

The Living Room Times

"All the Noise that's fit to print."

Monday, November 21, 1994

Gordon weakens, moves south

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NAGS HEAD, N.C. (AP) -- What's Gordon going to do next? Forecasters aren't sure. The storm keeps fooling them.

When they said Gordon would weaken, he strengthened. When they said he'd blow out to sea, he turned toward shore.

At mid-morning, Tropical Storm Gordon was about 400 miles east-northeast of Jacksonville, Fla., and drifting slowly south. In North Carolina, road crews rumbled out at dawn to begin cleaning up Outer Banks roads.

Gordon stalled off North Carolina as a minimal hurricane, causing only minor beach erosion and toppling a few condemned houses on the Outer Banks, then retreating southward and fizzling into a tropical storm.

"I'm not sure anybody really knows why," said Jerry Jarrell, deputy director at the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, Fla.

"Basically, a hurricane or a tropical storm is a summertime phenomena, and this late in the season they're being plunged into almost a wintertime environment up north," Jarrell said late Friday. "It gets us out of the premise that our models were all developed for."

Another reason for the difficulty in tracking Gordon's movements is its relative lack of definition.

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MKMS hosts combined dance with Wallace

For the first time in two years, Martin Kellogg hosted an eighth grade 'combined' dance with students from both of Newington's middle schools, Martin Kellogg and John Wallace.

During the schoolday, it seemed doubtless that there would be plenty of gossip. Travis Derr planned to dance with his Wallace girlfriend Alison, Bryan Rudolph said he wanted to dance with "all the cute girls" from Wallace, and Jaimie Kwassman hoped to dance with her Wallace sweetheart, Kevin Santos.

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Kellogg Eighth Grade visits V.A. Hospital

Mrs. Toback's two Language Arts classes and Mrs. Agnew's one Language Arts class split up into two main groups any many small interview groups, and went to the Newington V.A. Medical Center, more commonly known as the Veterans' Hospital or V.A. Hospital, on Friday.

Mrs. Gonzalez's three Language Arts classes, who went to the V.A. Hospital on Wednesday, stayed at Kellogg on Friday and watched videos about the Vietnam War.

The students who went to the hospital on Friday—about half of everyone in Kellogg's eighth grade—did a variety of Vietnam-related activities. Brendan Loy, chief editor

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Unpredictable Storm Gordon goes south

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"The storm ... never really got its act together," he said.

The Hurricane Center expected the storm would probably die out as it drifted erratically over the Atlantic. But in Florida, where Gordon was blamed for six deaths and \$200 million in crop losses, emergency officials were concerned about a return engagement.

"We're not panicking or anything here, but we are taking it seriously," said Mike Rucker, staff meteorologist with the Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee. "If it does get as far south as the Bahamas, it gets into warm waters again and can rejuvenate."

Rucker called Gordon "the most bizarre storm since September of '72," when Hurricane Dawn hit South Florida and headed into the open Atlantic.

Like Gordon, Dawn headed north, then turned west toward the Outer Banks, where it got close but never hit land. Dawn then doubled back toward Florida, barely missing Jacksonville.

The third hurricane of the Atlantic storm season, Gordon started as a slow-moving storm off Nicaragua on Nov. 8.

It ran a zigzag course over eastern Cuba and neighboring Haiti, where officials put the death toll at 531.

The storm then crossed the Florida Keys, churned into the Gulf of Mexico, then turned back toward Florida and cut across the middle of the state.

When it hit Florida as a tropical storm, Gordon devastated crops in an area that supplies more than half the nation's winter vegetables.



When it was still a powerful storm, Gordon certainly had an impact on Florida and North Carolina, as seen above.

Kellogg/Wallace dance

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Before the dance, many kids at Kellogg were making extra efforts to make sure they were ready for the arrival of the Wallace kids. In Vocal Techniques class, Tara Boisvert, Jaimie Kwassman, and Kim Pina brushed their hair and frantically asked each other "Do I look okay?"

They weren't the only ones. It seemed like all of Kellogg was busy preparing to make a good impression on the Wallace kids.

At 2:40, the kids from Wallace were piled up outside the doors of Kellogg preparing to come inside. As soon as they were let in, they started walking towards the gym, where the dance would take place. Brendan Loy, chief *LR Times* editor news reporter, saw them advancing down the hallway, and ran into the gym yelling "Run for your lives! We're under attack!"

At the beginning of the dance, the gym was filled with six or seven large circles of people, talking and gossiping. Brendan commented that they looked like "globular clusters" of stars.

Apparently, there had been a demand for more slow songs than usual, because at some point when a slow song was being played, Mrs. Siano encouraged more people to slow-dance, saying that we "wanted more slow songs" so we should dance to them.

Eventually, numerous couples did dance. Among them were—as expected—Travis and Alison, who actually danced several times. Kim Pina danced with Newington Force soccer player Bobby Stuzenski. Jaimie Kwassman didn't dance with Newington Force player Kevin Santos, but she did dance with Tim Jorel. She said, though, that she and Tim are only friends.

Comments about the dance from Wallace kids were not entirely positive, however.

"Kellogg, like, really sucks," said one kid from Wallace.

Jaimie Kwassman noted that many Wallace kids didn't enjoy the dance very much. "I think with a little effort from the Kellogg side, we could have made the dance much better," she said.

Lauren Correll commented that slow-dancing is much different at Kellogg than at Wallace.

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MIKIVIS Page

Vietnam plans run into trouble— Wednesday was the first of two schooldays this week focusing on study of the Vietnam War. Half of the Kellogg eighth graders went to the Veterans' Hospital in Newington, while the other half stayed behind and watched videos about the Vietnam War.

There were some problems with the plans for the students who stayed at Kellogg, though. Two guest speakers were supposed to come talk to the students about the war. One was to be someone who evaded the draft, the other a nurse who served in Vietnam.

But, the "draft dodger" couldn't come, and the nurse was almost forty minutes late. So students ended up spending most of the time watching videos about the war.

Friday, the students who stayed at Kellogg on Wednesday went to the hospital, and the students who went to the hospital on Wednesday stayed at Kellogg.

No More Candy— Mrs. Mann announced in flex Wednesday that there is a new school policy prohibiting teachers from giving out candy and other food materials to their students.

The rule has been enacted, says Mrs. Mann, "due to complaints from unknown sources of candy and wrappers being dispersed throughout the building."

Mrs. Mann added that this rule creates a problem for her, because she has "30 pounds of Now & Later candies" which she had planned to give out to students, but which she will now have to eat herself.

That's not what he said!!!— In flex Wednesday, Brendan Loy repeatedly said the word "asked." Matt Kennedy overheard, and claimed Brendan had said a swear.

"Next thing you know," Matt said, "you'll be saying 'ship'!"

"Poetry from Jenn" is a new feature in The Living Room Times. After today's special appearance in the Monday edition, it will appear weekly, in each Friday edition.

Poetry from Jenn

"What Can I Say"

Mass confusion; all alone
Race you there; walk you home
Raise the wicked; drink the wine
The song is dying; on the vine
Call you back; and call you blind
In my way
What can I say?

Half of Eighth Grade visits V.A. Hospital

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of *The Living Room Times*, was among those at the hospital Friday.

Apparently, the plan was that the students would first get a tour of the hospital. The tour guides were not there, however, so everyone got to do something rather familiar—watch videos about the war. The first video was about the Vietnam War in general. The second was about a particular battle in the war, called Khe Sahn.

After watching the videos, the students broke up into their their small interview groups, each containing three or four kids. Each group interviewed a Vietnam veteran who had come to the hospital just for the interviews.

Brendan's group interviewed Harold 'Butch' Donle. Butch, who volunteered for the Marine Corps when he was seventeen years old, and volunteered to serve in

Vietnam at eighteen, was in the infantry and "walked point" for eight and a half months. He said the Vietnam War was different than any other war in the sense that there were no safe areas and soldiers were never off duty. He described it as "massive boredom punctated by violence."

He said that, at the time of the war, soldiers were told they were "going there to save helpless people" from "armed agressors who wanted to take away all their rights." That was, he added, "bluntly, a lie," and he commented that if the war was fought again, we should be on the other side—the side of the North Vietnamese—because "they were trying to free their nation and create an independent nation."

One thing he said she was shocked by was the poverty in the country. "The people were desperately poor...."

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Kellogg hosts combined middle school dance

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At Wallace, she said, people slow-dance with whoever they want to, just as friends, and it's no big deal. But at Kellogg, when people slow-dance, it's a big deal and everyone wants to know whether they like each other.

"The dances are much better when it's just Kellogg," said Brendan. "I don't mean to blame it all on the Wallace kids, although some of them did have a rather negative attitude, but I think part of the problem was that some of the Kellogg kids were too busy showing off for the Wallace kids. This dance was fun for kids who have lots of friends at Wallace, I'm sure, but for me, I like the dances better when everyone is acting more natural instead of all show-off-ish."

If there is something that YOU would like to contribute to The Living Room Times

Whatever it is...

- a TOP TEN list
- a letter to the editor
- an advertisement
- a news story
- a feature story

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

**Give your article or advertisement to
Brendan Loy, chief editor of the *LR Times*,
and he will consider putting it in an
LR Times edition!**

Half of MKMS Eighth Grade visits Veterans' Hospital

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They didn't have indoor plumbing, they slept on dirt floors, they had thatched roofs. They struggled from sun-up to sun-down just to survive."

When asked if he believed in the domino theory during the war, Butch said "not really" and he "believes in it even less now."

He added that he believes the war wasn't actually a loss for the United States. "We did not lose the war," he said. "We quit the war. We walked away....Militarily, we completed our mission."

After the interviews with the veterans, everyone went down to the V.A. Hospital cafeteria and ate lunch, which was fast food. Included were hamburgers, which cost \$1.30, and cheeseburgers, which cost \$1.01.

"Now *that* was a good meal!" exclaimed Jason Saccente.

"The food's good, and it's really cheap," said Kevin Hauschulz. "The cheeseburger's \$1.01, and the hamburger's \$1.20 or something."

"I had chicken legs," stated David Martins.

"Well, the food is fine," commented Joey Guerrero, "I don't see anything wrong with it, except about that cheeseburger and hamburger thing. The hamburger should be less than the cheeseburger, because the cheeseburger's got cheese on it, and the hamburger's got nothing."

"We should come here every day," said Keith Druckenmiller.

"It doesn't make sense," added Jason Saccente, "that the cheeseburgers are less than the hamburgers."

"I have to eat bread," complained Sean Waterman, who had to eat his hamburger on regular bread instead of on a roll because the kitchen ran out of rolls.

"The danish was good, and the chips were good," commented Beth Milewski (Schnuckums), "but I didn't try the hamburger, because it's on a regular roll, you know, like, regular bread."

"Well, first, I don't know," said Hilari Butler (Schnuck), "because we don't have any time to eat, but the cheeseburger is too greasy but it's okay, even though it didn't have a bun, and I didn't try anything else."

"Popcorn's good," added Kristyn Fontanella (Schnuckle).

After a good learning experience and a good lunch, everyone returned to Kellogg for the rest of the day.

LATE SHOW TOP TEN

TOP TEN SIGNS THE MICHAEL JACKSON/ LISA MARIE MARRIAGE IS IN TROUBLE

Letterman, Monday, November 14, 1994

10. Michael looking pale and weird lately.
9. Their Christmas card is a copy of their pre-nuptial agreement.
8. They no longer share the Maybelline.
7. Michael living in a Motel 6 outside of Rochester, N.Y.
6. Lisa Marie now dating Richard Simmons.
5. She likes Wendy's; he's an Arby's man.
4. Lisa Marie refused to take the four-year intensive NASA training program that would teach her to moonwalk.
3. She's making eyes at other androgynous freaks.
2. She's found out "Neverland" refers to their sex life.
1. He's grabbing himself again.

And now, a special
TOP TEN LIST
written by *LR Times*
chief editor Brendan Loy

TOP TEN CARL SAGAN PICK-UP LINES

10. "Go out with me and I'll name an asteroid after you."
9. "The universe might collapse to a singularity in the next 15 billion years—let's go someplace while we still have the time!"
8. "The sight of you makes my head spin faster than an elliptical galaxy."
7. "We're made for each other! I know we are — it's in the Grand Unification Theory!"
6. "Of the *billions* and *billions* on women in the universe, you're the most beautiful."
5. "God himself told me I should ask you to dinner."
4. "Hello, my name is Carl Gump."
3. "What's a girl like you doing in a universe like this?"
2. "There are more reasons why we should go out than there are grains of sand on all the beaches of all the world."
1. "Hey baby — We're both made of star stuff!"