

OUR VIEW

Volunteerism provides reminder of 9/11 resolve

Four years ago this past Sunday, America was rocked by a monumental terrorist attack that shook the country and its economy to their cores, as 3,000 people perished in the Sept. 11 attacks. Americans responded heroically, donating money, blood and various other items for those who were tangibly devastated by the terrorists' actions.

Although the recent atrocities in New Orleans from the effects of Hurricane Katrina were not man-made, the response of everyday citizens must be the same, and in some cases, even more profound. Though the death toll from the hurricane still is unknown, an entire city has been, in effect, destroyed. Although the casualty total might not reach the toll the terrorists took on Sept. 11, those who lost homes, cars and other valuables likely will be far greater.

It will take months, years and perhaps decades to rebuild New Orleans and put the lives of the hurricane's victims back together. Americans must display the same resolve as in the days and weeks following Sept. 11, as adults returned to work, children returned to school, and the economy climbed out of a recession.

While the residents of New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast region recover in the hurricane's wake, Americans must be vigilant again. Students, faculty and other community members have a responsibility to give as freely as they did after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Often it is times of crisis that create the greatest forms of togetherness. And

members of a multi-organization student relief committee are hoping this newfound unity will show itself this week. The committee, which was organized through the Student Union, has planned a variety of fundraising events for today and tomorrow.

The fact that so many campus organizations have put together benefit events so quickly proves the true resilience of the American people. The University also has done its job in opening its doors to students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. We welcome the hurricane victims

to our school with open arms.

But as we give our time and our money, we should all remember that for many people, the suffering does not end after a few fundraisers. We should continue to show our support into the coming weeks and months, until the storm-battered areas are restored.

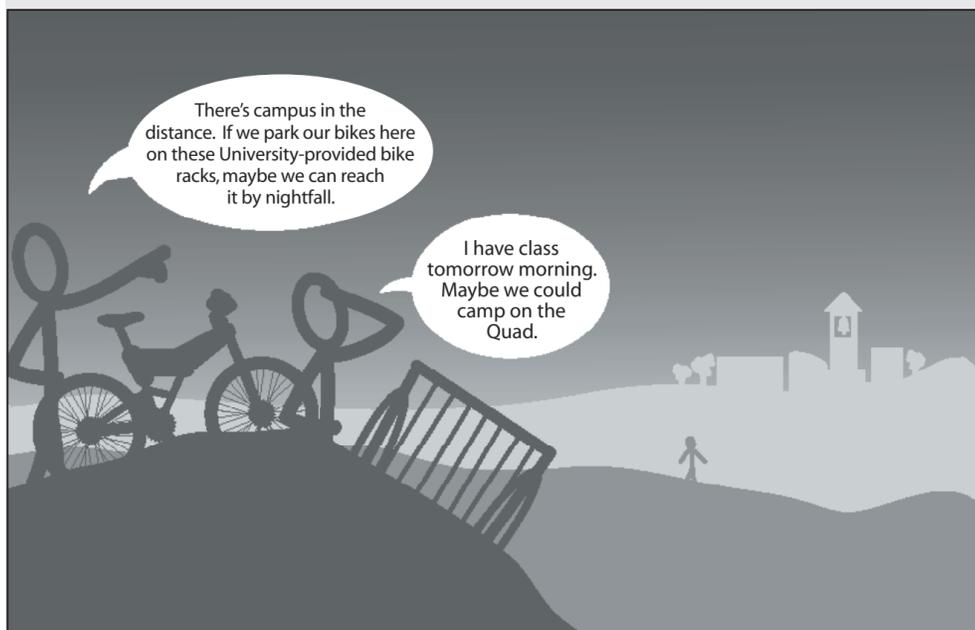
After all, the hurricane seems to have affected almost everyone in one way or another. Some students have friends or relatives living along the Gulf Coast who escaped the hurricane with little except their lives. Others here who have homes in the region have personally suffered the wrath of the storm, losing many of their possessions. And the images in the media have been enough to stir even those without personal ties to the region.

As in the days and weeks that followed the Sept. 11 attacks, it is important to remember that we all are Americans.

While the residents of New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast region recover in the hurricane's wake, Americans must be vigilant again.

Truville

Maureen Ferry /cartoonist



Letters to the Editor

Readers encouraged to engage in the marketplace of opinions, ideas

The Index is dedicated to bringing up-to-date news, features and sports information to both the University and greater Kirksville communities. However, the Index also can be a forum for public debate.

As a way to promote this First Amendment freedom, we welcome letters to the editor from anyone with a topic to discuss. Whether a letter is a commentary about a story found in the pages of the Index, a rebuttal of a previous letter or simply a political or social statement, we believe this free exchange of ideas is an integral part of the relationship we enjoy with our readers. Letters can be dropped off at the Index office, located in the lower level of the Student Union Building or e-mailed to index@truman.edu. Letters also may be submitted at the Index Web site, www.trumanindex.com. All letters should follow the Index letters policy, listed below.

Whitney McFerron
Index Editor in Chief
Justin Weinrich
Index Opinions Editor

poverty-stricken and, to be politically incorrect, the poor. In my town, gasoline has risen 47 cents per gallon in about one week. Mr. President, I know you are not the controller of hurricanes, Labor Day weekends and oil refinery shortages. However, I do ask of you a favor. I ask that you simply help us – Americans, that is. I will readily admit that I have no plan. I sincerely hope you do.

Thank you.

Daniel Glossenger
Sophomore

Relief effort shows inequities that remain in contemporary America

The pathetic governmental response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster should not go unnoticed or be tacitly accepted by the Truman State community.

Whether it was their lackadaisical efforts, the mass media's latent racism or President Bush's unwillingness to call a spade a spade and admit his criminal negligence in this matter, the hurricane hasn't broken only the levees of New Orleans.

Would we the people play closer attention to our politics and actually begin to participate in our politics more actively than simply voting for uninspiring candidates, we would see that Katrina should break our ability to trust, in good faith, the responsibility of our government.

Perhaps even many of you will write this off as an act of God, as an unprecedented disaster, and you will assert that the government could not have prepared for it.

Of course, contrary to all of the facts, our President has claimed on Good Morning America (Sept. 1), "I don't think anyone anticipated a breach of the levees. ..."

Really? That a hurricane might wreak havoc on New Orleans constituted one of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's top three most likely catastrophic disasters.

What about the other two? FEMA's report, released before Sept. 11, 2001, warned also of a terrorist attack in New York City and an earthquake in San Francisco. Should our response to the Bush administration be that two out of three ain't bad?

Despite ample pleas from local officials for proactive measures, not only did Bush's government cut key funding from the Army Corps of Engineers but, exacerbating matters further, it did nothing to restore the ever-so-valuable wetlands that left New Orleans even more vulnerable. Thank God that Bush sent the very engineer who had directed the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study off to Iraq to rebuild Mesopotamian Wetlands without investing in Louisiana's wetlands, hence throwing caution and responsible leadership to the wind.

The disaster also revealed the glaring divides in this alleged land of the free.

Blacks, Latinos and/or the poor (aren't those three categories almost synonymous in these times?) clearly suffered the most.

Left without transportation to safety, they were the victims of exclu-

sionary policies and socioeconomic stratification.

Why would such people have been taken care of during a time of crisis when they are all but forgotten every other day?

This is after all America, the hypocritical, where business proceeds as usual.

Although we are a nation rooted in democratic values, now as a matter of course economic growth eclipses both freedom and equality. For this administration, it also is more important than enacting prudent measures for environmental protection in order to responsibly address global climate change.

In closing, it is important to revisit the words of a Langston Hughes poem titled "Let America Be America Again":

"I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,

I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.

I am the red man driven from the land,

I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek –

And finding only the same old stupid plan

Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

I am the young man, full of strength and hope,

Tangled in that ancient endless chain

Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!

Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying need!

Of work the men! Of take the pay!

Of owning everything for one's own greed!"

Speaking on the behalf of his oppressed ethnicity, Hughes laments in another portion of the poem "it was never America for me."

The same goes for many of the victims of Katrina and the U.S. government. These Americans never have experienced the purported virtues of our material well-being.

Despite slavery's abolition some 140 years ago, their material and spiritual liberation has yet to come. We must do better.

We must stop making excuses, stop ignoring realities that don't coddle our patriotic sense of pride and exceptionalism.

Let's mature and begin to meaningfully discuss what our country could be and should be.

Shaine Griggs
Junior

Student apologizes for not giving credit to worker after recent ballet

On behalf of the cast and crew of "Cinderella: The Ballet," which played in Baldwin Hall Auditorium Sept. 10, I would like to extend a public apology to Lindsey Welker, who helped construct and design the hair pieces.

Lindsey was accidentally left off of the program, a mistake that we truly regret.

Rosie Higgins
Senior

INDEX Web poll

How safe do you think your personal information is at the University?

Sept. 13 Results

as of midnight Tuesday



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: [vote online at www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com)

What, if anything, have you done to aid the relief effort for the victims of Hurricane Katrina?

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Serving the University community since 1909

Editorial policy

The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The production offices are located in the Student Union Building. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. Content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff.

The editor in chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Index through a majority vote of the Editorial Board, consisting of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

First copies are free. Additional copies are 25 cents.

Index corrections

- Index convergence manager Karen Schwartztrauber's name was misspelled in the masthead on Page 4 of the Sept. 1 issue of the Index.

Letters policy

The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 300 words except at the discretion of the editorial board.

All letters to the editor **MUST** be typed, double-spaced, signed and include a phone number for verification.

Letters to the editor also may be submitted by e-mail at index@truman.edu or on our Web site at www.trumanindex.com. Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.