

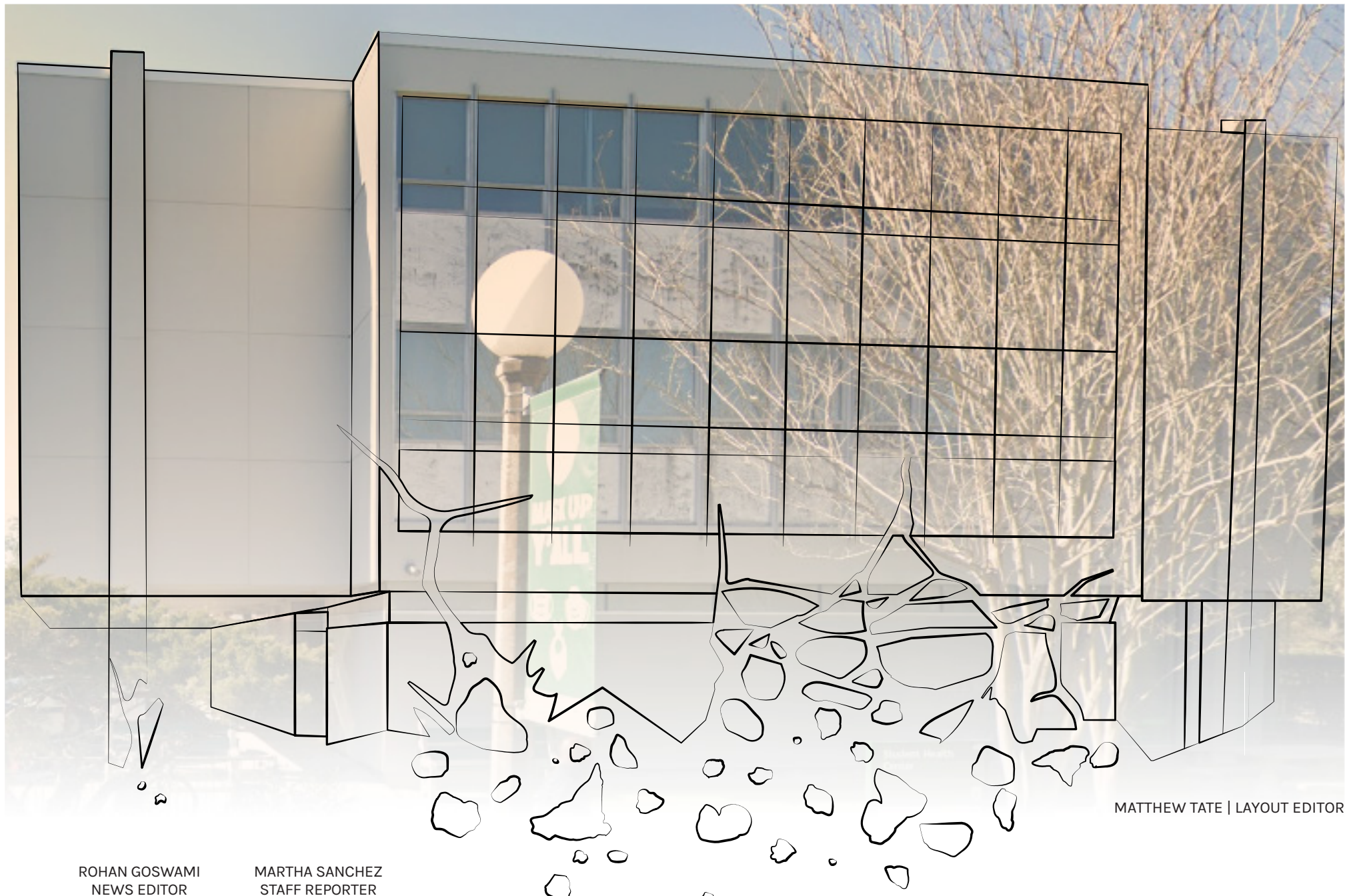
THE TULANE HULLABALOO

THE EYES AND EARS OF THE TULANE COMMUNITY

VOLUME CXVII NO. 6 DECEMBER 2, 2021

‘Chaos’ at Campus Health: Employees cite burnout, abuse, dangerous levels of turnover

Content Warning: The following article contains subject matter pertaining to suicide and self harm.



MATTHEW TATE | LAYOUT EDITOR

ROHAN GOSWAMI
NEWS EDITOR

MARTHA SANCHEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Ryan Judd said that when he started working as a staff therapist at the Tulane University Counseling Center, it was the best job he could have asked for. Stephanie Choy, another former staff therapist, said when she started “it always felt like we were listened to ... like the focus was on meeting students’ needs.”

Since spring 2021, more than a dozen staffers have resigned from Campus Health. According to Counseling Center employees, tensions boiled over after a meeting in January 2021, during which Scott Tims, assistant vice president for campus health, accused staff of turning away students in crisis among other complaints. Employees describe being blindsided by the accusations in front of senior leadership at Tulane.

“I was devastated,” Judd said about leaving the Counseling Center. Choy echoed that sentiment. “I did not want to leave,” she said.

The situation within the Center only grew worse, employees said, when Lilian Odera assumed directorship in March 2021. According to employees, turnover accelerated and caseloads have skyrocketed. For-

mer staffers describe being forced to refer students to outside care at their own cost due to full schedules, without follow-up from Tulane counselors.

Current employees under Odera say they are reluctant to speak publicly due to fear of retaliation. Those who did, said that employees are still fearful, isolated and closely watched. The Tulane Hullabaloo granted anonymity to individuals still employed with Tulane.

One staff member’s resignation from the Counseling Center was effective Nov. 18.

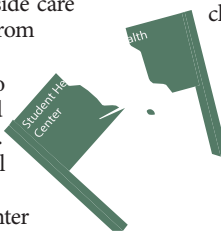
Fully staffed, the Counseling Center has 18 employees. Mike Strecker, assistant vice president for communications, said that there are currently 12 clinicians or individuals giving care to patients. Two are not yet

licensed to practice in Louisiana. Current employees said the true number of clinicians is as low as seven.

Tims was promoted to oversee campus health in 2015. He has a Ph.D. in Public Health and supervises Odera, a psychologist who joined as the director for the Counseling Center. She came to Tulane from Salisbury University.

According to Matthew Sobesky, former interim director for the Counseling Center, decisions made by Tims, and later Odera, drive much of what he describes as Campus Health’s “chaos.”

Tims declined to comment on allegations made against him by employees.



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Caring for students

Nearly every former Campus Health employee spoken to described a feeling of guilt about abandoning the student body.

Judd's separation from Tulane was not amicable. He recounted Odera "screaming" at him about an email he sent to the Counseling Center staff questioning the lack of information around a medical student suicide in the summer of 2021.

Previously, Judd said clinicians were told by administrators in the event of a student death. In this instance, he said that clinicians first heard about it from students.

According to Judd, Tims demanded that he leave campus without completing his final sessions with clients. Judd said that he refused to do so, citing his ethical and professional obligations to his patients.

Judd said that Tims threatened to call the Tulane University Police Department to forcibly remove him from campus. Other clinicians confirmed this account.

As a result, Judd was not allowed to complete his termination sessions with students. Termination ses-

sions are a critical part of a therapeutic relationship.

According to Judd, Tims and Odera forbade other counselors from explaining to his clients what happened.

Odera declined to comment on allegations made against her by employees. However, in an interview with *The Hullabaloo*, she emphasized her commitment to students in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, during the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout America's racial reckoning.

In a written statement, Strecker said "Dr. Odera has been focused on maximizing existing resources to continue to provide uninterrupted care to students while working to fill existing vacancies."

According to Strecker, the Counseling Center experienced a higher level of turnover during the COVID-19 pandemic, a trend he said was reflected in university counseling centers across the country.

Choy said that she was not able to fulfill her ethical duty to her patients because her schedule was too full to meet with students at the frequency they needed.

Alleged toxicity, intimidation, shaming

Current and former employees describe the meeting on Jan. 27 as a turning point for them. They said that this meeting was symptomatic of "abusive" be-

havior by Tims. At the time, Sobesky was serving as interim director for the Counseling Center.

According to several former employees, Tims accused the Counseling Center staff of negligence in front of university leadership, including Dusty Porter, vice president for student affairs, and Erica Woodley, assistant vice president for student affairs. Staff were not permitted to defend themselves against these accusations during the meeting.

"He was alleging that we just didn't know what we were doing," Sobesky said.

As captured by a recording of the meeting, Tims claimed, "I have received frequent reports of students being unable to be seen same day ... To be clear, students crying in the lobby were not allowed to see a licensed provider crying, upset, in crisis."

Strecker echoed that assessment and said "Last year, student complaints led to a review of Counseling Center practices after the departure of Dr. Bender. Specifically, we received multiple complaints of students being turned away when in crisis and not being able to access therapy."

Multiple current and former Campus Health clinicians dispute Tims' allegation that students in crisis were turned away. "In a crisis, of course nobody was going to ever be turned away," former Staff Therapist Ginette Arguello said.

Sobesky said that he was unaware of the review referenced by Strecker. "To my knowledge there [was] never any formal review of the counseling center and if this did occur, never was I informed of any significant concerns or infractions during the limited supervision and support meetings with [Dr. Tims]. The omission of these concerns actually led [me] to believe that we were 'keeping the ship afloat' during my tenure as interim director as I was asked to do by [Dr. Tims]."

"There are continued identifications of perfidious behavior ... I feel lied to and misled about many things," Tims said.

The employees interviewed uniformly deny that they lied to leadership. Belinda Avila, a former patient representative, said that the Counseling Center had been understaffed even before the pandemic.

"They harm themselves. It's all of our responsibility because we didn't do what our job is to do," Tims said in the recording after previously referencing an increase in suicide attempts and self harm within the student body.

I do not believe there is a circumstance in which you say to a staff member that they are at fault for a student death. As mental health professionals, we carry this burden daily. We take it home with us.
-Matthew Sobesky

Many on the staff at the time said the meeting was traumatic. A current employee said that it felt like "an assault." In a report to Human Resources, Sobesky described the meeting as a humiliation. Belinda Avila, a former patient representative, said she had "mild PTSD" for months after.

"The message," Choy said, "was that I wasn't doing enough. That I didn't care about students."

"It was such an abusive experience," Arguello said. She resigned two months after that meeting.

Over the past several months conversations have occurred to address these issues and ensure that no student walking into the counseling center would be turned away without care. - Mike Strecker

In an email sent March 5, Porter told Counseling Center staff that the purpose of the meeting "was not to make employees feel bad."

"Rather," Porter wrote, "it was to ensure that our students get the support they need and have the strongest educational experience possible."

Staff said it had the opposite impact. According to Sobesky, Tims provided "no evidence" to support his claims. In the meeting, Tims referenced "frequent reports" and "concerns," but did not elaborate in detail on all of his claims.

Porter did not directly respond to a request for comment. Speaking on his behalf, Strecker said, "Dr.

Porter is confident that the Counseling Center is being managed in a professional and productive manner by Dr. Odera and Dr. Tims."

Arguello said that Tims never provided staff with specific information about wrongdoing. Instead, he told Counseling Center employees that a member of the Campus Health Senior Leadership Team would occupy an office in the Counseling Center to ensure that they complied with his directives.

At best, this created an uncomfortable situation for Counseling Center staff and several on his own leadership team. At worst, one of his staff members, Shannon Gabriel, RN, took active steps to disrupt clinic operations and bully the Counseling Center staff.

Multiple clinicians said that the meeting left them uncertain about what they were doing wrong, causing them mental strain. "This place is no longer — is no longer good for me. I'm not sleeping. I dread coming into work every single day," Avila said.

A current employee put it more bluntly. "When people come in here, we have to be really centered ... If we're dysregulated, we literally cannot do our jobs."

'Students at great risk'

Shortly after the meeting, "many concerned members of the Tulane Counseling Center staff" sent President Mike Fitts and Robin Forman, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, an email pleading for Fitts to intervene.

"We are afraid of potential retaliation by Dr. Tims and other leaders," they wrote. "Dr. Tims has created ... an unsafe feeling of institutionally sanctioned harassment."

The presence of senior leadership, as well as HR, "can only suggest tacit approval of such treatment," the email continued.

According to Sobesky, Fitts, Forman and two officials from the Office of Institutional Equity did not respond to the anonymous email.

In the aftermath of the meeting, Sobesky and other staffers described being watched by leadership at Campus Health.

According to staffers, Tims' leadership team would monitor their calendars. "[We were] told when we could, [and] just how long we could go to, for a bathroom break," Arguello said.

In one instance, a clinician said they received a video call from Shannon Gabriel, director of nursing, demanding an explanation as to what the clinician was doing. The clinician said they were in the middle of following up on their outpatient referrals.

Arguello said it became "impossible to be present in a session."

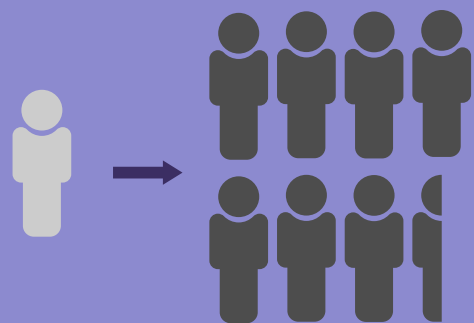
"People would feel nervous about going to a doctor's appointment," Choy said.

Contrary to Tims' accusations, Avila said that a clinician would "never" turn away a patient if they had space in their schedule. A current clinician said their caseload is over 40 students. Another clinician said they were responsible for 38 students.

'Everybody's afraid.'

"I would rather not have a retirement plan than continue to work in this environment," a current staff member said. "[I've] never seen such bad management." Another current employee said she is struck with anxiety as soon as she enters the building.

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Tulane Fully Staffed
747.1 : 1



Tulane (Current)
1344.7 : 1



= 1 Counseling Center Counselor



= 50 Tulane Students

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Ongoing crisis

Today, the Counseling Center does not have a psychiatrist. According to Avila, Tims went after their salaries, and the Counseling Center went from having access to “four, five psychiatrists” to having just one by fall 2021. That psychiatrist has since resigned.

An undergraduate student said that their former clinician at Tulane was “dumped” with a massive caseload, and pressured by Campus Health leadership to shorten their consultations to 30 minutes. According to the same student, that individual, a doctor, resigned as a result of the directive.

A current Campus Health employee said that only a few staff members are able to diagnose and write prescriptions for students. “They’re technically qualified to do so, but they don’t have any experience dealing with psychiatric evaluations,” the employee said.

According to that same employee, one doctor, Dr. Marius Commodo, can write psychiatric prescriptions at Campus Health. They added that Commodore and a nurse practitioner are the only individuals able to provide psychiatric care.

For the students, said a current employee, “there’s no continuity of care.”

“There were students on my caseload that I had to transfer to someone else who had already been transferred ... one, two times already,” Choy said.

Sobesky described Tims as a “highly skilled presenter.” He went on to say that Tims had a great ability to articulate the vision and mission statement of an organization but lacked the capacity to realize that vision with action.

Dysfunction, poor understanding

Former employees described Donna Bender, the previous director of the Counseling Center, as supportive and protective. Bender declined to comment.

“Donna Bender was the best mentor,” Arguello said.

According to Campus Health employees, Bender sheltered staff from Tims and Sobesky attempted to do the same.

“[Bender] protected us from all that dysfunction, and she created an environment and a space where we could do our jobs effectively,” a former therapist said.

Staff said they were initially hopeful about Odera’s leadership.

“We felt hopeful [she’d] come and be a buffer between us and all the other campus health dysfunction,” said that same therapist.

“Dr. Odera arrived and it really didn’t get better ... it actually got worse,” Choy said. “So many more people started leaving and then a lot of issues snowballed out of that.”

“She was totally unopened to any kind of feedback,” Judd said. “I was in charge of the eating disorder [response] ... I made a case, look here’s some numbers. We need to seriously up the resources ... let’s get clinical consultations; let’s get trainings. They just laughed, like, ‘What do you know?’”

Some members of the Campus Health staff said the changes that did get implemented sometimes had unintended consequences. “On its face, they are intended to put students first, but in practice don’t accomplish those things, and there’ve been a few examples that actually make it harder,” Choy said.

Vicious cycle of turnover

Current employees said they believe that turnover will only grow worse, leaving fewer employees to handle increasing numbers of students.

“You get so burnt out that ... you just want to keep your job. The worker that comes in becomes isolated, and then everybody doesn’t help anybody else. They’re just looking out for just themselves. And that happens every time ... They become anxious, and it becomes horrible. It went from this collaboration [within] Campus Health and the Counseling Center, to a complete breakdown of isolation within employees, because everybody is afraid to step on anyone’s toes and be reprimanded.” -Belinda Avila

After a well-publicized spate of student deaths in 2014-2015, Tulane committed to improving access to mental healthcare. An open-submission letter to Fitts grew to 50 pages, with many criticizing the under-

funding of counseling.

According to Strecker, funding for the Counseling Center has “increased substantially” in the past seven years and has resulted in more counselors and available services. “When fully staffed, the center will have 18 full-time employees, representing a higher ratio of staff to student than most of our peers,” Strecker said.

Today, Tulane has ten licensed clinicians servicing a student body of 14,472. Since August 2021, TUPD has responded to more than a dozen incidents of students in mental health crises.

If you are a current Campus Health employee and wish to share your experience anonymously, please email us at hullstories@gmail.com.

For Tulane affiliates in need of immediate medical attention, the Tulane University Police Department can be reached at (504) 865-5911. For non-affiliates, dial 911.

The New Orleans Alliance on Mental Illness Crisis Line can be reached 24/7 by texting “NAMI” to 741741.

Students in need of additional support can contact the Residential Advisor on call in their residence hall. Students may also call the on-call Case Manager at 504-920-9900.

For LGBTQ+ students, the Trevor Project provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to those under 25 and can be reached at 866-488-7386.

The Employee Assistance Program is available for faculty and staff seeking counseling or support. Information about Employee Assistance Programs can be found at <https://hr.tulane.edu/benefits/employee-assistance-program>.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255.

For Khedidja Boudaba, a life of service, excellence



OLIVIA WARREN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Khedidja Boudaba — a professor of Arabic and French at Tulane University — has been a journalist, translator and educator in Algeria, Ethiopia, Washington D.C. and now New Orleans.

Boudaba was one of five daughters raised by a single mother and was the first in her family to go to college.

“The lives of the women around me were really my strongest motivation to forge ahead and do what I needed to do, not to stay there,” Boudaba said.

After graduating from the University of Algiers and working as a translator, Boudaba turned her attention to a more autonomous career: journalism.

Boudaba entered the field of journalism during the onset of the Algerian Civil War was beginning, which led to dangerous working conditions.

“Some colleagues stopped showing up for work because they decided they didn’t want to die from a stray bullet,” Boudaba said.

Prior to the war, Boudaba was not afraid to write and publish what she wanted, but the war shed light on how her coworkers could be untrustworthy.

“We became scared of everyone,” she said. Colleagues became suspicious of each other, and people had to become more careful about what they said and wrote in the office.

Boudaba faced increased challenges being a woman.

“I really resented [having] to fight for everything. I had to fight with my editor for the work that I am doing because in a country like Algeria, there’s a lot of censorship. You were never sure if you were going to prevail or get punished,” Boudaba said.

Her duty as a reporter sometimes conflicted with her obligation as a citizen. “As a reporter you’re always trying to report facts, but you cannot separate yourself really from what is happening in your country, especially when it is something that is so crucial for your future for the future of the country that you love,” Boudaba said.

Boudaba attempted to be involved in the political process, but censorship in Algeria limited her capabilities. After the assassination of the Algerian President Mohammed Boudiaf, Boudaba was sent to interview the accused murderer, Lambarek Boumaarafi; however, the experience wasn’t what she thought it would be. According to Boudaba, military personnel monitored the interview and prevented Boudaba from asking the questions she wanted or from receiving unchanged answers from Boumaarafi.

Reporters faced limitations in their line of work, as well as their livelihoods, as journalism was becoming

increasingly dangerous. In 1988, riots in Algeria against the government became violent. The military opened fire on protesters, and hundreds died. One of them was Boudaba’s boss.

Algeria’s political climate continued to worsen. In 1992, the military cancelled democratic elections, and the government began to fight with the Islamic Salvation Front, a radical group trying to take over the government. The war had officially begun, and Boudaba knew it was time to leave.

“All these dead people, all the violence, it was so difficult,” Boudaba said.

Boudaba made her way to the U.S. through the Fulbright Program at the University of Maryland, continuing her work as a journalist. Even 5,000 miles away, Boudaba continued to fight for Algeria.

While interning for the Associated Press, she attended a news conference where a representative for the Islamic Salvation Front was speaking. People asked the man why the Algerian government was killing supporters, and he responded by claiming that the reporters were actually spies.

“I just stood up and I said, ‘I do not represent the government, I am an Algerian reporter, I have lived this... and he is lying,’” said Boudaba. “The people who have been killed are my friends, I know them one by one. They are not government informants, and I know you can kill me when I leave but I am not going to let you get away with this.”

Boudaba feared that speaking her truth would lead to her family in Algeria being harmed.

Boudaba felt welcomed when she immigrated to the U.S., but she recognizes that the state of immigration today is drastically different.

“I feel so so sorry for the immigrants from Afghanistan and other places that are coming to the U.S. [at] this time... When I came it was a different atmosphere,” Boudaba said. “I know that there are a lot of people helping the Afghans. I want to help them every way I can, but I just know it’s not the same atmosphere.”



ARIELLE LOUBIER | SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CROSSWORD

Themeless #1

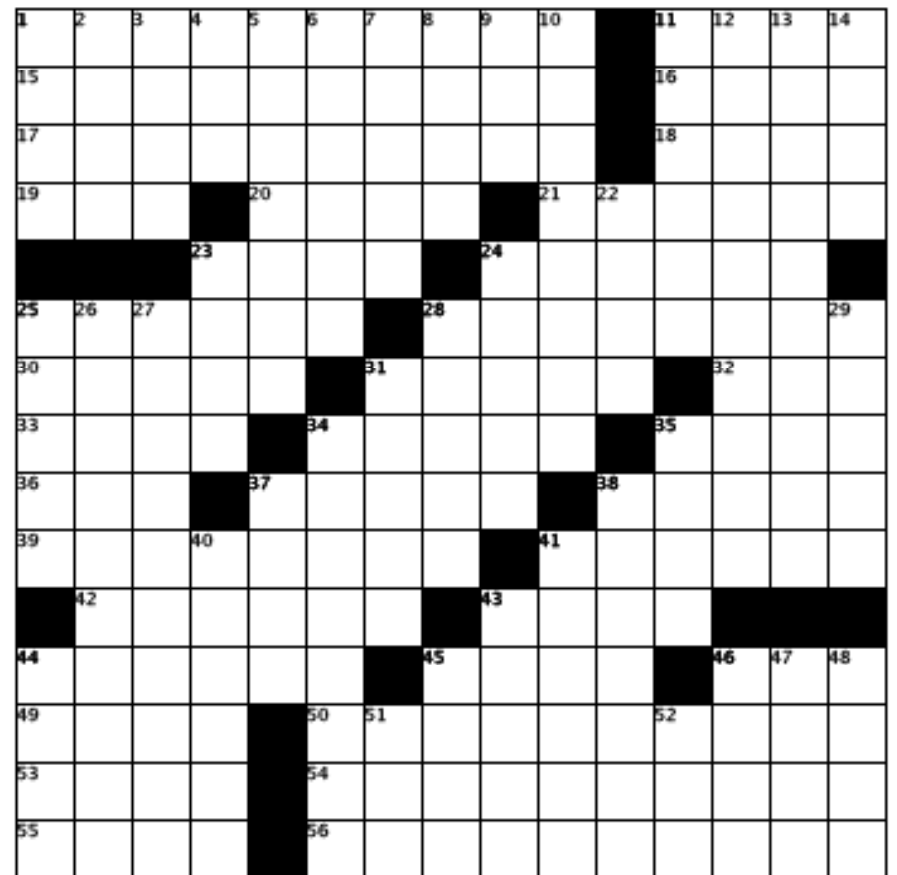
ACROSS

1. Big blueprint
11. Attire
15. Tahoe, e.g.
16. Dippable cookie
17. Senses duplicity
18. Word after box or car
19. Hem and ___
20. Lead-in to girl or boy
21. Doesn't give space
23. Frozen drink brand
24. Barnum's partner
25. Talked back to
28. Fox and mink, for two
30. Coagulates
31. Deadly African snake
32. Lav, in London
33. Caramel-filled candy
34. Is hoarse
35. Striving type
36. "Eureka!"
37. Damages, as a car
38. Barrel toward
39. Zebra's stripes, e.g.
41. Turns back to 0
42. Poor, as Wi-Fi
43. Rapper Ross
44. One of 18 in "The Raven"
45. Nirvana seeker
46. 2010s dance move
49. Singer Del Rey
50. Got lit?
53. Tabloid twosome
54. How lawyers may be paid
55. Reuben's place
56. Coast guard vessel

DOWN

1. Turn to pulp
2. ___ mater
3. Spout, as a volcano
4. Up to, informally
5. Intertwines
6. Back from a getaway, say

Jared Goudsmit



© Jared Goudsmit

7. ___ tectonics
8. Tomb-raiding Croft
9. Belcalis Almánzar ___ Cardi B
10. Atkins diet measure
11. Leave the band, say
12. Stargazer's query
13. Like a grab-and-go meal
14. Spam sources
22. Costa ___
23. ∴, in an analogy
24. ___ the lamp (cares about detail)
25. "Beat it!"
26. Hawaii's nickname
27. Green energy source that's on the house
28. Observes Ramadan
29. Out of ___ (addled)
31. Shabby, as a dog
34. 1988 Burt Reynolds film
35. Murky hour
37. Scatterbrain
38. Musical performance
40. "Dance Dance Revolution" company
41. "You betcha!"
43. "Understood," on a radio
44. Lost traction
45. Mongolian tent
46. T. rex, e.g.
47. Geometric calculation
48. Muppet with a unibrow
51. Actress de Armas
52. Little lie

Solutions for
HARD MODE
(11/11/21)

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MUSICAL THEATRE NEEDS TO REMEMBER ITS COMMUNITY AS IT TAKES HOLLYWOOD

ASIA THOMAS
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

“Hamilton,” “In the Heights,” “West Side Story,” “Wicked” and “Tick Tick... Boom!” The common ground between these phrases: they are only a few of the musical productions shining on the big and small screens lately.

Kicked off by the whirlwind that was the pro-shot “Hamilton: An American Musical” in the summer of 2020, movie musicals are having their moment right now.

As this market expands, however, and these musicals become much more widely interpreted, the industry needs to not leave its community behind.

The desire to gain accessibility and viewership for these shows has overshadowed remembering the roots and community in which they originated.

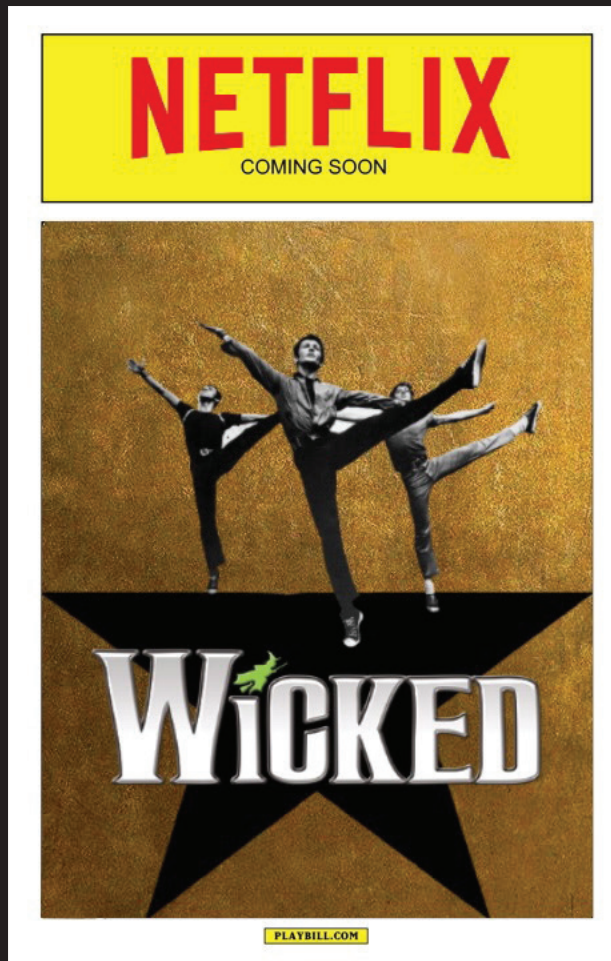
Rather than looking to the most notable A-list actress or actor, these movie musical adaptations can and should be a vehicle to bridge the gap between theater and film by casting individuals who have backgrounds in theater.

“It seems that producers or investors of these films are worried that the audience won’t come unless there’s name recognition in the cast, but sometimes, the art then suffers. Casting should serve the story first, and honor the material first, before going for a star name,” film critic Ryan Jay said.

Through casting already known names, directors are provided a safety net, but at the same time are further limiting artist expansion in an already difficult field. “Dear Evan Hansen” was highly criticized for several reasons, with one of its flaws being its casting of Amy Adams, Julianne Moore and Ben Platt, who originated the titular role on Broadway.

Much backlash came from the theatre community throughout the entire rollout of the film but largely over Platt’s age and statement defending his role, “... There was never any kind of discussion that it wouldn’t be me.”

Being that the role of Evan in “Dear Evan Hansen” has been played by several other young thespians since Platt’s last show in 2016, many questioned why a younger Evan who fit the charac-



MAGGIE PASTERZ | LAYOUT EDITOR

teristics wasn’t chosen over Platt.

This outrage following the casting of this adaptation along with the star-studded “Cats” of 2019 stems from the same critical point that it does no good to these stories to be cheapened by hiring the largest name possible to carry profits. To juxtapose these films with ones such as “West Side Story” and “In the Heights” who are using their platform to grow the careers of smaller artists, there is a tangible difference in the way each cast either regresses or advances the story.

“A lot of stage actors are qualified both screen acting-wise and they have the voices to perform these roles on stage and on screen. So, I feel like it [musical adaptations] could give somebody, who may not be super well known outside of the theater-sphere, an opportunity to become a household name,” freshman theatre major Madison Bell said.

Steven Spielberg’s “West Side Story” stars Rachel Zegler and does exactly what Bell calls for. Discovered through an open casting call, Zegler had only been in smaller theater productions prior to this role — that and recording covers for Youtube.

“Wicked,” arguably the most anticipated and awaited adaptation of the past few years, has recently found its cast in Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande. This film is turning the game on its head with its casting of two stars who are not only high list celebrities in their own right but also have the Broadway background these musicals need.

“Wicked” does the task of bridging that divide between theater and film perfectly due to the fact that both Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande began their careers on Broadway.

The fan devotion to this show has been at such a high level for years, from Broadway to off-Broadway productions. If this trend and love for this show is only to increase with the release of the film, the industry can be hopeful that future productions will take notes from these casting choices and employ them as well.

As good as it is that these beloved shows are being able to be seen under a different light, the industry needs to not let this opportunity for the growth of artists pass. Future musical adaptations searching for their stars should look first to the community of highly-talented thespians waiting to shine under the limelight.

BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, COLONY HOUSE PLAYS HOUSE OF BLUES

JADA ROTH
SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

I first saw Colony House nearly four years ago when they opened on tour for Judah & the Lion. Since then, Colony House released a studio album and an EP, went viral on TikTok and were even featured in The Hullabaloo’s very own In Earshot column.

Colony House is an indie rock quartet hailing from Franklin, Tennessee, a small town that birthed mainstream musicians like Miley Cyrus and Paramore. They took the stage on Nov. 14 at the House of Blues New Orleans.

Colony House’s return to the stage for their 2021 tour aligned with my return to the concert scene. Despite a low COVID-19 positivity rate in the city and requirements of vaccination status or a negative PCR test, I’ve been avoiding large gatherings. However, I simply couldn’t miss out on a live performance from one of my favorite bands, and as soon as they took the stage, I was instantly reminded of what I have been missing.

They opened with a recording of “You Know It,” and the lyrics — “and we’ll be back before you know, you know it” — was a nostalgic reminder of the formerly uncertain return of live music following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of the concert was a celebration of life and joy, hidden behind thrumming drums and rock melodies. A close listen to the lyrics of “Waiting for My Time to Come” reveals messages of hope — “I’ve tried / I’ve failed / I thought I gave my all, now it’s hard to tell ... I’m just waiting for the seasons to change / Waiting for the curtain to fall.”

Even songs with melodies more akin to heavy metal, like “O YA,” carry similar sentiments. The song clearly reflects Colony House’s feelings during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic — “Cooped up for too long in this global lazaretto / Everybody feels this way / Everybody feels the pain (And the rules have changed) / Never gonna be the same in a good way / It could change in a good way.”

Lead vocalist Caleb Chapman took the time to dedicate “Moving Forward” to the city of New Orleans following the devastation of Hurricane Ida a couple of months ago. For the only time the entire night, the crowd was silent because even though New Orleans

has mostly recovered, other towns have yet to heal.

Despite the bittersweet messages of love, laughter and failure, the show was a rock concert through and through. The crowd was mostly millennial couples, with only a dozen college-aged attendees, but the bass vibrating through the floor united us all. We danced and sang, basking in the exhilaration of Colony House’s performance. WWW

Colony House ended the show the way they started it — with an apt reminder that they’d be back before we knew it.



COURTESY OF JADA ROTH

KILLING HARRY POTTER

DOXEY KAMARA
INTERSECTIONS EDITOR

Death of the Author is a literary theory which argues that an author's intentions cease to matter the moment their work is published — nothing about the author's personal life matters when analyzing their writing. Essentially, the author is dead to the work.

Separating the art from the artist is not a new concept — most music and movies can be consumed without learning the first thing about their creators — it can be difficult to accomplish. Generally, entertainment media does not require a behind-the-scenes analysis to be enjoyed. It can simply be consumed, in the same way fast food can be eaten without ever meeting the person who cooked it.

But there are times where the artist or creator is impossible to ignore, or so closely and consistently involved with their work that separation becomes difficult. J.K. Rowling, for example, is near inseparable from the Harry Potter franchise. Unfortunately, Rowling is also inseparable from her astoundingly transphobic remarks.

This makes consumption of Potter-based media difficult, particularly for those of us who are not transphobic. Can Death of the Author be applied to Harry Potter, when its author is both alive and actively engaged in political discourse?

On one hand, the Potterverse is Rowling's art — which is clearly widely loved — but Harry Potter never insinuated that transgender people weren't valid. J.K. Rowling, on the other hand, has frequently posted anti-trans rhetoric which was particularly popular with trans-exclusionary radical feminists. By depicting trans people and feminists as opposing forces, both in her work and public discourse, Rowling has alienated herself from a substantial portion of her more progressive readership.

Death of the Author does not account for the author directly interacting with their audience, particularly via social media — which allows authors to interact with enormous audiences. That said, how does a trans person or ally consume this franchise when doing so lines the pockets of a celebrity transphobe?

The easy answer is that they do not. Boycotts aren't incredibly difficult, particularly for the consumer. Allies can simply choose not to buy Rowling's 900-page novel about a trans-coded serial killer, for example. The Harry Potter novels can be purchased second hand, or never purchased at all. If one does not like the media, or its creator, they do not have to consume it.

That concept itself is simple, but Rowling is already a very successful author. Before Rowling gained a reputation for her transphobia, over 500 million copies of the Harry Potter books have been sold worldwide, in 80 different languages.

This makes Rowling's body of work a valuable property, and the Potterverse is still expanding. Due to concerns about Rowling's behavior, Warner Brothers assured fans that the upcoming Hogwarts video game has no direct involvement with Rowling herself. It simply exists in the fictional world that she created. Formal efforts to distance themselves from Rowling imply that the public backlash Rowling faced had consequences, despite her celebrity status.

Hogwarts, formerly a comfortable fantasy, cannot be separated from Rowling or her rhetoric. For better — or more likely, worse — her name will never be removed from the Potter novels. Creatively, the separation between Warner Brothers and Rowling may foreshadow increasing degrees of separation between Rowling and Harry Potter. However, readers should note that such separation is creative and not financial. Rowling will not stop receiving royalties from the expanding universe of the Potter franchise.

Barring a sudden repentance by Rowling, it is time to leave the Wizarding World of Harry Potter behind.



TWO JEWS' GUIDE TO HANUKKAH

LILY LAZARUS
MANAGING EDITOR

JADA ROTH
SENIOR STAFF REPORTER

Some Tulane University students may have noticed the enormous candelabra outside the Lavin-Bernick Center this winter. Although Tulane is 40% Jewish, for non-Jewish students and community members, the religion's many holidays and practices may be confusing. In debunking some of this mysticism, here is everything you need to know about Hanukkah, the Jewish winter festival of lights.

The history of Hanukkah dates back to 168 B.C. when Syrian King Antiochus IV deployed his soldiers to Jerusalem. During this crusade, Antiochus IV destroyed the Temple, the central place of Jewish worship, and outlawed the practice of Shabbat, Jewish festivals and circumcision. Antiochus IV forced the Jews to choose between worshipping the Greek gods or death.

The reign of Antiochus IV sparked a

Jewish resistance movement led by the Hasmonean family known as the Maccabees. Judah Maccabee, the family's son, spearheaded the military arm of the resistance, winning two major battles against the Syrians, ultimately defeating Antiochus IV's army.

The story of Hanukkah begins with Judah Maccabee and his men reclaiming the Temple from the Syrians. The Maccabees relighted the "ner tamid," the eternal light. However, they found a singular jar of oil that would only keep the ner tamid lit for one day.

The Maccabees sent a messenger to acquire more oil and his journey took eight days. By some miracle, the single jar of oil burned for all eight days.

Hanukkah includes several important traditions. The most well known practice is the lighting of the hanukkiah, a nine-branched candelabra reminiscent of ner tamid. The hanukkiah is lit for eight nights to commemorate the sacred oil in the Temple that burned for that duration. Each night, an additional candle is add-

ed and a blessing is said over the candles before lighting. The center-most candle is referred to as the "shammash" and is used to light the candles each night.

Cuisine is central to Hanukkah, and Jews eat fried food to commemorate the sacred oil of the ner tamid. These staples include "latkes," potato pancakes, and "sufganiyot," jelly-filled doughnuts.

During Hanukkah, Jews play a game using a "dreidel," a spinning top marked with the words "nes gadol haya sham," which translates to "a great miracle happened here." The dreidel pays homage to Jews secretly practicing their religion under Syrian rule — the Jews would pretend to play with dreidels to avoid being caught studying holy texts.

The story of Hanukkah provides various important lessons to Jews. The tale of the Maccabees touches on themes of power and powerlessness. The Maccabees, although much smaller than the Syrian army, secured a military defeat despite apparent weakness.

In lighting the hanukkiah and remembering the ner tamid, Jews ponder the search for light in dark times. To that same accord, the story of Hanukkah serves as a reminder of Jewish resilience amidst adversity.

Hanukkah has evolved throughout the centuries most notably with the incorporation of gift giving. Traditionally, exchanging gifts occurred during the Jewish holiday of Purim. However, as Christmas gift giving gained prominence, American Jews in the late 19th century added presents to the celebration.

The interpretation of Hanukkah's origins has also evolved. Modern historians believe the Maccabees were fighting not only against the Syrians, but also against fellow Jews, who had adopted some Greek religious practices, including idolatry.

Next time you walk by the campus hanukkiah, stop by Dunkin' Donuts and treat yourself to some sufganiyot.

JADA ROTH | SENIOR STAFF ARTIST

EMBRACING HOLIDAY BLUES

TANVI BOBBA
STAFF COLUMNIST

Early this week, I geared myself to shift from the relaxing mindset of Thanksgiving Break back to that of school. As finals are creeping closer, I am mentally mapping my move-out schedule. Right after I complete all my final exams that have been jam packed into two days, I will rush to pack, check out of my dorm, find transportation to the airport that is not bizarrely expensive and spend the flight longing for some much needed sleep. That will be draining. When my parents pick me up, their brightly lit faces will be contrasted with my groggy expression.

There is much anticipation going home for the holidays — but not always in a positive way.

The winter holidays are overly commercialized, leading to expectations that are implausible for many college students. Over Thanksgiving Break, the same Old Navy Jingle Jammies advertisement was played for me probably over a hundred times. After a couple of times, the ad seemed fun and energetic, brightening my mood. After the 50th time, the ad, in combination with the other assorted holidays ads, was nauseating.

To make the most of time away from school, there is a want and even an obligation to feel overjoyed at every moment. But often, reality does not pan out as expected. It is normal to not experience the same level of enthusiasm as others, but constantly being surrounded by happiness can be isolating. The pressure from family, relatives or friends

to appear cheerful makes it almost feel burdensome to share negative emotions.

There are numerous valid reasons to dread the holidays. Perhaps you grew apart from your hometown friends. Perhaps you are worried about your family's reaction to new



PAIGE DOUGLASS | STAFF ARTIST

changes in your lifestyle. Perhaps Thanksgiving Break did not go well, and surviving a much longer Winter Break seems like a daunting task.

It is all too frequent that families do not recognize the newfound independence of college students. It is com-

mon knowledge that everyone changes both mentally and physically at college; we make new memories, have unique experiences and learn more about ourselves in an environment composed of people from all over the country and world.

However, students do not recognize the extent of these changes until they head back home. When we settle back in our now childhood homes, it can feel like being shoved into the mold of our previous self. In college, I schedule my time however I want and live in the same building as hundreds of other similarly aged students. At home, I tend to be bound by the rules of my family.

Unfortunately, the American Psychological Association found that 38% of people experience an increase in stress during the holiday season, promoting issues such as "physical illness, depression, anxiety, and substance misuse." In addition, the National Alliance on Mental Illness stated that 64% of individuals with a mental illness felt a worsening of their conditions around the holidays. Depending on where one lives, one may experience less sunlight, which can lead to symptoms of depression.

To combat elevated stress levels, it is critical to acknowledge and identify rather than avoid one's emotions. Not forcing oneself to feel happy and not isolating oneself are great ways to find a group of people, not necessarily family, who can accept one's emotions and feel similarly. If returning home for the holiday is not the best option, create and celebrate new traditions. At the end of the day, we need to be in control of our own holiday experiences.

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CORRECTIONS

CONTACT HULL@TULANE.EDU WITH ANY CORRECTIONS.

‘Vigilante Justice’ does not solve sexual violence at Tulane

CARLY BAROVICK
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

In January of 2015, a 22-year-old woman, who was later identified in her memoir, “Know My Name” as Chanel Miller, went to a fraternity party on Stanford University’s campus and was found later that night unconscious, being brutally assaulted behind the fraternity’s dumpster.

Sexual assault on college campuses occurred countless times before Miller’s attack, but the grueling circumstances of the assault, the prestige of the university, the identity of the perpetrator and the case’s verdict illuminated the unnerving frequency of sexual violence on college campuses.

The Stanford sexual assault case was the tipping point for national recognition of the prevalence of sexual assault across American universities. In 2017, Tulane University conducted the Tulane Climate Survey which collected data on sexual violence, but the results of the survey were not released until January of 2018.

All the while, in October 2017, countless allegations against the now disgraced Hollywood Mogul, Harvey Weinstein, catalyzed the #MeToo movement.

These two movements, one centered around combating sexual violence on college campuses, and the other centered around encouraging women to speak up and hold their assailants accountable in a justice system that often fails victims, merged in the creation of “Vigilante Justice.”

“Vigilante Justice” is the name of an unverified list of alleged sexual assailants that was circulated throughout Tulane on Nov. 17 but has since been removed. The list contained the names of both past and present Tulane students.

Many of the names on the list were compiled from the now-deleted Instagram account, @boysbeware.tulane. The Instagram account served as a platform for Tulane students to anonymously recount their experiences of sexual misconduct and expose their alleged assailants by name in a supposed effort to keep other members of the community safe from sexual predators.

However, several names on the list did not originate from @boysbeware.tulane, leaving the source of said names unknown. The list itself was created anonymously as a Google document and was spread through the anonymous messaging board, Yik Yak.

As the name “Vigilante Justice” suggests, the list was created out of collective frustration regarding the general lack of accountability

that exists surrounding sexual violence at Tulane, and more particularly, Tulane’s reluctance to sincerely address the issue and hold perpetrators responsible.

Tulane’s “Vigilante Justice” was not the first of its kind. In October 2017, Moira Donegan — an American journalist who is currently a columnist at The Guardian — anonymously published the highly controversial “Shitty Media Men” list. Donegan’s list contained the names of men in the media alleged to have engaged in a wide variety of inappropriate behaviors from “weird lunch dates” to “rape.” Donegan was sued for creating her list.

Similarly, in December 2017, Middlebury College student Elizabeth Dunn posted a “List of Men to Avoid” on Facebook in which she accused Middlebury students of behaviors ranging from “emotional abuse” to denoting them as “serial rapist[s].” Dunn received a sanction on her permanent record as a result of disseminating her list.

A survey assessing Tulane students’ reaction to “Vigilante Justice” found that 96% of re-

search participants do not believe that Tulane is responding appropriately or to the best of their ability to sexual violence on campus.

Correspondingly, there are conversations we need to have about the “varieties of bad sex.” For example, if society has established that an individual cannot consent to sex when they are intoxicated and encounter a situation in which two intoxicated people have sex, how are we to determine who is responsible? Are both of them culpable or neither? Context matters and the creator of the list did not provide any.

Many of those surveyed found @boysbeware.tulane to be a useful resource for women on campus as it had a “controlled audience” and provided in-depth details on the allegations, as one surveyee put it. 72% of students surveyed found the Instagram account to be fair. However, as one surveyee said, “The Instagram account was supposed to be a safe space and instead [the list] stole the privacy, freedom to report on their own, and security of people who had already experienced having their free will ripped away from them.”

A commendable product of the #MeToo movement and of highly publicized sexual violence cases such as Christine Blasey Ford’s was the campaign to believe survivors. This was necessary in a society that often fails to do so. However, in a situation such as the one presented to Tulane, there appears to be an unreasonable conflation between being inclined to believe the stories of survivors and assuming automatic guilt of the accused.

Believing survivors and due process are not mutually exclusive. It is distinctions such as these that we need to be able to have honest conversations about, without politicization.

70% of those surveyed found the release of the document to be unfair, 86% found the release of the document to be problematic and 58% of students would have rather it not been published. The list compromised the credibility of the allegations, which practically all sexual assault cases rely on, and by doing so, hindered the effectuality of the movement.

Doing something provocative like releasing a list of assault allegations was certainly an effective way to grab the student body’s attention, but that is all it has done. Whoever the creator is, if they think of themselves as a vigilante or hero, they are gravely mistaken.

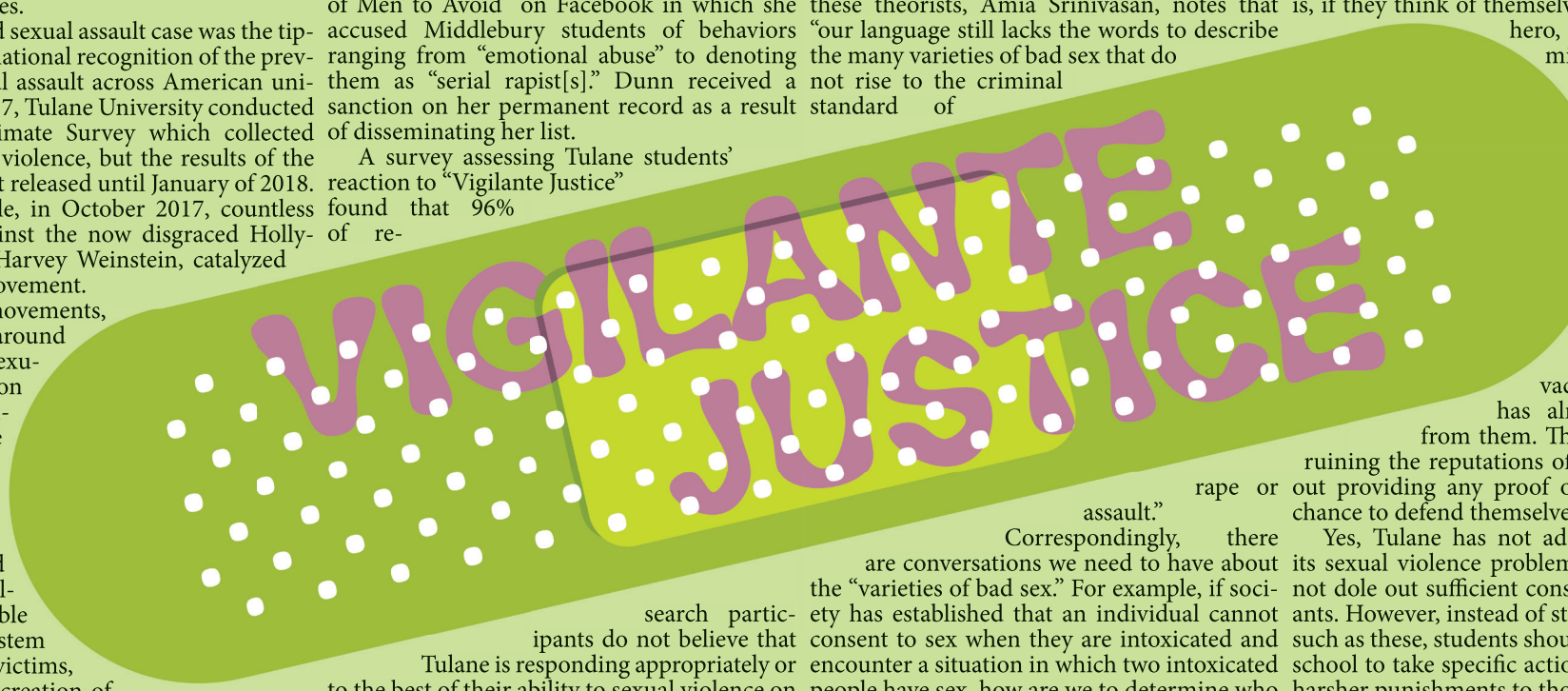
There is no justice for survivors in the distribution of a list of unsubstantiated claims, in subjecting them to harassment and in taking away even more of their sense of privacy than that which has already been stolen from them. There is no justice in ruining the reputations of the accused without providing any proof or giving them the chance to defend themselves.

Yes, Tulane has not adequately addressed its sexual violence problem. Yes, Tulane does not dole out sufficient consequences to assailants. However, instead of stooping to reactions such as these, students should be calling on the school to take specific actions, such as levying harsher punishments to those found guilty.

Instead of demanding the school take action against those named on an anonymous list circulated through an anonymous messaging board, which they have no jurisdiction to do, the Tulane community should be creating spaces for students to openly discuss rape culture at Tulane and the steps the community can take to achieve reform.

At the end of the day, parents are sending their teenage daughters off to college every year to attend “one of the most well-respected” universities in the country for what is often exalted as the best four years of their lives. But, 15% of them will be raped at least twice, 24% will be raped at least once, 40.5% will be sexually assaulted and all of those girls will become women in the worst possible way.

These same women will “grow” even more once they are confronted with the bleak reality that there is no justice. Instead they’ll see their rapist “buying pizza at the Boot” after enjoying a night out partying with their friends, existing in the luxury of blissful laxity that will never be afforded to the person they irreparably harmed.



Revised academic calendar jeopardizes student health

HANNAH LEVITAN
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Due to COVID-19 shutdowns, pandemic accommodations and a hurricane evacuation, Tulane University students have not experienced a normal college semester in the past two years. While the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions fosters a smoother transition into normal life, students still have yet to enjoy regularly-scheduled breaks.

Providing extra days off for students may be unfeasible, but administration and faculty alike should focus on bringing more awareness to the mental and physical exhaustion students face as a result of having school for two months straight.

Hurricane Ida evacuation lasted roughly a month and eliminated any potential for a normal semester, pushing back exams and forcing faculty to restructure class schedules. Midterm grades are typically due early to mid-October, but this scheme was not feasible for a student body that returned to campus on Sept. 27 after missing four weeks of in-person class.

Due to the shifts in the academic calendar, professors may have canceled midterms or replaced them with similar assessments that took place sporadically. This adjusted schedule created a month-long academic overhaul, in which students have had little time to decompress.

S o p h o m o r e y e a r i s h a r d

GABI LIEBELER
VIEWS EDITOR

While freshmen acclimate to campus for the first time, juniors balance off-campus living with an intense academic schedule and seniors grapple with the anxieties of impending post-grad life, a student's sophomore year in college may often be defined as easy, at least comparatively.

By the time they enter their second undergraduate year, students have experience navigating their college campus and its academic expectations. With a year under their belt, a student has likely also settled into the college social scene.

Consequently, sophomore year gains a reputation of ease due to increased student experience. But this idealistic characterization of sophomore year overlooks a time in a student's life in which one must begin to think about future plans while trying to make the most of what, for most, may be their last year living on campus.

Sophomores at Tulane University live in one of the following residence halls: Aron, Décou-Labat, Irby, Phelps, Mayer, Weatherhead and Greenbaum. While some of these residential spaces offer single rooms, they all have the option of suite-style living, so that even if a student has their own bedroom or shares one with another student, they may have between two and six additional roommates.

For some students, living with more people is enjoyable, but it requires finding balance between social life, academic prioritization and necessary alone time.

Sophomore John Caruso lives in

Numerous factors contributed to a vicious cocktail that caused students to report being sick for weeks. Among these include a total lack of academic breaks, increased stress, less sleep, more partying and fewer masks to prevent more common illnesses. When students are under these kinds of pressures, it is nearly impossible to overcome sickness and significantly more difficult to study efficiently.

For the students diagnosed with bronchitis, sinus infections and other common illnesses, mental health was likely less of a priority as Tulanians struggled to find available doctors and resorted to hours of waiting at urgent care.

"With two months straight of school and no break, I became mentally and emotionally exhausted by the end of October," sophomore Ella Nyquist said. "I lacked motivation academically and socially, and I was incredibly burnt out by the middle of November."

Given the ample amount of support systems Tulane offers, it is confusing that so many students have long reported unsatisfactory experiences and experienced poor communication with a short-staffed counseling center. Senior Devyn Monahan recounts her experience with Counseling and Psychiatric Services following the death of a close friend in spring 2019:

"I knew I needed to talk to a pro-

fessional, though, so I made an emergency appointment with CAPS. I sat in their waiting area, hysterically crying as I filled out the forms, and then was relieved to finally be escorted into a room with a counselor. He seemed kind and knowledgeable as he listened to me recount the tragedy once again. He asked me one question – 'How are you handling this?' I told him the various ways I was trying to cope."

At the end of this meeting, the counselor offered to connect Monahan to Case Management and Victim Support Services and escorted her out of the room. However, no one asked Monahan any further questions, and she reports that no one from CAPS ever followed up with her.

"I had a decent experience with case management but felt let down by CAPS," she said. "I felt like I must have been grieving wrong, or over dramatic, or somehow beyond professional help. I now know that that wasn't the case. Tulane's counseling system had failed me; I hadn't failed myself. I sought help and was told it wasn't necessary."

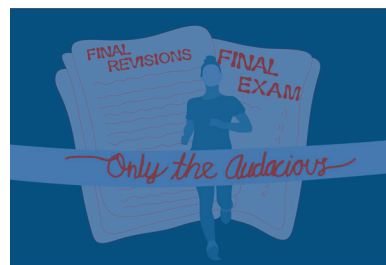
Many institutions, including Tulane, often promote "mental health weeks," intended to destigmatize and bring awareness to mental illnesses through de-stressing exercises, free food and other activities.

If institutions' actions fail to align with the mental health awareness they preach, they can harm students both

mentally and physically. Forcing constant work creates constant stress that cannot be solved by the inadequate availability of counseling and health provider appointments.

While this past semester presented Tulane with several unpredictable obstacles, students should have had easier access to the support Tulane so proudly boasts. A school that claims to have such high-quality health promotion services should consider acting in accordance with its values by increasing their Counseling Center and Campus Health staff, especially when the school devises an academic scheme that is likely to cause students to be overwhelmed.

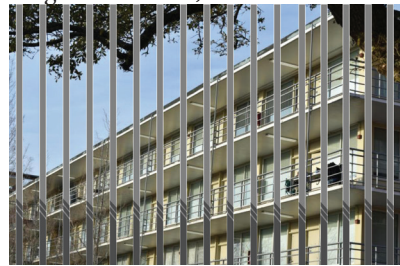
If students must persevere through a semester with an insufficient amount of breaks, the least Tulane can do is live up to its top-tier university expectations and listen to the requests of the student body.



WILL EMBREE | LAYOUT EDITOR

an eight-person suite in Phelps Residence Hall, and said, "I love having everybody there sometimes, but also, you need that alone moment as well. I think school is all about balance, and when you come into college, it's your own duty to find balance."

"You find what works for you and what doesn't ... school, social, you name it. For me, at least, I know that if I go out I also have to stay in and socially recharge and have my alone time to keep my sanity," said Caruso. "It's tough sometimes, because we have



GABE DARLEY | SENIOR STAFF ARTIST

screaming and people and music and noise outside."

Further, students may choose to room with friends. While this kind of living situation is attractive to many, living with close friends has the potential to strain both a friend and roommate relationship.

"The best way to go into any relationship, even that of roommates, is to have zero expectations," says Shirani M. Pathak, the founder of the Center for Soulful Relationships. "When we have expectations, we set ourselves up for resentment when those expectations aren't met. Instead, go into the situation with an open mind. Sure, your roommate-to-be might tell you they are a clean person, and their

idea of clean might be very different than yours. When you can keep that in mind, it makes developing resentments a lot less likely."

When one's social environment intersects with their home environment, it may be even more difficult to establish boundaries regarding both types of relationships. It may be the case that while students are working through potential issues living with friends on campus, they are simultaneously thinking about the individuals with whom they want to sign a lease or rent a home.

Most sophomores seek off-campus living prior to the start of the school year and are tasked with finding roommates, landlords and housing while the academic year is in full swing.

Sophomore Alex Bianchi began to seek off-campus living at the beginning of August, and her search continued into the school year.

"I think that finding a house was my top priority above school for about a month, and that showed in my grades. I did not like that, and mentally, it was a struggle trying to figure out everyone's accommodations within a house and what worked and what didn't, balancing everyone's schedules."

Splitting her attention between school and finding housing overwhelmed Bianchi: "I felt like a real estate agent, and I was 18 years old. That is not pressure that should be put on one person. Maybe it is my fault for taking on that responsibility, and I'm glad that in the end it worked out, but it was a lot of pressure at one point," she said.

While looking ahead to housing, a Tulane student is also expected to de-

clare their major by the beginning of their fourth semester. It is no easy feat for a student to decide the direction that they want to take their academic and professional career. While a major can be switched or dropped, declaring one means committing to certain classes necessary to graduate on time, understanding that there may no longer be room in your schedule to take classes just for fun.

Sophomore year is also when Tulane students typically decide whether or not they want to study abroad. Because leaving Tulane — even temporarily — implies a change in one's living and academic environment, approximately 600 students each year must make sure they can acquire these new spaces abroad while still securing classes and housing for their return.

Going into sophomore year, students are likely excited to reunite and live with their friends and partake in one of the liveliest college social scenes in the country: no longer being the newbies on campus who are apprehensive to use their fake IDs for the first time at the Boot Bar and Grill.

However, the fun façade of sophomore year fades as the responsibilities pile, quickly, and often without warning. It is possible that only during or after all this stress ensues, students actually begin to share their experiences and find common ground with their peers in learning that sophomore year is hard: academically, socially, mentally, personally.

While there may be nothing we, as students, or the administration can do to ease these stressors, maybe just by talking about them, we can become more realistic about what it means to grow up.

H

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Tulane football ends season on whimper, falls to Memphis

JAKE BLANCHER
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

This past Saturday the Tulane Green Wave Football team lost their final game of the 2021 season to the Memphis Tigers by a score of 33-28.

The game started off as a shootout, with the Tigers and the Green Wave exchanging touchdowns for the first four drives, a 14-14 tie by the beginning of the second quarter. The rest of the half was scoreless, with a punt and a turnover apiece.

After halftime, Memphis quickly put up a pair of field goals giving them a 20-14 lead after top receiver Tyrick James fumbled at the opposing 32-yard line, stunting the Green Wave's drive to the Memphis end zone.

On the following drive, redshirt freshman running back Tyjae Spears put the Tulane offense on his back, rushing for 66 of

the 75 yards on the drive including a 57-yard run and a 2-yard touchdown, just one part of his dominant performance on the day. Spears' explosiveness quieted the Memphis crowd, giving Tulane their last lead of the day with a score of 21-20. Spears sparkled in the loss, scoring another touchdown and a total 264 rushing yards in the contest.

Memphis running back Asa Martin took matters into his own hands on a similarly electric drive. He accrued 67 of 70 Memphis yards and a touchdown to top off the drive, putting Memphis back in front 26-21. Memphis failed to convert for two points after a pass breakup by Jaylon Monroe.

On the very next play, receiver Jha'Quan Jackson fumbled on the kickoff, giving the Tigers a short field. Taking advantage of this great field position, Memphis scored a touchdown in just three plays, extending their lead to 33-21.

The next four drives were scoreless, again with a turnover and a punt apiece. Tulane finally found the endzone, on an in-

credible 21-yard touchdown catch where receiver Duece Watts "mossed" the Memphis cornerback, reaching around the defender to secure the football behind his back before falling to the ground in the endzone for the score. The Green Wave was back in the game, behind just five points with 1:57 left on the clock.

Much to the dismay of the Tulane fandom, Green Wave could not recover the onside kick attempt. Memphis took knees to run out the clock and secured the victory.

With the win, the Tigers landed their eighth consecutive year of bowl eligibility, while Tulane finished the year with a disappointing 2-10 record despite the fact they were spirited and competitive during the season, only falling in the games' final moments.

Tulane recruited the fifth-best class in their conference next season and hope to have a bounce back season when they kick off the season, hosting University of Massachusetts in Yulman next fall.

PARKER WATERS | CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



FROM THE BASEMENT

What went wrong with Tulane football?

MARK KEPLINGER
SPORTS EDITOR

In short, everything. Both on and off the field, Tulane University football was plagued with issues and challenges that it needed to face. Analyzing both off and on the field issues will help illuminate why Tulane football went from being an early season contender in the American Athletic Conference, to being the doormat of the conference.

Off the field, the biggest challenge facing the team was the same challenge that Tulane University and the city of New Orleans faced: Hurricane Ida. Tulane athletics evacuated the team to Birmingham, Alabama to continue to prepare for the coming season.

The Green Wave showed great resilience in their first two games of the year, with a close loss in a hard fought game against the Oklahoma Sooners, then the second ranked team in the nation. Tulane then rolled over Morgan State for its first win of the season. Both of these games were originally supposed to be played in New Orleans, and were instead played in Norman, Oklahoma and Birmingham, Alabama respectively.

However, the biggest culprit to Tulane's demise this season was, unsurprisingly, its defense. Time and again, the defense was ripped apart, giving up 61 to the Ole Miss Rebels, 52 to the East Carolina Pirates, 40 to the Hous-

ton Cougars and 55 to the SMU Mustangs.

In terms of points allowed per game, Tulane were 15th worst out of 130 schools, giving up 34 points per game. In comparison, during the 2020 season, Tulane had a middle of the pack defense, ranked 57th best and giving up 28.1 points per game.

Tulane sought to play an aggressive style of defense this season. This showed in many positive ways, as the hard hitting Green Wave forced 16 turnovers and sacked the quarterback 34 times. This is similar to last season's unit, which had 17 turnovers and 37 sacks. So, where was the problem?

The Green Wave gave up too many big plays and too many yards each game. Opposing teams averaged over 400 yards a game, an abysmal number from Tulane's defense. The worst pummeling came from the Ole Miss game, where the star studded Rebels had a staggering 707 yards of offense.

Two games later, Tulane's defense hit their low point against East Carolina. The Pirates had 612 yards of offense, with 222 of those yards coming from their running back Keaton Mitchell.

Offensively, the Green Wave looked to quarterback Michael Pratt to lead them. Last season, Pratt proved to be a capable signal caller, throwing for 20 touchdowns, rushing for eight more and throwing only eight interceptions. He was also incredibly tough, as Pratt was sacked 33 times in 10 games.

This season started as more of the same for Pratt. In his first three games, Pratt threw for seven touchdowns, ran for one more, threw no interceptions and was sacked six times.

Unfortunately, the season turned on its head as he had bad games against University of Alabama Birmingham, East Carolina and Houston. His offensive line did him no favors either this season, as he was sacked 27 times in 11 games. It's better than last season, but it is still not good. Against Houston, Pratt was sacked eight times.

Against SMU, Pratt took a vicious late hit after a slide, which injured him and forced him to sit out against Cincinnati. With the backup quarterback Justin Ibieta already out with injury, freshman Kai Horton was forced to step up. Horton deputized admirably, but Tulane's offense clearly lacked the dynamism that Pratt provides.

Pratt struggled initially after returning from injury. He did not look his normal electric self in the losses to University of Central Florida and University of Tulsa, as he struggled to move the offense in both games. He did show off his incredible talent when the Green Wave dismantled University of South Florida, but finished out the season on a pedestrian note in the loss to Memphis.

From a coaching perspective, the team made many mistakes, and often seemed to not be able to play a full four quarters of football. Tulane's season was filled with unti-

mely fumbles, such as the several instances lost against Oklahoma, or undisciplined play, from the penalties Tulane committed, to Dorian Williams ejection against Ole Miss and the several unnecessary roughness penalties against the University of Cincinnati. Penalties, in particular, are an area that need to be cleaned up, as Tulane averaged six a game for 51.1 yards.

Things are not all bleak in uptown New Orleans, however. The defense did improve over the course of the season. They were able to keep the high powered UCF offense quiet, and kept Tulane in the games against Tulsa, Cincinnati and Memphis.

Offensively, Pratt is still a highly talented quarterback. Bad seasons happen to good players, and Pratt has shown over his two seasons that he has what it takes to be a great quarterback.

Willie Fritz will remain head coach of Tulane until 2026, and he has shown in previous seasons that he can both build a good football team but also a good program and culture. However, the coach will need to have a strong recruiting season with both incoming freshmen and transfers in order to make the team competitive again.

Next season, Tulane's four non-conference games will be against Massachusetts, Alcorn State, Kansas State and the University of Southern Mississippi. All games will be at home, except for Kansas State.

GREEN WAVE MEN'S BASKETBALL SUFFERS STRING OF CLOSE LOSSES

JEREMY ROSEN
STAFF REPORTER

Tulane University men's basketball has stalled to a 2-5 record to start the basketball season, including a three-game losing streak since the one-point loss to Toledo. In spite of the team's mediocre record, they have been competitive in every single game they have played. All of their losses have been by five points or less, which is much better than their record would suggest.

After an impressive 70-67 win over Southeastern Louisiana University, the team lost back to back games against Southern University and Florida State University. Despite losing to FSU, a close loss by only

five points against the 19th-ranked team, at the time, was impressive.

The team traveled to Nassau, Bahamas to compete in the Baha Mar Hoops Nassau Championship over the Thanksgiving Break. The tournament opened with an exciting 90-87 overtime win over Drexel University.

Sophomore standout Jaylen Forbes led the team to victory, scoring a game high 30 points while also pulling down 11 rebounds. Jalen Cook, Kevin Cross and Sion James all scored double-digit points to edge Drexel out in this close matchup.

The next day, the team suffered a devastating one point loss to the University of Toledo in the tournament Semifinals. Despite only leading for a total of 38 seconds the entire game, Cook's game high 25 points was almost enough to push the team over the edge. The Green Wave went on to play Valparaiso University in the consolation bracket, suffering another close loss.

After the Thanksgiving vacation, the team traveled to Charleston, South Carolina for a match against College of Charleston. After falling into a five-point hole in the first half, the team fell just short of completing a furious comeback in the second half.

The story of this season has been about the meteoric rise of the freshman guard Cook. After transferring from LSU last season, he had the opportunity to truly blossom and demonstrate his talents.

Cook opened the season with a bang by scoring 28 points in the win against Southeastern Louisiana, and he has scored at least 18 points in all but one of his games this season. He is averaging a team-leading 20.7 points so far this season, while also leading the team in three-point percentage with 44.1%.

Sophomores Forbes and Cross have been the only other consistent sources of offense this season, ave-



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raging 15.3 and 13 points respectively.

For the team to improve and come out on top of these incredibly close matchups, the team will need to improve on their three-point percentage and boxing out for rebounds. Scott Spencer and Devon Baker each shoot multiple threes a game, yet their poor shooting from deep is holding the team back.

The team has allowed their opponents to grab 84 offensive rebounds this season, 25 more than they have pulled down themselves. The additional shot opportunities for the

opponents add up quickly, and these close losses may have ended in their favor if they had fought more for rebounds.

Tulane currently sits at the bottom of the American Athletic Conference basketball standings, just behind Temple University and South Florida. Green Wave basketball will look to bounce back against Alcorn State University this Saturday. They will have a rematch with College of Charleston at home next week, then they will travel to College Station, Texas for a match against Texas A&M University.



SPORTS RADIO HOST JR JACKSON TALKS CHANGING MEDIA LANDSCAPE

ZACHARY BRANDWEIN
STAFF REPORTER

As part of his "Media for the Movement" tour, radio host JR Jackson spoke at Tulane University. Jackson started his career on YouTube in 2009 and now has 10 videos with over 1 million views. He gave tips on how to get into the ever growing sports media field and shared some of his experiences as a Black male in the industry.

Jackson touched on his experiences on tour, breaking into the sports industry and his thoughts on the current state of the industry.

"You can't be a company or a brand without being a media company, or having a media element to it ... So how has the media changed? It's everywhere. How you want it, where you want it, how you receive it, it's widely available," Jackson said.

Jackson launched his YouTube channel in 2009, with a video expressing his opinions on the former Knick Gary Sheffield and how

he should retire. The hallmark of Jackson's brand is providing a forum for fans to share their sentiments on his adaptation of a radio show.

Jackson partnered with the Special Olympics and Experian recently and said he felt connected to the cause.

"The Special Olympics is just an organization that believes in giving people a chance, and I believe in it the same. Not just for someone who's black, or short, or yellow, or pink, or someone who has [intellectual and developmental disabilities], it doesn't matter. I don't care where anybody is from, it's just like 'give people an equal shot and let them shine,' Ja-

ckson said. "We do enough to treating people like trash, I think we as people can do better ...

[Experian is] helping me go out to all these colleges, because financial equality and literacy is a part of giving people a chance too."

Recently, commentators have pointed out how large sports networks hire the biggest personalities they can find who are willing to share controversial opinions in exchange for views. To name one, Max Kellerman's "Give me Iguodala" exemplifies this. Jackson said that these

kinds of "hot takes" are commonplace now, as that is how the business is evolving.

"They have been able to cultivate and grow their careers to where they are at now, millions of dollars, on how media moved and changed. Media continues to move and change, and so, it makes dollars, it makes sense," Jackson said.

Jackson's final words of wisdom came in reference to those interested in entering the sports commentary industry.

"Figure out how to be different, and stand out. That's it. Understand what makes you different, and roll with it," Jackson said. "Be you, be authentic, be genuine, don't be what somebody thinks you should be, be who you are comfortable being and try to grow."

You can find JRSportBrief on Youtube, Twitter and catch his show on CBS radio every weekday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

JADA ROTH | SENIOR STAFF ARTIST



OLYMPIC RECOGNITION OF CHEERLEADING SHIFTS LANDSCAPE OF SPORT



JUDE PAPILLION
SPORTS EDITOR

Cheerleading has been a critical aspect of sporting events for more than 140 years. The sport first appeared a few years after Princeton University and Rutgers University met for the first college football game in 1869. By the 1880s, Princeton had an all-male pep club to support its football team.

Over the years, the sport grew into what it is today. Women began joining pep clubs when young men left to fight during World War II. This saw the addition of skills such as tumbling passes and acrobatics to the sport, and cheerleaders began using spirit sticks and pom-poms.

The sport also saw the rise of competitive cheerleading with organizations such as the National Cheerleaders Association and the Universal Cheerleaders Association. While the NCAA does not recognize cheerleading as a sport, more than 250 colleges across all three NCAA division levels offer cheerleading programs.

However, cheerleading is finally beginning to experience a new landscape. On July 20, 2021, the International Olympic Committee voted in favor of granting full recognition to the International Cheer Union and cheerleading. The move comes after the sport received provisional recognition from the IOC in 2016, allowing cheerleading to receive funding and special grants.

The IOC recognition granted this year allows for funding of facilities, coaching equipment and coaches needed to compete in the Olympics. This funding that cheer could receive could give millions of cheerleaders around the world an opportunity to compete in the Olympics.

Anna Rodriguez, the captain of Tulane's cheer team, began cheerleading in the third grade. She said she be-

lieves that cheerleading becoming an Olympic sport could cause people to have more respect for cheerleaders and the risks they put themselves through to pursue their sport.

She also added that it could have an impact on Tulane's campus. "I would hope that it would gain more respect from not only the athletic department, but also the student body," Rodriguez said. "My goal would be for us to have scholarships."

While many argue that cheerleading is not a sport, cheerleading requires the same mental and physical strength as other sports. Tulane's cheerleaders put themselves through the same safety risks as other sports just to be present at football and basketball games.

"It doesn't really matter what they think, because I love what I do and I'm having fun being thrown up 20 feet in the air," Rodriguez said. "People never respect a predominantly women's sport like cheer just because that's the way the world works."

Teamwork is an integral part of cheerleading and the sport requires more dependable teammates than any other sport does. Cheerleaders work together as a unit, not as individuals, and every cheerleader puts their lives and safety into the hands of their teammates.

"It's like the whole thing. It's like the most important thing," Rodriguez said. "If you aren't on, if you don't have chemistry with your bases, the people on the bottom, the person that they're throwing is at risk of ultimately death from landing on your neck or et cetera, so you need to have teamwork."

Despite 2024's Paris Olympics consisting of 50% female athletes for the first time ever, the list of sports for the 2024 Olympics has been approved and cheerleading will not be in the Paris Games.

This means that the 2028 Games in Los Angeles is the earliest possible debut for Olympic cheerleading, but in order for cheerleading to be included in the Olympics, it would have to secure a majority vote from the IOC's 102 international members.

The 2020 Olympics saw the addition of baseball, softball, karate, skateboarding, climbing and surfing. While recognition from the IOC is a major step, we can only hope that the IOC's panel of voters approve cheerleading to appear in the 2028 Olympics to give the sport the true recognition it deserves.

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