

## China rocks to English pop group

Associated Press

PEKING — With sexy dancers in strapless dresses, colored strobe lights and a hard-driving backup band, Britain's pop sensation Wham stunned a mostly Chinese crowd at a packed Peking stadium Sunday night in Communist China's first big-name rock concert.

The nearly two-hour, 10-song performance, including the hits "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go," and "Wham Rap," delighted the crowd of 12,000.

The All-China Youth Federation is sponsoring the British rockers, who arrived Thursday with a crew of 105 and 30 tons of equipment for two concerts unprecedented in the world's most populous nation. They play again on Thursday in Canton.

Their music has officially been labeled "healthy" in China's changing society, where in the 1960s and 70s the Communist Party banned dancing and considered Western pop as banal and filthy. Some foreign rock songs and dances are still regarded with suspicion.

Tickets cost the equivalent of \$1.75. That is more than three times the price of the most expensive Chinese concert seats, but the tickets sold out a few hours after the box office opened on Friday.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I hope the Governor realizes that by giving us Friday off, we're gonna take off Monday, too."

## Tornados start off slow around nation this year

Associated Press

DALLAS — When it comes to predictions about the tornado season, the weather wizards turn off their crystal balls and hang the "Out to Lunch" sign on the door.

"Mother Nature is so changeable, it's just impossible to predict what kind of year we're going to have," said Fred Ostby, director of National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City.

But so far, experts say, 1985 has been a slow year for twisters.

Nationwide, the weather service logged 57 tornados in the first three months of 1985.

"It's been a relatively quiet first three months," Ostby said. "We had three times that number last year."

In Texas, which usually leads the nation in tornados, the National Weather Service recorded no twisters in January, only one in February and eight in March.

"But that doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to be quiet in the future," Ostby warned.

"For Texas, the best we can say is: April, May and June traditionally

have the most tornados and that's when folks should be on the alert."

If 1985 continues to be a slow year for twisters, it will track 1984 in Texas. Ostby said last year was relatively calm — the state had only 93 tornados.

"That's a little below normal," Ostby said. "Normally, Texas has about 125. The 93 was the fewest since 1966 in Texas."

He said the twister death toll in Texas last year was two.

But nationwide, 1984 was more violent than usual. Ostby said the nation logged 908 tornados in 1984.

The storms last year claimed 122 lives, including 57 in a March 28 outbreak in the Carolinas.

Tornados develop quickly out of violent storm systems, making them hard to predict. Although weathermen can spot storm systems with tornado potential a few days in advance, Ostby says a few hours is considered good advance notice of an approaching tornado.

Often the notice is measured in minutes.

"One of the greatest boons to a warning system is trained spotters," said Don Mankin, a NWS meteorologist in Fort Worth. "Whenever we get storms developing, we activate our spotters. We have spotters in most every county and most are radio operators."

"A tornado will usually be preceded by a rotating wall cloud," they report they see a wall cloud that usually gives us a pretty good lead time, usually about 20 minutes."

The powerful, twisting winds of a tornado are the most violent on earth. Mankin said they have been clocked at up to 300 miles per hour.

The worst killer tornado on record roared through Illinois, Indiana and Missouri in March, 1925. It killed 689 people along a 220-mile path.

The worst killer tornado in Texas each claimed 114 lives. It occurred half a century ago in Waco and McLennan County on May 11, 1935, and in Goliad County on May 18, 1902.

## World birthrate drops in '84 according to private report

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The world's birthrate has dropped from 29 to 27 births per 1,000 people since 1983, largely thanks to sharp curbs on China's population growth, a private population study group reports.

The Population Reference Bureau reports that China is currently averaging 19 births per 1,000 residents, down from 23 only two years ago.

With one-fifth of the world's population, changes in China's popula-

tion have far-reaching effects on world averages, the independent, non-profit research group pointed out.

The new statistics, estimating the world's current population at 4.8 billion people, were published in the bureau's annual World Population Data Sheet, compiled by demographers Mary Maderios Kent and Carl Haub.

The current worldwide birthrate of 27 per 1,000, coupled with an average of 11 deaths per 1,000 people, results in an annual world popula-

tion increase of 1.7 percent, the researchers reported. That is down from 1.8 percent in 1983.

However, they noted that this rate still resulted in an extra 84 million people being added to the world's population in 1984. They estimate the total number of people in the world will top 5 billion by the year 2000 if current rates continue.

The fastest population growth is in Africa, where the continent-wide birth rate is 45 per 1,000.

## Affirmative action

### Hiring quotas under fire

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is facing resistance from many states and cities as it seeks to rid court-ordered affirmative action programs of race and sex-based hiring and promotion quotas.

Officials in major cities, including Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia and San Francisco, say such programs are working well and should be left alone, a spot check by The Associated Press shows.

The looming fight, centering on programs that grew out of the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, raises the question of whether the Constitution demands color-blind public hiring policies.

Administration officials, led by Attorney General Edwin Meese III and civil rights chief William Bradford Reynolds, say it does. Civil rights groups say no. And the Supreme Court hasn't addressed the issue directly.

Reynolds maintains the high court resolved the issue last June.

In a 6-3 decision, the court held that Memphis,

Tenn., officials violated the constitutional rights of firefighters covered by a seniority system to protect them from layoffs.


After that ruling, Reynolds sent letters to officials in charge of administering some 50 state and local government affirmative action programs, asking them to join his department in asking federal courts to set mandatory quotas from those programs.

An AP spot check of public statements by state and local officials showed that the administration would like to force the issue in several cases.

Lawyers and city spokesmen in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Miami, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Diego and San Francisco said they likely would resist the Justice move.

But some officials said they agreed with the Justice Department's position.


James Montgomery, Chicago corporation counsel, said the city will fight any attempt to get police and hiring and promotion quotas overturned. But a Council committee on Wednesday voted along party lines to call for an end to hiring and promotion quo-



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## INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS



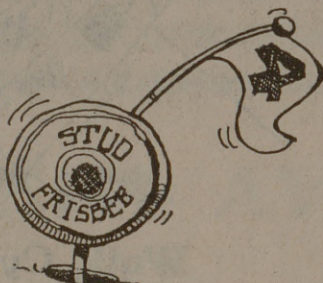
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BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING

At University Drive
At Texas and S.W. Parkway
At Manor East Mall
At 2930 E. Highway 21

### IM GAMEPLAN

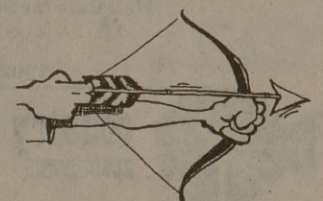
#### ENTRIES OPEN:

**FRISBEE GOLF** — Entries open today, April 8, and close at the event site. The contest will be held Saturday, April 20 beginning at noon. All contestants will meet at Mount Aggie. Participants must provide their own disc. Awards will be given to the winners of each division in singles and doubles. No entry fee.



#### ENTRIES CLOSE:

**ARCHERY** — Entries close Tuesday, April 16. The contest will be held Tuesday, April 23 beginning at 6 p.m. in 304 East Kyle. Times will be selected at registration. FITA rules will apply. Participants must supply own equipment. No compound bows may be used.



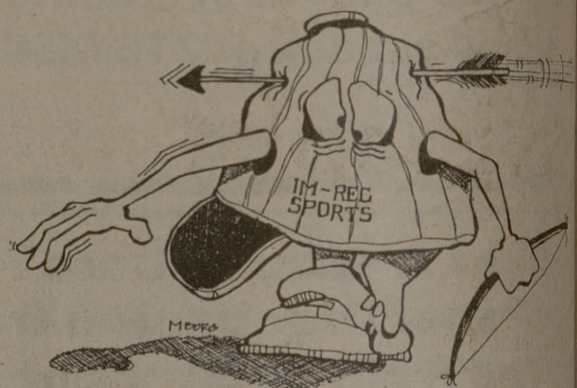
### ARCHERY CLUB NEWS

Texas A&M has its own Merry Men, and women, in the form of the Texas A&M Archery Club.

The Texas A&M club belongs to the National Archery Association. There are no NCAA archery teams because 18 to 20 teams compete at the collegiate level. While archery is popular in the West and East, the sport is just beginning to gain momentum in the South. Besides A&M, the only other team anywhere close is the University of Texas.

Team members shoot with recurve bows since compound bows are against amateur rules. Shooting Olympic style, that is without a telescopic sight or mechanical release, three Aggies have qualified for the Outdoor Nationals to be held in West Virginia in May.

Collegiate level archers compete under various conditions and distances. One competition, the Collegiate 900, requires the archer to shoot 30 arrows from distances of 40m., 50m. and 60m. By acquiring points, the archer strives for the highest score and perhaps a chance at national-level competition. The Texas A&M Archery Team is sponsoring an outdoor dual meet against the University of Texas this weekend on the polo field behind Zachry Engineering Center.



### ASTROS vs. REDS

Charlie Hustle, better known as Pete Rose, and his Cincinnati Reds will be playing the Houston Astros Tuesday, April 23 in the Astrodome.

The Intramural-Recreational Sports Office is sponsoring a trip to and from the game. Cost for the trip is \$20 per person. This price includes admission to the game and transportation to and from the Dome in an air-conditioned bus with restrooms, liquid refreshments, munchies for the ride down.

The bus will leave from Parking Lot 60 (across from G. Rollie White Coliseum) at 5 p.m. and return immediately after the game.

Reservations for the limited number of seats available will be taken until April 15 in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, 159 East Kyle. Contact Burnis Simon at 845-7826 for more information.

CHARLIE'S HUSTLE TO THE GAME. HOW ARE YOU GETTING THERE?

I'M TAKING THE BUS.



Softball team captains should check the schedules outside the Intramural Office every week to verify their team's gametime.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored 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.

### REMINDERS:

**HOMERUN** hitting finals will be held April 9.

**SOFTBALL** playoffs are posted a week at a time. Teams should check the schedules every week. If it rains ALL teams should check the posted schedule since rescheduling will effect all teams.

**INNERTUBE** Water Polo playoffs will be posted Tuesday, April 11 after 2 p.m. outside the Intramural Office, 159 East Kyle.

### TRACK AND FIELD

All-U finals for the Track Meet will be held Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in Kyle Field. Come on out and cheer on the runners!