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Page 6/The Battalion/Friday, January 20, 1984

Arbor day F FCC delays access charges celebrate

United Press International

WASHINGTON - The Federal Communications Commission, responding to a storm of protest from Congress and consumers, tentatively voted Thursday to delay — as late as June 1985 — \$2-a-month telephone access charges for re-sidential and small business customers

The agency also said that when the flat monthly long-

effect, they should be phased in to pass. gradually until 1990 and climb

no higher than \$4. The commissioners agreed to meet next Wednesday to issue a final ruling on the decision. They are taking a major shift in position reflecting virtually every suggestion contained in a let-ter that 32 senators, led by Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., sent to the FCC Wednesday.

But the decision apparently will not halt legislation aimed at delaying the charges for two years. Sen. Robert Packwood, R-Ore., chief sponsor of the measure that goes much further than the FCC decision, said he

distance surcharges, which had will bring it to the floor for de-been set to start April 3, go into bate next week and still expects it — a sharply larger price break

The House already has passed a bill to totally ban the charges for residential and small business customers.

Consumer groups, which want the charges eliminated, cal-led the FCC decision a "transpa-rent" tactic to delay the politically charged issue until after the 1984 elections.

The biggest winners in the decision were long-distance companies such as MCI and Sprint that compete with American Telephone & Telegraph.

Under the new plan, the companies would pay more for their connections to local lines but

- a sharply larger price break than the 20 percent to 25 per-

cent post-divestiture discount initially planned by the FCC. The discount would continue until the quality of the connection for the competing firms is improved to equal that of AT&T's.

While delaying the surcharge to individuals and businesses with one phone line will save customers some money. FCC Chairman Mark Fowler

said the action also would reduce or eliminate the \$1.75 billion cut in long-distance phone rates AT&T had originally plan-ned to coincide with its breakup Jan. 1, a development he called 'most unfortunate.'

The commissioners said access charges that large business customers' pay for their hook up to long distance services -5per line — will go into effect April 3 as scheduled. Jack Smith, head of the agen-cy's Common Carrier Division,

told reporters the FCC expects to complete a study of the sur-charges by Dec. 1, but that they may not be imposed until late spring or June 1985 because of required procedures.

The commissioners said the decision to delay the charges came in response to a crush of protests from the public, state governments, state regulatory agencies, Congress and businesses.

sary of Arbor Day, and the of College Station is celebra with a tree planting cerem the Southwood Athletic Pa 4 p.m. The word "arbor" is dem from the Latin term me tree. Arbor Day was ong conceived as a beautification

By ERIN K. PYLE

Today is the 111th and

Reporte

for public grounds, but i grown to represent the in ance of forestry preservation Arbor Day originatedin raska in 1872. The idea name of Arbor Day wen

osed by J. Sterling Mon member of the Nebraska of Agriculture who later w U.S. secretary of agricul In Nebraska, Arbor

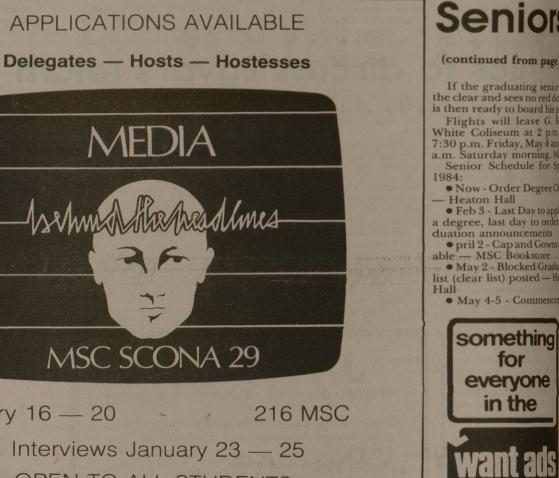
observed on April 22, M birthday. Observance of A Day has spread throughou U.S. and to foreign cour The date of the obser varies, but the last Frid April has been adopted ins al states.

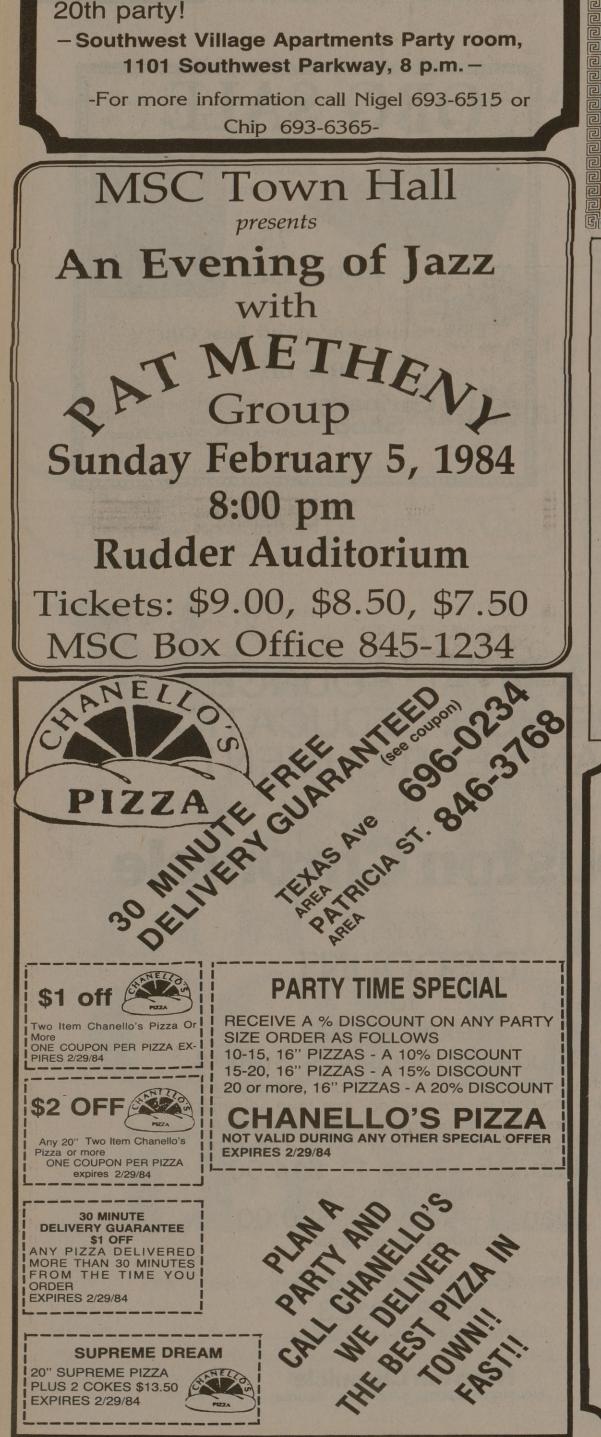
College Station Mayor Halter, Mike Owens, cur lum director of College Independent School Di the Rev. Bill Oxley of St mas Episcopal Church Dorothy Miller, current dir of Brazos Beautiful Inc., ao tywide beautification organition, will take part int program.

Senior

(continued from page

If the graduating senior the clear and sees no reddo is then ready to board his Flights will leave G. White Coliseum at 2 p. 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 4an a.m. Saturday morning, M Senior Schedule for S 1984: • Now - Order Degree (— Heaton Hall • Feb 3 - Last Day to app a degree, last day to order duation announcements • pril 2 - Cap and Gowns able — MSC Bookstore • May 2 - Blocked Grad list (clear list) posted - He Hall May 4-5 - Comme something for everyone in the





NOTICE: New location for the January **Chinese Restaurant ALL YOU CAN EAT** Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evening Buffet 6-8:00 p.m. \$4.98 Weekly Noon Buffet⁸398

Buffets include: egg roll, fried rice, fried wonton soup, chicken lou mein, sweet and sour pork, and beef with broccoli. **OPEN DAILY:** Texas 1313 S. College

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. 822-7661 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. S. College

January 16 - 20

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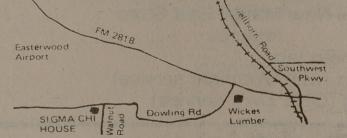
MSC SCONA 29

MEDIA

Welcome Back, Aggies! The Brothers of Sigma Chi cordially invite all men interested in fraternities to join us in our Spring Rush activities.

SPRING RUSH SCHEDULE

21,	8 p.m.	WELCOME BACK AGGIES	Sigma Chi House
25,	8 p.m.	SKI LODGE PARTY	Sigma Chi House
28,	8 p.m.	BARN DANCE	Sigma Chi House
1,	8 p.m.	TGIW	Sigma Chi House
4,	8 p.m.	FINAL RUSH	Sigma Chi House
	25, 28, 1,	25, 8 p.m. 28, 8 p.m. 1, 8 p.m.	25, 8 p.m. SKI LODGE PARTY 28, 8 p.m. BARN DANCE 1, 8 p.m. TQIW



TAM

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call:

Sigma Chi House Tom Owen (Rush Chairman) or **Jim Klatt**

693-8265 779-8965