

# The Living Room Times

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

Wednesday, August 31, 1994

## *Back to the books!*

Summer vacation 1994 officially ended this morning for Martin Kellogg students and teachers with the 8:00 AM ring of the bell inside the building, starting off the schoolday and the schoolyear.

"And!" announced Brendan to his 'BLL News' tape recorder as the bell rang, "The 1994-1995 schoolyear is officially underway!"

As the doors opened and students paraded in, it was a milestone for Kellogg—the first time any fifth graders had walked in as middle school students.

The fifth grade, which had previously been at Newington's elementary schools, was moved to the middle schools for the first time this year, expanding Kellogg and John Wallace schools to include fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

The day in the eighth grade was as it probably was in all the other grades—hectic. From confusing

*(Continued on page 2)*

## EDITORIAL

### **Teachers and administrators try to have it both ways with the fifth graders**

I read it in the Newington Town Crier when the news first came out that the fifth grade would be moving to the middle schools, and I knew then that it was unreasonable.

Not the move itself, that it perfectly reasonable. What doesn't make any sense is the way the teachers and administrators are managing the fifth grade.

Parents, naturally, were concerned that fifth graders might be intimidated by the presence of older seventh and eighth graders in the same school. This concern is probably justified.

However, the way the middle schools said they would handle it... and the way they have so far... simply will not work. The fifth graders are being practically isolated from the rest of the school. The people in charge of middle school policy have decided that just about nothing should change in the fifth grade—they want the fifth graders to have the same elementary school fifth grade experience as other fifth graders have had—but they want them to have that experience in a middle school.

Unfortunately, this plan will not work over the long run. You can't have it both ways. Elementary school can't stay elementary school in a middle school.

There are certain, distinct ways that things are done in the elementary schools, and then there are certain, distinct ways things are done in the middle schools. Perhaps the fifth grade can retain a few of the elementary school ways, but putting a brick wall around the fifth grade classrooms

# TROPICAL UPDATE

## Tropical Storm Kristy

Eastern Pacific Ocean

8/30/94 2:00 PM PDT Advisory:

16.1 North, 137.4 West

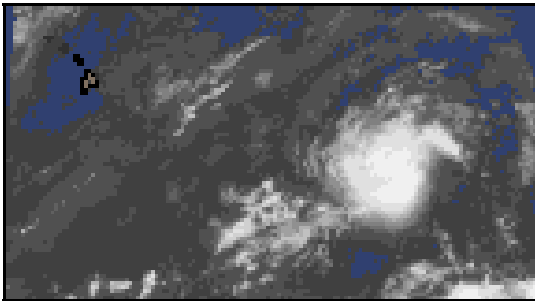
1190 Miles ESE of Hilo, Hawaii

Winds: 45 MPH

Movement: West at 18 MPH

Tropical Storm Watch: none

Tropical Storm Warning: none



## Tropical Depression Five

(possible name: Debbie)

Southern Gulf of Mexico

8/30/94 7:00 PM CDT Advisory:

21.4 North, 96.9 West

75 Miles SE of Tampico, MX

Winds: 35 MPH

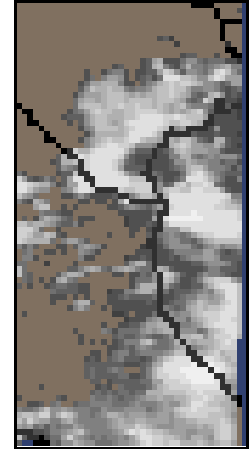
Movement: Nearly Stationary

Tropical Storm Watch:

La Pesca, MX to Tampico, MX

Tropical Storm Warning:

Tampico, MX to Nautla, MX



## Schoolyear underway at Martin Kellogg

(Continued from page 1)

schedule cards to locker combinations to visits to the wrong classes, the first day, for me anyway, had its moments, most of them confusing moments.

There was a whole bunch of confusion about where the Explore students were to go for Reading, when they had Foreign Language, who were the teachers, etc. There was also the great locker hunt, of course, as students searched for workable lockers. Much of the day... just about all of it, in fact, was spent teaching students where to go, what to do, what the rules (or "expectations" as Mrs. Toback would say) are, and what everyone's schedule is.

By the end of the day, most of the important stuff everyone needs to know had been said to everyone at LEAST once.

Tomorrow, more than likely, the real work will begin... with textbooks, assignment sheets, and... dare I say it... homework... in many or most classes.

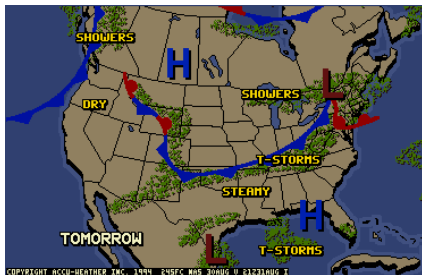
Countdown to summer vacation: 179 schooldays.

## WHAT'S THE WEATHER?

**.WEDNESDAY...** MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH RAIN LIKELY BY EVENING. HIGH AROUND 70. WIND BECOMING SOUTHWEST 10 TO 15 MPH. CHANCE OF RAIN 60 PERCENT.

**.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...** CLOUDY WITH A 40 PERCENT CHANCE OF RAIN. LOW 55 TO 60.

**.THURSDAY...** MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGH 70 TO 75.



## LATE SHOW TOP TEN

TOP TEN SIGNS  
PRES. CLINTON IS  
RENTING THE  
VACATION HOUSE  
NEXT TO YOURS

Monday, August 29

10. Front lawn littered with what appears to be pages of a health care plan.
9. You keep finding Roger Clinton passed out in your back yard.
8. License plate on his dune buggy: H-I-L-B-I-L-Y.
7. What you thought was a lawn gnome next door turns out to be Warren Christopher.
6. One day he stops by and asks to borrow a cup of sugar and a foreign policy.
5. You open your freezer to find that your hamburgers have been taken and replaced with presidential medals of honor.
4. Rusty old stealth bomber on cinder blocks in front yard.
3. The guy doing yard work there looks an awful lot like Al Gore.
2. Swimming trunks on clothes line bigger than a circus tent.
1. Your local McDonald's is out of fries!