### Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 219 E Vermilion St., Magnolia Pantry is a charming new cafe specializing in artisan hand-pies (both sweet and savory), craft beverages such as lemonades and specialty coffees and meal options including paninis and salads. Locals in Lafayette have been raving about this new arrival in the downtown area. The historic Sans Souci building is being put to good use by this business.

The concept of this place stemmed from two popular Acadian companies, Acadian Slice Pies and Magnolia Moon Herbals. With its warm and inviting atmosphere, Magnolia Pantry has quickly become a favorite spot for both locals and visitors.

Their menu offers an assortment of matcha and coffee, as well as tea and tea lattes, hand pies and other simple meal options.

Their matcha comes hot or iced, with flavors such as agave, lavender honey, white chocolate, honey vanilla and strawberry.

Their coffee is also available hot or iced, with some of the same flavors, but with a choice of oat, coconut or cow's milk.

Some of their tea lattes (both iced and hot) include the Blooming Flower, which features lavender, jasmine, elderflower, white tea, butterfly pea flower and coconut condensed milk

and the Lavender London Fog, which features lavender, Earl Grey tea with honey vanilla, coconut condensed milk, topped with vanilla cold foam.

This cafe also features some teas that are beneficial to your health. Some of these teas include Recovery, which contains lemon verbena, ginger, turmeric, peppermint and chrysanthemum, making it great for alleviating dehydration, fatigue and nausea, and the Study Blend, which includes green tea, cardamom, ginkgo, gotu kola and peppermint, making it great for focus and a light energy boost.

This establishment was first opened in August of 2025 by Alexis Badon and Korey Champagne, two popular local business owners in Lafayette. The business concept won the One Acadiana Small Business Challenge, awarding the founders a prime lease and investment to open in the historic building. They have quickly become a popular place for studying and relaxing.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this new local restaurant and cafe on Friday, Oct. 31. As we walked up to the building, I admired its beautiful yellow color. It was literally a small, quaint, yellow house on the corner of a street. Being fully decorated for Halloween also made the place even more up to my standards.

As we walked into the rustic doors, we were greeted by the baristas behind the counter and we began to order. Looking at the menu, I knew it would

be a difficult decision to choose just one thing.

The atmosphere of the cafe was airy and light. Green wooden walls, light wooden tables, plants and soft hanging lights surrounded. The patio was even more beautiful, with flowers around the outside and a view of Lafayette's downtown area.

After spending time admiring the environment and looking at the menu, I decided to get the Frozen Lavender Lemonade, the brisket, havarti cheese and pickle panini and a side of caesar chicken salad.

At the same time, my colleague chose the Frozen Dragon Fruit Lemonade, accompanied by a spinach, tasso and gouda quiche slice pie and a side of smoked gouda grits and pesto deviled eggs.

We sat down at a little couch area in the corner, where there was a lot of sunlight and waited for our food and drinks.

Our drinks came out first, and they looked delicious. It reminded me of the frozen lemonades I used to get at the fair when I was little. But they sure did not taste the same. This drink was much more delicious than any other one I have had. The boba at the top of the drink added an extra layer of flavor to the lavender. My colleague's dragonfruit lemonade was similar to mine in terms of taste and boba.

When our food came out, it arrived on these beautiful plates that looked like

old china dishes. The presentation was definitely well thought out. My brisket panini was hot and the cheese melted right off the sandwich. The brisket was tender and juicy, with just the right amount of seasoning. My colleague's quiche pie was equally impressive.

After we finished our meals, we decided to order dessert. I went for the raspberry brookie and my colleague went for the S'more to Love pie. Both desserts came out fresh and cold, and were equally as good in flavor.

When we finished our desserts, I decided to interview both owners, Alexis Badon and Korey Champagne. Badon stated, "So far, it's been a pretty profound new experience for me. I have been in the food industry for nine years, but it was always travel-based... so to be able to serve my products in a stationary place has been really wonderful. I feel like I'm really setting roots."

Champagne stated that, "Having this, finally having a brick and mortar retail location, you know has been great for us, not just us, but our customers, because for so long, the biggest question was where are you located...downtown's been so good to us, not only just for events...its been fun to see all of the nightlife aspect?"

If you would like to visit this establishment, it is open Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is closed on Mondays.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt

(Left) Outside of Magnolia Pantry; (Middle) Panini; (Right) S'more to Love pie

# SOUNDING OFF

## "What was your favorite Halloween Tradition growing up?"



**Cameren Johnson**  
KINESIOLOGY SENIOR

*"I would say the old Halloween movies like 'Hocus Pocus,' 'Twitches,' stuff like that, and watching with my family."*



**Lester Taylor**  
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

*"Every year my family has a tradition of baking pumpkin pie for Halloween."*



**Jeffrey Fabacher**  
MUSIC BUSINESS SOPHOMORE

*"I liked trick-or-treating."*



**Dhestiny Stephens**  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

*"The candy."*



**Ajah Bennett**  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE FRESHMAN

*"I have siblings, so I like trick-or-treating with them, and every year... my family will have, like, coordinated Halloween costumes."*



**Kayden Harris**  
CIVIL ENGINEERING SOPHOMORE

*"Trick-or-treating with my sister and my friends. We all got candy. We used to trade candy, like, crazy..."*

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


## Cuteness Overload



Comic by Lauren Gerald

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