

# Local

## Railroad derailments, collisions intensified by hazardous cargo

By DENISE RICHTER  
Battalion Staff

When the A&M College of Texas was founded in 1876, the railroad west of the campus was its lifeline. A student wanted to attend the College, he had to come to College Station via the Houston and Texas Central Railroad.

Today, the name of the College has changed and so has the status of the railroad. No longer able to provide transportation for students, the railroad is now used primarily for the transportation of both harmless and hazardous materials.

And, with the ever-present dangers of a train-auto or train-pedestrian collision or the derailment of a train carrying hazardous chemicals, the railroad has become a time bomb waiting to explode.

These trains carry rock, sand, gravel, grain, chemicals and general freight. G. Sadler Bridges, division head of the Texas Transportation Institute's Economics and Planning Division said.

Although no hazardous materials are shipped from or received in the Bryan-College Station area, through trains carry materials classified as hazardous by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Some of these chemicals are chlorine, vinyl chloride, anhydrous ammonia and liquid petroleum gas.

At least 12 derailments have occurred in the Bryan-College Station area since 1975. None of the derailments caused any injuries or deaths. However, one derailment forced the evacuation of residents who lived near the area because of potential vinyl chloride leakage from one of the derailed cars.

The threat of collision or derailment and the problems of air and noise pollution associated with trains will intensify during the next 10 to 20 years, Bridges said.

To address these problems, the Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization commissioned a study for the development of a comprehensive rail planning program.

From this study, it was determined that complete relocation of the railroad line which crosses the Bryan-College Station area and divides the Texas A&M campus would be the best solution.

The study listed some of the benefits associated with the complete relocation of the railroad. For example:

— Decreasing the train-auto and train-pedestrian accident potential.

— Decreasing the risk associated with derailment, especially a derailment involving hazardous materials.

— Providing the potential for increased industrial development along the FM 2818 transportation corridor.

— Eliminating the visual and noise disruption through densely populated areas.

However, because of the cost involved, relocation in the near future is not likely.

The anticipated cost for the track relocation would be \$30 million to \$40 million, Bridges said.

"Federal funds would be required to pay for the relocation," said Dr. Charles E. McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs and director of the office of planning. "And with (President) Reagan's proposed budget cuts, this just isn't the moment to get that much money."

Since it looks as if the railroad track that runs along Wellborn Road is here to stay, at least for the next few years, the University has designed an evacuation plan to be used in the event of an emergency.

This plan established the procedure to be followed if an accident occurs which results in the threat of multiple fatalities or extensive property damage.

Upon receiving word of a derailment or chemical spill, the University Police will dispatch information to the College Station Fire Department, the College Station Police Department and the University Emergency Operator.

The decision to evacuate a threatened area will normally be made by the College Station fire chief. However, evacuation may take place on orders of any executive officer of the University or the University police chief.

If evacuation is ordered, bull horns, telephones, mobile public address systems, door-to-door notification and fire alarms will be used to alert people in the area.

Upon receiving the order to evacuate, the Division of Student Services will notify the Department of Student Affairs. This department will then notify the Corps commandant and area coordinators of the emergency.

Corps unit commanders and head residents will then be notified. Buildings and dormitories will be evacuated according to the fire evacuation plan posted in each building.

## Hearne an economical alternative to Bryan-C.S.

By MARILYN FAULKENBERRY

One-day cable tv service and utility hook-ups, and even low housing costs do exist—all within commuting distance of campus.

Where can students and faculty find such simple, forgotten pleasures? In Hearne.

It's about 25 miles north of College Station on Highway 6. Life in the community of 5,000 offers many advantages, including important economical ones.

Electricity and gas are hooked up the same day you request it. The phone company representative apologizes profusely for a three-day delay. The cable man comes the next day, although he charges a little more — \$8 a month for full service and \$20 a month for Home Box Office.

Service is faster in Hearne because the offices aren't as busy. But those in the habit of paying their bills late will find a collector at the door the day the bill becomes overdue.

The most attractive aspect of living in Hearne may be its affordability. There is not a lot of rental property, but what there is less expensive than in Bryan-College Station.

Many homes in town and on acreages are now rented for \$100 to \$200 a month. One couple "rented" a four-bedroom home last October in exchange for feeding the owner's cows.

But the real savings belong to the homeowner. Property sales have been slow in Robertson County so average values for homes are hard to find, but local real estate broker Mary Ruth White said an approximate figure for a used home would be \$21 to \$22 per square foot. That compares to \$38 to \$44 per square foot in Bryan-College Station.

Hearne's weekly paper lists several homes under \$15,000. One reason prices are so low in

Hearne is that the city's slow population increase, 10 percent, compared to 31 percent in Bryan, and 111 percent in College Station in the last decade which is the first

### Analysis

time since 1900 that Robertson County has had a population increase.

New industry and energy resource development coming to the county could cause a housing shortage and higher-priced real estate, according to a study made by the Brazos Valley Development Council. But White said she doesn't think property values will catch up with Bryan-College Station.

One student, Mary Ann Swick, said she simply couldn't afford to go to school if she had to pay College Station rent. She said the lowest she could find near campus was \$160 for her share of an apartment. She lives with her mother, pays \$100 to \$120 a month to commute, and comes out at least \$40 ahead.

Hearne offers another plus to the homeowner — lower property taxes. The figures for 1980 show the average homeowner pays \$829 in city and school taxes in Bryan, \$710 in College Station and \$416 in Hearne.

Hearne's economic cloud darkens slightly with utility and grocery prices. A gas company spokesman said natural gas bills run higher than in Bryan-College Station, and the kilowatt per hour rates are higher as well. These increased costs are partly set off by lower costs for water, sewer and garbage service.

Shopping is varied in Hearne, but groceries are often higher than in Bryan. A local meat market sells at competitive prices, but many residents do the majority of their grocery shopping in Bryan or College Station.

And what is there to do in Hearne? Swick admits the social life is pretty slow — she has a hard time coming up with excuses not to study.

Even as it is, Hearne could be a haven for those who want to own a home but can't afford one near campus, or for those who would just like to get away from the throng — and save money.

## What's Up THURSDAY

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Will meet for dinner at 6:15 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS: Will meet at 8 p.m. in 263 G. Rollie White.

MANAGEMENT SOCIETY: Will have a party at 7:30 p.m. at 901 Munson.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Will have a night prayer service at 10 p.m. at St. Mary's Church.

MSC AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

## FRIDAY

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 145 MSC.

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Will hold a worship service at 7 p.m. at The Canterbury House, Jersey Street.

## SATURDAY

BOOT DANCE: Will begin at 9 p.m. on the second floor of the MSC. Tickets are available in Rudder Box Office and at the door.

## Faulk to conduct auction

John Henry Faulk, folklorist, humorist and writer, will be the auctioneer for the annual Brazos Civil Liberties Union Art Auction

and Book and Craft Sale, at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 305 Wellborn Road today.

The book and craft sale will begin at 7 p.m., with the art auction starting at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

The auction, which will be held in conjunction with the Texas A&M University student chapter of the Civil Liberties Union, will raise funds for the Brazos chapter. Funds raised by BCLU go mainly toward court costs and other expenses incurred in filing civil liberties suits.

## Faculty to receive awards

Winners of the 1981 Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards will be announced at 3:30 p.m. today at a faculty meeting in Rudder Auditorium.

These awards have been presented since 1955 and are designed to recognize outstanding achievements by members of the faculty and staff.

Awards will be presented for achievement in teaching, research, individual student relationships, continuing education or extension and achievement as a member of the staff or administration.

The Association of Former Students, through its Annual Fund, sponsors these awards each year.

**FIESTAS**  
MAKE IT WITH  
**JUAREZ TEQUILA**  
GOLD OR SILVER  
IMPORTED & BOTTLED BY TEQUILA JALISCO S.A.  
ST. LOUIS, MO., 80 PROOF

**DOMINO'S PIZZA**  
846-8861  
4407 Texas Ave.  
693-2335  
1504 Holleman

**Free Extra Thick Crust!**  
On any large 16" pizza. One coupon per pizza.  
Fast, Free Delivery

**\$2.00**  
\$2.00 off any 16" 2-item or more pizza. One coupon per pizza.  
Fast, Free Delivery

**Just Ask!**  
4 free cups of Pepsi with a 16" pizza.  
2 free cups of Pepsi with a 12" pizza.  
No coupon necessary.  
Fast, Free Delivery

**MSC Cafeteria**  
Now Better Than Ever. You Will Be Pleased With These Carefully Prepared and Taste Tempting Foods. Each Daily Special Only \$2.13 Plus Tax. "Open Daily"  
Dining: 11 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

<p><b>MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Chicken Fried Steak w cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee</p>		
<p><b>FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL</b> BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread &amp; Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL</b> Yankee Pot Roast (Texas Salad) Mashed Potato w/ gravy Roll or Corn Bread &amp; Butter Tea or Coffee</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING</b> ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable</p>

FOR YOUR PROTECTION OUR PERSONNEL HAVE HEALTH CARDS.  
"Quality First"

**SPECIAL NOTICE**  
Optional Board Plan

Summer Students may dine on the board plan during the First session of summer school at Texas A&M University. Each board student may dine three meals each day except Sunday evening if the seven day plan is selected, and three meals each day, Monday through Friday, if the five day plan is preferred. Each meal is served in the Commons. Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke building.

Board fees for each plan are as follows:

Plans	First Session
Seven Day - \$171.43	Jun 2 through Jul 2
Five Day - \$154.29	and
Plus Tax	Jul 6 through Jul 8

Day students, including graduate students may purchase either of the board plans.

**In honor of graduation, we'll be open this Friday at 4 p.m.** Celebrate this special occasion with us. Choose from an exciting cargo list of entrees. Delicacies like Hawaiian Chicken, Alaskan King Crab, Teriyaki Beef Kabobs, Mahi Mahi, Australian Lobster, & Prime Rib. All including a visit to our generous salad bar.

**pelican's wharf**  
2500 Texas Ave. 693-5113.