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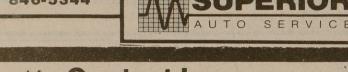
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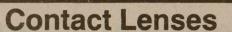
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A&M dean says Texas is headed N for continuing economic recovery

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M's dean of the College of Business Administration expects a steady recovery of the Texas economy over the next few years, and says the long-term economic outlook for the state looks bright.

Dean A. Benton Cocanougher said an emphasis on technology, service industries, new business startups, and major corporate locations to Texas will lead the state out of the slump caused by its dependence on the ailing energy industry.
"I think what we'll see when we

emerge from that problem is a strong, better-diversified economy,' Cocanougher said. "I think we'll see a lot more emphasis on transferring

think what we'll see when we emerge from that problem is a strong, betterdiversified economy.'

> - A. Benton Cocanougher Dean, business college

Some of the advantages Texas has

the creation of new companies, and abundance of available space, a sup-on bringing ideas and research into ply of relatively skilled labor, an attractive climate, a large energy base, and suitable port and transportation

> Cocanougher said Texas also will tions. recover economically because of its active pursuit of what he thinks are major growth areas - health technology, biotechnology, computer research from the universite electronics and the information their basic premise," he said."

Continued support for higher education is an important catalyst for stimulating the economy, Cocanougher said. Universities serve as a support as well as a stimulator of

Cocanougher said that state as Massachusetts and Calif which have had considerable suc in attracting new venture stan and high-technology industries have excellent educational in

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We'll see an increasing m of businesses (in Texas) th formed around the notion of see it in biotechnology, electr some aspects of energy, new ma als and physics.

The major obstacles that are ing growth in Texas are the aged real estate markets and fi cial institutions, Cocanougher,

Children read to help themselves, other

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER

Children all over the world are reading to help raise money to benefit people affected by mul-

Bryan and College Station students are among those helping out.
"The school districts in Bryan and College Sta-

tion unfortunately have a non-fund-raising policy," said Pippa Wiley, MS READaTHON coordinator. Students are allowed to participate in the program on an individual basis, however The program really motivates the kids," she

said. "They read an average of 14 books per Every child who completes the READaTHON receives a reward package, which contains cou-

pons from sponsors including AstroWorld, Putt Putt Golf Courses, Malibu Grand Prix and the National Geographic Society. The students who raise the most money in

each chapter receive scholarships to Junior Space Camp in Florida for a week where they train to

"It's very genuine, and kids have a blast there,"

The children who participated in the READ-aTHON last year raised \$75,000 in the southeast chapter, which covers 65 counties in southeast and central Texas, including Brazos County.

She emphasized that the READaTHON can have a positive influence on the children who

This year's fund raising goal is \$130,000, Wi-

"In this society we spend so much time telling kids what not to do," Wiley said. "It's really neat

to be able to tell kids they can do good and have fun at the same time One READaTHON participant who says he has had fun in the program for years is Andy

Roth, 10, of Houston. "I love to read, and I like to give to charities," he said, "so I decided to try the READaTHON."

Roth is a 4th grader at St. John's and has joined the READaTHON every year since he was 'My father has MS, so that played a big part in

my participation," he said.

Last year Roth was the top reader in the sour

"I read 300 books in about a month a half," he said. "My parents had to stop me

"I read before I went to bed, before I wen school, on the way to school, on the way from school, and during any free time I had. Roth said his favorite books are mysterie

tasies and science fiction. The books he reads about 180 pages long, he said.
So far this year, Roth has read 35 books. though he is involved in other extracurricular tivities and has less time to devote to the REA

aTHON this year, he said, he encourages other "If you really like to read and raise money

a good cause, go ahead and try the RE aTHON," Roth said. "Even if you only raises It's not too late to start reading, since the

gram does not start officially until next m The MS Society will send everything need join the READaTHON to those who call I

Group calls Leland, Gonzalez 'heroes'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reps. Mickey Leland and Henry B. Gonza-lez were "liberal heroes" last year, according to an advocacy group that analysed the voting records of members of Congress.

"I love being a liberal hero be-cause my roots have always been in progressive politics ... the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement," Leland, a Houston Democrat and chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, said Tuesday.

In ranking members of Congress, Americans for Democratic Action gave Leland and Gonzalez, a San Antonio Democrat, scores of 100 percent. They were among 24 House Democrats and two senators with 100 percent ratings that earned them an ADA designation of "liberal

ADA ranked the members of votes on bills and amendments that the organization believes most clearly reflect liberal-conservative differences. Issues include civil rights, labor issues, women's rights, foreign and military policy.

The next-higest scoring Texan in the House was Rep. John Bryant, with an 85 percent ranking. The state's lowest scoring Democrats were Reps. Ralph Hall of Rockwall and Marvin Leath of Waco, with 15 percent each, and Rep. Charles Stenholm of Stamford, at 20 pering.

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and the guardroom.

Nominations open for Parents of Year

Applications for Parents of the ents' service to their family, com-

are due Feb. 10 and are munity and the University

ment Office, Student Programs end Public Relations spokesman,

Office, Sterling C. Evans Library said winners will be announced

The criteria for selection in- awards ceremony in Rudder. For cludes an evaluation of the par- more informaton call 260-2250.

cent. House Speaker Jim Wright of Fort Worth was not ranked because the speaker rarely votes.

Texas Republicans earned no more than a 10 percent ranking, with seven of them coming in at

Despite George Bush's liberalbashing during the summer cam-paign, Leland said he's proud to be a liberal because it means "doing what's right by humanity" - caring about the environment and the poor, the desperate, the homeless, "those who have very little in so-

Some of us are not afraid to be called liberal and progressive and to continue to fight for our place in the sun, and eventually, we'll get there," Leland said.

"These issues don't have a lot of advocates or high-paid lobbyists, like children's issues, the hungry, the homeless," Leland said. "We advocate the government has a responsi-bility to take care of those with the least amongst us. Government has a responsbility and we're not afraid to

Gonzalez, chairman of the House Banking Committee, was conducting a hearing Tuesday and could not be reached for comment. But he has in the past said he is proud to be a liberal. A spokeswoman said the congressman votes his conscience and would not be surprised by the rank-

Clay Whitaker, Parents Week-

April 9 at the Parents Weekend

The ADA showed the House of Representatives had a "liberal quotient" of 52 percent last year, the highest figure since ADA began rating voting records in 1947. In the Senate, the average score was 48 Of the 25 House members, all Re-

publicans, who had scores of zero, six were from Texas. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, was one of 11 Senate Republicans scoring zero. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, a Democrat and the state's senior senator, scored a 40

Here's how Texas House bers fared in the ADA survey: Democrats — Mike And Houston, 75; Jake Brooks, mont, 75; John Bryant, Dalla Albert Bustamante, San Am 70; Jim Chapman, Sulphur Sp 50; Ron Coleman, El Paso, 80 de la Garza, Mission, 50; Frost, Dallas, 70; Henry B. lez, San Antonio, 100; Ralph Rockwall, 15; Marvin Leath, 15; Mickey Leland, Houston Solomon Ortiz, Corpus Christ Jake Pickle, Austin, 80.

Students, city join drive to help STOP poverty

By Snaron Maberry

STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M students helped bring holiday cheer to 67 Bryan-College Station families this Christmas through a program called STOP — Students Together Opposing Pov-

STOP is an organization founded this year by Dan Hockaday, a junior accounting major, and Craig Headley, family services administrator at Twin City Mission. Hockaday and Headley organized a drive to raise donations of money, food, clothing and toys to distribute to needy fami-

"Students provided the funding and labor," Headley said. "The Residence Hall Association was a major sponsor of the project. The majority of the dorms were involved in raising money. Twin City Mission provided the names of families in desperate need at Christmastime.

STOP received support from many area businesses, including more than 400 meals in gift certificates from McDonald's and bulk

rates on heaters from Furn Hardware.

'Safeway acted as our bulk but which enabled us to reach numbers of needy families," H ley said. "Food Town in Bryan us a bulk discount on toys. Moss ilies had an average of five Some had as many as nine to ! "With the help from Food To

and RHA, we were able to give child two toys instead of only on STOP raised more than \$4 worth of goods, he said. It took trucks two days to make all the

eries. Headley said he was ple with the results of the drive bear it served 28 more families than nally were intended. Headley said he organized as lar program called PRIDE, or erty Relief Is Developing Every while attending Virginia Com

Headley first visited A&M while tending a conference.
"I fell in love with it so much! came down here to finish my gree," he said. "I'll be entering."

wealth University in Richn

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