

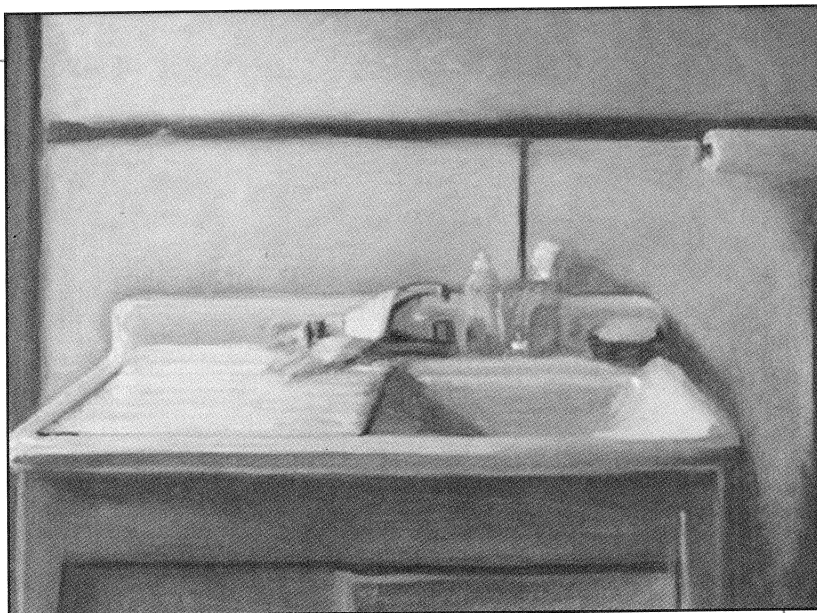
ALUMNA HELPS NEW ORLEANS WEATHER THE STORM

BY NICHOLE KANOPOULOS '08

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Sarah Griffin Thibodeaux, N '93, is one of those rare women who is able to juggle career and passion, and still find time to contribute to the community. A native New Orleanian, Thibodeaux grew up with stories about Newcomb College from her mother and her grandmother, both proud alumnae. After attending Newcomb and graduating as the first official women's studies major, Thibodeaux left the Crescent City to do graduate work at LSU. She then trekked farther north to New York for a stint in book and on-line publishing, after which she returned to New Orleans to work for nola.com. In 2002 the companion Web site for the *Times-Picayune* was not the bustling hub of information and go-to source for "Everything New Orleans" it is today, and its rise to prominence is due to the diligence of Thibodeaux and her colleagues.

Until August 2005 nola.com served mostly to



"Sink and Glove"

publish the daily news from the *Times-Picayune*, cover events in New Orleans, and furnish information for visitors, but during the days following Hurricane Katrina, the Web site became a lifeline to all New Orleanians, those who had evacuated and those who were stranded in the city. On Saturday, August 27, after seeing the projected path of the storm, Thibodeaux left the city and went to Alexandria, LA, and set up a remote newsroom to facilitate continuous coverage of the storm in the event that the city did sustain a direct hit. From the safety of Alexandria, she watched the storm ravage the city, and on Monday night she received news that the levees had been breached and the city was inundated.

The *Times-Picayune* staff was evacuated on Tuesday morning, and Thibodeaux, in her capacity as the production manager for nola.com, kept the public informed via the on-line operation while the newspaper was unable to publish for three days. Thibodeaux and her small staff managed to maintain twenty-four-hour



