

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 November 13, 2025

The University launches a new website for financial transparency and updates

Kayla Woods-Crane
MANAGING EDITOR

As the University of Louisiana at Lafayette continues its efforts to address the financial deficit, it has launched louisiana.edu/forward, a website for transparency during its “ongoing fiscal work,” as described in an email sent to faculty and staff on Nov. 4.

According to the email, sent by Interim President Dr. Jaimie Hebert, the site includes regular updates, key documents and plain language explanations of the efforts of the University.

It has a section for frequently asked questions and an online feedback forum. At the time the email was sent, Hebert said the feedback form had received more than 120 submissions.

In the future, the site will include a section specifically for students and a section highlighting questions and answers from the feedback they receive.

Hebert explained that the name, “Forward,” “is more than a name — it’s a theme that guides our continuing efforts. It reflects a collective commitment to transparency, accountability and progress as we address financial challenges and build a stronger, more resilient university for the future.”

To conclude the email, Hebert said, “Keeping the University community informed, involved and confident in the steps we are taking has been a guiding principle throughout this process. Thank you for your continued engagement, your ideas and your commitment to the University.”

According to an article by The Current, the University, through large

cuts, has decreased its \$25 million structural deficit to “roughly” \$2 million.

Remaining is an accumulated debt of \$10 million from prior years.

In an interview with The Current, Hebert explained that the financial target was always \$35 million; the \$25 structural deficit plus the \$10 million carried over from prior years.

In September the University’s financial deficit was announced and, since then, there have been large cuts made in order to address it.

All departments were ordered to cut 10% of their budgets, except Academic Affairs, which was cut by 5% to reduce the impact on instruction.

These cuts are supposed to save the University about \$15 million.

As of now, there have been 76 employees impacted by decisions made to address the deficit.

Of the 76 employees impacted, six employees were eliminated in September and 51 more were at the end of October.

Of the 51 eliminations in October, 28 were unclassified employees and 23 were classified employees, who are subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Rules. The remaining 19 employees impacted reflected retirements, resignations and reassignments.

Along with eliminations, the University has reduced the budget by reducing travel, special meals and hiring.

In October, the University announced it was terminating its contract with the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel, which served as overflow housing for students. Ending the contract will save the University \$900,000.

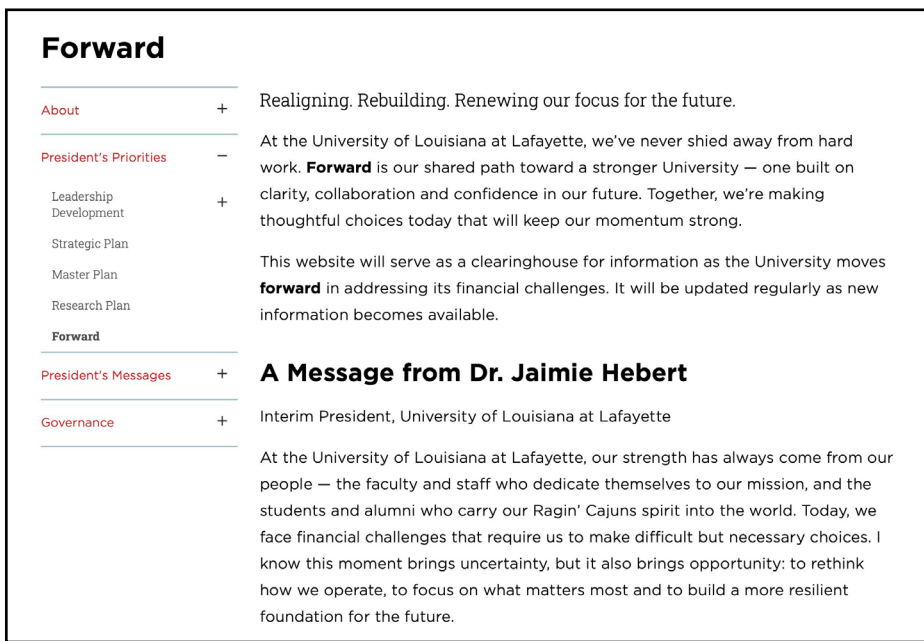


Photo of UL Lafayette’s website Message from Dr. Jamie Hebert on current financial situation

Those students will be relocated to campus for the spring semester. The University is also looking into increasing the amount of parking passes sold for Girard Park Circle Parking Garage.

In his interview with The Current, Hebert maintained that the University has been working hard to fix the financial deficit and are continuing to uncover what else can be done.

“We’re trying, trying our darndest to keep the student experience whole and wholesome at the front end. I feel like for the most part, we have done that,” Hebert said.

Josiah Whitaker, a junior majoring in psychology, said he doesn’t feel like the University has been transparent enough with the current financial situation, and that students, faculty and staff would

greatly benefit from the new website.

Despite his concern, Whitaker said his future at the University remains the same. He noted, “It’d probably be a little different if I was a freshman, but I mean, I’m almost close to graduating, so I think I’ll just ride it out.”

Marissa Davenport, a junior majoring in anthropology, said the website relaxes some of the anxieties she felt about the financial situation at the University.

“It’s just the fact that we’re having to do that in the first place,” Davenport said.

She explained that because of the deficit she is focused on getting through school as soon as possible.

“I need to graduate as soon as I can. But I am hoping that it does not impact my graduation in [2027].”

Budget cuts in the College of the Arts lead to concern for staff and students

Jenna Kimball
NEWS WRITER

During the 2025-26 school year at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, financial issues have begun to climb, leading to many changes around campus.

The College of the Arts has had their budget cut by 40%. The yearly budget that is allocated to the college is generally completely released on July 1.

Due to the current funding problems at UL Lafayette, the administration only released 60% of the budget to the College of the Arts.

Once the financial crisis begins to be resolved, the decision to allocate the last 40% of the money back to the college will be reevaluated.

Daryl Joseph Moore, dean of the College of the Arts at UL Lafayette, said, “It’s disappointing to be in this predicament, but there isn’t anything that we’re going through in the College of the Arts that the other colleges here on this campus are not going through.”

Specific changes within the College of the Arts are still being decided, but as of now, there will be limited travel for faculty and students and the open searches for new faculty have been paused.

Due to these cuts, students may have to buy more supplies themselves instead of having them readily available in their classes, which were paid for by student fees.

Moore said, “Students may have to, until the administration makes that

adjustment to the fees, students may have to pick up more supplies out of pocket than they would have had to do prior.”

Professors and staff that work in the college are actively being updated with any information that Moore receives, however, information is scarce as the administration is still working to make decisions regarding changes and funding.

Students that attend classes in the College of the Arts are nervous about how the possible changes will affect their experience at UL Lafayette.

Gabrielle LeBlanc, an architecture graduate student, said, “We’ve actually lost positions for assistantships for grad students because they’re closing down, so that’s... a direct impact on us.”

“Even, just like, beyond that, it’s just... people don’t really know what else is going on, so people are just kind of weary about... the next couple of semesters, especially for us because our tuition is... covered by the university.”

Seth Rosette, a sophomore architecture student, said, “It’s discouraging... kids trying to get into those fields.”

Thien Ho, a sophomore architectural studies student, said, “College is already expensive, like I don’t want to... pay more.”

Moore stated, “When we recognize that this particular reduction might affect something that’s going to not be good for the student experience, we go back and we address that, and to date... the administration of finance and the President’s office, they get that.”

“So we’re able to address those

things... to make sure that we not just mitigate, but to make sure that the students have the experience that they absolutely have to have here at UL Lafayette.”

Many factors went into creating the current funding challenge, but one of the biggest things to consider is growth and loss.

According to Edwin Litloff, the vice president for Administration and Finance, UL Lafayette lost about 1,700 students at the same time that about 500 employees were hired.

This means that an additional \$40 million was added to the payroll and \$20 million was taken away due to the loss of those student fees and tuition.

Since the work on the financial deficit is ongoing, University students and faculty will be updated as new information or decisions arise.

Moore commented, “It’s a huge, momentous challenge in that it’s one thing if... this is coming next year or next summer, okay, we have to figure out how we’re going to make some adjustments. It’s another thing, oh we’ve got to make adjustments now to get through this year in a certain way.”

“That’s really what they’re faced with, and you know, I don’t doubt that they’re up to the task and I’ve got to put my trust in them... the University and the Office of Administration and Finance, to do that with ample... information from the colleges.”

The College of the Arts is working to make sure that students get the same education that they would have gotten before the funding changes the University.



Photo by Alyus Dick Fletcher Hall, home to UL Lafayette’s College of the Arts.

News

RUNAWAY MONKEYS

Learn how eight monkeys escaped from captivity on a Mississippi road and how this incident brings awareness to animal welfare and rights.

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Politics

SNAP AT RISK

Frozen SNAP funds could cause millions of Americans to go hungry this November because of the government shutdown.

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Sports

POST-GAME BRAWL

Sports writer, Jake Allelo, recaps the Louisiana vs. Texas State game, which ended with a surprise scuffle on the field.

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Beaucoup

MAJOR AND MINOR SUGGESTIONS

This week, the Beaucoup section pitches their ideas for majors and minors the University should add.

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The escape of laboratory animals brings attention to animal rights

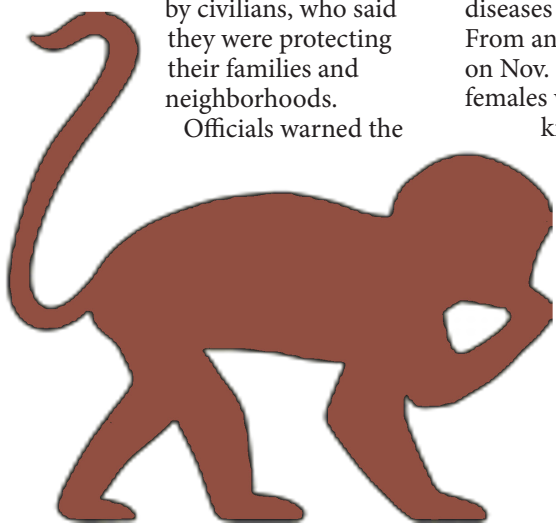
Joann Seow
NEWS EDITOR

A truck overturned on Interstate 59 in Mississippi on Oct. 28, 2025, causing eight of the 21 rhesus macaques that it was carrying to escape from captivity. All but one of the escaped monkeys were killed.

As of Nov. 6, the last monkey on the loose was found and captured, according to The Associated Press (AP) News.

The monkeys were being housed at the Tulane University National Biomedical Research Center in New Orleans, which routinely provides primates to scientific research organizations, according to the university. As written by AP News, "Tulane has said it wasn't transporting the monkeys and they do not belong to the university."

Five monkeys were killed as law officers hunted for them in the immediate aftermath of the crash. Two other monkeys that were on the loose were later shot and killed by civilians, who said they were protecting their families and neighborhoods. Officials warned the



public not to approach the monkeys due to their known aggressiveness.

PreLabs, which, on its website, describes itself as a biomedical research support organization, said in a statement that the animals were being lawfully transported to a licensed research facility. It said the monkeys weren't carrying any known diseases. Thirteen of the monkeys that were not killed arrived safely at their original destination, according to Tulane.

"The escape is the latest glimpse into the secretive industry of animal research and how contracts demanding confidentiality prevent the public from knowing key facts about studies involving animals," wrote AP News.

A similar incident happened on Nov. 6, 2024, where 43 rhesus macaques escaped from the Alpha Genesis Primate Research Center in Yemassee, South Carolina, when a new employee failed to fully secure an enclosure.

This incident sparked animal activists to demand that all laboratory animals be set free.

The monkeys were not infected with diseases and were harmless but skittish. From an article published by AP News on Nov. 7, 2024, "The monkeys are females weighing about 7 pounds (3 kilograms) and are so young and small that they haven't been used for testing, police said."

The majority of the monkeys were recaptured within two weeks of the escape. The last four of the 43 escaped monkeys were finally lured back with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and recaptured after a nearly three-month search, on Jan. 24, 2025. According to The New York

Times, "Four stragglers continued to wander for weeks and braved thick, wooded terrain and a rare snowstorm before they were found and captured in good health, Greg Westergaard, the chief executive of Alpha Genesis Inc., said Friday in a social media post from the Yemassee Police Department."

This incident sparked concerns from the public and animal activists as the monkeys escaping due to carelessness endangered not only the safety of the animals, but also put residents at risk, even if the monkeys were claimed to be harmless.

These two cases are not rare occurrences, with the longstanding history of animal testing and research, there have been several other instances of lab animals escaping captivity.

According to AP News, "In 2018, federal officials fined Alpha Genesis \$12,600 after dozens of primates escaped as well as for an incident that left a few others without water and other problems with how the monkeys were housed."

"Officials said 26 primates escaped from the Yemassee facility in 2014 and an additional 19 got out in 2016."

In January 2022, a truck towing a trailer of 100 cynomolgus macaque monkeys collided with a dump truck on a Pennsylvania highway. Several of the monkeys escaped, but all the monkeys were accounted for a day after the collision. Three were dead after being euthanized humanely for undisclosed reasons.

The monkeys were headed to a quarantine facility, approved by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in an undisclosed location after arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on a flight from Mauritius. Repeated instances of lab animals

escaping captivity point toward the much deeper and underlying ethical issue of using animals for human research.

According to AP News, "Humans have been using the rhesus macaque for scientific research since the late 1800s when the theory of evolution gained more acceptance, according to a 2022 research paper by the journal eLife."

"For more than a century, they have held a mirror to humanity, revealing our strengths and weaknesses through their own clever behaviors, organ systems and genetic code."

The intelligent primates have been launched on rockets into space, subjected to studies on vaccines, organ transplants and the impact of separating infants from mothers. Their research was also vital in fighting AIDS, polio and COVID-19.

"Every large research university in the United States probably has some rhesus macaques hidden somewhere in the basement of its medical school," according to the 2007 book, 'Macchiavellian Intelligence: How Rhesus Macaques and Humans Have Conquered the World,' wrote AP News.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette New Iberia Research Center (NIRC) houses over 6,800 non-human primates, making it one of the largest primate center in the United States.

While the scientific community may argue that the use of animals for research has been revolutionary for the greater good of mankind, animal activists argue otherwise.

Animal rights organizations like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have long been advocating for animal welfare and rights, working towards the abolishment of using animals for research.

Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

Nov. 8

- At 6:03 p.m., officers assisted the Lafayette Police Department in locating suspects that fled a traffic stop at The Heritage at Cajun Village Apartments with suspected narcotics and guns. No arrests were made.
- At 11:45 a.m., an officer was dispatched to Cajun Field regarding a theft involving a large speaker and a Bosch Squirrel fan.

Nov. 6

- At 1:36 p.m., officers dispatched to Coronna Hall for criminal damage made to University property involving a 48-inch Samsung wall-mounted television and a table.
- At 11:32 p.m., officers responded to a car crash that occurred in the Mouton Hall parking lot between a 2006 gray Chevrolet Truck and a 2022 gray Lexus SUV. No injuries were reported.








Nov. 5

- At 10:24 p.m., officers responded to a call that was received in reference to possible harassing text messages at Baker Hall.
- At 9:30 a.m., officers were dispatched to The Heritage at Cajun Village Apartments in reference to criminal mischief. No arrests were made and no property was damaged.
- At 8:52 a.m., officers responded to the Olivier Parking Tower regarding threats that were reported as the result of a fight that occurred off-campus.

Nov. 3

- At 4:09 p.m., officers dispatched to the Olivier Parking Tower in reference to a car crash that occurred between a 2020 white Hyundai Kona and a 2018 black BMW X3. No injuries were reported.
- At 11:50 a.m., officers conducted a follow-up investigation for an incident that occurred in the Zone 22 residential parking lot and spoke with a person of interest. Subject was released on a misdemeanor summons for simple criminal damage to property.

Weather

Thursday 11/13	Friday 11/14	Saturday 11/15	Sunday 11/16	Monday 11/17	Tuesday 11/18	Wednesday 11/19
 High: 78 F Low: 56 F	 High: 78 F Low: 59 F	 High: 79 F Low: 63 F	 High: 74 F Low: 53 F	 High: 71 F Low: 51 F	 High: 73 F Low: 60 F	 High: 72 F Low: 57 F

Isabelle Brumley
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

- A cold front is entering the Midwest, eastern and southeastern parts of the United States, bringing record-cold temperatures for this week.
- The first snow of the season is expected to fall at the beginning of this week in parts of the Midwest and the Northeast.

- The temperatures in Louisiana continue to fluctuate between the low 50s and high 70s.

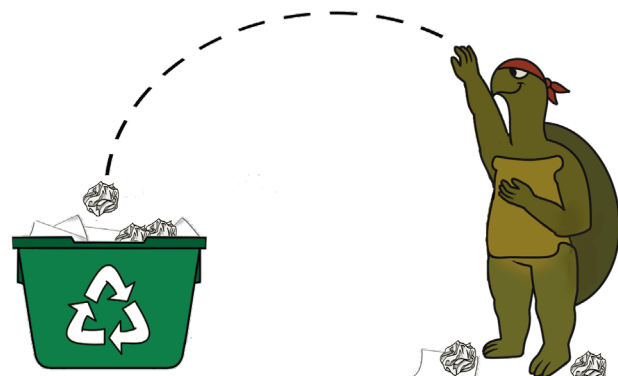
WHERE'S ALLAN?

Last week's first winner was **Ethan Tuminello**. He is a junior majoring in moving image arts. Tuminello is from Broussard and is the social media manager for the University film club.



Last week's second winner was **Aubrey Williams**. She is a sophomore majoring in moving image arts. Williams is from Haughton and is the vice president of the University's film club.

Thank you for playing!
Good luck on finals and have a great break.
Geaux Cajuns!



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER
AFTER READING!**

Politics

Louisiana employs a contingency plan to protect SNAP funding

Andrew Courville
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In September 2025, 792,769 Louisiana residents received benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Through the previous fiscal year, from July 2024 to June 2025, SNAP spent more than \$1.868 billion on Louisiana residents.

However, on Oct. 1, SNAP and other programs became at risk as the federal government entered a partial shutdown following Congress's failure to pass a spending bill. SNAP ceased regular operations on Nov. 1.

The national website says that "SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being."

Louisiana was among a group of states that created contingency plans in the event that the shutdown continued. Louisiana is using \$150 million in state emergency funds to partially cover benefits for those most at risk, which include children, the elderly and the disabled.

In total, SNAP serves about 42 million Americans.

About 361,000 of Louisiana's SNAP beneficiaries are under the age of 18 as of June 2024. A 2024 report from the Government Accountability Office shows that 23% of college students in 2020 experienced some form of food insecurity. Louisiana's contingency plan doesn't include 53,000 "able-bodied adults who aren't caring for children or don't share a household with elderly or disabled members," according to the Associated Press.

Although the Trump administration intended to comply with a lower court demand for SNAP to be fully funded, the Supreme Court overturned that ruling. A legal feud is underway while the administration organizes funds.

The government shutdown is now the longest in history, breaking the previous 34-day record that began in December 2018.

Both Democrats and Republicans presented separate legislation to fund specific services like SNAP, but the partisan divide keeps Republicans from gaining the 60 required votes in the

Senate to pass the bill to the president's desk. There are only 53 Republicans, so at least seven Democratic votes are required. Democrats are persisting due to disagreements about funding healthcare subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.

The Republican Party has been vocal about who they believe is to blame for the funding issues. On Oct. 27, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson said that, "The best way for SNAP benefits to be paid on time is for the Democrats to end their shutdown."

Democrat and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said, "Never before in American history — not once under a Democratic president or a Republican president — has SNAP funding lapsed during a shutdown." The Department of Agriculture used contingency funds through the 2018 shutdown. However, the department reversed that decision this year, using a new interpretation of the law.

However, with SNAP benefits in hot water, there are other options for Louisiana residents, and ways to donate. Campus Cupboard, an on-campus facility at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in coordination with Second Harvest Food Bank, "is a resource for undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff who require short-term assistance meeting their food needs."

In an interview with The Vermilion, Kimberly Billeau, director of career services, said, "Here, everything's free for students. There's an allocated amount of how many items they can take... the qualifications go through the Second Harvest system, and that tells us how many items the student qualifies for."

She continued, "From fall 2024 through summer 2025 we had 755 individual students utilize the

cupboard... So far this semester, we're at 501 students."

Patricia Cottonham, vice president for student affairs, clarified that Campus Cupboard does not operate through SNAP, so the University's food service policies will likely remain unchanged.

However, Billeau noted that, "If we see that the shelves are getting bare...we're going to do more outreach to our campus and community to try to get more donations."

Billeau also called attention to Campus Cupboard's "Thanks For Giving Food Drive," which began Nov. 1 and will continue through the month. All students received an email about the event on Nov. 4. Students can also volunteer at any time of the year by emailing career@louisiana.edu.

Cottonham spotlighted that the "Thanks For Giving Food Drive" is dedicated to Dean Margarita Perez, who co-established Campus Cupboard. She continued, "We're hoping that a lot of student organizations and faculty and staff will respond by being generous with food items this year in her name."

Cottonham added that she would "like to thank the students. I'd like to thank the faculty... I think that our community understands what a wonderful campus we have, you know, and that students are doing the right thing by being here."

Other independent establishments in the area have opened doors to those who may be struggling.

Chicken Salad Chick, a chain restaurant with a location on Saloom Farm Rd., posted a statement on Facebook on Oct. 29 that, "We do not intend to take sides or make this offer political - we simply believe that no child should go hungry. Starting today, any child who visits this location will receive a free Kid's Meal until SNAP benefits are restored in Louisiana."



Graphic by Remaya Bell

Health

Louisiana whooping cough surge

Reese Provost
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to the Centers for Disease Control, as of writing this article, the state of Louisiana has reported 387 cases of whooping cough since the beginning of the year, which is the worst the amount of cases there have been in 35 years. Amongst these statistics, there have been two infant deaths due to this disease.

Whooping cough is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. The bacteria attaches to the cells lining the upper respiratory tract. Symptoms can take anywhere between five days and three weeks to develop. Early symptoms resemble that of a common cold, including runny nose, low-grade fever and mild cough.

Babies who are afflicted may not cough, but lack the ability to breathe altogether.

Later symptoms of infection include long and frequent coughing fits, vomiting, losing energy and not being able to sleep due to these fits. Infection with whooping cough can also leave an individual vulnerable to other respiratory infections.

Whooping cough is usually treated with antibiotics, but more severe cases should be brought to a hospital. There is also a vaccine available for this disease.

Not only have the cases reached a new high in the past 35 years, Louisiana officials have not been vocal about the recent outbreak. Typically, when an outbreak like this occurs, the state's government will notify healthcare providers across the state of the surge in cases.

The infants that died as a result of whooping cough passed in late January. The Louisiana Department of Health waited until March to suggest via a social media post that citizens get vaccinated, and until May to issue a

health alert or release any information on an outbreak to Louisiana physicians.

Some believe that cases could have been prevented if it weren't for the Department of Health's negligence. Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, stated, "Particularly for these childhood diseases, we usually jump all over these. These are preventable diseases and preventable deaths."

With no further warnings from the state, cases continued to climb over the summer, and are continuing to climb in the fall months. Officials studying infectious diseases have shown concern for this negligence towards the rising numbers.

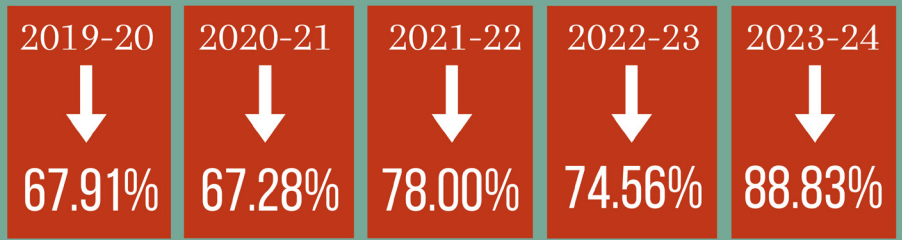
In regards to disease avoidance, Abraar Karan, an infectious diseases instructor at Stanford University, stated, "At minimum, it should be like heavy promotion of, 'Hey, infants are at high risk. They get infected by people who have waning immunity. If you haven't gotten vaccinated, get vaccinated. If you have these symptoms, get tested.'" Time spent without warning of the disease is time wasted that could have been used to prevent cases from occurring.

Even with vaccination, babies are the most prone to the disease due to their underdeveloped immune systems and inability to receive the vaccine. These reasons are why it is important for the community to be notified of an outbreak so that they can give more care and attention to their infants.

Whooping cough is currently a highly infectious disease here in Louisiana. It is very important that health care providers notify and are notified of the increasing numbers not just for this outbreak, but for any outbreak. If an individual thinks they are afflicted with whooping cough, they should seek medical care immediately, and should avoid people with weaker immune systems, such as infants.

The More You Know

ACCEPTANCE RATES (2019-2024)



AVERAGE RETENTION RATES (2007-PRESENT)

For full-time, degree-seeking first-time freshman who stay enrolled at the University come next fall.



AVERAGE GRADUATION RATE (2007-PRESENT)



* THE FIRST SECTION COMES FROM COLLEGETUTIONCOMPARE.COM. THE OTHERS ARE FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH.

COMPILED BY CAITLYN COMEAUX

THE VERMILION

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SUBMISSIONS

All letters to the editor and guest editorials must include the author's full name and phone number and be no longer than 400 words in length. Submissions are edited for libel and vulgarity only. Editorial and columns reflect the author's opinion and not those of The Vermilion staff. All advertisements must be submitted by the Friday before publication at thevermilion@louisiana.edu.

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Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 10

INSTRUCTIONS

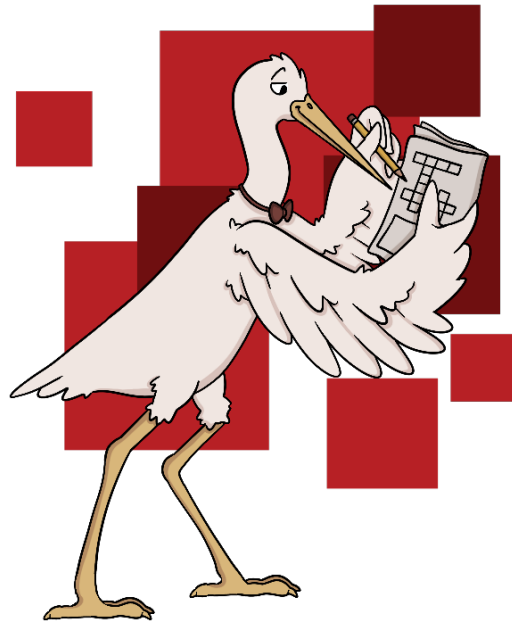
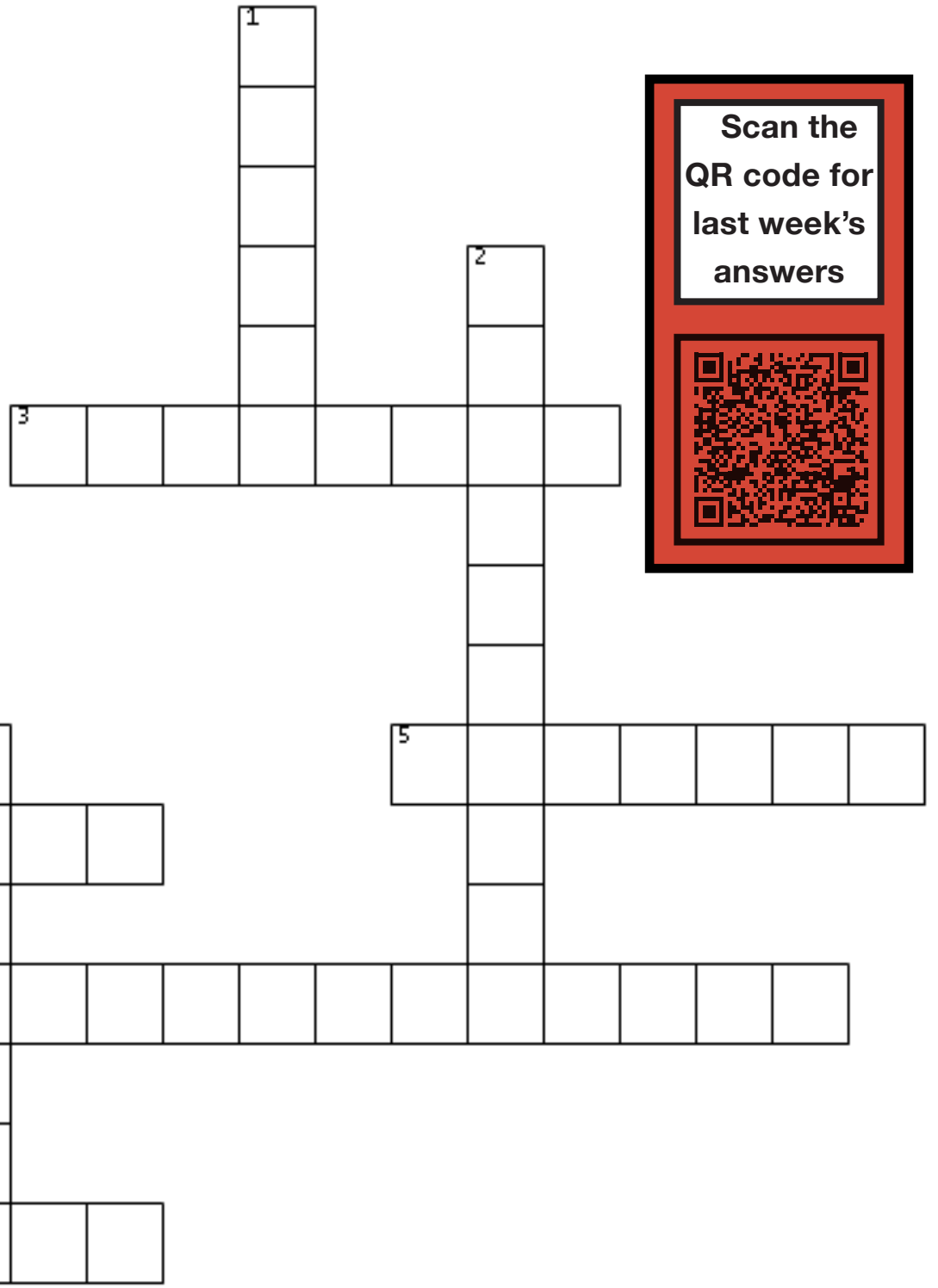
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- The meaning of partnership and womanhood is ___?
- Where did Bryan Breese play in college?
- What is the acronym for "Avatar: The Last Airbender"?
- What position for arts graduate students has been downsized already?
- The chef at Acadian Superette is named Don ____.

DOWN

- Cajuns wide receiver with two touchdowns (last name).
- In January 2022, a truck towing a trailer of 100 ___ macaque monkeys collided with a dump truck on a Pennsylvania highway.
- What did the University launch this month?



Cajun Candids Men's Basketball

Photos by Alyus Dick



Sports

Post-game brawl caps Cajuns victory over Texas State, 42–39

Jake Allelo

SPORTS WRITER

In 13 meetings with Texas State, the Ragin' Cajuns have yet to lose a game to the Bobcats. Heading into this latest match, the Cajuns were 3–6, with a 2–3 record in the Sun Belt Conference, and the Bobcats were 3–5, with a 0–4 Sun Belt record.

Early in the first quarter, the Bobcats showed lightning fast snaps, but a resolute Cajuns defense kept them to a quiet beginning. Off of that effort, Zylan Perry was able to get a first down after a scrum where he was hit at the Texas State 48-yard line, and pushed all the way to the 33-yard line.

Perry's effort, paired with a first down from his fellow running back, Bill Davis, put quarterback Lunch Winfield in position to throw a bullseye to wide receiver Shelton Sampson Jr., for a touchdown with eight minutes, six seconds left in the first.

The Bobcats were unable to respond with a touchdown, so with four minutes, 45 seconds in the first, the Bobcats kicked a field goal to bring the score to 7–3.

After the Cajuns were forced to punt, Texas State quarterback Brad Jackson handed the ball off to running back Lincoln Pare, who was able to run right down the middle of the Cajuns for a touchdown, making it 7–10 with 27 seconds left.

On the kick return, Cajuns' wide receiver Robert Williams had a scary hit with Bobcat linebacker Chantz Johnson, which left the Cajuns at their six-yard line.

Consecutive first down passes to Landon Strother and Sampson Jr. put Winfield in position to throw a 27-yard touchdown pass to tight end Caden Jenson, which, after the extra point, brought the score to 14–10 with 11 minutes, 24 seconds in the second quarter.

To follow that up, safety Kody Jackson

picked up an interception to put the Cajuns back in a scoring position. Davis, once again, lived up to his nickname of the "Billdozer," as he refused to be denied at the 13-yard line, running in another Cajuns touchdown.

With the score 21–10, Cajuns offensive linebacker Cameron Whitfield recovered a Texas State fumble. Where, after a handoff to Perry, an endzone catch by Sampson Jr. was called incomplete, however, the call was overturned and wide receiver was awarded his second touchdown of the night.

In response, the Bobcats threw a bomb sideline pass to wide receiver Beau Sparks, placing them at the 24-yard line, where tight end Titus Lyons scored a touchdown, making it 28–17 with four minutes, 26 seconds in the second quarter.

Not to be outdone, Winfield ran in his own touchdown, with help from Perry, Davis, Trey Miller and offsetting personal foul calls. With 21 seconds left in the first half, the Cajuns were winning 35–17.

The second half, unfortunately, proved to be a much scrappier one than the first. After sustained runs by the Cajuns running back duo, Texas State snagged an interception which ultimately led to no points and turnover on downs.

The Cajuns, however, would also be forced to punt after the Bobcat defense smothered the runs of Perry and Winfield.

Texas State rebounded with a 40-yard dart to wide receiver Chris Dawn Jr., but after a subsequent offensive pass interference call, hard-hitting defense by Courtline Flowers and a tipped pass, Texas State had to settle with a kick, bringing the score to 35–20 with two minutes, 57 seconds in the third quarter.

Once the Cajuns recovered an attempted onside kick, Davis crossed the 50-yard line, and then a pattern of Texas State penalties truly began, as the Bobcats got a personal foul call for a facemask on Winfield.

Then, to begin the fourth quarter, in back-to-back plays there was an offside call and another facemask on the Bobcats. Those gave the Cajuns enough opportunity for Winfield to run it in again for a touchdown, making it 42–20 with 13 minutes, two seconds left in the second half.

Texas State then put together an impressive last stitch effort, starting with a flea flicker trick play to make the score 42–26, however they could make the two-point conversion, as the ball bounced off of the crossbar. Then off of a fumble from Jenson, the Bobcats hit another flea flicker, but Jackson tripped and fell on the two-point conversion.

With the score 42–32 with eight minutes left, the Cajuns found themselves disjointed, while the Bobcats looked more energized than ever. After the Cajuns had to punt, Jackson got multiple first downs off of Pare, and then threw a touchdown to Dawn Jr., making it 42–39 with three minutes left.

A crucial personal foul call on the Bobcats kept the Cajuns hopes of

preventing a comeback alive. That call was followed by multiple penalties. First, an offside and pass interference call in the same down put the Cajuns at the 49-yard line, then another offside call put them at the 44, a final offside put them at the 39.

After a first down by Winfield and ensuing victory formation, things began to turn ugly as a scuffle between the teams began, evolving into a full blown melee during post-game handshakes.

The Bobcats walked away with two losses that night, as a chorus of boos provided a soundtrack to their retreat back to San Marcos.

For the Cajuns, this game was to keep bowl-eligibility on the table, and for Texas State, this game was a chance to finally beat Louisiana in Sun Belt play, as the 2025-26 marks the Bobcats' swan song season in the conference. Following the conclusion of this season, Texas State will make a move to the Pac-12 Conference.

If they wanted to fight, they should've won. Geaux Cajuns and so long Bobcats.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Shelton Sampson Jr. (6) comes down with a receiving touchdown against the Texas State Bobcats Nov. 9.

The tank rolls onward for the Saints

Charles Martin

SPORTS EDITOR

Going into the season, the New Orleans Saints were expected to perform poorly, so poorly that ESPN predicted that they would be the worst team in the NFL. So far that prediction has stood to be correct, as through the first nine weeks of the season the Saints are 1–8, and currently hold the first overall pick in the 2026 draft.

That was to be expected of a team that is finally beginning a proper rebuild after the departure of both Drew Brees and Sean Payton. The poorly planned Denis Allen and Derek Carr era went nowhere and doubled down on the need to rebuild.

This is not a total rebuild, as most teams in similar situations to the Saints would have fired their general manager along with their former head coach.

While Allen might have gotten the boot, long time GM Mickey Loomis is still with the team, with this being year 23 since he took over the position in 2002.

In place of the defensive-minded Allen, the organization decided to bring in a young, offensive-minded, players coach. They hired former Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Kellen Moore fresh off a dominant win in Super Bowl LIX.

Moore had been an OC since 2019, taking over the job from the Dallas Cowboys before becoming the Los Angeles Chargers OC in 2023, then taking the Eagles job for the 2024 season. He is currently the youngest head coach in the league at age 37 and was picked up to reinvigorate an otherwise stale offense.

With him he brought Doug Nussmier to be his OC and Brandon Staley to be his defensive coordinator. Interestingly,

Staley was the head coach for the Chargers when Moore was the OC.

Going into the season, the plan was to see what sophomore quarterback Spencer Rattler could do with a fully healthy team around him, as he spent much of his rookie year playing behind a battered offensive line and no receivers.

What was odd about this plan was the selection of Louisville quarterback Tyler Shough in the second round of the 2025 Draft. What makes the pick even stranger was that Shough was 25 at the time of the draft, and would be 26 at the start of the season.

Rattler showed flashes in his eight starts, making an occasional good play to wow fans. Yet despite decent play, the team was failing to score, with the Saints scoring 31 out of 32 for offense in the league through his eight weeks startings.

The decision was made following the Saints embarrassing loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 23–3, that saw Rattler throw an interception and fumble, to bench Rattler for Shough.

Shough's first start was poorly timed, as he would be asked to play against the Los Angeles Rams on the road. The game went poorly, and not just for Shough. In the 34–10 loss, the Saints only managed to hold possession for 16 minutes, seven seconds. Shough finished the game with 176 yards, one touchdown in garbage time and an interception.

The age is finally starting to show in some players as well. Safety Tyrann Mathieu retired before the start of the season. Cam Jordan and Demario Davis, both well into their 30s, are nearing the end of their careers.

Davis though is still proving to be able to play at a high level despite his age as he is on pace for his ninth straight 100+ tackle season.

Where the aging has been most prevalent is in pro-bowl running back Alvin Kamara. At age 30, this season

has really begun to show his age. He is moving slower than ever, failing to evade tacklers and losing the balance he had for his entire life.

Then what about the younger players the Saints have? Well, things do not look too good on that front either.

While the Saints have added some good players over the past few seasons in the draft, they have not really filled in the holes that the Saints have.

Bryan Breese was taken in round one by the Saints back in 2025 out of Clemson. The hope was he could replace some of the fallen off production of Jordan while also reinforcing the porous run defense.

In the three seasons that Breese has played, he has looked great when rushing the passer and has even notched a blocked, what would have been a game winning, field goal. Yet he has been abysmal in the run game, he fails to fill up holes and can not seem to tackle running backs that run up his gap assignment.

The 2024 first-round tackle Talise Fuaga has been a great addition to the O-line. As a rookie he played at a nearly pro-bowl level and continued his good play going into 2025 before an ankle injury sidelined him.

Chris Olave has been the best player on offense since he was drafted in 2022, yet he has been dealing with injuries that have kept him sidelined. Many of those injuries were from hits to his head, many of them scary to see on field.

So far this season he has been performing well, racking up 560 yards on 55 catches through nine weeks, though he has dropped a number of crucial passes during games.

The Saints have, in preparation for a bigger rebuild, shipped off Rashid Shaheed and Trevor Penning in return for a handful of midround picks, which is just what the Saints need going into the 2026 draft.



Graphic by Ellie Schmidt

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Allons

Social media is the issue not your boyfriend, probably...

Kay Padilla
OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER

Recently, there has been a debate on social media around a particular Vogue article, "Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?" by Chanté Joseph.

The article discusses how women's online behavior towards sharing their romantic relationships have changed. As an avid netizen who is brand new to the dating scene, I have a few comments of my own.

The article speaks on how social media rewards women for centering their identities around their boyfriends, dubbing it "Boyfriend Land," and that having and posting about a partner was seen as a social achievement.

To which I agreed. I grew up in the era of social media, where "#couplegoals" was popular. I would spend countless hours scrolling through my favorite celebrities' pages and seeing how picture-perfect their boyfriends were.

As a middle schooler, I would see my

friends excited to post on "Man Crush Mondays" and show off their new beau.

However, as social media became more and more ingrained in our daily lives, posting a boyfriend became more like showing a prized possession, at least in my high school. The world was very boy-centered; whoever had the "hottest" boy's jersey, sweater or was their date to homecoming was essentially hailed as the "queen bee."

As we got older and high school became more of a contest of who was the most popular girl dating the most popular boy of the time, I started to dislike relationships. All the girls would view the guys as social media trophies. It felt very transactional.

Joseph's article mentions that many women are pulling back, sharing subtle hints of relationships instead of full "hard launches."

To those of you who do not know what a "hard launch" is, it is when you post a picture of your significant other for all of your followers to see. That's it.

A new term and phenomenon that

I have been seeing on social media is called "soft launches." Which, as you can deduce, is the opposite of "hard launches." They can be a picture of your significant other's hand, or an image of two coffee cups on a table instead of one. Basically, softly launching that you have a boyfriend without plastering their face on your socials and feeding him to the wolves.

By wolves, I am referring to the fear that some netizens have that if they post their boyfriend, it would signal to others that he may be for the taking. Again, dating on social media, to me, seems like a hellscape.

For those who are not young people on social media, dating through social media has its own rules. For example, if you "like" someone's Instagram story, that is apparently flirting. If you comment on someone's post and compliment them, that is also flirting.

It's stupid. If you haven't pieced it together, I heavily dislike social media as a tool for dating.

Many people avoid posting their

boyfriend out of superstition, fear of the "evil eye," or maybe to avoid embarrassment.

The meaning of a partnership and womanhood is changing. Is having a boyfriend embarrassing?

Online culture mocks heterosexuality, deeming it lame and "Republican-like". Another sentiment referenced in Joseph's article is that "Boyfriends are out of style. They won't come back in until they start acting right."

In my opinion, I think we all need to get off social media. This fear and dislike of boyfriends stems from centering our lives around social media.

You see too much "boyfriend" content because the algorithm pushed it onto your feed, and influencers make that content because it makes them money.

Years and years of conditioning social media users to post their picture perfect versions of their lives has led to this question that Joseph has tried to answer. Humans liked to be viewed highly, it's how our brain works. The more likes, views, comments etc., the better you think of yourself.

I think another aspect of this question is, men and women alike are on social media. Men and women engage in these online behaviors equally.

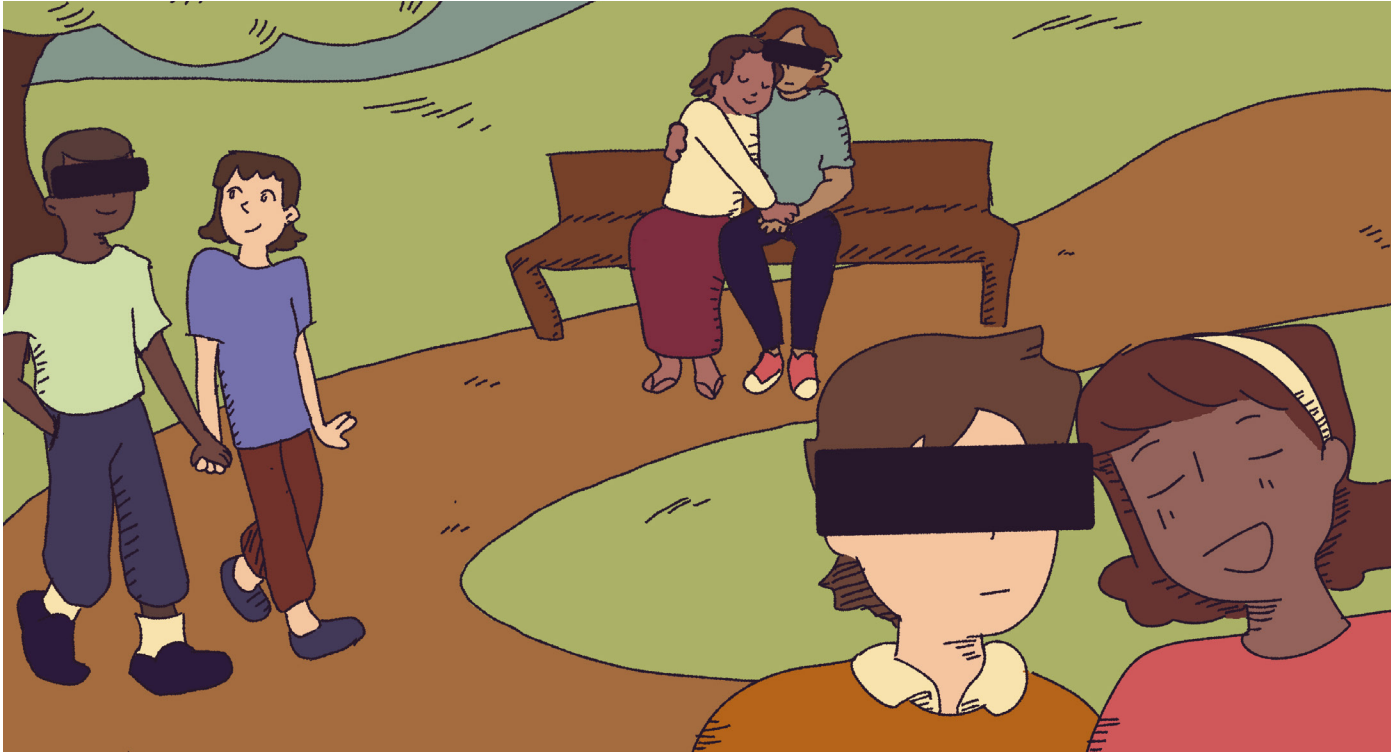
When talking about online heterosexual relationships, I don't think it's a "boyfriend" problem. I think it's a societal problem.

I feel like it's placing blame on others instead of looking within ourselves. If you are dating a man that doesn't treat you right, it's most likely a problem within himself, not in the comments sections of your posts.

Having a boyfriend is only embarrassing because we let netizens dictate our feelings.

Social media rewards women for having a boyfriend and punishes women for having a boyfriend. The embarrassing aspect isn't having a boyfriend, it's letting other people tell you how you should live your life.

Don't want your relationship online? Delete your social media and start a scrapbook.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

Water, earth, fire, air and orchestra: Reviewing the ATLA live concert

Ja'lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

Words cannot begin to explain the masterpiece that was displayed in the "Avatar: The Last Airbender" (ATLA) live concert. On Thursday, Oct. 23, Lafayette was given the privilege of hosting the show in their very own Heymann Performing Arts Center.

Unfortunately, at first I was not able to attend, but knowing my love for the show, I made sure to see it the next day, even though that meant I had to drive all the way to New Orleans.

Created in 2005, "Avatar: The Last Airbender" is an American animated television show loved by many generations. As a little girl, I remember watching episode after episode of "Avatar: The Last Airbender" airing on TV.

As a child, I was obsessed with it and everything it had to offer. However, there

was a point in time where it kind of just stopped being televised, and frankly, I didn't really put much thought into it at the time. Life went on, and I forgot about the show's existence, continuing to go about life.

It wasn't until May of 2020 that ATLA was released on Netflix. After years of never even thinking about the show, my mind was transported back to a space of peace—a time when nothing else mattered in the world—evoking a sense of true nostalgia.

Though it seemed like it never truly resonated with me, once seeing it again, I realized how much it had actually shaped me.

Watching it again for what felt like the first time had blown me away. I truly had seen this show for the beauty it encompasses, living in such a prestigious cinematic experience.

Since then, I have probably rewatched

the show about 13 times, and I say this with no exaggeration. So once I heard about the live concert happening, I didn't care when or where; I knew I was going to be there.

The lights dimmed, the stage was lit and people were crowded in the rows. It was finally time for the show to start. I sat down in my seat, viewing the empty stage, yet to be filled by the musicians who were going to take over.

Oh, how the excitement was anticipated in my chest. Once the moment came and the first string of the violin was played, everything started to sink in.

The concert consisted of music from each season of the show, capturing key scenes, expressing such clarity and cohesiveness.

The very first thing to be played was, of course, the introduction to the show. The iconic "Water, earth, fire, air" monologue

was given by one of the main characters, Katara. It only took a few seconds before I became fully immersed in the setting after that.

Once I heard the vocals, along with all the instruments, I was actively amazed.

A part of me felt disoriented from the world, as if life around me had paused while I lived in this moment of harmonious disorder.

The orchestra consisted of musical devices spreading across the world. Creating such a rich and fulfilling sound that I've never been introduced to before. Music wasn't just played, but stories were told and emotions were met.

I won't lie, there were times when I was expecting the music to be decent and nothing more.

Yet, song after song, I found myself immersed in the sounds, drawn purely to the artists and how they showcased their talents.

It all was stunning. When it comes to a live orchestra, something strikes you differently compared to listening to music on a device. Watching other people create harmonies right in front of you alters your brain in a mesmerizing way. I couldn't help but feel this sense of satisfaction along with a tension of what's next, how could they top this one?

Orchestra is all about establishing intricate detail, along with organized chaos, to disperse a series of sounds. Finding each note, each chord and playing it with such unity.

In a room where layers of instruments are speaking out, they manage to become one, creating the pleasing gift of music that we have the privilege of enjoying.

As my first live orchestra experience, I don't think I could ever forget it. If you have the ability to do so, I strongly encourage you to see "Avatar: The Last Airbender" live in concert. Whether you're a fan or not, you will not be able to deny the beauty articulated in such a performance.



Graphic by Charlotte Alexander

Beaucoup

Majors and minors?

The Beaucoup section writes about what majors or minors they would like to see added to the University's roster.



Graphic by Ray Bardales

Kay Padilla

OFFICE OPERATIONS MANAGER

When I was looking into colleges I would have loved for UL Lafayette to have a degree in meteorology. In my heart of hearts, I want to be a tornado chaser. I love storms, hurricanes, tornadoes and learning everything about atmospheric science.

I was very jealous when LSU announced that they added a bachelor of science in coastal meteorology. I understand the field is not as lucrative as

it could be, but it would make sense given our region.

We live in southern Louisiana where hurricanes and weather phenomena get more intense every year. We need to educate more people on how to predict the unpredictable.

I would also love for us to have Cajun French. We need to preserve our dying languages and cultures, and what better school to do it if not the Ragin' Cajuns. I'm positive students would want to major or minor in that, especially if they were never taught it as children.

Kayla Woods-Crane

MANAGING EDITOR

When I read the topic for this week's Beaucoup, I won't lie, I was a little stumped. What majors or minors should the University implement? Then, I thought of this recent video I saw of a UCLA student doing a full blown concert performance for a class. I thought the video was so cool because the student had a pop-star level performance with backup dancers, a band and fancy lighting.

This discovery has prompted me

to advocate for a music performance major at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Wouldn't it be cool if music students could learn how to put on an engaging musical performance? Getting familiar with the lights, the dancers and crowd work are all super important if someone wants to be an artist. I'm not sure of the success rates of the students at UCLA in the actual music business, but I think that would be so interesting. I imagine the University could produce some good musical talent and some great performers.

Nyria Mustiful

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I think that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette would benefit from adding interpersonal communication as a major.

The communications department at the University is pretty expansive already, but I think adding this major would provide more help to students in that department. Learning how to relate to others and have respectful, productive conversations is a key skill that could assist anyone.

There are many fields this major can benefit as well. Some of them include public relations, human resources, political campaigning and recruitment. Interpersonal communication is one of the less-valued concentrations within communication, which is odd to me, because I feel that it's arguably one of the most valuable.

From my internship class this semester, one thing I learned is that most people who have issues within the workplace don't struggle with producing quality work, but with interpersonal interactions.

Jenna Kimball

NEWS WRITER

I think that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has a very good variety of majors and minors that they offer for the students.

One thing that I definitely think they should implement is a music education minor. I know that they do offer an arts/music education major, but I think it would be very interesting to be able to

take those courses as a minor, while still being able to do biology or architecture or whatever a student's major is.

I am a psychology pre-med major so I am required to have a minor in chemistry, however if I had the choice to minor in something different, it would definitely be something in music. Personally, I believe that learning a bit about music is something that could benefit any student, no matter what they want to do for a career in the future.

Food Review

Simple, smoky and satisfying: Acadian Superette experience

Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 600 Lamar St., Acadian Superette is a barbecue restaurant in the Freetown area that serves a variety of sandwiches, smoked meats, burgers, salads, fries and other sides. Lafayette locals have always been loyal to this lunch establishment due to its fresh, good food and fantastic service.

Their menu consists of an assortment of smoked meats in the smokehouse section, which includes pay by the pound, brisket, cochon, St. Louis style ribs, chicken legs and thighs, smoked sausage and smoked boudin. This section of the menu also consists of the choice of one meat, two meats or three meat plates with two sides, house BBQ sauce, toast and pickled onions.

The other sections of the menu are the salad, burger, specialties and fries and sides. Their salads include the Smoked Chicken Cobb and the Garden Salad with chicken, while their burgers include The Don and BBQ. Naming all of their specialty sandwiches will prove to be difficult, so I will feature only a few.

Some of their popular sandwiches include the Pork Belly Bahn Mi sandwich, which contains spiced pork belly, cucumber, cilantro, pickled carrot, jalapeno mayo and hoisin vinaigrette on grilled French bread. The Superette

Melt contains chopped brisket, grilled onions, bacon and American cheese on grilled Texas toast. The Ragin' Cajun consists of smoked sausage, boudin, grilled onions, jalapenos, pepper jack, mayo and mustard on grilled French bread.

This restaurant building was first opened in the 1950s as a grocery store. Then, in the early 1990s, Lynn Derenthal took ownership of the building and transformed it into the restaurant it is known as today. In 2017, the business was taken over by Dr. Robert Autin, a Lafayette native and surgeon. He made some changes to the menu, focusing on in-house cooked meats and barbecue, and made some renovations to the restaurant.

With so many types of meat, this establishment must source its food from a supplier that keeps all its supplies fresh and delivers them quickly.

They source all of their food from the Performance Food Group, which includes their meats, potatoes and vegetables.

The atmosphere of this restaurant felt similar to a smokehouse, which was the whole point. The concrete floors and old-fashioned wallpaper gave the place an older, yet relaxing, feel. There was a full view of the kitchen area, where they cut their meats, potatoes or prepared their special seasonings/sauces.

My colleague and I had the pleasure

of visiting this famous Lafayette lunch establishment on Tuesday, Nov. 4. As we walked in, we were greeted by several employees behind the counter. We then walked up and began browsing the menu to place our order at the register.

The menu, as I mentioned above, features several different renditions of sandwiches, meats, burgers and salads. After reviewing all the sections, I finally decided to order the Smoked Chicken Club with a side of Garlic Parm Fries, while my colleague also opted for the chicken sandwich.

After we ordered, we chose to sit at the bar area next to the window, as it was a beautiful day. It wasn't long before our food arrived, about 10 minutes, and we began to dig in.

Our Smoked Chicken clubs tasted absolutely delicious. It was perfectly seasoned, with smoky notes complementing the chicken. The addition of the bacon, fresh tomato and lettuce and honey mustard made each bite so worth it.

The Garlic Parm Fries were equally as impressive and well-seasoned. The garlic complemented the parmesan very well and the fries tasted as if they were fresh out of the fryer.

After we finished our meals, I decided to sit down and interview the chef, Don Green. "I've been working here five years in March. It's been awesome. We basically kind of reinvented the store

the way we came to market. This was a corner store at one point that did plate lunches and breakfast... and now we've kind of turned into what we are now, which is like a barbecue smokehouse and specialty type sandwiches... so it's been really fun changing the menus."

Green also stated, "The environment here is really laid back, and it is kind of a representation of Downtown/Freetown. So we get the best of both vibes. With us being an older building, we bring in an older generation of people... I think the older clientele likes it for what it is, and then the younger clientele appreciates the modern twist on food. We make a lot of things in-house, you know, pretty much 95% of the food is made from scratch."

"So Lafayette, I think, hangs their hats on being a foodie town, and I would like to put myself up there with the more innovative and creative types of places... I think we stick out because we do a lot of these things in-house... and as a foodie, if you appreciate good food and the extra time it takes for a certain dish to be prepared, then you're really going to like us, because we do spend that extra time. We are doing some things that maybe other places aren't doing," Green explained.

If you would like to visit this restaurant, it is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed on Sundays and Mondays.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt

Exterior of building (Left); Garlic Parm Fries (Middle); Smoked Chicken Club (Right)

SOUNDING OFF

"How many times have you changed your major and what did you start off as?"



Nathan Sternaman
ECONOMICS JUNIOR

"I haven't changed my major."



Zriah Buggs
HEALTH INFO MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN

"I haven't changed my major."



Jayla Phillips
POLITICAL SCIENCE FRESHMAN

"I haven't changed my major yet, and I am still a political science major."



Julia Mullican
SPEECH PATHOLOGY FRESHMAN

"Zero."



Christian Wynne
GENERAL STUDIES BUSINESS SENIOR

"I changed my major about three, maybe four times. I started out in engineering, specifically electrical."



Khyla Washington
BIOLOGY FRESHMAN

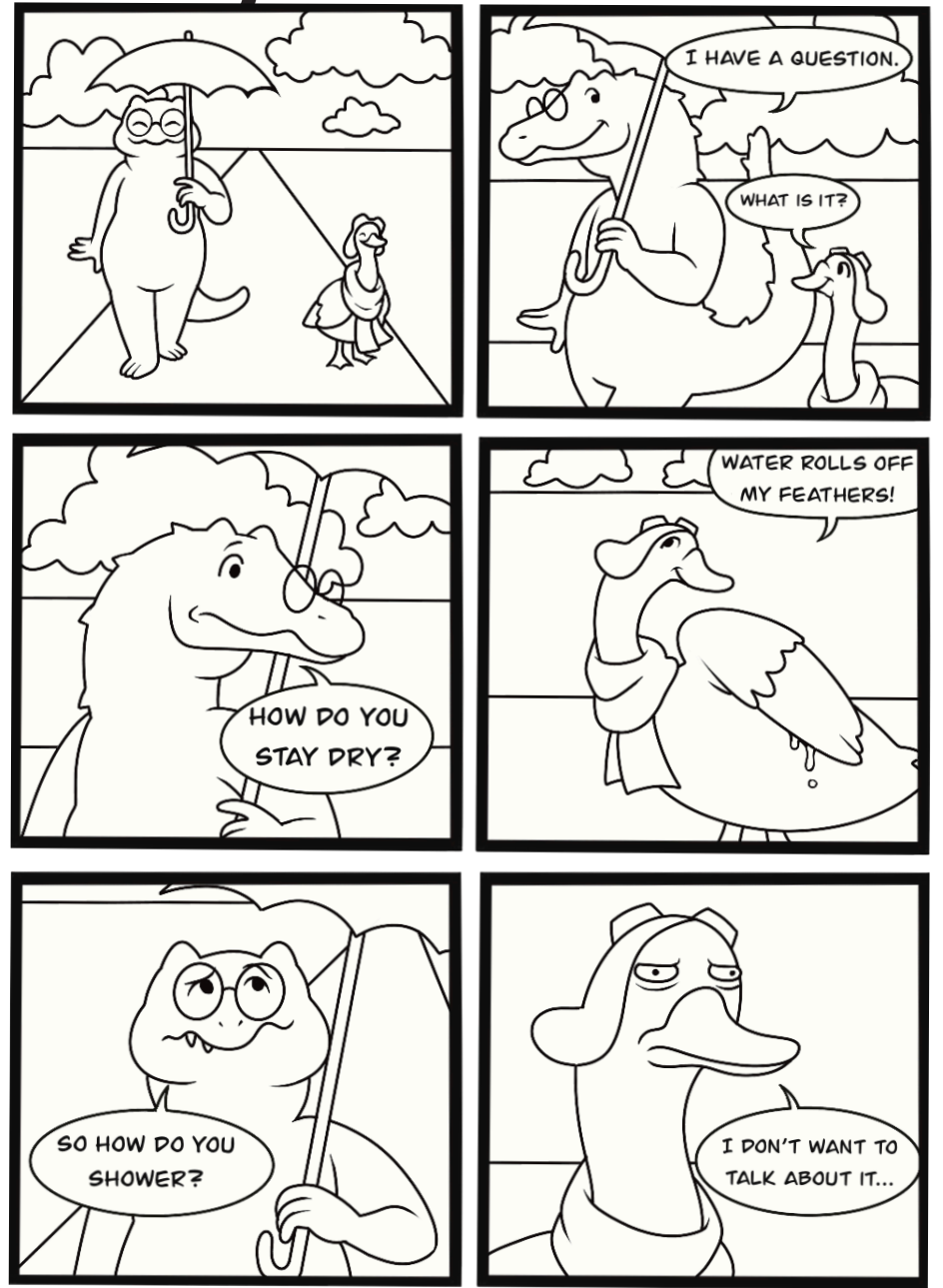
"Zero."

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

Ducky Bath



Comic by Lauren Gerald

FALL CRAWL
MARKET CHARITY EVENT
NOVEMBER 23, 2025
11AM-4PM

GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
UL STUDENT ADMISSION \$3
HOSA MEMBERS FREE

At Girard Park

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