

WEATHER

FORECAST for FRIDAY:
Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers in the afternoon.
HIGH: 80s LOW: 70s

Student protestor predicts fall of China's government

HONG KONG (AP) — Wu'er Kaixi, the student leader who was smuggled out of China, called for the overthrow of the "wild beasts" of communism, and he predicted the current government would fall.

In a defiant videotaped message made after he fled, the raspy-voiced leader of a movement for freedom choked back tears as he accused authorities of crushing students with tanks and burning bodies on Tiananmen Square.

"Those of us who remain alive, our lives are no longer our own," he said on the tape. "The lives of those classmates and countrymen who died for democracy, for freedom and for our beautiful motherland have melted into ours. We must focus our will and continue the great, patriotic democratic movement to the end."

A Hong Kong activist showed the tape to the Associated Press on Wednesday, then distributed it to other news organizations.

Wearing a T-shirt from his school, Beijing Normal University, the 21-year-old freshman who has gone into hiding looked pale and drawn during the 18-minute tape, which was shot about a week ago. He coughed weakly several times.

Wu'er was hospitalized more than 10 times after he began leading a hunger strike in May. As the movement progressed and pressure intensified, he began vomiting blood.

Wu'er savagely attacked China's top leaders, Deng Xiaoping, Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun, calling them a "band of fascist, reactionary warlords."

And the government they run, he said, was "just a small stumbling block on the road of history."

"This kind of government doesn't have the strength

to continue living," Wu'er said. "They are the people's enemies."

He predicted it would last from six months to three years.

Wu'er and his girlfriend, Liu Yan, were smuggled

"The lives of those classmates and countrymen who died for democracy, for freedom and for our beautiful motherland have melted into ours. We must focus our will and continue the great, patriotic democratic movement to the end."

— Wu'er Kaixi, Chinese student activist

out of China by a Hong Kong-based "underground railroad" despite a nationwide manhunt during which his photo was posted in airports and train stations. More than a dozen others, including two leading intellectuals and another student leader, also have made it to safety in this manner.

Wu'er was by far the best-known and charismatic of the 21 student leaders accused of "counterrevolutionary crimes" by the communist leadership.

He was also the most widely criticized. As the crackdown began, state-run media showed a 10-minute video of the leader eating with friends from Hong Kong, accusing him of "feasting when his classmates were fasting." When the secret tape was made, the hunger strike already had ended.

Proposed removal of 26 trees raises campus growth debate

By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The proposed removal of 26 trees for the expansion of the Memorial Student Center has planted a seed of controversy.

Some shake their heads and say Texas A&M has become too big too fast and at this rate, no grass or trees will be left for future generations to enjoy.

Others maintain that change must precede progress.

And so continues the debate over green space being sacrificed to make way for the erection of new buildings and expansion of old ones.

Gen. Wesley Peel, vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction, said many of the trees A&M is losing would be lost in the future because they are stressed, and at the end of their life cycle.

"All we're doing by expanding the MSC is responding to a need and doing what the administration has asked us to do," Peel said.

"The people who are protesting the removal of the trees apparently don't care about A&M or its students."

"There's always room to negotiate. But too often people's inability to see the other person's



Photo by Mindy Humphreys

These are some of the trees that may be removed to facilitate the expansion of the MSC. The proposal for the expansion made by the administration requires that 23 trees will be moved or demolished.

point of view clouds the situation."

Peel said the administration perceived a need for expansion

of the MSC three years ago and last summer the Board of Regents approved plans to:

- Expand 58,790 square feet
- See Trees/Page 4

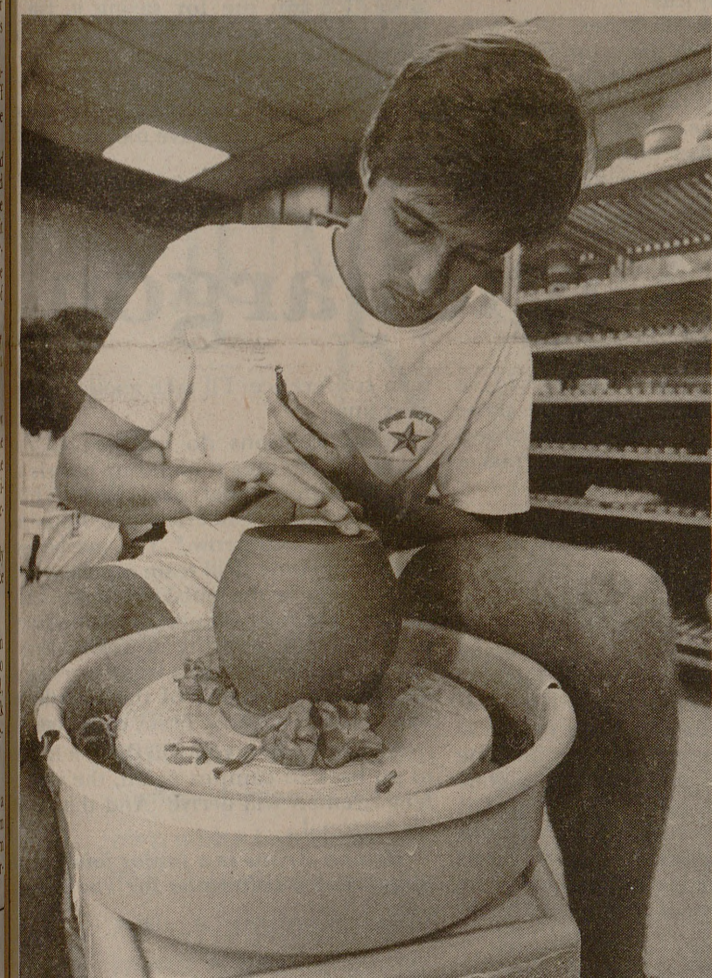


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Sit and spin

Tim Goodman, a senior finance major from Sydney, Australia, tries his hand at pottery making at the Crafts Center in the MSC.

Former Grenada police commissioner kills U.S. diplomat, wounds 2 in shooting spree

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) — Grenada's former police commissioner went on a shooting rampage at police headquarters Wednesday, killing the commissioner and a U.S. diplomat and wounding two high-ranking officers, an official said.

In Washington, the State Department said the American died trying to subdue the gunman, who was later killed by other law officers.

The shooting occurred at 11:30 a.m. at Fort George, the police headquarters, which overlooks St. George's Harbor.

The State Department and officials in Grenada said the slain diplomat, John Angelo Butler, 33, political officer at the U.S. Embassy, was not the original target. Police Commissioner Cosmus Raymond also was killed, officials said.

Daniel Searles, the acting police superintendent, and Collis Barrow, deputy police commissioner, were wounded and taken to St. George's General Hospital, Deputy Prime Minister Ben Jones said. Both were listed in stable condition.

Officials identified the attacker as Grafton Bascombe. His motive was not known.

State Department press officer Dennis Harter said in Washington his department understood Bascombe was on loan to the neighboring Caribbean island of St. Vincent and had been about to return there.

Albert Xavier, an adviser to Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, said Bascombe's return was delayed because

he was in charge of funds made available for joint military exercises with the United States and was to have given an accounting to Raymond on Wednesday.

Xavier said Bascombe entered Raymond's office and fired two shots from a .45-caliber revolver, hitting the commissioner in the head and stomach and killing him instantly.

Officials collide with Bush over super 'toy'

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Northern congressmen attempted Wednesday to scuttle the Superconducting Supercollider outside Wakahachie, saying the nation can't afford a \$5 billion "toy" that President Bush wants for his home state.

The fate of the SSC hinged on a House vote to strike \$110 million from an appropriations bill to break ground next year on the 53-mile-long race track-shaped tunnels 25 miles south of Dallas.

Bush had sought \$250 million in seed money for the project, which the Energy Department decided before last year's presidential election to build in Texas following an intense competition for it by more than half of the nation's 50 states.

Earlier this month, the president pleaded with key House members to protect the project from cuts in science, energy and water programs being made as part of a deficit-reduction agreement.

Nonetheless, the House Appropriations Committee's energy and water development subcommittee trimmed

Bascombe next walked into Barrow's office next door, where U.S. Embassy and police officials were meeting. Butler and administrative officer Roy Sullivan were representing the embassy.

Harter reported: "They were discussing administrative details connected with the recently concluded Operation Trade Winds joint military exercises held in Grenada last week."

"They were also discussing security plans for the Fourth of July reception scheduled to be held at the American Embassy. According to eyewitness accounts, ... Bascombe burst into the room, fired several shots, critically wounding ... Barrow and ... Searles."

"John Butler made a move to subdue the assailant, who then shot Mr. Butler point-blank before fleeing the room."

Bush's supercollider request to \$200 million, including \$110 million for beginning construction.

"We feel this will be adequate to get the project under way," Rep. Tom Bevill, D-Ala., the subcommittee's chairman, said Wednesday. "As time goes on, this would become more expensive."

While the Energy Department has put a \$4.9 billion price tag on the project, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated it will cost at least \$6.4 billion by the time it is completed in 1999.

Opponents, led by Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., and Dennis Eckart, D-Ohio, expressed fears that once construction is underway, the project will absorb \$800 million to \$900 million of the \$1.1 billion that the government spends annually on all general, non-defense scientific research.

"We're beginning to leverage this project into the budget at a cost to other science programs," Obey said. "But the president indicates he's opposed to additional revenues. If we're going to have these expensive toys, we ought to pay for them."

Proposed flag amendment ignites controversy

Both Democrats, Republicans rally to save flag

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nobody ever lost votes for waving the American flag. Somebody lost a lot of them for vetoing a pledge of allegiance bill.

Those lessons were not lost in Congress or at the White House after the Supreme Court held that a flag-burning demonstrator was acting within his right of political protest, a decision that apparently overrules flag desecration laws of 48 states and the federal government.

Democrats weren't about to yield the issue this time.

The Senate adopted a resolution, sponsored by the Democratic majority leader, declaring that it will seek a way to reinstate the flag laws. Later, it approved an amendment revising the federal flag desecration law in an effort to make it fit the court ruling.

President Bush said the administration is reviewing proposals for a constitutional amendment to reinstate flag desecration laws, and will consult with Congress on the measure. "And as president, I will uphold our precious right to dissent, but burning the flag goes too far,"

saying, "The president does not believe this amendment would cause an unraveling of the Constitution."

Burton Yale Pines of the Heritage Foundation supported Bush, saying, "This is no frivolous exercise, no slippery slope down which a host of democratic guarantees may slide. The amending process would permit a national debate and referendum on the flag."

But the ACLU's Glasser disagrees. "I think it's impossible to draft limiting language," he said. "Would

it say flag burning or flag desecration? Would desecration include wearing the flag, or superimposing a dove on it, or failing to salute it?"

Flag amendments already pending in Congress generally would give the federal government and the states authority to prohibit desecration of the flag and to impose criminal penalties for such actions.

One introduced by Sen. Strom Thurmond, ranking Republican on

the Senate Judiciary Committee, does not mention criminal penalties, but says:

"The Congress of the United States and the states have the power to prohibit the desecrating, mutilating, defacing, defiling or burning of the flag of the United States."

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said the courts still would have a role in interpreting any amendment.

Rainbow spans A&M; leprechaun not sighted

By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

and Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

"Twas a dark and stormy night. Summer showers fell from the dark clouds hovering over College Station Wednesday, creating the perfect backdrop for a large, double rainbow that stretched over the Texas A&M campus.

The Battalion received reports of the weather phenomenon around 8 p.m.

Rainbows occur when sunlight passes through falling raindrops, creating a primary spectrum from violet to red. The human eye sees but one color in each raindrop. Put together, the raindrops form a myriad of colors, or prism, thus creating the primary rainbow.

Bruce Thomas, meteorologist for KBTX-TV, said although he is not a "rainbow expert," rainbows virtually are inexplicable. However, he said studies explain how the rainbow is formed — when light passes through raindrops, it creates the prism effect.

"Light slows and bends," Thomas said. "Violet light refracts the most and red light the least. A double rainbow is just a secondary rainbow over a primary rainbow. It's much fainter (than the primary rainbow below it)."

Thomas said double rainbows like the one seen Wednesday are common.

No two people see the same image of a rainbow because they are looking through different raindrops that are reflecting sunlight, Thomas said.

Thomas said he heard about the rainbow from friends at the television station, but didn't see it until it was fading from view.

Bertha Blevinstone, a Bryan resident, said she saw the rainbow while walking toward campus and stared at it for five minutes in the rain.

"It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen — the colors were so sharp," Blevinstone said. "It was huge. I sat down on the sidewalk for five minutes watching it, and two girls on a motorcooter parked to watch it with me."

College Station police said no reports of leprechauns or pots of gold were reported.