



photo courtesy • KRT Campus

U.S. Marshals conduct a search Sept. 11, 2005 on Tulane Avenue, a street which borders Tulane University. Hurricane Katrina left much of the city flooded for weeks.

Hurricane Katrina hits close to home

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The images can be seen everywhere—the roofs of houses poking out of muddy brown water, the filth and squalor and the rows of cots and boxes of supplies in the Louisiana Superdome. Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast Aug. 29 and was deemed one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.

Although New Orleans is almost 800 miles from UA, the impact of the hurricane can be felt close to home. Jamie Walter, the daughter of Hastings Middle School science teacher Jennie Walter and a second-year law student at Tulane University in New Orleans, said no one expected Katrina to have such a devastating effect.

“When I left New Orleans on Saturday [Aug. 27] I assumed, as did most people, that I would return to the city no later than Tuesday [Aug. 30],” she said. “I anticipated only minor damage, if any.”

Walter packed her bags in 20 minutes and evacuated to Destin, Florida with a friend. She said she was relieved to have escaped the path of the storm, but she was horrified when she began to see the pictures.

“It became impossible for me to watch the news,” Walter said. “Eventually, we realized that we would not be returning to New Orleans this month, or ... this year.”

Walter accepted an invitation to study at Washington and Lee University Law School for the fall semester and was able to relocate. She soon realized how lucky she was.

“I am fortunate to be out of New Orleans and to have a place to live,” she said. “I was one of the lucky ones who made it out before the storm. [The things] I lost ... can all be replaced. Many people, however, lost everything. Their house has been destroyed, their job lost, and their city submerged. The needs of these people will not cease once the city reopens.”

Walter said any help students could provide, “whether it be monetary or simply compassion and support,” would make a huge difference.

UAHS’ Student Council, Talent Show Committee, CDSAC, Interact Club, Field Hockey Team, and Character Enrichment Team (CET) are working together to raise money for the relief effort.

Erin Mayne, the adviser of CET, said students passed around jugs for donations and raffled off football items signed by OSU coach Jim Tressel to raise money at the Sept. 10 UA football game.

“We’ll be selling gray ribbons for \$1 [and] we’ll also be taking donations,” she said. “\$1 from every home sporting event ticket will also go to the Katrina efforts.”

Mayne said the plan is to send the money to the American Red Cross, which can aid with the distribution of supplies and provide shelter for the victims.

“[Hurricane Katrina was] a tragedy that none of us can begin to comprehend,” Mayne said. “We have an opportunity, almost an obligation, to help in any way that we can. Sometimes, we forget how blessed we are to live the lives we do. So hopefully, many will see it as a privilege to give.”

If you would like to contribute to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, please go to the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.

Katrina victims find UA

1 Elementary assistant teacher displaced by Katrina is now employed by UA schools

3 Katrina evacuees are currently enrolled in UA schools

source • UA School District