As we all know, New Orleans is a vibrant city full of culture and life. A city like no other, New Orleans is home to unique music, food and people. There's a different air in this city, which attracts nearly 11 million visitors each year. Coming and going weekend after weekend, visitors capture the beauty and essence of The Big Easy, but only temporarily. New Orleans isn’t New Orleans without the people that live here. Its people give New Orleans the reputation that precedes it.

But, the people who make the Crescent City what it is are being squeezed dry. Over half of renters here are considered “cost-burdened.” Those 60% of renters in this city who are cost-burdened certainly could have used a helping hand. It’s easy to see a number like that and feel nothing, but 60% of this city is over 50,000 people. These are people with individual stories and burdens. People with homes they’ve had for decades, suddenly hopeless. People with faces and feelings. In the end, the fact of the matter is that people’s lives are at stake.

We, as college students, may view New Orleans as a temporary pit stop, a checkpoint in the journey of our lives. Sometimes, this causes us to view this city from the perspective of a visitor instead of a local and we may not focus on the long-term viability of New Orleans. If you come from a state that always votes a certain way, your vote may have more of an impact here where you are actually living.

It is our responsibility to act as residents of this city, and protect it as such. Stripping New Orleans of its people strips it of its vibrancy and life, and that isn’t a city any of us want to live in.

Treat New Orleans like it’s home.
More schools should advertise counseling

Zia Sampson
Strategic Communication
Freshman

Loyola willingly publicizes information on the University Counseling Center. Many other colleges do not.

While Loyola openly advertises the University Counseling Center, many universities aren’t as open. This may be the cause of why some students do not seek counseling.

Today, more and more students are reporting fighting anxiety, depression or any other mental health issues. According to the American College Health Association, about one third of college students reported some sort of mental illness affecting their academics. This is why most colleges offer some sort of counseling services for students. Here at Loyola, students can visit the University Counseling Center every two weeks at no additional charge.

This information is not new, though. Since first years have come onto campus, they have repeatedly told this information and given the center’s phone number. Even if someone did not know, they could just open up the home page of the website and explore the Campus Life tab, where it shows up in the drop down menu.

Unfortunately, not all colleges openly publicize this information. When going to Louisiana State University’s website, there is no easily accessible information on the services they offer. There is nothing about the website devoted to these services, or on the first page of search results for both ‘therapy’ and ‘counseling.’ And they are not alone. A lot of schools do not broadcast this information. Yes, the information can be found with a Google search, but, it points to a bigger problem.

In a world where mental illness is still heavily stigmatized and people are criticized for being ‘too weak’ to deal with their problems, it can seem better to not do anything. If universities are not advertising mental health services, it can lead to students not seeking help for concerns. Making the decision to get help is a big deal and often one that someone’s mental illness is constantly fighting against. Difficulty finding resources is a barrier that can be interpreted as a sign that they should not get help. It is important that universities have a community that encourages seeking professional help.

Acknowledging the problem is just the first step. In order for real change to happen, people need to start a conversation. Go to social media, post information for different nearby universities on their counseling services. Call some friends, ask them to share information on their school’s services. Ask them to find out who they need to talk to so that students can easily find that information. Try to get it posted on the university’s website in an obvious place.

Loyola students are lucky to not only have mental health resources, but to have them readily available. Hopefully, more universities will give their students the same benefits.

Letter to the Editor: Let’s respect each others’ views

Roger White
Political Science
Professor

Given the tensions recently arising on campus over the adamantly sensitive subject of abortion, I’d like to make the following brief observations.

As a Jesuit Catholic campus, we are committed to the principle of care for the whole person. As a university, we are committed to the exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of mutual consideration and respect. These two commitments are not mutually exclusive.

As a Jesuit Catholic campus, we can acknowledge and respect the Church’s teaching on abortion and at the same time recognize that there are different positions on this highly controversial subject, each taken by people in good faith. It would help us all therefore to work together to search for venues with which these different and admittedly opposing points of view can be shared, respectfully but honestly and openly.

Rather than finding ways to silence each other, we would all be better served trying to find ways to listen and learn from one another, even and especially from those with whom we disagree. Let’s work on it.