

Hurricane is 'no problem'

Natives and tourists disagree on nature of storm

by JEFF COHEN

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GRIL BEACH, Jamaica — Hedonists and natives don't mix. When 150 international tourists — including those who have learned that what's been called the greatest of the century was bearing down on them, pursuit of euphoria was replaced by churning stomachs and sweaty palms.

The main concern was discerning what was real and what was fact and gathering more information about Hurricane Allen, which hit the island Wednesday.

Negril Beach on the southwestern coast of this island is a resort geared to people who are getting away from everything. People here do not desire to communicate with the outside world — especially tourists, mostly from the United States and Europe, who are on all-too-brief visits.

There are a lot of palm trees and banana trees and lots of water near the inlet on which our hotel, a collection of two-story bungalows, is located. There are no newspapers or television, and no telephones.

When a hurricane hits this island, we're in trouble. A 22-year-old native who carried a canoe was selling seashells on the beach. Known as Bob, the native recalled stories his grandfather told him about killer storms of the early 1950s.

"The stories were not too good," he said. "Because of so little communication with the world, the first news that the storm was headed away came Tuesday morning, when the hotel management brought the tourists together and told us the storm would be a severe one."

They told us the storm was heading toward Kingston, on the opposite side of the island, and told us to tape our windows, save candles and fill bathtubs with water, in case water supplies were cut off.

The first real sign for me came when one of the natives became a little shaky and canceled a sailing class when he peered out into the ocean and saw whitecaps forming, apparently a rarity in the summer here.

My friend Tim and I came here to sail and play tennis, but if we tried to get on a boat now, we might wind up in Caracas. The wind has been really gusty, and it's making us nervous. In the morning when we played tennis, the gale force winds would send the ball back over the net to us.

Most of the tourists here do not really seem to recognize the seriousness of hurricanes. Jim Mitchell of Toronto told me, "In Canada, we don't believe in hurricanes. A problem is not a problem until it becomes a problem."

While Yankees unfamiliar with the destructive potential of hurricanes adopted a lackadaisical posture, several of us from Texas tried to catch flights back to the states.

Some tourists have left for Montego Bay, which is 60 miles away. But because the roads are low-lying and through dense brush, many were advised to bear out Hurricane Allen in Negril Beach.

Many of the nearly 100 villagers, most of whom are too young to remember the last major hurricane, have tried to remain calm and entertain the tourists. However, as the wind gusts have gotten stronger, their efforts have been less enthusiastic.

Many villagers have tended to their gardens, undisturbed, although many were seen bringing down coconuts that would be scattered by the winds.

Like the natives, hotel managers have adopted the slogan, "No problem." The natives, predominantly descendants of Spanish, African, Chinese and British settlers, are dependent on tourists and bauxite mining for their livelihoods.

But I can't criticize their "No problem" attitude. When we were at the airport in Houston, Tim and I read in the paper that Hurricane Allen was brewing in the Atlantic and might head for Jamaica.

Our reaction: "No problem."

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Aggie tidbits

When Texas A&M College students first enrolled in the 1870's, each student was required to have "two pairs of shoes, seven shirts, seven collars, one comb, etc." He had to purchase two uniforms and a forage cap, and it was mandatory that long hair, whiskers, and moustaches be shorn.

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Neil Simon's THE GOODBYE GIRL
A RAY STARK PRODUCTION OF A HERBERT ROSS FILM
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"THE GOODBYE GIRL"
RICHARD DREYFUSS • MARSHA MASON
and introducing QUINN CUMMINGS as Lucy
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Song "Goodbye Girl" Written and Performed by DAVID GATES
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Blazing Saddles — Midnight
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The Paper Chase
is such a movie.
The Paper Chase
TWOOTHY BOTTOMS • LINDSAY WAGNER • JOHN HOUSEMAN "THE PAPER CHASE"
Produced by ROBERT C. THOMPSON and RODRICK PAUL Directed by JAMES BRIDGES
Screenplay by JAMES BRIDGES and JOHN JAY OSBORN, JR. Adapted by JOHN WILLIAMS
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BEST PICTURE
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"I WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH YOU!" Love theme from "THE PAPER CHASE" sung by JOHN DAVENPORT on 90th Anniversary Record
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Monday, Aug. 11 — Sleuth
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.25 student w/ID
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\$1.00 child 7-12
Free under 6
Advance tickets may be bought at the MSC Box Office Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Lawyer restores rights to brainwashed youths

United Press International
ALEM, Ore. — Lawyer Peter specializes in the field of "deprogramming" young people caught in unorthodox religions.

"I see myself as restoring their constitutional rights," Rudie said. "The freedom not to be brainwashed is implicit in the constitutional guarantees we have."

The work has brought him attention, not always positive. The Oregon State Bar has recommended the Oregon Supreme Court reprimand Rudie for his conduct in two cases involving persons associated with religious groups. The bar, however, said Rudie broke no law and a major action, such as a suspension of his license, would be "inappropriate."

Among his cases was a much-publicized trial in 1979 involving a \$2 million award to a Portland, Ore., woman who claimed the Church of Scientology defrauded her.

Through his efforts a young New York man is no longer a member of the Hare Krishna organization, but a second-year law student at Columbia University. An Oregon woman charged with kidnapping her 32-year-old daughter was found innocent. Rudie was her attorney.

There are other, similar cases, which have helped fashion a national reputation for Rudie. He offers, he says, a special experience in obtaining temporary guardianships over others. The time he spends on "deprogramming" cases is "probably far more than half. Income-wise, it's probably far less than 10 percent."

"It's not a money-making proposition if you go on the basis of time spent," he says. "In all the guardianship cases I've done, I've made less than \$7,500." Calls from the East Coast, from other western states where he has worked, continue to come in. "I get calls frequently, I'd say on the average about one a week," he says.

WILLIE NELSON
HONEY SUCKLE ROSE
PG 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

Thank God It's
only a motion picture!
2:45 5:00 7:15 9:45

MANOR EAST 3 THEATRES
STARTS FRIDAY
2:40-5:00-7:20-9:40

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Tavern offers Nixon free beer and women

United Press International
FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Richard Nixon decide to visit Colorado Friday, the Town Pump pay his fare, give him all the beer he can drink and allow him free reign on the girls he can pick up.

Every year since Nixon resigned in 1974 the tavern has held an annual Richard M. Nixon Resignation Memorial Party. The focus of this year's party will be to begin an effort to elect the former president in November.

Having a crook as president is worse than having a Democrat leader who the economy slip into shambles, worse than having as the Republican candidate an old actor who dyes his hair and had a hard time remembering cue lines?" asked tavern owner Gary Kimsey.

Kimsey said Tuesday it was decided to try to re-elect Nixon this year because of the lack of choices presented by the major parties.

Noting that the price of a glass of beer has risen from 40 cents to 60 cents since Nixon left office, Kimsey said "it's time to return to Mr. Nixon and all the cheap times he represented."

Kimsey said Nixon has yet to make an appearance at the event, although he's been invited every year.

"We always offer to pay his fare to Fort Collins and we tell him that he can have all the beer he can drink and all the girls he can pick up."