

# Gulf Coast Misery

continued ▲ from Front

close up one of the breached levees. At the same time, looting broke out in some neighborhoods, the sweltering city of 480,000 had no drinkable water, and the electricity could be out for weeks.

With water rising perilously inside the Superdome, Blanco said the tens of thousands of refugees now huddled there and other shelters in New Orleans would have to be evacuated.

She asked residents to spend Wednesday in prayer.

"That would be the best thing to calm our spirits and thank our Lord that we are survivors," she said. "Slowly, gradually, we will recover; we will survive; we will rebuild."

All day long, rescuers in boats and helicopters pulled out shellshocked and bedraggled flood refugees from rooftops and attics. The Coast Guard said it has rescued 1,200 people by boat and air, some placed shivering and wet into helicopter baskets. They were brought by the truckload into shelters, some in wheelchairs and some carrying babies, with stories of survival and of those who didn't make it.

"Oh my God, it was hell," said Kioka Williams, who had to hack through the ceiling of the beauty shop where she worked as floodwaters rose in New Orleans' low-lying Ninth Ward. "We were screaming, hollering, flashing lights. It was complete chaos."

Frank Mills was in a boarding house in the same neighborhood when water started swirling up toward the ceiling and he fled to the roof. Two elderly residents never made it out, and a third was washed away trying to climb onto the roof.

"He was kind of on the edge of the roof, catching his breath," Mills said. "Next thing I knew, he came floating past me."

Across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, more than 1 million residents remained without electricity, some without clean drinking water. An untold number who



James Smith wades past a storm damaged building in Gulfport, Miss. After Hurricane Katrina.



A man puts a baby on top of a car as he and a woman abandon the vehicle after it starts to float in floodwaters caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, La. (AP photo)

headed evacuation orders were displaced and 40,000 were in Red Cross shelters, with officials saying it could be weeks, if not months, before most will be able to return.

Emergency medical teams from across the country were sent into the region and President Bush cut short his Texas vacation Tuesday to return to Washington to focus on the storm damage.

Federal Emergency Management Agency director Mike Brown warned that structural damage to homes, diseases from animal carcasses and chemicals in floodwa-

ters made it unsafe for residents to come home anytime soon. And a mass return also was discouraged to keep from interfering with rescue and recovery efforts.

That was made tough enough by the vast expanse of floodwaters in coastal areas that took an eight-hour pounding from Katrina's howling winds and up to 15 inches of rainfall. From the air, neighborhood after neighborhood looked like nothing but islands of rooftops surrounded by swirling, tea-colored water.

In New Orleans, the flooding



A cyclist navigates floodwaters as the National Guard transports residents to the Superdome after their neighborhoods were flooded in New Orleans, Tuesday.

actually got worse Tuesday. Failed pumps and levees apparently sent water from Lake Pontchartrain coursing through the streets. The rising water forced hotels to evacuate, a hospital to move patients to boatlift patients to emergency shelters, and drove the staff of New Orleans' Times-Picayune newspaper out of its offices.

In devastated Biloxi, Miss., areas that were not underwater were littered with tree trunks, downed power lines and chunks of broken concrete. Some buildings were flat-

## Hurricane Relief Turns to Despair

### Survivors face homelessness, uncertainty

(AP)—Relief gave way to despair Tuesday for many survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Facing days of misery and uncertainty, awaiting clearance to return to damaged or destroyed homes, some broke down in tears.

"Everything is totaled, everything is destroyed, everything is gone," said Thomas Green, rescued by a boat along with his family from the attic of their flooded one-story house in New Orleans.

In the Louisiana Superdome, where thousands of residents unable to evacuate the city had taken refuge, a woman cried as a TV newscast detailed the devastation and reported that residents would be blocked from returning to their neighborhoods until next week.

Many thousands of people will need temporary shelter for weeks, possibly months, said Mike Brown, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Many areas also face prolonged power outages.

Along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the hardest hit region, evacuated residents struggled to come to terms with the extent of the destruction, and the massive cleanup and rebuilding efforts that lie ahead.

"Now we're trying to salvage just a few memories," said Dorothy Loy of Pascagoula. "It's so depressing, really, because you have no address."

Alex Romansky, a Gulf Coast resident for 30 years, said he was unlikely to stay.

"Do we rebuild, do we buy, do we just move the hell out of here?" he wondered. "My inclination, after seeing this kind of storm damage, is that we don't want to live here anymore."

Further north in Mississippi, at an intersection outside

Hattiesburg, dozens of cars were lined up to get gasoline at a convenience store, with the occupants hoping to be allowed back to the coast. The Highway Patrol was stopping motorists from going south on U.S. 49 as emergency vehicles sped past.

Jake Walker, 34, and his wife, Shelia, 41, of Saucier, had evacuated from their mobile home with their dog and two pet doves, Romeo and Juliet. Their pickup truck was full of furniture.

"My home probably ain't there," Jake Walker said.

Bill Higginbotham, a 91-year-old retired carpenter from Biloxi, and his son-in-law had driven up from the coast seeking to buy gasoline.

"Most probably I don't have a home anymore," he said of the single-story, timber-frame home he built in 1940 on the Back Bay of Biloxi. "I wanted to live, but after this I don't want to live no more."

Another Biloxi resident, 19-year-old Landon Williams, didn't heed the evacuation orders and had to swim for his life after floodwaters smashed into his apartment in the Quiet Water Beach complex where numerous other residents are believed to have died.

"I lost everything. We can't even find my car," said Williams, a construction worker. "I think I'll move on to North Carolina and do some work over there. I can't take it here any more - not after this."

Debra Harville worked at the newly completed Hard Rock Casino in Biloxi, which was scheduled to open in early September. Its first two floors were washed out.

"We had worked hard to put this place together. It was so beautiful," she said. "I don't know what I'm going to do now. A lot of people ain't got nowhere to go."

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco empathized during a news conference in Baton Rouge after surveying the devastation and encountering survivors with "despair in their faces."

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Ludacris (from left) joined Eric Williams and Randy Marshall of Portland, in the making of the MTV winning rap video "Number One Spot."

## Local Talent Directs Best Rap Video

### Joins Ludacris at MTV awards

Randy Marshall, a former Portland resident, was on stage at the MTV Awards Sunday for his work behind the award winning selection for Best Rap Video.

His mom was home in Portland watching the awards ceremony live via satellite and screaming with delight.

"I'm so proud," LaVerne Green said about her son.

Green is a teacher at Self En-

hancement, Inc. in north Portland and an artist-director of local theater productions.

Her son Marshall, 35, attended Irvington Grade School in northeast Portland and Tubman Middle School in north Portland before winning a scholarship at the New York Dance Theater of Harlem and graduating from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

Marshall who is now married and the father of four children in Atlanta. There hooked up Eric Williams, another Morehouse graduate, to create the hot directing duo

known as The Fat Cats.

Together they collaborated with Ludacris to produce "Number One Spot," voted the best rap video at the MTV awards.

Both artists joined Ludacris on stage during the awards presentation.

Marshall has an extensive background in the production world.

He developed his craft at Morehouse with alma mater director Spike Lee. After a few years of set work, Marshall caught his first break directing a commercial for Section 8 Mob.

## Morning After Pill Delayed

(AP)—The government on Friday put off its long-awaited final decision on whether to sell emergency contraception without a prescription, saying the pill was safe to sell over-the-counter to adults but grappling with how to keep it out of the hands of young teenagers.

The Food and Drug Administration postponed for 60 days a final decision on how to allow nonprescription sales of the morning-after pill called Plan B just to women 17 or older.

"Enforceability is the key

question," said FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford.

The drug's maker, Barr Pharmaceuticals, criticized the decision, questioning how the agency could acknowledge that scientific evidence supported nonprescription sales and yet not allow those sales to begin.

"It's like being in purgatory," said Barr chief executive Bruce Downey.

The morning-after pill is a high dose of regular birth control that, taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, can lower the risk of pregnancy by up to 89 percent.

## Emanuel Strike Scheduled

Legacy Emanuel Hospital is bracing for a one-day strike by food service, housekeeping, transport and other healthcare employees.

The workers, represented by Local 49 of the Service Employees International Union, scheduled the Wednesday, Aug. 31 strike to express their frustration with Legacy management over a new labor contract for about 420 Emanuel employees.

Hospital officials said trained replacement workers will be brought in to cover their duties for this one day if an agreement is not reached.