'Life is nothing but fun and good... because we in Louisiana know how to laugh.'

QUINTEN DIONNE, commenting on Cajun 'jive de vins' at the International Cajun-Juke Telling Contest.

According to Cajun lore, if a younger sibling marries first, the elder sibling must dance with a broom. Having upheld the tradition, complete with dips and spins, Jason Courville collapses in mock exhaustion during the June wedding of his younger sister, Jennifer Robichaux, right, to the delight of 9-year-old Brittany Robichaux, who served as flower girl.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TED JACKSON

Children take a dip in the bayou, part of the Blanchard family's long-standing tradition of swimming on Mother's Day, behind Roy Blanchard's home along the Richelieu River Basin, south of Catahoula. When asked about the children swimming in waters where he had recently pointed out alligators, Blanchard chuckled, 'We ain't lost none yet!'

Gavin Guidry, 7, left, and his friend, Blaise LeBlanc, 6, warm up with their band, the Young Aces, backstage at the Crawfish Festival in Breaux Bridge.

Above, Lee Russo delights a group of children by allowing a singing caterpillar to crawl on his face. Russo taught the children that the insects only sting from the barbs on their back.

Once considered the outdated music of their grandparents, Cajun music has come to be embraced by many of the younger generation. Lafayette's La Bande Feud'elot, whose members are teen-agers, gets the dance floor hopping during the weekly Sunday Fais dodo at Whiskey River Landing in Henderson in May.
Acadiana awakens one day
to find ‘Cajun’ a household word

Culture at a Crossroads
The Times-Picayune

Cajun music, page 2

THETIMES·PICAYUNE

The country began adding Cajun nuisance alligators that roam into populated areas. Kenny Copeland drags an alligator back to his truck after bagging the 6-foot gator in the bayou behind camps in Intracoastal City. Copeland’s partner, Lester Gayneaux, rid...