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A&M dean says Texas is headed 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 technology to the marketplace, on

the creation of new companies, and on bringing ideas and research into commercial application."

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— A. Benton Cocanougher
Dean, business college

Some of the advantages Texas has over other states, he said, are an

abundance of available space, a supply of relatively skilled labor, an attractive climate, a large energy base, and suitable port and transportation facilities.

Cocanougher said Texas also will recover economically because of its active pursuit of what he thinks are major growth areas — health technology, biotechnology, computer electronics and the information field.

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 new ideas, he said.

Cocanougher said that states as Massachusetts and California which have had considerable success in attracting new venture start-ups and high-technology industries, have excellent educational institutions.

"We'll see an increasing number of businesses (in Texas) that formed around the notion of research from the universities, their basic premise," he said. "I see it in biotechnology, electronics and physics."

The major obstacles that are hindering growth in Texas are the aged real estate markets and financial institutions, Cocanougher said.

Children read to help themselves, others

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER

Children all over the world are reading to help raise money to benefit people affected by multiple sclerosis.

Bryan and College Station students are among those helping out.

"The school districts in Bryan and College Station 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 month."

Every child who completes the READaTHON receives a reward package, which contains coupons 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 be astronauts.

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

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

This year's fund raising goal is \$130,000, Wiley said.

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

"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 in the 1st grade.

"My father has MS, so that played a big part in my participation," he said.

Last year Roth was the top reader in the southeast chapter.

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

"I read before I went to bed, before I went to school, on the way to school, and during any free time I had."

Roth said his favorite books are mysteries, fantasies and science fiction. The books he reads are about 180 pages long, he said.

So far this year, Roth has read 35 books, though he is involved in other extracurricular activities and has less time to devote to the READaTHON this year, he said, he encourages others to read.

"If you really like to read and raise money for a good cause, go ahead and try the READaTHON," Roth said. "Even if you only raise \$5, it will help."

It's not too late to start reading, since the program does not start officially until next month. The MS Society will send everything needed to join the READaTHON to those who call 1-800-323-4873.

Group calls Leland, Gonzalez 'heroes'

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

"I love being a liberal hero because 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.

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 percent.

Of the 25 House members, all Republicans, 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 percent.

Here's how Texas House members fared in the ADA survey: Democrats — Mike Anderson, Houston, 75; Jake Brooks, Baytown, 75; John Bryant, Dallas, 70; Albert Bustamante, San Antonio, 70; Jim Chapman, Sulphur Springs, 70; Ron Coleman, El Paso, 60; de la Garza, Mission, 50; Mar more as and 1988 graduates.

Wide crude oil prices kept n months below \$18-per barrel.

In a predicted and pro that their bu "We price la also di Earl Sw utive of Energy and m like to at least "Eve be \$16 now it going Alth a new vember last year trench Texas

Despite George Bush's liberal-bashing during the summer campaign, 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 society."

"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 responsibility to take care of those with the least amongst us. Government has a responsibility and we're not afraid to say that."

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 ranking.

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 heroes in 1988."

ADA ranked the members of Congress based on a set of 20 floor 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-highest 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 per-

Nominations open for Parents of Year

Applications for Parents of the Year are due Feb. 10 and are available in the Student Government Office, Student Programs Office, Sterling C. Evans Library and the guardroom.

The criteria for selection includes an evaluation of the par-

ents' service to their family, community and the University.

Clay Whitaker, Parents Weekend Public Relations spokesman, said winners will be announced April 9 at the Parents Weekend awards ceremony in Rudder. For more information call 260-2250.

Students, city join drive to help STOP poverty

By Sharon 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 Poverty.

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 families.

"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 Furniture Hardware.

"Safeway acted as our bulk buyer which enabled us to reach large numbers of needy families," Headley said. "Food Town in Bryan gave us a bulk discount on toys. Most families had an average of five toys. Some had as many as nine to 13."

"With the help from Food Town and RHA, we were able to give each child two toys instead of only one."

STOP raised more than \$4,000 worth of goods, he said. It took two trucks two days to make all the deliveries. Headley said he was pleased with the results of the drive because it served 28 more families than originally were intended.

Headley said he organized a similar program called PRIDE, or Poverty Relief Is Developing Everyone while attending Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Headley first visited A&M while attending a conference.

"I fell in love with it so much that I came down here to finish my degree," he said. "I'll be entering the fall."

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