Plans for St. Mary problems in the making

By Aimee Dupuis
Contributing Writer

St. Mary Street is a hazard for student pedestrians, said SGA president Ronnie Owens.

According to Owens, SGA, along with the USL administration is working on some campus projects to make the campus a better and safer place to receive an education.

One of the projects being worked on is to make St. Mary Street a safer place for pedestrians.

Owens said that there are two proposals in progress.

The first is to place raised reflective rumble strips on each side of the student crosswalks.

"This will provide pedestrians with safer crossing areas in the evening hours," Owens said.

The second proposal being considered is to place a Walk/Don't Walk light at the corner of Rex Street.

"Owens said this will be done by either removing the light from in front of the library and placing it at Rex Street or by just adding on another light.

There is also talk of putting a Walk/Don't Walk light on the corner of Johnston and St. Mary streets but nothing is definite, he added.

Owens said he believes that "Johnston Street poses a bigger problem for pedestrians than St. Mary Street."

He said that the frustration on St. Mary Street is with the driver more than the student, however, according to him, "there have been some accidents."

Another project being considered for the safety of the student is the three-laning of St. Mary Street. This would make it a two-lane street with a turn-off lane.

Owens said this would help in pedestrian related accidents because "most of the time when there are cars in both lanes, the first car will see the student and stop but the second car won't and, well, we have an accident."

Owens also said that one project currently being worked on to better USL is the rebuilding of the sidewalks.

This project, he said, involves putting an underground drainage to help flooding.

There will be interlocking bricks similar to those used in the Quadrangle to help with the drainage.

There is also a new physical education building being constructed, he added.

This building will facilitate the needs on all health and physical education classes. It is scheduled to open sometime after next fall, he said.

Owens also said USL is presently negotiating a land swap with the city of Lafayette.

He said that the land USL would like is located behind McDonald's and the Fire Station.

This will provide parking spaces for USL students who usually park at Cajun Field, he said.