

Despair hits 'Big Easy'

Hurricane Katrina hits nation

By: Jaime Orent and Jen McLaughlin

Between Aug. 25 and Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck north of Miami, Florida and again in the central gulf coast near New Orleans, Louisiana.

As the most destructive and costly natural disaster to ever hit the United States, Hurricane Katrina devastated thousands and obliterated the city of New Orleans, also known as the Big Easy.

This massive tropical storm breached the levee system that protected New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain causing most of the city to be flooded by the lake's water. 80 percent of the city was said to have evacuated in the days prior to the storm. For the other 20 percent left behind, the results were fatal.

Thousands died, trapped in their flooded homes. New Orleans became the breeding ground for diseases such as tetanus, typhoid, and cholera. Over one million people were displaced, with the damage reaching over \$200 billion.

"We didn't know how bad it was going to be," said **Sarah Brown, 9**.

The Superdome was set up to house hundreds of local people as well as provide food and water. As both shelter and nourishment became scarce,

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people turned to looting convenience stores in order to stay alive. This catastrophe caused a surge of nationalism as people began donating time and money to the Red Cross and other organizations to help the victims.

National Honor Society, Key Club, and Student Council joined together to help raise money and adopt a county

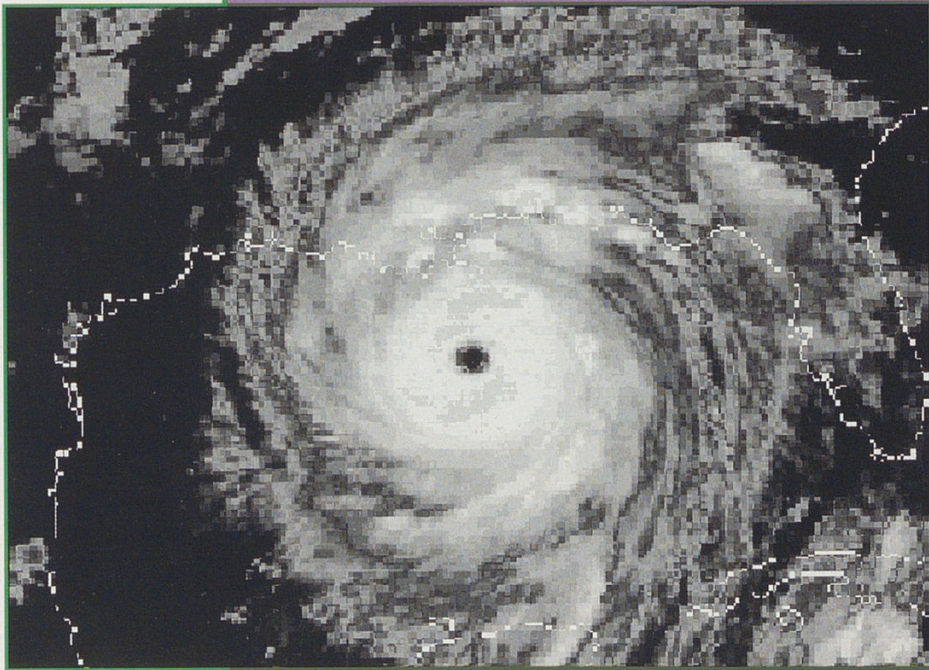
in Mississippi to support over the next year with supplies. Proceeds from Homecoming tickets went to Hurricane relief, as well as the profits from Sycamore On Survivor (S.O.S).

"I think it's really great that Key Club is doing so much to support the victims of Katrina," said **Anna Habib, 10**.

While the basic necessities such as water and food have been graciously donated, volunteers are looking down the road for the long term needs.

"Inviting survivors into their homes or enrolling students at schools thousands of miles away from their homes, our local school districts and residents have helped tremendously with victims of Hurricane Katrina," said **Claire Thompson, 12**.

After Katrina, the nation had to pick up the pieces as well as prepare for the rest of the hurricane season, including the category five Hurricane Rita that hit between Texas and Louisiana just weeks after Katrina.



A whirlwind of terror arrives. Katrina was the first category five hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic season. This season, June 1 through Nov. 30, had more hurricanes than past seasons. With winds that reached 175 mph (280 km/h), not much escaped the wrath of Katrina.



Survival is not just a theme on a certain reality TV show. The conglomeration of Key Club, National Honor Society, and Student Council resulted in a fundraiser the week of homecoming called Sycamore On Survival (S.O.S). This grade wide penny war raised approximately \$2,000 that was donated to the Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief fund.