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news digest

By The Associated Press

Well capped

Stavanger, Norway—Paul "Red" Adair and his Texas troubleshooters capped the rogue Bravo oil well in the North Sea Saturday, choking off a week-long spill. Experts said the blowout in the Ekofisk field was capped before it could cause significant environmental problems.

A one-eight-inch change in the length of a piston allowed Adair and his crew to stop the torrent of oil streaming from Bravo 14. Four earlier attempts had failed. Working in a spray of oil heated by friction of 240 degrees Fahrenheit, Adair's team slid steel discs called "blind rams" through the powerful stream to cut the flow and clamped a four-ton "stopped" over the well head. They then pumped mud down the shaft to offset the upward pressure, estimated at 3,300 pounds per square inch.

Carter saw UFO

Washington—An Oklahoma man who has spent years trying to prove the existence of unidentified flying objects has a prize exhibit for skeptics: a report Jimmy Carter filed as governor of Georgia on his observation of a UFO. Heydon Hewes, director of International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma, said Carter sent him the handwritten report on request in 1973 after Hewes read newspaper accounts of Carter's experience.

Carter and 10 members of the Lions Club of Leary, Ga., saw an object "bright as the moon," in October 1969, Carter wrote. He described the unidentified object as "bluish at first, then reddish, then luminous but not solid." Hewes said Saturday in a telephone interview from Oklahoma City. Carter, who was preparing to speak to the club, said the object was visible for 10 or 12 minutes, "came close then moved away" and changed shape, according to Hewes.

Progress made

Washington—President Carter and top administration officials "made considerable progress" Saturday as they approached a self-imposed deadline for presenting welfare proposals, a spokesman said. The President spent three hours with Vice President Walter Mondale; Charles Schultze, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Joseph Califano, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare working on the administration plan to be announced today. Deputy White House Press Secretary Rex Granum said today's announcement, one day after the May 1 deadline Carter had set earlier, would deal with the general principles of welfare reform. Legislation to carry out the actual revision will come sometime later.

Fill 'er up

Berkeley, Calif.—Our planet earth can't stop at some celestial service station to fill up again on oil. When the original underground tanks run dry, the oil-energy journey is over. Where, then will we get the fertilizers, plastics, wash-and-wear clothing, pesticides, medicines, dyes, paints and thousands of other products now made from chemicals in petroleum? Some scientists are betting on bacteria, molds and fungi as one vital source. "A biological revolution is coming. In the next 30 years or so, biology will replace chemistry in importance in this country," says Drs. Ronald E. Cape and Peter J. Farley. They are president and vice president respectively of Cetus Corp. here, a company already engaged in pushing along just such a revolution.

18 injured

Rawalpindi, Pakistan—Security troops ringing Rawalpindi prevented a planned march on Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's residence Saturday. But 18 persons, including six policemen, were injured in scattered clashes. Antigovernment demonstrators hurled rocks and bricks at police, tried to barricade a main road, set fire to an office of the Anti-Corruption Police and to a post office, and attacked a bank.

"The coach likes me heavy, but I like me light."

(William Webb Ellis, rugby legend)



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