

Katrina victims make choices

Amanda Boyle
Staff Reporter

Six came seeking refuge. Five remain. After the semester ends there will be three, and only two next year.

Of the thousands of students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, six ended up at the University, said Dawn McKee, admission housing application coordinator.

Freshmen roommates Lauren Pylipow and Lindsay Peglar, who planned to start their college careers at Tulane University (La.), have decided to go back for the spring semester.

"It was the school I really wanted to go to begin with," Pylipow said. "I don't see [it closing] again. I'm excited because it's going to give me the opportunity to help rebuild the city."

Pylipow left the majority of her belongings in New Orleans. Fortunately, she said the university informed her that her 11th floor room was not damaged, and her things are intact.

She said she decided to come to Truman this semester because it was one of the schools to which she originally had been accepted, and the University offered all of her original scholarships to her again. She said she also knew people here from high school.

"My mom describes it as a lucky transition," she said.

McKee said another student who came to Truman from Tulane moved back to New Orleans after midterm break. However, McKee said she understands why some students would decide not to return to New Orleans.

"I also think there is a level of uncertainty again with the [New Orleans] universities for next semester," she said. "It's not going to be the same experience. Also,

there's always hurricane season next year, and that's a concern for some people."

Freshman Colleen Rafferty is one student who is not planning on returning to her original school, Loyola University New Orleans.

"After a lot of thinking, I'm not going back," Rafferty said. "I didn't lose too much or anything, but it was a tough experience. I don't know what to expect in New Orleans now. I don't know what the city will be like. There are just no answers right now."

Rafferty, who evacuated the city with only a few items of clothing, her laptop and her iPod, will return to Loyola this month to retrieve her things.

Rafferty said she is going to return to Truman next semester but hopes to transfer to Chicago's DePaul University next fall. She said she does not trust that next year's hurricane season will not shut Loyola down again, and she does not want to deal with that experience again.

Junior Thomas Lecaque, who grew up in Kirksville, said he plans to finish his college career at Truman instead of returning to Tulane.

"I have a pretty sweet deal here, so I'm just going to stay," he said. "I'm paying a lot less money, school's good, I'm living off campus, and I'm having a pretty good time. I don't feel like risking [dealing with a] hurricane again. It happens

every year. I've had to evacuate enough. I'm just sick of doing it."

L e c a q u e said he enjoyed his time at Tulane but doesn't see the point in returning to a city he will not recognize.

"I miss everything about New Orleans," he said. "I love that city. I miss everything about it desperately, but everything I miss about it is gone. It's kind of rough to miss a place that doesn't exist. Unfortunately, these things happen."



City Council photo by Nick Corich | Mayor Martha Rowe and Councilman Ralph Cupelli listen to a speaker during Monday's City Council meeting.

Bill intends to cut \$14 billion

Nathan Becker
Index Staff

A bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 18 might affect student loans.

Bill H.R. 4241, titled the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, outlines a reform of student loan programs to save the government more than \$14 billion from 2006-10.

Alexa Marrero, spokesperson for the education and workforce committee, said the bill should allow student loan programs to be more efficient.

"In terms of when you think about savings, it really is in some ways reducing the growth and increase in spending," Marrero said.

The Senate passed a similar bill in November, and the next step is for the House and the Senate to reconcile the differences between the two bills and decide on a final version of the legislation. If the president passes the bill, changes will take ef-

fect July 1, Marrero said.

If the bill is approved, interest rates for college students will stay at a variable rate, which is about 4.7 percent this year but could be as high as 8.25 percent. If not, however, the interest rates will move to a fixed rate of 6.8 percent in July, Marrero said.

Marrero said she thinks some people view the bill negatively because they see a big number and automatically panic.

"People will look at the number and look at the concept of generating savings and not think about what it really means for students," Marrero said.

Melinda Wood, director of financial aid, said the bill probably wouldn't have a significant effect on students still in school.

"On the surface it does sound like it's all coming directly, ... but a lot of that money is being saved from the [lender's] fees, not in a direct effect on the stu-

dent," Wood said.

Wood said that although the bill allows for higher limits on student loans in a student's first and second year, it doesn't raise the Stafford Loan total allowance for students to borrow, which is \$23,000.

She said students then might not have enough money because they borrowed too much their first two years.

If passed, the bill would set consolidated loan interest at somewhere between 6.25 percent and 9 percent instead of following the standard variable rate, Wood said.

Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-St. Louis) voted against the bill, and Glenn Campbell, a spokesperson for Carnahan, said Carnahan doesn't agree with taking money away from higher education.

"It didn't equate to fairness at all for middle-class families," Campbell said. "[It's] especially hard on students and their parents alike who are trying to borrow to pay for education."

NEWS | In Brief

Citizens can file for open council spots

Filing for candidacy on the City Council opens at 8 a.m. Dec. 13 and closes at 5 p.m. Jan. 17, 2006 for elections taking place April 4, 2006. Mayor Martha Rowe said the council feels good with just four members.

"I think we agreed to wait and let things settle down first," Rowe said.

City Clerk Vickie Brumbaugh said no one has expressed an interest in running yet, but all members of the community are welcome to do so.

Council member qualifications include being at least 21 years of age, being a U.S. citizen and being a resident of Kirksville for one year preceding the election. Additional requirements include having paid all taxes and being a registered voter.

Food causes hundreds to evacuate

The Mexican food students are eating on campus might be a little too spicy.

Fire alarms sounded in Dobson and Centennial halls Sunday because of an overcooked burrito and fajitas microwaved too long, respectively, Tom Johnson, director of Public Safety, said. The smoke caused no damage.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Sophomore Emily Kiddoo, student representative to the Board of Governors, said the Board approved a 4.1 percent increase in housing prices for next school year.
- Justin Fanger resigned from his position as associate senator.
- Sophomore Brett Pierson, ethics justice, said the Student Senate general elections will occur April 18 to 19.
- Sophomore Daniel Poindexter was approved to voting senator position.
- Senior Tyler Patterson was appointed as organization representative from the Student Activities Board.
- Junior Josh Kappel appealed sophomore President Mark Kirtland's veto. By a vote of 10-11-1, Senate upheld the veto.
- Senate approved a resolution endorsing the student study abroad handbook.
- Senior Michael Pierson resigned from the Senate.
- Senate passed a resolution in honor of Michael Pierson.
- Sophomore Joe VanAmburg appointed as speaker of the Student Senate.
- Senior Parviz Jabarov resigned from Senate.

DPS | Reports

- 12/03 Sophomore Leslie Weiss was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicant.
- 12/02 Report of theft from Parking Lot 31
- 12/01 Freshman James Holt was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for possession of less than 35 grams of marijuana.



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**1800 N. BALTIMORE
KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501**

Welcome
To
Mainstreet Market
December 12th-December 16th

Breakfast Special
Blueberry Pancakes and Sausage Patty \$2.15

Sky Ranch Grill Special
6 Hot Wings, Fries and 20 oz Soda \$4.99

Spice Market Selections

Grab and Go: Mynokos Grilled Chicken Salad-\$3.99
Grilled Chicken Gyro Wrap-\$3.99

Main Event Line: Parmesan Pepper Roast Beef Focaccia-\$4.39

Classic Line			
Monday		Thursday	
Hot Beef Sandwich	\$2.75/\$4.05	Carved Turkey	\$2.75/\$4.05
Chicken Marsala Casserole	\$2.75/\$4.05	Beef Burrito	\$2.75/\$4.05
Broccoli Cheese Pasta	\$2.75/\$4.05	Tofu Fried Rice	\$2.75/\$4.05
Tuesday		Friday	
Carved Baked Ham	\$2.75/\$4.05	BBQ Beef Brisket	\$2.75/\$4.05
Baked Meatloaf	\$2.75/\$4.05	Lemon Baked Fish	\$2.75/\$4.05
Curry Sesame Tofu	\$3.25/\$4.55	Broccoli Alfredo	\$2.75/\$4.05
Wednesday		Blimpie Special	
Carved Pork Loin	\$2.75/\$4.05	Ultimate BLT Wrap	\$3.79
General TSO Chicken	\$3.25/\$4.55		
Bean & Cheese Chimichanga	\$2.50/\$3.80		

Tierra Del Sol Special - Nachos w/ 20 oz Soda
\$2.25

Jazzman's Special - Tall Mocha
\$2.24

Freshens Special - Parfait
\$2.60

Bonus bucks and Dining Dollars may be used on Sunday Evening in Mainstreet Market. You may not use your Block meals on Sunday except for our large pizza special.