

THE DAILY ADVERTISER

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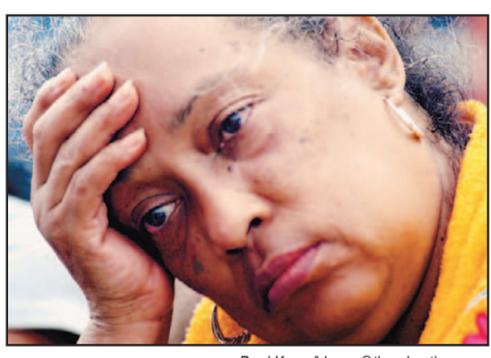
Andrew West/The Daily Advertiser/Gannett News Service

Anna Kwasnik, 25, a resident of New Orleans, lies on the lap of her mother, Ann, on Thursday.



Andrew West/The Daily Advertiser/Gannett News Service

Dr. Isfana Ali breaks down Thursday in New Orleans while talking to a family member.



Brad Kemp/bkemp@theadvertiser.com

Lillie Yancy, 62, takes a moment to reflect on the past few days after being airlifted Thursday out of New Orleans.

'SOS'

A ravaged city moves from catastrophe to chaos as thousands of desperate people struggle to survive

First lady to visit Lafayette today

From staff and wire reports

First lady Laura Bush plans to stop today in Lafayette to visit evacuees from Hurricane Katrina being housed at the Cajundome.

Press Secretary Peter Watkins said Bush is tentatively scheduled to tour the shelter at noon.

"She really wanted to do something to bring a message of comfort and hope, while at the same time trying to make as little of an impact as possible," he said. "With the logistics surrounding a visit like this, she doesn't want to distract from the relief effort."

Watkins said this is the only shelter the first lady plans to visit on her way back to Washington, D.C., from her ranch in Crawford, Texas. He did not say See LAFAYETTE on Page 3A



Andrew West/Louisiana Gannett News

Berna Skummy of Arabi is helped off a Louisiana National Guard vehicle Thursday after being picked up in Algiers, a staging area for evacuees who are being transported to another staging area at Interstate 10 and Causeway Boulevard. Skummy says everything her family had was taken by Hurricane Katrina.

Refugees: 'No police, no National Guard, nobody'

Raju Chebium
The Daily Advertiser/
Gannett News Service

METAIRIE — Exhausted, sweaty and furious, Donna Simmons sat alongside Interstate 10 leading into New Orleans and recounted how she and her family felt betrayed by the authorities who promised but failed to speedily rescue them from the rising flood waters unleashed by

Hurricane Katrina.

"We were stuck in our house for 2 1/2 days. No clothes. Nothing. No food," Simmons said Thursday, as her 62-year-old mother, Lillie Yancy, leaned on her shoulder and clutched a blanket around her shoulders in the sizzling heat and humidity. "Our neighbor took his boat out and rescued us. The Coast Guard said they would come back, but they never

came back. No police, no National Guard, nobody."

As the 41-year-old Simmons spoke, Army and Coast Guard helicopters clattered overhead, garbage lay strewn around her, and paramedics, police officers and gun-toting National Guardsmen unloaded hospital patients and stranded residents at the intersection of I-10 and

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Brad Kemp/bkemp@theadvertiser.com

Evacuees wait to be transported out of the city Thursday at the staging area in New Orleans.

Cajundome shelter full, city leaders say

Beverly Corbell
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Like many of the thousands of Hurricane Katrina refugees finding shelter at the Cajundome on Thursday, Jonathan Camese doesn't know what he'll do next.

Camese, who had hardly eaten in days, arrived at the 'Dome about 2 p.m. Thursday along with about 50 others in a bus marked "Orleans Parish

Schools." He and his cousin, Terckia Alexander, had to walk across the Crescent City Connection, which connects New Orleans to Gretna, to escape the chaos of the city. When asked where he lived, his answer was telling.

"On a bridge on I-10," he said. "That's where we been for the last three days. We finally gave up

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TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 92
Low: 74
Partly sunny with some thunderstorms possible.
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Our thoughts & prayers are with all the victims of hurricane Katrina