



Photo by David Corey

## Show and tell time

Marci Melvin, Brad Miller and Susan Anderson (left to right) were three interested guests at the Environmental Study Center's open house Thursday in Room 104 of Condon Hall. Jan Marshall (at far right), the center's director,

said that the open house motivated a lot of student, faculty and community interest. "Some people from the university library came over, even Greenpeace showed up. There were a lot more people here than normally."

## Poll maintains economic policy hurting Pres. Reagan's image

NEW YORK (AP) — Increasing misgivings about the nation's economic future may be hurting Pres. Reagan's image, according to the latest Associated Press-NBC News poll.

The poll says that while Reagan maintains the approval rating for his overall performance in office, Americans believe he is not doing as good a job in handling the economy.

The poll, a scientific random sampling of 1,598 adults by telephone last Sunday and Monday, also said there is growing pessimism about the economy over the next year.

Fifty-one percent of the respondents said Reagan is doing a good or excellent job as president, but only 39 percent — the lowest economic approval rating during his presidency and down from 45 percent a month ago — said he is doing a good or excellent job in handling the economy.

The poll also said there has been a sharp drop in optimism about the economy. Twenty-

three percent said the economy will get better during the next year, while 41 percent said it will get worse, 33 percent said it will stay the same and 3 percent were not sure.

In comparison, five previous AP-NBC News polls this year had an average of 38 percent saying the economy will get better and only 22 percent saying it will get worse over the next year.

However, the latest AP-NBC News poll said there had been little change from previous months in respondents' opinions about the future of their personal family finances: 20 percent said they will be better off during the next year, 26 percent said they will be worse off, 52 percent said they will be about the same and 2 percent were unsure.

But there was continued slippage in respondents' opinions about whether Reagan really cares about people like them. Forty-seven percent agreed with the statement: "Ronald

Reagan has shown he really cares about me."

In September's poll, 52 percent agreed with that statement. In July, 56 percent agreed.

Respondents who said their family finances and the overall economy would improve in the next year were more likely to say Reagan cares about them.

As with all sample surveys, the results of AP-NBC News polls can vary from the opinion of all Americans because of chance variations in the sample.

## Recession slides deeper

WASHINGTON (AP) — An "especially steep plunge" in a key government index foretells a national economy already in a mild recession sinking even deeper in the next few months, a top Commerce Department official said Thursday.

"The only real question is how far it is going to drop," said Assistant Secretary Robert Dederick.

But Dederick and other analysts inside and outside the government say they don't foresee a downturn as sharp as last year's recession.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that the government's Index of Leading Indicators fell 2.7 percent in September, the biggest drop since April 1980. Since April 1981, the index has fallen 5.5 percent.

Dederick said the new decline is "an especially steep plunge" in the index, which is designed to forecast future trends of the economy.

"The report strongly suggests that industrial production will be sliding into the autumn and that real gross national product will be down for the third successive quarter. Any upturn is unlikely before early 1982.

"The iffy question," he said, "is whether it is going to turn around in the first quarter or the second" of next year.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that overall business productivity fell at an annual rate of 1.9 percent in the third quarter, the biggest decline since the first quarter of 1978.

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