ServiceMaster produces change

Union University has entered a contract with ServiceMaster, the largest provider of education facility management support services. Administrators are positive about the increased efficiency, but some facilities management staff have concerns.

ServiceMaster is traditionally known as an outsourcing company for home and business needs, however Union’s contract with ServiceMaster does not involve workforce outsourcing. Facilities management staff will remain employees of the university with identical benefits.

“This is not an outsourcing of facilities management, but it is using our own talented staff along with specified expertise to meet our growing needs,” said Gary Carter, assistant vice president of business services.

Union first encountered ServiceMaster during the summer of 1999 when W. William Pollard, chairman of the board for both ServiceMaster and Wheaton College, hosted a meeting for presidents of Christian colleges about facilities management.

President David Dockery and Gary Taylor, chairman of Union’s board of trustees, were both impressed with ServiceMaster’s operation but did not partake with the company until this semester.

“We see ServiceMaster as having the ability to take what we feel is an excellent and skilled workforce and use management consulting to enhance what they are already doing and working on in a more effective manner,” said Carter.

“For the support of the college and for the school, this is all for the better. I don’t see how the school can lose. We are spending the same amount of money and this company says we’ll work more efficiently,” said David McBride, electrician for facilities management.

McBride also said that some employees of the university with specified expertise to meet our growing needs.

Although administration and McBride feel positive about the implementation of the ServiceMaster programs, some facilities management employees are apprehensive.

“They’ve never worked for ServiceMaster so I can’t say whether it will be a good or bad thing, but I have agreed to give it a chance,” said Brad Sargent, director of facilities management.

Housekeeper Manager Beverly “Cookie” Collomp said, “It’s something new and people don’t always adjust well to new things, but we’ll stay open and see how things go.”

Collomp said that after talking with ServiceMaster and administrators, she feels like they are open about their policies and what they hope to accomplish.

Douglas Weed, full-time facilities management employee and freshman Christian studies major, expressed concern about the contract and the changes it will bring.

“I really don’t think we need ServiceMaster, because we aren’t able to-like, just to do what we can do,” Weed said.

Spring break mission trips: a student’s reflection

By Leslie Bryant

Staff Writer

Take a moment to count your blessings. I mean really count them. Think about your full stomach, the roof over your head, the clothes on your back, the bed you sleep in, your clean and safe surroundings, your ability to read, transportation, air conditioning, and the love, smiles, and support you receive from others.

If you are anything like me you don’t give these blessings a second thought. Such basic needs are essential to the functioning of any human being or so I thought until this past week.

Now try to imagine yourself with none of the blessings listed above. Instead imagine yourself hungry, living among rats and filth, unable to express your basic needs due to language barriers, unable to read, being beaten and neglected, never hearing the words I love you, and being afraid of being touched or hugged.

I’m sure we have all read about these conditions, but have you ever taken a moment to really stop and think about what such a life would be like? Have you ever experienced it?

Believe it or not, I’m not describing the conditions of a poverty stricken third world country, I’m describing the everyday living conditions of millions of children across the United States from Arlington, Texas to right here in Jackson.

Over Spring Break I was challenged, taught, and ministered to more than I ever have been in 21 years.

The irony is that I thought I would be the one doing the ministering and teaching.

I and 21 other Union students received an incredible blessing as we served the Lord in Arlington, Texas, in conjunction with Mission Arlington, a third largest mission in the United States.

Our tasks were small in the grand scheme of things. We played games, gave piggy back rides, sang songs, and shared smiles, hugs and laughter with hundreds of children through daily backyard Bible clubs. We stuffed thousands of Easter Eggs, organized food and clothing drives, and we worshiped the Lord. Yet, through these tasks and by interacting with the precious individuals that Christ Jesus created, I finally began to grasp what it means to have genuine joy and happiness. I was finally able to understand what it means to give to others.

This past week, my eyes and ears were exposed to things I could hardly imagine. I played with children who, for example, for only a few hours later might be beaten or threatened, go to bed hungry, watch their parents stagger into the house drunk, or be cursed at rather than hugged.

Never before had I worked with unbelievably precious individuals that Christ Jesus created.

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Spring break mission trips: a student’s reflection

By Ellie Evans

Editor-in-Chief

April 26 until May 1.

“If it is an older play and we reset it into almost a parody on a soap opera,” said Wayne Johnson, associate professor of speech and theatre and director of “Night Watch.” The adaptation is based on the original work by Lucille Fletcher.

The play, set in New York City, has all the makings of a melodrama, according to Johnson.

The story centers around a wealthy family involved in a love triangle. A sneaky neighbor, overhearing housekeeper and psychiatrist add humor to the play. “It makes fun of everything,” said junior Hansa Burke, liberal studies major. Burke plays the female lead, Elaine Wheeler.

Other cast members include sophomore Josh Betts as John Wheeler, senior Leah Young as Helga, sophomore Ryan Schuman as Varelli, sophomore Lauria Frost as Mrs. Veronica Appleby, senior Joy Spurlin as Blanche Cooke, junior Chad Carlson as Lt. Walker, freshman Carrie Wheeler as Dr. Tracy Lake and alumni Jeremy Young as Sam Hoke.

Following “Fiddler on the Roof,” “The Selfish Giant” and “Othello,” “Night Watch” is the

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Murder mystery kills the crowd

By Julie Dodson

Copy Editor

The Union University Players will present “Night Watch” from April 26 until May 1.

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