

Katrina

(Continued from Page 1)
in the county to climb well above 100.

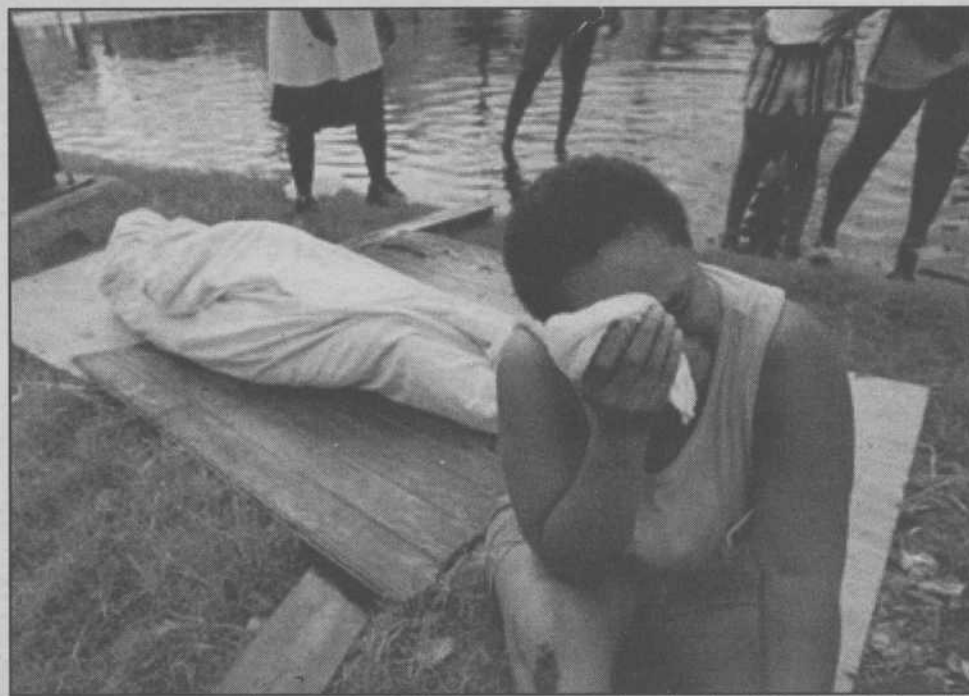
President Bush flew over New Orleans and parts of Mississippi's hurricane-blasted coastline in Air Force One. Turning to his aides, he said: "It's totally wiped out. ... It's devastating, it's got to be doubly devastating on the ground."

"We're dealing with one of the worst national disasters in our nation's history," Bush said later in a televised address from the White House, which most victims could not see because power remains out to 1 million Gulf Coast residents.

The federal government dispatched helicopters, warships and elite SEAL water-rescue teams in one of the biggest relief operations in U.S. history, aimed at plucking residents from rooftops in the last of the "golden 72 hours" rescuers say is crucial to saving lives.

As fires burned from broken natural-gas mains, the skies above the city buzzed with National Guard and Coast Guard helicopters frantically dropping baskets to roofs where victims had been stranded since the storm roared in with a 145-mph fury Monday. Atop one apartment building, two children held up a giant sign scrawled with the words: "Help us!"

Looters used garbage cans and inflatable mattresses to float away with food, blue jeans, tennis shoes, TV sets — even guns. Outside one pharmacy, thieves commandeered a forklift and used it to push up the storm shutters and break through the glass. The driver of a nursing-home bus surrendered the vehicle to thugs after being threat-



Evelyn Turner cries alongside the body of her common-law husband, Xavier Bowie, after he died in New Orleans, on Tuesday. Bowie and Turner had decided to ride out Hurricane Katrina when they could not find a way to leave the city. Bowie, who had lung cancer, died when he ran out of oxygen Tuesday afternoon. Thousands are feared dead or missing.

ened.

Police said their first priority remained saving lives, and mostly just stood by and watched the looting. But Nagin later said the looting had gotten so bad that stopping the thieves became the top priority for the police department.

"They are starting to get closer to heavily populated areas — hotels, hospitals, and we're going to stop it right now," Nagin said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Hundreds of people wandered up and down shattered Interstate 10 — the only major freeway leading into New Orleans from the east — pushing shopping carts, laundry racks, anything they could find to carry their belongings.

On some of the few roads that were still open, people waved at passing cars with empty water jugs, begging for relief. Hundreds of people

appeared to have spent the night on a crippled highway.

Starting Thursday, authorities planned to move at least 25,000 storm refugees to the Astrodome in a vast convoy of some 500 buses provided by the federal government. With the air-conditioning knocked out, the Superdome has become stifling, its toilets are broken and there is nowhere for anyone to bathe.

Nagin, whose pre-hurricane evacuation order got most of his city of a half a million out of harm's way, estimated 50,000 to 100,000 people remained, and said that 14,000 to 15,000 a day could be evacuated in ensuing convoys.

"We have to," Nagin said. "It's not living conditions."

He also expressed concern about people staying in the water: "People walking in that water with those dead bodies, it can get in your pores, you don't have to

drink it."

In addition to the Astrodome solution, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was considering putting people on cruise ships, in tent cities, mobile home parks, and so-called floating dormitories.

The floodwaters streamed into the city's streets from two levee breaks near Lake Pontchartrain a day after

New Orleans thought it had escaped catastrophic damage from Katrina. The floodwaters covered 80 percent of the city, in some areas 20 feet deep, in a reddish-brown soup of sewage, gasoline and garbage.

Around midday, officials with the state and the Army Corps of Engineers said the water levels between the city and Lake Pontchartrain had equalized, and water had stopped spilling into New Orleans, and even appeared to be falling. But the danger was far from over.

The Army Corps of Engineers said it planned to use heavy-duty Chinook helicopters to drop 15,000-pound bags of sand and stone as early as Wednesday night into the 500-foot gap in the failed floodwall.

But the agency said it was having trouble getting the sandbags and dozens of 15-foot highway barriers to the site because the city's waterways were blocked by loose barges, boats and large debris. In Washington, the Bush administration decided to release crude oil from the federal petroleum reserves after Katrina knocked out 95 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's

output. But because of the disruptions and damage to the refineries, gasoline prices surged above \$3 a gallon in many parts of the country.

The death toll has reached at least 110 in Mississippi alone. But the full magnitude of the disaster had been unclear for days — in part, because some areas in both coastal Mississippi and New Orleans are still unreachable, but also because authorities' priority has been the living.

In Mississippi, for example, ambulances roamed through the passable streets of devastated places such as Biloxi, Gulfport, Waveland and Bay St. Louis, in some cases speeding past corpses in hopes of saving people trapped in flooded and crumbled buildings.

State officials said Nagin's guess of thousands dead seemed plausible.

Lt. Kevin Cowan of the state Office of Emergency Preparedness said it is too soon to say with any accuracy how many died.

But he noted that since thousands of people had been rescued from roofs and attics, it could be assumed that there were lots of others who were probably not spared.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DIVISION

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS ACT (HOME) PROGRAM

The City of North Las Vegas is seeking applications from chartered non-profit organizations to administer a Homebuyer Assistance Program utilizing the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Home Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) Program funds.

The City is seeking partnerships with non-profit organizations for the purpose of providing financial assistance to qualified homebuyers. All applicants must be state chartered non-profit organizations and be in good standing with HUD regarding fair housing practices and the Fair Housing Act.

Applications will be available beginning September 6, 2005 at 8:00AM at the following location:

City of North Las Vegas
Community Development Department
Neighborhood Services Division
2266 Civic Center Drive
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Questions regarding the application may be directed to:

Beth Crager
Community Services Analyst
(702)633-2333

THE DEADLINE FOR THE RETURN OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 3, 2005 AT 5:00PM. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE AND NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

Knights of Peter Claver Council & Court #358

"THE ONLY IN NEVADA"

Invite

All members of the KPC to Turn-Out
Sunday, September 11, 2005

at 11 am Mass

St. James Catholic Church
1920 N. Martin Luther King
Las Vegas, NV 89106

702-648-6606

RSVP