

THE VERMILLION

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University in support of SpaceX for launching Starbase Louisiana

Joann Seow
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Currently causing a rift between the Acadiana community and the government, the arrival of SpaceX in Louisiana has the nation talking. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette, being the closest higher education institution in proximity to where Starbase Louisiana will be situated, is inevitably capitalizing on this opportunity.

On Aug. 25, the same day that SpaceX made their announcement of Starbase Louisiana at an invite-only event in Abbeville, the University published a message titled “Boldly Geaux.” This expressed the University’s full support toward SpaceX, noting the impact that Starbase Louisiana will have on their research potential, academic programs and job prospects for students.

It must be acknowledged that this will bring incredible opportunities for graduates of the University. Speaking to University President Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, he said that the increased job prospects brought about by Starbase Louisiana will be a chance for graduates to stay in Louisiana.

Kolluru said, “Those that we educate in Louisiana stay in Louisiana, contribute to the growth of our economy, contribute to the growth of our communities, and that is exactly what SpaceX, the arrival of SpaceX and the announcement that they have recently made creates as an opportunity.”

Furthermore, this has been a chance for the University to revamp curriculums to align with the skills students should build to work towards the opportunities Starbase Louisiana will open up.

Garth Likens, program manager of the Cajun Advanced Picosatellite Experiment (CAPE) under the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, shared that the University is planning to introduce an aerospace engineering concentration, likely to be effective Fall 2027.

According to Likens, aerospace engineering has been on the table for

awhile, and the arrival of SpaceX pushed the University to make it a priority in order to align with the current circumstances.

“It is my goal to connect as many of those jobs to our graduates from this university and make sure that the curriculum that we have prepares our students for jobs at SpaceX,” Kolluru said.

For Daniel Daspit, a sophomore in electrical engineering who is part of the CAPE program, the construction of Starbase Louisiana will be completed around the time that he expects to graduate, which will open up doors for him. “It’ll give me better opportunities and stuff to let me actually stay in Louisiana instead of moving somewhere else like Texas,” Daspit said.

Likens said that opportunities in the aerospace industry have always seemed out of reach. “Up until now, it’s been NASA or some... foreign agency making it to space that we’re not... authorized to hear about.”

“All of a sudden, SpaceX is here in our backyard, so it’s super exciting,” he said.

Starbase Louisiana will also boost the University’s research potential, adding to their contributions to space exploration.

Likens said, “We’ve been doing space for 23 years in here, out of this laboratory, and so it gives us more momentum than we had before.”

Through the CAPE program and the Nick Pugh Aerospace Electronics Research Laboratory, the University has launched three satellites since the first one in 2007, and are developing their fourth.

There is also the ongoing CAPE-Twigg’s CubeSat project, in which CAPE aims to partner with 20 high schools across the state, the primary mission being called the High School Slimsat Space Initiative 26 (HSSSI 26).

Ava Grace Man, a senior in broadcasting, acknowledges the impact of Starbase Louisiana on the education and careers for students who have a passion for aerospace and engineering.

“I think that this could be a great advancement for those kids because that

means that they might have a chance to stay here and work here, and that is something that cannot be disregarded,” Man said. Although, the way that the deal was made and the impacts on the local community and environment cannot be overlooked.

“Outside of UL, the reason why so many people are... aggravated, and we’re unpleasantly surprised by the whole thing, was because it feels like a cop-out... our state sold us out, and that’s how people feel,” Man explained.

Taking the University’s struggle with a financial deficit in the past year into consideration, Man expressed her thoughts on the University’s “Boldly Geaux” message.

“I just think that... they rushed into trying to cultivate this energy without building the trust back from the students. I think there’s just a bit of a disconnect between... how the population of our school feels versus the corporate people who are pulling the strings behind the scenes.”

For Man, she feels the most strongly about the environmental impacts of Starbase Louisiana, the implications

of it being located between two nature reservations, where there are huge populations of fish, migratory birds, other wildlife and plant species.

“I grew up on the river every weekend. I grew up in Mandeville, and it’s just like that area. It’s... the bayou, and I grew up fishing, I grew up crabbing, I love hunting. There are so many things about the land that I just feel personally connected with my childhood because geographically it’s basically the same where I grew up.”

“If that was happening where I was growing up, I would be extremely devastated because of how beautiful it is out there.”

SpaceX has acknowledged the value of Louisiana’s coastal habitat, and announced plans to assist in coastal restoration efforts.

However, there are still many unanswered questions as to how exactly the project would strengthen coastal resilience and what the extent of the impact on the community would be.

These questions can only be answered with time, when construction of Starbase begins.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Daspit contributing to work for UL Lafayette's CAPE program

Recent law makes any possession of marijuana on campus a felony

Gabrielle Mouton
NEWS WRITER

Taking effect on Aug. 1, Act 305, originally House Bill 568, significantly increased the criminal penalties of marijuana possession and use on or near University property. This includes smoking, vaping or otherwise.

What once was a \$100 fine for possession has now grown to \$1,000 and jailtime of up to a year.

The purpose is to crack down on marijuana usage near schools and college campuses statewide.

Since its passing, there have been different reactions from universities like

Louisiana State University and LSU New Orleans. At the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, however, ULPD said the new law is not expected to have a significant effect on campus enforcement.

With campus drug law violations going down since 2023, Sgt. Lance Frederick said that it is not an issue the department sees as prevalent.

“It’s not an ongoing thing. When it takes up a majority of our call value, that’s when it would be an issue. But we’re not there.”

The most important takeaway Frederick thinks students should have is the enforcement of the 2,000 feet zone.

“If you go 2,000 feet and you’re not sure,”

he says, “Go another 1,000.”

The 2,000 feet zone extends beyond the boundaries of the University itself, specifically 2,000 feet from the property line. The Office of Residential Life is now at the risk of these penalties. The zoning includes most sorority and fraternity houses, dorms and apartments that encircle campus.

While there are students that are for the passing of the act, some wonder how this will affect those who use marijuana for medicinal purposes. The law specifically states that even medical marijuana can still land felony charges if smoked within the 2,000 feet vicinity.

Senior Brooklyn Money shared her concerns for what this could mean for students who struggle with chronic illnesses and disorders and have prescriptions for medical marijuana.

“I think it is unfair that a student may have to disregard their doctor’s treatment plan just so they don’t face law enforcement penalizing them just for where they live.” She elaborates that the law feels vague.

“I think not allowing it on a college campus is fine, but I also feel there should definitely be laws that elaborate... it’s so cut and dry.”

According to a University announcement email sent on Sept. 10, “Possessing a medical marijuana prescription does not permit its use on campus or within 2,000 feet of University

property.” University police strongly advise the usage of medicinal products only in the comfort of your home.

ULPD’s crime statistics reports show that most drug law violations occur either on campus or in residence halls. With the additional zoning being added, there may be concern if students live on campus in residencies or in apartments nearby.

Another student, sophomore Birdie Watson, described the law as “unconstitutional” in regards to the no-tolerance for medicinal products.

“It’s going to make students sneakier and more paranoid about their usage. They’re going to just have trouble using it in general, which is unfair when it’s a prescribed thing.”

Beyond all concerns, it is important to know the act and what it means to be in possession of marijuana near the new zones. Frederick believes that it will bring forth better regulations. “It was affecting someone, enough people to where a voice was heard, and they changed it [the law],” he said.

For UL Lafayette, students should be aware of the new zoning and, if in possession of medicinal products, to make sure to use them outside of the campus limits.

Additionally, if there is any confusion as to the regulations, students should access the ULPD website and their ULink for more information.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

Food Review

A HIDDEN GEM

Hideaway on Lee is a neighborhood American restaurant sat inside a 121-year-old house.

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A VALIANT EFFORT

The Ragin' Cajuns put up a fight over in California in a football game against the USC Trojans.

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Allons

WHAT DEFINES AN ADULT?

Allons writer Ja'lyn Braud talks about growing up without having two strong parental figures.

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Beaucoup

ON MY MIND, IN MY HEART

Beaucoup writers dote on some of their fondest memories they hope to never forget.

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Politics

The political maze behind SpaceX

Andrew Courville
NEWS WRITER

After months of anticipation, Gov. Jeff Landry announced on Aug. 25 in Abbeville that SpaceX will invest \$100 billion in Vermilion Parish to construct the world's largest Spaceport. The facility will contain five launchpads spread over 130,000 acres (about the size of Dallas or Chicago).

During his 15-minute speech, Landry said, "Today, Louisiana and SpaceX will give America the stars." SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell explained that the investment involves coastal protections and hopes to employ locals. The company plans to manufacture all the necessary resources in the United States rather than import them from abroad.

The Louisiana government has a long-term strategy to make Louisiana a desirable place for private industry investment. Louisiana Economic Development (LED) described on Aug. 25 that the state has "abundant natural gas... expansive acreage... and a Gulf Coast location." LED secretary Susan Bourgeois said that the investment is "an indisputable signal to the world that we are executing at the highest level and leading in the next generation of industry."

The project is expected to provide "3,000 direct new jobs over the next 10 years, paying an average annual salary of \$92,600," as well as "8,100 indirect new jobs." This combats Louisiana's "brain drain": where young college graduates migrate from Louisiana to states with better job opportunities.

Although the project has been confirmed, "Construction is expected to begin in 2027 with the first launch targeted to be as soon as 2029."

Local officials like Abbeville Mayor Anita Levy and District 3 Congressman Clay Higgins, as well as the Vermilion Parish Tourism Commission, acclaimed the investment.

SpaceX's decision to choose a rural marshland is not random. It will receive a 25-year property tax exemption, a

projected \$1.3 billion per year in return for its economic stimulation. It could total \$23.8 billion, the largest tax break in state and possibly national history.

In 2024, the South Texas Environmental Justice Network reported that SpaceX's Texas facilities disregarded community and ecological concerns by displacing residents, releasing methane gas, "spreading sound, light, and air pollution... cause debris, fire, smoke, release of hazardous fuels and vapors that damage nearby wildlife, habitats and the ocean," as well as wildfires and earthquake-like tremors.

This doesn't necessarily mean the same will happen with Louisiana's facility, although it's far larger. LED announced, "The company plans to partner with local conservation organizations and experts to identify opportunities to protect and enhance natural resources surrounding the site while working to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to Louisiana's wildlife and habitats."

In a Sept. 2 interview on the University's radio station, KRV5, host Dr. Philip de Mahy spoke with historian Jason Theriot, who has expansive knowledge of Southwest Louisiana's history.

Theriot describes a long history of investments in evolving conservation tactics and hunting clubs in the parish. The construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in the 1900s was the first major example of environmental alteration. Theriot's concluding question is how the land that SpaceX bought will be permanently changed.

In the coming years, one should consider how important the land's preservation is to the nearby population. How will SpaceX invest in key public service industries and coastal protection across Vermilion Parish? Can SpaceX be trusted to invest enough in the region to offset the tax exemptions? One should cautiously analyze projections about how this long-term project will harm or benefit Louisiana.

Food Review

Where the good times hideaway

Isabelle Brumley
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 407 Lee Ave., Hideaway on Lee is a local restaurant, cocktail bar and music venue specializing in American food, burgers, cocktails and live music. The restaurant combines food and entertainment in a historic house built in 1905, creating a unique experience for Lafayette residents and visitors.

The restaurant grew from the owners' backgrounds in the music industry. Co-owner David Livingston is an audio engineer; his wife worked in the music industry in London and business partner, Wilson Savoy, is a Grammy Award-winning musician. When Hideaway opened in 2020, they wanted to combine good food, a comfortable neighborhood atmosphere and live music.

Hideaway on Lee has a welcoming atmosphere, while the live music adds an energetic feel. With indoor and outdoor seating and stages for performances, Hideaway offers more than just a meal and calm ambience.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting Hideaway on Lee on Friday, Sept. 11. We ordered the tuna steak salad with ponzu, Clucked and Loaded, steak frites, truffle aioli and a brownie.

The tuna steak salad came with seared ahi tuna, seasonal greens, carrots, avocado, cucumbers, sesame seeds and cherry tomatoes, topped with ponzu sauce. The Clucked and Loaded featured

smoked chicken and bacon over hand-cut fries, topped with ranch and green onions. We also ordered steak frites, which included a flat iron steak and hand-cut fries tossed with garlic and herbs. To finish, we shared the brownie.

These meals offered a perfect mix of sweet and savory flavors. My favorite had to be the Clucked and Loaded, especially because Hideaway makes all of its sauces in-house, adding an extra layer of flavor to the dish. I interviewed Livingston, co-owner of Hideaway on Lee, who said the restaurant's combination of food and music is what makes it special. "We wanted to create a place where those two things could coexist," Livingston said. He added that the restaurant has become a gathering spot where people can make friends in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

The sense of community at Hideaway on Lee is especially apparent through its connection to Lafayette's music scene. Live music, food and drinks come together to create a place where people can gather and enjoy themselves.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Hideaway on Lee. The variety of food, drinks and music creates an atmosphere that makes the restaurant stand out in Lafayette.

If you would like to visit, they are open Wednesday through Sunday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday is from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday is from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt
Hideaway on Lee interior seating (Left); Tuna steak salad (Right)



Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

Sept. 12

- At 4:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to Coronna Hall in reference to a verbal argument between residents. Peace was restored and no arrests were made.

Sept. 11

- At 6:42 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Legacy Park Apartments in reference to a resident getting scammed through the GroupMe app.

Sept. 10

- At 8:07 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Olivier Parking Tower in reference to a parking lot car crash between a 2018 silver Mercedes ML and a 2016 silver Nissan Altima.

Sept. 9

- At 9:41 p.m, officers were dispatched to Huger Hall in reference to an injury complaint. The student was transported to Lafayette General by Acadian Ambulance.
- At 7:19 p.m., officers received a report of harassment. A referral was submitted to the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Sept. 8

- At 8:11 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Legacy Park Apartments in reference to a suspicious person. The person was removed from campus. No arrests were made.
- At 7:42 p.m., officers met with a subject who reported injuries that occurred earlier in the day involving another subject accidentally hitting them with a scooter near Hamilton Hall.
- At 1:40 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Rose Garden in reference to a fight in progress between two individuals. Acadian Ambulance was requested for minor injuries. The two individuals were arrested and booked into the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center.

Sept. 7

- At 10:09 p.m., officers received a report of an electric scooter with Hello Kitty stickers and a broken kickstand that was stolen near Baker Hall.

Weather

Thursday 9/17	Friday 9/18	Saturday 9/19	Sunday 9/20	Monday 9/21	Tuesday 9/22	Wednesday 9/23
 High: 93°F Low: 70°F	 High: 93°F Low: 71°F	 High: 92°F Low: 73°F	 High: 91°F Low: 73°F	 High: 89°F Low: 73°F	 High: 89°F Low: 72°F	 High: 89°F Low: 71°F

Isabelle Brumley
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

- A broad area of disorganized showers and thunderstorms in the central Atlantic is currently being monitored for potential tropical development, though strong wind shear is currently delaying formation.



WHERE'S ALLAN?



I went to the library and stopped to get sushi. I'll be studying for a while, so I'll also grab a smoothie.

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.

Sports

Ragin' Cajuns come up short in a 49–30 loss to No. 14 USC Trojans

Alyus Dick
PHOTOGRAPHY COORDINATOR

The Ragin' Cajuns spent their Saturday night battling the No. 14 USC Trojans under the bright lights at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which ultimately led to a Trojans 49–30 victory over the Cajuns.

Louisiana's mentality heading to California was to treat this game like any other, while at the same time making the adjustments necessary in preparation for a Top 25 team. The Cajuns wasted no time in making their presence felt in front of the 60,000 fans wearing USC cardinal and gold.

The Trojans' opening drive only lasted a little over a minute-and-a-half. The drive ended with the Cajuns sending a four-man rush on third & 10, pressuring USC quarterback Jayden Maiava into an interception right into the hands of Cajuns' cornerback Avery Demery.

The Cajuns capitalized off of the

Trojans' turnover, getting in range for Tony Sterner to squeak by a 47-yard field goal.

With Louisiana drawing first blood, it wasn't long before USC responded. The Trojans went 79 yards on 13 plays, capping the drive off with a five-yard touchdown pass to tight end Mark Bowman to put USC in the lead 7–3.

The Trojans extended the lead to 14–3 early on in the second quarter with Maiava finding Bowman in the endzone for the second time of the ballgame. However, the Cajuns answered back with a great drive of their own.

A mix of good rushes and short pass plays led the Cajuns to USC's 23-yard line, before an unsportsmanlike conduct call pushed them back 15 yards to the 38-yard line.

On second & 24 Lunch Winfield connected with Brock Chappell down the middle for 37 yards before being brought down at the one-yard line. The drive concluded with Steven Blanco

leaping over for a one-yard rushing touchdown, cutting the deficit to 14–10.

The Trojans made sure to use the remaining nine minutes in the first half to pull away. The Trojans scored two unanswered touchdowns before the half ended, including an 86-yard punt return, to give the Trojans a 28–10 advantage at the break.

The Cajuns went three-and-out in their opening drive of the second half, forcing them to punt the ball. Unfortunately, the Trojans' special teams were able to get in the backfield in time to alter the course of the ball, allowing their offense to start the drive at the Cajun's 41-yard line. The Trojans took advantage of the great field position by scoring another touchdown, increasing the lead once again to 36–10.

The Cajuns weren't done fighting yet as they responded with an 81-yard, 12-play drive that ended with Winfield powering through on a designed quarterback-run for a one-yard

touchdown. Winfield found himself having to respond to another USC touchdown to begin the fourth quarter.

Trailing 42–17, Winfield found himself avoiding pressure in the pocket before turning on the jets and scrambling for a 32-yard run. The Cajuns attempted a two-point conversion but were unsuccessful, leaving Louisiana still trailing at 42–23.

Both teams spent the rest of the game trading one touchdown apiece as the Cajuns refused to go down in silence. Louisiana's last drive of the game ended in a 14-yard touchdown pass to Russell Babineaux with a little over two-and-a-half minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. The game ended with a final score of 49–30 and the Cajuns dropping to 1-1 for the year.

Despite the loss, there were a lot of good takeaways from Louisiana's performance. The Cajuns flew across timezones to not only take on a team from the Big Ten conference, but a team that's nationally ranked in the Top 25. Scoring 30 points on the road in that kind of environment, no matter the circumstances, should be an indicator of just how good this Louisiana team could be.

The Cajuns rushed for 146 yards and passed for 212 yards on USC's defense. Winfield posted 307 total yards and three touchdowns, while completing 73% of his passes. The combination of designed runs and scrambles from Winfield kept Louisiana in the fight for almost the entire game.

Standout performances include freshman and Acadiana Highschool alum Babineaux who broke out for 91 receiving yards and one touchdown, and redshirt senior Collin Jacob who led the game in a total of 13 tackles.

The Cajuns' next game will see them back home on Sept. 19 to take on the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers. This will be the first of two back to back American conference opponents for Louisiana before entering Sunbelt conference play.



Graphic by Paige Stevens

Allons

What does “Yesteryear” state about current internet culture?

Kinsey Waits
ALLONS EDITOR

The literary fiction novel “Yesteryear” by Caro Claire Burke was released in April 2026. The narrative centers around Natalie Heller Mills, a tradwife influencer who wakes up one day in a home and century that is not from her own time, but from the 19th century.

If you are not familiar with the rise of tradwives on the internet, let me explain. They are a new fad of the 2020s. Women who fall into this category follow a very traditional feminine blueprint. They spend their days cooking, cleaning and taking care of their growing families, all while posting curated photos and videos that align with their chosen aesthetic.

Typically, these influencers have made a name for themselves by presenting their homestead lifestyle. They are known for making every meal from scratch and wearing clothes that appear to be made of home-spun wool.

In no way is this review intended to be critical of these individuals and the way they choose to live their lives, but the background knowledge of the topic is necessary to understanding key themes of the book.

While Natalie is a fictional character, her outward-facing social media described in the book is reminiscent of many real-life creators.

Some of these women are Hannah Neeleman, Nara Smith and Alexia Delarosa.

Throughout the story, Natalie describes posting Instagram videos of bread baking tutorials, house tours and short “spend the day with me” content.

As the book is told via first-person narrative, the reader gets unlimited

access to Natalie's thoughts and motivations. It is clear that she has a fixation with perfection and manipulation, whether it is at the familial level or to millions of followers.

She and her husband, Caleb Mills, move to Yesteryear ranch in Idaho to live out the American dream. At least that's the story Doug Mills tells.

Doug, Caleb's father, is a prominent conservative politician. Natalie masquerades on the internet as a woman who is an expert at living off the land, but she secretly has millions of dollars at her disposal thanks to her father-in-law's successful senate campaigns.

Another secret she keeps from her followers is her social media producer and the two nannies she has employed to take care of her children.

Even standard kitchen appliances like her microwave and fridge are tucked behind carefully crafted cabinets to paint the perfect pioneer picture.

As the reader learns more about Natalie, more of her flaws come out. She believes she is better than everyone around her, especially the group of what she calls “angry women” online.

These are the women that comment “There's no way this is their actual life!!!!”, and “Dear God the names keep getting worse,” in reference to her children's names (one of which is actually Junebug).

I believe this novel was a profound commentary on the current state of social media.

Not all of us have millions of followers on Instagram, not all of us have a ranch with hundreds of acres gifted to us by our millionaire father-in-laws, but we do all have a desire to be perceived a certain way.

Social media is inherently performing, tradwives are just performing in a different way. Whether people are watching out of support,

hatred or curiosity, they are drawing views. I think Burke sums this truth up the best by saying, “The goal of an influencer is not to be lovable, and it is not to be unbearable. The goal is to be both at once. In other words: addicting.”

In the book, this was Natalie's exact goal. She wanted to draw people in with her illusion of perfection. She feeds off of others' jealousy, even though her life is far from ideal.

Social media has trained us to look at others' lives in colorful squares and decide we know everything there is to know about someone. It has also led us to filter so many details of our own lives before sharing them.

“Yesteryear” was a very impactful story with complex and layered characters.

Although it was an entirely fictional setting, so many of the issues felt very current and real. I know that this book will stay with me for a long time.



Graphic by Cade Plaisance

Creating a strong career portfolio even with a more general major

Caitlyn Comeaux
MANAGING EDITOR

A big aspect of college is the variety of majors one can choose from. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has 54 different majors. This is not even including the different concentrations within each major, which brings the total to over 100 different options.

Some majors prepare you for specific jobs: a nursing degree prepares someone to become a nurse, an architecture degree prepares someone to become an architect and an engineering major plans to become an engineer. But, what happens when your major doesn't correlate to a specific job?

Whether you have a specific or more general major, I'm sure you've heard the lines before from family, friends or even people you've just met. People who ask, "But what are you going to do with that?" Or questions like, "How is that going to get you a job?"

Coming from someone who is double majoring in mathematics and English, if I had a dollar for every time I was asked a question adjacent to this, I would be so set financially that I wouldn't even have to go to college. I'd like to use my experience in these more "general" majors to advise on how to market your skills and navigate your career when your degree may not point you down any one path.

There are three main things I'll put out here. Number one: Don't treat general and specific majors the same. If your major isn't specific, one big way I helped fill my résumé is to focus on what skills that major gives you. For example, my English major has given me skills in professional writing, editing and proofreading. My mathematics major has taught me how to model statistical

data on platforms such as Excel, and how to make models in coding languages such as SAS and R.

Taking the skills learned in particular classes, such as your electives, can help direct where you want your major to take you. This brings me to my second point: Take advantage of class projects. In any case where you are able to have some freedom in a class project, pick a topic that can feed into what skills you want to show off in job applications.

For example, in one of my English classes, I chose to write my final paper all about the language used in the legal field, breaking down its complexities and how to interpret legal jargon.

For my final project in a statistical modeling class, I created an analysis of human versus AI measurements of spinal curves in X-rays. This was aimed at examining if human error caused surgeons to prematurely recommend surgery.

I have, multiple times, picked an easy project topic to finish off my semester. However, when you have the capacity, being able to assemble a portfolio of projects and papers can help build experience and knowledge in topics before you get the chance to build job experience.

My third piece of advice is to apply to jobs in fields even if they seem far-fetched for your major. From my projects I listed, you can see I tried to dip my toe into both the legal field and into medical research.

This past summer, I was actually able to land an internship at a tech company as a business analyst.

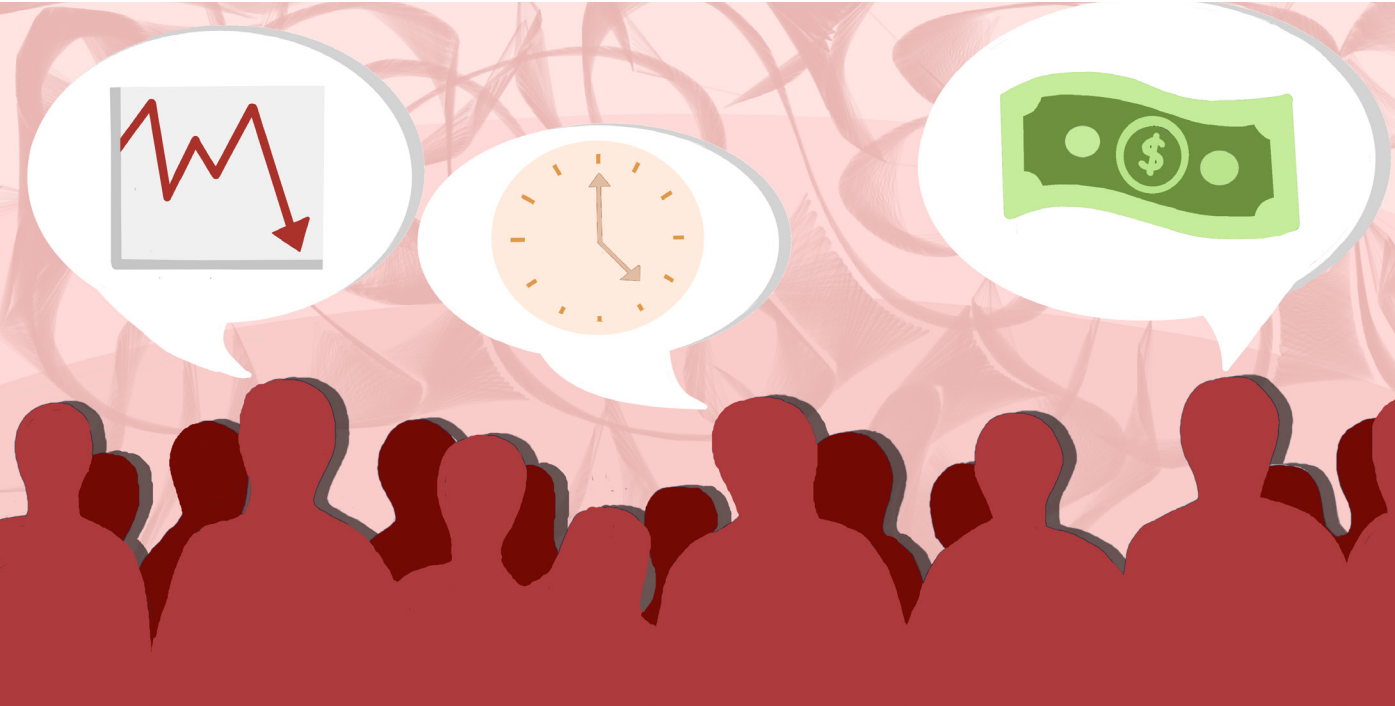
I never imagined my mathematics or

English majors could lead me into tech or business, but my manager told me that one thing that made my resume stick out was my odd combination of majors. That and my skills I listed in copyediting, many of which I got from working at The Vermilion.

But enough about me, my point here is that there is nothing wrong with your major, no matter how general of a subject it may be. Even if those around you, out of concern or disdain, question how you will use your degree, don't let it get to you.

It is easier said than done, but any combination of skills, projects and the correctly-worded resume can take you into a variety of industries.

Doing what you love, or trying to figure out what you love, is one of the goals of college.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

Growing up without any guidance

Ja'lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

It starts small, graduating from preschool, then eventually elementary, same for middle and, of course, high school. Now that I am in college, everything I ever had is almost, in a sense, gone. No one to do your laundry, no one's paying for your dinner and, worst of all, there's no one to cook you meals every night. It truly is an interesting feeling.

Since being in college, I am what some would call an adult. Yet, I am not quite sure what actually defines an adult. Is it my age? Or possibly my maturity? Could it be my year in school?

I heard someone once say it was your life's experiences—what you go through determines how old you truly are. I guess that's why some people say "they grew up before they had to." However, I feel as though I'm just my age, 20. Not necessarily an adult but definitely a girl doing her best, growing up.

I don't feel like an adult unless I'm doing "adult things." For example, paying my utility bill, that felt very "adult" to me, or scheduling a doctor's appointment (that was terrifying). Does adulthood even feel like anything? What am I supposed to do and how do I know when I've officially reached that mark?

When I was younger, I grew up with my grandparents. Both my mom and dad were in and out of my life. They were only a part of it whenever it was convenient for them, I assume. So it's hard to say what an adult is supposed to be like, because, well, I never had a sturdy one growing up.

I am a strong believer in a united family building up a child. Don't get me wrong, single mothers, single fathers and even grandparents can raise a child into a successful adult. Yet, there's a stability that is brought into one's life when it's done so with two strong parental figures.

As someone who grew up without that, it leaves me to question if I'm doing this whole thing right. Fortunately, my grandparents did a great job raising me. I am forever grateful for the mark they left on my life.

However, they grew up in a time that can't relate to the time I'm living in now. I never saw a work-life balance; they were both retired. They couldn't guide me through college because they never understood what it was like.

I fear there are so many things that you naturally catch on to simply by watching your parents handle them. There are so many questions that I carry before I can become this so-called adult. Who am I to look up to anyways?

How do I form strong, long-lasting relationships? What does it look like to have respectable relationships with authority? Is this job worth it? Are these good benefits?

This is the hard part nobody talks about. It's one thing to do something on your own; it's another to never have any sort of precedent before you. Without that, not only are you doing it alone, but blindly. In my opinion, this is a dangerous way to live.

As I've mentioned, I didn't have those people to guide me and I'm sure there are a lot of others who can relate. It's important, though, not to dwell on the fact that we lacked these certain figures in our lives.

I do think it's a little harder than average, not always sure what steps are necessary to take, but I still believe we are as capable as the next person.

For those reading, doing their best to grow up into the successful adult they're meant to be but not quite sure how. I offer you this: let's do it together. Let's face what the world has in store for us. Because honestly, at this point, the only

way for us to know what to do next is to simply try, make the mistakes, take accountability and learn from them.

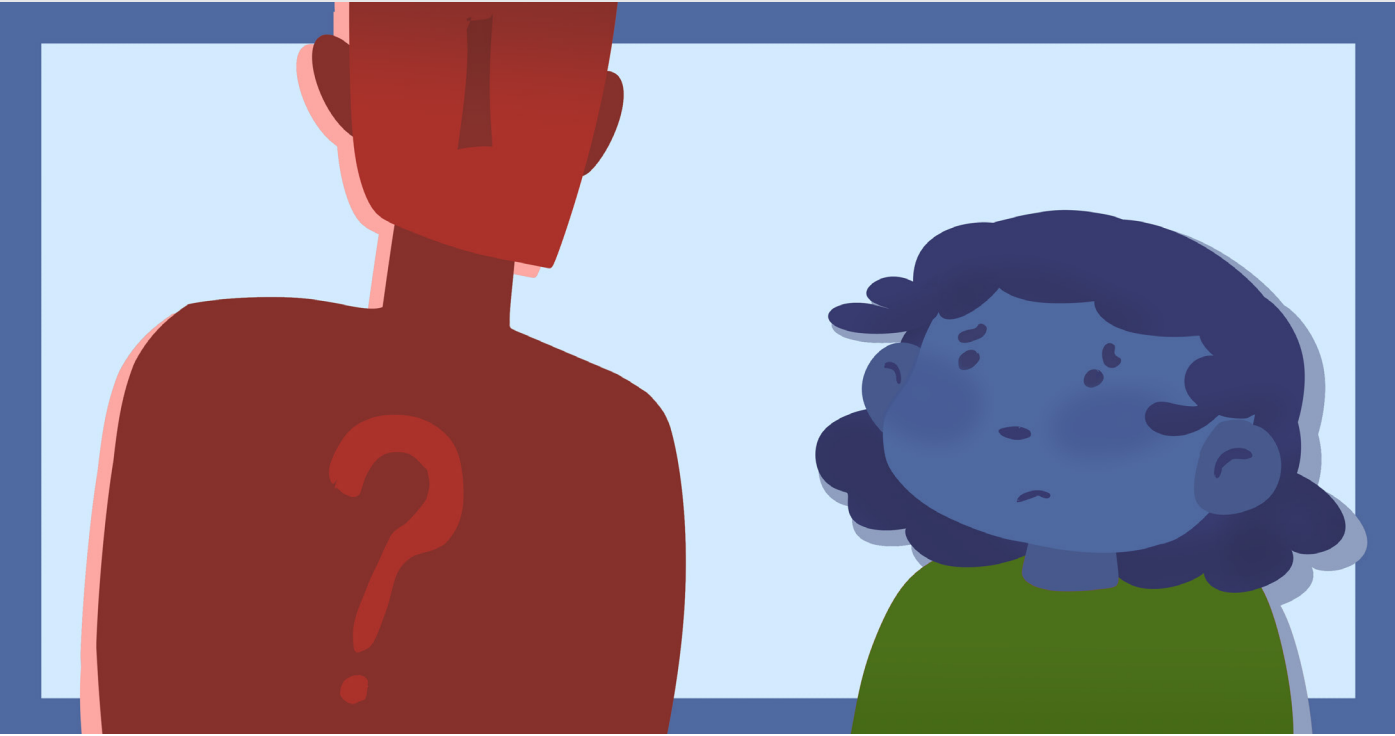
Henry Ford once said, "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

So, it most certainly won't be easy. Maybe we have great guides, maybe we have no guides at all, but there's still opportunity. We just have to learn what it looks like to step into this new era of our lives.

Personally, I think this whole growing up idea doesn't have to be as hard as we make it out to be.

Adulthood can look different for everybody, and it will look different. That doesn't mean we got it wrong, we just found a way that works for us specifically.

Honestly, I think that is the true definition of adulthood—living in a way that supports your full growth potential.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

THE VERMILION

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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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Beaucoup



Fond Memories

The Beaucoup section writes about memories that they wish they could keep forever.



Graphic by Ray Bardales

Caitlyn Comeaux
MANAGING EDITOR

One bittersweet memory I have is from the summer of 2024. I was 18 and on a beach vacation with my immediate family. When we were in the ocean, my sister and my cousins all went back to shore, but I wanted to stay longer. My grandfather said he would stay with me so I wouldn't be by myself.

Him and I drifted in the ocean and talked for over an hour. I told him my

worries about starting college that fall. He ended up telling me anecdotes about his time at college and dental school.

And I learned a bunch of details about his life that I never knew, like where he grew up.

He mentioned that I was the only grandkid who talked to him like this, as I was, and still am, very chatty.

He ended up passing away about nine and a half months later, and I still look back on all the times I got to talk with him like that.

Kinsey Waits
ALLONS EDITOR

I wish I could relive the memory of my time in Europe with the UL Choir. We traveled to three different cities in two weeks, competing and giving performances throughout small towns. We got to experience Belgium and the Netherlands in an incredibly unique way. I believe traveling is one of the best ways to learn about the world. We got to see churches that predate the United States

and meet people with entirely different life experiences than our own. We competed in the international Cantarode competition and placed in the top five choirs in the world.

It was so special to meet people of different backgrounds that love singing as much as I do!

I think it will always be one of my favorite memories and I look back on the pictures I took often. I am so thankful for this opportunity and I hope to continue to travel.

Ray Bardales
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

As much as I despised high school, one of my favorite memories is from then.

I went to an all girls Catholic school that really put an emphasis on sisterhood. During our senior retreat, one of the closing activities was to sit in a circle and say what you were thankful for during your school life.

I was relatively disliked in highschool,

being the weird kid on top of my lack of social awareness made me very easy to hate.

Everyone seemed to hate me except for my best friend.

I had little to be thankful for except for them, and I said exactly that in front of a crowd of people.

I remember finishing my speech and looking to my side, and they were sobbing their eyes out.

It's corny, but that's a sweet memory of mine that I still cherish.

Tracy Engel
PHOTOGRAPHER

Memories I wish I could keep forever are the three concerts I have been to. I saw Panic! At The Disco in 2019, Childish Gambino in 2024 and BTS last month.

For Panic! I was 12 years old, so the images are fuzzy, but I remember the anticipation and anxiety I felt leading up to it.

At the Childish Gambino concert, I

went with my best friend and brother so I spent the day bonding with them and sharing my love for music with them.

Last but not least, the BTS concert last month. This honestly may have been the best two days of my life. I cried so many tears for so many different reasons, happy, sad and grateful.

There really is something so special about seeing your favorite artists with your own eyes, in the same place as them and being able to feel so many different emotions at once.

Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 2

INSTRUCTIONS

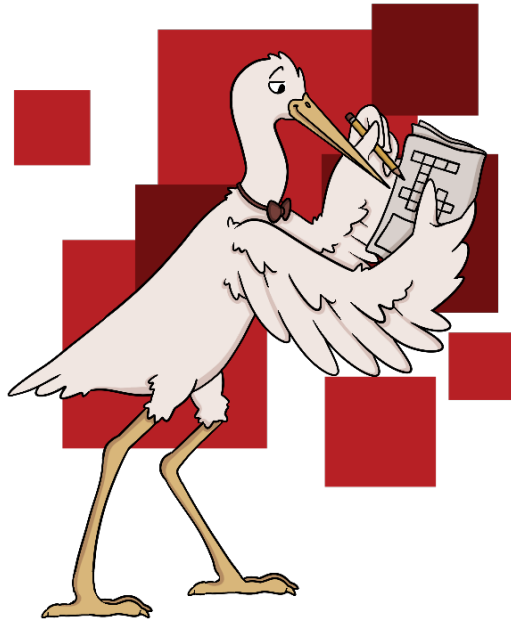
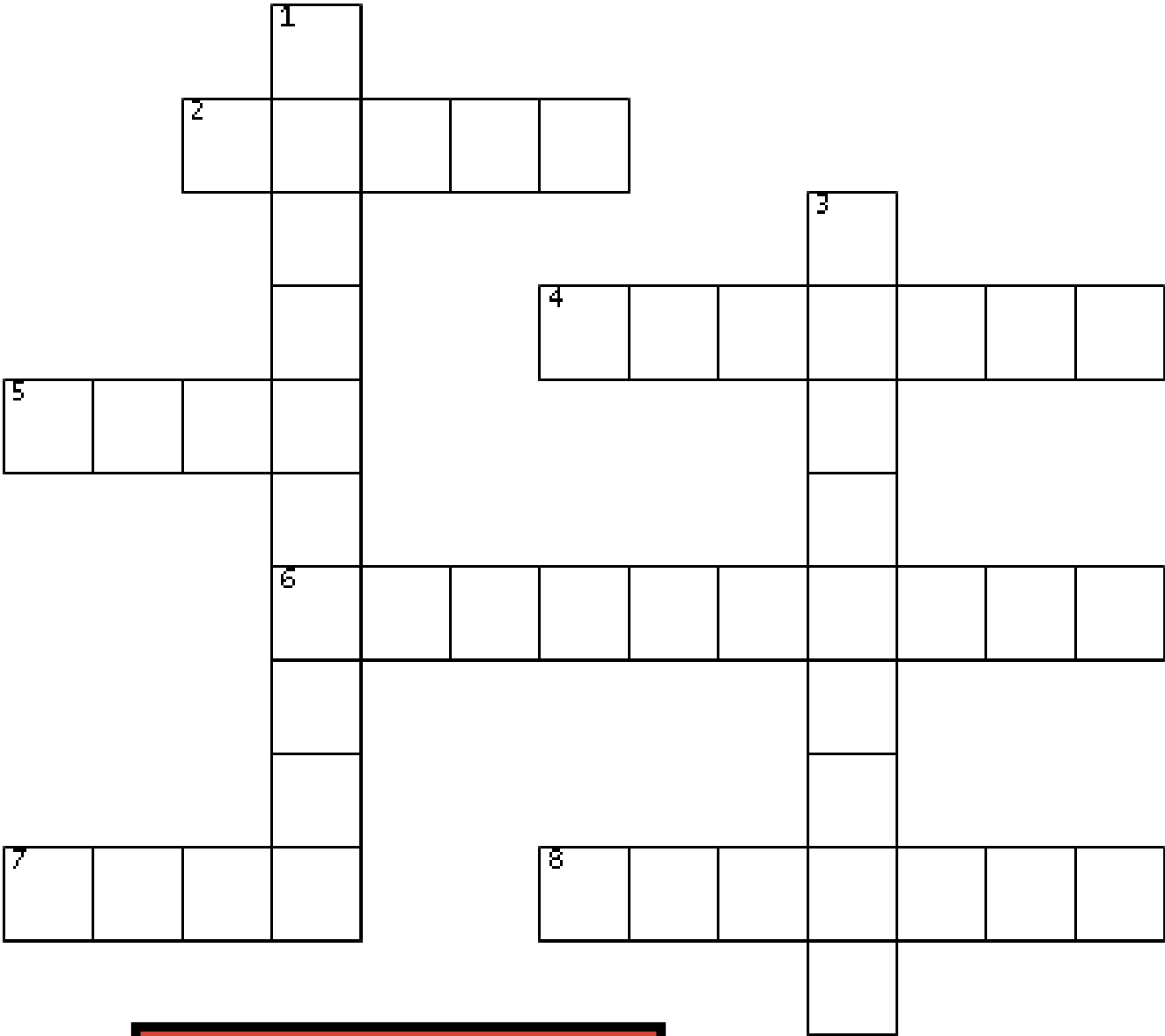
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 2. Which player led the game in total tackles (last name)?
- 4. The strange name of one of the children in "Yesteryear."
- 5. Alongside harsher sentences, the act increases the ____ that is considered "on campus" where these charges are applicable.
- 6. The Vermilion Parish Tourism _____ supports the SpaceX investment.
- 7. Who was quoted about failure in Braud's story?
- 8. Isabelle Brumley's favorite dish at the Hideaway on Lee was the ____ and Loaded.

DOWN

- 1. Apply to jobs in fields even if they seem _____ for your major (two words).
- 3. The University is planning to introduce an ____ engineering concentration in alignment of the arrival of SpaceX.



SOUNDING OFF

"What's your favorite hot weather drink?"



Madelyn Abbott
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SOPHOMORE

"An ICEE because it is very refreshing and also sweet at the same time."



Riley Guillory
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SENIOR

"A frosted lemonade from Chick-fil-A. It's a little bit more of a dessert, but it cools me down on a hot day."



Jacob Boudoin
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SENIOR

"A crisp blue Gatorade."



Allyson Madden
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"A cherry limeade from Sonic."



Mallorie Byford
KINESIOLOGY SOPHOMORE

"An ice cold Dr. Pepper from the dining hall."



Joshua Thibodeaux
COMPUTER SCIENCE FRESHMAN

"Hawaiian fruit punch."

Sounding Off is a section devoted to the voice of students. Views expressed in Sounding Off do not reflect those of UL Lafayette administrators, faculty, staff or other students.

Photos and interviews by Alyus Dick and Joann Seow.

COMIC Art Block



Comic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

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