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Population boom declines in Texas as growth tapers

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas' population is growing at about half the rate it grew during the boom years of 1980-82, and preliminary figures for 1986 suggest growth may be stabilizing, according to a report released Thursday by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

"The state's population is still growing," said demographer Steve Murdock, professor and head of Texas A&M's rural sociology department.

"It grew from 14.2 million people in 1980 to 16.4 million in 1985, but the rate of growth has slowed substantially."

"In 1980-81 and 1981-82, a period of very rapid growth in Texas, the annual rate of increase was about 3.6 percent per year. But for 1984-85, the growth rate was about 1.8 percent, or about half of what it was in the boom years of 1980-82."

The study shows that 17 of the state's 26 metropolitan statistical areas — geographical areas of 50,000 or more inhabitants — experienced net out-migration between 1984 and 1985. Six of the metro areas were experiencing population declines because natural increase — the excess of births relative to deaths — was not enough to offset net out-migration between 1984 and 1985.

The population trends in the state's 254 counties show that 146 counties had population decreases during the 1960s. By contrast, during the 1970s only 44 had declines in population, and in 1980-82 only 41 counties lost population.

The trend reversed in 1982-84, with 68 counties showing decreases in their population. From 1984-85, the number of counties showing declining populations increased to 110.

In terms of net out-migration, 180 counties experienced out-migration in the 1960s, 84 in the 1970s, 57 from 1980-82, 93 from 1982-84 and 147 from 1984-85.

The report said, "Prospects for renewed population growth at a level approximating the 1970s and early 1980s do not seem bright. Unless the state economy makes a rapid turnaround, it appears that the Texas boom in population growth is over, at least temporarily."

Rita Hamm, research associate for the rural sociology department, said the slowdown was primarily a result of the bad economic conditions in Texas.

Murdock said net in-migration averaged about 177,000 people per year during the 1970s but went to 364,000 from 1981-82. For 1984-85 it decreased to about 101,000 people.

"Now, about two-thirds of the growth is from natural increase with only about a third resulting from net in-migration," Murdock said.

Even at 1.8 percent per year, the growth rate for Texas is substantially higher than that for the nation as a whole, which has been growing at about 1 percent per year. One of the reasons for Texas' above-average rate is that its rate of natural increase has held steady at about 1.2 percent per year during the 1980s.

The report said there is little doubt that the slowdown in Texas population growth is real, extensive and pervasive. The causes for these patterns appear to be largely economic and it seems unlikely that such growth will return to the levels of the 1970s and early 1980s until the Texas economy shows a substantial recovery.

In Advance

Orchestra concert will feature pianist

By Karl Palmeyer
Music Critic

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will present "Pictures for the Ear" and an award-winning pianist **Saturday at 8 p.m.** in Rudder Auditorium.

Under the direction of conductor Franz Anton Krager, the BVSO is scheduled to perform Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" and Franz Schubert's "Overture to Rosamunde." Pianist Lin Wang will join the orchestra for Frederic Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E Minor for Piano.

Wang, 18, won the Gold Medal at the Brazos Valley Young Artist Competition last month. When she was 8, Wang had a music teacher show her how to read music so she could begin playing the piano. She received no formal instruction until she was admitted to the Preparatory School of the Shanghai Conservatory when she was 10.

Wang is one of four pianists from Shanghai, China, currently studying music at the University of Texas under a special program set up by UT music professor William Race.

Race, who had been invited by the Chinese to teach music at the Shanghai Conservatory, says he saw several young, talented pianists there and wanted to bring them to America to study. He worked out a program with UT to have the school sponsor these students' education. Last September, four pianists, including Wang, came to study music at Race at UT. Another Chinese student will join the program in September, he said.

Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E Minor for Piano was actually second, and last, piano concert he wrote. Both works were composed early in his career, but his first piano concerto wasn't published until after the second.

Mussorgsky wrote "Pictures at an Exhibition" in memory of friend, Russian artist Alexander Hartmann. The composition was inspired by some of Hartmann's drawings. The BVSO will perform Maurice Ravel's orchestral transcription of work.

The opera "Rosamunde, Princess of Cyprus" was written by Schubert in only two days. Schubert didn't have time to write an overture for the opera, so he used the overture from "Der barbare," one of his earlier operas. Although the opera "Rosamunde" wasn't popular, it closed after two performances. The name was given to the "Zauberharfe" overture which was published.

Tickets for "Pictures for the Ear" are available at Rudder Office. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$8 for children 12 and under. Call the Rudder Office at 845-1234 or the BVSO office at 846-7659 for more details.

Speaker to discuss U.S.-Soviet relations

Can we trust the Soviets? Is world domination the Soviet goal? What are the Soviets really after?

These issues and more will be addressed at the MSC Political Forum's program on U.S.-Soviet relations to be held **Monday in 601 Rudder at 7 p.m.**

Ambassador Ralph Earl, chief U.S. negotiator at the Geneva Salt II talks and director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, is the featured speaker.

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Man calls donations 'the real issue'

Tyler evangelist blasts Swaggart

HOUSTON (AP) — Tyler evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong says Jimmy Swaggart should stop criticizing fellow preacher Jim Bakker about his present troubles.

Swaggart should follow Jesus' command to "let he who is without sin among you cast the first stone," Armstrong said Wednesday.

The evangelist said the real issue behind the Bakker controversy may be the competition for donations from TV viewers. He said the two evangelists are "paying the price for living under the trappings of power and large incomes."

"You've got to understand that these people are all competing for the same market," Armstrong told the *Houston Chronicle*. "You can't put a price tag on the Gospel."

"The limelight and multimillion-dollar budgets of TV evangelism can be a corrupting influence. These people are not above this type of thing."

Swaggart, Bakker, Oral Roberts and other TV evangelists have similar programs and all ask for donations, something Armstrong said he has never done during his 33 years on television and radio.

Armstrong became well-known when he was the evangelist for "The World Tomorrow" TV program, but was ousted in a power struggle at the California-based Worldwide Church of God in 1978.

Armstrong said he had not read about the Bakker controversy until Wednesday.

"I never watch those people," said Armstrong.

"The limelight and multimillion-dollar budgets of TV evangelism can be a corrupting influence. These people (Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker) are not above this type of thing."

— Tyler evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong

who still has a weekly, half-hour TV program showing in 14 U.S. cities. He estimates his total audience to be far less than the 2 million it was when he was host for "The World Tomorrow."

Bush's son: Iran deal causes problems for big

AUSTIN (AP) — The continuing controversy over the Iran-Contra arms deal creates political problems for George Bush's presidential bid, his son said Thursday.

George W. Bush said he fears congressional investigations and news reports might distract the public from his father's qualifications.

"The Iran thing has created enough confusion so it takes away one of our strengths, and that is getting people to see what George Bush is made out of and what his worth is," George W. Bush said.

"What it does, it tends to confuse voters so they don't focus on George Bush's strengths," he said. "He is the best-qualified guy to run the government."

The younger Bush is in Austin to announce leaders of the vice president's Texas campaign staff.

He said he worries about Democrat-controlled congressional committees investigating the sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"You've got to be concerned about it because the ball is now in the committees controlled by the Democrats," Bush said. "And they're going to make as much political hay out of it as possible."

Leading Bush's Texas presidential campaign will be Tom Loeffler, former congressman and unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate, and Republican Party activist Penny Butler of Houston.

Loeffler said the Iran controversy makes the race tougher but predicted the vice president will win the 1988 GOP nomination.

"We know we have a challenge," Loeffler said. "It's not going to be a cakewalk. But I know who's the front-runner, and I know who in my judgment is the most qualified man in America to be president."

"We're beginning the process of getting another Texan elected to the presidency of the United States."

Saying his father's main Republican competition is Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, Bush said the southern "Super Tuesday" primary will be a tremendous advantage to the vice president, who also sought the GOP presidential nomination in 1980.

More than a dozen southern states will hold their primaries on March 16 or 17, about half the GOP National Convention delegates will be elected that early, Bush said.

"It's an incumbent's dream," Bush said. "On Super Tuesday, you'll have 16 or 17 primary states on one day. You've got to be able to raise money and organize around the board for a one-day primary. It's never happened before."

"The people who have been around the circle once, and the people who have paid their dues a lot of times... have got an enormous advantage."

Man calls donations 'the real issue'

Tyler evangelist blasts Swaggart

Armstrong said he was shocked to learn Swaggart initiated an investigation of Bakker the Assemblies of God denomination. Swaggart and Bakker are ministers with the Pentecostal denomination.

"That's shocking," Armstrong said. "The guy goes on television and preaches forgiveness. Swaggart should forgive Bakker 'to avoid a ritual grave-robbing,'" he said.

Swaggart has denied accusations from Bakker's organization that he attempted to take Bakker's \$172 million PTL evangelistic empire near Charlotte, N.C.

Armstrong, 57, now president of the Texas-based Church of God International, was one of his father, the late Herbert W. Armstrong, nine years ago in a widely publicized dispute over fiscal policies at the Worldwide Church of God.

Armstrong's father, who died in 1986, accused him after accusing him of trying to take over the church. The younger Armstrong denied the charges.

"The use of blatant, teary-eyed fund-raising appeals (by TV evangelists) leaves a very bad taste in my mouth," Armstrong said. "I'm glad that the vast majority of the public feels the same way."

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