



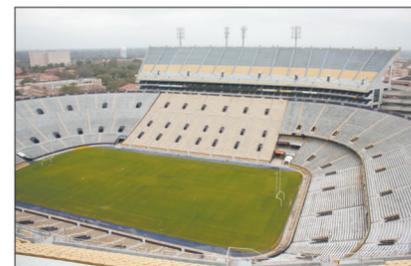
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The Daily Reveille

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Wednesday, February 29, 2012 · Volume 116, Issue 99



■ **Football:** Tiger Stadium set to expand, p. 5

leaping through the years



CATHERINE THRELKELD / The Daily Reveille

Mass communication sophomore Tyler Loga was born on Feb. 29, 1992. Although he is 20 years old today, he has technically only had five real birthdays.

Students discuss enigma of Leap Day birthdays

Emily Herrington
Staff Writer

For some University students, birthdays only come every four years.

Mass communication sophomore Tyler Loga and kinesiology sophomore Emily Harb both turn 20 today — but it's only their fifth birthday.

Leap Day birthdays emit an air of uniqueness as well as confusion.

"It's an oddity," Loga said. "I have the rarest birthday."

There is a 1 in 1,461 chance of having a Leap Day birthday, according to Raenell Dawn, co-founder of The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies.

Harb said she usually celebrates her birthday on non-leap years on Feb. 28 since it's in the same month as her actual birthday. Loga said he alternates between Feb. 28 and March 1 — whichever is most convenient.

Loga said his birthday has puzzled friends because they don't know when to wish him a happy birthday.

"I've had friends who refuse to celebrate my birthday because they say I can't have

two," he said.

Because their 21st birthdays will fall on non-leap years, Harb's and Loga's driver's licenses say they're under 21 until March 1, 2013.

But Loga said he doesn't mind — no matter what the date is, his birthday will always be at midnight on Feb. 28.

Loga said he's never had a birthday celebration on his actual birthday. Harb said she always tries to do something special on Feb. 29, but this year she's spending her night studying.

"I usually try to do something on that day, since then it's a real birthday," Harb said.

LEAP DAY, see page 4

BOARD OF REGENTS

La. Tech, LSUS merger is possible

Rachel Warren
Staff Writer

The Board of Regents recommended at its meeting Tuesday that LSU Shreveport and Louisiana Tech University merge after LSU System President John Lombardi questioned that suggestion last week.

The recommendation will be included in a study of the merger that will soon be sent to the Legislature.

"I challenged each region of the state to bring Regents their dreams — bring us their plan for a brighter tomorrow," said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell.

The suggestion of consolidation stemmed out of a report from the higher education consulting firm Eva Klein and Associates, which recommended the two institutions become one, with campuses in Ruston and Shreveport.

The institution would be included in the University of Louisiana System.

Even if the merger is not approved by the Legislature, the report recommends LSUS still transfer to the UL System as an independent entity.

Contact Rachel Warren at rwarren@lsureveille.com

ACADEMICS

'Dramatic' MCAT changes approved

Test time will increase by 90 min.

Brian Sibille
Staff Writer

Students taking the Medical College Admission Test, or MCAT, will see major changes to the test format for the first time in 21 years after the American Association of Medical Colleges approved revisions to the exam.

A section focusing on behavioral sciences will be added, while the writing sample section will be removed. The test length will extend to about seven hours, according to Jeff Koetje, Kaplan Test Prep's

director of pre-health programs.

The new section and modifications to existing content will increase test time from about five-and-a-half hours to seven, meaning students' endurance will play a bigger role during the exam, Koetje said.

Koetje said this is only the fifth time the test has been modified since its introduction in 1928.

While most of the changes won't be effective until 2015, the writing sample section will be removed by 2013.

"It's not good news for students," he said. "The changes to the test are fairly dramatic."

Older students may avoid the new and potentially more difficult test, but Koetje said students on pre-med tracks need to be aware of the

changes and how they will affect required coursework.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE SECTION (changes effective by 2015):

A section focusing "on the psychological, social and biological foundations of health" will be added to the test, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges. A section like this has never been featured on the test.

Koetje said the section will emphasize the importance of pre-med students taking basic-level psychology or sociology courses. It could also yield new classes for pre-med students at colleges that are adapting

MCAT, see page 4

SAVE UMC



MARIAH POSTLETHWAITE / The Daily Reveille

Protesters went to the Louisiana State Capitol on Tuesday to voice support for the University Medical Center in Lafayette. They advocated for keeping certain departments open, including pediatrics, OB-GYN and orthopedics.

CAMPUS CRIME BRIEFS

Student issued misdemeanor for committing simple battery

University student Jaime Matias De Araujo Lobo admitted to committing simple battery at the Edward Gay Apartments on campus. At 10:59 p.m. on Feb. 22, officers were

dispatched to the apartment in reference to the reported simple battery of a woman. After officers met with the victim, she stated she had gotten into an altercation with Lobo.

Lalonde said Lobo grabbed the victim by her arms and pushed her against a fence. When officers

located Lobo, the 47-year-old of 112 Cottonwood Court, Slidell, said he grabbed and pushed the victim. He was issued a misdemeanor.

Contact *The Daily Reveille's* news staff at news@lsureveille.com

MCAT, from page 1

curriculum to the test changes.

A STRONGER FOCUS ON UPPER-LEVEL BIOLOGY (changes effective by 2015):

More difficult coursework like biochemistry and molecular biology will be incorporated into the exam.

This is one change that will add to the difficulty of the MCAT, Koetje said.

REMOVAL OF WRITING SAMPLE (changes effective by 2013):

Added in 1991, the writing sample section requires students to write two essays in response from

prompts provided on the exam. The section will be removed because medical schools have struggled to find use of the section during the admissions process, Koetje said.

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LEAP DAY, from page 1

Andy Farmer, a recent University music education alumnus, is looking forward to his sixth Leap Day birthday. He said he enjoys taking advantage of his unusual birth date.

For his last Leap Day birthday, when Farmer turned 20, he ordered a blow-up funhouse and balloon clown. Farmer laughed that the clown, who had been told he was booked for a 5-year-old's birthday party, seemed taken aback when he discovered a crew of 20-year-olds.

It took a few years after Farmer joined Facebook for the social network to start recognizing his birthday. Originally, Facebook would alert friends on Feb. 27 that Farmer's birthday was in two days, he said. But two days later, on March 1, nothing would happen.

Now Facebook wishes the leap year babies happy birthday on Feb. 28, one day early.

Harb warned that people with Leap Day birthdays often have to be careful when completing forms

online. She always has to select the year before she enters her birth date, because if she doesn't, Feb. 29 doesn't appear as a valid date.

Farmer, Loga and Harb all say they enjoy having the most uncommon birthday.

Farmer said he uses his birthday as a unique, fun fact that's useful in playing games, starting conversations and "picking up chicks."

Loga likes to test people by telling them his birthday. He said he can tell how sharp someone is by whether or not that person realizes his birthday is Leap Day when he says he was born Feb. 29.

Harb enjoys the extra time her birthday allows, saying she "likes to stay young."

Leap years are needed because they help synchronize the year with the astronomical alignment. The solar year is about 365 and one-fourth days long, so every fourth year, the calendar year is 366 days long to make up for the difference, according to history associate professor Steven Ross.

"After four years, you're pretty close to one full day, so it's a lot easier to add a day than to say we'll add 12 hours to the calendar every other year," Ross said.

The adjusted calendar was the work of Julius Caesar in the year 46 B.C.. Originally, Feb. 24 was recognized as Leap Day instead of the 29th, Ross said.

Since the calendar year was "so far out of whack" with the solar year, 90 days were added to correctly align the calendar, Ross said. This marked the longest year ever recorded in history.

The calendar was later adjusted by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 to the one used today. The earliest Roman calendar counted only 10 months and excluded winter, Ross said.

"A lot of things that seem strange to us come from the fact that ancient societies were largely agricultural," he said.

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"A man who stops advertising to save money, is like a man who stops the clock to save time."

-Henry Ford

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

								9
4			5	7	2			6
	6		1		4			5
		2						4
		4	8	6	9	5		
6						1		
3		7			6		4	
5		6	9		8			2
1								

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

1	9	6	2	5	3	7	4	8
7	3	2	4	8	1	6	5	9
4	5	8	6	9	7	1	2	3
3	2	1	7	4	9	8	6	5
9	8	7	5	6	2	3	1	4
6	4	5	1	3	8	2	9	7
8	6	9	3	2	5	4	7	1
2	7	3	9	1	4	5	8	6
5	1	4	8	7	6	9	3	2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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ACROSS

- 1 Speedometer letters
- 4 Radio knobs
- 9 Deep long cut
- 13 Singer Clapton
- 15 Bert's "Sesame Street" buddy
- 16 Morning show co-host Kelly
- 17 No longer sick
- 18 Provide food for a banquet
- 19 Skunk's defense
- 20 Appeasing; winning over
- 22 "W" on a light bulb
- 23 Italy's capital
- 24 "You are what you ___!"
- 26 Pinch pennies
- 29 Of the windpipe
- 34 Terre __, IN
- 35 Out of __; not available from the publisher
- 36 Compete
- 37 Mayberry resident
- 38 In the air
- 39 Commanded
- 40 Food fish
- 41 To labor excessively
- 42 One-__; not reciprocal
- 43 "The __ State"; Pennsylvania
- 45 Hug
- 46 Storm center
- 47 Racing sled
- 48 Dad
- 51 Adored
- 56 School test
- 57 Happening
- 58 Trampled
- 60 Seaweed
- 61 __ up on; studies
- 62 Fighting force
- 63 Sharp; astute
- 64 Restless
- 65 Behold

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
			14		15						16		
					18						19		
	20			21							22		
			23					24	25				
26	27	28			29	30				31	32	33	
					35						36		
					38						39		
					41					42			
			44						45				
				46				47					
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
					57					58		59	
60					61					62			
					64						65		
63													

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/29/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

F	E	T	A		S	E	A	L	S		G	L	A	D
E	V	E	R		C	A	D	E	T		R	O	B	E
T	E	A	M		A	R	O	S	E		O	G	L	E
E	N	R	O	L	L	S		S	E	A	W	E	E	D
			R	O	D		P	E	R	I	L			
A	D	I	E	U	W	A	N		D	E	A	T	H	
S	E	N	D		L	I	L		H	E	R	N	I	A
S	A	D		P	E	G	A	S	U	S		D	A	D
E	L	I	C	I	T		V	I	E		H	E	R	E
S	T	A	L	E		B	E	T		L	I	S	A	S
			O	C	C	U	R		C	A	B			
P	A	T	T	E	R	N		C	A	P	A	B	L	E
U	T	A	H		E	G	G	O	N		C	L	O	D
M	O	L	E		A	L	A	M	O		H	E	L	D
A	P	E	S		M	E	L	E	E		I	D	L	Y

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2/29/12

DOWN

- 1 Kitten's cry

- 2 Get ready, for short
- 3 Small mountain
- 4 Fold up tents & prepare to go
- 5 Enraged
- 6 Opposed to
- 7 Claim against property
- 8 Title for some policemen
- 9 Tumor or cyst
- 10 Verdi opera
- 11 Blemish
- 12 Male red deer
- 14 Clearness
- 21 Arrive
- 25 Play's division
- 26 Hut
- 27 Narrow boat
- 28 Like a healthy red complexion
- 29 Treasure __; valuable find
- 30 Teeming
- 31 Stay away from
- 32 Assistants
- 33 City in England
- 35 Be proactive
- 38 Skin lotion ingredient
- 39 Priest's cap
- 41 Pig's home
- 42 Long tale
- 44 Sailor
- 45 Girl's bow
- 47 Gives, but expects back
- 48 Mountaintop
- 49 Wheel rod
- 50 Book leaf
- 52 Level; smooth
- 53 Shipshape
- 54 Miscalculates
- 55 Sports stadium roof, perhaps
- 59 Easter egg tint