

Katrina

(Continued from Page 4)

population fell 36 percent, according to census data. The areas that are fully recovering are more affluent and predominately Black. New Orleans, which was 67 percent Black before Katrina, is estimated to be no higher than 58 percent Black now.

The reduction in poor and low-wage workers in New Orleans is no surprise to social workers. Don Everard, director of social service agency Hope House, says New Orleans is a much tougher town for poor people than before Katrina. "Housing costs a lot more and there is much less of it," said Everard. "The job market is also very unstable. The rise in wages after Katrina has mostly fallen backwards and people are not getting enough hours of work on a regular basis."

The displacement of tens of thousands of people is now expected to be permanent because there is both a current shortage of affordable housing and no plan to create affordable rental housing for tens of thousands of the displaced.

In the most blatant sign of government action to reduce the number of poor people in New Orleans, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is demolishing thousands of intact public housing apartments. HUD is spending nearly a billion dollars with questionable developers to end up with much less affordable housing. Right after Katrina, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson predicted New Orleans was "not going to be as Black as it was for a long time, if ever again." He then worked to make that prediction true.

According to Policy Link, a national research institute, the crisis in affordable housing means barely two in 5 renters in Louisiana can return to affordable homes. In New Orleans, all the funds currently approved by HUD and other government agencies for housing for low-income renters will only rebuild one-third of the pre-Katrina affordable rental housing stock.

Hope House sees 400 to 500 needy people a month. "Most of the people we see

are working people facing eviction, utility cutoffs, or they are already homeless," reports Everard. The New Orleans homeless population has already doubled from pre-Katrina numbers to approximately 12,000 people.

Everard noted that because of FEMA's recent announcement that it was closing 35,000 still-occupied trailers across the Gulf Coast, homelessness is likely to get a lot worse.

United Nations officials recently called for an immediate halt to the demolitions of public housing in New Orleans, saying demolition is a violation of human rights and will force predominately Black residents into homelessness. "The spiraling costs of private housing and rental units, and in particular the demolition of public housing, puts these communities in further distress, increasing poverty and homelessness," said a joint statement by UN experts in housing and minority issues. "We therefore call on the federal government and state and local authorities to immediately halt the demoli-

tions of public housing in New Orleans."

Similar calls have been made by Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Despite these calls, the demolitions continue.

The rebuilding has gone as many planned. Right after Katrina, one wealthy businessman told the *Wall Street Journal*, "Those who want to see this city rebuilt want to see it done in a completely different way: demographically, geographically and politically." Elected officials, from national officials like President George W. Bush and HUD Secretary Jackson to local city council members, who are presumably sleeping in their own beds, apparently concur. Policies put in place so far do not appear overly concerned about the tens of thousands of working poor, the elderly and the disabled who are not able to come home.

The political implications of a dramatic reduction in poor and working mostly African-American people in New Orleans are straightforward.

The reduction directly

helps Republicans who have fought for years to reduce the impact of the overwhelmingly Democratic New Orleans on statewide politics in Louisiana. In the jargon of political experts, Louisiana, before Katrina, was a "pink state." The state went for Bill Clinton twice and then for Bush twice, with U.S. senators from each party. The forced relocation of hundreds of thousands, mostly lower income and African-American, could alter the balance between the two major parties in Louisiana and the opportunities for Black elected officials in New Orleans.

Given the political and governmental officials and

policies in place now, one of the major casualties of Katrina will be the permanent displacement of tens of thousands of African-Americans, the working poor, their children, the elderly, and the disabled.

Those who wanted a different New Orleans rebuilt probably see the concentrated displacement as a success. However, if the test of a society is how it treats its weakest and most vulnerable members, the aftermath of Katrina earns all of us a failing grade.

Bill Quigley is a human rights lawyer and law professor at Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans.

Your Horoscope Says... March 20 - 26

ARIES

You may receive some news that trouble you, but recognize what you can and can't do about the situation. As powerful as you are, you are still not required to do everything for everyone. Do what feels most loving.

Soul Affirmation: I smile and trust in the powers beyond myself.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 29, 43

TAURUS

Your leadership skills are shining this week, so get out there and glimmer with good vibrations. Others are looking to you for guidance and as a path to follow. Let your journey through the week provide a good model.

Soul Affirmation: I let worry fly away.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 16, 39

GEMINI

You are brilliant this week as you gather materials and resources together for an important project. There's a good probability for wonderful news late in the afternoon. Ride the vibes and be gentle with your own feelings.

Soul Affirmation: There are plenty of fish in the sea waiting for me.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 42, 50

CANCER

A date or meeting that is unexpectedly cancelled may make someone very unhappy. Recognize that all things work for good, and that a better solution is being provided in the space between what you think you want and what you are getting.

Soul Affirmation: This week silence speaks loudest and truest.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 40, 41

LEO

Serenity is yours as you realize you can get what you need. It's coming and you deserve it! Take a few quiet moments this week to listen to your inner voice. It will give you a powerful hint about what activities you should be pursuing right now.

Soul Affirmation: I let positive emotions carry me through the week.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 17, 21

VIRGO

In all of the hustle and bustle of the week this week, take some time to observe the Now. There's a great deal to be thankful for! A great idea could come to you when you are out with friends.

Soul Affirmation: I celebrate with those around me.

Lucky Numbers: 39, 51, 52

LIBRA

Relax the grip you have on your attitudes this week, and just go with the flow. Ease up in full knowledge that goodness is being perfectly fulfilled. Let go of any feelings of insecurity or loss and bless the perfect moment.

Soul Affirmation: I quiet all confusion.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 24

SCORPIO

Exhilaration is high and your mental abilities are amazing. Use your intuition to brainstorm your way to a highly creative idea that could change the way you make your living.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the chance to give.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 46, 49

SAGITTARIUS

What you say and what you do are

in harmony this week. The importance of your idea(s) comes through very clearly to others. They can see that you walk what you talk. Communicate your ideas through your values.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the goodness in people.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 18

CAPRICORN

If you feel as if the vibes this week are mixed at best, make up your mind to only receive the positive ones. Tune the transmitter in your soul to life and give your spiritual a workout. You are in charge of who you are.

Soul Affirmation: I see myself as a finisher rather than a starter this week.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 34, 40

AQUARIUS

A benefit arrives, and there's good reason to celebrate. Claim your blessing and do the happy dance! Loving, supportive friends surround you, and family members are well behaved. Enjoy!

Soul Affirmation: I speak my mind knowing that truth is my best defense this week.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 50, 55

PISCES

Look forward to some pleasant news. There is every possibility for a renewed love affair or a refreshing new romantic interest. Free yourself from the past and make a fresh start.

Soul Affirmation: I see myself as a finisher rather than a starter this week.

Lucky Numbers: 21, 34, 48



CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
Your Community of Choice

Join Southern Nevada's Employer of Choice!

We Offer:

- A 4-Day Work Week
- Fully Paid City Retirement Plan
- No State Income Tax
- No Social Security Taxes
- Fully Paid Medical, Dental & Vision
- Excellent Vacation/Holiday Leave Plan

We are seeking exceptional candidates for the following:

Deputy Director of Engineering

Salary Range: \$89,895 - \$ 133,494 • Filing closes: 5/1/08

Deputy Director of Operations - Public Works

Salary Range: \$89,895 - \$ 133,494 • Filing closes: 5/1/08

City Traffic Engineer

Salary Range: \$82,698 - \$ 122,394 • Filing closes: 5/1/08

Police Officer/Corrections Officer

Recruitment closes 5/8/08 for June testing date
Salary Range: \$52,581 - \$ 78,003

Employee Development Specialist

Salary Range: \$52,556-\$76,206 • Filing closes: 3/27/08

Fire Prevention Inspector

Salary Range: \$57,544 - \$81,238 • Filing closes: 3/20/08

HRIS Representative I/II

Salary Range: \$40,347 - \$57,493 • Filing closes: 3/20/08

Planner

Salary Range: \$55,307 - \$80,194 • Filing closes: 4/10/08

Communications Technician

Salary Range: \$51,689 - \$74,690 • Filing closes: 3/20/08

GIS Analyst

Salary Range: \$51689 - \$74,690 • Filing closes: 3/20/08

FILING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS IS OPEN AND CONTINUOUS:

Building Official

Salary Range: \$76,248 - \$112,467

Transportation Coordinator/Modeler

Salary Range: \$59,311 - \$86,296

Senior Engineer

Salary Range: \$68,674 - \$100,606

TEMP PART-TIME POSITIONS:

Program Specialist

\$8.25 per hour

Senior Lifeguard

\$11.00 per hour

Safekey Instructor

\$10.00 per hour

Water Safety Instructor

\$10.00 per hour

Pool Manager

\$12.00 per hour

A completed City application must be received for all positions and may be obtained by visiting our website at www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com, or by calling Human Resources at (702) 633-1500. EOE/AA

www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com