# **State and Local**

### Cities seek merry Christmas sales

## **B-CS merchants say sales up**

#### **By Sandee Smith** Reporter

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Merchants in the Bryan-College tation area hope for an increase in les every year when the Christmas

hopping season begins. This year is no different, but it is ill too early to confirm reports of igher sales and employment in lol stores.

"Every year you have a rise in emloyment in the retail establishents," said Hamp Paterson, labor arket analyst for the Texas Emoyment Commission.

"I won't get the report for the first art of December until early Janua-" Paterson said, "but everything e heard sounds promising."

Martha Mewis, marketing direc-report for Post Oak Mall, said the start cent. the busy shopping season is en-buraging for the mall merchants.

"I think Bryan-College Station is ing good business compared to ther cities," Mewis said. "The mall as definitely crowded at lunch on e Friday after Thanksgiving and ere was standing room only in the ood court.

"I saw a picture of the Town and untry Mall in Houston from Friay and there were only about four ple in the picture.

"If I had to make a decision on the

strength of our business by that pic- Bank of Bryan, said the volume of ager said. "I feel there was a considother areas in the state.

Preliminary figures were reported by some stores by comparing the ticket sales from the day after Thanksgiving in 1985 to this year, Mewis said. From those figures, the

ture, I'd say we are doing better than business from the commercial customers increased noticeably in the past week.

"If there was a real increase in business it could have a positive impact," Telg said. "Whether business will stay at this level for the next increases in some stores have been three and a half weeks remains to be

"If I had to make a decision on the strength of our business . . . I'd say we are doing better than other areas in the state."

— Martha Mewis, Post Oak Mall marketing director

reported to be as much as 10 per-

Dr. Morgan Reynolds said the early signs for local business look good. "It looks like demand is high,"

Reynolds said, "but it's hard to tell could be a beginning, Telg said. how this will affect the local econ-

omy so early on in the season. The bankers and merchants are in the middle of that part of economics. The economists can go back and study the actual effects after the

figures come in." Ken Telg, senior vice president of operations for First City National

The oil economy has had such a Texas A&M economics professor harmful effect on business in the past year that merchants should remain realistic about a possible permanent increase in business, but this

Greg Milsap, manager for Dil-rd's, said the Christmas holidays lard's, are the most important time of the year for the retail business.

"It definitely has a big effect on the year-end figures for business," Milsap said.

"I'm not at liberty to give out exact figures on our sales," the store man-

erable increase over last year's Thanksgiving weekend, though." Milsap added that Dillard's was

hiring about the same amount of temporary help as last year. We usually depend more on our

regular employees," he said. "They know the merchandise already. We ust increase their hours during the holidays.

Mewis said there has been an increase in employees all over the mall. dience of about 40 people at the Bifood court have hired more help to uate Engineering Seminar. work during this period," she said. Thornton spoke from his experi-"The temporaries are very impor- ence on two space shuttle flights

attention.

enced so far this year. est time," she said. "But the shop- adapted to space motion sickness.

pers have been out in good force during this week, too. after Dec. 26, so these three weeks

before Christmas will be very impor- than the object, is moving. tant 'The after-Christmas sales can conflict.' bring in as many customers as the

Thanksgiving sales, though.'

## Astronauts 'adapt' to space as others may adapt to Earth

#### **By Julie Vass** Reporter

NASA astronauts must adapt to space travel just as individuals must adapt to situations on Earth, a NASA astronaut said Thursday at the Memorial Student Center.

Dr. Bill Thornton spoke to an au-The department stores and the oengineering Department's Gradtant to give customers the necessary aboard the Challenger.

There are numerous situations She said she has been pleased with that the astronauts must face and the success the stores have experi- adapt to when they travel through space, he said.

During his first flight in 1983, "The weekend is usually the busi- Thornton studied how astronauts

Thornton said the sickness occurs when an object rotates around a per-"The business usually drops off son at such high speeds that the person begins to feel that he, rather

Thornton described it as a "senses

#### Space motion sickness is by no means as bad as seasickness, he said, but it is quick, surprising and lasts periodically for about 36 hours. After that time, an astronaut usually will build up resistance to motion sickness, Thornton said.

He added that the sickness strikes about 40 percent of those who go on space flights.

Other effects, Thornton said, involve physical appearance.

Sometimes, he said, astronauts grow as much as two inches in height

But this change is only temporary, Thornton said, and the astronauts return to their normal heights upon landing.

Thornton said exercise on space flights is limited, and this negatively

some would have trouble walking, running or even getting out of a chair, he said.

Thornton invented a treadmill



**Dr. Bill Thornton** 

that simulated walking in the Earth's gravitational atmosphere to remedy the exercise problem.

"It brings you back in better condition and makes you feel good," he said.

Thornton said that although the treadmill is not mandatory for short space flights, it could be used in future space stations.

Dr. Wendell Mendell, a planetary scientist with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration also lectured, saying that space stations are in the future and so is a manned base on the moon.

Mendell currently is working with NASA's Solar System Exploration Division on the building of a lunar base.

"In a space station, people will have to learn how to live and work in Mendell said. "There will space," have to be crews there constantly.'

The moon can be used for several things, he said, ranging from research and use of the moon's resources to colonization.

'The moon is our kindergarten for learning to live in the rest of the solar system," Mendell said.

"Someday it will be common for you to know someone . . . who works in a space station," he said.



### Panel: African farming needs new methods

#### **By Olivier Uyttebrouck** Staff Writer

At current growth rates, Africa's opulation will double to one billion ople by the year 2000 and alreadyclining food supplies are likely to come even leaner, panelists reed Thursday night.

"I think we have to be honest that ere is something wrong with our ork ethic," Nigerian Damien Ejigiri d the audience of about 30 Afrians and Americans at a seminar tied "Africa: Facing the 21st Centusponsored by the African dents Association. "We have lost he 20th century and if we continue

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Dr., Wesley Peterson, assistant professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M, said that during the

lose the 21st century too.

on the way we're going . . . we will

1960s food production managed to stay ahead of the soaring population. But today, about one-fourth of the food consumed in Africa is imported and about one-third of this imported food comes in the form of.

foreign aid. Peterson described three types of explainations for the lagging food production:

• The radical view: The slow growth in agricultural production is the legacy of Africa's colonial past

into illogical political divisions and made dependent on foreign powers.

• Natural disaster: Drought, locust and other natural problems, compouded by civil wars and the political turmoil within countries is responsible for slow agricultural production growth.

tion. For example he says, many govunrest and food riots in the cities.

each of these views but he says west- fertilizers which are difficult to use.

when the continent was divided up ern economists tend toward the policy view. The radical view is weakened by the fact that most European powers withdrew from Africa be-tween 1955 and 1965, he said.

> Nigerian Chibo Onyeji, an agristressed that industry can best serve

> As examples, Onyeji says that orand animal materials found in abundance in Africa, should be favored over expensive imported chemical

cultural economics graduate student during a flight. African agriculture by devising

### ganic fertilizers, made from plant affected the astronauts. Astronauts would return and

wish to put on their own show.

• Policy view: The misguided methods and technology tailored to policies of African govornments the unique conditions there.

have retarded agricultural producernments keep food prices artificially low to keep down popular

Peterson said there is truth in

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