# Ft. Worth hosts space exhibit Officials hope Soviet show will lift economy

FORT WORTH (AP) — A planned display of Soviet space technology is creating optimism in a city stung by defense cut-backs and a nationwide recession, Fort Worth officials say.

The Soviet Space Exhibit, considered the most comprehensive collection of Russian space equipment ever to visit the United States, is likely to pump millions into the local economy.

Conservative estimates that

month exhibit would produce about \$65 million for Fort Worth's lagging economy, exhibit officials say.

Two years ago, the Ramses the Great exhibit brought \$154 mil- 7,000 workers this year. lion to Dallas, the Dallas Times Herald reported.

"Relatively, Soviet Space can have as large an economic impact on Fort Worth in 1991 as Ramses had on Dallas in 1989," said Bob Townsend, who served as executive director of both pro-

"In 1989, Dallas was really suf-500,000 people will visit the six- fering from layoffs in the real estate and banking industries. Now Fort Worth is in a tough situation with the defense industry," Townsend said.

General Dynamics has laid off

Portions of the exhibit have been displayed in Boston and Seattle, but Fort Worth will offer the first comprehensive presentation of the more than 80 tons of space hardware, said Deborah Leliaert, spokeswoman for the

"From the beginning, we felt it could be very significant and positive factor in bringing people to Fort Worth this year," said Doug Harman, president of the Fort Worth Conventions and Visitors Bureau.

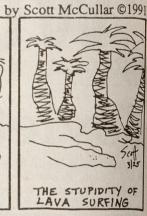


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## Mauro urges **Texans** to recycle

**Tubularman** 

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Continued from page 1

wages and additional state revenues, a true economic renaissance.'

Mauro was responsible for legislation requiring vehicle fleets in Texas to convert to clean-burning fuels such as natural gas. Oklahoma and Louisiana have passed similar

"We achieved that success in the political process because we demonstrated that concern for the environment can actually drive economic growth," he said.

Natural gas also can ease America's dependence on foreign oil, Mauro said.

"If we converted all the fleets in this country to run on natural gas, that would cut oil imports in this country by 24

percent," he said. Bioremediation — using microbes to clean up oil spills and toxic waste — is another growing industry with economic potential.

Mauro said Texas is on the cutting edge of this technology, and Michigan State University has joined with the Research Development Corp. of Japan to work on a bioremediation research project.

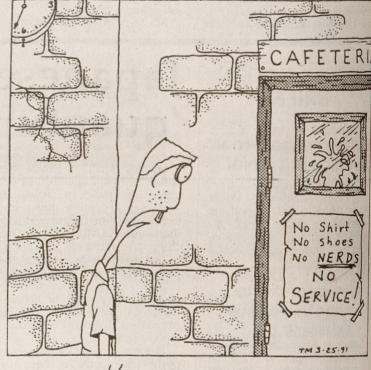
Bioremediation is now a \$50 million a year industry, and he predicts it will be a \$1 billion a year industry by the year 2000. "The question is will it be an

industry we stay leaders in," Mauro said. "It's a challenge for us in this part of the country not just to be a leader economically, but we want that technology to be applied here

Mauro said the distinction between protecting threatened industries and creating new ones is somewhat artificial. For example, plastics man-

## **Nerd House**

by Tom A. Madison



WHY NERDS ARE SO SKINNY.

ufacturers are threatened because of the small amount of plastics recycled.

However, the industry can also profit from plastics recycling, Mauro said. Two years ago, the Texas Land Office devised a bill requiring plastic containers to carry a code identifying their specific composition.

This bill makes it easy for collectors to presort the different plastic compounds and take them to the recycler, Mauro said.

Recycling, however, will not work without a market for recycled goods, he said. The Land Office formed the Corporate Recycling Alliance to coordinate with the private

sector in this area. Mauro also said the state will establish the Texas Green Corps to educate groups, businesses and schools about environmental issues.

Governments also should give economic preference to recycled products, he said. With collectors and manufacturers, buyers will make recycling viable in Texas.

"Since government agencies represent 20 percent of our gross state product, government agencies are ideally positioned to make recycling a reality of everyday life," Mauro said.

The Land Office practices the environmental slogan, Think Globally, Act Locally, Mauro said.

His office makes \$20,000 each year by recycling its waste paper and it also purchases recycled paper, he said.

Environmental and economic problems must be solved together, Mauro said. Government agencies can stimulate growth by doing what is right for the environment.

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