

## A&M economist sees possibility of recession

By STACY ALLEN  
 Of The Battalion Staff

A recession might be in America's future if the crisis in the Middle East is not resolved soon, an A&M economist forecasts.

Dr. James M. Griffin, a professor of economics who specializes in the oil market, said a weak U.S. economy coupled with rising energy prices easily could push America into recession.

Because the gross national product is growing at less than 2 percent, the economy is especially vulnerable, he said.

"The economy has been at the brink of recession," Griffin said. "(Now) you have another shock added to it. The likelihood is that this will probably push us over the edge and we will have some form of a modest recession."

He said the skyrocketing oil and gas prices and the possibility of a recession is parallel with problems experienced in October 1973.

In 1973, the economy was functioning similarly to the 1990 econ-

omy. As a result of the Saudi Arabian embargo against the United States and the Netherlands, oil prices quadrupled — jumping from \$2.50 to \$10 per barrel.

Prices of competing fuels increased, and eventually so did general price levels and the consumer price index.

"The real parallel that may be occurring today is likely linked to what happened in '73 and '74 (rather than (in) World War II when the economy had spare capacity and the

demand for additional war materials stimulated (it)," Griffin said.

"I think the more likely scenario is that energy prices will push us into recession."

Griffin said the magnitude of the recession depends on events that take place in the near future.

The most damaging of two extremes, he said, would be for war to break out in the Persian Gulf and oil production facilities in Saudi Arabia to become damaged.

Saudi Arabia accounts for 10 percent of the world's supply of oil while Iraq and Kuwait account for 9 percent.

"In that kind of world, the price at the pump could very easily be \$2 (per gallon of) gasoline and that would be a major shock to our macroeconomic system," Griffin said.

Oil prices could very well end up above \$50 a barrel. This would force the Federal Reserve to decide whether to hold down inflationary pressures by adopting high interest rates or slow monetary growth types of policies — which would make a

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**"The likelihood is that (the Gulf situation) will probably push us over the edge and we will have some form of a modest recession."**

— Dr. James M. Griffin, economics professor

## A&M officials add university to system

West Texas State University, which has approximately 6,000 students and is located in Canyon, becomes part of the Texas A&M University System on Saturday.

With the addition of WTSU, the A&M System will include eight universities — twice as many as were part of it prior to the start of the fiscal year.

The three universities that formerly made up the University System of South Texas — Texas A&I University, Corpus Christi State University and Laredo State University — joined the A&M System on Sept. 1, 1990, also the start of the new fiscal year.

A&M System Chancellor Perry Adkisson said the additional university further enhances the System's stature as one of the largest and most diversified educational systems in the nation.

Other universities with the System are A&M, Prairie View A&M University, Tarleton State University and Texas A&M at Galveston.

The Texas Legislature authorized the merger of WTSU during a special session last spring and it was subject to approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the two institution's governing boards.

The A&M System now will operate with a budget of \$1.02 billion.

## Police, protesters clash in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police clashed for a second day Thursday with students protesting black factional fighting, and the government said the conflict was forcing it to spend money on security instead of social services.

Witnesses in Cape Town said students hurled stones at police, who fired birdshot in return and injured at least two protesters. The students were demanding an end to battles between Xhosas, who mostly support the African National Congress, and Zulus, who back the conservative Inkatha movement.

Officials of the Transkei homeland, where many Xhosas are from, complained Thursday that South African authorities had left bodies of victims of the fighting to rot outside Johannesburg-area mortuaries.

They said people who traveled to the city to identify the dead were unable to recognize their relatives because the bodies had decomposed.

"One is bound to ask why are the corpses of the people who died in such a violent manner further desecrated in this way," the Transkei statement said. "Is it because they are black?"

Inkatha and the ANC both oppose apartheid but differ on the shape of a future South Africa. Inkatha has accused the ANC of terrorizing other black groups in a bid to consolidate power.

Zulu and Xhosa tribal leaders met Thursday and agreed to make a joint plea for an end to the fighting. At least 500 people have died since the factional fighting broke out on

Aug. 12 in the townships around Johannesburg.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said he has told ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela the black factional fighting sends a message of instability to the rest of the world and will leave foreigners reluctant to invest in South Africa if international sanctions are lifted. The sanctions were imposed to protest South Africa's system of racial discrimination.

"I warned him that we are all doomed if we cannot create jobs or provide houses for his followers," Botha said at a congress of the governing National Party. "If we don't get our act together, we'll have nothing to govern."

Finance Minister Barend Du Plessis, meanwhile, said violence forced the government to spend money on security instead of social programs.

"Those stoking unrest must also decide whether they want money for education or if we must spend it on the police and military personnel who have to try and sort out the trouble," he said.

Mandela is under pressure from the government and other black leaders to meet with Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. The ANC has rejected talks with Buthelezi, contending he serves as a government pawn to divide the black majority.

Mandela was expected to return Friday to South Africa after a seven-day trip to Norway, Algeria and Libya. But the ANC announced he will also stop to meet with ANC exiles, delaying his return until Sept. 3.

## Hall residents upset about change McFadden to become next coed honors dorm

By JOE FERGUSON  
 Of The Battalion Staff

McFadden Hall will be converted into a coeducational honors hall in the fall semester of 1991, said Dr.

Dale Knobel, Director of University Honors Program.

With more than 100 students unable to get into Lechner Hall, the only current coed honors hall, for Fall 1990, Knobel said it was necessary to expand the honors hall

program. The decision to make McFadden Hall the next coed honors hall came just after the spring semester in a meeting between UHP and Student Affairs.

Knobel said that individual residence halls had no input in the decision of which hall would be the new coed honors hall. It is that fact that has McFadden Hall residents upset.

"We just feel like numbers," McFadden Hall President, Jana Terry, said. "It's very contradictory to what A&M is all about. You come to A&M because they treat you like an individual, but they're not doing that now."

Terry, an honors student, said she is opposed to the idea of segregating groups of people for the purpose of housing them together. Terry also opposes the elimination of 120 female living spaces and wonders why the University could not build another hall like it did for Lechner.

Knobel said that any residents desiring to stay in McFadden Hall could do so if, after the hall is made coed, there is enough room. "Sure, there will be some dislocation," he said, "but those students will be given high priority in assigning spaces in the fall (1991)."

But for residents on the executive hall council, Terry said, high priority is no consolation. They not only lose their leadership positions, but they will be ineligible to run for any executive offices in their new hall

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photo by M. Mulvey

## False alarm



Photo by Jay Janner

College Station Fire Department Lt. Terry Thigpin, Jeff Kuykendall and A. Rhodes (left to right) leave the Heep Center Thursday after responding to a fire alarm set off by smoke and dust from construction in the building. People who were evacuated returned less than 15 minutes later.

## Oil production raised Gulf crisis prompts decision

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Railroad Commission, citing the threat of war in the Middle East, voted Thursday to allow the production of approximately 20,000 more barrels of oil per day.

The commission, however, refused to increase production in the legendary East Texas Field, saying it wanted more time to consider arguments between independent oil producers and major oil companies.

The increased production will come from wells outside the East Texas Field, which is located Upshur, Gregg and Rusk counties.

The new rules, which will affect mostly horizontal wells, will be put in place Sept. 1 and reviewed after three months.

The commission's action followed a request from federal energy officials to increase domestic production to offset potential oil losses from the U.S. trade embargo against Iraq.

"In today's circumstance ... we're asking everybody to pitch in and help in this effort," said Michael McElwrath, a principal deputy assistant secretary with the U.S. Department of Energy.

Commission members said they will again consider whether

to raise the allowable production rate in the East Texas Field at their next meeting, Sept. 20 in Amarillo.

The 20,000-barrel increase represents a fraction of the daily Texas production of 1.7 million barrels.

Commission Chairman Kent Hance said the increase was insignificant when compared to the amount of oil used daily. But he added, "It's a step in the right direction."

"This is 20,000 barrels more than any other state has provided," Commissioner John Sharp said.

The major battle was over the East Texas Field, which has been restricted to 86-percent production to avoid depleting the oil reservoir.

Major oil companies wanted to increase the allowable production to 100 percent, which would have raised daily production by up to 13,000 barrels per day. Current production is approximately 93,000 barrels per day.

Brooks Peden of Austin, representing several independents, urged the commission not to increase production, saying it would hurt the field.

## Corps supports U.S. soldiers

Members of the local community will have a chance Saturday to tie yellow ribbons around their car antennas or write messages on banners to be sent to U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

The show of support for U.S. troops will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at K-Mart in College Station.

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets members will be on hand to help with the promotion sponsored by K-Mart and Coca-Cola.

Mike Graham, Corps public relations officer, said K-Mart invited the Corps to help with the event.

"This is a great way to show community support for the soldiers protecting our national interests," Graham said.

Two banners will be available on which to write messages for U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia. The banners later will be sent to the troops.

He said Corps members also will pass out yellow ribbons for people to tie on their car antennas.

Graham said he would like to invite everyone in the community to come show their support.

"This will let the soldiers know we haven't forgotten them — that we are behind them all the way," he said.

## Open house will feature 215 groups

By ELIZABETH TISCH  
 Of The Battalion Staff

Despite the magnitude of construction around Texas A&M's MSC, the annual MSC Open House will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday.

"The construction has changed the flow of traffic and the arrangement of the tables; however, it has not changed the quality of programs," said Kirk Cole, MSC vice president of public relations.

Cole says this year's open house will have more University-recognized student organizations represented than ever before.

"We expect over 8,000 people to walk through the halls of the MSC and visit the 215 different organizations," he said.

Cole stressed benefits students can gain by attending the event.

"It will give students a wonderful opportunity to get involved in the student life at A&M because representatives from each committee and organization will be passing out information and/or applications to join their particular group," he said.

The student committees will represent interests including religious, political, recreational and entertainment.

Molly Grant, MSC director of external public relations, and the student center's public relations committee has been planning this year's event since Spring 1990.

Additionally, Grant has planned entertainment in the MSC Flagroom throughout the event.

Between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. the Aggie Allemanders, a Tae Kwon Do team, the Society for Creative Anachronisms and Chris Berdoll, winner of the 1990 MSC Variety Show, will provide entertainment.

More information concerning Open House can be obtained by calling the Student Programs Office, 845-1515.