

Debra causes rain and floods

United Press International
SABINE PASS — Residents along the extreme southeast Texas coastline were spared the brunt of tropical storm Debra which moved on their Louisiana neighbors. The storm moved ashore Monday night in Cameron Parish with winds of up to 80 mph at some points. No deaths or injuries were reported after the storm made landfall, but at least one death has been blamed on the stormy weather about 30 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Authorities said Danny G. Jackson, 27, of Mansboro, was washed off a rig in the gulf by a 15-foot wave. Hundreds of oil and gas rig workers and thousands of Louisianians fled inland as the storm intensified in the Gulf of Mexico Monday afternoon. Heavy rains produced some flooding in coastal cities on both sides of the Texas-Louisiana border, but officials in Sabine Pass reported no problems from the storm. "There hasn't been anything here," said a coast guard spokesman Monday night. He said there were no complications with offshore oil and gas rigs that he was aware of. A spokeswoman for the Beaumont Police Department reported a little more than 3 inches of rain triggered by Debra which touched off some minor flooding and a resulted in a number of minor traffic accidents. Other than that she said there were no major problems. "There were no tornadoes, just heavy rain," she said. Fears of more flash flooding and death in the Hill Country like that triggered by tropical storm Amelia earlier this month appeared ungrounded.

"We really don't anticipate any problem with this storm," said Frank Cox, of the Governor's Division of Disaster Emergency Services in Austin. "This one's staying on the coast," he said. "It went east of us which was one advantage," he said, "and the other advantage was there was no Pacific moisture inflow in this one. "We had a lot of that during the other."

High tides caused along the southeast Texas Gulf Coast promoted authorities Monday evening to close a 33-mile stretch of state Highway 87 between Sabine Pass and High Island. It was expected to be reopened by this morning after debris was cleared, said a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety in Beaumont.

In addition, a state highway department spokesman in Beaumont said the road along the beach in Jefferson County would remain closed until tides recede and debris was cleared. Tides were running up to 5 feet above normal in a gale warning area from Galveston to Grand Isle, Louisiana, the National Weather Service in Miami reported late Monday.

The weather service said tornadoes and heavy rains up to 6 inches could be expected over Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas as the center moved farther inland Tuesday but gale warnings were dropped for the Texas coast at 11 p.m. Monday and most of the inclement weather for the state appeared to have dissipated.

New pope to begin papacy

No coronation ceremony

United Press International
VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul I has decided to begin his pontificate with neither coronation nor enthronement, but simply by celebrating mass Sunday for the world's 700 million Roman Catholics, the Vatican said Tuesday.

The announcement said the 65-year-old former Cardinal Albino Luciani, elected pontiff three days ago, will celebrate a solemn mass in St. Peter's Square at 6 p.m. (noon EDT) Sunday, "to mark the beginning of his ministry as supreme pastor."

This will replace the ancient coronation ceremony in which pontiffs for centuries received a towering gold and silver triple crown inscribed with the words: "Receive this tiara adorned with three crowns and know that you are the father of princes and kings, guide of the world and vicar upon earth of Christ Jesus our Savior."

He first told aides he wanted the coronation replaced with a simpler "enthronement," then decided in favor of a mass and nothing else. It was John Paul's decision on the

procedure for his investiture that caused problems. Sources at the Vatican said John Paul felt uncomfortable with the words "coronation" and "enthronement," since they recalled the investiture of secular kings and queens.

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Atty. Gen. Hill asks nuclear disposal veto

United Press International
AUSTIN — Attorney General John Hill Tuesday asked the Department of Energy for veto power on the storage of nuclear waste or the transportation of such waste through Texas.

Hill said the first proposed site for a nuclear waste disposal site was in New Mexico, 25 miles from the Texas border, and that most waste stored there would have to move through Texas. He also said the Energy Department had studied possible storage sites in Randall County in the Panhandle and Anderson County in East Texas.

"We are not seeking a ban on federal nuclear waste disposal projects. We are, however, seeking guarantees that Texas will have the final say over this matter of vital importance to the health, safety and peace of mind of Texans."

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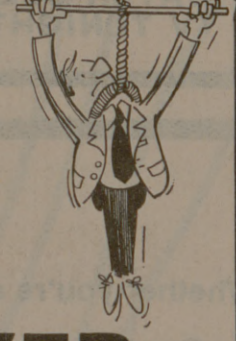
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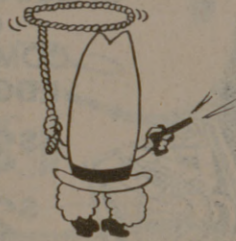
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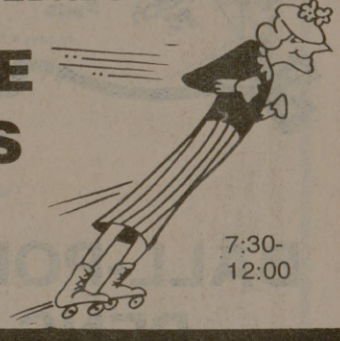


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