

Tuesday January 19, 2010 Volume 51 Issue 14 www.driftwood.uno.edu

Driftwood The Community Newspaper of the University of New Orleans

Earl K. Long Library Back to Regular Hours of Operation

By Kaylan Geiger News Editor

Amidst the severe news of more budget cuts, there has been at least one bit of good news from which to take hope: the Earl K. Long Library will now resume its former hours of operation.

During the Fall of 2009, the library was forced to cut back its hours, closing at 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and closing entirely on Saturday. A hiring freeze, resulting in several unfulfilled positions within the library's faculty and staff, was the culprit behind the library's inability to maintain its regular hours of operation.

However, the library will now be open until 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

"We're back," said Dean of Library Services Sharon Mader, who is glad to have the library working in its previous hours of operation. "We're very pleased to be able to get back to [our] regular hours."

Sophomore in Women and Gender's Studies, Peter Reed, agrees with the dean.

Continued on Pg. 2

Mid-Year Budget Cuts An Unwelcome Burden to the UNO Community

By Courtney Widmier Managing Editor

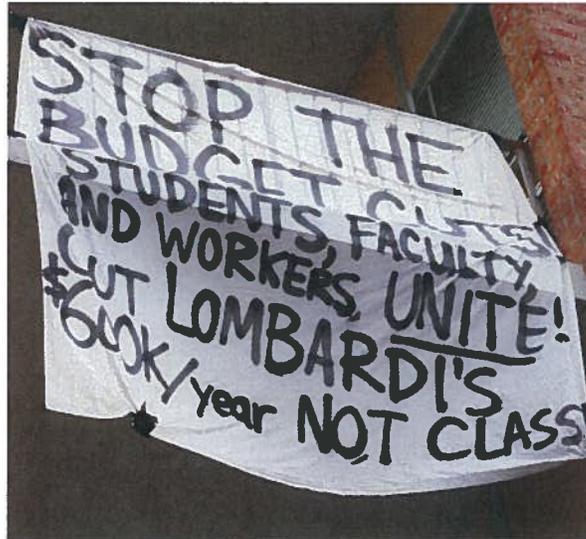


Photo by Caitlyn Ridenour/The Driftwood

During the initial week of the semester someone anonymously draped a banner from the third floor of the Liberal Arts Building which read: "Stop the budget cuts! Students, faculty, and workers unite! Cut Lombardi's \$600k / year not class!"

With the University of New Orleans facing impending mid-year budget cuts, students, faculty and the entire UNO community face fiscally tough times and difficult decisions.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal called upon the Louisiana State University System to implement drastic mid-year budget cuts. The LSU System, which UNO is a member of, submitted mid-year budget cuts to the tune of \$39.1 million. A cut of \$3.8 million was imposed upon UNO.

The UNO community received instructions on the budget cuts the day before the winter break. UNO Chancellor Timothy Ryan and the Administration were given until January 7, 2010 to execute said budget cuts.

As Ryan explained, "The state hit us with mid-year budget cuts, which amounted to 7.56 percent of our state appropriations. When a cut comes at the middle of the year, since half your money is already gone, that 7.56 percent is really over 15 percent because half the money is already spent."

As a result of the \$3.8 million cut, nine UNO employees were laid off.

Continued on Pg. 3

Irvin Mayfield Enriches UNO and the Community with the Topical New Orleans as Discourse II Class

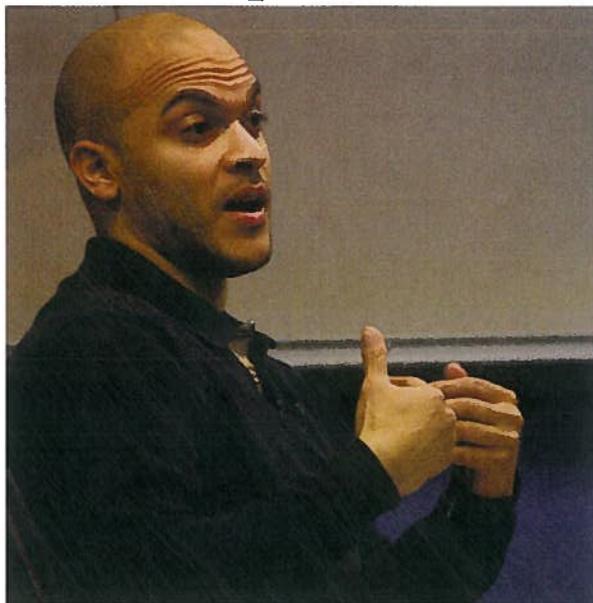


Photo by Caitlyn Ridenour/The Driftwood

Irvin Mayfield, co-founder of Los Hombres Calientes and the Artistic Director of the New Orleans Jazz Institute, discusses topics during his new class New Orleans as Discourse II.

Grammy-nominated Artist Teaches a Course at UNO

By Justen Cheny Contributing Writer

New Orleans' very own Grammy-nominated and world class trumpeter, Irvin Mayfield, is currently teaching his second class at the University of New Orleans this semester.

The course, which is entitled "New Orleans as Discourse II," will be meeting once a week to interview local icons, chosen by Mayfield, who represent and contribute to the New Orleans cultural community.

Honorable guests scheduled to participate in the class this semester include the New Orleans Chief of Police Warren Riley, James Carville, and Artist George Rodrigue.

In addition to all of this excitement, the course is also UNO's first ever class to be video streamed live through the university's website, enabling the public to enjoy each week's interview as well.

Following every class meeting students enrolled in the class will be required to log onto Mayfield's website (www.IrvinMayfield.com) -- also a source for each week's interviews - and contribute to the "New Orleans

Blog." The intention of this, as the course syllabus states, is to "create an online conversation about each class interview and discussion."

Mayfield, who has been a faculty member at UNO for several years, said that his eventual decision, in accordance with the university, to actually offer a course of his own was instigated primarily by a large student demand. It was after this that Mayfield then decided to have his course focus on New Orleans culture as another outlet of his personal goals to "develop a good cultural pallet" for the city of New Orleans.

After sitting in on the class' first meeting, which was held on Wednesday January 13, it is obvious that Mayfield is not the only one involved who harbors a deep desire to further enrich New Orleans culture.

Dean Susan Krantz, who also sat in on the class' first meeting in order to represent the university, said that she is personally interested in preserving and participating in New Orleans culture.

The Dean of Liberal Arts also made it apparent that the college's reasons for wanting to offer this course parallel many of Mayfield's reasons for wanting to teach it.

Continued on Pg. 5

Student Opinion

The Bayou Brawl Not Appointed Unto Wrath

By Jason Waguespack
Staff Columnist

Following the horrific earthquake in Haiti, television evangelist Pat Robertson mused about the cause of this calamity on his television program, "Something happened a long time ago in Haiti, and people might not want to talk about it. They were under the heel of the French . . . and they got together and swore a pact to the devil. They said, 'We will serve you if you'll get us free from the French.' True story. And so the devil said, 'Okay, it's a deal.' . . . Ever since, they have been cursed by one thing after another, desperately poor." To which a lot of people probably thought, "Okay, where was the site of the signing ceremony? Did the Lord of Darkness put his signature on a piece of parchment? Did someone take the minutes of this meeting?"

Robertson has previously attributed some misfortunes and calamities as judgments from God, such as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's stroke in 2005, Katrina's impact on New Orleans, and the most infamous example, the 9/11 attacks.

This thinking isn't new and not unique to Robertson. It's based out of the predominant Old Testament depiction of God as one who blesses nations who are obedient to the Deity and punishing those who follow evil. Again, it's neither new nor surprising, but in the media age such pronouncements can spread quickly following a tragedy. But does Robertson's rhetoric even stand up against the Bible itself?

In the Scriptures, God typically is depicted as warning the people through a person, usually a prophet, about a coming judgment.

Think Jonah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc. Now, was anyone told, "Hey, there's an earthquake coming, you better repent?" How about 9/11? I think if someone had announced that hijacked

airplanes were going to fly into the World Trade Center, we'd have known who he is by now. Also, the peoples and nations God passes judgment upon are incredibly wicked, to a man. Many remember Abraham's famous plea to God to not destroy the city of Sodom if only ten righteous people lived there. As it turned out, there was only one, Abraham's nephew Lot, who was rescued from the destruction by angels. Several books of the Bible depict God's judgment upon the old kingdoms of Israel and Judah, who had taken up the practice of sacrificing children into fiery pits to appease a fertility god. But the book of Ezekiel reveals that God would not have judged Israel if one man was found to be righteous.

Now, was Haiti filled with so many evil, wicked people, that an earthquake could hit and indiscriminately kill so many and not harm a good person? Similarly, was anyone really going to believe there were fewer than ten righteous people in the World Trade Center or on those hijacked airplanes? Worse than that, this supposed pact with the devil took place over two hundred years ago! Why is God only getting around to business now? And for that matter, can anyone explain why an earthquake never took out, say, Joseph Stalin, or Mao Zedong, or Pol Pot?

The world is a dangerous place where bad and tragic things happen. Christian ministers and evangelists have their hands full trying to explain why God doesn't stop bad things from happening. None of these people know that God is actively behind these events, and they shouldn't imply otherwise.

As survivors pick themselves out of the rubble of an earthquake or a terrorist attack, how will they handle a message that God sent their neighbors or their loved ones to a horrible and brutal death?

Jason Waguespack can be contacted at jwaguesp@uno.edu

The Spunky Scrawl Reefer Madness

By Jane Molinary
Staff Columnist

New Jersey's Governor Jon Corzine legalized medicinal marijuana today, Tuesday January 19 making it the fourteenth state in the nation allowing patients with diseases such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, and AIDS to reap the benefits of cannabis.

According to an article in the *New York Times*, "within nine months, patients with a prescription for marijuana from their doctors should be able to obtain it at one of six locations." These are dispensaries that provide chronically ill patients with marijuana but not more than two ounces for each month.

However, Don't plan your trip to Trenton just yet. Being one of the few states on the East coast to legalize medicinal marijuana, New Jersey has, "the most restrictive medical marijuana law in the nation...forbid[ing] patients from growing their own...and from using it in public."

Obviously we have come a long way from Reefer Madness, being no longer convinced that after smoking a joint, rape and murder will follow, but can this plant actually help the terminally ill, can it really cure ailments like Tourette's syndrome?

Undoubtedly, there have been a slew of those "of course it can" individuals, the ones with the green, yellow, and red hackie sacks forever affected by the doors marijuana has opened for them spiritually.

As ProCon.org states it, the core question is: should marijuana be a medical option? The Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Alberta stated that, "twenty-one percent of subjects had used marijuana in the past year with the majority of active users reporting beneficial effects on seizures."

The Institute of Medicine reported that, "for terminal patients suffering debilitating pain or nausea and for whom all indicated medications have failed to provide relief, the medical benefits of smoked marijuana might

outweigh the harm."

If we consider other options of consuming marijuana including vaporization and capsulation, the consequences continue to fade.

So, why only fourteen states instead of fifty? Why is it legal for us to drink alcohol until we are psychologically inebriated or even dead?

Whether it is the FED's or the gateway theory that's keeping people a safe distance from wacky tabacky, their hold is letting up, or state's rights are bleeding through.

A spokesman for the Office of National Drug Control Policy states that the effects of marijuana are, "on the respiratory system and impaired judgment," both reasons which are also consequences of smoking tobacco and alcohol consumption.

Another effect of marijuana, and perhaps the most threatening to the federal government, is the effect it has on those not ill. You know, the elevated feeling and incessant hunger that leads one to discover the waffle s'more. The truth is that a big percentage of weed crusaders are not looking for nausea relief stemmed from cancer, but the freedom to inhale whatever they want for any or no reason at all.

The side opposed to medicinal marijuana relies on statistics that claim, "rates of daily marijuana use among 12th graders tripled from 1992 to 1999 and have stubbornly resisted significant change since then. In 2007, approximately 204,000 high school seniors (5.1 percent) used marijuana on a daily basis," taken from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

If people consume marijuana illegally, could it indirectly prevent eventual legalization elsewhere? Should the defense of cannabis be motivated more by its ability to help people or by its recreational pleasure?

Jane Molinary can be contacted at jmolinary@uno.edu.

