

6 The Storm Before the Calm, 2006: The Times-Picayune and Sun Herald's Summer of Katrina

Chapter 6 Discussion

1. Consider the importance of fact-checking the reporting of other publications, as well as your own. Case in point: the myths that grew out of rumors in the Superdome.
2. Discuss the value of having an emergency preparedness system like the one the Sun Herald had with the Columbia (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer.
3. The 1997 Pulitzer for Public Service helped the Times-Picayune prepare for the high quality of work needed to win again in 2006. How?
4. The Sun Herald's executive editor was an ex-Marine. Do you think military discipline has a place in a newsroom? Explain your position.
5. Part of the Sun Herald's plan was "to try to organize the storytelling in a way that did not cause our people despair." Try to find examples of that among the Sun Herald's stories posted on the Pulitzer website.

Chapter 6 Quiz

1. Before its Hurricane Katrina coverage, what topic won the Times-Picayune a 1997 Pulitzer for Public Service:
A Police corruption B Hospital errors
C The world's fishing businesses D A scandal involving the Superdome
2. The "Camille Standard" refers to a previous hurricane:
 True False
3. How did the Times-Picayune evacuate its New Orleans newsroom?
A Newspaper delivery trucks B Barges
C Trains D Helicopters
4. The Sun Herald's Mississippi coast had more wind damage than New Orleans did:
 True False
5. Which newspaper helped the Sun Herald produce a printed newspaper during the storm?
A The Times-Picayune B New York Times
C Miami Herald D Georgia's Columbus Ledger-Enquirer