

Pope calls for America to be moral superpower in post-Cold War Era

Pope John Paul asked America to share its blessings with others, including its own poor and disadvantaged.

cient rivalries and suspicions still compromise the cause of peace."

Unlike their meeting two years ago in Denver, the pope did not challenge Clinton on his support for abortion rights. But John Paul repeated his call for America to be a moral superpower in the post-Cold War era, and he reminded the nation's leaders not to forget the poor as Congress considers cuts in social spending.

"Your country stands upon the world scene as a model of a democratic society at an advanced stage of development. Your power of example carries with it heavy responsibilities," John Paul said.

"Use it well, America! Be an example of justice and civic virtue, freedom fulfilled in goodness, at home and abroad."

A leading figure in the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, the pope will address the United Nations General Assembly today.

John Paul comes to the United States at a peak of personal popularity, with a best-selling book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," and polls showing that he is admired by large majorities of U.S. Catholics.

But being personally beloved has not enabled the pope to sway many U.S. Catholics to follow traditional church teachings on issues such as artificial birth control and divorce.

In his airport speech, the pope asked America to continue to share its blessings with others, particularly its own poor and disadvantaged.



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Pope John Paul II is expected to address the United Nations today during of his fourth trip to the United States.

Opal may still cause flooding for Texas coast

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AP) — Hurricane Opal, the most powerful storm to menace the upper Gulf Coast since Camille devastated Mississippi in 1969, spun ferociously toward the Florida Panhandle with 150 mph winds Wednesday.

Twenty-seven-foot swells produced by Opal in the Gulf of Mexico could make their way to the Texas coast, said Don Ocker, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Brownsville.

"Those swells will arrive tonight or tomorrow and should result in the worst flooding of the whole episode," Ocker said. "There's nothing life-threatening in this unless people don't realize what's happening, but it is a threat to property."

The coast from Port O'Connor to Brownsville remained under a flood warning Wednesday.

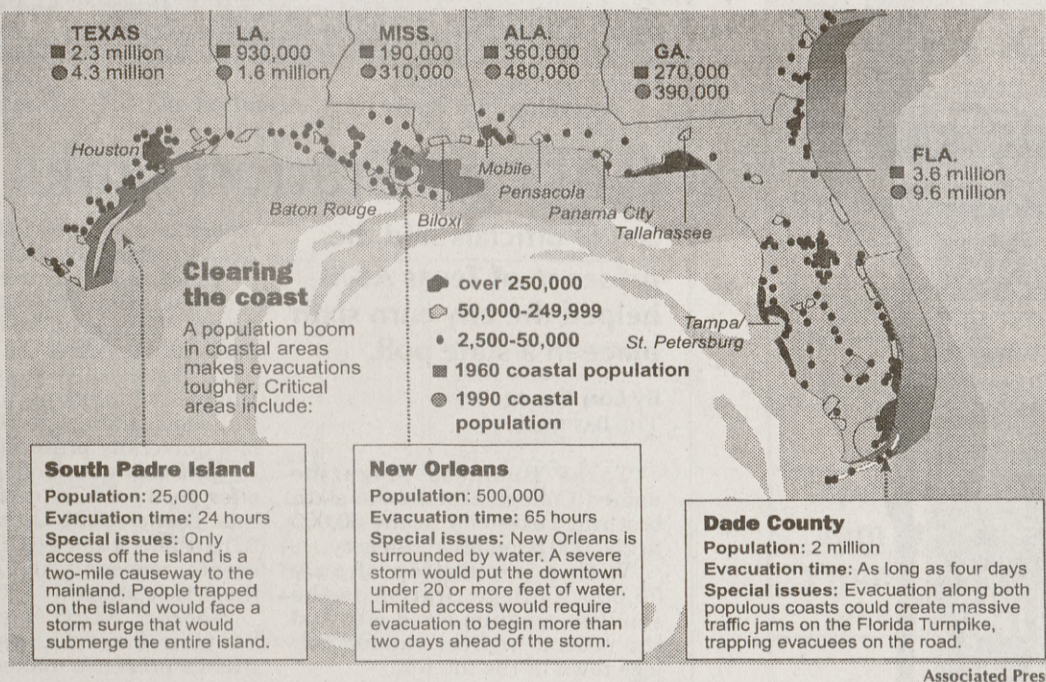
For the past three mornings, tides have ranged from 12 to 14 feet. There's no telling how much higher they could go once the swells reach the coast, but water could flow into town, Ocker said.

Jim Chisholm, Padre Island city manager, said areas along the beach that are prone to high tides have been shored up with an extra 3 feet of sand.

"We're certainly concerned," he said. "We're telling people to be very careful and cautious since we are going to have extremely high tides over the next two days."

Another Camille?

Although the United States and Caribbean nations have been plagued by hurricanes in 1995, the treacherous storms once occurred much more frequently. Hurricane Opal is the strongest to threaten the Gulf Coast since 1969.



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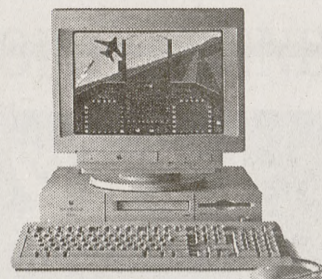
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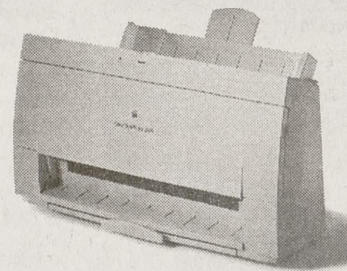
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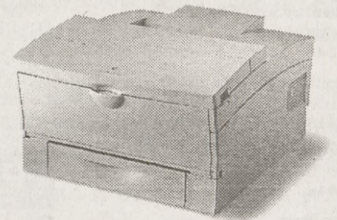
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