For a greater Loyola

OLD MADNES

Mold invades Carrollton Hall, displaces students

"Immediately, the

smell of mildew

in the face. It was

nauseating."

Carrollton Hall resident

— Myra Hodges

By Oliver Bennett and Madeline Taliancich

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Myra Hodges walked into their room after Hurricane Ida and was immediate ly overwhelmed by the musty stench of weeks old mildew and mold. After the smell came the overpowering sights. The floor was soaked, water pooled by the windows, and the walls were bloated.

"Immediately, the smell of mildew hits you straight in the face," Hodges said.

"It was nauseating." Hodges, a classical studies and sociology junior, returned to campus on Sept. 7 to retrieve some of their belongings and found their suite in this condition. They notified the Office of Residential Life, which told Hodges that they would return to a "clean and pristine" suite that had been shampooed and treated with

One of Hodges' suitemates returned to campus on Sept. 13 after the hurricane to find the room still in a state of

disarray. Green, white, and black sludge covered the carpets, walls, ceiling, beds, towels, windows, and cabinets.

Hodges and their suitemates were some of the many students who re-

turned to Loyola after the hurricane to find their dorm rooms infested with mold.

Six suites and apartments on the apartments on the sixth and seventh hits you straight floors of Carrollton Hall were affected by mold in some way, according to Chris Rice, director of residential life.

After reporting the mold to residential

life, Hodges said they were told to pack enough clothes and supplies for four days and lived off these minimal options from Sept. 19 to when they returned to their dorms on Oct. 6 and 7.

Although some students were originally told they'd be able to return to their rooms on Wednesday, Sept. 22, with the additional time away caused by Hurricane Ida, they were without the comfort of their own beds for over a month.

After the initial mold was dealt with. it became apparent that the problem was deeper than surface mold, causing

the students to be displaced for longer than they were originally told. Rice said rain entered through exterior walls and windows during the storm, but that "there is a progressive plan to fully repair the damages" in the dorms.

This is not uncommon in a situation with mold caused by

water damage. David Ragsdale, production manager for damage restoration company ServPro Industries, said that mold problems are often bigger than people first suspect.

"Many times, especially after any water-related damages, what you're seeing a lot of times is just the tip of the iceberg,"

Ragsdale said it's common for people to deal with the mold they see and ther for it to pop back up again later.

To deal with the root of the problem, Rice said the walls in the rooms were removed, treated, and replaced with the supervision of a certified testing company while the students were away. Any moldy carpets were removed and the spaces were treated with enzymes, he

The carpet was replaced with wood flooring, the walls were painted, and the windows were sealed, according to

Many of the students were moved to temporary housing in Biever and Buddig Halls. Others opted to live off campus for what they thought would be a short stay that turned into a weeks-long displace ment.

Kelly Cernes, psychology sophomore, was offered a room in Buddig but turned

See MOLD page 4

For more information about mold, see page 2

Aug 31 2021

Students who stayed in the dorms left for home after Ida

Sept 18 2021

University asks both Barnes' and Hodges' suite to move out

Oct 6 2021

Barnes' apartment moves back

Sept 13 2021

Hodges' suitemate and Barnes moved back into the dorms

Sept 20 2021

work on the damaged rooms begins

Oct 7 2021

Hodges' apartment moves back

Empuje para conseguir el estatus de Servicio Hispane viene con retos

En el 2020, Loyola publicó un plan estratégico de tres años para satisfacer las distintas necesidades de sus estudiantes. parte del cual es fomentar más diversidad e inclusión en la universidad. Parte de esta misión es convertirse en una Institución de Servicio Hispano, (HSI por sus siglas en inglés).

Loyola necesita mantener una matrícula de por lo menos 25% de estudiantes inscritos Latines para estar en acorde con las normas de la HSI, según el Departamento de Educación de E.E.U.U. Actualmente, la universidad está a menos de seis puntos de porcentaje para lograr cumplir este objetivo con una población Latine de 19% estudiantes Hispanes, según Rachel Hoormann, vicepresidenta de mercadeo y comunicación.

A pesar de que Loyola dice tener la meta de convertirse en una Institución de Servicio Hispano, muchos estudi-antes Latines y Hispanes actuales en la institución se sienten ignorados.

Kim Díaz, estudiante de estudios internacionales de último año, dijo que nunca ha sentido que la universidad haya creado algún programa o curso que demuestre su deseo y compromiso de servirle a sus estudiantes Hispanes o

"Si algo, han sido los estudiantes y los profesores quienes han intentado demostrar orgullo Hispano al contrario de la misma escuela," dijo Díaz.

Una vez que Loyola alcance el 25%

de un cuerpo estudiantil Latine de pregrado, la universidad podrá aplicar para el programa Título V, que le concedería a Loyola un aumento de fondos para mejorar las oportunidades académicas disponibles para sus estudiantes Latines, según el Departamento de Educación de E.E.U.U.

La presidenta de la universidad Tania Tetlow dijo que los fondos que estarán disponibles en el futuro a través del programa apoyaran todo el trabajo que hacen, primariamente con apoyo financiero para los estudiantes.

"Tenemos márgenes muy reducidos, así que nos ponemos creativos y trabajamos duro para permitir que eso suceda. Cualquier tipo de financiamiento nos ayudará en ese trabajo", dijo Tetlow

Se desconoce sobre el hecho de que

si Loyola distribuirá los fondos para todo su estudiantado, o si serán exclusivamente para sus estudiantes Latines

Actualmente la universidad ofrece cursos sobre la cultura Latinoamericana, dijo Tetlow. Parte de su propósito es que los estudiantes Latines tengan un espacio donde reflexionar sobre su identidad y lo que significa, dijo Tetlow.

Diaz dijo que el Departamento de Lenguajes y Culturas es el único espacio donde los Hispanos y Latines se han sentido representados, pero que es un departamento que está desapareciendo gracias a que Loyola no contrata más profesores que trabajan a tiempo com-

Fuera de este departamento, Díaz ha tenido que buscar su propia comunidad, debido a la falta de espacios oficiales en el campus donde estudiantes de colorpuedan compartir.

"Loyola tiene un porcentaje muy pequeño de profesores Hispanos o Latines, lo cual es un problema muy grande para una institución que aspira

See **SERVICIOS** page 9



Use the QR code to read this story in English

Young Loyola alumnus joins board of trustees

By Daniel Schwalm

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Lovola has added a young alumnus to the board of trustees in order to bring a new perspective to the university's highest governing body. The addition of Benjamin C. Fields, who graduated from Loyola in 2018, comes following a unanimous vote to add a new young alumni position to the board.

The board of trustees is a group of influential members of the Loyola community that makes many of the university's biggest decisions, University President Tania Tetlow said. She said that the board of trustees makes big-picture financial decisions for the university and establishes goals and policies.

According to Tetlow, trustees serve three-year terms with a limit of two terms. However, the board plans to limit the young alumni position to one term. Fields took on an existing seat on the board after the expiration of another trustee's term. His term began on Aug. 1, 2021. After three years, that seat will be filled by another young graduate.

The young alumni position was created in response to lobbying by the Student Government Association for a current student to be added to the board. Freedom Richardson and Zontre City, who were president and vice president of SGA during the 2020-2021 school year, made advocating for a current student to sit on the board a key part of their campaign platform.

City said that after learning that some other universities have a board of trustees seat for a current student, he came to believe that adding such a position at Loyola would be the best way to help promote the long-term interests of the student body.

After being elected, they presented proposal to the board of trustees, but Richardson said the idea was met with

"The board had several concerns about our proposal that we obviously disagreed with," Richardson said. "They thought a student would have trouble balancing the short-term and long-term interests of the university

Richardson also said that the board of trustees was hesitant to include a student in conversations about sensitive matters like lawsuits against the university or misconduct allegations against faculty or students.

Eventually, they settled on a compromise to turn an existing board seat into a position that would be held by a young alumnus.

Tetlow said that the board of trustees considered creating a special position with a shorter term for a young alumnus, but decided against it because they wanted to ensure that Fields and future young alumni trustees have equal standing with the rest of the board.

Tetlow said that the board of trustees asked SGA to recommend three candidates for the position. Richardson said that an ad hoc committee was formed to select three finalists from several people nominated by different members of the campus community.

"It was a really agonizing decision, because there were three extraordinary people who made us feel so good about our young graduates and what they're capable of," Tetlow said.

Eventually, the board decided on Fields, a Louisiana native who studied

finance at Loyola and now works as a



Hope Donovan waits in line at the simple serving station to get dinner in the Orleans room on Wednesday, Sept. 29. Donovan is one of the vegan and vegetarian students on campus who feel like there aren't enough on-campus dining options available to meet their dietary restrictions. Hannah Darcey/The Maroon

VEGGIE TALES

Loyola's vegans and vegetarians want more on-campus options

By Gabriella Killett

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Music industry studies sophomore Hope Donovan went vegan five years ago and said Loyola does a better job than her last school at offering her food options. However, Donovan said she thinks about one thing all too often that she doesn't see at Lovola: vegan junk

Donovan's wish for oat-milk ice cream and butter-free popcorn calls attention to a conversation surrounding food options at Loyola and whether or not those with dietary restrictions are satisfied with the school's offerings

Last week, Donovan said she had a delicious vegan meal with beans and rice but that options like that don't come

"I'm just like anyone else," Donovan "I want sugar. I want bad carbohydrates.

Rosenbaum, regional campus dietitian and Sodexo representative, said Loyola's market still offers vegetarian sushi, but Donovan said she hasn't gotten her hands on one since the beginning of the year due to lack of quantity, which she called "absolutely devastating."

The Orleans Room, Loyola's dining hall, is also currently out of soy milk due to a lack of supply of milk packaged for the dispenser, Rosenbaum said. However, Loyola dining services said dining services do offer soy milk upon request, she said.

The Orleans Room identifies all vegan and vegetarian options and has a rotating menu of options in the dining hall's vegetarian station, according to

Rosenbaum listed tofu, grits, oatmeal, chickpea burgers, smoothie bowls, and legumes as viable options for vegans and vegetarians at

Theatre arts and environmental science junior Hilary Nguyen, a lactose intolerant vegetarian, said she acknowledges that Loyola has options for her but that she doesn't want to eat the same thing days in a row. Nguyen canceled her meal plan at Loyola after last semester because of that, she said.

"It's a waste of my money, frankly, Nguyen said. "I can make food cheaper."

What she opted for instead was getting a plan with Wolf Bucks only and cooking meals in her dorm. She said having to go home and prepare food is overwhelming and that she wishes more options stopped her from feeling the need to do so.

Donovan seconded Nguyen's feelings that feasible vegan or vegetarian options aren't always present at Loyola. She said she sometimes needs to ride her bike off campus to get a satisfying meal or snack

within her diet.

"I just want to be able to access good food that I'm craving at a good point in the day," Donovan said.

Rosenbaum said listening to student feedback is important to Loyola's dining services and she wants students to know they can talk to them. The team also conducts a survey once a semester to encourage students to reach out.

Rosenbaum said Loyola's Executive Chef Matthew Box was part of the first regional Humane Society Culinary Training held by Sodexo in an attempt to reduce carbon emissions. The effort increases the amount of plant-based entrees in menus. Rosenbaum said.

"As the dietary needs change we strive to keep up with the trends and implement those into our menus," Rosenbaum said.



Hope Donovan eats dinner in the Orleans Room on Lovola's campus Wednesday, Sept. 29. Donovan is one of the vegan and vegetarian students who want more on-campus dining options. Hannah Darcey/The Maroon

Carrollton Hall has a history of mold problems

By Jake Krug

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2021 isn't the first time that Carrollton Hall has been plagued with mold. In 2004 the university sued the dorm's construction, insurance, and engineering companies over structural issues that resulted in moldy rooms, millions of dollars in repairs, and dozens of displaced students, according to a 2004 Maroon article.

Despite Director of Residential Life Chris Rice's claim that Carrollton Hall has no history of mold, the university spent \$10 million in repairs and sued five companies over negligence, breach of contract, repairs, losses, and legal costs in 2004. According to the lawsuit, the dorm battled with defective design, humidity problems, and water intrusion that negatively affected the health of

In April of 2004, Loyola claimed to have spent almost \$130,000 on repairs caused by the allegedly faulty design and construction of Carrollton. Eskew Dumez Ripple, an architecture firm formerly known as Eskew + A Corporation, formally resisted the allegations made against it, stating that it complied in full accordance with its contract.

Loyola claimed that residents' health had been affected by the defective design and construction after being exposed to mold and mildew.

The companies in question were MAPP Construction, Inc., Travelers Property and Causality Insurance, Einhorn Yaffes Prescott Architecture and Engineering, P.C., and Eskew + A Professional Corporation.

Representatives of Eskew, Loyola, MAPP, and Einhorn Yaffes Prescott Architecture and Engineering, P.C. struggled to find the cause of the mold problems.

The university relocated 38 residents of Carrollton by September 2004 as a result of a \$10 million project to repair faults in the building's original design. Students originally expected to live on the sixth and seventh floors were moved to lower floors, according to the 2004 Maroon article.

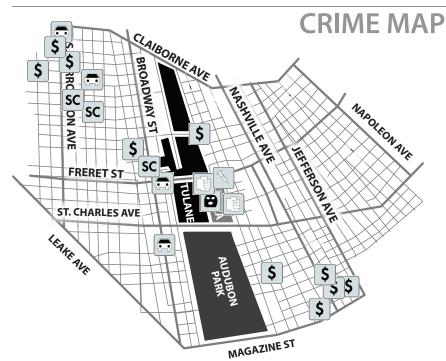
November 2004. construction continued on Carrollton to complete the seventh floor. It was announced that construction would be delayed until at least mid-January of 2005 due to the unexpected extent of the building's damages. The university attributed the delay to the defects in the original design of the building, stating that the structure allowed moisture to seep into the walls, leading to the growth of mold and mildew. Students living in the affected dorms of the residence hall were relocated

Students were not permitted to break from their residence contracts without penalty charges, but they were billed appropriately for the type of room they were relocated to, according to the Director of Residential Life at the time, Robert Reed.

The University President at the time, the Rev. Kevin Wildes S.J., took students' concerns about the penalty charges into consideration, but ultimately decided the university would not release students from their residential contracts, according to Martina Mills, the Student Government Association president at the time. Students who had signed contracts were told to remain on campus for the duration of the construction.

For more on MOLD, see page 1

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Oct. 1

Oct. 1

Oct. 3

Oct. 1 Oct. 3

Oct 4

Oct. 5

11:00 a.m.

6:45 p.m.

3:15 a.m.

7:00 a.m.

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TRUSTEES: Young alum joins board of trustees

Continued from page 2

financial planner. He also works as a manager for his brother, the rapper Aha Gazelle. At Loyola, he was captain of the basketball team and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, among other student organizations.

Tetlow said that Fields' financial expertise was one of the many factors that led the board to choose him.

"We want a good subset of the board, at least, who are very financially sophisticated because one of their primary roles is to oversee the financial accountability of the university," she said. "It is helpful that he will be able to really dive into the numbers and ask good hard questions about them."

Fields said he hopes to use that expertise to help Loyola prosper. He also said that he hopes to help other trustees learn about what Loyola's student body is like today.

"I want to bring that perspective as somebody who really graduated pretty recently." Fields said. "Loyola has changed a lot over the years so I'll have a different perspective that I hope can be helpful when it comes to these big decisions."

Tetlow said that Fields, who is 25, is the youngest trustee by a significant margin.

In addition to being young Fields, who is Black, will also help make the pre-dominantly White board be racially diverse. There are 34 trustees on the board, including Tetlow. Of those 34, five are Black and two are Hispanic. The other 27 are White. Eighteen are Loyola alum-



Benjamin C. Fields sits at the front of Loyola's campus during the first week of school and greets incoming students on Aug. 24. Fields is Loyola University's newest and youngest board member. Gabrielle Korein/The Maroon

ni. Nine trustees are women, and 25 are men, including eight Jesuit priests.

"I am always looking to add people of color to the board," Tetlow said. "All of our finalists were people of color."

Richardson said that while he is glad to see another Black member on the board, he does not believe that the members of the SGA committee who chose the three finalists considered the candidates' race.

"I think that our process was authentic and organic, and it just so happened that all three finalists were people of

color because so many of our student leaders on campus are people of color," Richardson said.

City said that while he thinks that adding a young alumnus to the board is a step in the right direction, he is not satisfied with the compromise and still hopes that a seat on the board of trustees can be granted to a current student.

"I think this is progress, and I think Benjamin Fields is going to do a great job," he said. "But I would charge students to keep pushing for that seat at the table, and in the meantime to be open and communicate with this new alumni trustee."

Fields said that he will continue to do his best to stay in touch with the campus community. Ultimately, he said that his goal as a member of the board of trustees is simple.

"I'm here to serve in whatever capacity I can at the end of the day," Fields said. "Loyola has played a very pivotal role in my life, so whatever impact I can make in order to better the students—past, present, and future—and university as a whole, I plan to do exactly that."

REMEMBER: Honoring the legacy of Rickey Hill

"He left a huge hole in

the cheer community."

Head cheerleading coach,

– Leigh Carr

Bethel University

Continued from page 8

connector of people, which made him endearing to our staff."

Mynthia Gonkpala, vocal performance junior, joined the Wolf Pack cheer team in 2019 as a freshman with no previous cheerleading experience. Gonkpala credits Hills coaching for getting him prepared for varsity competition during his first season.

"I had never tumbled in my life, but during my first month doing cheer, he was just so encouraging that I was able to catch up with the rest of the team," Gonkpala said. "He sees potential in us that we can't even see."

Gonkpala said that Hill's confidence and sense of humor made him an easy leader to follow, particularly for him and his other queer teammates. Hill, who was Black and queer, served as Loyola's representative on the Southern States Athletic Conference's Striving for Equality Place Committee, which seeks to combat racism and other social injustices within the conference.

"He's a diva, but not like a storming out diva, but like Beyoncé, like he's so sassy and quick-witted, but that's what makes it fun," Gonkpala said. "We're a team that takes pride in our diversity in terms of gender identity and sexual orientation. He's a beacon of hope and faith and strength for those members of the team who might have trouble adjusting to college, knowing they're part of communities that might be disenfranchised. And so I think that the fact that we had someone to look up to who was as bold and confident as he was in his own skin made it easy."

Lauren King danced for Loyola from 2017 to 2021. Hill's attentiveness during her recruiting process made it clear that Loyola was the right school for her, King said.

"He wanted to know me as a person. He wanted to know more than my skills. He wanted to know what made me happy, what made me sad, what I wanted to see out of the program. He was very, very willing to listen," King said. "When you know Rickey, you feel like you've known him forever. I just feel like that speaks volumes on who he is as a person."

Hill was a demanding but fair coach, King said. King remembered Hills reaction when she tried to get out of a 6 a.m. dance practice with a phony excuse about her roommate's car blocking her in

"So I'm thinking that he's going to be

all like, 'all right, well, f'll just see you on Thursday.' He was like 'all right, well, text me your address," King said. "So I just told him, I was like, 'oh, she's moving her car. I'm on my way to practice.' Like, he was

really about to get into his car and everybody knows that Coach Rickey can't drive. So not only was I like, oh my gosh, this man's about to know where I live, but also, he can't drive to save his life. It's just so funny. We love him so much."

King said that the memory of Hill that stands out to her the most came at the end of her junior season. Loyola's cheer and dance teams had both made it to the NAIA national championship for the first time in program history, but when the team bus arrived in Davenport, Iowa, King and her teammates' inboxes were filled with emails from the university saying that in-person classes had been suspended for the rest of the year follow-

ing the first COVID-19 outbreak in New Orleans.

"The competition had not been can-

celed yet, but there were members of my team crying" King said. "Like, I'm scared. I don't want to compete. I don't know what this virus is about." As the team ate dinner that night, Hill

As the team ate diffiner that ringht, Hill allowed his athletes to decide whether or not they would compete the following day. King said it was clear that Hill wanted to see his teams compete for a national title, but when they told him they didn't feel safe, he supported them 100%.

"And till this day, that's the most expensive dinner I've ever had in my life because we drove all the way to Iowa only to turn back around to go home,"

King said. 'Just think about if a coach didn't genuinely care about his team and how they felt and who they were. Like, we would still be in lowa, forced to compete."

In addition to col-

lege coaching, Hill traveled the country as a choreographer and competition judge, touching many lives along the way. Leigh Carr is the head cheerleading coach at Bethel University, and she's been close with Hill ever since they shared a judges panel at a cheerleading competition in 1998.

"I think across the nation, there's a lot of people who are gonna miss that Rickey Hill spirit," Carr said. "He left a huge hole in the cheer community."

Whenever Loyola and Bethel would compete in the same tournaments, Hill and Carr would find time for their teams to eat meals together and build camaraderie while competing far away from home. Even though they were technically competitors, Carr said Hill would always look like her team's biggest fan while they performed.

"I remember his cheer team had gone right before us, and he took them up to the ring to tell them what they had done great and what they had done wrong, but the minute he heard that Bethel University was on, he's like 'go, go, go,' and you just see him running down the stairs,' Carr said. "He was one of the loudest cheerleaders for us, and likewise, we'd be down in front cheering for them. It didn't matter that we were competing against each other."

This year, Bethel's cheer team will wear black ribbons embroidered with Loyola's block L and the initials "R.H." in their hair to honor Hill.

A Facebook group called "Remembering Rah Rah Rickey" was created by two of Hill's former James Madison cheerleaders as the news of his passing spread across social media. The group now has 325 members who've all shared photos and stories of the man who changed their lives.

Cantu-Parks said she'd been boycotting Facebook for over 15 years before she made an account to join the celebration. She said that what she'll remember most about her friend was the unconditional love he gave to everyone around him.

"He didn't have an easy childhood. Everything he had, he fought for. But you know how people say you make decisions based on two things, either fear or love: every decision Rickey made was based on love," Cantu-Parks said. "He really was so brave and courageous, but all of that was coming from a place of love."

MOLD: Mold displaces residents

Continued from page 1

the offer down and stayed with a friend because she thought the repairs would only take a few days. After she was displaced for more than a week, she started staying in Airbnbs and with her boyfriend, using his car as a storage room.

"I'm just living out of my boyfriend's car," said Kelly Cernes, psychology sophomore. "Because I don't even have a car."

Students were not only concerned about the return date to their dorms, they also worried about the money they'd lost living elsewhere.

"I got the call about moving out and immediately ran downstairs to my mom and started sobbing." Hodges said about losing their money. "I knew I was going to get f—— over."

Carrollton Hall apartments cost between \$4,732 and \$5,135 per semester, according to Loyola's website. However, the Buddig and Biever dorms the students have lived in since being displaced cost nearly \$1,000 less, and the students thought they were losing money.

thought they were losing money.

Students displaced by the remediation have since been informed by Rice that they will be given a credit for their time spent elsewhere.

Jenna Barnes, public health sophomore and resident of another suite affected by the mold, said she and her suitemates were given constantly changing and often contradictory information from Residential Life.

Rice said students in these suites were communicated with throughout the process by professional staff members.

Rice said Carrollton Hall doesn't regularly have mold issues; however, this isn't the first time mold has been reported in the residential hall. In 2004, Loyola sued various companies involved in the construction of Carrollton Hall over structural problems that resulted in moldy dorms, among other problems, according to a Maroon article.

Hodges said that they felt the university ignored their concerns until it was too late, waiting almost a month after Ida made landfall to move them out.

"If they had just listened to us from the start, we'd be back in our rooms by now," Hodges said Oct. 4.

Students were allowed to move back into their rooms a few days later on Oct. 6 and 7, Hodges and Barnes said.

As they were dealing with the mold problems, residents said they were nervous to talk to their residential assistant.

Students shared messages in which Shamaria Bell, residential assistant of the 6th floor of Carrollton Hall, told them to stop talking about the mold after the students had been complaining in their floor group chat.

"It's not productive," Bell said in the group chat. "Period. It's done."

Bell told The Maroon to speak to Chris Rice for a comment.

Hodges said some of the students felt like Bell's language was dismissive and that they weren't being listened to.

"(Bell) approached it as if I was being entitled about wanting to live in the room I paid for," Hodges said.

However, students said that they're more frustrated now with the way the situation was handled than the mold.

"I'm not mad about the hurricane," Hodges said. "(The delayed remediation process) is a serious neglect towards not only the property, but also the people (they) were responsible for caring for."

JACKED IN DAYLIGHT

Loyola student carjacked in front of her home following Hurricane Ida



there, asking myself

I can't believe this is

Madison Bergeron

Loyola student

actually happening to

'did this really happen?



by McKenna Greenleaf Faulk/ The Maroon

By Oliver Bennett @OliBTweets

History pre-law sophomore Madison Bergeron lost \$3,500 worth of items and her car in three minutes when she turned around to find a group of teenage boys tugging on her purse outside of her Uptown apartment.

Bergeon was one of many people in the city who were robbed or carjacked in the weeks following Hurricane Ida, according to Nola.com.

"I was just standing there, asking myself 'did this really happen? I can't believe this is actually believe this is actually happening to me, Bergeron said.

Bergeron was returning home from work at around 4 p.m. when she saw boys walking around the street near her house. Bergeon said middle-school-

aged boy showed her what appeared to be a large gun and shouted, "Give me everything you have!"

Shocked, she complied and handed

one of the boys her bag. The boy took her keys and drove away in her car, a high

school graduation gift that she's had for less than two years.

Bergeron's was used in a string of robberies, then abandoned, the New Orleans Police Department Department said. Authorities told her

that her car was used in five other robberies and carjackings. Bergeron said authorities told her the carjackers

> other cars, attempted and failed to steal others, and were others, and we robbed themselves.

fake gun?"

- Madison Bergeron

In the immediate aftermath of the robbery, Bergeron knocked on the door Bergeron of her house until someone let her in. She borrowed her roommate's phone and called her mom before breaking

down, realizing the severity of what

"It could've been so much worse, but

it was terrifying," she said.

After calling her mom, she called the police, who, the "What are the chances following brought Bergeron in of someone having a to identify one of three boys who threatened her. She recognized him, and he told the NOPD everything

Lovola student once he was arrested and questioned. Police found her car in a common

carjacking dump site a week after the robbery, Bergeron said. Police later told Bergeron that the boys were not holding real weapons but airsoft guns that they had modified to look more realistic.

"It was terrifying because I had no idea," Bergeron said. "What are the chances of someone having a fake gun?"

Her car had two broken windows and looked like it was involved in multiple crashes, Bergeron said. Despite the loss, she said she is staying positive. Being carjacked taught Bergeron to be more cautious when alone in the city

"As much as people say that New Orleans is a loving city, there are people that are out to get easy targets," she said.

Alumni take on broadway during COVID

By Maggie Malone

Broadway is getting the chance to brush itself off and start anew after being knocked off its feet by the pandemic Loyola theatre arts alumni Bari Bellard and Brianna Thompson are now working post-shutdown to stage manage Broadway productions on their national tours.

"This return has been so satisfying," Bellard said. "I've spent a lot of time dreaming about what this will look like and feel like, and then it just happened. We got to hear the roar of the audience again."

Bellard, a 2017 graduate, is now head stage manager for the 2021 North American national tour of "Cats," one of the first five shows to start the return to national touring. Bellard worked on over 10 university productions during his time

Thompson is the assistant stage manager and assistant company manager for the touring production of "Tootsie." She graduated from Lovola in the Spring of

"They're both shining stars," said Patrick Gendusa, chair of the Loyola theatre arts and dance department. "They are the most compassionate, loving, reliable folks; it's no surprise to me that they're succeeding."

Bellard said that he is still getting used to the jolt of such a big change in theater size and scale of productions after such a long shutdown, but that he is so thrilled to have had both opportunities.

'Cats' is a piece of whimsical, magical entertainment, while "The Color Purple" was so heartfelt and real. I feel so fortunate as an artist to be able to work on them both," said Bellard.

Thompson emphasized how having support on enforcing COVID-19 protocols is crucial for shows to continue to happen.

Thompson said that on the set of "Tootsie" they get COVID-19 tested twice a week, but she said it's not just the cast and crew that needs to stay diligent.

"All patrons need to wear a mask. It's not a question. Theater companies need the support and backup to enforce these protocols to keep us afloat right now," she

They were connected with the opportunity to work on their respective productions by Loyola alum Brian Schrader. Schrader is the general manager for touring company Troika Entertainment.

Bellard also stage managed "The Color Purple" in the months before the pandemic began, closing the show right before lockdown was announced.

Bellard and Thompson encouraged students to be persistent while transitioning

"You never know what time you ask that something will work," said Bellard. "It'll take you asking one really good question that

gets you the job over someone else."

Thompson echoed this message of resilience when speaking of her experience as a person of color in the theater industry. Thompson said fellow students of color should not be discouraged by the lack of representation they see on Broadway.

"If you are a POC and feel like they won't even look at you, do it anyway. It lets people understand that you are serious about this and shouldn't be discounted because of the color of your skin. If you're good, you're

COVID inspires kindness among student bargoers

"Before, there was a

lot of disrespect and

blatant ignorance, but

college students, have

Bartender at Redd's Uptilly

been a lot more

- Shelby Christmas

respectful."

after COVID, especially

By Jacqueline Galli jegalli@my.loyno.edu @jackie_galli

Nothing in life is certain except death, taxes, and bars in New Orleans. In the continued presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Uptown bars are seeing fewer patrons as well as changes in customer attitudes.

"I felt like before there was a lot of disrespect and ignorance, blatant but after COVID. especially college students, have been a lot more respectful," Shelby said Christmas who's been a bartender for two years at Redd's Uptilly Tavern. Less than a mile

away from both Lovola and Tulane's campuses, Redd's attracts a large number of college students.

Christmas said the bar would be stuffed with over 300 college students on a typical night. This changed when New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell issued a mandate prohibiting bars and restaurants from seating customers in March 2020.

Since the city reopened and college

students returned to campus full time Christmas said Redd's gets about 100 students a night. While this is less than pre-pandemic levels, she said she hasn't noticed much of a difference in tips or bar

Christmas said while the attitude of patrons towards bar staff has improved, revenue has stayed about the same since

before the pandemic. Christmas didn't have an explanation for the change.

Redd's Unlike other bars in the Uptown area might have had an impact on their bar income also have seen positive towards COVID-19 policies.

Monique catering director and informal

COVID-19 policy enforcer for Jacques-Imo's Café. Pyle said the Cajun food restaurant, also popular as a place for latenight drinks, has been taking COVID-19 precautions seriously, and customers have gone with the changes.

Pyle said in previous years, Jacques-Imo's experienced its busiest time and its most complaints during graduation



Bartender Ella Cat prepares a drink for a customer at Redd's Uptilly Tavern in New Orleans on Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021. Redd's bartender, Shelby Christmas said the attitude of customers has improved from the beginning of the pandemic. Jacqueline

Students who couldn't book a table around graduation before the spaces filled up would call the restaurant, Pyle said, "fighting and crying because we ruined their lives since we couldn't give them a reservation."

There were no such dramatics last graduation season, said Amber Donewar, acques-Imo's administrator and server. Donewar said the restaurant only got about four to five calls for bookings during that time.

TJ Quill's is another popular college drinking spot, just across the street from

TJ Quill's manager, Stephen Ridgeway,

said that while he couldn't make many comparisons between how the bar is doing now and before COVID-19, he can't imagine them doing any better.

The bar doesn't hit capacity every night, but Ridgeway said he doesn't mind, since less people in the bar makes the customers more cooperative. He said that when issues arise, it is much easier to handle conflict and prevent escalation.

"Every day is an adventure in that regard," he said.

While less people in bars has had a positive effect on student behavior, bars hope they can become busier once again. Film • Arts • Food • Music • Leisure • Nightlife



Photo Illustration by Gabriella Killett. From left: Michael Lardizabal, Roux Fernandez Melguizo, Erick Guerrero, Jose Hernandez, Valeria Santini

Latine artists celebrate their heritage

By Oliver Bennett sbennett@my.loyno.edu @OliBTweets

Latine creatives at Loyola said they use their culture to inspire themselves and each other to become better artists. Making a statement with their art and being passionate about social justice has become a part of the celebration of their heritage, the artists said.

New Orleans is known for spaces filled with artists, but for many professionals, university is where they started to create. Latine students with shared creative interests have found a community at Lovola.

Michael Lardizabal

Michael Lardizabal, a digital filmmaking junior, works in filmmaking. He also works in photography, graphic design, poetry writing, screenwriting, and runs his own clothing company. With a mixed bag of passions and inspirations, Lardizabal considers himself a creative, rather than an artist.

Early in his film career, Lardizabal worked as a translator on a film, "Blue Bayou," that made it to the iconic Cannes Film Festival. Ladizabal found his passion for film in his first love, poetry. He wanted to merge his literary prowess and love of the visual arts into one cohesive medium: film.

He's continued his passion recently

by releasing his first short film, "Roads Diverged" and expanding his clothing brand, Hot Garbage Apparel.

Libre Albedrio, a South and Central American literary movement about transcending cultural and societal norms inspires Lardizabal. He's most fascinated by the role of the Roman Catholic Church and machismo culture. He said he's intrigued by the contrast between community and culture in Honduras and New Orleans.

"In the states, it's a lot more prevalent to have a culture that prioritizes the individual, versus a more communal nature where I'm from," Lardizabal said.

Roux Fernandez Melguizo

Roux Fernandez Melguizo, an international history senior, is a queer Colombian visual artist and musician who uses their art to tell the stories and struggles of queer immigrants and people of color. Melguizo, who uses they/he pronouns, makes political art inspired by radical leftist politics, queer liberation theory, and their experiences as a nonbinary, butch lesbian.

"There's no one like me for me to look up to," Melguizo said, adding "so I became my own inspiration."

Melguizo immigrated from Colombia to rural Minnesota as a child and became immersed in local culture. Inspired by their Colombian roots and gender identity, Melguizo began to create pieces that depict unapologetic queer, transgender

One of their pieces depicts two gender ambiguous lovers pining for each other, one draped across the other's lap. Melguizo said their art transcends the binaries of gender and sexuality that constrains western nations.

Melguizo said their style can be cartoon-like and fun but deals with intense and controversial subjects. Their pieces are paired with short texts, demanding rights for workers, people of color, and transgender individuals.

"Art is about

survival. Art is just a

— Roux Fernandez Melguizo

revolutionary tool."

International History

"Art is about survival," Melguizo said. "Art is just a revolutionary tool."

Erick Guerrero

Straight from El Salvador, graphic design sophomore Erick Guerrero is also known

Guerrero is also known as "Nueve," what he also named his clothing brand, founded in 2018. Guerrero, an international student, started working in fashion when he was a junior in high school. He is inspired by streetwear, niche subcultures, and his family's resilience and culture.

"I had to make my own path in life while being questioned, judged, looked down at, and seen as an outsider and misunderstood by my parents and community," said Guerrero.

Guerrero said that his clothing brand

and art are his life and sole means of income; he designs everything, makes all of the logos, and handles all of the shipping. He tries to get involved in the communities and cultures he draws from, intertwining their ideas with his own. When he did a skate-inspired line, he started skateboarding to fully understand skate culture and honor it in his work. Guerrero's latest release was a summer collection, and he's currently in the process of releasing his first women's collection.

"My clothing brand and everything I do with it is my lifestyle," Guerrero said.

Jose Hernandez

Jose Hernandez, a jazz studies junior, said he strives to be able to play anything and everything; he doesn't want to

be limited to just one genre. His eclectic style draws inspiration from a variety of sources: fantasy, politics, and personal experiences, he said.

"I didn't really have anything that I was passionate about until I started creating," said Hernandez.

Currently, Hernandez, who plays bass and guitar, has been writing about his frustration towards politics, sexism, and racism. He's been using music and writing to work through the recent loss of his mom, which he says has both hurt

his motivation and made him more determined to write.

Hernandez says that his Latine identity has exposed him to more music than his peers, helping him create his distinct style. He has a background in salsa and merengue music that he says inspires how he makes music, whether it be rock, punk, metal, hip-hop, classical, or jazz.

Valeria Santini

Valeria Santini, graphic design senior, said that before Loyola she never saw herself as an artist.

After having a self-described 'identity crisis' when she arrived in New Orleans from Puerto Rico, Santini latched onto and found a passion for graphic design that she combined with her dedication to social justice.

Santini aspires to bring an artistic approach to communications and non-profit work. After taking a political art class at Loyola, she realized that her talent and love of her community could be intertwined. She's the director of design at a Puerto Rico-based nonprofit, Sin Limites, that focuses on bringing education and materials to disadvantaged communities.

"There's so much political art in Puerto Rico," Santini said. "It's everywhere. I feel very happy about where I come



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Loyola's swim teams practice at the Ochsner Fitness Center on Oct. 10, 2021. They normally practice in The Den, but they moved off campus due to the University Sports Complex pool closure. Gabrielle Korein/The Maroon

By Jabez Berniard and Kirby Mason

jabernia@my.loyno.edu kamason@my.loyno.edu @JabezBNews @KirbyAMason

The Loyola swim teams are getting an extra dose of vitamin D and adjusting to new routines after being separated for weeks in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

The teams originally arrived on campus in August eager for the start of the season, but put a pause on their preparations when the university closed following the storm. They only had one week of regularly scheduled practices before evacuating.

When they returned to campus in September, they were notified that they would not be able to use the pool in the University Sports Complex for practice or meets for the rest of the fall semester due to damage from the hurricane.

As a result of this, they now commute to the Ochsner Fitness Center in Harahan, Louisiana six days a week for morning practices, where the swimmers said they take advantage of the outdoor pool to soak up some sun. On weekdays, they also travel within Uptown to Newman High School for afternoon practice.

Timothy Bussion, assistant swim coach, said he is grateful for the staff accommodating them and being responsive during this time of transition. He is also proud of how the swimmers have adapted to the changes.

"The team was never down. I never felt the attitude was bad," Bussion said.

Megan Stempkovski, a first-year swimmer, said she likes the team's new practice schedule and wants to stay positive about what's going on around her.

"Adjusting wasn't bad. It was nice," Stempkovski said. "It has provided flexibility and has helped with the adjustment to school."

Senior Anna Sitzman said it was difficult for her to get used to the new pool.

cult for her to get used to the new pool.
"It was harder to adapt at first because
we are used to swimming at Loyola. I

knew how many strokes I needed to take," Sitzman said.

However, she said she has grown more comfortable with each practice. "I am feeling encouraged. This is my

last season. I want to pass the torch to the next person. I want to leave the best legacy possible," Sitzman said. The teams decided not to participate

The teams decided not to participate in their first scheduled meet of the season because it was only a few days after their return to campus.

Stempkovski said that they are work-

Stempkovski said that they are working hard to catch back up before the next competition, and that the weeks off have given them "more time to be more motivated" and "time to reflect."

The Pack will compete for the first time this year on Oct. 16 against Bethel University.

Both swimmers said they have also benefited from the adjusted schedule in unexpected ways. They use the bus rides and carpools as time to catch up on each other's lives outside of swimming, and after practice the team sits together for breakfast.

"We need to support each other outside of the pool. That is the most important thing because we are people first," Sitzman said.

Cheer and dance communites remember the late Rickey Hill

"He was the most

amazing friend to

everyone. Once you

entered his life, you

were forever his

Former member of Hill's

friend"

cheer squad

— Julie Mann

By Brendan Heffernan @bmheffer@my.loyno.edu @heffthereporter

When Lisa Cantu-Parks and Julie Mann heard that their friend and former coach Rickey Hill was visiting northern Virginia in early August, they knew they had to make time to see him.

Cantu-Parks and Mann were overjoyed because they hadn't been in the same room as Hill since before the start of the pandemic. They had no idea that this would be their final chance to see him in person.

"I called Julie and I said, 'girl, he's coming Aug. 9 to 12. Do not schedule anything because nothing is more important than

seeing him," Cantu-Parks said. "You don't realize that would have been your last moment to hug somebody, to hold somebody, to tell them you love them." Hill, 54, died Sept. 20, 2021 after suffering a heart attack on Loyola's campus. Hill made a colossal impact on the sports of competitive cheer and dance as a national champion head coach, choreographer, and competition judge. For many of his former athletes and colleagues, however, Hill's kindness,

thoughtfulness, and sense of humor were more impactful than any routine he put together.

"He was so compassionate. He was the most amazing friend to everyone. Once you entered his life, you were forever his friend," Mann said. "Everything he touched in his life he made fun."

Cantu-Parks and Mann both competed for Hill in the 1990s at

James Madison University. Cantu-Parks served as the Dukes' dance captain under Hill, and Mann was a member of Hill's 1996 national champion



Rickey Hill with members of the 2019-2020 cheer and dance teams. Hill passed away in September of this year after suffering a heart attack. Gabrielle Korein/The Maroon

cheerleading squad. After over two and a half decades, they both still consider Hill one of their closest friends.

"For so many of us who stayed close with him since we graduated, he has been a permanent fixture in our lives," Cantu-Parks said. "Dancing with us at our weddings, taking time to meet our children when they were born, celebrating every milestone with us, and always offering unparalleled support in times of loss and sadness."

After James Madison, Hill made coaching stops at Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, Methodist University, and Winthrop University New Orleans' brand new cheer and

dance program in 2016. Loyola Athletic Director Brett Simpson said Hill's decades of experience and reputation made him a clear choice for the position.

"His passion for his craft was infectious," Simpson said. "He had the ability to bring people of different backgrounds together. I think he was a

See **REMEMBER** page 7

SERVICIOS: El desafío de pasa ser a una institución de servicios hispanos

Continued from page 1

ser una Institución de Servicio Hispano," dijo Díaz.

Hay una multitud de maneras en las cuales la universidad puede servirle meior a sus estudiantes Latines, dijo ella. Díaz cree que las ferias de clubes deben ser organizadas específicamente

"Si algo, han sido los

estudiantes y los profe-

sores quienes han inten-

tado demostrar orgullo

Hispano en vez de la

misma escuela."

Estudiante de estudios

Kim Diaz

internacionales

para sus estudiantes de comunidades minoría y la universidad debe incluir a invitados para conferencias de diferentes orígenes para discutir temas relacionados a su cultura con más frecuencia.

"Simplemente se siente como si las minorías fueran más una estadística que individuos reales", diio Díaz.

Michael

Lardizábal, estudiante de Cine de tercer año, dijo que se siente representado servido como estudiante Latino en . Loyola. Al caminar por las salas del Danna Center, el dijo que siempre escucha a alguien hablando español, lo cual le fomenta un sentido de pertenencia y crea un espacio en el cual puede compartir con estudiantes Latinos de otros países.

A pesar de estos sentimientos de inclusión, Lardizábal expresó la falta de diversidad entre la facultad universitaria, específicamente la ausencia de profesores Hispanos permanentes.

"Todos mis profesores son america-nos y blancos. Son buenos profesores, pero una persona Latina o de otra de scendencia, cultura, o raza también podría hacer un gran trabajo. No he tenido ni un solo profesor Latino o Hispano.

Y solo dos profesores Afroamerica-nos dentro de mi concentración". dijo Lardizábal.

Como estudiante de estudios latinoamericanos con una especialidad se-cundaria en español, Díaz dijo que no había podido tomar ningún curso con profesores latines hasta el año pasado.

Durante su tiempo en Loyola, Samer

Yacaman, estudiante de finanzas y nego-cios internacionales de tercer año, dijo ha conocido múltiples profesores Latines, pero solo ha tenido la oportunidad de tomar clases con el Dr. Gustavo Barbosa y conocer al Dr. Uriel Quezada.

"Creo que es importante contar con la Decana María Calzada y el Decano Asociado Uriel Que-

sada y que reflejemos en nuestra propia cultura de campus quiénes somos como comunidad." dijo Tetlow.

Algunos profesores también están insatisfechos con la falta de profesores Hispanes y Latines en Lovola.

El Director de los programas de estudios latinoamericanos y español, Pablo Zavala dijo que está contento con el trabajo que la universidad hace para ayudar a sus estudiantes tanto en lo académico como en lo financiero, pero le gustaría ver un cambio en la diversidad entre la facultad. Zavala señaló la falta de profesores Latines y Negres que trabajan en la universidad a tiempo completo.

"Creo que para atender adecuadamente a los estudiantes hispanos, necesitan verse cuando miran a sus profesores. Y no estar en una institución

Estudiantes hispanes - 19% Estudiantes no hispanes-81% Porcentaje necesario- 25% Loyola necesita llegar al

para ser una Institución de Servicio Hispano

donde cerca del 80% de los profesores de tiempo completo son blancos," dijo

A pesar de la falta de representación en la facultad, los estudiantes expresaron sentimientos positivos hacia la comunidad Latine creada por los mismos estudiantes con la avuda de la facultad Hispane en el campus.

Yacaman dijo que se siente respetado por toda la comunidad en Lovola.

"Pienso que los Latinos/ Hispanos tenemos una conexión muy fuerte entre nosotros y por ende solo es necesario que nos encontremos los unos

a los otros y ya armamos nuestro ambiente," dijo Yacaman.

Zavala cree que la iniciativa para convertirse en una Institución de Servicio Hispano será increíblemente beneficiosa para los estudiantes Latinos de Lovola

en el futuro.

"Serán meior atendidos," diio Zavala, "Con suerte, eso significa mejor representación, mejor ayuda económica y

"Pienso que los Latinos/Hispanos tenemos una conexión muy fuerte entre nosotros y por ende solo es necesario que nos encontremos los unos a los otros y ya armamos nuestro ambiente."

Samer Yacaman

Estudiante de finanzas y negocios internacionales

avuda en general que puedan obtener. Eso ayudará a todo el estudiantado en general. Y con suerte, eso iniciará un ciclo que va a atraer más estudiantes his-panos," dijo Zavala.

Tetlow dijo que la universidad está

trabajando para hacer exactamente eso v aumentar la retención de todos los estudiantes, particularmente los estudiantes de color. La universidad incluso

está trabajando para ampliar el currículo académico y hacerlo más diverso para el beneficio de todos los estudiantes, particularmente para atraer la atención de los estudiantes Latines actuales y del futuro, según Tetlow.

La Oficina de Equidad e Inclusión está inaugurando el nuevo Centro Multicultural en el Danna Center en los próximos meses. Una vez el centro esté abierto, los estudiantes

pueden contar con más programación, eventos, y talleres para educar y celebrar la gran diversidad del estudiantado en el campus, según el vicepresidente de Eguidad e Inclusión, Kedrick Perry

Across

- 1 Dull paint finish 6 Make furious 11 Cry loudly

- 11 Cry folding 14 Handle on a rap sheet 15 Short and sweet 16 Actress Longoria 17 "Born to Be Wild" rock band 19 Mo. after February 20 Like a poor loser

- 21 Figure in red ink 22 Submit tax returns online 24 Single-handedly

- 24 Single-Handedy 26 Clear kitchen wrap 28 One of the political Bushes 31 Cold-weather neckwear
- 35 Is crazy about 37 FDR's successor
- 38 Pants, in slang 39 Gives the thumbs-down
- 39 Gives the thumbs-town
 40 Egyptian boy-king
 41 Gesture while giving directions
 42 "__ Brute?"
 43 __ out: depress
 44 Texas border city
 45 Flash of lightning
 48 Part of the Trinity
 49 Aired again

- 49 Aired again
- 50 Former
- 52 Flag maker Ross 54 In Touch Weekly twosome, usually
- 56 Film spool 60 Every bit
- 61 Gobble down food, and hint to the ends of 17-, 31- and 45-Across 64 Fail a polygraph test 65 River of Lyon

- 66 Role player 67 __ Cruces, N. Mex. 68 Less loony 69 V-formation fliers

Down

- 1 Sunday service 2 Voice above tenor

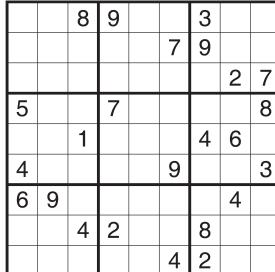
- 3 Stadium level 4 Cassettes and eight-tracks 5 Sixth sense letters
- 6 When both hands are straight up 7 Anchor's delivery

- - 8 Icky to the max
 - 9 Bilingual subj. 10 Mentions, with "to" 11 Schools for ministers-to-be
 - 113 Strious for Himsters-to-be 12 Mirror shape 13 Uncarpeted 18 New York Harbor's __ Island 23 The "F" in SPF 25 Hasn't paid yet
 - 27 Music or dance
 - 28 Pop star Jackson 29 Writer Wharton 30 Hard-shelled terrarium pets 32 "Opposable" digit
 - 33 Lively sonata movement
 - 34 Bed that's easily stored 36 Attends homecoming, say

- - 40 Activate the TV, say 41 New England NFL team 43 Arthur of "The Golden Girls" 44 Andean pack animal

 - 46 Laundromat array 47 Bottle cap remover 51 Feud ender
 - 52 Matzo __ soup 53 Kazan who directed "On the Water-

 - 55 Fork prong 57 One-named Art Deco notable
 - 58 Erotic god 59 Ancient harplike instrument 62 "Caught ya!" 63 Witchy woman of folklore



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Social media is an echo chamber



MYRA HODGES Sociology and classical studies sophomore

Social media is one of the hallmark innovations of our generation. It brings us humor, entertainment, and community. Most platforms nowadays are designed to bring each user the most tailored, personalized experience on the app to keep them coming back for more.

The platforms use algorithms to analyze what posts a user likes or interacts with, and they show them more content with similar tags or that people with similar viewing habits also interacted with.

Social media is awesome, and there's no doubt about that. I can get on my phone and learn how to cook Korean tteokbokki, how to do the most intense special effects makeup, and read someone's hot take on capitalism — all in under five minutes. And the more I interact with these videos, the more I like them, the more I'll see.

This isn't always a good thing. It creates a kind of loop or echo chamber that I'm unable to escape. And while being able to binge on content I like is fun, if it's misleading or increasingly radical, it has the ability to morph the way someone thinks.

One of the first things I learned in a political thought class is to constantly surround yourself with opposing thoughts and ideas. By doing this, you challenge yourself and your viewpoints and learn what you actually believe. However, online algorithms do the exact opposite. Everyone's beliefs are being immediately validated, and then deepened with the next post. Self-analysis has become a thing of the past.

The echo chamber of social media has enabled harmful and false speech to dominate people's political thought. From conspiracy theories about



to fake stories about

what political figureheads are saving. online political commentary accounts are free to put whatever it is they want to say online, regardless of its veracity.

Their viewers become more and more unwilling to challenge themselves or to have conversations with people of varying beliefs.

The youngest generations are be-coming more and more radical every day. That's not necessarily a problem, though. The problem lies in the reason and depth of the radicalization. People are self-identifying as fascists or as communists without even knowing what those words really mean, and then they cite their TikTok account for what beliefs they have. And the political

ple push further into each side of the aisle, American politics is nearing a stalemate. Leftists are refusing to participate in politics, Democrats are split between the young and old members, far-right conspiracies are dominating Republican thought, and the moderates that could bridge the gap between the two are becoming few and far-between.

People are arguing online about conspiracies and pushing for either far-right or far-left political correctness, but nothing in the real world is actually getting done. It's getting dangerous. There have been mass shootings

attributed to social media outlets, such as the New Zealand Christchurch shootings in 2019. People that are already radical are being inundated with content that is even more radical, pushing them deep into a rabbit hole of content designed to keep them ingesting more.

The online echo chamber is getting out of control, and with media outlets being unwilling, or even unable, to filter out harmful content there seems to be no hope for getting people out of the cycle. It's up to each individual now to critically analyze their beliefs and the media they consume, but few

er and fewer people are willing to do it. regularly-scheduled TikTok nap.

Life is a rollercoaster



KIRSTEN HAWKINS Economics sophomore

As college students, we understand that life is many things, but it is not easy. No matter what background you come from, what race you are, what gender you are, what age you are, everybody has their own setups and setbacks

College life has been a rollercoaster with the sharp turns being unreasonable professors, the steep inclines being COVID-19, and the steep descents being hurricanes. Being in my second year of college, this is not how I expected my college experience to be. Our lives have already been flipped upside down after dealing with COVID-19 for almost two years, and we have to constantly worry about hurricanes affecting our area. I am physically and mentally drained, and I feel like I am always playing catch up with no chance of catching up.

have the weight of the world on your shoulders with the pressures of trying to exude a perfect image. Living in Louisiana is especially hard on students with more hurricanes directly impacting our area since last year. Hurricane Ida gave a lot of us flashbacks of Hurricane Katrina with not truly knowing if we were going

to have anything to return to, and for some people, that fear became a reality. Natural disaster PTSD is a real thing, and the university's response was to pile work on top of us. We are drowning assignments, and we do not how to hurricanes." know

Until effective change is made by the university to put our physical and mental health first, I follow my "four-R rule" to help center

myself. The first R is REFLECTING on why I feel this way. Once I understand why I feel a certain way it helps me pinpoint the root of the problem.

The second R is REDIRECTING my mindset to not only put my best interests first, but to also change my mindset to a positive nature. There is no one around you who is a harder critic than you are.

The third R is RESOLUTION This is the stage where I come up with a way

of implimenting my plan. When I feel overwhelmed. I take a step back to understand why I feel this way. Then, I turn the negative into a positive. I come up with a course of action to solve the problem.

Lastly, I REPEAT each step of the process because healing is a daily choice that I have to make in order to evolve and

become stronger.

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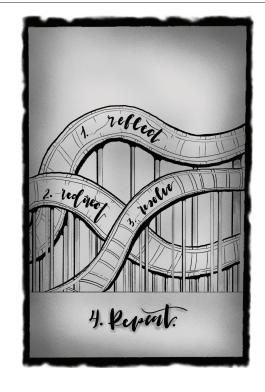
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We are humans with our own limitations and emotions. Our mental health matters and it should be respected.



EDITORIAL

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EDITORIAL POLICY

One out of five Loyola students is Hispanic/Latine, while only 16 out of 280 full-time faculty members fit the same demographic.

Why are White professors teaching classes about people of color and their experiences? Students should be able to see professors that look like them. It's unjustifiable that students can complete four years at Loyola and never have a

Latine professor.

Loyola is set to become a Hispanic-serving Institution, which allows the university to apply for additional federal funding. It requires that the student body is 25% Hispanic/Latine. Now, 19% of the student body identifies as Hispanic/ Latine, but Loyola plans to recruit more students in the next three years to grow this population.

78% of tenured professors and 83% of full-time faculty members are White. This creates a classroom dynamic that prioritizes White opinions and perspectives, leaving students of color in the dust. When the classroom is led by White professors, it puts the responsibility on students of color to facilitate conversations about their identities and educate their peers and professors.

Though federal grant money can't go towards recurring costs like hiring faculty, Loyola needs to set aside money for them. In order to foster an environment

creating positions for Latine/Hispanic professors

Loyola also needs to hire Latine mental health professionals and advisors that can directly address students' concerns. Students of color should have access to mental health services where they don't have to explain or justify their identities to White professionals.

The university depends on Latine students to create inclusive communities, but it's time to take a more active role in supporting them. Student-led organizations, Hispanic Music Appreciation and Organization of Latin American Students, are the two spaces on campus that feature Latine voices. While it's great that students have built their own communities, it shouldn't be their responsibility. Students shouldn't have to go out of their way to find places at Loyola that allow them to celebrate their identities.

While autonomy and freedom of expression are important, so are institutional support and funding. Students shouldn't be expected to curate an inclusive environment. Loyola needs to play an active role in creating spaces that center Latine students and their experiences.

Loyola needs to ask students what they want, and they need to listen to of honest communication that allows criticism, the university should create a forum where Hispanic/Latine students can speak out. There should also be a diversity and inclusion representative that makes sure students' demands are acted upon, not just heard. Equity goes beyond creating scholarships and establishing an SGA branch.

Latine students deserve to feel like they have a home away from home at Loyola. They deserve a university-funded physical space dedicated to them that provides access to resources within the city. They deserve more than club allocations and student-led panels. The university needs to set aside a budget and find a space on campus where Latine stu-dents can congregate and find a shared community. While the university is creating a multicultural center, Hispanic / Latine students need an area just for themselves.

The national four-year graduation rate for Latine students is 16%, compared to 36% of White students. Loyola needs to be on the other side of this statistic. It's time the university stops using their students as a way to get more federal funding and instead supports them as individuals



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Please send all submissions — The Maroon, 6363 St. Charles Ave., Box 64, New Orleans, LA 70118. Email us your letters — letter@ lovno.edu.

before publication.

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HOWLS & GROWLS

HOWL to big foot

GROWL to the Wifi

HOWL

to spooky season

GROWL to midterms

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to Spirit Halloween GROWL

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to pumpkin smashing

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to Dave Chappelle





















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