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Older Women Were and Are Katrina’s Worst Casualty

By Margaret M. Gullette
Special to the NNPA from Women’s eNews

Amid all the devastations of Katrina, what group was most vulnerable? If you followed the news compassionately, you might say, “the poor,” “African-Americans,” “women of color.” The best answer is actually “old.”

Older New Orleanians were most at risk by being also predominantly poor, African-American, and (sometimes) weak, ill or institutionalized. They couldn’t crawl out on roofs or set off on highways alone with their backpacks.

It’s not that news didn’t cover this. We know that dozens of helpless people in one nursing home died, and a hospital is being investigated for euthanasia. As the Houston Chronicle noted, Katrina was “one of the worst medical catastrophes for the aged in recent U.S. history.”

“The elderly...plunged to the bottom of priority lists as...engulfed New Orleans,” said a Sept. 19 New York Times article by David Rohde, et al. Older people “had special needs neglected by disaster workers. In New Orleans, some seniors died from dehydration even as they were being bused to safety,” reported Nancy Weaver Teichert in the Sacramento Bee.

Even emergency workers may not know that dehydration comes faster in elderly people and is harder to reverse. “Most Katrina Victims were Elderly,” the Washington Post headlined Oct. 24. Yet there in the media is that unwillingness to use the word “old” or to conclude that this catastrophe is about old people. The information was available but the focus was missing.

In a “Frontline” Nov. 22 special report, Martin Smith reported that the “vast majority” of the 1,300 people who died in New Orleans were old. But that shocking statistic claimed only one sentence’s worth of attention in an hour-long show.

Aside from “old,” the other missing keyword is “women.” Women live longer than men and tend to wind up widowed, alone or in nursing homes. They are poorer than men. Almost 25 percent of women over 65 in New Orleans were poor; double the national average, according to the Washington-based Older Women’s League.

Were women a vast majority of those who died? Were most elderly evacuees female? Were most women of color? Check hurricane coverage in the media archives under keywords like “elderly” and “women” and you don’t come up with much.

But while you can’t get to the bottom of the story, you can certainly collect the evidence that older women bore the brunt. Newspaper stories about Katrina that have anything about old people, missing people, unclaimed dead or bodies recently found mostly refer to old women.

Neglect of age continues in the “aftermath” stories. Reporters have been investigating conditions of prisoners and asking teen evacuees about their “unique” problems. What about the unique problems of frail, sick and old evacuees from the drowned city? Are they homesick, lonely, suffering from post-traumatic stress?

Did they have any Thanksgiving? What happened to the mothers and grandmothers? I keep thinking of a photo I saw in the Boston Globe of an elderly woman lying on a baggage remover at an airport. Has she moved on? And to what kind of life?

Ah, the disconnects. Here in the real world, elderly Older Women Were and Are Katrina’s Worst Casualty

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Louisiana invests $195 million to help families rebuild
State-backed bond programs created in housing agency

Baton Rouge, La. - In one of many efforts to address the housing crisis caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) today announced new programs in an effort to bring Louisiana families home. Through executive orders, Governor Blanco has directed the LHFA to dedicate $195 million of bond funds to promote homeownership for displaced citizens and to finance the repair and construction of affordable rental housing.

In partnership with the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and legislators from the hurricane impacted areas, Governor Blanco signed Executive Order No.KBB-2005-87 that will make $100 million available for loans to approximately 2,000 homeowners for repairs or rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes.

To complement the loan program, Governor Blanco has also directed LHFA president Helena Cunningham to work with federal housing and mortgage agencies to develop creative and innovative ways to lend struggling homeowners money for repair and building.

The second executive order (No. KBB 2005-87) will help restore the rental housing stock devastated by the storms. The order directs the LHFA to use $95 million in bond money to finance the repair and construction of affordable rental housing.

“We are dedicated to ensuring that these areas have affordable rental housing,” Governor Blanco said. “The program will help property owners repair and build affordable rental units. This will create or rehabilitate approximately 18-hundred affordable housing units.” “The bottom line is this: Decent, affordable housing is essential to Louisiana’s recovery,” Governor Blanco said. “That’s why I’m hopeful that today’s action will be a significant step in the restoration of our people, our families, and their communities.”

For more information about the programs, contact the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency at 225.763.8700.

Judge Grants Restraining Order In Discrimination Lawsuit Against City Of Denham Springs

On December 12, 2005, Judge Tyson granted a temporary restraining order against the City of Denham Springs. The order restrains and enjoins the City of Denham Springs from seeking to stop Options Foundation, Inc. (Options) from continuing to operate its group home in the City. The Judge further set the preliminary injunction hearing for December 22, 2005.

The order is a result of a lawsuit filed on the same day by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC), on behalf of Options, against the City of Denham Springs in Federal Court. The suit alleges that the City’s refusal to allow use of a property as a residence for individuals with mental illness violates the requirements of the federal Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. The suit requests a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction and permanent injunction to prevent the City from preventing the continued use of a Denham Springs property as a group home and from evicting its residents. The suit further requests permanent enjoyment of discrimination by the City, against Options.

Options opened the group home after Hurricane Katrina in an attempt to assist a group of Hurricane evacuees who have mental illnesses and who were forced to evacuate their New Orleans group home. Options chose the property in question because it had previously been used as a halfway house until May of 2005 and would likely meet their goal to provide housing to individuals with disabilities in a community setting.

James Perry, GNOFHAC Executive Director comments, “This is but the first step in our push to insure fair housing choice for tenants at the Options group home. We are hopeful that this early victory is an indicator of things to come.”

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Activists Vow to Continue’s Tookie’s Legacy

By. Olu Alemoru

LOS ANGELES — (NNPA) Community activists and supporters condemned Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger following the execution of death row inmate Stanley “Tookie” Williams but nevertheless called for calm and vowed to continue his “legacy” to end gang violence.

Williams, 51, a co-founder of the notorious Crips street gang, was executed by lethal injection last week for the 1979 robbery-murders of four people in the Southland.

The execution went ahead as scheduled following Schwarzenegger’s decision to deny clemency Monday. In his statement, the governor declared Williams’ guilt to be overwhelming.

“The possible irregularities in Williams’ trial have been thoroughly and carefully reviewed by the courts, and there is no reason to disturb the judicial decisions that uphold the jury’s decisions that he is guilty of these four murders and should pay for [them with] his life,” he wrote.

Authorities began the process to administer the lethal injection at 12:01 a.m. in the execution chamber at San Quentin State Prison near San Francisco. His death was announced 34 minutes later. Seventeen reporters witnessed the execution and gave their accounts afterward.

Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez said Williams offered “no resistance” but raised his head several times and looked toward his supporters and the press gallery.

“I feel pained by the governor’s decision to choose revenge over redemption,” said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaking outside the gates of the prison with other demonstrators.

Local activist Najee Ali said he was not surprised by the outcome and accused Schwarzenegger of playing politics.

“If anyone was worthy of clemency it was Stanley ‘Tookie’ Williams,” Ali said. “We believe this was a political decision all the way and it’s very dishheartening for the many advocates who have worked on this campaign from day one. But we are going to continue Tookie’s message of redemption, his message of being a force and a voice against gangs and gang violence.”

Williams was convicted of murdering four people during two separate robberies in 1979. They included 3-year-old Albert Owens, a clerk at a Pico Rivera 7-11, his mother, 76-year-old Albert Owens, a clerk at a Pico Rivera 7-11, his mother, 63, and their visiting daughter, Yee-Chen Lin, 43.

“I’m glad that now we can say that the court system has worked and justice has been served,” said Lora Owens, stepmother of Albert who witnessed the execution.

In both slayings, according to court documents, there were no witnesses other than Williams’ accomplices. Three of Williams’ friends — all with criminal histories and motivation to lie, according to Williams and his supporters — testified that he confessed to them.

Williams’ case set off intense debate over capital punishment and redemption, with celebrities, activists and anti-death penalty advocates saying his initiatives and anti-gang message from behind bars meant his life was worth saving.

He authored a series of books and won international renown when he was nominated on several occasions for both Nobel Peace and Literature Prizes.

Morgan Freeman calls Black History Month ‘ridiculous’

NNP News Wire

Morgan Freeman says the concept of a month dedicated to Black history is “ridiculous.”

“You’re going to relegate my history to a month?” the 68-year-old actor says in an interview on CBS’ “60 Minutes” Sunday. “I don’t want a Black Month. Black history is American history.”

Black History Month has roots in historian Carter G. Woodson’s Negro History Week, which he designated in 1926 as the second week in February to mark the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Woodson said he hoped the week could one day be eliminated - when Black history would become fundamental to American history. Freeman notes there is no “White history month,” and says the only way to get rid of racism is to “stop talking about it.”

The actor says he believes the labels “black” and “white” are an obstacle to beating racism.

“I am going to stop calling you a white man and I’m going to ask you to stop calling me a black man,” Freeman says. Freeman received Oscar nominations for his roles in 1987’s “Street Smart,” 1989’s “Driving Miss Daisy” and 1994’s “The Shawshank Redemption.” He finally won earlier this year for “Million Dollar Baby.”

Not having people like this would’ve been an even greater disaster.

The worst of times can bring out the best in everyone. BellSouth would like to salute the numerous emergency personnel who have been working long hours in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. And we would like to recognize our own employees for their tireless efforts to restore telephone service as quickly as possible. BellSouth is proud to be a part of this community. Nature may be a powerful force, but there is no force more powerful than people. Together, we can rebuild Southeast Louisiana.
I once heard a story... “Whatever blooms from the Baobab is given back to the earth, because the mighty tree never forgets its roots.” Like the mighty Baobab, McDonald’s and I will not be moved.
Comedian Lauds Richard Pryor's Impact

By Betty Pleasant

Special to the NNPA from WAVE Newspapers

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) — In an exclusive interview with the Wave newspaper, comedian Dave Chappelle commented upon how the late comedic icon, Richard Pryor impacted his career in the entertainment industry.

“If it wasn’t for him, I don’t know what my life would have been,” said the 33-year-old comedian best known for his cable show, Comedy Central’s “Chappelle’s Show.” “I used to listen to Richard Pryor when I was young but I didn’t understand the depth of what he was doing. But that changed as I got older.”

To many, Chappelle is Pryor’s logical successor. “I wouldn’t presume to consider myself the keeper of his legacy, as some people are trying to claim,” said Chappelle, who once inked a $50 million contract for two more seasons on the cable outlet. “As far as I am concerned, I'm just an apple off of his tree.” Other “apples” include actor/comedian Damon Wayans who said: “There are many different kinds of comedians - the observational humorist, the impressionist, the character creator, the physical comedian, the self-deprecator, and the dirty-joke teller. What made Richard Pryor so brilliant is he was able to incorporate all these styles at once.”

“Richard Pryor was the Rosa Parks of comedy,” said Chris Rock in a statement. “He took risks and chances that made it possible for a whole generation of comics to exist. No one ever rocked the mike like Richard Pryor.” More to the point, said comic/actor Bernie Mac: “Without Richard, there would be no me.”

According to Councilman Herb Wesson, a longtime Pryor fan, there had been discussions prior to his election with Pryor to honor him on his 65th birthday on Dec. 1 Wesson said his Pryor’s wife, Jennifer, was “enthusiastic” about it. “I’m waiting for her consent to continue as planned,” Wesson said. “My desire it to move forward and designate Friday, Dec. 16 as Richard Pryor Day in the City of Los Angeles.”

The proclamation motion is being re-written, Wesson said. Richard Franklin Lenox Thomas Prior was born Dec. 1, 1940 in Peoria, Ill. He grew up in a brothel and his mother was a prostitute. His grandmother was the madam and was named after pimps. His first professional performance came at age 7, when he played drums at a nightclub. Following high school (where he became a father at 14) and two years of Army service, he was discharged from the army for slashing a fellow soldier with a switchblade, he launched his performing career, honing his comedy in bars throughout the United States. By the mid-60s, he was appearing in Las Vegas clubs and on the television shows of Ed Sullivan, Merv Griffin and Johnny Carson. His first film role came with a small part in 1967’s “The Busy Body.” He made his starring debut as Diana Ross’ piano man in 1972's “Lady Sings the Blues.” Pryor was fired by one hotel in Las Vegas for “obscenities” directed at the audience. In 1970, tired of compromising his act, he quit in the middle of another Vegas stage show with the words, “What the (blank) am I doing here?” The audience was left staring at an empty stage. A series of hit comedies and concert films in the '70s and '80s helped make Pryor one of the highest-paid stars in Hollywood, and he was one of the first black performers to have enough leverage to cut his own deals. In 1983, he signed a $40 million, five-year contract with Columbia Pictures. Pryor's albums netted him five Grammys with the actor earning a Emmy in 1974 for Lily, a comedy-variety television special for Lily Tomlin. He also wrote for Sanford & Son and the Flip Wilson Show. On June 9, 1980, that Pryor ran from his Los Angeles home, a human ball of fire. In initial interviews, with the likes of Barbara Walters, Pryor said the flames were sparked as he freebased cocaine. Later, he comedy. We wouldn't have the comics that we have now.” He married his first bride, Patricia Price, in 1960. He married his fifth bride, Flynn BeLaine in 1986, and again in 1990. He was arrested for shooting third wife Deborah McGuire’s Mercedes. (She dropped the charges.) At the end, it was fourth wife, Jennifer, who was his companion. They remarried in 2001. Survivors include seven children, including actress Rain Pryor, who costarred in the 1980s sitcom, Head of the Class.
DA Charges Two in Sewell Cadillac Case

(NEW ORLEANS) Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan charged Alroy Allen and Sean Franklin with looting at the Sewell Cadillac dealership. According to police, Allen, a 23-year-old bounty hunter for New Orleans Bail Bonds and Franklin, a 40-year-old minister and an employee of the State of Louisiana, grabbed a set of car keys and drove off with a 2000 Cadillac Escalade. Allen and Franklin are the first to be charged by the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office for looting at the Cadillac dealership during the chaos that followed Hurricane Katrina. Tomorrow, Jordan will file looting charges against ten others in two unrelated cases. Allen and Franklin were booked by police with simple burglary, looting, felony theft and possession of stolen property. After careful review of the facts, the DA’s office chose to charge Allen and Franklin with looting.

Looting is a felony offense that carries a penalty of 0 to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to ten thousand dollars. The Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office has screened more than one thousand cases that resulted in arrest prior and after Hurricane Katrina. Of those cases, 20 involved looting.

City Gets Money to Rebuild Levee System

The City of New Orleans secured major funding to rebuild the levee system. President Bush pledged his commitment to secure an additional $1.5 billion to rebuild stronger levees protecting New Orleans from the great waters that surround it for a total of $3.1 billion in funding for the City’s recovery.

The additional money will be used to cement the bottom of the levees, close-off the Orleans, London Avenue and 17th Street Canals, allowing pumping stations to send water into the river.

“This is very good news for the citizens of New Orleans and a critical step in bringing our residents home,” said Mayor C. Ray Nagin.

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Grammy nominations: A comeback for Carey

How fickle fame can be. Just four years ago, Mariah Carey’s career was on life support, the victim of nose-diving CD sales, a bomb movie (Glitter) and an impatient record label that gave her a $8 million pink slip.

But Thursday, the New York diva completed her unlikely comeback with eight Grammy nominations, including album of the year, for her hit CD The Emancipation of Mimi. The gymnastic-voiced singer also earned nods for song and record of the year, for “We Belong Together.”

Rapper Kanye West and R&B newcomer John Legend also got eight nominations, while Houston’s Beyoncé Knowles, rapper 50 Cent, Stevie Wonder and the Black Eyed Peas nabbed six nods. U2, Bruce Springsteen, Alicia Keys and Missy Elliott followed with five. Nominees from Dallas-Fort Worth include Kelly Clarkson, Kirk Franklin and the Light Crust Doughboys.

Upstage Theatre Company, Inc.

As the entertainment industry continues to grow in the state of Louisiana, a new black owned theatre company rise to the occasion as a result of the success of the entertainment industries’ growth. The Upstage Theatre Company, Inc. established by founder and director Ava Brewster-Turner, Ph.D. and associate professor in visual and performing arts at Southern University and A&M College. She established Upstage theatre in 2002 while teaching speech and directing theater at the Baton Rouge Community College for five years. Dr. Brewster-Turner financed this venture out of her pocket with the help of her family. The Upstage Theatre Company, Inc. is recognized as the only African-American company in Baton Rouge, La. “Upstage Theatre Company, Inc. is not just 100% about staging and producing plays but teaching theater and developing the crafts of young people who are aspiring actors, playwrights, directors and poets,” Dr. Brewster-Turner said.

Upstage Theatre Company, Inc. offers classes in acting, improvisation, communication, playwriting and also serves as an agent to the members who desire to enter the professional arena. She encourages her students to be independent and strive to own their own business. “We don’t see a lot of African-Americans owning theaters, dance companies, and musical ensembles, there are very few that exist.” Dr. Brewster-Turner said.

To publicize her theater Dr. Brewster-Turner did radio advertisements and mail outs and emails to various newspapers. Dr. Brewster-Turner knows that the best form of advertisement is a satisfied customer. Therefore she has experienced an increased in membership since the opening production of Blue Denim in October. “We are developing a website and we have an email listed along with the newspaper as a form of advertising Upstage,” Dr. Brewster-Turner explained.

One of Dr. Brewster-Turner’s goals for the future is to expand her 65 sit theatre company to a larger 300 sit facility with classrooms and employ a full-time staff.

Dr. Brewster-Turner is driven by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois’s manifesto that, “WE should have a theater by us, for us, near us and about us.”

Upcoming events includes: “Hold Fast to Dreams: A Salute to Black History” February 10th -11th 006. April 8th -9th performance in Los Angeles for the Giving Back Foundation salute to legendary African-American actress Ruby Dee. During this trip students will also have the opportunity to audition for several movies and sitcoms.

For more information about the Upstage Theatre Company, Inc. you may call 225-924-3774 or email at upstage@landaservices.com.
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people—primarily poor women and women of color—were the neediest in a national emergency that took over the news. They were ignored, kept waiting for aid, died alone; somehow they fell to the bottom of priority lists.

A great opportunity now exists for educating the public about the multiple conditions of old age, the later lives of women and the profound social and alienating effects of ageism. Every member of society benefits from seeing its elderly well treated. But Katrina shows how hard it is for younger people in charge of the story, the social response or the rescue effort to put themselves in the shoes of the vulnerable elderly.

That is part of ageism: not hatred but ignorance, indifference and the failure to imagine oneself as older and in need of care.

One way to judge the coverage is to ask how it has changed anything.

Has there been enough attention to the suffering of our aged to change public opinion and create better laws, rules or agencies for rescuing elderly women and men, especially those trapped in institutions? Has there been enough coverage to change private behavior, so that younger people hesitate next time to leave elderly relatives behind?

As we settle into this new groove, life just seems to make more sense. My sensibilities about practical matters are completely different. As we settle into this new way of being, I make different choices because it feels good and makes a lot of sense, but it is only possible because we respect one another’s feelings, space and property. So be careful and pay attention to what you watch (especially the commercials).

Extended family living, at least for this house, has become the desired lifestyle only because we were forced to be together by a terrible tragedy. It remains our choice because it feels good and makes a lot of sense, but it is only possible because we respect one another’s feelings, space and property.

For those of you who are curious about my personal journey since Katrina, be reassured that we have been blessed. I am the leader of a team of one hundred and fifty inspectors and am pretty well paid for the responsibility, and it looks like at least two years work... and then we might not have to. So life is good at the Dennis home on the West bank of New Orleans, but we still grieve for friends and family who are tossed about unable to settle due to uncertainty about storm protection in the future.

As I now write, there is laughter coming from the kitchen, and my mother at seventy-six is in the middle, probably laughing the hard way herself, “You know when I was at my house, I hardly ever laughed.”

Like many things in modern life, the “nuclear family” style of living has more to do with money, in this case the selling of real estate in post Korean War America that had a GI Bill. The Ozzie & Harriet lifestyle was promoted as normal and desirable at the same time that millions of track houses were built to soak up GI Bill mortgages. I find it amazing that so much of what we do has nothing to do with what is good for us, but a lot to do with what is profitable to others.

Such is the power of visual media over human likes and dislikes. So be careful and pay attention to what you watch (especially the commercials).
Iraq Victory? A Gross Miscalculation Compounded

Senator John McCain was recently on television relating that in the 1970s he had read the Pentagon Papers (that were courageously pilfered from the Department of Defense by Daniel Ellsberg) saying that they contained evidence from high level sources that there were “gross miscalculations” made in the conduct of the Vietnam war. He also thought that these miscalculations that led to the war were compounded by the post-World War II philosophy of John Kennedy who once said in a speech that we would “go anywhere, pay any price, bear any burden….” in defense of freedom. The McCain parallel is that the so-called “war on terrorism” is this generation of Neocons’s equivalent to the Cold War, or the fight against global communism. But that was a very different fight. The Soviet Union consisted of states with an historically European military style, unsuited to guerilla tactics, as their loss of the fighting North Koreans in the 1950s and the Vietcong in the 1960s and 1970s: hence, the determination of out-gunned, poor people caused them to withstand confrontations with superior military powers. They either fought to a draw or defeated the French, the British and the Americans in Asia, but also the Belgians and white settler regimes in India, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde, Angola, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Cuba, South Africa and other places. Time after time, the arrogance of the colonial or post-colonial powers led them to devalue the strength of the desire of people who wanted their own brand of freedom. People using their bodies as bombs in Iraq is only the latest sign of a desire that has destroyed the Neocons’ expectations of a quick victory. The fact that the debate has shifted to an attempt to find more realistic terms to end the war the proxy war in Iraq is the surest sign that the American people believe that a military victory is impossible and the Neocons have compounded this problem long enough. And if “victory” in Iraq is impossible, then whither the global war against terrorism? Ron Walters

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Bush pledges support for levees but amount falls short

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Bush administration has decided to support making levees in New Orleans, Louisiana, stronger than before Hurricane Katrina struck, and was expected to announce its commitment Thursday afternoon.

President Bush was to meet in the Oval Office on Thursday with officials involved in federal efforts to strengthen the levees.

But is remained unclear whether the federal government would go as far as Louisiana officials want, and pay for levees that could withstand a hurricane of the strongest ranking. Donald Powell, the top official for reconstruction, has indicated that they will be rebuilt stronger than they were before Katrina.

Katrina, a Category 4 storm, surged through the city’s levees at maximum speeds when it struck on August 29, killing more than 1,300 people in Gulf Coast states.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco and other Louisiana officials, as well as businesses and homeowners, have argued that the levees must be improved to protect against Category 5 storms if the New Orleans metropolitan area hopes to persuade people to return.

Such improvements would require federal funding. Early estimates run as high as $32 billion, and it would take up to 30 years to complete the work.

For now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is rebuilding the levees for Category 3 storm protection – or as strong as they were supposed to be before Katrina.

DNC Chairman Howard Dean Calls on Bush Administration to Honor Promises to Katrina Survivors

Washington, DC – Today, local officials are scheduled to testify before a House committee about the government’s failed response to Hurricane Katrina. At the same time activists and clergy will hold a rally in Washington to call on President Bush and the federal government to honor their commitment to rebuilding America’s communities and helping our fellow Americans who were displaced by the storm.

Three months after the disaster President Bush and the Republican Congress have yet to follow through on the promises made by the President. To add insult to injury, the Republican controlled Congress has seen fit to leave large presents under the tree for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans in the form of a tax break, while many Katrina survivors remain without housing during the holiday season.

Even more troubling are reports that the Bush Administration recently refused to help a New Orleans utility company, leaving many residents to foot the bill. The Administration claims that it would be inappropriate to help a private company although under similar circumstances they bailed out New York energy company ConEd after September 11th, so consumers would not have to bare the added costs.
We’re Looking To Train 1,000 Louisianians.
Fluor, a Fortune 500 Company and one of the world’s top engineering firms, has been on the ground working in Louisiana for 40 years. And if we’ve learned one thing during that time it’s this: Louisiana workers are some of the best in the world. Right now, we’re aiming to train up to 1,000 Louisianians looking to rebuild their lives and this great state after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Fluor Craft Skills Scholarship Program will provide you with training that could lead to a lifelong career in the construction and maintenance industry. We’re talking about over 100 hours of training at no charge. If you have lost your job because of the hurricanes, or if you simply want to begin a new career with a future, visit www.jobs2help.com, or call 888-STAFF-ME or 225-391-2800.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have an established residence within the storm-affected area. Must be registered with FEMA, the American Red Cross or another government-approved relief agency. Must be available for immediate job placement. Fluor is an equal opportunity employer.
Renewing a community is challenging. But, with perseverance, patience and persistence, those challenges can be met by bringing people together to rebuild homes, restore buildings, reopen businesses and make transportation available and accessible to everyone. As you look toward recovery, know that you are in the thoughts of all of us here at GMAC, the financial services people of General Motors.

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