

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper



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Three UPC boards merge into one

Gabrielle Mouton
NEWS WRITER

The University Program Council (UPC) is amidst discussion of consolidating its three boards into a single governing group as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette transitions between enrollment seasons. The boards include Cultural Connections, Traditions and Student Activities.

The change could reshape how the entire organization operates and oversees student programming in the upcoming year, 2027. Operating as a part of the Student Affairs division, UPC is a student-led organization that plans large-scale events like Homecoming Week and unique experiences like cultural showcases and Silent Disco.

The program is funded through a \$5.50 entertainment fee that is charged to students every semester. Due to enrollment rates dropping by 2.5%, according to the UL Lafayette website, the funding has been diminished.

Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, Heidie Lindsey, said, “At this moment, I don’t think it’s necessarily fair with the small pool of money we have, to try to divvy that up between three boards.”

UPC has functioned under three

boards for about five years, splitting up the responsibilities of different events, but Lindsey believes it can still run under one board that she has named the Campus Activities Board (CAB). “You’re still going to see the same programs, but probably even better,” she said. The merger was in discussion at the beginning of the academic year and the new structure plans to give more intentionality to the events that occur on campus. “We’re going to be more intentional about offering programs that students really want and finding out what students want,” said Lindsey.

Merging the boards also means reallocating the responsibilities of faculty overseeing the program. According to Lindsey, there are a few positions within Student Engagement and Leadership that have been unfilled, and she aims to utilize the faculty from UPC to help fill in the gaps.

“I just need to sort of reshift some of their time spent,” Lindsey said. “I can’t afford to have one staff member that just does the Student Activities Board . . . I’m going to have them do a little bit more variety in their job.”

In regards to how current faculty are viewing the change, it is uncertain. Currently, there are two assistant directors of Student Engagement and



Photo by Morgan Parker
Culture Fest, 2025

Leadership who are also advisors to two of the UPC boards. Amber Felix, advisor for University Traditions declined to comment, and Candice Dazet, advisor for Cultural Connections, did not respond.

As a student organization, the boards are led by student chairpersons. Cameron Terrell, student chair of the Student Activities Board, shared that there has been little information given to students on what will happen moving forward.

“They didn’t give a reason,” Terrell said. “They kind of kept it surface level.” He said that since losing the advisor for his board, Telvin James, they have been trying to find ways to move responsibilities around.

As it stands, each board creates a different subset of events, about eight per semester. With the merging of boards, Terrell said he thinks some events will get dwindled down.

“It’s already hard to get students to come to events, so now you’re making it even smaller for them...” he said. He has been a part of UPC for two years, and he said that the events have already been very strict with their planning due to the budget constraints from last year.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Yell Like Hell, 2026

Other board chairs, Ashley Allen of Traditions and Cye Hebert of Cultural Connections, were contacted as well. Allen declined to comment and Hebert did not respond.

Challenges and concerns are another uncertainty with this change, but Lindsey assures that UPC can function as one unified board instead of three. The variety and number of events are still in question. “We’re still going to have these events, but we’re just going to have to scale down,” she said.

With each board offering unique experiences, such as the Cultural Connections board offering Culture Fest and Student Activities offering Silent Disco, there is a chance some could get cut. This could leave students unsatisfied with events on campus. Inversely, Terrell shared that the combination of the boards may force the UPC students to work on events they may not enjoy. However, the ordinance of these changes are still unknown.

This is a developing story. UPC is still operating under three boards and is currently working towards projects like Mister UL and Culture Fest 2026.



Photo by Nicholas Cloyd
Silent Disco, 2025

DHS proposes heightened fees for F-1 students to participate in OPT

Joann Seow
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Oct. 7, 2026, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed a rule that would drastically heighten the fees for F-1 nonimmigrant students seeking to participate in Optional Practical Training (OPT). The proposed rule intends to reduce the flow of cheap labor into the U.S. and lower the competition for American citizens in the job market.

Presently, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires a \$520 paper filing fee or \$470 online filing fee for the I-765 form, an application for employment authorization, from F-1 nonimmigrant students. Under the proposed rule, universities would have to pay a \$70,000 fee before Designated School Officials (DSO) can recommend an F-1 nonimmigrant student for OPT and \$30,000 for any subsequent OPT.

Dr. Rose Honegger, director of global engagement at the University’s Office of International Affairs and primary DSOs, said that there are questions and uncertainties with regards to how schools will come up with the large amount of money, expressing her concern as to whether or not the fee is feasible.

She said, “The immediate concern all of us have is, ‘Who is going to be able to afford to apply for OPT?’ So the immediate thought is, it might be impossible for anyone to apply for this benefit.”

“I don’t know which university can afford to pay that amount, and I think there are questions international education professionals [are] inquiring as to how this would happen.”

This proposal came as a response to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) identifying fraud and abuse of work authorization in the immigration system. A

DHS press release stated, “As more F-1 nonimmigrant students have participated in OPT, SEVP has encountered schools, DSOs, employers and F-1 nonimmigrant students engaged in schemes to exploit current regulations, including problematic worksites and ‘pay-to-stay’ visa schemes.”

The proposed fees intend to “encourage schools to exercise greater oversight and selectivity when recommending F-1 nonimmigrant students for OPT, helping reduce fraud and strengthen program integrity.”

Besides reducing fraud, this proposed rule intends to reduce the flow of cheap labor into the U.S. from nonimmigrant students, and by doing so, simultaneously lower the competition for American citizens in the job market.

In the press release, a DHS spokesperson was quoted, saying, “DHS is upskilling OPT to require foreign students to justify their worth to employers. American workers should not have to compete against a program that has been turned into a pipeline for cheap foreign labor.”

OPT is a temporary work employment directly related to a student’s field of study. Eligible students can receive up to 12 months of OPT work authorization before and after completion of their academic studies. Students who have earned a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields are eligible for a 24-month extension to their post-completion OPT.

According to Honegger, there are currently about 185 enrolled F-1 nonimmigrant students at UL Lafayette who are at varying stages of the OPT application process, with most approved, and some who are pending or have just been requested.

Honegger said that there has been a good success rate for OPT and STEM OPT applications at the University, with

a lot of “great return on investment for students.” She said, “Our students are getting really great jobs after graduation.”

OPT has long been a driving force for employment of foreign students in the U.S. The beginnings of OPT go back to 1947, when federal regulations stated, “In cases where employment for practical training is required or recommended by the school, the district director may permit the student to engage in such employment for a six-month period subject to extension for not over two additional six-month periods.”

According to a Congress publication, OPT participation has more than doubled since 2007.

This is attributed to the implementation of the STEM OPT extension from 12 to 24 months in 2008 by the George W. Bush administration and further extension to 36 months by the Barack Obama administration in 2016. The publication wrote, “Both Administrations cited the economic, cultural and academic contributions of foreign students.”

Honegger said, “OPT has been really beneficial, not just for our students,

but also for our U.S. economy because these are talented students that have graduated... and [are] now contributing to the U.S. workforce.”

According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$42.9 billion and supported 355,736 jobs to the U.S. economy during the 2024-25 academic year.

However, debate has also arisen through the years over the program having a lack of safeguards in place for protecting U.S. students and workers. This new proposed rule of heightening OPT fees align with this longstanding debate and other recent presidential directives emphasizing the protection of U.S. workers.

This proposed rule is open to public comments from Oct. 8 through Nov. 9. After the public comment period closes, DHS will “review all properly submitted comments and materials and may revise the rule based on public feedback.”

Members of the public should refer to the Federal Register notice at federalregister.gov for instructions on how to submit comments for DHS consideration.



Graphic by Ray Bardales

Politics

Q&A WITH POTENTIAL SENATOR

Candidate Jamie Davis hosted a town hall on Oct. 12 at Oliver Hall.

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UNIVERSITY TEAM BUDGET LEAKS

Sport-by-sport budgets of four schools in the UL System were leaked.

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IMPACT OF THE HUNGER GAMES

How "The Hunger Games" changed the world of dystopian fiction.

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SECONDHAND SHOPPING SURGE

How the ever-growing popularity of resale apps alters thrifting culture.

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Politics

Jamie Davis speaks at town hall

Andrew Courville
NEWS WRITER

Jamie Davis and Julia Letlow are the frontrunners in the United States Senate race in Louisiana. In an effort to increase political participation among college students, the University organized a town hall for Davis to speak with the community.

The Political Science Department reached out to Letlow’s campaign with the same offer, but has not received a response at the time of writing. More details on Davis’ campaign can be found at jamieforlouisiana.com, while details for Letlow’s can be found at julialetlow.com.

Cameron Robin, a junior dual majoring in political science and French, moderated the first portion, asking how Davis’ personal life affected his policy priorities. The audience then asked further questions in the second half.

Davis’ campaign website emphasizes adopting a living minimum wage, lowering the cost of insurance and healthcare, protecting environmental regulations and holding data centers accountable to the communities they impact.

Davis also supports education and mental health reforms, the LGBTQ+ community and a promise to never sign a non-disclosure agreement with private corporations while in office.

When asked about his motivation for running, Davis spoke on his family’s support and the economic challenges of running his family farm in Tensas Parish. In order to counter affordability issues and help small farmers live sustainably, Davis said the government should end tariffs and, “let people be able to market their goods the way they need to market and quit keeping their hand on it.”

Davis supports passing a Farmers’ Farm Bill to protect Louisiana farmers and the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP). He elaborated on expanding SNAP benefits when Ja’Kya Thomas, a junior political science major, asked about addressing food insecurity.

Davis supports mending current SNAP policies to allow “families that cannot afford to buy food vouchers to buy food from farmers markets.”

Davis said that one of the first pieces of legislation he would work on is “a national ban on partisan gerrymandering,” citing concerns about voting rights and how Louisiana redraws its congressional districts.

Ashley Allen, a senior political science major, asked, “What can you do to bring awareness to the damage Cancer Alley does to its residents?” referencing the region between Baton Rouge and New Orleans where approximately 200 oil, gas and petrochemical plants pose a significant risk to local public health.

In response, Davis said he would fund the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “at full force in a way that the staff is back in to make sure that the rules and guidelines are being upheld.” Allen said that her family’s experience dealing with cancer along the river led her to ask the question. She later responded over email, “I wish Davis mentioned a specific policy he has thought about. However, I like how he recognized the EPA.”

Louisiana hasn’t sent a Democrat to the Senate since 2008, and the two polls that have been done placed Davis 4% behind Letlow. However, Davis said that this is because he has much lower name recognition.

Town Halls aren’t designed as partisan campaign rallies, but to inspire non-voters to care about policies impacting everyone. Robin wrote over email, “I know many college students who tune out all politics simply because they are too overwhelmed and cannot handle the stress that can sometimes come with being informed. Events like this allow students to just simply come and listen.”

Food Review

Traversing the new Trader Joe’s

Caitlyn Comeaux
MANAGING EDITOR

Located at 1710 Camellia Blvd., Trader Joe’s opened its sixth store in Louisiana on Sept. 17, 2026. Now that the Lafayette store has been open for over a month, many in the Acadiana area have had the chance to shop there instead of the next nearest location in Baton Rouge.

Trader Joe’s is a private-label grocery store chain that has grown from its first store in Pasadena, California, in 1967. Theo Albrecht, co-founder of another grocery store chain, Aldi, bought Trader Joe’s in 1979 and continued to expand its stores.

In the present day, with over 650 locations across the country, Trader Joe’s is known for selling their own line of products, from many analogous to popular name brands. These notably include their own frozen meals, gourmet snacks and even their own lines of wine and beer.

Three of my colleagues and I had the opportunity to visit the store at about 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2026. Even after three weeks of being open, the store was still quite busy. We all bought a variety of snacks, meals and drinks. Some of my purchases included frozen mushroom and chive dumplings and a large wedge

of Port Salut, a soft, creamy French cheese. The frozen dumplings had a generous amount of filling with a strong umami flavor.

One of my colleagues purchased a puck of truffle-infused cheddar cheese and a frozen Trader Joe’s-branded kimbap, a Korean dish of rice, meat and pickled vegetables rolled up in seaweed.

Another one of my colleagues purchased Trader Joe’s-branded pickle chips, which they consumed in just three days. My third colleague hoped to try Trader Joe’s own line of mochi ice cream, but their entire selection was, unfortunately, sold out when we arrived. Some items she bought instead included freeze-dried fruits, rice pudding and antipasti snack packs. She also bought Trader Joe’s-branded wine, which she said she was excited to try in lieu of not being able to buy any mochi ice cream.

Their prices were relatively average compared to other stores; the four of us spent anywhere from \$13 for three items to over \$100 dollars for an entire shopping cart of goods.

Check out Trader Joe’s if you haven’t yet, particularly to try their impressive variety of snacks and frozen foods.

If you’d like to visit the store, they are open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day of the week.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt
Trader Joe’s cheese selection (left); Vermilion staff’s Trader Joe’s purchases (right)



Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

Oct. 16

- At 12:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Legacy Park Apartments in reference to a criminal mischief complaint involving a 2025 black Hyundai Elantra. No arrests were made.

Oct. 15

- At 7:15 p.m., officers received information of a possible firearm at Bonin Hall. The report was investigated and determined to be a misunderstanding.
- At 4:42 p.m., officers received a report of suspicious circumstances at the Edith Garland Dupré library. No arrests were made.
- At 3:29 p.m., officers closed an investigation of a parking lot crash that occurred at Parker Hall on Sept. 17 between a 2020 black Jeep Wrangler and a 2026 white Toyota RAV4 hybrid.

Oct. 13

- At 4:32 p.m., officers were dispatched in reference to a drug complaint at Bonin Hall. No arrests were made.
- At 4:32 p.m., officers received a call about criminal trespassing. The caller observed a subject sitting on the roof of Agnes Edwards Hall facing Rex St. The subject left the roof prior to officers accessing the roof to investigate.
- At 1:04 p.m., officers were dispatched to Coronna Hall in reference to a report of cyberstalking.

Oct. 12

- At 4 a.m., officers received a call that a non-student guest at Huger Hall had committed battery on the caller. The suspect was arrested and released on a summons.

Oct. 10

- At 9 a.m., officers dispatched to Agnes Edwards Hall in reference to the theft of a pink electric scooter and pink bike lock.

Oct. 7

- At 6:34 p.m., officers received a call regarding the theft of a black electric scooter at Fletcher Hall.

Weather

Thursday 10/22	Friday 10/23	Saturday 10/24	Sunday 10/25	Monday 10/26	Tuesday 10/27	Wednesday 10/28
 High: 84°F Low: 52°F	 High: 84°F Low: 53°F	 High: 84°F Low: 52°F	 High: 83°F Low: 52°F	 High: 82°F Low: 52°F	 High: 84°F Low: 54°F	 High: 85°F Low: 59°F

Ellie Schmidt
LAYOUT MANAGER

•The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season could be one of the least active in over a decade, due in part to a strengthening El Niño. But, as is the case every year, it could still be dangerous for some.

WHERE’S ALLAN?



I spend my Sundays here watching a favorite sport of mine. They're doing great this year, their most recent game ended in a tie. Where am I?

Win a free sandwich from Roly Poly

The first UL student to recognize where The Vermilion's mascot, Allan the Alligator, was photographed on campus, and email the correct location of Allan to **TheVermilion@louisiana.edu** will receive the prize. The Vermilion will continue this contest each week until the end of the semester. Participants cannot win more than once a semester, and must be attentive to their emails.



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER
AFTER READING!

Sports

University sports budget leaked in a classified information reveal

Alyus Dick; Jake Allelo

PHOTOGRAPHY COORDINATOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Documents that accidentally included team-level spending information of four University of Louisiana System sports programs were posted online for the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors meeting on Aug. 27, 2026. The leak was first reported by the Louisiana Illuminator, then picked up by The Advocate.

A few months earlier, on June 8, Louisiana lawmakers passed Act No. 818, which allows universities the ability to shield athlete-specific and team-specific payout details from the public. In return, universities are only mandated to disclose total athletic spending across all teams.

One of the four UL System sports programs involved in the documents was the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The University budgeted \$1.5 million for the year for revenue sharing for the 2025-26 year, of which \$647,500 went to men’s basketball, \$591,895 were given to football, \$120,600 were allocated for baseball and \$157,354 were shared across all seven women’s sports.

According to the Board of Supervisors documents, the University’s men’s basketball program had \$647,500 in public Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) and revenue sharing expenses during the 2025-26 year, during coach Quannas White’s debut season as the head coach for the Ragin’ Cajuns. Then University Athletics Director Dr. Bryan Maggard relieved then coach Bob Marlin of his duties after a 15-year tenure with the Cajuns in the middle of the 2024-25 season.

The University sought out a new head coach that they believed could take the reins of the team during this new NIL era of collegiate sports, where spending money on players is necessary to staying competitive. White accepted the head coaching job for the next season, having served as the assistant coach for the

Houston Cougars since 2023. In White’s first season as head coach, the men’s basketball team posted a 11-22 record.

The football program had \$591,895 for the 2025-2026 year, accounting for 39.46% of the University’s budget for revenue sharing. The numbers for the football program’s expenses were surprisingly lower than the men’s basketball program, which accounted for 43.17% of the University’s budget.

In the last five seasons for the Cajuns under head coach Michael Desormeaux, they have extended their run of consecutive bowl games played to eight, ranking as the ninth-longest active streak among schools in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). Desormeaux also led the Cajuns to a berth in the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) Championship game in 2024 after posting a 10-4 record.

The 2025 season saw the football program post a 6-7 record, including a loss against the Delaware Blue Hens in the 68th Ventures Bowl game. The football program has had three 6-7 seasons under coach Desormeaux and are 0-4 in bowl games since 2022.

The baseball program was given \$120,600 for the 2025-26 year, only accounting for 8.04% of the University’s \$1.5 million budget. Last season, the Cajuns played their best brand of baseball since their 42-win 2024 season. The baseball program had an overall record of 41-25 for the 2026 season, earning a spot in the NCAA Starkville Regional after coming up short in the SBC Championship game against Southern Mississippi University.

The University allocated \$157,354 across all of the women’s sports programs including women’s basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball. The amount accounts for 10.49% of the University’s total revenue share budget that has to be distributed between all women’s sports teams.

The women’s basketball team had a 5-25 overall record for the 2025-26 season, only winning two conference games out of 16. The 2023-24 season was

the last above .500 year for the women’s basketball program, having struggled to build a competitive roster in the last couple of years.

The University’s soccer program posted an overall record of 7-6-5 in 2025, with their season ending after losing to South Alabama University in the SBC Championship quarterfinals.

The University’s softball program has suffered quite a bit in recent years since the start of the NIL era. Softball has the most wins for a sports program in the University’s history, with an all-time record of 1,918-588. 300 of those wins are attributed to previous Cajuns softball coach Gerry Glasco. During Glasco’s seven-year tenure, the softball program boasted a .773 winning percentage and captured five SBC regular-season titles. Glasco left Lafayette in favor of the

coaching job in Lubbock with the Texas Tech Raiders. Many of the players recruited by coach Glasco during his time at the University transferred shortly after. One of the main motivations for coach Glasco’s departure was the budget Texas Tech was able to commit to building a championship softball program.

Coach Alyson Habetz was chosen as the succeeding head softball coach in the summer of 2024. Coach Habetz has led the Cajuns to a 58-52 record in her first two seasons as the head coach.

The figures to be approved for 2026-27 are budgeted amounts. Football will lead in public revenue sharing at \$750,000, men’s basketball will have \$701,700, baseball is budgeted at \$50,000 and all women’s sports will have a combined budget of \$200,000.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

Allons

How the Hunger Games sculpted a generation of dystopian fiction

Kinsey Waits

ALLONS EDITOR

On Sept. 14, 2008, the genre of dystopian fiction was changed forever. The release of “The Hunger Games” by Suzanne Collins saw immediate success among its demographic of young adult readers. The book takes place in a futuristic world in which society is separated into “districts” and forced to send children, known as tributes, to fight to the death in an annual event called the Hunger Games.

The series’ main character is a 16-year-old girl named Katniss Everdeen. The reader experiences the story from her point of view. In the first book, Katniss takes the place of her sister, Prim, who is chosen (or “reaped”) for the 74th Games. This alters the course of both Katniss’

life and the entire abusive regime of the governing body of Panem, the fictional country the story is set in.

Throughout the first book, the reader follows Katniss and her fellow District 12 tribute, Peeta Melark, as they undergo preparation for the Games. They are brought to the Capitol, a hub for the wealthiest citizens who are exempt from the Games. There, they are treated as celebrities, given stylists and are interviewed before being sent into the arena where only one of them will come out alive.

While in the arena, Katniss and Peeta have a difficult decision to make when they are the last two tributes remaining. In an act of defiance to the Capitol, they plan to take poisonous berries called Nightlock, which would leave the 74th Hunger Games without a victor. The

gamemakers decide to let them both win, but at a severe cost.

The subsequent books titled “Catching Fire” and “Mockingjay” follow a revolutionary story in which the citizens of Panem come together to overthrow their corrupt government. The original trilogy was a main catalyst for the boom of the dystopian genre in the 2010s. The success of the series led to four movies that launched the franchise into another level of popularity. Headlined by A-list actors like Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth, these films added to the cultural significance of the story.

Collins recently published two prequel novels, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” and “Sunrise on the Reaping,” in 2020 and 2025, respectively. The release of these books ushered in a new generation of fans and expanded the world that Collins created within the original trilogy. These novels were also adapted for the screen with the former releasing in 2023 and the latter releasing next month.

It is not common for a series to survive, and even thrive, throughout multiple generations. Nearly two decades after the original trilogy was published, the prequel novels broke records previously seen from the series. What is it about this series that has not only stayed relevant, but grown in popularity as time has passed?

Part of the success of “The Hunger Games” is its characters. Throughout the three books, readers grow invested in the characters’ lives, and many see themselves reflected in some way. All of Collins’ characters are flawed individuals that come from different backgrounds, much like each of us. This detail allows readers to connect with the narratives

more because they recognize that, although it takes place in a completely fictional setting, there is a human element to the story.

The world Collins built has also become something fans are deeply connected to. There are countless videos on the internet analyzing the layout and function of each of the districts. Discussion about the citizens and style of the Capitol is also popular among those that love this series. Some creators have pieced together information from each of the books to form a chronology of tributes and victors before the 74th games. The imagination and dedication of the fans of “The Hunger Games” is truly impressive.

The popularity of these books cannot be written about without acknowledging some readers’ impressions of the story as a warning sign. The dystopian genre did not start with “The Hunger Games,” but the release of this franchise certainly pushed it into the zeitgeist in a way it hadn’t been before. The harrowing story of a government designed around forcing its citizens to brutally compete to the death is, to some, a reminder of what happens when corruption infests those that are supposed to protect us.

The subsequent story of the underdog victory – not won without great suffering – then serves as encouragement to always fight for what is right. This is one of the most common story archetypes; bad guys have power and the good guys have to fight for righteousness and freedom. This narrative has been repackaged and told countless times in many other fictional works such as “Star Wars,” “Harry Potter” and “The Lord of the Rings,” but it is still just as impactful in “The Hunger Games.”



Graphic by Paige Stevens

Buyer beware! How reselling apps are changing the language of thrift

Gabrielle Mouton
NEWS WRITER

Thriftling has emerged as a highly-praised form of shopping. The allure of thriftling used to be that you could find unique pieces at an affordable price to stock your closet. Thriftling was a painstakingly long process of mulling through hundreds of racks to find a hidden gem. Now, thriftling is not so tedious.

Advertisements of thriftling apps flood the feeds of Instagram, TikTok and YouTube, to name a few. The message? Thriftling as a means for turning your unfavorable tops into cash. Thriftling as a means for paying for the \$9 iced coffee you want.

Once the first alternative to the pollutive nature of fast fashion, thriftling is now advertised as a way to send your high school prom dress back into the fashion ecosystem. With such a heavy push in marketing across multiple resale apps, it begs the question: What need are these marketing campaigns responding to? How has thriftling morphed in the current cultural zeitgeist?

Thriftling has unsurprisingly been swept up by Generation Z, as it seems the weight of all humanitarian practices are placed on us. Not only as an affordable and sustainable method of shopping, but as an avenue of self-expression. Approval of thriftling as a form of shopping has grown immensely due to young consumers giving patronage to places like Goodwill and their local thrift stores.

In a time where inflation is rising to unsuitable levels and “fast-fashion” is a growing sustainability concern, Gen Z is changing retail by making second hand shopping their default. Older online resellers like eBay and Etsy find a great demographic to push their marketing,

and newer players in the game like Depop, Vinted and Poshmark have emerged.

In the past couple of months, those three apps have done major marketing ad campaigns, especially Depop. You have probably seen the recent Zara Larsson collaboration, and various onslaught of ads that promise “extra money in your closet” from selling and, in Larsson’s case, buying clothes for cheaper than retail.

It targets Gen Z in an oddly specific way. It displays us being broke (in a Poshmark ad, a woman wants to get an iced coffee but needs to save money, so her friend suggests she sells her clothes), it displays us as lazy (Zara Larsson doesn’t want to do her laundry so she sells it on Depop) and materialistic.

The advertising campaigns certainly are not all bad. Perhaps from a seller standpoint, this gives promises of a return on our previous investments.

A way to sell the clothes that sit on our floors, that once stood on a rack. But for someone aiming to thrift? There’s now endless pieces that may be the exact thing to avoid: expensive, fast fashion clothing.

Many veteran thrifters complain now that the market is too oversaturated, and people tend to sell things at an exceedingly high price regardless of their actual worth. Additionally, people may begin to sell poorly made items from SHEIN or Cider, which defeats the purpose of going to look for a good brand.

What was the goal with this?

Certainly there was an altruistic mission to get people to shop sustainably, and simultaneously get people to become sellers as well. That is the only way a resale market can function, is with both the roles of buyer and seller being fulfilled.

But seeing economically that the cost

of living is rising, and these campaigns are aiming to give people a route to make “money on the side,” it gives necessity rather than a choice to thrift or sell your clothing. Unfortunately, speed-cycling through buying clothes, hating them, then selling them back into the world is not sustainable for the self.

It’s a shopping addiction, babe.

Thriftling, at its base level, is not a problematic sport. It is a step up from a bartering system where we trade cows for beans. But seeing how these resale apps, and even social media, tend to portray a thriftling and seller lifestyle, it can feel a little too capitalistic.

The same marketing that makes secondhand shopping accessible can also turn it into another form of overconsumption. These campaigns bring about a sour language to resale, and the strong push being towards Gen Z shows who these companies hope to bring to these apps.



Graphic by Ray Bardales

Interior design can be detrimental

Ja'lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

Everything feels so stressful now. Anxiety creeps into the mundane parts of our lives. Why don’t I feel good?

As a society, we’re so quick to look at anything else around us before we look at the thing right in front of us. We check our workload, our eating habits and question if we are exercising enough. Though these are reasonable questions to be asking, I want to challenge us to start questioning where you are right now. The very building you’re sitting in right now reading this.

Ask yourself, how long do you spend in a classroom building, a work office or even your own home?

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), humans spend approximately 90% of their lives within interior spaces and never think to evaluate such spaces regarding our health.

Buildings are our most known habitat. Not the grass, trees or mountains, but the walls that we attach to ceilings and floors. So, you would think that we would put more thought into how health is affected when interacting with such

spaces. Unfortunately though, that’s not always the case.

Interior design is such an underlooked notion by those all around, including designers themselves. We don’t understand or promote the level of impact that rooms create for us. Whether they make us feel secure and comfortable or sad and uneasy. Shockingly enough, the way a building is created can affect your emotions and perception of the atmosphere around you.

As a third-year student studying interior design, it has come to my attention that the problem has been in front of us the whole time. Or, I guess you could say around us. It’s not always the external factors within our lives but the very materials and rooms we are surrounding ourselves in.

In “The Interiors Theory Primer,” author William Mangold states that poorly designed rooms have triggered certain feelings within the human body; sadness, anxiety, anger and even laziness. This can be based on types of lighting, coloring within a space and even access to natural light. Mangold writes, “Well-designed interiors that prioritize natural light, open spaces, biophilic elements

and places to gather comfortably can positively influence mental health by creating a sense of calm and connection.”

Yet, the opposite can produce a negative influence. Mangold also writes, “...spaces that are poorly maintained, badly lit or inadequately ventilated can exacerbate stress and anxiety.”

It’s up to designers to create spaces that promote mindfulness and relaxation and up to us users to fight for spaces that are equipped with such design strategies. This is where the problem begins: Not understanding, as users, what the problem is within interior spaces, which then leads us to be okay with poor design.

We live, work and stay in places for hours on end, so we have to start questioning what materials are used, what facilities are offered, the colors surrounding us and how much natural light we’re receiving.

We should be making the effort to strive for long-term wellbeing within our environments. When we don’t put in such effort, it could lead to long term deterioration of our health, both mental and physical.

The way an interior space is created can shape health and wellness through

aesthetics, as well as comfort. If a place is designed to be lively and engaging, then you will feel so.

In addition, if the stairs are comfortable to use and the ventilation makes breathing easier, then our mental and physical health are maintained, if not improved. In contrast to dim lighting that may make us tired all the time or poor accessibility making mobility harder.

As silly as it might sound, even the smallest details such as poorly chosen furniture can lead to musculoskeletal disorders, as mentioned in “The Interiors Theory Primer.” Whereas granting other activity-based spaces in a workspace can enhance employee productivity.

When you go to class, how does the room make you feel? Are there windows near you, because natural sunlight produces a psychological restoration within us, the reduction of stress and better mood as explained in an article under “Buildings,” an open-access journal on building science, building engineering and architecture. When you go to work, is there a breakroom, because, if not, you can easily trap yourself in walls of stress. This is why the concept of interior design is so important, because it does impact our health and wellbeing so much more than we acknowledge.

Unfortunately, there are no laws to help this cause. There are standards one can follow, suggestions people can make but nothing that makes it mandatory for companies or institutions to be thoughtful with their design strategies. Instead, people only want to pay for whatever is most efficient, no matter the level of health or sustainability efforts that are lacking within the process.

Instead of setting your mind on the idea that you’re “just falling apart” as a human being, look at the places you’re forced to be in and realize that they are most likely the reason you may feel like you’re dragged down.



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

The Fall Season

The Beaucoup section writes about what makes fall feel like fall for them.



Graphic by Kameron Trahan

Caitlyn Comeaux
MANAGING EDITOR

Fall, to me, is characterized by two main things. First, I do not consider it fall until the first cold front comes in. I cannot get into the autumnal spirit, with cozy sweaters and falling leaves, until I can walk to class without breaking a sweat. Given that the days are still pretty warm despite us being halfway through October, I would do anything for consistently cooler weather at this point.

Ray Bardales
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Fall feels like a crisp breeze and an abundance of pumpkin-flavored sweets. For me, fall does not start until I am able to put on a sweater and take a walk around campus without sweating bullets. Granted, this means fall lasts about a nice two weeks, if we are lucky, in the horrid microwave that is the South, but those two weeks are good enough for me. It is like a fun countdown walking

Second, since I have been in school back-to-back years for well over a decade, the fall season always comes with academic stress. Stress about exams and late nights studying is par for the season to me. Honestly, I am curious to see if I will like fall more once I am done with college and that school-related stress is off my back; it is currently my least favorite season. I graduate Spring 2027, so hopefully by this time next year I can appreciate fall more.

around outside and seeing orange, brown and yellow tones everywhere I go, seasonal treats and drinks and experiencing air that doesn't feel like it's suffocating me. I look forward to being able to sit down on a nice bench at the park, have lunch outside and wear layers upon layers until I match a fall fashion inspiration board. The day I can finally experience all of these things is the day fall really starts for me.

Gracelynn Guillory
NEWS WRITER

There is just something about fall that makes me happy. It is my absolute favorite season. I love seeing the leaves change colors and fall from the trees, especially when they start turning orange, red and yellow. Everything looks a little different, and it makes going outside so much nicer. My favorite part is probably the weather. After dealing with the heat for basically forever, finally feeling a cool

breeze is the best. It makes me want to sit outside for hours just enjoying the weather and pull out all my favorite sweaters. Fall also means Halloween, pumpkin decorations and all the little things that make this time of year fun. Even something as simple as walking outside and seeing the leaves blowing around makes me appreciate the season. To me, fall is more than just cooler weather. It is a reminder to enjoy and appreciate the changes happening around me.

Kinsey Waits
ALLONS EDITOR

Fall feels like the biggest change in seasons of the year. Although here, in south Louisiana, the weather doesn't change much at first, it seems there is a change in the atmosphere. To me, the arrival of fall has always been accompanied by my annual rewatch of "Gilmore Girls." Hailed as one of the ultimate cozy

autumnal shows, "Gilmore Girls" has always held a special place in my heart. From the warm-toned filters of the early 2000s to Rory's dedication to her academics (at least in the first few seasons), the tone of this show always gets me into the fall spirit. Part of me lives vicariously through Rory and Lorelai as they walk through their charming Connecticut town of Stars Hollow, where all the leaves turn golden and everyone is wearing the comfiest looking sweater.

Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 6

INSTRUCTIONS

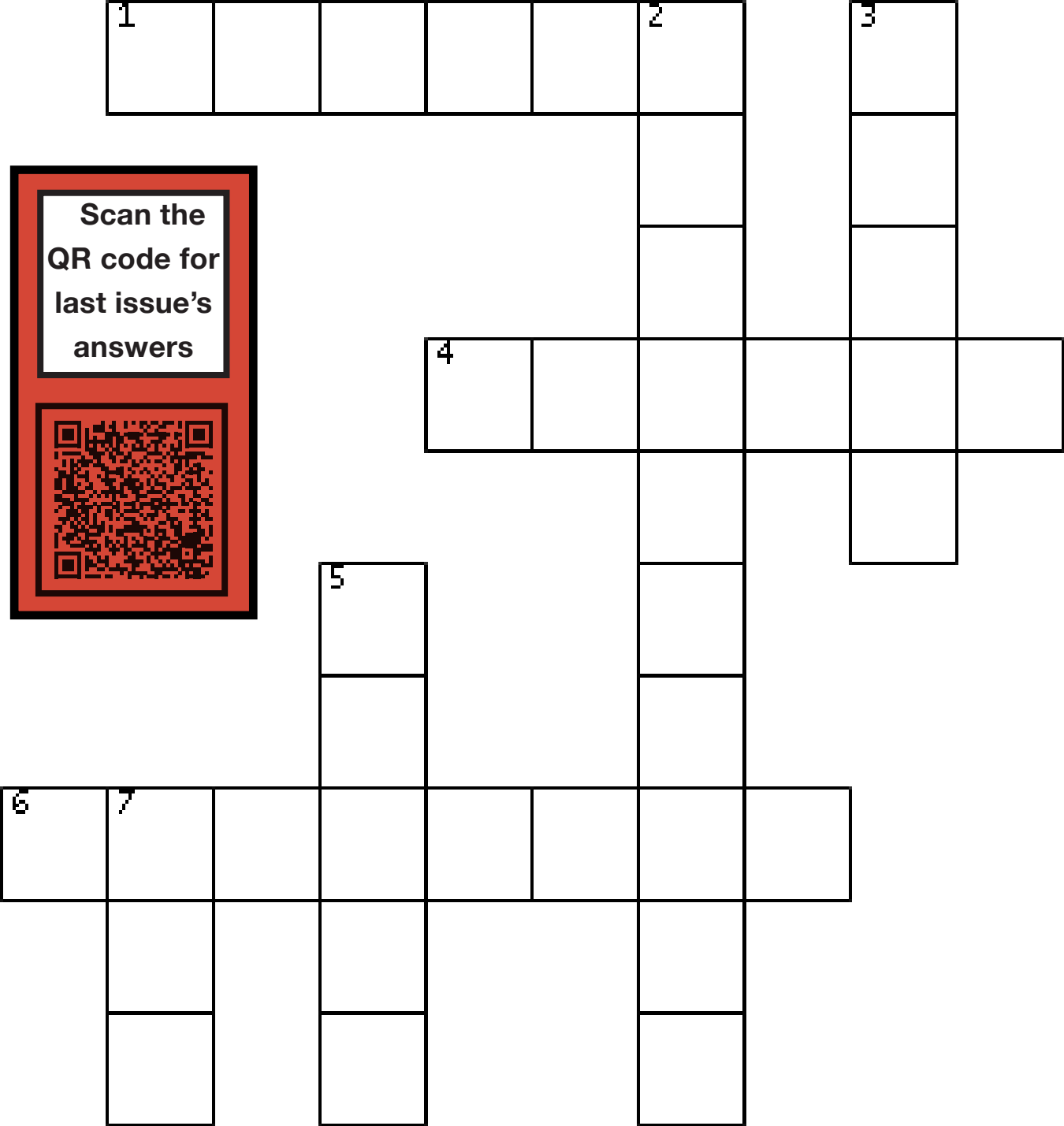
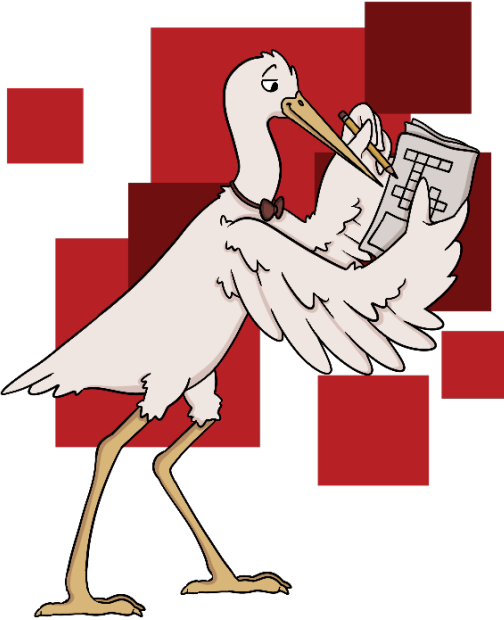
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 1. Thrifting culture typically involves people wanting to find ____ pieces and shop sustainably.
- 4. One of Trader Joe's popular specialties is their line of ____ meals.
- 6. Both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations cited the ____, cultural and academic contributions of foreign students.

DOWN

- 2. What does natural sunlight produce within us?
- 3. Ashley Allen asked senator candidate Jamie Davis how he plans to address Cancer ____.
- 5. Fictional country in which "The Hunger Games" series takes place.
- 7. The new name of the combined UPC board will be the ____, which stands for Campus Activities Board (acronym).



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SOUNDING OFF

“What do you think is an underrated sport?”



Jadan Martin
SPEECH PATHOLOGY FRESHMAN

“Badminton, because of all the hard work and effort that goes into it...”



Jayden George
KINESIOLOGY JUNIOR

“Track is an underrated sport... It’s a lot of hard work, hard training...”



Grant Rougeau
ACCOUNTING SOPHOMORE

“I think swimming is an underrated sport because there’s a lot of conditioning...”



Raeanna Scott
BIOLOGY FRESHMAN

“Cheerleading, because it’s not really much like a competition, it’s more like a dance thing...”



Brenley Murry
BIOLOGY PRE-MED JUNIOR

“Women’s soccer... We had Women’s World Cup recently and it didn’t get all the hype...”



Logan Dubois
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN

“Basketball is an underrated sport, especially 3v3 basketball...”

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. Watch the full Sounding Off interviews on our Instagram @thevermilion.

Photos and interviews by Alyus Dick and Joann Seow.

COMIC Lunch Date



Comic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

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