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NEWS SUMMARY

Regulators find signs of improving recession

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Regulators are spotting signs of improvement in the banking industry and some bankers located away from the recession-wracked East Coast say they just finished their best year ever.

"We're beginning to see the thing turn," Comptroller of the Currency Robert L. Clarke told reporters Wednesday, after addressing the closing session of the annual convention of the Independent Bankers Association of America.

He cited increased profits and a stabilization in the deterioration of loan portfolios at many banks. Declining commercial real estate values are stinging banks in California but do not look like they will be as severe as the plunge that devastated institutions earlier



Clarke

in the Southwest and Northeast, he said. Clarke, who leaves office in two weeks after six years as the top regulator of nationally chartered banks, played down the significance of a huge increase in the assets held by banks on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s problem list.

Airline creditors seek to sue former executives

HOUSTON (AP) - Continental Airlines' creditors have asked a judge to let them sue former Chairman Frank Lorenzo and another company executive, who they claim unfairly made millions off the carrier just months before it sought bankruptcy protection.

Attorneys filed a motion seeking permission to sue the two for at least \$180 million. A hearing on the matter has been scheduled for March 11, creditors' attorney Robert J. Rosenberg said Wednesday.

The creditors also hope to recoup some of the \$124 million Continental paid out to cover the pension plans of one-time sister carrier Eastern Airlines.

House rejects tax plan proposed by president

WASHINGTON (AP) - A bitter House Ways and Means Committee Wednesday rejected President Bush's tax plan to revive the economy, and Democrats set to work on a substitute promising tax relief for the middle class.

Seven key elements from the comprehensive plan Bush outlined in his State of the Union message last month were defeated on a 23-13 party-line vote. Democrats then went behind closed doors to begin writing a plan that they expect to pass through the House well before Bush's Feb. 20 deadline for action.

"America is watching us, wondering whether we can act wisely and expeditiously to revive the economy," Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., said.



Rostenkowski

One million people contract AIDS Heterosexual sex leads in spread of disease, study shows

GENEVA (AP) - More than 1 million people contracted the virus that causes AIDS in recent months, 90 percent of them through heterosexual intercourse, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

In a chilling assessment of the spread of the AIDS epidemic, the U.N. health agency predicted the disease will soon become the main cause of premature death in many Western cities and will leave up to 10 million African children orphaned by the end of the decade.

A WHO report on the "Current and Future Dimensions of the HIV-AIDS Pandemic" said by early January, 10-12 million people had caught the human immunodeficiency virus. This was 1 million higher than the previous assessment in April. The new figure included 1 million children.

It can take 10 years or longer for a person infected with HIV to develop AIDS symptoms. Most people diagnosed with AIDS die within a few years.

It said an estimated 2 million

cases of AIDS had occurred since the disease became known in the early 1980s - 500,000 more than reported by the U.N. agency in April.

The agency predicted that by the end of the year, an estimated 1 million new HIV infections will have occurred in the United States alone.

The report reiterated projections that by the year 2000, 30 to 40 million people will have contracted HIV.

Students work for NASA

Continued from Page 1

life on the moon you will need a reactor. This system could be used to transfer heat from a reactor to wherever you want it.

NASA has shown interest in modifying its planned space station with a two-phase system, so hard data on the effects of zero-gravity on the system is very important, Carron said. The group of researchers have made sixteen flights in the last half year gathering data on NASA. More research is planned, pending governmental approval, by NASA.

The importance of this work doesn't stop the researchers from having fun, Carron said.

"We get to fly with NASA astronauts," he said. "We get to see a world we haven't thought of before."

Carron said although other groups are doing this kind of research, his group is the only one in which students get to participate.

Black culture helps society: Speaker

Continued from Page 1

Americans live in a multi-cultural society, Broussard said. Therefore, they need to have a tolerance and a respect for other cultures.

Broussard said learning about other people will also make people more interested in their culture, their accomplishments and their history.

Black history demonstrates that an oppressed group really can overcome their oppressive situation through struggle and collective action, he said.

"This subject matter should be an inspiration," Broussard said. "The black struggle was an inspiration for the African Freedom Fighters in the 1950s, but I think this struggle also continues to be an inspiration to many white students who want to change some aspect of the system."

Learning black history will enrich everyone's life, he said.

"This material will help heal... the wounds that this country has received throughout its history."



Kiss and Tell

The Origin of the Kiss

A Valentine's program tracing the history of the kiss through the ages

Thursday, Feb. 13 Rudder 407 7:00 PM

Featuring: Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant Professor of Anthropology

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Friday, February 21

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Jean-Claude Renaud

Former Special Adviser to NATO, Director of European Commission, and member of French U.N. delegation

This program will examine the changing roles of NATO and the European Community in European issues.

Friday, February 14th 3:00 P.M.

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Presented by the MSC Wiley Lecture Series

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For more information call: BIOPHARMA, INC. (Formerly Paull Research)

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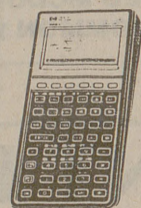
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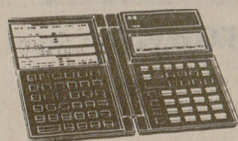
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