

**WEATHER**FORECAST for SATURDAY:  
Cloudy to partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms.

HIGH:90s

LOW:70s

## Lawmaker: Port Neches plant poses 1-in-10 chance of cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texaco's Port Neches plant releases toxic emissions that pose a one-in-10 risk of cancer, according to Rep. Henry A. Waxman, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce environment subcommittee who lists the facility at the top of the most dangerous chemical air polluters nationwide.

Environmentalists said the plant poses a "clear and present danger"

See list of plants/Page 3

but government, Texaco and industry officials said the data released Thursday by Waxman, a California congressman, was outdated, based on assumptions, and not an indicator of cancer risk.

Waxman used 1984 Environmental Protection Agency data to identify 205 industrial facilities that have at least a one-in-1,000 cancer risk, while the EPA deems a risk of more than one-in-a-million as unacceptable.

More than 30 plants in Texas made the list, most of them chemical or petroleum plants along the Texas Gulf Coast from Corpus Christi to Orange County. Only one plant nationwide, Texaco's butadiene plant in Port Neches, was listed as posing a cancer risk of one-in-10.

EPA spokesman Roger Meacham in Dallas said the data was never intended to estimate the risk of cancer and was gathered to identify sources and categories of pollution.

"You can't use these figures, this data, as an accurate measure of the

cancer risk," Meacham said. "This data is so old to be essentially useless except for locating pollutants."

He said a person would have to be within 200 meters of a plant for 70 years, 24 hours a day, to be exposed to the level of contaminants that would cause cancer.

Waxman said his figures were potentially inaccurate but must be released because they indicate the enormity of the problem and represent a "stunning demonstration of the urgency of the public health threat."

Texaco released a five-page statement challenging Waxman's allegations as "totally unsupported by any technical and scientific facts or by employee health records."

The company said Waxman's conclusions were based on plant configurations which no longer exist, have been refuted by tests on actual emissions, and are in "total disregard of the millions of dollars in environmental expenditures which were made at this Gulf Coast chemical plant over recent years in order to enhance air quality."

Texaco Chemical Co. Chairman Willis B. Reals said, "The claims about activities at our Port Neches plant are totally unsubstantiated by any technical and scientific data and they raise serious questions as to the objectivity and balance of this legislative effort."

Philip Blackburn, Texaco spokesman in Houston, said the Port Neches plant has about 300 workers and makes about 600 million pounds

of butadiene a year — a chemical used primarily in the manufacture of rubber products such as tires, as well as 690 million pounds a year of a gasoline additive.

Daniel Weiss, Washington director of the Sierra Club's pollution program, said he believes the EPA figures are reliable indicators of toxic-emissions hot spots around the country.

"The people in these communities are human subjects in a perverse experiment on the effects of air toxics on human beings," Weiss said. "Any risk greater than one-in-a-million is

a very high risk for cancer."

He said pesticides are prohibited on foods in amounts greater than one-in-a-million, yet manufacturers are allowed to have toxic emissions as high as one-in-10.

"It is a moral outrage that industry is allowed to emit chemicals that pose this extreme level of risk for cancer," Weiss said.

Dale Brooks, a spokesman for the Clean Air Working Group, an industry coalition, called release of the data irresponsible, despite cautions about potential inaccuracies.

## Soviet fighter crashes during Paris Air Show

PARIS (AP) — A Soviet MiG-29 fighter crashed during an aerobatic performance Thursday during the opening day of the Paris Air Show, and the pilot was injured after bailing out of the jet.

The aircraft was making its final pass over Le Bourget airfield north of Paris after a dramatic demonstration flight when a part of the aircraft appeared to break away.

Pieces of the needle-nosed jet burst into flames while the fuselage, in one piece, dropped like a stone in the center of the airfield without injuring any of the thousands of exhibitors, visitors and journalists on

hand for opening day.

A water tanker and fire engines rushed to the scene to douse the flames of the burning fuselage.

The pilot, 37-year-old Anatoly Kvochur, was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital near the airport, then transferred to Begin Military Hospital in a suburb east of the city. The Soviet Embassy in Paris said he was in "fairly good health."

Claude Martin, flight director of the show, said Kvochur's parachute "barely opened, but even so it broke the fall of the pilot."

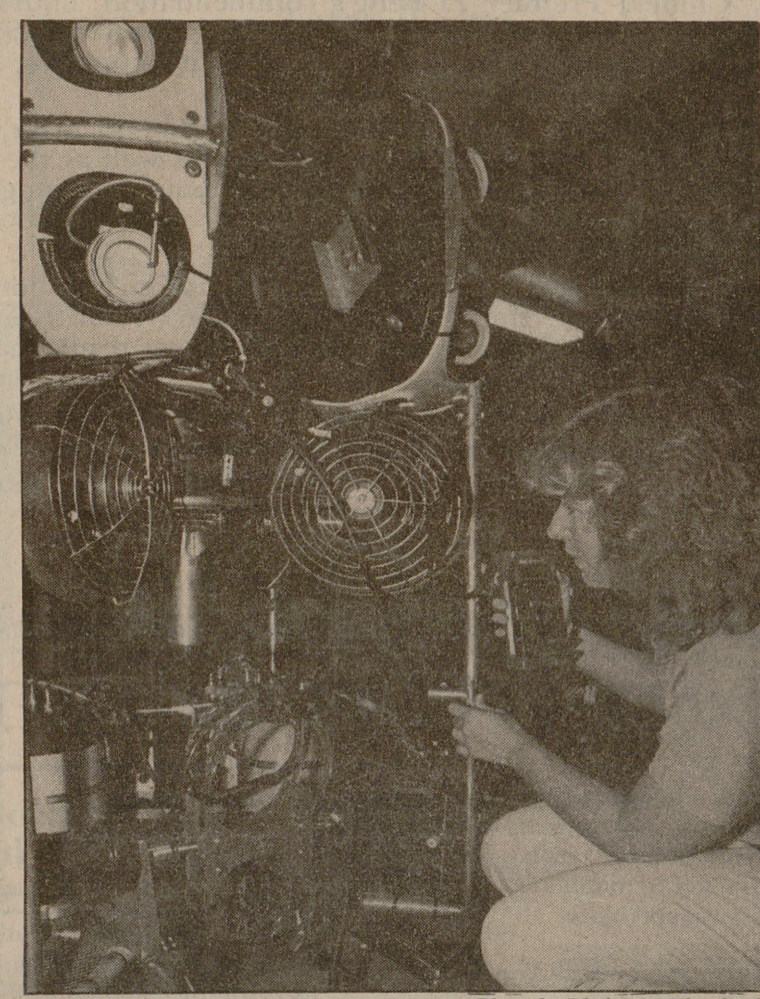


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

### Roving ROV

Bess Wilson, an oceanography doctoral student, looks over a Remotely Operated Vehicle Thursday afternoon in the David Eiler Building. Wilson and the ROV recently returned from studying ocean floor shell formations in the waters off Corpus Christi.

## Bush says relations with China hindered until violence ends

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said Thursday night the United States cannot return to "totally normal relations" with China unless that government ends violence against its own people and recognizes the validity of pro-democracy forces.

"Armed people don't shoot down unarmed students," Bush said of a weekend sweep by Chinese troops that killed hundreds if not thousands of demonstrators in Beijing.

At his first prime-time televised news conference since taking office, Bush also urged Iran's new leaders to help free American hostages in Lebanon, and said he thinks Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is taking the latest U.S. arms reduction proposals seriously.

Bush also readily agreed that newly elected Democratic House Speaker Thomas S. Foley had been dealt "a terrible ill service" by the publication of a Republican Party circular.

Not all the matters were as weighty.

One reporter asked the president to convey happy birthday wishes to first lady Barbara Bush, and Bush took the opportunity to thank those who had written his wife after she underwent treatment for a thyroid condition.

"She's doing just fine," he said. "She's got the . . . disease under control."

Many of the questions dealt with China, and Bush defended the limited nature of the sanctions he announced on Monday — principally banning the sale of weapons.

"We're not going to remake the

world, but we ought to stand for something," in China, South Africa and elsewhere in the world where democracy is under siege, he said.

Bush said he hopes to "preserve the relationship" that the United States has built with China. But he added that the United States denounces the violence of last weekend.

Bush placed his own distinct stamp on his first evening news conference. He opted for a less regal curtain-raiser than Ronald Reagan favored, entering the East Room from an adjacent room rather than striding down a long red carpet toward waiting reporters.

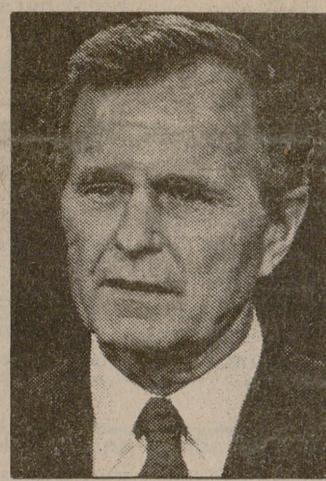
On other matters, Bush:

- Said he intends to tell Polish leaders later this summer "we want to work with you," provided economic and pro-democracy reforms continue. "When a country moves as Poland did, down democracy's path, the United States should respond as best it could," said Bush, who will visit Warsaw and Gdansk next month.

- Renewed his call for the ouster of Panama's leader, Manuel Noriega, and a fair election to select a successor. "They would have instant improved relations with the U.S.," he said. "I'm not going to give up on this."

- Said if the proposal he made late last month to reduce both NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces in Europe is acted on quickly, the alliance could avoid another dispute over short-range nuclear missiles, a thorny political issue in West Germany.

The president also said there can be no normalization of relations with



Battalion file photo

George Bush

the post-Khomeini government in Iran unless its leaders renounce terror and "facilitate the release of the American hostages." Nine Americans remain captive in Lebanon.

On U.S.-Soviet relations, the president said he was "keeping my eyes wide open" on Soviet actions but said he believed Gorbachev had shown a willingness to entertain "new thinking."

He said some recent debate in the Soviet's ruling body sounded a bit like the U.S. Congress.

"Who would have thought?" he said.

Bush conceded that U.S. understanding of the situation in China was unclear — "very, very murky," he said.

Asked why he hadn't just picked up the telephone and called senior officials in Beijing — where he lived in the 1970s — he replied, "The line was busy. I couldn't get through."

But Bush was firm in his support for the students who are agitating for democracy. "They're not trying to flee China. They're trying to change China," he said.

## A&M China Club presents Mobley with 5 requests

By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Texas A&M China Club on Thursday presented President William Mobley with five requests for his assistance, including a call for help in getting visas for A&M Chinese student's spouses and children who are in China.

Ke Zhou, a graduate student in civil engineering,

See related story/Page 6

said he and three other delegates from the China Club were greeted with strong support from Mobley when they asked him for the following aid:

- To help attain visas for Chinese students who studied at Texas A&M and went back to China for the summer.
- To help find some means of raising money for the 130 Chinese students at A&M, because the Chinese government finances many of the scholars studying abroad and the Chinese students in America no longer recognize their government.
- To continue to admit Chinese students to A&M,

## Premier Li Peng congratulates soldiers for actions in Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — Premier Li Peng on Thursday congratulated soldiers who crushed a popular movement for democracy, and the government urged citizens to turn in those who resisted the bloody military raid on Tiananmen Square.

Beijing was relatively quiet Thursday after days of random shooting, but gunfire broke out again after dark. Unrest was reported in other cities.

Soldiers fired weapons at about 11 p.m. in the direction of foreign journalists outside the Jianguo Hotel on Changan Avenue, Beijing's main boulevard, but it was not clear if they were aiming at the reporters.

Hundreds of trucks in convoys moved tons of supplies into Tiananmen overnight and hundreds more continued the resupply operation Thursday.

regardless of the political situation in China.

• For Mobley to attend a candlelight ceremony at 9 p.m. outside the Academic Building to honor the Chinese students who were killed in the Beijing massacre Sunday.

Zhou said Mobley won't be able to attend the ceremony due to a prior engagement, but a representative from the President's office will attend.

Xun Ge, a graduate student in physics, said the candlelight vigil is not meant to be as somber as the memorial service the group held Wednesday night at All Faiths Chapel.

The mood is intended to be lighter and more of a prayer offering, he said.

Zhou said the group was pleased with the outcome of the meeting with Mobley, and that the President offered to help as best he can.

"President Mobley donated \$100 to the Friends of Chinese Students," Zhou said. "He was very sympathetic, and supportive."

An account has been created for the Friends of the Chinese Students at the Student Financial Center in the MSC. Anyone wishing to contribute may send donations to: Friends of Chinese Students, Student Financial Center, MSC, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

For about an hour during one delivery, commuters on bicycles ventured across Changan Avenue for the first time since Sunday, then police closed it again.

Li's televised speech to soldiers in the Great Hall of the People, on Tiananmen Square, was his first public appearance since the military assault. The government says nearly 300 people were killed, but Chinese and foreign diplomats say 3,000 may have died.

"You've done well, comrades," he told the cheering troopers, and admonished them to "continue working hard to protect the capital's safety and order."

The hard-line premier ordered martial law May 20 after a series of protests in which up to 1 million people rallied in the streets to demand an end to official profiteering and corruption and more democratic freedoms.

## Polish election creates crisis for Communists

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — In a humiliating slap at the ruling elite, voters rejected Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski and 32 other Communist-backed candidates who ran unopposed for parliament, official results showed Thursday.

After an eight-hour meeting with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, officials announced Thursday night that elections will be ordered to fill the 33 seats.

The Communist-led governing coalition was guaranteed a majority under an accord with the opposition.

Returns confirmed Solidarity's astonishing dominance of Sunday's balloting and the crisis created for the Communists, who agreed to let the opposition take part in the most open balloting since World War II.

In his first comments since the balloting, Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski was quoted as saying the party would be willing to give up power completely if it loses the next elections in 1993, which he said should be completely free.

This year's election limited the number of seats Solidarity could seek.

## Soviet rioters attack police station, offices in attempt to get firearms; death toll hits 71

MOSCOW (AP) — Thousands of rioters in Uzbekistan attacked government offices and a police station in a bid to seize firearms, and the death toll in the five-day rampage rose to at least 71, official media said Thursday.

"Corpses are being found in gutted houses and the wounded are dying in hospitals," Uzbek Premier Gairat Kadyrov told the government newspaper *Izvestia*.

At least 71 people had been killed and the figure was likely to continue climbing, he said.

The violence began June 3 with fighting between ethnic Uzbeks and the Meskhi Turk minority, forcibly resettled in the Fergana Valley of Uzbekistan by Stalin in 1944.

Officials have not been able to contain it despite evacuating more than 10,000 of the Meskhi minority and sending in 9,000 Interior Ministry soldiers.

The bloodshed in eastern Uzbekistan was the latest in a series of violent clashes that have embroiled the southern rim of the Soviet Union for more than a year.

Scores of people have been killed in the Caucasus republics of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, but the violence has spread recently to Turkmenia and Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

The Tass news agency said the latest spark was Wednesday in Kokand when "thousands of people excited by alcohol, drugs and calls for violence . . . stormed the city police department to seize firearms."

At the same time a crowd of 500 to 600 attacked a local Interior Ministry transportation office, it said.

The attacks failed, but a preliminary count indicated six people were killed. More than 90, in-

cluding soldiers, were injured. Sixty-five houses and six offices were burned down, it said.

"More houses are burning," Tass added. Tass said the soldiers were given orders to shoot to protect themselves, but so far had avoided opening fire.

"The crowds of attackers have been dispersed and most active rioters have been detained," it said.

Official Radio Moscow said more than 600 people have been hurt and more than 400 suspects in the ethnic violence have been arrested.

The official radio said that shooting and arson attempts continued Wednesday night in the regional center of Fergana, with a population of more than 200,000. More than 400 houses, most of them belonging to Meskhi Turks, had been burned down.