

NEWS



Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Howdy Mister Tree, Sir!

Practice went on as usual for the Fish Drill Team despite sub-freezing temperatures Sunday afternoon. Tod Bruning, a freshman physics major, practices voice control by shouting commands while standing next to a tree.

City expenditures on police rise above education costs

Associated Press

City government spending on police protection has surpassed educational costs for the first time, and municipalities are paying more of their own expenses than they have in more than a decade, the Census Bureau reports.

The nation's cities spent \$10.7 billion on police protection in 1982, up 8.5 percent from the year before, the bureau says.

Education spending slipped to second place with a total of \$9.8 billion down 3.1 percent from the year before.

As recently as 1960, police costs ranked only fourth among city general expenses, trailing spending for education, highways and sewers and sanitation. Police expenses remained fourth in 1965 but climbed into second spot in 1970 and remained there until the current report.

Nationwide, however, cities finance only a relatively small percentage of education programs, with most school systems operated by counties or independent districts, says Vance Kane of the Census Bureau's Governments Division.

Computer mart opens in Dallas

Associated Press

DALLAS — Infomart, a \$97 million attempt to market computers from one trade mart the way clothing and furniture marketers do, opens the doors to its mammoth white building today amid skepticism from some industry observers.

The 1.5 million square-foot-structure, located near downtown Dallas, is the first of several planned high-technology trade centers where promoters hope competitors will sell their products and services.

"In its simplest form, it's a meeting ground, so buyers can sell and meet and understand each other," said Bill Winsor, Infomart's president and general manager. "It's similar in many aspects to furniture and clothing sellers."

The project — a structure of white metal and reflective glass modeled after London's Crystal Palace and financed primarily by Dallas developer Trammell Crow — is located near Crow's World Trade Center, a

trade mart that deals heavily in furniture and clothing.

Major tenants include International Business Machines Corp., Texas Instruments Inc., Eastman Kodak, Xerox Corp., Burroughs Corp., Durango Systems, Timberline Systems Inc., General Telephone Co. of the Southwest and U-CEL Corp.

Xerox and General Telephone have leased 25,000 square feet, while IBM will occupy 24,000 square feet, Winsor said.

Some industry observers have questioned whether Infomart will be effective, considering the rising number of computer stores and other trade-related shows.

Observers point to Infomart's scaling back of projections through its three-year construction as an example of the difficulty such projects face.

At least 74 companies have signed lease agreements, including three on Friday, Winsor said, well short of the

300 developers originally predicted or even the current projection of between 255 to 275 companies.

But Winsor says some tenants have leased more square feet than anticipated, and he believes Infomart can survive in the volatile computer retailing industry by attracting potential computer buyers and then channeling them into the specialized stores after they make their product choices.

The Infomart backers are so confident of success that plans are underway for a 1.3 million square foot facility on Times Square in New York, expected to open in 1988, Winsor said.

"We also have plans to build another facility in Los Angeles and we are building another in Paris, France," Winsor said.

Boscom, a rival trade mart, is under construction in Boston and developers are studying the possibility of similar centers in San Francisco, Atlanta and other cities.

By the end of 1985, Infomart should be 80 percent full, Winsor said.

"We certainly wouldn't be pleased if it were 100 percent," said.

The recent shakeout of companies in the computer industry has had an adverse effect on the mart project, Winsor said, pointing out that most of the affected companies produced a limited number of products.

"We've been calling on companies that had a diversity of products," said.

So far, 42 trade shows, symposia and exhibitions are booked for Infomart for 1985, Winsor said.

"Our expectations on the original bookings were 25 to 28," Winsor said. "We probably undersold the acceptance of the meeting environment we had created."

Michigan takes part in cross-border deal

Associated Press

TORONTO — In an unusual expression of cross-border friendship, Canada is sending some of its plentiful moose to Michigan's moose-less Upper Peninsula in an attempt to establish a herd of the majestic animals.

The moose-lift begins Tuesday in Algonquin Park, a large wilderness region about 200 miles north of Toronto, where specialists from Michigan's Department of Natural Resources hope to catch at least 15 adult moose to bring home.

The moose hunters plan to operate from the air, circling in a helicopter until they can shoot a suitable

moose with a tranquilizer gun.

"They'll be darting the moose in the bush," explained Larry Powell, assistant superintendent at Algonquin Park.

The moose then must be bound and blindfolded and hooked up in a sling to be carried by another helicopter to a staging area. There each animal is to be crated and trucked express to his or her new home, 500 miles to the west.

"We hope we can get the moose out," Powell said. "It might be as simple as falling out of a tree."

The method has been used in the Western United States, but in open country rather than dense forest.

Powell said the Canadian moose hunt was scheduled for mid-winter in hopes that the moose can be flushed into the open — perhaps in the middle of a frozen lake because of the snow.

"If there wasn't any snow, we'd have a heck of a time getting the sling under him," Powell said.

The moose, largest of the deer family, stands as high as 7½ feet at the shoulder. Adult males weigh well over 1,000 pounds and have antlers that spread as wide as six feet. They are very strong swimmers.

The moose are not actually a gift, but Canada's part of a trade. Last year 150 Michigan wild turkeys were

shipped to Ontario, where they are said to be thriving.

Michigan now has draft rights to 30 Ontario moose over the next two years, out of an Algonquin Park herd believed to number several thousand.

If the moose hunt goes smoothly it is possible that all 30 will be transplanted in the next two weeks, Michigan officials said. It was more likely that 15 to 20 would be moved by Feb. 1, with the rest captured next winter.

The operation is expected to cost about \$60,000, much of it for the helicopters.

Canada trades moose for turkeys

Woman receives 1-cent hospital bill

Associated Press

ODESSA — After paying off most of a \$3,000 medical bill, Amalia Gonzales said she was shocked when she opened one more bill from Medical Center Hospital — for one penny.

"I just thought it was pretty stupid, paying 20 cents to get 1 cent," she said.

Her husband, Louis Gonzales, decided to personally deliver the penny.

"They gave me a receipt," he said. "If I owed it, I needed to pay it."

Joe Battaglia, the hospital's business office director said that under most circumstances, the bill would not have been mailed. A 50-cent bill is not worth collecting, he said, let alone a 1-cent bill.

In most cases, debts under \$5 are

not billed. But the Gonzales bill fit into a special category, he said.

"If someone can only afford to pay \$2 or \$3 per month, they may have payments below the amount the computer normally would bill for," Battaglia said.

McDonald's INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS. At University Drive, Now at Texas and S.W. Parkway, At Manor East Mall. Includes logos and drive-thru window information.

IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES OPEN

TEAM BOWLING — Bowling, it's not just a job; it's an adventure. Team Bowling entries open Monday, Jan. 21 and close Tuesday, Jan. 29. Teams consist of four bowlers with only one TAMU bowler per team; CoRec teams consist of two women and two men. All league games and the firstround of playoffs must be paid for in advance at the Intramural — Recreation Office, 159 East Kyle. The entry fee is \$18.50. Team Bowling divisions include: Men's, Women's, Dorm and Independent and CoRec.

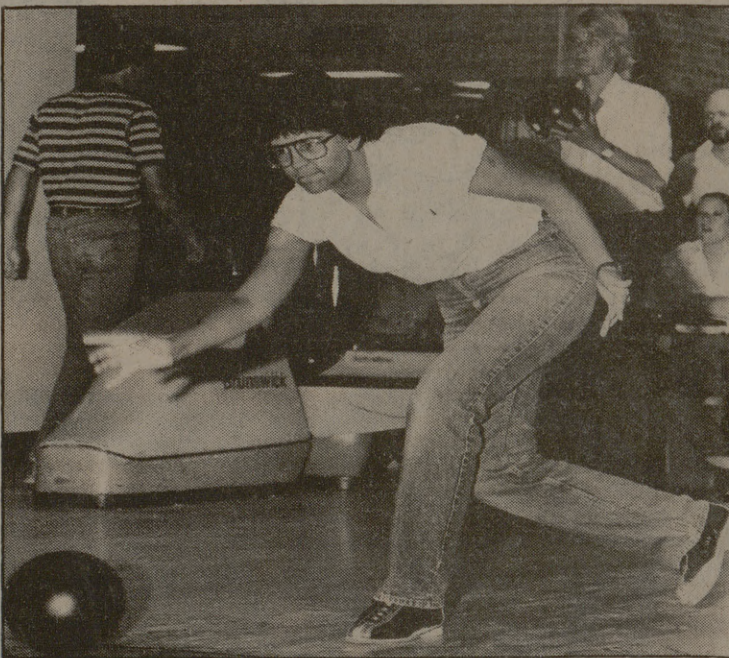
FOR RAIN OUT INFORMATION CALL 845-2625.

COMING EVENTS:

- Preseason Softball Tournament
• Slow Pitch Softball
• Slam Dunk
• Free Throw
• Wallyball

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's® Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall and on Texas Avenue. Stories are written by members of the Intramural Staff, graphics are by Joel Hickerson, and photos are by Tom McDonnell and Marcy Basile.



Team Bowling entries open Monday, Jan. 21. Space is limited, so sign-up early!

LOCKER RENTALS

Lockers will be available for rent in all locker rooms beginning Monday, Jan. 21. The cost for rental is \$10 for the semester and \$20 annually.

WALLYBALL

Volleyball? In a racquetball court? Only at TAMU, right?

Wrong. Wallyball is taking the country by storm, and doing a good job of it.

The combination of volleyball and racquetball works, despite the unusual mix. The result is a fast-paced strategy game played by six people, three people per team. Skills in both games help but definitely are not required.

Wallyball is one of the newer events for the Intramural Department. Players in last year's tournament had little or no experience and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Try it. You might find you like the game, too.



Outdoor Soccer Games Are Underway This Week. Go Out and Support Your Favorite Team!