



**Editors** of some university magazines believe strongly that an editor's message, such as this one, should never refer to an issue's content.

They consider it a waste of space and time, since readers can look at the table of contents or flip through the pages to see what's inside.

I agree, to some degree. On the other hand, who knows the content of an issue better than its editor? So I always read editors' messages in magazines, such as *Newsweek* and *Guideposts*. To me, it's sort of like having a waiter whisper, before you order a dinner entree, "Skip the tilapia tonight and go with the veal."

Besides, this particular issue is filled with some cool stuff.

Did you know that 49.7 percent of all UL Lafayette student-athletes and student support staff have a 3.0 grade point average or better? Or that Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns led the entire state with their graduation rate?

Also, a UL Lafayette team competed in a national quiz bowl in April that drew students from universities such as Stanford, Harvard and Princeton. ("Once we got there, other schools realized that UL Lafayette is *not* the Bobby Boucher of quiz bowl . . ." one of our guys observed.)

Have you heard that UL Lafayette's Ragin' Jazz is one of the top 10 university dance teams in the nation?

Here's something you may not believe until you see the photos inside: Researchers at the Louisiana Accelerator Center can carve a neat outline of Louisiana on a speck of material the size of a grain of table salt. They use a beam of atomic particles that are jumping around at speeds of 7,500 miles per second.

And, to get an idea of what UL Lafayette has been up to lately, check out the cover story.

Oh, there is one item worth mentioning that you won't find inside. It's something I discovered recently.

I was walking across campus at lunchtime and stepped into a little cafe next to Cypress Lake to get a couple of scoops of Blue Bell ice cream. While waiting my turn, I started reading the menu that's scribbled on a chalkboard. That's when I saw it: boudin link.

There is probably not another university in the entire world where a person can buy boudin and Blue Bell ice cream, then step outside and eat them while looking at a small swamp filled with alligators, fish and turtles. How cool is *that*?

We hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*.

– Kathleen Thames