

Texas A&M The Battalion



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy and hot.
HIGH: 90s LOW: 70s

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College Station, Texas

Friday, August 11, 1989

Texas has most plants releasing toxic chemicals

DALLAS (AP) — A list of plants releasing highly hazardous toxic chemicals into the environment includes almost twice as many locations in Texas as in any other state, including four out of the top 10.

The "Toxic 500" compiled by the National Wildlife Federation and released Thursday is the latest in a recent series of environmental black eyes for Texas. A less-detailed version of the figures in June ranked Texas high in producing air pollution; an earlier report said a butadiene plant in Port Neches, topped a list of plants emitting enough chemicals to increase the risk of cancer.

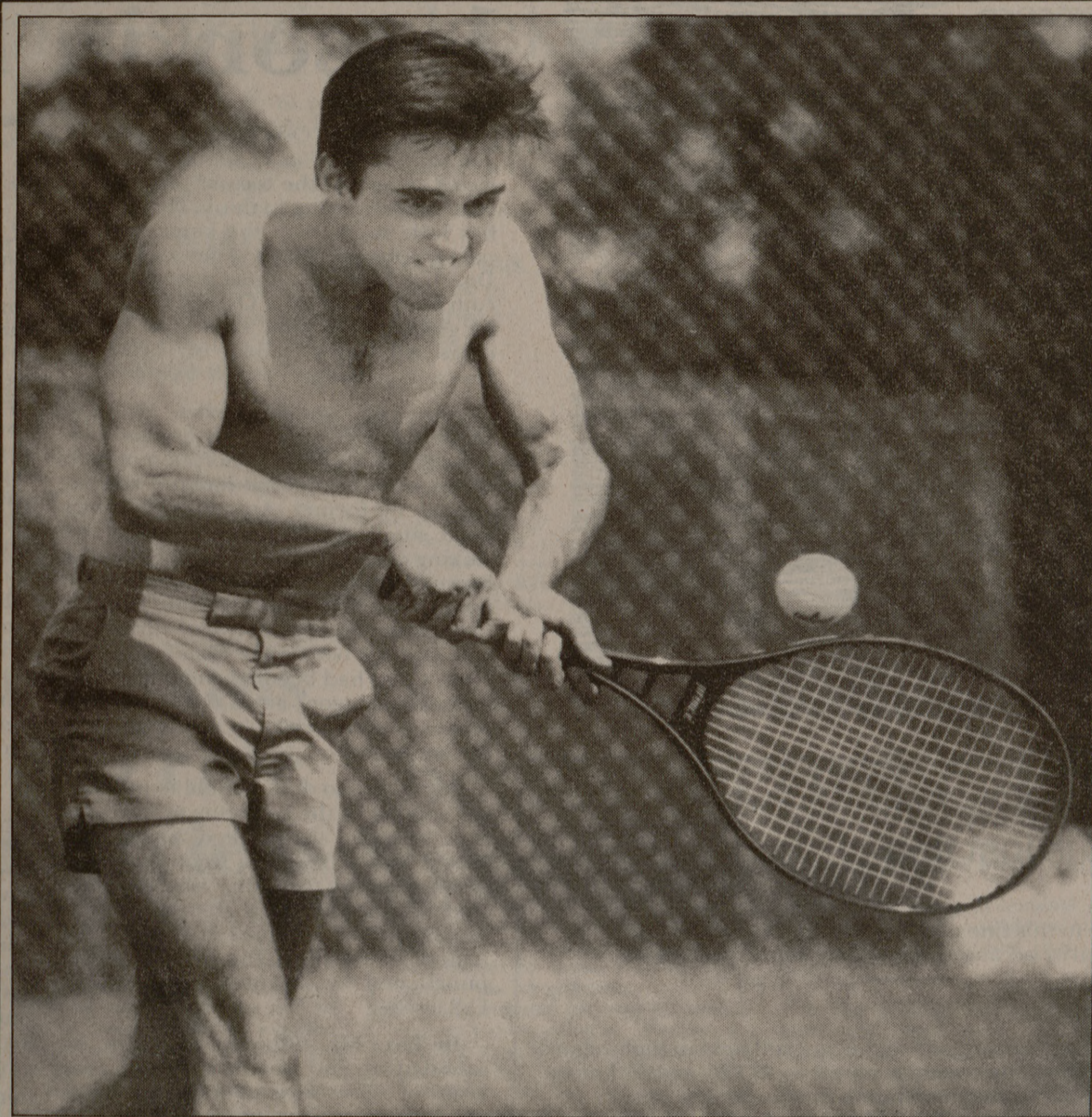
Sixty-four Texas plants are included on the federation's list, culled from the Environmental Protection Agency's 1987 Toxic Release Inventory; Ohio was second in the list with 88 plants.

The releases, which are legal, included more than 300 different chemicals and metals, 39 of which are considered carcinogenic, or cancer-causing.

Two Texas ALCOA plants placed first and third on the list, with the plant in Point Comfort, reporting it released 465.35 million pounds of toxic wastes in 1987, almost all of it aluminum oxide buried at the facility. The Rockdale plant reported \$29.11 million pounds of buried aluminum oxide, by far the most widely produced toxic waste among the biggest polluters.

The EPA currently is considering an industry request to take aluminum oxide off its toxic substance list, claiming it poses no chronic health risks. But opponents argue it is harmful to the respiratory system and possibly linked to brain damage.

In all, the 64 Texas plants released 1.78 billion pounds of toxic wastes, or more than 23 percent of the total of 7.5 billion pounds of toxic wastes during 1987.



Return of the Tennis Ball

Paul Baker, a first-year medical student from Belton, and his opponent Dennis Lipton (not pictured) enjoy a match at Omar Smith Tennis

Center Tuesday afternoon. The two were among many local people outdoors, enjoying the unseasonably moderate weather.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Sports passes go by wayside in fall I.D.s will be used

By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Starting this fall students won't be waiting in line the first week of school to pick up their all-sports or football ticket book, nor will they have to keep track of it throughout the semester — identification cards will be used to pick up tickets at the gate.

For those who purchased either pass, the option will be placed into the coding on their I.D. cards, and the cards will be read through scanners as with meal plans in dining halls.

Penny King, business manager for the Athletic Department, said the I.D. card will be better protected under the new system. If a student reports a lost I.D. card, that information will be entered into a computer, and if someone tries to use the I.D. they will be caught, she said. The name of who is drawing tickets for themselves or anyone else will remain in the computer.

When a student adds the option when registering, the Athletic De-

partment immediately will have that record, King said. Records will be updated throughout the first week of school.

An all-sports pass is \$70, while a football pass is \$55. Tickets for home football games are distributed on a classification basis as follows:

- Graduates and seniors — Monday prior to game day.
- Juniors — Tuesday
- Sophomores — Wednesday
- Freshmen — Thursday
- Non-season & all classes (if available) — Friday

Students are allowed to pick up a maximum of 10 tickets in a group (I.D. cards are required for each student ticket). Half of the group must be of that day's classification or of a previous day's, and the other half may be of lower classification or full price non-student guests.

Student tickets for the November 24 Arkansas game will be distributed to graduate students and seniors Thursday Nov. 16, juniors on Friday, sophomores on Monday and freshmen on Tuesday.

Questions should be directed to the ticket office 845-2311.

DMV official says license plate slogans may be abandoned

DALLAS (AP) — Texans who are in a dither over a proposal to place the motto "The Friendship State" on auto license plates can settle down now.

Dian Neill, director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, said the slogan is unlikely to ever appear on the plates.

"I'm going to recommend that we have no slogan so we can kill the controversy," Neill told the *Dallas Morning News* Wednesday.

State highway commissioners indicated they would go along with her recommendation to drop the motto and a powder blue outline proposed for new plates.

The newspaper reported the highway department received more than 1,000 telephone calls and several thousand letters opposing the slogan after commissioners gave approval to the proposal last month.

Although "friendship" is the official state motto, adopted by the Texas Legislature in 1930, Texas has been more commonly known as the Lone Star State, and some people have criticized the "friendship" label as "wimpy."

The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation

Commission will reconsider the tag motto at its Aug. 29 meeting.

"I think all of the slogans will be removed," Commissioner Ray Stoker of Odessa said.

However, Stoker also said it may be possible to make a slogan optional for drivers who want one on their new plates. Stoker suggested motorists could pay an extra \$30 for their choice of "The Friendship State" or "The Lone Star State."

Most of the money generated through the additional fee would be used to renovate the state Capitol in Austin, Stoker said.

Although more residents favor the "Lone Star State" as a license plate motto, objections have surfaced.

Some observers said the motto would give companies that use Lone Star in their names an unfair advantage.

However, Clyde Hopkins, Texas spokesman for Anheuser-Busch Co., said the "Lone Star" slogan would not affect the competition in the beer industry.

Last year, Busch reportedly sold 78.5 million barrels of beer, compared to 900,000 barrels sold by the Lone Star Brewing Co.

Distress call may have been Leland Searchers find hope in faint signal far off plane's charted course

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Crews searching for the plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland on Thursday were told that a U.S. satellite picked up an aircraft signal, and rescue workers were dispatched to the rugged area.

The weather satellite pinpointed the source of the signal at 84 miles southeast of the capital, Addis Ababa, far off the flight plan of the missing plane.

Robert Houdek, the charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Addis



Rep. Mickey Leland

Leland staff clings to hope Page 6

Ababa, said the location indicated it came from a source other than Leland's plane, but he told reporters, "We are taking this information very seriously . . . as we would take seriously any lead in the search for congressman Leland and his party."

The Democrat from Houston, who is chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, took off Monday morning with 13 other people, including eight Americans, for the Fugnido refugee camp 480 miles southwest of Addis Ababa.

The twin-engine Twin Otter aircraft was reported missing Monday evening.

A satellite from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration picked up the faint distress signal at 3:42 a.m. Thursday (8:42

is on the fringe of the coverage area for the Bangalore station, making it hard to get an accurate location on signals received from Ethiopia, Bailey said.

Houdek said bad weather prevented planes from flying into the region where the signal originated. The Ethiopian Ministry of Internal Affairs contacted security officials at Goba, 28 miles from the source of the signal, and instructed them to send out foot patrols to investigate in the darkness.

In Washington, Alma Newsom, Leland's press secretary, told reporters she was somewhat skeptical the signal came from Leland's plane, considering his destination.

"The location just seems so strange that we're not drawing any conclusions," she said.

Leland's plane was equipped with an emergency locator transmitter, a device usually mounted in the tail of an aircraft and activated either automatically by impact or manually.

Depending on its type, an emergency locator transmits either an intermittent or steady signal on a fixed frequency, allowing searchers to pinpoint the location of a downed aircraft.

Two U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules cargo planes arrived Thursday and spent three hours flying over the path that Leland's plane was supposed to have taken.

A U-2 aircraft also joined the

search. U-2s are capable of taking high-resolution photographs over a broad area and were once commonly used for espionage missions.

Four U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters were expected to arrive Friday.

Four Ethiopian Air Force helicopters were also added, joining the U.S. fleet and more than a dozen light planes under the direction of the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority.

For three days, the search has centered on a high, mountainous plateau near the Sudanese border, not far from the Fugnido refugee camp.

Monday there were reports that peasants heard a light plane circling one or two dirt landing strips in an area 50 miles from Leland's destination.

Air Force spokesman confirms shuttle deployment of satellite

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Columbia's astronauts continued their secret work Thursday high above the Earth, but the Air Force secretary briefly broke the official silence to confirm the crew's deployment of a satellite.

The device was widely believed to be a powerful spy satellite designed to snap highly detailed photographs of military targets over a large area of the globe, including most of the Soviet Union.

No official word came from either NASA or the Defense Department about the 10-ton satellite until secretary Donald Rice said a satellite had been released.

"The United States now has a satellite in orbit as the result of a very successful launch," Rice told reporters after a ceremony at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. His comments were made Wednesday, but were not generally reported until Thursday.

"I can say that was a very important day for the Air Force and the nation's space program," Rice said when questioned about the reported deployment of the satellite about seven hours after liftoff Tuesday. "We were extraordinarily pleased as were our colleagues in NASA that everything went so well."

But when asked about the satellite's purpose, Rice replied, "I'm not at liberty to say."

The Defense Department imposed the news blackout on the classified mission. Unless a major problem occurs, the silence is not expected to be broken again until Saturday when an exact landing time is announced.

NASA officials said Columbia will land Sunday at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., sometime between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. CDT.

During the rest of their flight, the all-military crew apparently planned to conduct tests to determine man's

role as a military observer in space. Those tests were to be coordinated with undisclosed ground exercises that could include troop maneuvers, naval movements and missile launches.

In addition, a package of scientific instruments for military research, possibly for the "Star Wars" missile defense program reportedly are in Columbia's cargo bay.

Columbia, NASA's oldest shuttle, is making its first flight in more than 3 years.

Commencement ceremonies feature presidential assistant, Mexican University president

The guest speakers for commencement ceremonies Friday and Saturday include the president of a Mexican university and an assistant to the president of the United States.

Enrique Cardenas, president of the Universidad de las Americas in Puebla, Mexico, will address undergraduate and graduate degree candidates from the Colleges of Business Administration, Architecture, Medicine, Geosciences, Science and Veterinary Medicine in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Addressing undergraduate degree candidates from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Texas A&M University at Galveston will be George Bush's assistant for legislative affairs, Frederick D. McClure. The ceremony Saturday begins at 9 a.m. in G. Rollie White. McClure is a former Texas A&M student body president.

Officers entering the military service will be commissioned Saturday.

Bush appoints Powell, first black, as chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush named Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, a veteran of both the battlefields of Vietnam and the corridors of power in the White House, as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Thursday.

Powell, 52, will become the youngest officer and the first black ever to hold the nation's highest military post.

"I am ready to go to it and I look forward to the challenges ahead," Powell said, standing alongside Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle at an afternoon announcement ceremony in the Rose Garden.

The nomination drew immediate praise on Capitol Hill and is expected to win confirmation easily in the Senate.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee, called Powell "an excellent nominee." Nunn said his panel would hold confirmation proceedings soon after Congress returns from recess in September.

Sen. John Warner of Virginia, ranking Republican on the committee, said, "He's eminently qualified. . . . I've been present in the Oval Office and Cabinet room

when military issues were discussed with the president. When he spoke, everybody listened."

"He has had vast military experience and his participation as security adviser to the president will add a unique dimension," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., another member of the committee.

Powell, national security adviser to President Reagan in the final year of his administration, was picked by Bush over more than 30 more senior officers.

He will succeed Adm. William Crowe Jr., who is retiring Sept. 30. The chairman is the chief adviser on military affairs to Bush and Defense Secretary Richard Cheney.

Bush praised Powell, a decorated veteran of two combat tours in Vietnam, as a complete soldier and a distinguished scholar. Powell is considered a military intellectual who is willing to express his views when asked but who does not have an ideological agenda.

"As we face the challenges of the '90s, it is most important that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff be a person of breadth, judgment, experience and total integrity," Bush said.