

THE MAROON

FOR A GREATER LOYOLA



Photo illustration by Maleigh Crespo

Case dismissed

Support comes in from across the country for Maroon reporter

By Macie Batson
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Loyola has apologized and revoked all disciplinary measures against Maroon reporter Kloe Witt for reporting on a student's arrest on campus last month, but voices across the nation still worry about the implications this has on student journalism.

Witt was found responsible for violating the student code of conduct for visibly recording a conversation between herself and Loyola officials in the university's police department. After Maroon editors learned about the student's arrest, University Police officials told The Maroon to send a reporter down to the station for more information.

Witt then identified herself at the locked University Police station door and was allowed in to report on the incident, which she recorded on her iPhone. Officials later complained that Witt did not expressly ask them for permission to record, despite the fact that the Code of Conduct only requires her to do so when there is a "reasonable expectation of privacy."

The decision to punish Witt went un-

der appeal, but was denied, with Witt still required to prepare an essay on "consent in the digital age" or potentially face a \$200 fine. The university also placed a formal warning on Witt's disciplinary file, noting that more severe disciplinary action may be taken if another incident occurs.

However, Interim University President, The Rev. Justin Daffron S. J., wrote in a letter to Witt on Monday, April 17 that the student code of conduct was "at odds with long-standing journalism practices and applicable law" and that the university would dismiss all disciplinary proceedings against Witt and clear her record.

Daffron added that he was unaware The Maroon was supposed to report directly to the university president to maintain its independence.

"Had I known of my proper role, I would have made this controversy into a teaching moment for all involved, including myself," he wrote. "I would have proactively moved to resolve the conflict between our student handbook and standard journalism practices."

See **SUPPORT**, page 4

COLUMN: Is it really over?



KLOE WITT
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It really sounded like a joke: "Student journalist gets punished for doing their job." But it wasn't a joke. It was real, and it was happening to me.

I came to Loyola for the journalism program. Originally, I was just going to go to community college and then transfer to a cheaper university. It took a lot of convincing from a friend of mine to even apply to a four-year university, much less Loyola. But once I did, I realized this was the school I wanted to – and needed to be at.

To be thrown under the bus for doing my job as a reporter, the reason I came to this university in the first place, has been one of the most distressing things I have gone through.

How does a university expect to train student journalists for the career they came here to pursue if they're going to punish them for doing that job?

After this long, anxiety-inducing

process, I have come out stronger and smarter.

I love Loyola and the community here. My friends and co-workers, both in and outside of The Maroon, have made this situation so much easier to bear, and I'm grateful that we have this community on campus to allow students to feel safe and welcomed, even in distressing situations like the one I just went through.

Of course, that includes the help of The Maroon advisor, Michael Giusti. He has been an integral part of my support system during this entire situation, and I'm beyond grateful to have him as a mentor here at Loyola. He's a true treasure to the journalism department.

Beyond The Maroon and my friends, the overwhelming support from people all over the country online is something I still can't wrap my head around. The idea that so many people had my back who didn't even know who I was is insane, and I am incredibly grateful for every one.

I am thankful for the relationship the higher administration has tried to rebuild with the community, and especially, with me.

See **WITT**, page 8



What is a reasonable expectation of privacy?

Loyola's Code of Conduct relies on a legal term - reasonable expectation of privacy. But what does that mean? Reasonable expectation of privacy is a legal term of art. Federal courts have weighed in to define what constitutes a reasonable expectation of privacy, as well as how much privacy they can expect when they are talking with journalists.

What does Loyola's policy say?

"Any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video still frame or photographic record of any person without their prior knowledge or without their effective consent when the person or persons being recorded have a reasonable expectation of privacy and/or such recording is likely to cause injury or distress; this includes but is not limited to surreptitiously taking pictures of another person in a gym, locker room or restroom, or recording administrative meetings with university officials."



Kee vs. The City of Rowlett

A federal case from the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals defines when something constitutes a reasonable expectation of privacy.

It says for something to be private it must first both:

- Be something that someone was trying to actively keep private.
- Be something that society at large agree is something that should be private.



Deteresa v. ABC

A federal case from the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals defines when a reporter needs to explain that an interaction is being recorded.

It says that as long as a reporter identifies themselves as a reporter working on a story:

- Everything said during that conversation is on the record unless otherwise agreed.
- Everything is subject to being recorded even if the reporter doesn't disclose it is being recorded.

CRIME MAP



	Armed Robbery 2300 Soniat	April 10	1:00a.m.
	Motor Vehicle Theft 2300 Robert	April 11	5:35 p.m.
	Motor Vehicle Theft 600 S Carrollton	April 12	7:00 a.m.
	Burglary 6200 S Claiborne	April 12	10:12 p.m.

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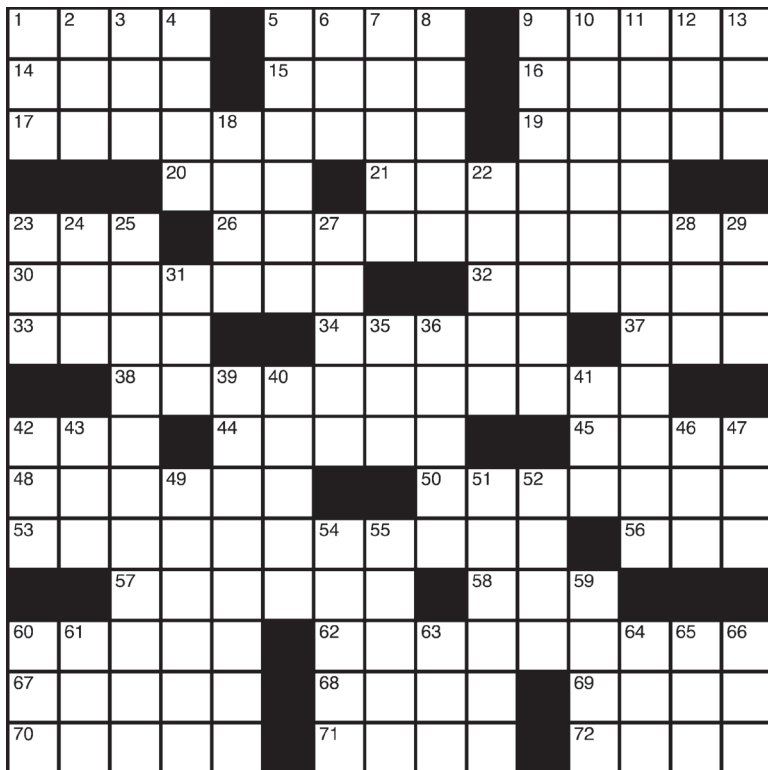
PUZZLES

Across

- 1 Outdated marriage vow word
- 5 "lol"
- 9 Religious divisions
- 14 Renown
- 15 Odd's opposite
- 16 Backless slippers
- 17 Spot for holiday decorations
- 19 Loud, as a crowd
- 20 As an example
- 21 Tons
- 23 Pep squad cheer
- 26 Component of many a 1980s dance performance
- 30 Like dark clouds
- 32 Pizza ___: pie without tomato sauce
- 33 Proofreader's catch, hopefully
- 34 Volume of maps
- 37 Goopy lump
- 38 Persevere, or a hint to the ends of the answers to 17-, 26-, 53-, and 62-Across
- 42 ___ Bath & Beyond
- 44 Hang gracefully
- 45 Farm tower
- 48 Phrase from Juliet's balcony scene
- 50 Language arts teacher's concern
- 53 Fruit-flavored loaf
- 56 Potato growth
- 57 Dot over an "i"
- 58 Golf peg
- 60 Quartet in many a string orchestra
- 62 "Sometimes you feel like a nut" candy
- 67 Short-lived
- 68 Boyfriend
- 69 Minecraft or Fortnite
- 70 Run-down
- 71 "Now!" in the ICU
- 72 Future platypuses

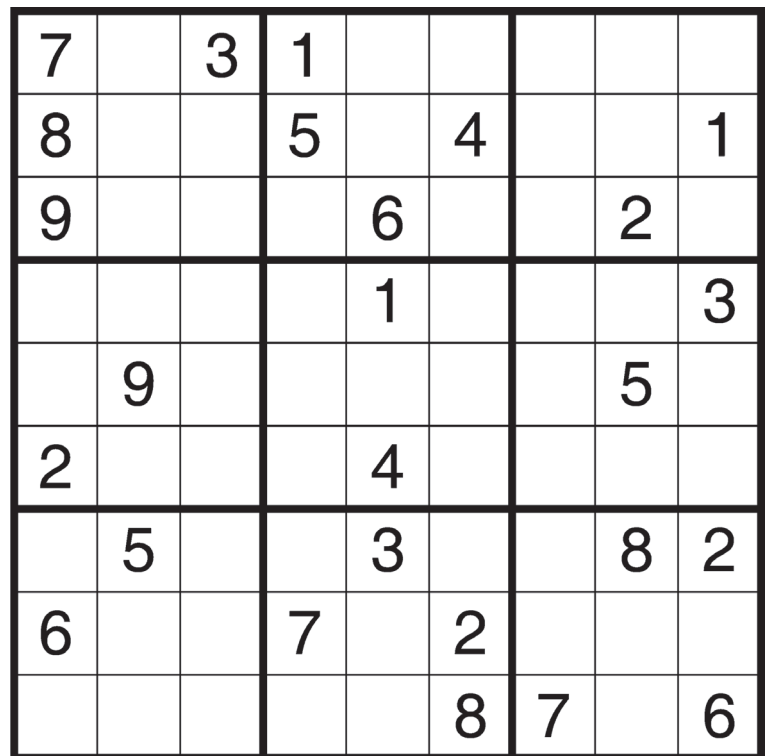
Down

- 1 Away from work
- 2 Happy hour locale
- 3 My Chemical Romance genre
- 4 Strong longings
- 5 "Psst!"
- 6 "Girl in Progress" actress Mendes
- 7 Long-legged wader
- 8 Fund on an ongoing basis
- 9 Sorta tiny
- 10 Shout of discovery
- 11 Semisonic hit with the lyrics "You don't have to go home / But you can't stay here"
- 12 Tazo beverage



- 13 20th century map inits.
- 18 ___-shanter: Scottish cap
- 22 Blot with a tissue
- 23 Biodegrade
- 24 Advice columnist Dickinson
- 25 Shakira's only #1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100
- 27 2019 and 2021 Australian Open winner Naomi
- 28 Staff sgt., e.g.
- 29 Gift of ___
- 31 "___ on my watch!"
- 35 County div.
- 36 Feudal lord
- 39 Call by name
- 40 Zagreb native
- 41 Belief system suffix
- 42 Short cut
- 43 Memorable historical period

- 46 Install, as tiles
- 47 Mined metal
- 49 Sent, as a postcard
- 51 Snitch on
- 52 Yemen's Gulf of ___
- 54 Says too much
- 55 Find a new tenant for
- 59 One of 12 on a cube
- 60 "Blue Bloods" TV network
- 61 Before, in classic poetry
- 63 Goat's bleat
- 64 High-end British car, for short
- 65 "No. Way."
- 66 "That's right"



For weekly puzzle answers, download The Loyola Maroon



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Loyola ranks among worst colleges for freedom of expression

By Jackie Galli
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Loyola University has made The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's top 10 worst U.S. colleges for freedom of speech this year.

The foundation cites sanctions against a Loyola professor and suppression of a student's speech on campus as reasons for the ranking. The list came out prior to the attempted punishment of a Maroon reporter by student conduct. In response to that incident, FIRE staff speaker for the student press counsel Lindsay Rank told The Maroon that it was a part of a pattern at Loyola that proves "its promises of expressive freedoms are empty."

Economic professor's dispute with the university

Back in 2021, according to FIRE, the sanctions against economics professor Walter Block began with required diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

"Loyola determined various comments Block made in his Intermediate Microeconomics course — including his use of the word 'Oriental,' his teaching of the 'marital asymmetry hypothesis' as an explanation for the gender wage gap, and his reference to slave owners in a discussion about authoritarianism — had created a hostile learning environment," FIRE said.

Following continued complaints, FIRE said the university went on to "threaten" Block with classroom monitoring and termination.

Where FIRE took particular issue was the reintroduction of complaints filed against Block in 2020 during a 2021 investigation, according to their article.

In 2020, a student-led petition to fire Block had been created and garnered over 500 signatures. Despite the backlash, Loyola defended Block and his speech.

See **FIRE**, page 4



Photo illustration by Sophia Maxim

Accommodation process has mixed results

By Maleigh Crespo
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Federal data shows that the number of students receiving accommodations has surged in the last several years.

At Loyola, students have mixed feelings about how easy it is to access those accommodations.

Music industry sophomore Aidan O'Connor transferred from Loyola University Chicago, where he struggled to get accommodations. Since transferring, his experience with Loyola New Orleans Office of Accessible Education has been great compared to his experience at his previous university, he said.

"It's really efficient here," he said. "I was able to quickly get all the accommodations I needed, and they were really helpful."

O'Connor said the only issue he had was the discrepancy between professors. There's no written down agreement, so one professor might be more lenient than another, he said.

Director of the Office of Accessible

Education Andrea Rodriguez said the office works with faculty every day to ensure they are able to modify their classrooms and assignments to best meet the needs of the students. They work with faculty to determine what is reasonable with the professor's given classwork and policies and the accommodations of each student, which is often case by case, and ensure those accommodations are being implemented.

Rodriguez said if there's a misunderstanding between faculty and students, the Office of Accessible Education will work to resolve it.

"The accommodations we write aren't meant to disrupt class," Rodriguez said. "They're meant for our students to be able to step in a classroom and learn — it just may be different for those students."

Design sophomore Miles Ainsworth had accommodations for his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder throughout high school, but opted out of getting them at Loyola because they're "too hard to get."

Ainsworth said it was very hard to ad-

just to not having them.

"Making that process complicated and hard and having to go through multiple checkpoints just sets people like me up for failure," he said. "There's a reason we have accommodations, so why would you make getting those accommodations harder?"

Rodriguez said the Office of Accessible Education is moving towards an easier process that's less anxiety-inducing for students.

"We want students to know that we're here for them," she said.

Biology senior Olivia Bridges had a similar experience to Ainsworth after being diagnosed with ADHD in her freshman year.

Bridges recalled that the paperwork was the easy part, but receiving the accommodations was hard.

"The first thing they ask you is what accommodations you think you deserve," she said. "And that was off-putting for me because I didn't know."

See **ACCOMMODATION**, page 4

Sodexo workers react to 3% raise

By Jonathan Whitehead
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While Sodexo employees are fighting to unionize their workplace, the company recently compensated its workers with a raise that many workers say is not satisfying their desires, resulting in internal frustrations.

The lead of the Orleans Room dining hall, Samantha Henry, has worked with Sodexo since 2017, and in her almost seven years of employment, she has been given two raises. Together, the raises only add up to about \$2. The recent 3% raise among Sodexo workers is equivalent to about 30 cents added to their paychecks. With this fractional increase, workers have shared their frustration with the company.

Henry said that she is aggravated with the company and has even considered quitting because of this, but plans to stay because she wants to be there for her employees. With Sodexo's knowledge of the formation of the union and its recent wage increase among its employees, Henry shared the changes she's then seen in the company.

"It's got worse. Because everybody's pissed off behind the 3% raise," Henry said. "They need to give us some damn money. I got a boot in this garage the other day, \$180."

Henry added that employees also have to pay to park at Loyola.

"Who could afford parking at 300 and something dollars?" she said.

Another Sodexo employee, who wished to remain unnamed, shared that the raise would be too little to even notice and that they, too, have considered quitting. In regards to the changes in the company, they shared that Sodexo's operations director Robert Heidingsfelder posted a previous Maroon article about the union on his door in an attempt to intimidate the workers and organizers who agreed to be interviewed in that article.

See **SODEXO**, page 4

Loyola honors Earth Day with week-long celebration

By Maleigh Crespo
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Environmental studies freshman Katie Buc decided to become a Loyolan when she toured the campus on Earth Day last year during the university's annual Earth Week celebration.

"It was all about the environment," she said. "And that's when I knew I wanted to go here."

For decades, the Loyola environment program has hosted events celebrating Earth Day, according to environment program director Craig Hood.

However, the week-long celebration we know today has only been around for the past seven years with varying events.

One event that has remained consistent all seven years is the Greenhouse Gathering. The culminating event allows students to visit the Azby greenhouse, located on the rooftop of Monroe Hall, to see plants cultivated by environment students. The event also has refreshments, live music, and stargazing for attendees.

Music industry senior CM Young is performing at the event.

"It's a really lively way of bringing people together," he said.

As for the rest of the week, students could take their pick on attending and participating in a multitude of Earth-inspired events.

"There's so much to do, even if your schedule doesn't line up with one event, there's three or four other events that day," Buc said.

The environmental program has been planning since last year and collaborated with several on-campus departments and community organizations to create the Earth Week experience, according to Hood.

He said the goal was to have a wide-range of events, so students, no matter their interests or skill set, could engage in the festivities.

The design department created an interactive display to promote and provide more information about the events and the environment. The display was held in the One Loyola Room in the Danna Center.

Loyola Dining, in partnership with Krafted by Chef Kraig, hosted a farmer's market and an edible garden for stu-

dents to enjoy.

The theatre arts and dance opera workshop is having an environmental-themed opera showcase on Friday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. entitled "The Promise of Living."

Hood said that most of the departments involved reside in Monroe Hall, and students and faculty across disciplines know each other, so it just made sense. Involving different programs across campus is critically important, which is why the planning must begin early, he said.

Design sophomore Tanesha Taylor said she was proud that the design program was able to create something special for students to enjoy during Earth Week.

"I'm proud that people get to see that there's a design program here that does cool stuff," she said.

Although the events are over the course of a week, Hood maintains that Earth Day is not just one day or one week.

"Issues of environmental, social, sustainability, and even public health are with us every day," he said. "That is the driving goal and purpose."



Statue of St. Ignatius wears sustainability-inspired apparel for annual Earth Week celebration. The event will conclude with a gathering in the greenhouse. Maleigh Crespo / The Maroon

Buc said Earth Week is not just about learning the different aspects of the environment, but also learning about our impact on it.

"There are so many different parts

of the environment, but there's also us, as humans. We are the environment as well. We're not in charge of it, and we have so much we can do, but also so much we can stop doing," she said.

SUPPORT: Professionals worry about precedents set for student journalists

Continued from page 1

Professors weigh in

Law professor and University Senate Chair Isabel Medina said she was unaware that students are not always given the option of having their appeal considered by the University Board of Appeals.

Witt's case was heard by a single administrative officer from the office of Residential Life rather than the University Board of Appeals — the body prescribed by both the Faculty Handbook and the Code of Conduct to arbitrate disputes.

She added that she didn't know whether the outcome would've changed, but that the requirements of due process generally favor an approach that is not purely executive in nature and more reflective of the various interests engaged with the case.

"Because this is a case that involves educational activity supervised by faculty offered by one of the colleges, it would seem to require a process that includes faculty, not just review by a single administrator," Medina said.

Medina added that in the case that the current disciplinary policies don't include an automatic right to appeal to the University Board of Appeals, the University Senate might consider advising the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Provost, and the Interim President to alter the policies and acknowledge such a right to appeal.

Medina said that because the case involves educational professional norms, it's important that the decision-makers be aware of what those norms are.

"Persons who have expertise in residential life may not have sufficient expertise in journalism norms and student journalism norms," she said.

A significant impact of Loyola's disciplinary sanctions, Medina said, is their influence on free speech and academic

freedom.

"The press, and that includes the student press, has a valuable and important role to play in our society in making sure that the community is informed about matters of public importance," she said. "It's hard to see how what a police officer says to a reporter on a matter of public importance is private unless the police officer has asked to speak off the record."

Medina said she plans to continue working with the university administration to ensure students' academic freedom and educational interests are protected.

Michael Giusti has worked as a journalist for more than two decades, has been a member of the Society of Professional Journalists his entire career, and is Loyola's Journalism Department chairman. He said that telling a source when an interview is being recorded is a good journalistic best practice.

"But it's not a legal requirement in Louisiana, especially when the phone is out and in plain sight for everyone and after she identified herself as a reporter. And it's certainly not required by any code of ethics," Giusti said. "When we tell you we are recording, we are doing you a courtesy."

Giusti also serves as Loyola's director of student media, and he said in his 21 years working with *The Maroon*, he has never once seen the university use the student conduct procedures to police how *The Maroon* does its journalism.

"This is not only unprecedented, but it is shocking, and, quite frankly, chilling in its implications," Giusti said.

Giusti served as Witt's personal advocate through her disciplinary hearings, including her appeal.

"Through this whole process, Kloe never got a fair hearing or an honest assessment of her case," Giusti said. "The deck has been stacked against her from the beginning."

Amidst Witt's case, organizations, university publications, and Loyola

alumni have all spoken out against Loyola's decision to penalize Witt.

"Chilling"

Lindsie Rank, the Student Press Counsel for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, expressed her satisfaction with the university's dismissal of charges against Witt but said she believes that the investigation, charges, hearing, appeal, and input from FIRE's Student Press Freedom Initiative shouldn't have been necessary for administrators to acknowledge their error.

"I'm worried that this sets the precedent that the student press really isn't free at Loyola. I worry that student journalists will think twice before covering breaking news on campus, for fear of facing punishment for the simplest of things," she said. "I worry that this isn't even about Ms. Witt recording an interview, and is instead about the university wishing she wasn't covering the arrest of a student at all, and I worry that the perception that Loyola is punishing a student journalist for publishing unflattering news will cast even more of a chilling effect on the student press."

Similarly, President of the College Media Association, Chris Whitley, said that if the punishment had stood, recording an interview for a story that might cast the college in a negative light would be deemed a violation.

"That has a chilling effect on any college media organization," he said.

Loyola might not be the first university to attempt to punish a student reporter. Whitley said he has observed that colleges are increasingly obstructing student journalists who are simply seeking information.

"It is a troubling trend that keeps students from learning their trade and dissuades them from wanting to enter the profession," Whitley said. "It also deprives the campus community of the facts about what's happening around

them."

Neighboring student papers show their support

It's clear that not only professional, but student journalists place significant value on the freedom of the press. The punishment that Loyola imposed on Witt was met with disapproval from both students and journalists throughout Louisiana and the rest of the United States.

Tulane University's college newspaper, *The Tulane Hullabaloo*, published a "Letter from the Board" on April 13 in support of Witt and the appeal of her case.

The letter insisted that the charge against Witt be dismissed and that the university's administration should apologize for their "shameful attempt to control the press."

"Loyola has a storied journalism program, but the university's recent actions are shameful and careless," the letter read. "The Tulane Hullabaloo is appalled that a fellow student journalist is facing discipline for simply doing their job."

In addition, Louisiana State University's college newspaper, *The Reveille*, published an editorial the same week titled, "The Reveille condemns Loyola University's treatment of student reporter."

The editorial read that they have faced administrative resistance to their reporting before, but they are dismayed to witness yet another university trying to penalize a student journalist for delivering news to her community.

"It seems that Loyola administrators are less concerned about the legal underpinnings of this case and more concerned about flexing their control over the student newspaper," *The Reveille* reported. "The circumstances suggest that an administrator showed up to the police station, felt threatened by the reporter's presence and reached for any policy they could use to discipline Witt and send a message to other student re-

porters."

The concept of a university trying to suppress student journalism is concerning for many, and Laura Widmer, the executive director of Associate Collegiate Press, said that she and her organization stood in support of *The Maroon* regarding this issue.

"Administrators do not have the right to dictate coverage," Widmer said. "This appears to be an attempt to censor student journalists and control the message."

A learning lesson

Loyola's student code of conduct states that students are not allowed to audio or video record someone without their prior knowledge or consent when the person or persons being recorded have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

However, Daffron's letter read that he has become aware of a fundamental contradiction between the university's code of conduct, which necessitates mutual agreement while recording, and the journalism principles and practices that our faculty teaches our student journalists.

Daffron wrote that he will bring together the relevant individuals from Student Affairs, the Mass Communication department, and *The Maroon* to revise the code of conduct in a considerate manner, ensuring that the university's policies regarding personal privacy and professional journalistic standards are upheld.

"Loyola affirms its support for student journalists and the work of *The Maroon* staff. This university-supported, award-winning publication serves our community and prepares the next generation of talented journalists," he wrote. "We value their work, and welcome an open line of communication with the entire community."

ACCOMMODATION: Students have differing opinions on accommodation process

Continued from page 2

I had just gotten this diagnosis, I didn't know what they offered, and I didn't know what would be acceptable to ask for."

Rodriguez said Loyola switched from documentation-based accommodations to self-reporting to remove barriers.

If a student doesn't have a diagnosis or documentation, but they discuss their issues and needs with the Office of Accessible Education, and what they say falls in line with a majority of students with a certain diagnosis, those students are able to receive classroom accommodations. The only exceptions are housing and dining, which still require documentation.

Rodriguez said the self-reporting model allows students without insurance or financial means to get a diagnosis, and an opportunity to receive accommodations they may be in need of.

After doing some Googling, Bridges said she had gotten over that hurdle — just to face another one.

Bridges said she was grateful to be able to take tests in the testing center. It's a calmer environment that allows breaks to walk around without altering the test time.

However, she had to request that accommodation for every test and quiz. Bridges said having to redo the request process before every exam was overwhelming and frustrating, especially when exams were canceled or resched-

uled last minute.

"And professors don't say no," she said. "But they say, 'do you really need it?'"

Bridges said it might be an inconvenience to professors because they don't get all their tests at the same time. "But it's just as, if not more of, an inconvenience for me," she said.

Rodriguez said as part of new faculty orientation, professors are taught how to access their students' accommodation letters in Clockwork, but she said she's fighting for mandatory disability and diversity training for faculty.

Rodriguez said the Office of Accessible Education website also has resources for faculty, which includes the Americans with Disabilities Act handbook, which contains descriptions of each accommodation and methods to implement them.

Rodriguez expressed sympathy for student frustration over the accommodation process.

"The Americans with Disabilities Act has been in place for 33 years, and we're still struggling to get things that are required by law, and that's frustrating for students," Rodriguez said.

Once every faculty and staff member has adequate disability and diversity training, they can all be up to date and on the same page to best serve students, Rodriguez said.

FIRE: Loyola ranked in top 10 worst colleges for free speech

Continued from page 2

However, FIRE said three student complaints filed against Block leading up to the petition were brought up again by the university much later, seemingly reversing their previous position.

"Loyola's ongoing investigation of the vague complaints filed in June 2020 — which seem to involve substantially the same speech Loyola already deemed protected by its academic freedom policies — is especially egregious," FIRE said.

Student prevented from distributing protest flyers

In the top 10 article, FIRE also cites the university's prevention of Elena Voisin, a Loyola Pre-Health senior at the time, from handing out flyers for a pro-choice protest in September of 2022.

Voisin was told to stop handing out the flyers by Ken Weber, Loyola's associate director of Student Life and Ministry, because the flyers were not in line with the school's Jesuit values by featuring the word "abortion," Voisin said.

Voisin said they complied and began to then verbally tell students about the march, which is when they were approached by two Loyola university police members who told them to stop.

According to Patricia Murret, Loyola's associate director of public affairs, the Loyola University Police Department was called in response to Voisin raising their voice and causing a disturbance on

campus.

Voisin said that they were not doing anything that could be considered disruptive.

University Vice President of Marketing and Communications, Rachel Hoormann, said that Voisin could not pass out the flyers because they were not given approval by Student Life and Ministry.

The Student Organization Handbook defines passing out flyers on campus from an outside organization as solicitation, which is restricted to only pre-approved content.

Where FIRE took issue with the university's response to Voisin was in the changing rationale behind their prevention of her flyer distribution. FIRE also took issue with the broad classification of solicitation by Loyola, which they say is "ripe for abuse."

According to the student code of conduct, solicitation is "any activity that seeks to make contact with students, faculty, and/or staff to collect information, sell items, or gain support."

In response to this definition, FIRE said in a letter to Loyola that "in requiring on-campus student groups to submit such a wide range of expressive activities for pre-approval — even attempts to simply 'gain support' or petition for a cause — Loyola erects against a wide array of students' expressive conduct a significant prior restraint — which are 'the most serious and least tolerable infringement' of free speech."

Freedom of expression at Loyola

Despite concerns raised by FIRE, freedom of speech is something Loyola expressly upholds within the code of conduct.

Loyola's Code of Conduct states that "students and student organizations are free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them." It also states that freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are principles which Loyola upholds and reaffirms, which includes the right to dissent and demonstrate in "a peaceful and non-disruptive manner."

After hearing that Loyola was ranked by FIRE as one of the top ten worst colleges for free speech, Voisin said they agreed.

"You have to have a priest determine what you can and can't flier or distribute on campus," they said. "If I were in charge, I think [Loyola] should rewrite their student handbook."

A university spokesperson said that in both of these cases, Loyola acted in accordance with its policies as well as state and federal law. As a private institution, the university is committed to promoting free speech in alignment with its institutional values, the spokesperson said.

Block did not respond for comment.

Loyola webinar educates on issues of incarceration and deportation

By Ava Acharya
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As migrants in the United States continue to face threats of poverty, incarceration, and deportation, scholars and activists say that for many members of these populations, solutions can be found in higher education.

Education can be a path to higher-paying jobs, allowing these individuals to escape cycles of poverty and criminal involvement.

In honor of Second Chance Month, Loyola's Jesuit Social Research Institute hosted "The Transnational Pipeline: Incarceration, Deportation and Higher Education," an online panel featuring three experts dedicated to providing undocumented and incarcerated immigrants with opportunities in higher education.

"Bad apples"

Over half of the people deported to Mexico in the past year came from some kind of detention center, according to criminal justice and education reform activist Roberto Hernandez.

Hernandez is one of these people, as he was deported to Mexico after being raised and incarcerated in the United States. Hernandez personally experienced the lack of support and resources afforded to individuals in his position.

This lack of support, he said, perpetuates cycles of crime and poverty.

Often, English speakers deported to Mexico end up working for low wages in American-run call centers, Hernandez said.

Workers in these call centers "become slaves to the job," he said. While they are able to make enough money to support themselves, there is no real room for upward mobility, Hernandez added.

When faced with this reality, people often return to criminal activity because it seems like a more viable means of financial support, Hernandez said.

Higher education may offer a different path, but, Hernandez said, the educational and governmental institutions currently in place make this goal difficult to achieve.

"We're good people. We're smart," Hernandez said. "But we've been looked at as the bad apples being returned from the United States."

Hernandez added that, because of this negative perception, he had difficulty transferring academic credits he received in the states.

He was told that he must essentially "start over" his high school education after arriving in Mexico, despite receiving high test scores.

The systems in place designed to support recently deported individuals seeking education do not reflect the lived experience of a majority of those individuals, said Ricardo Zepeda, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Guadalajara whose research focuses on marginalized communities in higher education.

Most of the programs are designed to serve young students in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program with high grades while the majority of people deported to Mexico are older and have been previously incarcerated, Zepeda said.

Zepeda said that his recent work, in collaboration with Hernandez, centers on raising visibility for these issues and communities.

"We are trying to shift the narrative about those who are being deported," said Danny Murillo, co-founder and associate director of the Underground Scholars Program at the University of California at Berkeley.

This will help end the cycles of deportation and incarceration, which often haunt immigrant families, he said.

"People who come from marginalized communities and excel are not only bringing something to their own lives, but their communities," Zepeda said.

Collaboration and support



Photo illustration by Ava Acharya/TheMaroon

Murillo said collaboration is important. He said that much of the work and research being done has to be a collaborative effort between American and Mexican scholars. Murillo said that his work, in relation to Zepeda and Hernandez's efforts in Guadalajara, is supportive.

"I want to continue to create opportunities," he said, specifically noting the potential and importance of student housing and technological expansion.

Murillo said he plans to transform his personal property, in Guadalajara, into a transitional home for recently deported people. He said that he hopes that

this location could translate into a form of free student housing for these same people.

During the panel, Murillo spoke about his efforts to make connections within the growing tech industry in Guadalajara. As the industry expands, so does the area's job market.

Zepeda said all three panelists are currently working with Global Purdue to establish a certificate program catered toward people who have experienced deportation. These efforts include collaboration with Mexico's Secretary of Education to further expand the program.

After the webinar concluded, Loyola's

JSRI sent out further resources discussing incarceration and deportation. These included links to The Education Justice Project, which provides scholarships for people deported to Mexico, and Hernandez's organization, Grupo Destino Libertad Servicio Unidad Recuperación.

"American institutions hold responsibility for this issue," Hernandez said. "It is important for Americans to support the efforts of those facing these issues."

Youth records in mainly Black Louisiana areas may go public

Associated Press
By Sara Cline

As public frustration over Louisiana's violent crime grows, Republican gubernatorial candidate Attorney General Jeff Landry is backing legislation that would make certain confidential juvenile court records public in three of the state's parishes, all of which are predominately Black.

Advocates for incarcerated youths oppose the bill with some calling it blatantly racist. They fear it would have detrimental generational effects on juvenile delinquents, some of who have not been convicted of a violent crime but simply accused of one. The advocates argue that making records public defeats one major purpose of the state's juvenile system — rehabilitation into the community — and would risk their opportunities for employment, education and housing.

"You have a (teenager) whose brain is not fully developed and who has made a mistake. And 20, 30, 40, 50 years from now, they still aren't able to put that behind them," Kristen Rome, the co-executive director of Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, said. "Those records are going to always be available for everyone to see ... and that creates a stigma, which creates an environment where they can't thrive."

The legislation, filed by Republican state Rep. Debbie Villio, proposes that all adult criminal court records be made available to the public online at no cost. The bill would also apply to juvenile

court proceedings of youths 13 and older who are accused of committing a crime of violence or if they are accused of a second felony-grade delinquent act, such as robbery, theft, driving under the influence and assaulting a police officer. Currently, most juvenile court records are confidential in the state.

The bill is proposed as a two-year pilot program that would apply to three parishes — Caddo, East Baton Rouge and Orleans, all of which are home to Louisiana's most populous cities. While supporters of the legislation cited that these areas have the largest number of violent crimes in the state, they are also predominately Black.

"The confidentiality provisions were intended to protect the identity of young people from scrutiny later in life when these youthful indiscretions and mistakes might be impactful on their adult life," said Jack Harrison, a law professor at LSU and long-time public defender in juvenile court. "But what's happened is that these provisions have shielded juvenile courts from public scrutiny ... and I think, frankly, people would be surprised to know what is happening in these courts."

Harrison says the public would likely be shocked to learn of heightened charges pursued and overzealous punishments dealt to juveniles in the state. But some Republican politicians — who for years have campaigned with tough-on-crime rhetoric, calling for harsher sentences — say they want to tamp down on possible leniency in criminal

courts in a state that has the nation's second highest murder rate per capita.

"You cannot maintain the rule of law, or dispense justice, when we are all wandering around lost in the dark," Landry said. "This plan will expose who in the system should be held accountable for the failures; when (District Attorneys) fail to prosecute, when judges fail to act, when police are handcuffed instead of the criminals." Cortez Collins, a Black police officer in Coshatta, Louisiana, understands loss at the hands of juvenile crime. Last December, his 17-year-old son, Corterion Collins, was shot and

killed.

Another 17-year-old was arrested for the shooting and plead guilty to manslaughter, Collins said. He was sentenced to 3 1/2 years — the life sentencing for a juvenile. But Collins aches knowing that someday they will be released from prison and with a clean record and able to get a job without their employer knowing what happened nearly four years earlier.

"If you are bold enough to pull the trigger and take somebody's life, I feel it should be known," Collins said.



The sign for the Juvenile Justice Center sits along the drive to its entrance in New Orleans, LA on Nov. 4, 2021. Jackie Galli/The Maroon

FBI issues public charging notice

By Ecol Lewis
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As students prepare for their summer travels, the FBI has issued an alert to avoid using free public charging stations that are common at hotels, airports, and shopping malls. Criminals can use USB ports to install malware and monitoring software onto phones when plugged in at public charging stations. With malware, cyber thieves can steal data. They call it "juice jacking," and the number of people reporting this is on the rise, according to antivirus software company Norton.

The Federal Communications Commission said to avoid becoming a juice jacking victim and use your own charger to charge your phone by plugging it into an electrical outlet, using a power bank, or investing in a charging-only cable.

There are some options to stay safe when traveling that the FCC recommends: keep your devices close to you while charging, turning off phones whilst charging to prevent data from flowing, buying a USB data blocker to prevent devices from getting infected with malware, and installing antivirus software and keeping it up to date.

Film • Arts • Food • Music • Leisure • Nightlife

Tired Eyes hopes to wake up Loyola with fresh music

By Abigail Schmidt
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Tired Eyes is a brand-new girl group ready to break into Loyola's music scene. What started as a running joke between two freshmen roommates became a real-life band by their sophomore year.

"I needed something fun to do so I'm not stressed about classes all the time," said musical theater sophomore and lead singer Emma Velasquez.

She said she and music therapy sophomore and lead guitarist Naya Sewell would often play guitar together just for fun.

"I would get us into the acting studios in Monroe, and we would plug in our amps and just play," Velasquez said.

They were then joined by sophomore Amanda Duffin and her bass, and Tired Eyes was born.

"All three of us were like, 'What if we actually started a band?' and we were like, 'fuck yeah, let's do it,'" Sewell said.

The band has played three gigs so far, including a house show, Carrollton Station, and Neutral Ground Coffee House.

Tired Eyes draws inspiration from indie rock bands like The Backseat Lovers and Pom Pom Squad, according to Sewell and Velasquez. Velasquez said the band has a playlist they share with all of their favorite artists and songs they hope to cover or practice with.

"Every single time I would learn something on guitar, I was like a little kid. Naya would come in the room, and I would be like, 'Look!'" Velasquez said.

The group is also self-managed.

"I love going out there the day of and actually playing. It is nerve-wracking, though, and for me, since I feel like I'm the one making sure the band has all

the gig information, that can be kind of stressful," she said. "But I love it, though. At the end of the day, it's like, shit, we're about to play a gig!"

Velasquez said the concept of playing a gig still feels like scary, new territory. While the musical theater major is not new to being onstage, she said playing live instruments was intimidating at a music school like Loyola.

"It was a really hard battle with myself to just be like, 'it's okay, you're still learning,'" Velasquez said.

The thought of messing up in front of the multitude of talented musicians at Loyola was terrifying to both members, but both said the confidence they get from playing is even more rewarding. Sewell said that when she feels discouraged, she goes based on the reactions from the audience, not the thoughts in her head.

"If music is what you love and playing with people is what you enjoy, then just enjoy it," Sewell said.

They also said it was intimidating to start out as a group of girls, especially with the constant fear that most musicians face: looking like a poser. Sewell said that the Loyola music industry feels very male-dominated, and it is scary to try to break into the scene.

"In my guitar classes, I am the only female in there with all these great male guitarists. I'm nowhere near their level, and it's very intimidating," Sewell said. "I didn't see myself as good enough, so I feel like being in this band with predominantly other females, I've really broken out of that shell."

Velasquez added that everyone in the group is very supportive of one another, especially drummer Jakob Dietrich, who she said is their best cheerleader.

Sewell said she often affirms herself



Tired Eyes performs their first gig at a house show on Feb. 24, 2023. The band hopes to record original music in the coming future. Courtesy of Tired Eyes

with the reassurance that she does have the proper abilities to perform and that it is okay to just be starting out.

"Comparing yourself ain't gonna do

shit but bring you down," she laughed. "We're still getting our feet on the ground."

The band said in the future, they hope

to write and record their own music.

"And I'm really proud of myself for going through with it!" Velasquez said.



Courtesy of Dani DMC

From mass communication to model

Loyola alumna inspires women as plus-size model

By Maleigh Crespo
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The content creator and plus-size model, Dani Carbonari, professionally known as Dani DMC, found her passion for entertainment while anchoring for The Maroon Minute during her undergraduate career at Loyola.

Now, with a platform that has half a million followers, Carbonari said she is grateful for her time at Loyola.

"Loyola helped me so much. There's no doubt about it," she said.

Carbonari spent two years at Loyola after transferring from Robert Morris University. Carbonari said she was initially drawn to Loyola's music industry program because, at the time, she wanted to be a manager.

It was in one of her music industry classes where she said she had an epiphany.

"It really hit me: why would I be a manager when I'm the talent, when I have so much to give?" Carbonari said.

She added that Loyola offered many opportunities to try new things, and The Maroon Minute was one that captivated her immediately.

However, she quickly realized that she didn't love the professionalism that comes with anchoring. Still, she loved being on camera.

After graduating from Loyola, despite being advised to pursue broadcast journalism, Carbonari moved to Los Angeles to pursue modeling instead.

"I just stuck to my gut," she said. "I'm going to utilize the bits and pieces I got from Loyola and turn it into something."

After only two weeks in Los Angeles, Carbonari was signed by a modeling agency. She spent the year focused on modeling, traveling back and forth between Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. But when the year was up and the excitement wore off, Carbonari realized she wanted more.

She said she loved modeling and being on set, but she also saw many issues within the industry, especially as a plus-sized model.

"My body was constantly airbrushed. My cellulite. My stretch marks. I even had people contort my body post-shoot with editing," she said.

Being in the industry made her begin to lose the confidence she once had, Carbonari said, so she started her YouTube channel, which gave her the opportunity to showcase her personality and regain that confidence.

But in early 2018, there weren't many plus-size creators on the platform, Carbonari said.

"I wanted to bring the essence of my confidence," she said, "I didn't want people to just look at me and think, 'I wish I could be like them.' I wanted people to look at me and think, 'Wow, she makes me feel like I can be like that.'"

She said she wanted to show that you could be the best dressed in the room, no matter what size you are.

"I was super consistent and let my

work ethic speak for itself," she said. "It was like a whirlwind, and it all just took off!"

With the following Carbonari has, she could hire an editor, as most people with her status do, yet she continues to edit all of her own videos.

She credits former Loyola professor Robert Racine for teaching her everything she knows, spending hours teaching her how to edit, which she said instilled a love and passion in her.

"I love editing my own stuff. I love being in control of it, and I love knowing exactly what I'm doing," Carbonari said.

Carbonari encourages Loyola students to take advantage of their programs.

"There were so many things I learned being a broadcast journalism major that led to my career now," she said.

Still, Carbonari advises not to be afraid to go against the grain.

"Don't just conform to what the university wants you to do, or your program wants you to do, or what the traditional path looks like. Try something new, take a risk, challenge yourself, get outside of your comfort zone because that is where greatness happens," she said. "And you never know what your life could look like. Take me as a prime example: I graduated college, having no idea what I wanted to do, and never in a million years did I dream that this would be my life."



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WITT: At my Witt's end

Continued from page 1

I appreciate and welcome the apology Interim President Father Justin Daffron sent to me Monday afternoon, and I'm glad that my charges were dropped.

While I'm grateful that the administration eventually stepped in and fixed this injustice, I'm frustrated that it took so long to get their attention and that things were allowed to go as far as they did.

Why is it that one person was allowed to make a decision that affected the reputation of the university?

It shouldn't be this easy for a student to be wrongfully punished.

I was lucky to have so many people rush to defend me and have this resolved. But what about the other stu-

dents who have gone through this process and have been wrongfully punished without a community of support?

This should be a wake-up call for the university. Loyola needs to take a step back and look at the student conduct process. They need to look at the individuals they have allowed to make these decisions regarding student conduct because clearly, they are making mistakes and need to include some legitimate checks in the appeals process.

When I received Daffron's apology, I thought I'd get this huge feeling of relief because, finally, this month-long issue was over. But still, I haven't felt that feeling of relief because the truth is, it isn't over. This is just the beginning of what I hope to be a process of change in Loyola's disciplining system.

Overall, this situation has been a

"It shouldn't be this easy for a student to be wrongfully punished."

learning opportunity for myself, fellow students who have been following along, and the administration. I hope Loyola begins to take a closer look at these situations and catch them before they get near as bad as they had this time.

SODEXO: Workers upset over minimal pay raise

Continued from page 2

The source added that students could show their support for the workers in a variety of ways, including emailing the general manager of Loyola Sodexo, Charles Casrill, at charles.casrill@sodexo.com to voice support for the union and a higher raise.

Casrill said that after speaking with the university, he was not able to give answers about this topic at this time.

As internal frustrations with Sodexo strengthen, Loyola senior SJ Hay, who is involved with the formation of the union, shared what the raise has done for the unionization of the company.

"Since that has come out, more workers have been wanting to be a part of the union," Hay said. "It was not a good thing that it happened, but also good for igniting a little bit more momentum in what's going on so that we get more workers

and fully get recognized and verified as a union."

Hay added that the pay increase is an attempt to appease its workers by giving them something small as opposed to giving the workers no raise at all.

However, with the worker frustration empowering the unionization of the company, Hay said that once the union is fully formed, workers will be able to meet with the company and bargain for higher wages and other benefits in the workplace.

While the union continues to form, Hay shared that there is a lack of needed support by the Loyola community.

"As Jesuits, there's such a strong tradition in workers' rights, and we've had a lot of support from other people in the Jesuit network nationally, so it's kind of odd that there's not more support on campus from local priests and that part of the community," Hay said.

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Loyola alum wins U.S. Soccer Award

By Arianna D'Antonio
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Former Loyola women's basketball star Janeicia Neely was given the inaugural Kim Crabbe Game Changers Award by U.S. Soccer.

Neely received the award for her work as the executive director for The 18th Ward, where she heads 12 youth development sports programs. In 2023 alone, The 18th Ward has created more than 4,000 opportunities for young athletes, with Neely having trained more than 100 high school and college students to lead each program, according to Wolf Pack Athletics.

The award was named after Kim Crabbe, who was the first Black woman to play for the U.S. Soccer Women's National Team, and is given to a member of the soccer community who has made a lasting impact in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

A unanimous inductee into the Wolf Pack Athletics Hall of Fame in January of 2023, Neely has also received awards such as the 2021 Up2Us Sports National Coach of the Year Award and the New Orleans Pelicans 2022 Jr. NBA Coach of the Year.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be the first recipient of the U.S. Soccer Kim Crabbe Game Changers Award," Neely said during her interview with Wolf Pack Athletics. "It's humbling to be mentioned in the same vein as Kim. I'm grateful for the recognition, but even happier about the attention the award has brought to The 18th Ward and our work."

Neely, who played 122 games in her career at Loyola from 2011-2015, is ranked seventh all-time in program history in career points scored with 1,535 and third in career assists with 477.

Beach volleyball makes semifinal run



Sophomore Preslie Boswell (12) returns a shot against the University of Mobile on Feb. 11, 2023. The team finished tied for 15th place in the final NAIA season rankings on April 11. Ryan Talley/The Maroon

By Brendan Heffernan
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Head beach volleyball coach Robert Pitre said his team's goal was to avoid peaking too early and to get better with every competition this year. With the way the program finished its inaugural season, Pitre said it's clear that his athletes took that message to heart.

The Wolf Pack beach volleyball team advanced to the semifinals of the Sun Conference Tournament before falling to the eventual conference champions, Webber International. The Wolf Pack ended the season ranked 15th in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics final coaches poll, and Pitre said his team "exceeded all expectations" this season.

"To put ourselves in a position to make the championship game was just an awesome thing to be a part of," said Pitre, who also serves as an assistant coach for Loyola's indoor volleyball program. "From start to finish, we were a completely different team."

The road to the conference tournament began in January, as the beach team began developing their "sand legs" in less than tropical conditions. Pitre said the rigorous conditions of their pre-season training schedule helped the team develop the toughness to compete until the season's final whistle.

"Cold weather, practicing from seven to nine in the morning, it's not fun being out there in those temperatures," Pitre said. "The focus for us was just to keep getting better, to not focus on wins and losses."

Another challenge the team over-

came this year was a lack of experience, Pitre said. 9 out of 12 athletes on the team were underclassmen, and some had never played on a sand surface before. Adapting from playing on indoor courts at a high level to competing on the beach can be a humbling experience, Pitre said.

"For an athlete who plays at a pretty high level on the indoor side of things, you feel really unathletic when you get into the sand," he said. "It's tough for those kids to be able to stay focused and know that it's not necessarily my technique or my ability, it's just getting used to the elements, and they did a really good job of staying focused."

The team finished the season 10-16 overall, with a few close losses in conference play. Pitre said his team played one of the most difficult schedules in the country, which helped them to play

their best down the stretch.

"We played a pretty stacked schedule, probably top five in the NAIA in terms of the number of matches or duals played," Pitre said. "You could see how that schedule benefited us going into that conference tournament. We had the close wins, the close losses, and really we all bought in and knew that we could do exactly what we did."

Going forward, Pitre said the future is bright for the Wolf Pack, as they expect to have six beach-only athletes next season training on the sand in both the spring and the fall as the program looks to reach new heights in year two.

"It's going to be a lot of work to coach indoor and beach at the same time, but that's what it takes to build a great program," Pitre said. "I couldn't be more excited."

"We had the close wins, the close losses, and really we all bought in and knew that we could do exactly what we did."

—Robert Pitre
Head Beach Volleyball Coach

Flawless Golden Wolves dance team tryouts are a howling success

By Maleigh Crespo
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After a week of pirouettes, turns, and leaps, sophomores Natasha Calixte and Reagan Rogers found their 10 members to form the Flawless Golden Wolves dance team.

The auditioning dancers underwent a week-long tryout process to learn the audition choreography given by Calixte and Rogers. The pair said they chose to teach the choreography themselves because they want the team to be almost entirely student led.

Sociology junior Amina Mahfouz said she auditioned for the team because she loves majorette culture and wanted the opportunity to bring that culture and representation to Loyola, and that the audition process was really fun, and everyone connected instantly.

"The tryouts were pretty intense, but we all just had each other's back," Mahfouz said.

Calixte and Rogers served on the judging panel alongside the club's faculty advisor, Kyleah Bell, and guest judge Tia Teamer, assistant director of Student Life and Ministry.

They were looking for dancers who showed good technique, execution, and energy in their audition, Calixte said.

Rogers said despite wanting everyone who auditioned to make the team, that wasn't the case.

"That was hard on us, but at the same time, we had to look at who is ready right now," she said.

The duo said they were looking for

people who could perform right now because the team has its first performance coming up on May 4.

The logistics are still being refined, but the team plans to perform at a field day event for intramural sports, hosted by Bell, with its founding members: Eniya Grayson, Amina Mahfouz, Kai DeSouza, Tori Johnson, Amber Muhammad, Ayana Thomas, Cassandra Johnson, Emani Leefort, Jariah Johnson, and Mia Saldivar.

Mahfouz said when she found out she made the team, she was elated.

"It's an amazing feeling. I feel like we're some trendsetters," she said. "We're setting the tone for a new culture, and it's very exciting."

After their first event in May, the dance team will hold tryouts again in the fall semester.

Calixte and Rogers encourage students thinking of auditioning to work on their technique in the summer and try out in the fall.

"For the people who didn't make the team, we can still see them on the team if they take the critiques we gave them into consideration," Calixte said.

Mahfouz said she's excited for what's coming in the fall, as the team will have their uniforms and will be performing at more events.

"The fall is going to be very exciting," she said. "That's when we're gonna officially introduce the Flawless Golden Wolves."

For updates on the team's performances and events, follow them on Instagram @flawlessgoldenwolves.



(Left to Right) Eniya Grayson, Amina Mahfouz, Kai DeSouza, Tori Johnson, and Chrissy Lissouck pose together after tryouts for the Flawless Golden Wolves majorette dance team. Final tryouts were held in the St. Charles Room on April 1, concluding the week-long process. Maleigh Crespo/The Maroon



WHAT'S UP NEXT

APRIL 21 & 22

Track & field at SSAC Outdoor Championships in Mobile, Ala.

Baseball vs Faulkner University at Turchin Stadium at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

APRIL 24-26

Women's golf at SSAC Championships in Greenville, Ala.

APRIL 25

Baseball at Louisiana Christian University in Pineville, La. at 3 p.m.

LUPD should look inward

While we are grateful the disciplinary consequences were dropped from Maroon reporter Kloe Witt and that Interim President the Rev. Justin Daffron, S.J. wrote that the student conduct hearing process would see some revisions, another major issue has been brought to light as a result of the situation which has yet to be addressed.

Are the Loyola police properly trained and aware of their own policies?

When the Loyola University Police Department gave information to Witt on the evening of Luke Sahs' arrest on campus, but then went on to file Code of Conduct charges against her for that very conversation, there seems to be one of two explanations for why their conversation with her became so controversial. Either they knowingly overshared with a reporter and later regretted it, or they let a stranger into their locked headquarters without any sort of identification and shared private information without knowing who they were giving it to.

We raise this second option because they acted like they had no idea they were talking to a reporter. They were acting like they had no idea Witt worked for the Maroon, even though we called ahead and said she was coming, and she identified herself at the door.

If the former of these two possibilities was the case, then their student conduct complaint against Witt is alarmingly unethical, because it shows they are knowingly punishing a reporter for a mistake LUPD itself made. There is no expectation of privacy when speaking to a reporter unless you ask, and the reporter agrees to allow the interview to be off the record. Under these strange twistings of the Code of Conduct, perhaps Kloe Witt should have filed a complaint against LUPD, since she was not asked to be recorded by video surveillance.

The door was locked. The police only let Witt in because she identified herself as a reporter. Period. She didn't pick the lock. She didn't rappel from the roof "Mission Impossible" style. The police let her in because she said she was there to report on a story. Then the police went on to tell her about the arrest. It was only after the story came out that they later called into question some details in her reporting, only to find out that she could back up everything she wrote in her story with her recording.

Then, and only then, did the object to the fact that she recorded them. They got caught oversharing. Then they tried to throw her under the bus.

Regardless of what happened, the real and only reasonable solution should have been better training for the officers, and not penalizing an 18-year-old reporter through the campus disciplinary process. If an officer overshares in an interview, it isn't the reporter's fault. Punishing her because the officer regrets what he told her is the height of hypocrisy.

We cannot forget that Loyola police are state-commissioned officers. They carry guns. If they aren't properly trained on their own policies, it's concerning what that could mean for the Loyola community. Are we safe?

Another unsettling piece of the story is that not a single officer even showed up for Witt's student conduct hearing which their complaint led to. Witt was never given the opportunity to face her accuser, a right guaranteed to her by the university's Code of Conduct. In fact, Witt

didn't know who filed the complaint until weeks after the hearing had passed.

But perhaps LUPD does deserve some understanding. If we were as cowardly as they acted in this case, maybe we wouldn't have shown up to the hearing either.



Don't be afraid of good trouble

Before we begin, we would first like to thank everyone who rallied in support of Kloe Witt and The Maroon. In addition, we are grateful that Interim President the Rev. Just Daffron, S.J. justly intervened to put right the situation.

Loyola punished a student journalist under false pretenses for doing her job as she was taught to. Maroon journalist Kloe Witt informed the community about the arrest of a student on campus.

Instead of praising the journalist for her diligent reporting, Loyola disciplined Witt with an official student conduct hearing in which she was charged with falsification or misuse of university records and unauthorized recording. Witt was found responsible for unauthorized recording in the public lobby of the Loyola University Police Department.

Witt appealed the responsible verdict on a number of grounds, including the fact that Student Conduct was arbitrating the case while one of their hearing officers was simultaneously testifying against her. The Department of Student Conduct refused to let Witt see the evidence against her in advance of the hearing — something they said is standard practice in their hearings. They never let her see the original complaint against her. And they never let her face her accuser — University Police. In fact, she didn't even know it was University Police who were accusing her until after her appeal had been denied.

The appeal was denied through an illegitimate review in which the director of Residential Life, Chris Rice, arbitrat-

ed the appeal process rather than the proper University Board of Appeals — a balanced panel of faculty, staff, and students meant to act as an oversight to pending appeals that is prescribed in both the Faculty Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

The Student Code of Conduct outlines the appeal process and guarantees a student's appeal will be heard by The University Board of Appeals, made up of 15 members representing faculty, staff, and students. But Rice unilaterally denied her appeal.

This follows heavy criticism of how Rice has wielded his new authority, having been promoted to the director of Residential Life last year, and underscores a troubling pattern of practice in which he has unfairly punished students for things that appear to personally upset him.

Rice is one of a number of actors that helped enable this bullying of a student journalist.

This situation demands we question how many other times this happens unjustly to students who don't have legal representation or whose cases don't face public scrutiny. How often does Loyola manipulate procedure to promote a desired narrative?

Witt's treatment has revealed how Loyola is capable of using their disciplinary system to intimidate students and strip away their duly-owed rights.

After reporting on Witt's hearing and appeal, an uproar of condemnation from across the nation ensued. Universities

across the country, journalists, attorneys and legal experts, and press freedom advocates condemned Loyola's administration.

Following a slew of online outcry and NOLA.com's coverage of the scandal, Loyola's Interim President, the Rev. Justin Daffron S.J., issued a personal apology to Witt for his inattention and lack of intervention. Daffron concluded that he would dismiss all charges immediately and said that he had not known he was able to intervene in these cases and would have earlier.

However, before Witt's appeal, Daffron was informed about the case by The Maroon and declined to comment on the situation when asked.

The public scrutiny of Witt's case gave a rare glimpse into the conduct hearing process when a student is accused of violating the Code of Conduct. And it underscores the serious power imbalance that exists.

It should be seen as a warning to every student: if Loyola has punished a student with a fictitious justification, they will do it again, and have likely done it before.

Loyola charging Witt with unauthorized recording is a perversion of a rule meant to prevent upskirt photos and being photographed in bathroom stalls. The university equated this rule to Witt's thorough journalistic responsibility to record her interaction with "public safety administrators." In her hearing, Loyola accused Witt of recording in a private space, but a police station accessible to

the public with 24-hour video surveillance does not constitute a reasonable expectation of privacy — especially when knowingly talking to a journalist. To establish a reasonable expectation of privacy, a person must exhibit an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy and the expectation must be one that society is prepared to recognize as reasonable.

It is indicative of a troubling effort to weaponize the disciplinary systems against students, and journalists are only their most recent target. The Department of Student Conduct and Loyola's arbitration system would rather hold these hearings behind closed doors and intimidate students than have a transparent process.

This case should have fallen beyond the Department of Student Conduct jurisdiction. Why were Residential Life professional staff able to hear these charges through the Department of Student Conduct in a kangaroo court? They should not have the authority to bring charges on their own and should have been obligated to request charges be brought and request a hearing be convened through an independent process. Rice should not have the authority to convoke a disciplinary hearing against a student outside the realm of student life.

We have been taught that no person stands above another and all people deserve dignity. We must uphold these values. We are a respected institution with a long history of admired journalistic practices. We want our administration to represent the values that we have been

taught to revere at this Jesuit institution.

We respect Daffron intervening in this injustice.

We are all here to learn and grow. No one is above criticism, and as an independent media organization, we seek truth in all things. The freedom we have to discuss this issue with our community is a demonstration of Loyola's commitment to free speech and independent journalism — but make no mistake, this is at risk.

As a community, we must stand up against administrative authorities cosplaying campus despots and immediately return to some oversight before it's too late. It makes us all look bad when it may only be a small administrative arm of our university.

And don't ever fear retaliation for doing what is right. No progress has ever been made by conforming to unjust rules and procedures.

"Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." - John Lewis



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

Letter to The Maroon:

One of the things I have cherished about my role as interim president has been the opportunity to learn and grow in my understanding of Loyola. In regards to the controversy over the practices of The Maroon in news gathering on campus, I have learned two things recently. One is that there has been a fundamental conflict between our Code of Conduct, which requires mutual consent on recording, and the journalism standards and practices that our faculty teaches our student reporters. The second thing I have learned is from the early days of The Maroon, it was decided that it should report directly to the university president in order to ensure its independent mission.

As the interim president, I was not aware of this, and I allowed the disciplinary case to proceed against a student reporter according to the policies of our student handbook. Had I known of my proper role, I would have made this controversy into a teaching moment for all involved, including myself. And I would have proactively moved to resolve the conflict between our student handbook and standard journalism practices.

After much thought and prayer, and in consultation with Loyola leadership involved in the case, the University will dismiss all disciplinary proceedings against the student reporter and clear her record. I offer my own personal apologies to all involved for not engaging in the case earlier. It is clear that the student reporter was doing her job as we taught her to do it. And at the same time Student Affairs staff and leadership acted properly in enforcing our Code of Conduct, it was up to me to recognize that the Code was at odds with long standing journalism practices and applicable law.

Going forward, I will convene the appropriate leaders from Student Affairs, the leaders of Mass Communication and the Maroon to revise the code in a thoughtful way to uphold our safeguards on personal privacy and professional journalistic standards.

Loyola affirms its support for student journalists and the work of The Maroon staff. This university-supported, award-winning publication serves our community and prepares the next generation of talented journalists. We value their work, and welcome an open line of communication with the entire community.

Justin Daffron, S.J.
Interim President



HOWLS & GROWLS

HOWL
to BSU royalty

GROWL
to low wages

HOWL
to student musicians

GROWL
to slow Internet

HOWL
to summer work study

GROWL
to broken vending machines

HOWL
to Earth Week

GROWL
to littering

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Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and style. Please limit submissions to 400 words. Submissions are due no later than 4 p.m. the Sunday before publication.

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

Submissions may also be made online at www.loyolamaroon.com.

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