**Mold invades Carrollton Hall, displaces students**

By Oliver Bennett and Madeline Taliancich

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

“Immediately, the smell of mildew hits you straight in the face,” Hodges said. “It was nauseating.”

Hodges, a classical studies and sociology junior, returned to campus on Sept. 7 to remove some of their belongings and found their suite in this condition. They notified the Office of Residential Life, which told Hodges that they would return to a “clean and pristine” suite that had been shampooed and treated with an enzyme spray.

One of Hodges’ suite mates returned to campus on Sept. 13 after the hurricane to find the room still in a state of disarray. Green, white, and black sludge covered the carpets, walls, ceiling, beds, towels, windows, and cabinets.

Hodges and their suite mates were some of the many students who returned to Loyola after the hurricane to find their dorm rooms festooned with mold.

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

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

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

Ragsdale said it’s common for people to deal with the mold they see and then turn to Loyola after Hurricane Ida, they were without the comfort of their own beds for over a month.

Rice said rainfall entered through exterior walls and windows during the storm, but that “there is a progressive plan to fully repair the damages” in the dorms.

This is not uncommon in a situation with mold caused by water damage. David Ragsdale, production manager for damage restoration company ServPro Industries, said that mold problems are often bigger than people first suspect.

“Many times, especially after any water-related damages, what you’re seeing a lot of times is just the tip of the iceberg,” Ragsdale said. “It was nauseating.”

— Myra Hodges

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**THE MAROON**

**FOR A GREATER LOYOLA**

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

Loyola necesita mantener una matrícula de por lo menos 25% de estudiantes inscritos Latinos para estar en acuerdo con las normas de la HSI, según el Departamento de Educación de EEUU. Actualmente, la universidad está a menos de seis puntos porcentuales para lograr cumplir este objetivo con una población Latina de 19% estudiantes Latinos, según Rachel How-Jung, vicepresidenta de mercadeo y comunicación.

A pesar de que Loyola dice tener la meta de convertirse en una Institución de Servicio Hispanos, muchos estudiantes Latinos y Mexicanos en la institución se sienten ignorados.

Kim Díaz, estudiante de estudios interdisciplinarios de último año, dijo que nunca ha sentido que la universidad haya creado algún programa o curso que demuestre su deseo y compromiso de servir a sus estudiantes Latinos o Estados Unidos. “Si algo, han sido los estudiantes y los profesores quienes han intentado demostrar que hay un problema en la misma escuela,” dijo Díaz.

Una vez que Loyola alcanzó el 25% de un cuerpo estudiantil Latino de pre-grado, la universidad podría aplicar para el programa Título V, que le concedería a Loyola un aumento de fondos para mejorar las oportunidades académicas disponibles para sus estudiantes Latinos, según el Departamento de Educación de EEUU.

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

“Teneremos matices muy reducidos, así que no ponemos creaciones y trabajamos duro para permitir que eso suceda. Cualquier tipo de financiamiento nos ayudaría en ese trabajo,” dijo Teter.

Se desconoce sobre el hecho de que si Loyola distribuirá los fondos para todo su estudiante, o si serán exclusivamente para sus estudiantes Latinos. Actualmente la universidad ofrece cursos sobre la cultura Latinoamericana, dijo Teter. Puede que se proporcione que los estudiantes Latinos tengan un espacio donde reflexionen sobre su identidad y la que significa, dijo Teter.

Teter dijo que el Departamento de Lenguas y Cultura es el único espacio donde los estudiantes pueden compartir.

“Loyola tiene un porcentaje muy pequeño de profesores Latinos o Latines, lo cual es un problema muy grande para una institución que aspira a ser Servicios para más estudiantes,” dijo Teter.

Si bien los estudiantes no reciben financiamiento, la comunidad está trabajando para que se alineen los necesarios que sean.”

**Empuje para conseguir el estatus de Servicio Hispano viene con retos**

By Soñia Luciano
shamini@my.loyno.edu

Loyola tiene un porcentaje muy pequeño de profesores Latinos o Latines, lo cual es un problema muy grande para una institución que aspira a ser Servicios para más estudiantes, dijo Teter. Si bien los estudiantes no reciben financiamiento, la comunidad está trabajando para que se alineen los necesarios que sean.”

**Use the QR code to read this story in English**
Young Loyola alumnus joins board of trustees

By Daniel Schwalmbpschwal@my.loyno.edu
gil@Schwalb

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eventually, the board decided on Fields, a Louisiana native who studied chemistry with a short-term for a young alumnus.

Theatre arts and environmental science junior Hilary Nguyen, a lactose intolerant vegetarian, said she acknowledges that Loyola has options for her but that she doesn’t want to eat the same thing days in a row. Nguyen canceled her meal plan at Loyola after last semester because of that, she said. “It’s a waste of my money, frankly,” Nguyen said. “I can make food cheaper.”

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

Loyola’s v egans and vegetarians want more on-campus options

By Gabriella Killettgkile@my.loyno.edu

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

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

Last week, Donovan said she had a delicious vegan meal with beans and rice but that options like that don’t come often. “I’m just like anyone else,” Donovan said. “I want sugar. I want bad carbohydrates.”

Chef Matthew Box was part of the student training held by Sodexo in an attempt to lower moisture problems, and water intrusion increases the amount of plant-based options available to meet their dietary restrictions. Hannah Darcy/The Maroon

Carrollton Hall has a history of mold problems

By Jake Krug

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

Despite Director of Residential Life Chris Rice’s claim that Carrollton Hall has no history of mold, the university spent $50 million in repairs and suing five companies over negligence, breach of contract, repairs, losses, and legal costs in 2004. According to the lawsuit, the dorm battled with defective design, humidity problems, and water intrusion that negatively affected the health of students.

In April of 2004, Loyola claimed to have spent almost $130,000 on repairs caused by the allegedly faulty design and construction of Carrollton. Eskew + A Professional Corporation, formerly known as Eskew + Fowle Architects, is the architect firm who designed the structure. Loyola’s Executive Director of Residential Life Tia Rosenbaum said that the firm did not have the right to speak for the university at the time, stating that it complied in full accordance with its contracts.

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

The companies in question were MAPP Construction, Inc., Travellers Property & Casualty Insurance, Eshom Yaffles Prescott Architecture and Engineering, PC, and Eskew + A Professional Corporation. Representatives of Eskew, Loyola, MAPP, and Eshom Yaffles Prescott Architecture and Engineering, PC, struggled to find the cause of the mold problems.

The university relocated 38 residents of Carrollton by September 2004 as a result of a $10 million project to repair faults in the building’s original design.

As for the original designer, the firm formerly known as Eskew + Fowle Architects, they have been reluctant to live on the sixth and seventh floors were moved to lower floors, according to the 2004 Maroon.

In November 2004, further construction continued on Carrollton to complete the seventh floor. It was announced that construction would be delayed until at least mid-January of 2005 due to the unexpected extent of the building’s damages. The university attributed the delay to the defects in the original design of the building, stating that the structure allowed moisture to seep into the walls, leading to the growth of mold.

Students living in the affected dorms of the residence hall were relocated.

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

The University President at the time, the Rev. Kevin Wildes S.J., took students’ concerns about the quality changes into consideration, but ultimately decided the university would not release students from their contractual obligations. According to Martina Mills, the Student Government Association president at the time, students who had signed contracts were told to remain on campus for the duration of the construction.
CRIME MAP

- Motor Vehicle Theft
  - 8900 Block of S Claiborne Ave.  
    - Oct. 1 11:00 a.m.
  - 7000 Block of Zimpke Street  
    - Oct. 1 6:45 p.m.
  - 500 Block of Broadway Street  
    - Oct. 3 3:15 a.m.
  - 1900 Block of Fern Street  
    - Oct. 4 7:00 a.m.

- SC
  - Rape
    - 1600 Block of Monroe Street  
      - Oct. 1 8:09 p.m.
  - Theft
    - 3600 Block of McAlister Place  
      - Oct. 3 2:00 a.m.

- SC
  - Sexual Battery
    - The Boot  
      - Oct. 9 2:00 a.m.
  - Motor Vehicle Theft
    - 500 Block of S Claiborne Ave.  
      - Oct. 1 11:00 a.m.
  - Disturbance
    - Intersection of North Rd. and East Rd.  
      - Oct. 1 6:00 a.m.
  - Drug Violation
    - Intersection of North Rd. and East Rd.  
      - Oct. 8 3:25 a.m.

- Theft
  - 1000 Block of Jena Street  
    - Oct. 5 6:00 a.m.
  - Theft
    - 1100 Block of Lowerline Street  
      - Oct. 5 5:30 p.m.
  - Theft
    - 5000 Block of Camp Street  
      - Oct. 11 1:30 p.m.

- Vandalism
  - 5000 Block of Camp Street  
    - Oct. 1 1:30 p.m.

- Simple Battery
  - 1000 Block of Jena Street  
    - Oct. 5 5:00 a.m.

- Crime Map
  - AUDUBON PARK
  - MAGAZINE ST
  - ST. CHARLES AVE
  - S. CARROLL TON AVE
  - CLAIBORNE AVE
  - NASHVILLE AVE
  - FRERET ST
  - TULANE AVE
  - CLAIBORNE AVE
  - NAPOLEON AVE
  - LEAKE AVE
  - BROADWAY ST
  - S. CARROLL TON AVE

- Disturbance: Fight
  - Union St. and Orleans Ave.  
    - Oct. 8 3:25 a.m.

- Drug Violation
  - 1000 Block of S Claiborne Ave.  
    - Oct. 1 11:00 a.m.

- Theft
  - 1100 Block of Lowerline Street  
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TRUSTEES: Young alum joins board of trustees

Continued from page 2

financial planner. He also works as a manager for his brother, the rapper A$AP
Gazelle. At Loyola, he was captain of the basketball team and a member of the Chi Alpha Phi fraternity, among other stu-
dent organizations.

Tetlow said that Fields’ finan-
cial expertise was one of the many fac-
tors that led the board to choose him.

“We wanted someone experienced, at least, who are very financially sophisti-
cated because one of their primary roles is to oversee the financial accountability of the university,” she said. “It is helpful that he will be able to really dive into the numbers and ask good questions about them.”

Fields said he hopes to use that exper-
tise to help Loyola’s program.

“Going forward, one of the things I hope to help other trustees learn about what Loyola’s student body is like really,” Fields said. “I want to take that perspective as somebody who really graduated pret-
ty recently.”

Fields, who is 25, is the youngest trustee by a significant mar-

In addition to being young, Fields, who is Black, will also help make the pre-
dominantly White board more racially di-
terse. There are 34 trustees on the board, including Tetlow. Of those 34, five are Black and two are Hispanic. The other 27 are White. Eighteen are Loyola alum-
ni. Nine trustees are women, and 25 are men, including eight Jesuit priests.

“I am always looking to add people of color to the board,” Telford said. “All of our finalists were people of color.”

Richardson said that while he is
glad to see another Black member on
the board, he does not believe that the
text is simple.

“Don’t think of our actions as being authen-
tic and organic, and it just so happened that all three finalists were people of
color because so many of our student
leaders on campus are people of color,”

City said that while he thinks that adding a young alumna to the board is a step in the right direction, he is not
satisfied with the compromise and still
hopes that a seat on the board of trust-

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


Continued from page 8

of his passing. A Facebook group called “Remem-
bering Rah Rah Hick” was created by two of Hill’s former James Madison cheerleaders as the news of his passing
spread across social media. The group now has 325 members who’ve all shared photos and stories of the man who
changed their lives.

Camus Parks said she’d been using
Facebook for over 15 years before
she made an account to join the celebra-
tion. She said that what she’d remember most about her friend was the uncondi-
tional love he gave to everyone around him.

“He didn’t have an easy childhood. I know everybody knows that Coach Hick can’t
really about to get into his car and ev-

d to see her on Thursday.” He was
like all right, well, test me your address,”

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

Hill’s confidence and sense of humor made him an easy
leader to follow, particularly for him and his other queer teammate, Hol, who
was Black and queer, served as Loyola’s representative on the Southern States
Athletic Conference, Serving for Equali-
ty Place Committee, which seeks to com-
bat racism and other social injustices
within the conference.

“He’s a diva, but not like a storming
out diva, but like Beyoncé, like he’s so
sassy and speak his mind, but that that’s what makes it fun,” Gonkapala said. “We’ve
a team that takes pride in our diversity in terms of gender and sexual and gen-
eral orientation. He’s a beacon of hope and
strength for those members of the team
who might not have that same level of
self-acceptance. He’s a beacon of hope and
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He left a huge hole in the cheer community.”

— Leigh Carr

Head cheerleading coach, Bethel University

MOLD: Mold displaces residents

Continued from page 1

the offer down and stayed with a friend because she thought the repairs would only take a few days. After she was dis-

placed, she learned that she started staying in Airbnbs and with her boy-
friend, using his car as a storage room.

“Because I don’t even have a car,”

Hodges said about losing their money. “I knew I was going to get it over

Carroll Hall apartments cost be-

The Maroon

THE MAROON

October 15, 2021

OCTOBER 27 AND OCTOBER 28
COVID inspires kindness among student bargoers

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

“I felt like before, there was a lot of disrespect and blatant ignorance, but after COVID, especially college students, have been a lot more respectful,” said Shelby Christmas, who’s been a bartender for two years at Redd’s Uptelly Tavern.

Less than a mile away from both Loyola and Tulane’s campuses, Redd’s attracts a large number of college students.

Christmas said the bar would be swarmed with over 300 college students on a typical night. When the city reopened and college students returned to campus full time, Christmas said Redd’s gets about 100 students a night. While this is less than pre-pandemic levels, she said she hasn’t noticed much of a difference in tips or bar sales.

Christmas said while the attitude of patrons towards bar staff has improved, revenue has stayed about the same since before the pandemic. Christmas didn’t have an explanation for the change.

Unlike Redd’s, other bars in the Uptown area might have had an impact on their bar’s bottom line and also have seen positive responses towards COVID-19 policies.

“Before, there was a lot of disrespect and blatant ignorance, but after COVID, especially college students, have been a lot more respectful.”

— Shelby Christmas

Bartender at Redd’s Uptelly Tavern

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

There were no such dramas last graduation season, said Amber Donewar. Jacques-lim’s administrator and server. Donewar said the restaurant only got about four to five calls for bookings during that time.

“I feel like things are on the rebound.”

— Brianna Thibodeaux

Jacques-lim’s server and bartender

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

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

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

While less people in bars has had a positive effect on student behavior, bars hope they can become busier once again.

JACKED IN DAYLIGHT

Loyola student carjacked in front of her home following Hurricane Ida

By Maggie Malone
mmalone@my.loyno.edu

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

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

Bellard, a 2017 graduate, is now head stage manager for the 2021 North American national tour of ‘Tootsie’. She graduated from Loyola in the Spring of 2020. “They’re both shining stars,” said Patrick Gendusa, chair of the Loyola theatre arts and dance department. “They are the most compelling, loving, valuable folks, it’s no surprise to me that they’re succeeding.”

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

“’Tootsie’ is a piece of whimsical, magical entertainment,” Bellard said. “It’s a wonderful, warm, uplifting show.”

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

Bellard and Thompson encouraged students to be persistent while transitioning into Broadway.

“You never know what time you ask that something will work,” said Bellard. “It’ll take you asking one really good question that gets you the job over someone else.”

Thompson echoed this message of resilience when speaking of her experience as a person of color in the theater industry.

“Unfortunately, you asking one really good question that gets you in the door over someone else.”

— Brianna Thompson

Jacques-lim’s server and bartender

Alumni take on broadway during COVID
Latine artists celebrate their heritage

By Oliver Bennett

Latine artists work in many different mediums and areas of the arts, united by their shared heritage and passion for their communities. They often draw inspiration from their own identities to create work that is relevant to their own experiences and those of their communities. The following are some of the artists who are making waves in the arts, and using their platforms to celebrate their heritage:

**Michael Lardizabal**

Lardizabal, a digital filmmaking junior, works in many different mediums, including photography, graphic design, and writing. He has a passion for his Colombian heritage and uses it as inspiration for his work. He said, "I feel very happy about where I come from, to represent that culture and my family's resilience and culture. Art is just a revolutionary tool." He started skateboarding at a young age and has since developed a skate-inspired clothing brand, Hot Garbage Apparel.

**Roux Fernandez Melguizo**

Melguizo is a Colombian visual artist and musician who uses their art as a revolutionary tool. They said, "My clothing brand and everything I do with it is my lifestyle," and that they strive to be able to play anything and everything. They have a background in salsa and his style can be categorized as punk, metal, hip-hop, classical, or jazz. They said that before Loyola they never saw people with color paired with short texts, demanding their art transcends the other, one draped across the other's lap. They have a passion for their Colombian roots and gender identity, and their experiences as a non-binary, butch lesbian.

**Jose Hernandez**

Hernandez is a jazz studies junior, and said that before Loyola they never saw people with color paired with short texts, demanding their art transcends the other, one draped across the other's lap. They have a passion for their Colombian roots and gender identity, and their experiences as a non-binary, butch lesbian. They said that before Loyola they never saw people with color paired with short texts, demanding their art transcends the other, one draped across the other's lap. They have a passion for their Colombian roots and gender identity, and their experiences as a non-binary, butch lesbian.

**Valeria Santini**

Santini is a graphic design senior, and said that before Loyola they never saw people with color paired with short texts, demanding their art transcends the other, one draped across the other's lap. They have a passion for their Colombian roots and gender identity, and their experiences as a non-binary, butch lesbian. They said that before Loyola they never saw people with color paired with short texts, demanding their art transcends the other, one draped across the other's lap. They have a passion for their Colombian roots and gender identity, and their experiences as a non-binary, butch lesbian.
Tuesday through Sunday  Closed Monday
Lunch 11:30 – 2:30   Dinner 5:30 – 10:30

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

Cheer and dance communities remember the late Ricky Hill

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

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

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

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

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

“Adjusting wasn’t hard. It was nice,” Stempkovski said. “It has provided flexibility and has helped with the adjustment to school.”

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

“It was harder to adapt at first because we are used to swimming at Loyola. I knew how many strokes I needed to take,” Sitzman said.

However, she said she has grown more comfortable with each practice.

“I am feeling encouraged. This is my last season. I want to pass the torch to the next person, I want to leave the best legacy possible,” Sitzman said.

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

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

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

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

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

Cheerleading, however, was the first thing because we are people first, to tell them you love them.”

By Jabez Berniard and Kirby Mason
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Hill, 54, died Sept. 20, 2021 after suffering a heart attack on Loyola’s campus. Hill made a colossal impact on the sports of competitive cheer and dance as a national champion head coach, choreographer, and competition judge. For many of his former athletes and colleagues, however, Hill’s kindness, thoughtfulness, and sense of humor were more impactful than any routine he put together.

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

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

“I called Julie and I said, ‘gurl, he’s coming. Aug 9 to 12. Do not schedule anything because nothing is more important than seeing him,” Cantu-Parks said. “You don’t realize that would have been your last moment to hug somebody, to hold somebody, to tell them you love them.”

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

Hill was one of their closest friends. They’ve been in the same room ever since Hill entered his life, you were forever his friend,” Cantu-Parks said. “Dancing with us in our weddings, taking time to meet our children when they were born, celebrating every milestone with us, and always offering unparalleled support in times of loss and sadness.”

After James Madison, Hill made coaching stops at Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, Methodist University, and Winthrop University before agreeing to lead Loyola University New Orleans’ brand new cheer and dance program in 2016. Loyola Athletic Director Brent Simpson said Hill’s decades of experience and reputation made him a clear choice for the position.

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

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Y solo dos profesores Afroamericanos dentro de mi concentración,” dijo Lardizábal.

“Si algo, han sido los estudiantes y los profesores quienes han intentado demostrar orgullo Hispano en vez de la misma escuela,” dice Kim Díaz, Estudiante de estudios internacionales. 

Loyola necesita llegar al 25% para ser una Institución de Servicio Hispánico

En el futuro, ‘Serán mejor atendidos’, dijo Yacaman. “Con suerte, eso significa mejor representación, mejor ayuda económica y ayuda en general que puedan obtener. Eso ayudará a todo el estudiantes en general. Y con suerte, eso iniciará un ciclo que va a atraer más estudiantes hispanos a la universidad.”

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

“Cara a cara para atender adecuadamente a los estudiantes hispanos, necesitan verse cuando manan a sus profesores. Y no estar en una institución donde cerca del 80% de los profesores de tiempo completo son blancos,” dijo ZaVala.

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

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Social media is an echo chamber

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

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

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

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

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

The echo chamber of social media has enabled harmful and false speech to dominate people’s political thought. From conspiracy theories about space lasers to fake stories about what political figureheads are saying, online political commentary accounts are free to put whatever it is they want to say online, regardless of its veracity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now, back to my regularly scheduled TikTok nap.

Life is a rollercoaster

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

College life has been a rollercoaster with the sharp turns being unreasonable professors, the steep inclines being COVID-19, and the steep descents being hurricanes.

Being a young adult can feel like you have the weight of the world on your shoulders with the pressures of trying to exude a perfect image. Living in Louisiana is especially hard on students with more hurricanes directly impacting our area since last year. Hurricane Ida gave a lot of us flashbacks of Hurricane Katrina with not truly knowing if we were going to have anything to return to, and for some people, that fear became a reality. Natural disaster PTSD is a real thing, and the university’s response was to place work on top of us. We are drowning in assignments, and we do not know how to catch up.

Last year, I REPEAT each step of the process because healing is a daily choice that I have to make in order to evolve and become stronger. We are humans with our own limitations and emotions. Our mental health matters and it should be respected.

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

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Loyola needs to serve its Latinx students

One out of five Loyola students is Hispanic/Latine, but only 16 out of 280 full-time faculty members are White. This creates a classroom dynamic that prioritizes White opinions and perspectives, leaving students of color in the dust. When the classroom is led by White professors, it puts the responsibility on students of color to facilitate conversations about their identities and educate their peers and professors on this issue. Federal grant money can’t go towards recurring costs like hiring faculty, but Loyola needs to set aside money for creating positions for Latinx/Hispanic professors.

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

The university needs to be on the other side of this statistic. While autonomy and freedom of expression are important, so are institutional support and funding. Students shouldn’t be expected to curate an inclusive environment. Loyola needs to create inclusive communities, but it’s time to take a more active role in supporting them. Student-led organizations, Hispanic Music Appreciation and Organization of Latin American Students, are the two spaces on campus that feature Latinx voices. While it’s great that students have built their own communities, it shouldn’t be their responsibility. Students need to be able to go out of their way to find places at Loyola that allow them to celebrate their identities.

The majority of tenured professors is White, and only 16 out of 280 have Hispanic/Latine identities. Now, 19% of the student body identify as Hispanic/Latine. Loyola needs to ask students what they want, and they need to listen to them. In order to foster an environment of honest communication that allows criticism, the university should create a forum where Hispanic/Latine students can speak out. There should also be a diversity and inclusion representative that makes sure students’ demands are acted upon, not just heard. Equity goes beyond creating scholarships and establishing an SGA branch.

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

The national four-year graduation rate for Latinx students is 36%, compared to 38% of White students. Loyola needs to be on the other side of this statistic. It’s time the university stops using their students as a way to get more federal funding and instead supports them as individuals.

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