

THE BATTALION

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Weather

Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy with a 40% chance of rain today and 20% tonight. Winds will be 10 m.p.h. Warm and humid with no specific change in temperature.

David weakening, hits Florida coast

United Press International
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Hurricane David, no longer the "diabolical" that killed at least 650 persons in the Caribbean but still a formidable storm, moved slowly up the Florida coast today on a course that threatened Georgia and Carolinas.

As many as 37,000 people fled to evacuation centers to escape the storm's wrath. Hurricane warnings were posted from Panama Beach, Fla., to Charleston, S.C., and a hurricane watch extended to Cape Hatteras, N.C. The National Hurricane Center in Miami said it might be necessary to extend the warnings farther north tomorrow.

At 5 a.m. CDT, the center of Hurricane David was located near latitude 29.6 north and longitude 80.8 west, about 35 miles east of Daytona Beach. It was moving north at 10 mph and was expected to maintain that course and speed during the

morning, keeping the center over the water close to the coast.

Highest winds in the storm, which thundered through the Caribbean last week with 150 mph winds that devastated the islands of Dominica and the Dominican Republic, were estimated at 90 mph over water.

Residents and tourists along the Georgia and South Carolina coasts began leaving the beaches Monday as the storm moved up the coast, pushing strong winds and high tides ahead of it.

Winds up to 85 mph left considerable damage along the Florida coast from Palm Beach to Melbourne Monday and drove hundreds of thousands from their homes to inland refuge, but no deaths or serious injuries were reported.

In Nassau, Joe Edwards of the Bahamas News Bureau, said, "We're digging out from the debris. Most of the damage seems to be confined to light poles and

trees. A number of boats went down, but we don't have a count yet."

Edwards estimated the highest winds that hit Nassau were 80 mph. "It (David) had quite a reputation as it approached the Bahamas. It was bad enough, but not as bad as we anticipated."

Bahamian officials estimated 25,000 tourists — a capacity crowd — jammed Nassau resorts for the Labor Day holiday. Most were unaware that David was coming until Sunday morning.

"There were no problems with the tourists and most of them seemed to enjoy it," Edwards said.

In Washington, President Carter today declared Puerto Rico a major disaster area.

The action will enable an estimated 1,500 homeless families to get financial aid in recovering from the effects of the hurricane.

Labor day speech critical

Clements: interest conflict?

United Press International
MIDLAND — Gov. Bill Clements has a conflict of interest that taints everything he says or does in connection with the Mexican oil spill that has damaged miles of Texas beaches, the president of the Texas AFL-CIO said Monday.

Harry Hubbard, in the text for a Labor Day speech, said the governor clearly put his personal interest above the public interest by opposing filing suit against the parties involved in the oil spill in Campeche Bay.

"His own company, SEDCO, owned and

leased the drilling rig to the drilling contractors. It was an old rig, which may not have been suitable for use at the depth of water in which they were drilling," Hubbard said.

"Bill Clements represents SEDCO, not the people of Texas, in his view of the oil spill."

He said Clements' statement when the oil began washing ashore in Texas that widespread publicity was "much ado about nothing" reflects an attitude typical of the governor's philosophy.

"By refusing to admit that there was a problem, he put off possible solutions for a month and even now it appears that business people and employees in the Gulf Coast vacation industry stand to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in lost income and wages," Hubbard said.

"By opposing the suit Clements opposed fixing the blame for the disaster. He either feared the blame might be traceable to his own company, SEDCO, or feared loss of future business in the lease of drilling rigs to Mexico."

"Either way, Clements' interests clearly are in conflict."

Hubbard said the governor should have demanded that those at fault for the oil spill pay for cleaning up the beaches and compensate the tourist industry in Texas for lost revenue.

"The total cost will exceed \$100 million," Hubbard predicted.

"Although the taxpayers are being asked to bear a great deal of the cost burden, there is no way it was our fault. We did nothing wrong, yet we are having to spend tens of millions to clean up someone else's mess."

Yell practice — yes; on Kyle Field — no

By MERIL EDWARDS
Battalion Staff
When the lights go out, telling jokes about Rock and Raquel and juniors doing push-ups are part of another one of the Aggie traditions — midnight yell practice.

Friday at midnight the yell leaders and the Fighting Texas Aggie Band will lead the first yell practice of the season at Duncan Intramural Field.

Yell practice is usually at Kyle Field, but due to the construction all midnight yell practices are being moved to Duncan Field this year, head yell leader Pete Greaves said.

Greaves said students should start forming on the plaza under the arches in front of the Corps Quad at 11:30 p.m. Then the yell leaders and the band will lead the yell.

"We want all students to come to the yell because they'll miss half the fun if they don't," Greaves said.

A favorite tradition at A&M is kissing your date after each Aggie score at football

games. At midnight yell practice, the lights go off so students can practice for this tradition. Freshmen without dates light matches to watch and learn from their upperclassmen.

Temporary lights will be set up on the field to maintain this tradition. A loud speaker and a flat bed truck for the yell leaders to stand on will also be set up at Duncan, Greaves said.

None of the usual midnight yell practice traditions will be affected by the move to the intramural field.

"We'll tell two stories at yell practice, one by a senior and the other by a junior," Greaves said.

But preceding the regular midnight yell practice, a short afternoon sample will be given for the football team, Greaves said.

"We're going to enter through the main ramp around 4:30 p.m. and just use the lower decks out of the construction area," Greaves said. "We're going to lead some yells and sing about three songs, no stories or anything. The short session is to pep the football team up after their practice."



No-labor Day

The sun sets behind the steel skeleton of the Academic Agencies Building being constructed on the Texas A&M University campus. Construction workers on the steel structure enjoyed a Labor Day

holiday Monday, but it was no holiday for Texas A&M students who started fall semester classes Monday.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Frederic's winds diminish as storm nears Puerto Rico

United Press International
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, Virgin Islands — Tropical Storm Frederic swept around the Virgin Islands today but headed toward Puerto Rico, threatening to pour huge quantities of rain on the island crippled from Hurricane David's onslaught last week.

The storm steadily weakened Monday night and was downgraded to a tropical

storm early today, with peak winds of 65 mph, the National Weather Service in San Juan said.

The service lifted its hurricane watch for the Virgin Islands early today but kept it for Puerto Rico.

But the storm still posed "a definite threat of locally heavy rains and floods" in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the western Leeward Islands, the weather service said.

The storm packed enough punch as it marched through the Lesser Antilles Monday to topple a radio tower on the island of St. Martin and rip three roofs off houses on Antigua. Barbuda was flooded with 3 inches of rain, but reported little damage.

At 5 a.m. CDT, the tropical storm was located near latitude 18.5 north and longitude 65.4 west, about midway between St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and San Juan. It is moving on a course just slightly north of west at 10 mph.

"Little change in direction or speed is expected for the next 24 hours," the

weather service said. "The storm will pass just north of San Juan by late forenoon."

In San Juan, Mayor Herman Padilla said residents were being evacuated from low-lying coastal neighborhoods subject to high tides.

Schools were closed today throughout Puerto Rico, and the Water Resources Authority pulled the plug on a dike in Trujillo Alto to prevent overflows during the storm.

Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo urged the population to take the same precautions, including storing up on canned food, as were necessary during Hurricane David.

In Charlotte Amalie, capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Gov. Juan Luis went on radio and television and urged those living in flimsy dwellings to move to a half-dozen storm shelters set up in churches and public schools.

Electricity in St. Thomas was cut at 10 p.m. as a preventive measure.

President Carter declared Puerto Rico a disaster area Tuesday in the wake of floods and devastation that left more than 25,000 persons homeless and eight dead.

'Killer rabbit' jokes popular at Nixon parties

United Press International
SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — In what was billed as his farewell to California before moving to New York, former President Richard Nixon threw two parties during the Labor Day weekend, complete with a jibe by John Mitchell at President Carter's "killer rabbit."

Nixon hosted a party for 500 people Monday, including prominent Republicans, his San Clemente neighbors and the California Angels baseball team.

Nixon is an Angels fan and attended many of their games in the six years since he resigned the presidency and took up residence on his estate on the Pacific.

Sunday's party was described as a gathering of about 200 of Nixon's "inner circle" to celebrate the 66th birthday this month of Mitchell, attorney general under Nixon.

Mitchell, who served a prison sentence

for Watergate offenses, joked to the group that while the Nixon administration had its problems, "We never had a killer rabbit attack the president," the Los Angeles Times reported.

The Times quoted unidentified guests. Mitchell was referring to reports President Carter used a canoe paddle to "discourage" a rabbit that swam toward his rowboat on a Georgia pond.

Nixon introduced Mitchell as "a man of great loyalty" and led the guests in singing "Happy Birthday," the Times reported.

Those present included Nixon's daughter Julie and her husband David Eisenhower, and former White House staffers Dwight Chapin, Ron Ziegler, Herb Klein, Robert Mardian and secretary Rosemary Woods.

Nixon has sold his estate and he and his wife Pat plan to move to New York by the end of the year.



They can yell, too

The Texas A&M football team got a chance Monday night to show its spirit at All University Night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Front row screamers are, from left to right, Arliss James, Carl Grulich, Ed Pus-

tejovsky, Head Coach Tom Wilson, Jacob Green and Curtis Dickey. About 7,000 students attended.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley