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Will we love him tomorrow?

Battalion reviewer Scott Pendleton says performer Dave Mason made true friends at his concert Friday night. And the warm-up group, "Exile," did OK too. See page 6.



Splish, splash and taking a bath

A helpless upperclassman gets blasted with a full trashcan of water with help from some of his fellow Corps members. Cadets responded with enthusiasm last week when "open quadding" was

declared, allowing anyone to quad anyone else between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m.

Photo by J. Wagner Tynes

Mideast troops doubtful, says House leader

WASHINGTON — House Democratic Leader Jim Wright of Texas said Sunday Congress might accept American observers in the Middle East but will not permit U.S. troops to be stationed there. Wright said the U.S. radar observatory presently in the Sinai Desert is the only kind of military presence either Congress or the Egyptians or Israelis would accept. "We are there for the moral persuasion we can bring on both sides," he said on CBS' "Face the Nation" program.

Nevertheless, Wright said he was confident Congress would support whatever might be agreed to at the Camp David summit talks to establish peace.

He said most members of Congress believe Israel must be more flexible, especially with regard to the Sinai settlements, which he termed a "needle in the side" of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

"But I think if the chips were down, Congress and the American people would support Israel in any future confrontation," he said.

On energy, Wright predicted Congress would pass a natural gas deregulation bill, which he said had been delayed by "regionalism and factionalism" and intense lobbying.

"Without that bill, there's no way we'll get a handle on the inflation problem," he said. "I think it's a real bill and also has symbolic importance to the rest of the world."

But he said the legislation is only the first step. Once it's passed, he said, alternate energy resources will have to be found for the day when the nation runs out of oil and natural gas.

Regarding President Carter's relations with Congress, Wright said "the perception has changed but the reality hasn't."

He said the president and Congress have worked closely together for the last 20 months, resulting in unemployment dropping 2 percentage points, the projected budget deficit being the lowest in five years, the stock market up and the rate of inflation beginning to abate.

He dismissed the lack of enthusiasm for Carter by some Democratic congressional candidates by saying, "I can't fathom anyone who would not want the president of the United States in their hometown."

Wright said he does not anticipate a large number of vetoes by the president and noted Carter has vetoed only five bills while former President Ford vetoed 66.

He said Congress would judge each of the vetoes on its individual merits.

Tropical storm moves along Gulf

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Gale warnings were posted along the Texas Gulf coast from Brownsville to Port O'Connor Sunday as a tropical depression gained strength and began moving north.

"Very heavy thunderstorms" were moving through South Texas, said a spokesman for the National Weather Service.

At 6 p.m., radar pictures indicated the center of the depression was located 30 miles west of Brownsville. The tropical depression was moving north at about 10 mph and the NWS said it was expected to move north throughout Sunday night and take a northeast turn Monday.

A police dispatcher at Brownsville said "moderately heavy rain" was falling but "it hasn't gotten too heavy yet. We're expecting it, though, it should be coming this way."

The NWS said the tropical depression had moved inland over northeast Mexico early Sunday and "regained strength late Sunday afternoon as it turned toward the north."

Winds along the Gulf coast picked up speed and some squalls were reported forming. The NWS said, "A few squalls with winds of 40 to 50 mph may be expected in the area of gale warnings Sunday night."

In an advisory the NWS warned, "Heavy rains will spread northward

through South Texas as the depression moves toward the north. A flash flood watch is in effect for part of extreme South Texas and may be extended northward."

Boating enthusiasts were asked to remain in port and the NWS said "it may become necessary to issue flash flood warnings."

A flash flood watch was issued for portions of South Texas — from Laredo to Corpus Christi. The weather service said heavy rains throughout the South Texas area were "associated" with the tropical depression.

Heavy thunderstorms were reported as far northeast as Houston, Rosenberg and Galveston. Rain was also falling near San Antonio, Austin, Victoria, Hondo and Cotulla.

Rig fire burns out of control

NEW ORLEANS — A fire aboard a natural gas drilling platform 50 miles south of the western Louisiana coast will burn out of control for at least two more weeks until a relief well can be drilled, Coast Guard officials said Sunday.

A Coast Guard spokesman said the jack-up rig Marlin No. 6 was on the scene of the Teneco Oil Co., platform and would start drilling the relief well Monday. A relief well is designed to stop the flow of natural gas shooting from the blowout site.

The platform caught fire early Sunday following a blowout that occurred Saturday afternoon. Officials said all employees were evacuated, but two men suffered minor injuries.

Clean Gulf Associates, a team of pollution experts, was placed on standby by Teneco, the Coast Guard spokesman said. Several pipe laying barges also were near the burning platform, pumping water on the hot rig.

The blowout occurred when drill pipe was being removed from a depth of 4,190 feet. Mud and gas began spewing out and attempts to stop the blowout with a preventer were unsuccessful, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

Ex-student's services held

Memorial Services were held in All Faith's Chapel Sunday at Texas A&M for Patrick Wendell Flores, 23. About 50 people attended.

An oil rig near Wellborn collapsed Thursday, killing Flores and injuring two other men.

Flores was an animal science major although he was not enrolled at Texas A&M at the time of his death. He was three hours short of earning his bachelor's degree.

Flores was a member of Alpha Zeta (honorary agricultural society), Rodeo Club, Corps of Cadets, and Fish Drill Team. He was also a Distinguished Student, Guidon Bearer for Company M-1, Personnel Sgt. for Corps Staff and Inspector General.

Funeral services were held Saturday in Stratford, Texas.

ERA first priority

Texas woman seeks impact

WASHINGTON — Sarah Weddington, the White House's new special assistant for women's affairs, says she hopes to have an impact on a wide range of issues, including tax reform and presidential appointments.

In an interview with UPI, Weddington said her first priority would be to work for an extension of time for ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

But Weddington, who now is general counsel at the Agriculture Department and once argued successfully the key abortion case before the Supreme Court, laid out an ambitious roster of other tasks she wants to tackle.

She said she hopes to coordinate with domestic affairs adviser Stuart Eizenstat on other issues, such as tax reform in regard to child care deductions and how a woman's income is treated in a family.

She said she also hopes to work, for instance, on getting women into more jobs in the second round of presidential appointments. The latest figures show 19 percent out of 1,261 presidential appoint-

tees were women — a large increase over previous administrations.

"As a policy I feel it is far better to have women included in what others are doing than it is to have separate women's meetings," said Weddington, noting women make up one of five departmental general counsels.

She also said she did not have a firm strategy on how to work for extending the time for ratifying the ERA beyond meeting with White House congressional liaison Frank Moore "in the next few days" as well as with women's groups and some senators.

"We certainly don't anticipate taking the lead role," she said. "But my role would be to come up with a strategy of what the administration efforts should be in the next six months on the ERA."

Weddington, 33, grew up in West Texas where her father is a Methodist preacher. She graduated from McMurry College and the University of Texas Law School.

She practiced law in Austin and got involved with Roe vs. Wade, the Texas abortion case that she argued before the Supreme Court in 1971 and 1972.

She was elected to three terms in the Texas House starting in 1972 and worked for a wide range of women's issues.

At the Agriculture Department, a top official described her as "absolutely brilliant," smooth, articulate, never insulting or patronizing, who quickly won the confi-

dence of veteran department lawyers.

"You come away from a slight disagreement liking her," the official said.

Weddington said she shares the same view as Carter. "We're trying to get a situation where every woman has all options open to her and is respected for how well she performs hers."

UT fraternity suspended after alleged assault

AUSTIN — The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity has been placed on interim suspension by University of Texas administrators because of a rush party incident in which a student claimed he was beaten and sexually assaulted by members of the fraternity.

David McClintock, UT assistant dean of students, Friday said he would conduct a hearing Sept. 14 to determine how long the suspension would be on.

Ron Alan Wilson, 19, James Patrick Hinson, 19, and Robert Taylor Herrin, 18,

were charged with attempted aggravated sexual abuse.

Michael Froelick, 18, of New Braunfels told police he and a roommate were walking home near the ATO house the night of Aug. 31 when two young men grabbed them and dragged them into nearby bushes. The roommate escaped but Froelick said he was taken to a garage where he was stripped, robbed, beaten and sexually abused.

Assistant District Attorney Charles Hardy said Friday the third-degree felony charges could be changed before they are tried.

Teacher's strike enters third week

NEW ORLEANS — Striking teachers and school board officials, grappling over money issues, were expected to continue separate negotiating sessions with federal mediators Sunday in the third week of a teachers' strike.

The two sides huddled separately for several hours Sunday night, but officials refused to comment on the progress of negotiations, which entered their fourth day today. The strike has virtually paralyzed instruction to the city's 91,000 public school students.

Federal mediator Don Doherty Sunday night said the two sides were not meeting face-to-face, but were allowing him to shuttle viewpoints to each side.

The major obstacle blocking an end to the strike is money. The United Teachers of New Orleans, which represents 4,700 of the city's 5,300 teachers, has demanded an 8 percent salary increase, while the board's best offer so far has been 4 percent.

"They sure as hell are discussing sub-

stantive stuff," Doherty said. "I think the fact that they're still here is progress. The fact that they're meeting separately has no significance. They might never get together. Both sides are working hard trying to find a settlement."

School board officials met briefly Sunday morning with Doherty and mediator Tally Livingston, but then broke off discussions to go into executive session at their administrative headquarters. Superintendent Gene Geisert said he was enforcing a news blackout and refused comment on what the board discussed.

Geisert said last week school attendance had shot back up to 40 percent from lows of about 30 percent. But Nat LaCour, president of UTNO, said more than 50,000 school children were not reporting to school. LaCour also said 85 percent of the teachers were honoring picket lines.

Parents of about 40 students Sunday asked other parents to keep their children home from school until the strike is settled.

"We feel the lack of supervision has reached the point of danger of children's lives and we can't do anything but ask parents to keep their children home," a spokeswoman said. "Children are coming and going as they please and they are virtually unsupervised — they're hanging out of windows and getting into fights."

Geisert, who has been sharply criticized during the strike by teachers for announcing a reduction in the board's wage increase offer from 4 percent to 1.6 percent, was given a vote of confidence by board member Lloyd Rittner.

"The superintendent has been under the specific direction of this board at all times," Rittner said. "He has never been able to use his own judgment in making decisions. The board has always told him what to do."

Injured student in fair condition

A Texas A&M University student was injured in a motorcycle accident Saturday morning at the intersection of FM 2818 and FM 2154.

Jan T. Avery, 24, 301 Krenek Tap in College Station, was driving a 1974 Honda when she collided with a 1968 Plymouth Belvedere traveling south on FM 2154.

Avery, a second-year veterinarian student, is reported in fair condition with a broken leg at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.



Birdman of Kansas

This young man, dressed up as the mascot of the University of Kansas Jayhawks, didn't have much to smile about Saturday at the Texas A&M-Kansas football game. With the temperature on the playing

field around 100 degrees, this had to be a pretty hot job. To make matters worse, his team was defeated 37-10. See related story, page 9.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley