



Bill Finley

2000+ Living the New Millennium

REBUILDING AFTER KATRINA A Process They Won't Have

Based on my first-hand, on-the-ground, three years experience as Executive Director of the Homestead Redevelopment Agency after Hurricane Andrew, I can attest that many of the neighborhoods in New Orleans will not be rebuilt over the next decade. My additional stint in flood-ravaged eastern North Carolina proved again that water-soaked homes, filled with deadly swill over a week or more, will assuredly have to be demolished or rebuilt one-by-one.

FEMA's job is to rush (?) in and provide food, water, emergency funds and "temporary housing." They are not chartered by Congress to either provide technical assistance to crippled communities or to link evacuees up with sources of funds to rebuild.



City and County governments charged with Emergency Management ring the alarms, provide buses to get out and guide rescue operations. They are not equipped nor do they have funds to tackle the job of a one-on-one personal family counseling on how to get a less-than-rich family back into their home and neighborhood.

To add to the depth of the situation, lower income folks couldn't afford flood insurance and, it is now being found, even if they did, some insurance companies are declining to pay or delay payment to ascertain whether the brutal damage was done by God's wind or God's flood.

What's Needed: An Organization with Money, the Know-how and the Heart To Get It Done: THE GULF COAST RECOVERY FUND

- Its three major jobs would be:
1. Finding and counseling 100,000 individuals and families scattered all around the South to determine where they lived and what and where they owned or rented.
 2. Setting up the 100,000 case files,

determining the physical and financial needs based on detailed inspections and estimates, and matching the requirements of the people with the places.

3. Supervision of Design and Construction with local and imported talent, arranging for payments and leading toward getting the folks back in. This humongous task will cost up to \$10 Billion (not very much, all things considered) and about 75% will come from private lenders. The \$2.5 Billion needed to match those funds needs to be flexible, socially-oriented and not tied up in typical bureaucracy.

No government can do those tasks because it will take a very strong, consistent, six-days-a-week intensity for several years, not generally consistent with public employment. I proposed that a Board of Directors of the five top officials of the major private non-profit foundations currently engaged in low-income housing and neighborhood improvements be given the leadership task. They would be free to hire the best, most-dedicated people they can find, pay them properly and get the ball rolling.

I guarantee that no one involved in the current hurry-scurry on the Gulf Coast sees this task as their job. There will be plenty of money for levees, bridges, highways, schools, etc. but the real heart of New Orleans lies in the spirits, history and style of its people. Housing on Federal land at some distance from the City is not the answer.

This proposal was sent to Gov. Jeb Bush in the hope he would see the essentiality of the concept and send it upstairs. But, everyone in Washington and in New Orleans seems to be spending a lot of time pointing their forefingers in all directions.

IF YOU AGREE WITH THIS CONCEPT AND KNOW SOMEONE UP THERE, SEND IT TO THEM. MAYBE THE LITTLE PEOPLE CAN REALLY HELP!

Bill Finley is a Futurist, Urban Planner, Gerontologist and Author. Letters should be mailed to "2000 Plus," c/o Boomer Times & Senior Life, 1515 N. Federal Hwy., #300, Boca Raton, FL 33432 or email: srlife@gate.net.

Pioneers of Primetime...continued from page 34

And when television arrived, it was the very same group of comedians who created masterpieces from an empty canvas. Sadly, most of the performers interviewed for "PIONEERS OF PRIMETIME" have since passed away. For many, these interviews were their final on-camera appearances. Many had never before spoken retrospectively about their careers.



Even today, their influence can be seen every night. That's because modern television comedy isn't quite as edgy and innovative as we've been led to believe. All the characters and genres of today's TV comedy were worked out more than a half-century ago—by a small group of comic geniuses.

This is their story ... "PIONEERS OF PRIMETIME."

Ask Genevieve

Let's take a look at my mail for this month:

Dear Genevieve,

It's hurricane season down there in Florida where you live. Are you afraid of thunderstorms? My own dogs are. What do you do when they hit?

— *Love from Janice, a human fan*

Dear Janice,

Yes, I hate thunderstorms. I wish the humans would outlaw them. During storms I used to shake a lot and follow Denny and Katrina around the house. But this year I've got a new trick: I jump into the bathtub and hide behind the curtain. The first time I did this Denny saw me and said, "That is so sad and pitiful." But Katrina reminded Denny that I'm doing exactly what the Weather Channel recommends. So, as usual, he's the dumb one.

— *Kibbles and Kisses, Genevieve*



Genevieve, our canine columnist

Dear Genevieve,

I'm part husky and I live in Minnesota. My favorite season is winter, because I love to run around in the ice and snow. My dream is to pull a sled in the Iditarod race. Have you ever seen that on TV, and if so, what do you think of it?

By the way, I think you're hot and would love to get together some time.

— *Love, Tundra*

Dear Tundra,

You are one sick puppy. I've experienced some brutal cold snaps down here in Florida, when the temperature plunged below 65 degrees, and I knew that my life was in danger. I couldn't get back inside fast enough. And, yes, I've seen that Iditarod race on TV, and I think it's perverted. The humans should be crawling around in the snow pulling the dogs. You should contact your Husky union and see if they can't do something about that.

By the way, thank you for the compliment, but unless you're planning on coming to Florida sometime, taking a romantic walk in a blizzard is not on my "to do" list.

— *Kibbles and Kisses, Genevieve*

Eiffel Press, Publisher of the pet classic "Memoirs of a Papillon: The Canine Guide to Living with Humans without Going Mad"; and "A Tongue in the Sink: The Harrowing Adventures of a Baby Boomer Childhood." Call 941-918-0411 or go to www.dogtellsall.com

Rescue Dogs— Worth Their Weight In Gold!

By Tom Blair



Search and rescue dogs were first used by monks in the Swiss Alps in the 1800s. St. Bernards were trained to find people in the snow. Barry, a famous rescue dog, saved over 40 people from an icy death.

In England, bloodhounds (trailing dogs) were used to track down criminals as early as the 15th century. The most famous bloodhound, Nick Carter, was responsible for the arrest of hundreds of criminals between 1900-1910.

Since the 1960s, the United States Police Force has trained dogs for search and rescue, trailing and customs work. Bloodhounds and German shepherds have tracked down criminals, uncovered untold amounts of illegal drugs, and even discovered bombs. Beagles are also used at airports to sniff out drugs and illegal foods.

Dogs are used for search and rescue in many parks with large wooded areas. They have trailed and rescued many children and adults who have wandered away from their campsites.

During earthquakes, tornadoes and other catastrophic events, disaster response units are deployed. People working in conjunction with their trusted friend, the dog, have saved countless lives and are now at the frontline of defense.

If you see one of the teams at work, rest assured your safety is in good paws.

Tom is a nationally syndicated columnist specializing in antiques, cuisine and pets. He can be reached at TomBlairScribe@aol.com
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**The largest
McDonald's is in
Beijing, China.
It has 2 kitchens,
29 cash registers,
and seats for more
than 700 people.**

(From: *Random Kinds of Factness*)



Look For Our November Issue

- **CHANGE YOUR HAIR COLOR?** Celebrities, like Sarah Jessica Parker, often change their hair color to keep up with the latest fashion and beauty trends.

- **SUNFLOWER SEEDS—BEST SOURCE OF VITAMIN E**

The seeds are rich in fiber, which can reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

- **PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY—ONLINE AND OFFLINE**

Don't be one of the almost 10 million Americans who became victims of identity fraud.

- **HOW TO DRESS LIKE A CELEBRITY FOR LESS**

Online consignment boutiques, also known as e-tiques, offer authentic, immaculate designer shoes, handbags, accessories and clothing for up to 75% off.