A Student Perspective: Hurricane Katrina Relief

by Tessa Walters, writer

It has been three years since hurricane Katrina swept through Mississippi and Louisiana leaving the states full of devastation. Homes were ripped apart and cities were demolished with one stroke. Trinity United Methodist Church in Orrville recently sent a group of 25 mission workers to Gulfport, Mississippi to aid in the relief effort. Even though it has been three years, the state is still trying to recover and rebuild what they lost. I had the privilege of being one of the workers that went to offer support.

I thought I knew what to expect. Yet, when I got there I was blown away by the destruction still left. Homes were reduced to the foundations, there were steps leading to nowhere, and property was a total loss. One house had a boat sticking out the top of the roof. The beaches were destroyed as well. The boardwalk is no longer there and cars are still transmitting signals from the bottom of the ocean.

We worked on around 20 different homes. The families we met and talked with had stories that I won’t soon be forgetting. Our jobs ranged from electrical, roofing, to rebuilding homes, and of course cleanup. No job was too small for these families.

To date there are still 60,000 families living in FEMA trailers. These families are being forced to move with nowhere to go. When the heat is turned on in these trailers formaldehyde is being forced into the air, making families extremely sick. Something has to be done for these families. The rebuilding process will still be going on twenty years from now.

It is not too late to help. Contact area churches and organizations to see what is still needed. Go help and you will be blessed by what you can accomplish. Coming home I can remember just one thought: I am so grateful for my home and family. We are so fortunate to have all that we do.

Noted Psychologist Speaks at Akron

by Michelle McCune, writer

On Wed., Oct. 24, The University of Akron hosted psychologist, Phil Zimbardo, to speak about his studies on the “Lucifer Effect,” his discoveries about why good people do bad things. Famous for his Stanford prison experiment, Zimbardo has testified at the recent Abu Ghraib prison trials concerning the actions of U.S. military personnel towards prisoners of war. His hour and a half lecture entertained as well as it informed the engrossed audience. After explaining his Stanford experiment, in which he separated ordinary college students into “prisoners” and “guards” with devastating results, he drew parallels to the atrocities at Abu Ghraib.

“Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” Zimbardo said, also stressing that the people responsible for the crimes were not “bad apples, but rather good apples in a bad barrel.” He emphasized that the situations the soldiers were placed in pulled this evil out, and warned that in the same situation, any audience member could have acted likewise. Ending with examples of heroism, including an instance in which a New York man recently jumped onto the tracks of an on-coming subway train to protect a stranger who had fallen while having a seizure, he promoted his idea that the way to counteract the evil actions of many is to think of oneself as a “hero in waiting,” jumping at every opportunity to do good.

Wayne Student Earns Multiple Awards

by Angela Bases, editor

Jean Calvert, the winner in three categories for the Wayne College Writing Awards

To suggest that Wayne College student, Jean Calvert was on a roll would be quite the understatement. The writer won best short story, best personal essay, and best poem in the Wayne College Student Writing Awards. It doesn’t end there, either. She also won the Orrville Public Library Black History Month Poetry Contest. Calvert has submitted her work to small magazines as well as The Akron Art Museum’s “New Words” poetry contest.

Calvert said she started writing in high school, though most of her stories were science fiction, far from the truths she writes about now. Calvert admitted that she enjoys writing about real-life situations.

“(Writing) about ensuring rights for at-risk populations, creating public awareness and promoting laws that serve the social welfare needs in America today and in the future is imperative,” Calvert said.

Social injustices aren’t the only issues Calvert works out with pen and paper, she gets personal, too. “Poetry writing has been very cathartic for me; working through past experiences and acknowledging the heartache, joy, rage and everyday wonder of the human condition is an endless source of writing inspiration,” Calvert said.

Aside from winning contests, the student has quite a busy life. In fact, the “student” role is just one small piece of her world. Calvert is a mother of six, a grandmother, a social work major, a member of Student Senate, a Student Ambassador, and a peer tutor. She is also pursuing certificates in both Therapeutic Activities and Gerontological Services. She also will be certified by the Ohio Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities as a Qualified Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disability Professional (QMRDDP). She is involved in the Wayne College Writer’s Club and does supplemental instruction for Gerontology. Exhausting as her work load may sound, there’s more. This multi-tasker even has time for hobbies.

“I love all music, books, writing, gardening and doing volunteer work, especially at the Ida Sue School,” Calvert said.

Calvert is engaged, but isn’t sure when she’ll find the time to actually plan a wedding. One thing, however, is for sure: she won’t be slowing down anytime soon.
New Building? What!  

by Theresa Mountel, writer

Upon surveying a group of students about the building plans, it was surprising how many students replied, “I didn’t know we were getting a new building.” The poll was focused on what students would like to see in the Student Life Center building (formerly referred to as the “H” building). Just in case you are unaware, we’re getting a new building!

Whether they already knew, or just found out, most of the participants agreed that there is a need for new eating and lounging areas. One student had given it some thought; she believed that here will be more seats and an ice-cream machine are necessities. The only suggestions for the lounge area were comfort and pool tables.

Secondly in importance, are classrooms. The students reported a need for additional class space but more specifically, classrooms with comfortable seating and adjustable temperatures.

Ground breaking will take place April 30. You can check the progress from the Snucker Learning Center windows if you happen to be in that area. If not, there will be a webcam set up. Check out the Wayne College home page for more information.

Finals Tips

by Michelle McCune, writer

The first week of May brings the promise of summer, with one hurdle left for students to clear: finals. May 5-10 will be packed with end of the semester tests for Wayne classes, and after all the effort students put into grades during the semester, finals understandably bring a lot of stress. Annual rituals of late-night cram sessions have been proven unsuccessful many times, but this hasn’t stopped their repeated attempts. There are much better ways to go about preparing for a final, keeping these things in mind:

• Narrow it down
  An entire semester’s worth of information is far too much to absorb in one night, or even one study session. Break down the material into categories, prioritizing items you need to revisit. Once the things you know pretty well are out of the way, you can focus on what you have left to study.

• Take a break
  Walking away from the books for ten minutes can do a lot of good for a tired mind. Get a snack, take a nap, or go for a walk anything to take your mind off the information. However, don’t stall when getting back to it once the break’s over.

• Feed your brain
  Nothing might sound better than a bag of chips and some pop after a long study session, but eating well is highly beneficial in the long run. You’ll be more energized and alert, which is crucial to doing well on an exam. Healthier snacks could be apples or carrots, nuts, or yogurt.

• Sleep
  It might seem that the longer you’re awake, the more you’ll be able to study, and therefore the better you’ll do on the test. However, this is wrong; your brain needs sleep in order to function at its best, which is certainly what you want it to do the day of a crucial test.

• Finally: Relax
  Take a few deep breaths before you begin, and don’t get worried. Once the test is in your hands, there’s nothing more you can do to prepare, and it’s time to show off what you know.

Will the PS3 beat out the Xbox 360 by the end of the year?

by Chris Courtney, writer

No, I’m not kidding you. This is a legitimate question that needs to be considered. Yes, we all know that the PS3 had a much rougher launch than the Xbox 360 did. In addition to the many, many reports of violence committed by and against campers (people lining up outside the store waiting for the system’s release), the system itself had problems when first released. At the top of the list of complaints were the fact that the system was extremely prone to overheating, and a problem deemed “blinking,” in which the screen would flip on and off without sound. Plus, the system cost six hundred dollars, which many people considered out of their way there with the flaws in the system.

This past year started a whole new ball game, however. The system flaws were dealt with, the price has dropped down to four hundred dollars, and the library has been expanding with great games. Throughout 2007, tremendous titles such as Heavenly Sword, Uncharted, Drake’s Fortune, Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion, and Assassin’s Creed has opened the door for untold potential. The next two years especially are expected to see an explosion of demand for the PS3. Long awaited titles such as Devil May Cry 4, Grand Theft Auto IV, Metal Gear Solid IV, God of War III, and Resident Evil 5, are looked at as events that will rock the market down to its very foundation. Plus, the system price is expected to drop to between three hundred and three hundred and fifty dollars by the end of this year and stick.

Now, it is true that Sony has eliminated backwards compatibility to a certain extent. They no longer make the sixty GB model, which was one hundred percent backwards compatible, but it’s not a huge problem. One can still go to Amazon.com or eBay for a pretty good price. The eighty GB is still being made, and that model is seventy percent backwards compatible. The other model is the forty GB, but it has no backwards compatibility.

Well, the evidence has been given, and now when you ponder this question with your friends, you’ll have evidence to make your own educated guess about what’s going to happen. If you want to know what I think, however, don’t know. It’ll certainly be equal to the 360, but better in quality and popularity? Only time will tell.

Finals Week Hours:

by Michael Mcieu, writer

Smucker Learning Center
Monday: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Library
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Quiet hours will be observed during finals.

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The Wayne Mirror is the student newspaper of the University of Akron Wayne College. The opinions expressed in the Wayne Mirror are not those of Wayne College administration, faculty or staff. Rather, they are those of the individual writer, contributor, or columnist.

Chip Bok drawing a cartoon of himself. Photo courtesy of Pam Miller, Wooster Weekly News