

Oil slick drifts shoreward; Navy pledges full assistance



"Remember that big push you were going to make to bring grades up? It's about time to start it"

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Patches of an oil slick nearly as large as the state of Rhode Island drifted to within 12 miles of northeast Florida beaches Thursday. The U.S. Navy, which dumped the oil, set up a task force "to assist in every way possible."

Harmon Shields, director of the Florida Marine Resources Department, said the main body of oil still was 23 miles offshore at mid-day Thursday. But he reported one patch of about 100 acres had drifted within 12 miles of Ponte Vedra Beach, a wealthy oceanfront community south of Jacksonville Beach.

Another patch was 17 miles out, Shields said after flying over the area.

The 500,000 gallons of oil, which threatened 135 miles of shoreline from the Georgia border to Daytona Beach, was dumped Monday night by two Navy barges 55 miles at sea.

"I assume that at least part of the oil is that from those barges," said Capt. Don Dietz, commanding officer of Mayport Naval Station, which dispatched the barges.

Dietz was named by Rear Adm. Lawrence Heyworth Jr., commander of the Jacksonville Navy complex, to head the task force which will work with state and city governments in fighting the petroleum pollution.

Dietz said he had ordered the oil dumped under a 1924 law repealed earlier this year.

"Under normal conditions," he said, "the oil would have been scattered and hardly noticed." But calm seas kept the sludge in a surface mass.

Heyworth pledged all men and equipment under his control.

Shields asked the Navy and other federal agencies not to dump chemicals on the oil in an effort to break up the mass.

"There is no known chemical that will break down the oil without harming the fishing areas," he said.

Elgin White, director of information for the Department of Natural Resources, said a plan had been prepared to launch a cleanup operation if the oil washed ashore.

"If it gets to shore we'll just have to use the materials that are available to us in cleaning it up and soaking it up," he said.

Dietz said Wednesday that the Navy at Mayport has been in the habit of dumping its oil wastes more than 50 miles at sea about eight times a year, but usually it consisted of 90 per cent water.

Mike Wenzel, a Jacksonville waste oil dealer, said he tried to find a buyer for this batch and ran tests which he said showed it more than 90 per cent oil and less than 10 per cent water.

Because it had 1.6 per cent sulphur content, he said, he found no market for it.

A 1924 law under which Dietz said the dumping had been taking place, was repealed by the federal Water Quality Improvement Act signed by President Nixon on April 3. The new law prohibits dumping oil, including sludge, in harmful quantities within 50 miles of shore. It says nothing about waters farther out.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
SCONA XVI will meet at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 3B-C and the Art Room of the MSC to discuss the Christmas fund drive.

Petroleum Engineers Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 211 of the Doherty Building to hear L. E. Bartlett of Atlantic Richfield's North American producing division speak on drilling and production problems on the north Alaskan slopes.

Rio Grande Valley Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in rooms 2C-D of the MSC to discuss Christmas activities.

Ag Eco Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 112-112 of the Plant Sciences Building to elect officers.

TUESDAY
Orange County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC to have a picture for the Aggieldand taken. Class A winter or coat and tie should be worn.

WEDNESDAY
Range Science Department will sponsor a lecture by Dr. D. N. Hyder of the Crops Research Division, ARS Crops Research Laboratory on "Growth and Development in Range Grasses" at 7:30 p.m. in room 113 of the Plant Sciences Building.

Abilene Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Academic Building.

THURSDAY
Port Arthur Hometown Club

will meet at 8 p.m. in the MSC lobby to have pictures taken for The Aggieldand. Dress is class A winter (or midnights) or coat and tie.

Panhandle Area Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in room 2D of the MSC.

Houston Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 3B of the MSC to collect ticket sales money and have Aggieldand pictures taken.

Mid-County Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the MSC lobby to have pictures taken for The Aggieldand.

San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. on the steps of the MSC to have Aggieldand pictures taken. Sweet-heart applications must be turned in at the meeting.

Computer Science Wives Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Bob Anderson, 1114 Sul Ross in Bryan, for the annual Christmas "Tasting Bee" and caroling party. PhD diplomas and A&M charms will be presented to departing members and new officers will be elected. All except departing members are asked to bring samples of their favorite Christmas baked items and recipe for same.

Elementary Education and Kindergarten Student Teachers will hold an Idea Fair at 7:30 p.m. in room 401 of the Academic Building.

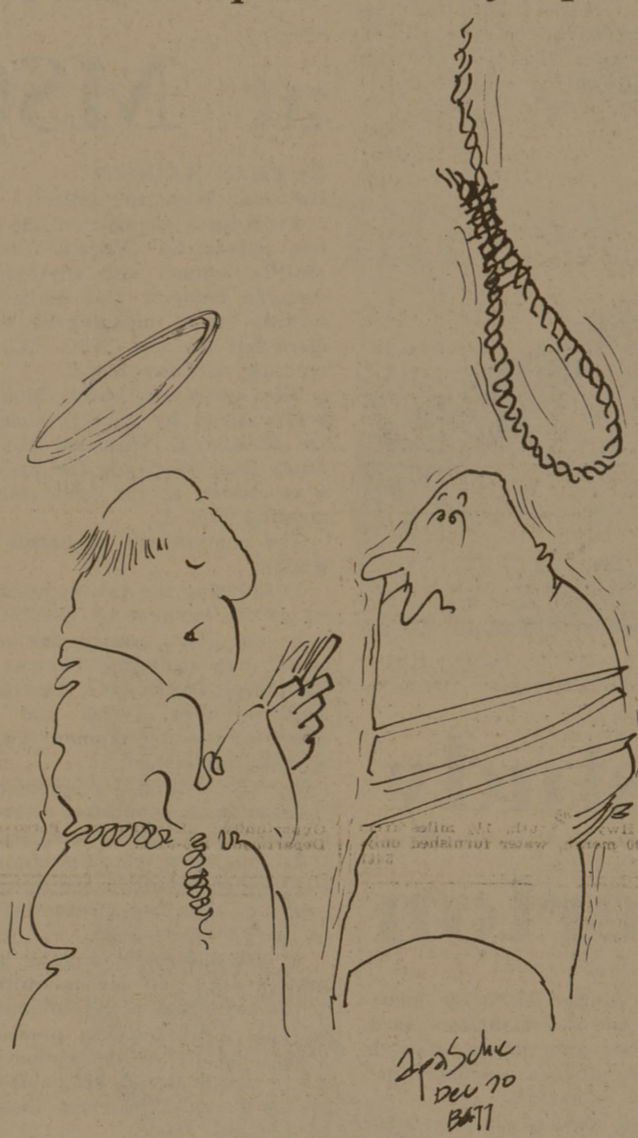
on the tube

Numbers in () denote channels on the cable.

2:30	3 (5)	Edge of Night
	15 (12)	Sesame Street (PBS)
3:00	3 (5)	Gomer Pyle
3:30	3 (5)	Town Talk
	15 (12)	University Instructional
4:00	3 (5)	Dark Shadows
4:30	3 (5)	Bewitched
	15 (12)	What's New (NET)
5:00	3 (5)	General Hospital
	15 (12)	Misterogers' Neighborhood (NET)
5:30	3 (5)	CBS News
	15 (12)	Sesame Street (PBS)
6:00	3 (5)	Evening News
6:30	3 (5)	Beverly Hillbillies
	15 (12)	Campus and Community Today
7:00	3 (5)	Green Acres
	15 (12)	Folk Guitar (ETS)
7:30	3 (5)	Billy Graham
	15 (12)	Black Journal (NET)
8:30	3 (5)	To Rome with Love
	15 (12)	Viewpoint
9:00	3 (5)	Marcus Welby, MD
	15 (12)	The Advocates (PBS)
10:00	3 (5)	Final News
10:30	3 (5)	Movie — Weekend of Terror

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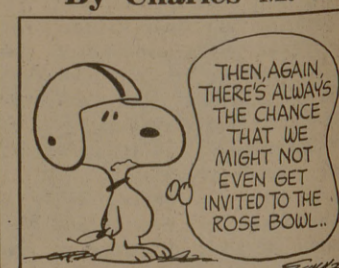
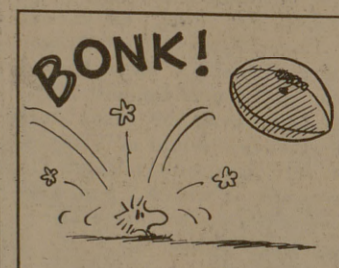
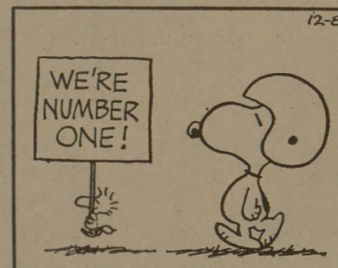
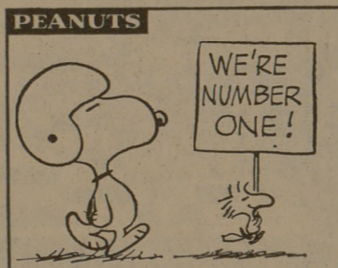
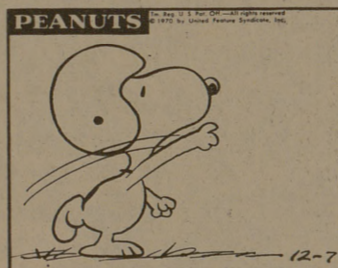


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