



Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina fill the streets near downtown New Orleans in this Aug. 30, 2005, file photo. Despite billions of dollars in aid, recovery programs with catchy names and an outpouring of volunteer effort, two years later, much of New Orleans has still yet to recover from the fury of the storm. (AP photo/David J. Phillip, file)

Katrina's painful legacy still lingers in New Orleans

Allen G. Breed and Cain Burdeau

NEW ORLEANS — Two years after Hurricane Katrina, much of the "city that care forgot" still lies in ruins.

There may be hope, but there are few assurances for the recovering Big Easy.

"For every positive that's going on in New Orleans right now, there's a negative, there's a concern," says Reed Kroloff, who until recently was dean of the school of architecture at Tulane University.

The failure of federally funded, state-administered recovery programs to quickly take hold and the city's struggle to define and fund plans for neighborhood redevelopment have shaken confidence about New Orleans' short-term future. Mayor Ray

Nagin favors a "market-driven" recovery of the city. Critics say he has not made the tough decisions necessary to get planning for the city's future moving into high gear.

There are geophysical challenges ahead, too. By 2015, parts of New Orleans will have subsided nearly an additional 8 inches. The city filled up like a bowl when Katrina broke levees on Aug. 29, 2005. Roughly 240 more square miles of the eroding wetlands that protect the city from storm surge will be gone by 2015.

If the Army Corps of Engineers has its way, and billions in federal funds don't get siphoned off by war or another natural disaster, those who remain should be better protected from flooding by 2015.

To the east, a massive levee-and-floodgate structure rising out of the

brackish marsh should block the surge from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, or MR-GO. To the north, new floodgates and pumping stations would prevent a surge from Lake Pontchartrain and prevent a repeat of the failures along the city's drainage canals.

Health care challenges and the dearth of affordable housing will continue to influence the pace of recovery.

Nearly half of the hospitals open **Katrina**, continued to page 22

Feds' report says BU biolab safe for S. End

Dan Devine

In a report released last week, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) concluded that a biocontainment laboratory being built by Boston University to study life-threatening diseases poses no threat to the safety of residents in the surrounding South End neighborhood.

The study attempted to address concerns raised by opponents to the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL), commonly referred to as the "biolab," in lawsuits filed last year.

Local activists have for some time alleged that locating the lab on Albany Street adjacent to Boston University Medical Center (BUMC) would unnecessarily place low-income and minority residents in the area at a serious health risk, and that BU and NIH moved ahead with the biolab project without considering potential alternative sites owned by the university.

In response to a judge's decision calling for further review, NIH tapped researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo to develop computer models that would simulate the release of Ebola virus, Sabia virus, monkeypox virus and Rift Valley Fever (RVF) virus to predict who in each of three communities — the South End, Tyngsborough, Mass.,

and Peterborough, N.H. — would become infected, as well as where they would be infected, when they would be infected and what would happen.

The review aimed to answer three questions: what, if any, risks would be posed by an accident involving an infectious agent during the lab's operation; whether locating the lab in an urban, suburban or rural setting

would affect the transmission and spread of disease should such an accident take place; and whether the surrounding "environmental justice" — meaning "low-income and minority" — communities would be disproportionately affected by an accident as a result of having the biolab lo-

Results showed that the South End communities near the proposed site were not disproportionately affected by the biolab's presence on Albany Street.

cated nearby.

Results of the simulated scenarios, which exaggerated risks to force infections beyond the laboratory, showed that there was no difference in simulated disease transmission among the three communities for Ebola, monkeypox or Sabia virus; that the population size in each community did not affect the rate of transmission of the viruses; and that the South End communities near the proposed site were not disproportionately affected by the biolab's presence on Albany Street.

In addition, the simulations indi- **Biolab**, continued to page 10

BU program helps small business owners

Jin-ah Kim

As president of an express delivery business, Scott Baker knows that time is money. Unfortunately, the demands of running a company make it difficult for Baker to earn a master's degree in business administration.

"I work a lot," said Baker, the 45-year-old African American president of Skycom Courier/RTD Logistics LLC. "So time is not really an asset that I have to go [through] a regular MBA program."

Thankfully for folks like Baker who have to balance the day-to-day respon-

sibilities of work with advancing their business training, the InnerCity Entrepreneurs (ICE) program provides an attractive alternative.

ICE is a nine-month long certificate program sponsored by Boston University School of Management that caters mainly to inner-city business owners and minorities. Since joining ICE in January, Baker has learned more about business from 15 other students, all of whom are established urban small business owners in Boston.

"The way the founders designed the program is [to] make it rigorous **ICE**, continued to page 8



Participants in the Boston Neighborhoods Healthy Families program at Crittenton Women's Union share a smile. The program — open to first-time parents under the age of 20 at the time of their referral that are pregnant or parenting a

child 3 years old or younger — focuses on health, well-being and parenting relationships. Parents participate while Healthy Families staff members and volunteers provide childcare. (Photo courtesy of Crittenton Women's Union)

What's INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT . . . 16-17
BILLBOARD 18

LISTINGS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 24
CALENDAR 23
CHURCH GUIDE 25

PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL 4
OPINION 5
ROVING CAMERA 5

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED 29-31
LEGALS 26-27
REAL ESTATE 27-29