



7739638 IP
11261693 pages
(since 02/10/2002)

Newsletter :



- Actions
- Art and Culture
- Authors
- Bellaciao
- Environment
- Health-Social
- International
- Knowledge
- Media
- Politics
- Right
- Society



By Matt Lechien

Bellaciao - hosted by



Articles

September Thursday 15th 2005 (22h41) :

FEMA workers must be arrested! They did not 'Fail', they intentionally withheld lifesaving supplies!



"To me, it was like being in hell," said Carl Warner, the chief engineer for Methodist Hospital in the hard-hit eastern part of New Orleans. "There were bodies floating in the water outside the building, and our staffers had to swim through that water to get fuel for the generator."

The patients and staff at Methodist could have been evacuated before Hurricane Katrina hit. But instead they were condemned to several days of fear and agony by bad decision-making in Louisiana and the chaotic ineptitude of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Some of the patients died.

Incredibly, when the out-of-state corporate owners of the hospital responded to the flooding by sending emergency relief supplies, they were confiscated at the airport by FEMA and sent elsewhere.

The time to evacuate the hospital was when it became clear that New Orleans was in the path of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane. "We had about 137 patients," said Dr. Jeffrey Coco, the hospital's chief of staff, "and we had a company called Lifeguard that was going to take them out."

But apparently there was a reluctance to evacuate without some sort of governmental guidance. When the mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, issued a mandatory evacuation order, hospitals were exempted. Dr. Fred Cerise, secretary of Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospitals, said Methodist officials could have decided on their own to evacuate, but that never happened.

Some of the patients were extremely ill, requiring ventilators or dialysis treatment or major surgery. When the hurricane hit, part of the roof blew

Associated keyword(s) :

- ▶ Catastrophes
- ▶ Collective Bellaciao
- ▶ USA

▶ Bellaciao's editos



▶ Donation

▶ Last comments

Publish here

▶ **Witnesses Heard Levee Explosion**

September Friday 16th -01:57
de : Gary Mason, Globe & Mail
1 comment(s).

▶ **A Sausage - Looted or No - Lands Elderly Church Leader in Prison**

September Friday 16th -00:30
de : Kevin McGill and John Solomon
2 comment(s).

▶ **The Danziger Bridge incidents**

September Friday 16th -00:17
de : Xymphora

▶ **Locals, Officials Suggest Levees were Intentionally Blown**

September Thursday 15th - 23:07
de : Steve Watson/Prison Planet
1 comment(s).

▶ **FEMA workers must be arrested! They did not 'Fail' they intentionally withheld lifesaving supplies!**

September Thursday 15th - 22:41
de : BOB HERBERT

▶ **WHICH GOD ARE YOU UNDER?**

September Thursday 15th - 20:41
de : peter fredsbil
3 comment(s).

▶ **New Orleans: "Eyes Wide Shut"**

September Thursday 15th - 20:22
de : magic bullet
1 comment(s).

▶ **Western view of Islam: A troubled history**

September Thursday 15th - 16:13
de : Soumayya Ghannoushi
2 comment(s).

▶ **Congressman Jefferson Must Resign**

September Thursday 15th - 08:41
de : Jennifer Monroe
5 comment(s).

▶ **Great Apes Doomed to Extinction for Want of**

off, windows were blown out, the atrium was badly damaged and the hospital was drenched with rain. On Monday night the power went out, and on Tuesday, after the levees broke, the first floor became hopelessly flooded.

By midweek you had a bizarre situation in which hundreds of people (patients, doctors, nurses, administrative staffers, relatives and people seeking emergency shelter) were stranded, cut off from the rest of the world, in a badly damaged hospital in a major American city.

Staffers with flashlights worked heroically in a sodden, stench-filled environment in which temperatures reached 110 degrees. Elevators did not work, and some patients weighing more than 400 pounds had to be carried up dark, reeking staircases. When ventilators shut down with the loss of power, volunteers worked in shifts to do the difficult hand-pumping necessary to keep patients alive.

Nevertheless, according to Dr. Albert Barrocas, the chief medical officer, the decline in the well-being of the patients was both palpable and widespread. "All of them were deteriorating in the sense of becoming weak," he said. "You could see in their faces the fact that they were scared."

By Tuesday evening four patients had died, and a dozen were dead by the time the hospital was finally evacuated Friday. Doctors believe half of the deaths were caused by the dreadful conditions in the hospital.

Everybody's suffering would have been eased if the emergency relief effort mounted by the hospital's owner, Universal Health Services in King of Prussia, Pa., had not been interfered with by FEMA. Company officials sent desperately needed water, food, diesel fuel to power the hospital's generators and helicopters to ferry in the supplies and evacuate the most vulnerable individuals.

Bruce Gilbert, Universal's general counsel, told me yesterday, "Those supplies were in fact taken from us by FEMA, and we were unable to get them to the hospital. We then determined that it would be better to send our supplies, food and water to Lafayette [130 miles from New Orleans] and have our helicopters fly them from Lafayette to the hospital."

Significant relief began to reach the hospital on Thursday, and by Friday evening everyone had been removed from the ruined premises. They had endured the agonies of the damned, and for all practical purposes had been abandoned by government at all levels.


When you consider that the Methodist Hospital experience was just one small part of the New Orleans catastrophe, you get a sense of the size of the societal failure that we allowed to happen.

Welcome to the United States in 2005.

FEMA has committed crimes against humanity-they must be held accountable! read more

[Pattern Emerges in Katrina Lack of Response Stories](#)

**De : BOB HERBERT
September Thursday 15th 2005**

 [Post a Comment](#)

 [Send to a friend](#)

Budgetary Scraps from West

September Thursday 15th - 06:35
de : B.Z. Bywydd
[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Chertoff delayed federal response, memo shows**

September Thursday 15th - 05:28
de : TruthBeFree
[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Is St. Rita's Subject to the Rules of the Free Market?**

September Thursday 15th - 05:21
de : LightUpTheDarkness.org
[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Disaster Capitalism in New Orleans**

September Wednesday 14th - 21:18
de : Xymphora
[2 comment\(s\)](#).

► **The Great New Orleans Land Grab-The 17th Street Canal levee was breached on purpose**

September Wednesday 14th - 21:13
de : Ernesto Cienfuegos
[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **WHO BLEW IT?**

September Wednesday 14th - 20:43
de : peter fredsisb
[2 comment\(s\)](#).

► **America's Battered Wife Syndrome**

September Wednesday 14th - 18:47
de : Gail Thomas
[9 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Bush on KATRINA response: Blame me**

September Wednesday 14th - 11:05
de : TruthBeFree
[4 comment\(s\)](#).

► **President Says He's Responsible in Storm Lapses**

September Wednesday 14th - 10:59
de : TruthBeFree

► **What was Congressman Jefferson doing?**

September Wednesday 14th - 05:12
de : frogfeet
[5 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Watch Who's Cleaning Up- War Profiteers switch gears to Katrina Catastrophe**

September Wednesday 14th - 04:40
de : Charlie Cray
[2 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Questions raised about whether Red Cross provided adequate relief-directed funds to Katrina victims**

September Wednesday 14th - 04:32
de : Jennifer Van Bergen

► **Hurricane Katrina and the war in Iraq- It is time for a debate on our Nation's priorities**

September Wednesday 14th - 04:18
de : Senator Byrd
[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Congressional report**

finds Governor Blanco took necessary steps before Katrina, Bush caught napping

September Wednesday 14th - 04:13

de : John Byrne

[4 comment\(s\)](#).

► **End of the World Cocktails & Apocalyptic Tips**

September Wednesday 14th - 02:41

de : B.Z. Bywydd

[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **From a psychologist First hand reaction to Katrina refuges**

September Wednesday 14th - 01:36

de : Anne Gervasi

► **Over 100 trucks await orders from FEMA to bring water to NOLA "They've got their thumbs up their ass"**

September Wednesday 14th - 01:24

de : Food Not Bombs

► **FEMA, La. outsource Katrina body count to firm implicated in body-dumping scandals**

September Wednesday 14th - 01:22

de : Raw Story

[2 comment\(s\)](#).

► **As bodies recovered, reporters are told 'no photos, no stories'**

September Wednesday 14th - 01:06

de : Cecilia M. Vega

[3 comment\(s\)](#).

► **English Translation of Lyrics to Bella Ciao**

September Tuesday 13th - 22:31

de : Michael P. Wright

[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **HATRED OR UNDYING LOVE?**

September Tuesday 13th - 20:26

de : peter fredsb

[2 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Leftists win elections in Norway**

September Tuesday 13th - 18:18

de : OSLO, NORWAY

[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Let's Make Sure Presiden Bush Doesn't Survive Katrina**

September Tuesday 13th - 08:07

de : Rob McKay

[11 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Liberty Rings on 9-11**

September Tuesday 13th - 07:40

de : Michael Callis

[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Out of the Deadly Waters of New Orleans a New Awareness Rises**

September Tuesday 13th - 05:41

de : B.Z. Bywydd

[5 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Bush's America**

September Tuesday 13th - 03:41

de : Mike

[3 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Bush Hating 101**

September Monday 12th -

23:01
de : Rebel VonRasta
[44 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Hurricane Katrina should invalidate the right of George Bush to appoint Supreme Court Justices**

September Monday 12th - 22:14

de : George Lakoff
[10 comment\(s\)](#).

► **It's time for the Democrats to rise up and stop doing business as usual**

September Monday 12th - 22:06

de : BUZZFLASH EDITORIAL

► **If I am not Venezuelan, then neither is Hugo Chavez**

September Monday 12th - 21:52

de : Juan Jaramillo
[1 comment\(s\)](#).

► **Cynthia McKinney censored in congressional record- Is someone afraid of the word IMPEACHMENT?**

September Monday 12th - 18:52

de : Rep. Cynthia McKinney
[16 comment\(s\)](#).

► [All articles](#)

[top](#) | [home](#) | [webmestre](#)

[ressources bellacio](#)



[EN](#) / [FR](#) / [Musique \(fr\)](#) / [Travail Social \(fr\)](#) / [IT](#) / [ES](#)

Bellacio hosted by

