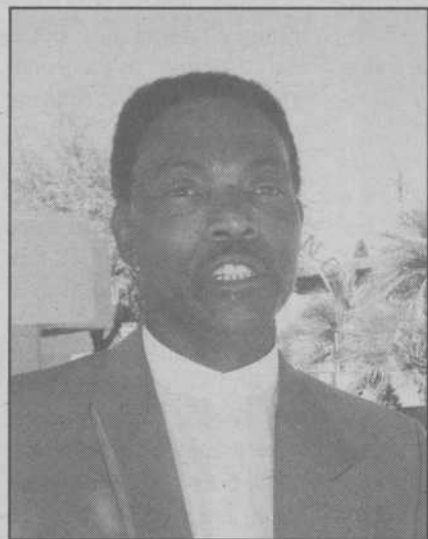


# Las Vegas speaks on Katrina aftermath

Sentinel-Voice photos by Parker Philpot



Johnny Cleveland

*"The news media twisted some things... Instead of looking at the big picture — that people needed help — they were more concerned about sending the National Guard [for looting]... The news media can be your friend; they can build you up or tear you down."*



Dan Hampton

*"It [the hurricane flood area] will affect you mentally, like a war zone. You're afraid of what's going through your mind. It's like the Vietnam syndrome or Gulf War syndrome."*

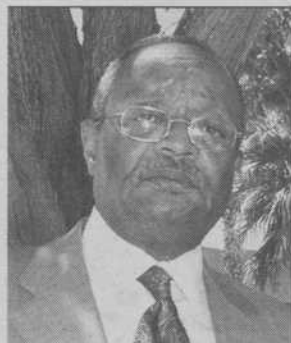


Yolanda Gale

*"How were supplies during the tsunami delivered half way around the world in 24 hours when it took four days to get supplies to the [Gulf region]."*

Bob Morgan

*"I think faith plays a great part... Look at how many are still alive. The Lord knows best, but the people in charge from the President on down... I don't think their faith was in the right place."*



C. J. H. Dorsey

*"...It reminded me about the aftermath of the Civil War. When I looked at that, it was just like after slavery... an Exodus... In my mind, it was just like after Emancipation with people walking and not knowing where they were going or what they would do."*

## Family

(Continued from Page 2)

lent. He said that during the hurricane period things were "just that bad." He referred to an "underclass who [sees] nothing but negative and are destructive in their behavior."

When encouraged to speak about the hurricane and flood, he focused on his views about the meaning of the event.

"The Lord is trying to get our attention, and He's tired, He's tired," Fleming Smith Sr. explained.

"Conditions do not create themselves. Conditions are created by the way the people think and live. And the only way conditions are going to get better... is that the people are going to have to make change themselves in order to change the conditions."

Later, he answered with ease the direct questions about the circumstances after the flood and how strategic matters were handled.

On the performance of his city in crisis: "We were not prepared," he said.

His suggestions for better preparations start with "having your people realize the seriousness of the situation... and in your preparations,

you've got to have outlets to get out of the city (the city's hemmed in with only one out across the water)."

On the matter of poverty in the problem: "Poor people are always going to get the worst of the brunt." And he does believe that "America, in its thinking, considers itself the leader of the world, but when it comes down to poverty, you've got just as much poverty in America as you have in other countries — considering how rich it is."

He is less definitive about whether poverty played a role in the government's rate of speed in the response to the disaster, but he did indicate his belief that America has a history of treating poor people with less regard than it does the rich.

Having less to say about the tragedy and the trauma of evacuating than his messages about the need to make change in the education, economics, politics and self-awareness of African-Americans.

"When you learn to be contented with what you have, you will have peace of mind," is his advice. He cautions against keeping a mind that is focused on money

above that. And above it all, he talks about his faith in God.

His closing advice on living long, and well — especially through tragedies and hard times:

"Positive and negative are known as equal opportunities. When it's light, the equal opposite is dark. When it's heat, the equal opposite is cold. The negative will destroy you. The positive will destroy the negative and sustain you. God is all positive. When you think positively, you're thinking Godly, you're thinking righteous. So positive thinking is the number one thing that's going to carry you. As long as you accentuate the positive, by thinking and acting positively, you're going to move," Fleming Smith Sr. stated, warning against negative thoughts. I'm a positive thinker; always thought positive; still think positive. I don't let negative set in my mind. That's what moves me — positive thinking," he concluded before the group shared prayer and enjoyed a harmonica solo.

Ramon Savoy and Kathi Overstreet contributed to this article.

## CLIP IT. BUY IT. CAN IT.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food    | <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-operated radio                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium-sized bucket with lid                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water          | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Area map                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit          | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty items for the elderly or disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight with extra batteries             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet food                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/sleeping bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene items                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baby food and supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic garbage can to keep it all together |



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. IT'S IN THE CAN.

## BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT IN A STANDARD GARBAGE CAN.

Check your mail for information from the Clark County Health District on how to prepare for any widespread public health emergency, including a bioterrorism event. Although natural or man-made disasters are unpredictable, there are things we can do to prepare for them — beginning with putting essentials like non-perishable food, bottled water and clothing in a new, plastic garbage can with a sealable lid and then storing it in your garage or utility closet.



YOUR COMPLETE READINESS GUIDE WILL BE ARRIVING SOON. THIS ESSENTIAL GUIDE IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CCHD.ORG](http://WWW.CCHD.ORG), OR BY CALLING 759-1000.

CLARK COUNTY

HEALTH DISTRICT

CLARK COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT IS READY. WE WANT YOU TO BE, TOO.