

## Economists optimistic

(continued from page 1)

grow at a robust 4 percent rate this year.

Economists at the brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith are forecasting the economy will expand at a 3.5 percent rate this year, up from a prediction of 3.1 percent growth made just a month ago.

And the latest monthly survey of four dozen leading economists made by Blue Chip Economic Indicators, a Sedona, Ariz., newsletter, found that two-thirds of them were revising their forecasts upward.

These changes are not going unnoticed by the administration, which caught a lot of criticism last year for projecting 4 percent growth in 1986 when many private analysts were calling for growth below 3 percent.

Robert Ortner, chief forecaster at the Commerce Department, said the drop in oil prices was just one of a number of factors bolstering the outlook for growth.

"Inflation has come down, the dollar has come down and interest rates are down," he said. "These taken with the sharp drop in oil prices has almost insured that we will make 4 percent growth this year."

But not all analysts are that positive.

They see the trade deficit, which reached a record \$149 billion last year, remaining at a high level through most of 1986 as recent declines in the dollar help only gradually to boost U.S. sales.

In addition, these analysts contend that consumer spending is likely to lag this year as Americans, already saddled by heavy debt, cut back on their purchases.

## Girl reports she was beaten for not joining Satanic group

Associated Press

EL PASO — Christene Mireles thought she was at a regular party with classmates and some of their friends.

Then a boy told the 14-year-old student that some of the 25 people at the party were angry with her because she would not become one of them.

Suddenly, a group of girls converged on Mireles and starting beating her up.

She cried out to one of the adults for help, but the man encouraged the fight to continue, she said.

"I didn't know they were all satanists," said Mireles, who spent eight hours in the hospital.

She was beaten, she said, because she had refused to become a satanist.

The case is one indication of the growing devil-worship fad among El Paso teen-agers that is causing concern among parents, police, educators and counselors, the El Paso Times reported Sunday.

At least two junior high schools

recently changed their dress codes in an effort to clamp down on the fad, the newspaper said.

Henderson Junior High and Vista Del Sol Junior High, Mireles' school, have banned occult symbols such as "666," pentagrams, upside-down crosses and swastikas. Also banned are heavy metal rock T-shirts with satanic art.

Nick Cobos, assistant principal at Henderson, said the fad is disruptive.

"That's why I felt I had to do something about it," he said.

Some students who wore upside-down crosses on large chains around their necks were using the jewelry in fights, he said.

Florence Luke, director of El Paso Hotline, said some teens who have been counseled live in great fear that the devil is trying to kill them.

Luke said, "the animal sacrifices and the drinking of blood is very real to these children. Most of them can't even sleep at night. Some of

them have thoughts of suicide and thoughts of killing others."

Marian Given, director of the El Paso Youth Guidance Center, also has worked on cases involving the occult. She said Dungeons and Dragons, a fantasy game that uses such things as sorcery and magic, has attracted some teen-age interest in the occult.

Armando Martinez, another counselor at the guidance center, said not all teen-agers who get involved in the occult develop problems.

"A healthy child with good self-esteem, stable family and so on usually can put these things in perspective," he said. "Some of the kids we see here already have emotional problems."

Sue Joyner, an anti-occult spokeswoman, estimated that 2,000 satanists of all ages live in El Paso. She said El Paso has 150 active covens. Traditionally, each coven has 13 members.

## Prince Charles' Texas tour begins

(continued from page 1)

however, begins the next day in Austin, where the prince will host a ceremony on the Capitol steps that includes a 21-gun salute and a fly-over by the Texas Air National Guard.

Garner said, "The prince was very much interested in the restoration program going on at the Capitol."

Later Thursday, Prince Charles will cut the world's largest birthday cake — 90,000 pounds and measuring 80 feet by 110 feet — that Duncan Hines is presenting to the state.

Next is a concert featuring country singer Willie Nelson in cahoots with the Austin symphony.

On Friday, the prince will fly to San Antonio to visit with Mayor Henry Cisneros and the Vista Verde South urban revitalization project.

"We've managed to accommodate everything he wanted to do," Kelly said. "But we had to fill in practically every minute to do it."

The prince's first visit to Texas was in October 1977, when he attended the inaugural flight of British

Caledonian's London-to-Houston route.

But while touring Sak's Fifth Avenue and the Johnson Space Center, he didn't get to see any of the rest of the state, Kelly said.

Garner said Prince Charles' visit has been a big boon to Texas' Sesqui-centennial celebration.

"The prince helps call attention to it," he said. "In Austin, for example, his attendance assured a sell-out crowd (of 500) for a \$5,000-per-couple dinner that is raising money for the Capitol restoration project."

## Newspaper reports virtual gag order issued

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Officials investigating the death of a reputed organized crime figure who turned informant have clamped a virtual gag order on local authorities, the San Antonio Light reported Sunday.

Sources told the newspaper that the dead man, who had been living in Bexar County under the name Freddy Marino, testified last year under a different name in a major federal organized crime trial on the East Coast.

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's office is continuing toxicology tests to determine the cause of death of the 45-year-old man, who was found dead in his middle-class home, the newspaper reported.

A source said Marino was a protected witness in the U.S. Justice Department's Witness Protection Program. Program officials in Washington, D.C., declined comment.

The body was prepared at a San Antonio funeral home and flown to

Brooklyn, N.Y., Saturday morning, according to the newspaper.

County officials were called to the home in the Emerald Valley subdivision Wednesday evening. A roommate, unnamed in official reports, told investigators that he had found the corpse hanging from a bed post.

A neighbor of the man, who asked to remain anonymous, said Saturday that Marino had spoken about leaving town to attend a trial. But Marino never gave specifics about his

participation in the case, the neighbor said.

"He said he was involved in a trial not too long ago," the neighbor said. "He would never go into detail."

Other neighbors in the subdivision said Marino moved into the neighborhood in June 1985 and was working as an auto mechanic in San Antonio. The man told neighbors he had at one time been a professional drag-car racer known as "Fast Freddy," but had since retired.

## What's up

Monday

**SPIRIT AWARD APPLICATIONS:** Buck Weirus Spirit Award applications are available in the Former Students lobby, 110 YMCA, the Student Activities office, the Student Government office and the MSC. Applications should be returned by Feb. 29.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** registration for pre-season softball tournament will run through Wednesday. Format will be double elimination. Play starts Monday. Entry fees \$55. For more information call 764-3773.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** registration for College Station's first soccer invitational will run through Wednesday. Format will be round-robin with play being on Saturday and Sunday. Entry fee is \$75. For more information call 764-3773.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** will offer adult soccer leagues. Registration will run through Friday. Season starts March 3 and will consist of 10 games plus playoffs. Entry fee is \$250. For more information call 764-3773.

**NAUTICAL ARCHEOLOGY STUDENT LECTURES:** Don Keith will speak on the "Importance of Myth, Magic and Stubbornness in Nautical Archeology" at 7 p.m. in 301 Bldg. For more information call 845-6398.

**CAP AND GOWN PREFERRED PROFESSOR AWARD:** Charlie Plum will be honored as the 1986 Preferred Professor at 7 p.m. in 145 MSC.

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS:** will hold its first meeting of the semester at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder. Special guest speaker will be Mike Lamore, ATPE lobbyist from Austin. For more information call Jamie, 693-0483.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH:** will provide a mini writing course entitled "Strategies of Invention: The Decline and Fall of the Blank Page" at 6:30 p.m. in 124 Blocker. The instructor will be Keith Waddle. The course is free. For more information call 845-3452 or stop by 227 Blocker.

**PHI LAMBDA UPSILON:** will discuss spring initiation and awards at 5 p.m. in 229 Chemistry Bldg. For more information call Al, 845-8015.

**ALPHA ZETA:** will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 113 or 123 Kleberg.

**AGGIE TOASTERS:** will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. in 120 Blocker. For more information call Kathy, 268-0058.

**MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE:** will hold an open forum on "Who is the Greatest Living Science Fiction Writer?" at 7:30 p.m. in 205 MSC. For more information call Sheila, 845-1515.

**MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE:** will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. For more information call Tracy, 268-8348.

**DANCE ARTS SOCIETY:** will have aerobics, 6:30 p.m.; jazz, 7:30 p.m.; inter./adv. jazz, 8:30 p.m. in 268 East Kyle.

Tuesday

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH:** will provide a mini writing course entitled "Using the Library for Basic Research" at 6:30 p.m. in 204C Sterling C. Evans Library. The instructor will be Larry Beason. The course is free. For more information call 845-3452 or stop by 227 Blocker.

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN:** Annette Lopez will speak about sexual harassment on campus and the film "You're the Game" will be shown at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.



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## INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

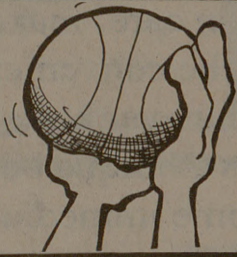
University Drive Hwy 21 Texas and S.W. Parkway Manor East Mall



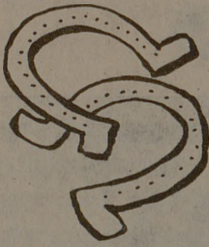
### IM Gameplan

#### ENTRIES CLOSE

**Free Throw Contest**-Sign-ups close on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6 P.M. The contest will be held Tuesday, Feb 25 on the Main Floor of G. Rollie White between 7 and 10 P.M. The highest total of 25 free throws wins. There is no entry fee.

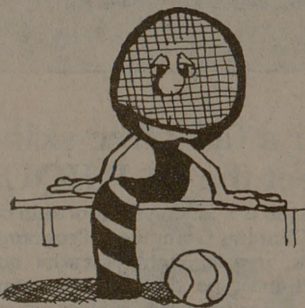


**Horseshoe Doubles**-Entries close at 6 P.M. on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Play begins on Tuesday, Feb 25. Matches consist of best two out of three games to 15 points. Horseshoes are provided and there is no entry fee. For more information call the IM-Rec Office at 845-7826.



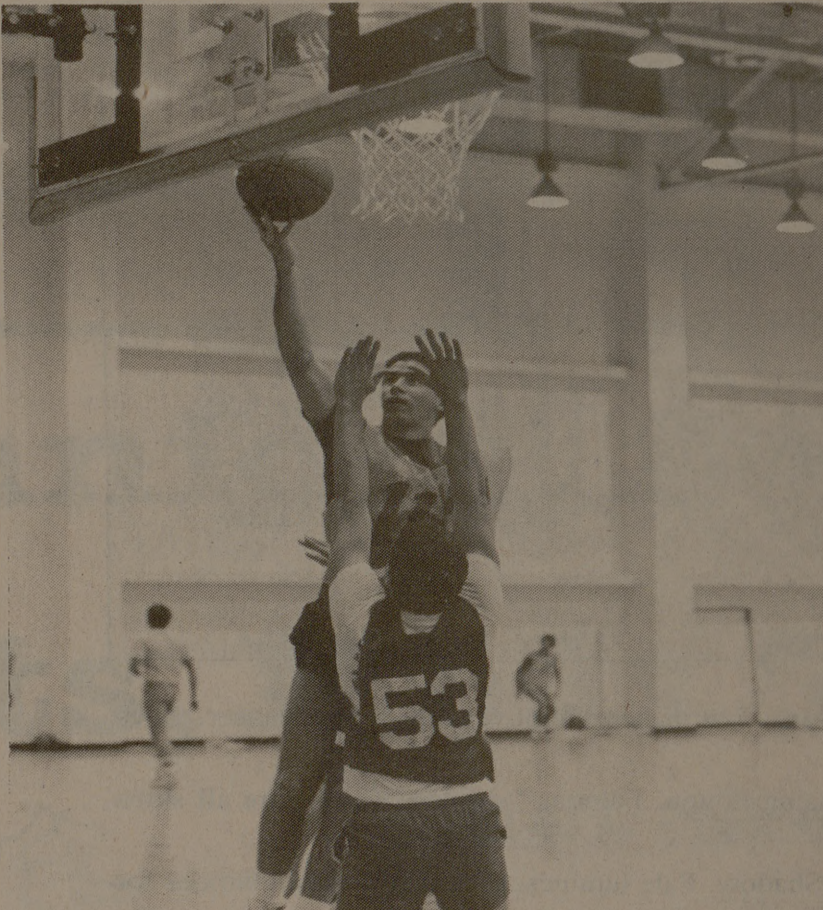
#### ENTRIES OPEN

**Tennis Doubles**-Finally, here's your chance to rant and rave like John McEnroe. Tennis Doubles entries open on Monday, Feb. 17 and close on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Matches consist of best two out of three sets, with 4-point games (no ad.) Participants must furnish their own racquets and a new, unopened can of balls, otherwise they forfeit. The winning team keeps the unopened can from each match. No entry fee.



### 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 Liz Dillow, graphics are by George Clendenin and photos are by Tom McDonnell and David Tatge.



Ramp 9 Mules go up against Spunk-E in basketball action. Playoffs begin this week for more action!

### SPORT CLUB NEWS

--The Men's Lacrosse Club will be out-of-town this week playing LSU in Baton Rouge on Saturday and Rice in Houston on Sunday.  
--The Men's Rugby Team will be playing San Antonio in San Antonio on Saturday, February 22.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Slowpitch Softball regular season began yesterday, Sunday, February 16. Teams that have not picked up their schedules should do so immediately. --Slam Dunk finals will be held at the half-time of the TAMU-Texas Tech Women's basketball game on Tuesday, February 18. Come on out to support the Lady Aggies and cheer on your favorite slam dunk participant. --Free Throw contest will be held Tuesday, February 25 from 7 - 10 PM on the Main Floor of G. Rollie White.

### BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Basketball Playoffs will be posted Tuesday, February 18 after 3 PM in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, Room 159 Read Building. Playoffs begin Thursday, February 20 so teams should be sure to check the schedule before then.

### WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GAME

The Texas A & M Association of Handicapped Athletes will host the Houston Rollin' Cougars in a wheelchair basketball game on Monday, February 24 prior to the Texas A&M-Houston Southwest Conference basketball game. The game will begin at 6 PM and is sponsored by both the TAMU and Houston Intramural-Recreational Sports Departments.

### PENBERTHY SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

It's not too early to enter your teams in the Penberthy Softball Tournament. Entries for this double elimination tournament will be open from Friday, February 14 until Tuesday, April 1. All Intramural rules and regulations apply although teams in the Penberthy tournament do not have to be made up of the same members of the regular season tournament team. Entry fee is \$40.00 with divisions open in Men's A & B, Women's Open, and CoRec Open. Batbags will be awarded to the champions of the Men's A, Women's Open and CoRec Open divisions while runner-ups in these divisions and the champion in Men's B will receive T-shirts. At least 8 teams must sign up for a division for it to be offered and at least 12 teams must sign up in a division for second place to be awarded.

### OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Planning on a camping or hiking trip for Spring Break? The Intramural-Recreational Sports Office will have reduced rental rates for outdoor equipment rentals over Spring Break only. Be sure to reserve the equipment rentals over Spring Break only. Be sure to reserve the equipment well in advance. For more information contact Patsy Greiner at 845-7826.