

What's up

Tuesdays

LUBBOCK HOMETOWN CLUB: will have a Christmas party at 7 p.m. Sunday at the corner of 4311 44th St. in Lubbock.

MSC LITERARY ARTS: is now accepting submissions for "Litmus." Call 845-1515 for more information.

PARENTS WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications for nominating 1987-88 Parents of the Year are available in the Commons, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Memorial Student Center and the Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

Houston officials send postcard messages to sway Democrats

HOUSTON (AP) — City officials are turning up the heat on Democrats considering Houston as a site for the party's 1988 national convention now that Republicans have eliminated the city from contending for the GOP convention.

Members of the Democratic Site Selection Committee, who toured Houston in October, will be getting post cards this week reminding them of their trip.

The message on the cards is short and to the point.

"Dear Site Selection Committee: I'm Houston Proud and you will be too, if you come to Houston in '88."

The cards are being distributed to chief executive officers and company presidents in Houston, who will sign them and pass them on to their employees for signatures. The cards then will be forwarded to members of the site committee.

Houston leaders say the city has much to gain — especially money — if the Democrats choose Houston.

"Somewhere between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in in-kind services have been donated to us," says Russell Rau, director of governmental affairs for Russo Cos., a prime force in the business community drive for the conventions.

Those involved say they expect to get something back on their investment if a convention comes to Houston.

A study released in September by the accounting firm of Peat Marwick Mitchell predicted the expected economic benefits to Houston from a Democratic National Convention at \$67 million.

The costs of the convention have been estimated at \$8 million to \$15 million — a tab taxpayers hope to avoid through private contributions.

The Democrats are expected to make their decision in February from among Houston, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Kansas City and New Orleans.

Southern Pacific Railroad stop part of University's history Depot gave College Station its name

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

In the 1940s, absconding with a Snickers bar could get you run out of town.

The railroad tracks that pass through Texas A&M served as the means of a dishonorable discharge from the Corps of Cadets.

Vice President for Student Services Howard S. Perry said that when he was a cadet they didn't have vending machines — they had a cigar box. Anyone caught not putting a nickel or an IOU in the box was escorted to the train station, he said. "There was a protocol to it," Perry said. "Sophomores got the honor of packing the individual's bags. Freshmen got to carry them, and seniors were in charge of getting the money together for his one-way ticket."

Perry said this dismissal was conducted without University administration involvement.

"They (the administration) were just told he went home in the middle of the night," Perry said.

The railroad tracks and the depot that stood next to them meant more to Aggies than just a possible humiliating experience. The railroad also provided transportation for the football team, a way for girlfriends to attend dances, and the primary way in and out of College Station.

Serving as a means for some good times in the past and as a catalyst in several students' deaths, the railroad tracks were laid down in College Station in 1868 just following the Civil War.

The college station originated as a flag station and according to "The History of Texas A&M," the name "College Station" already was coming into wide use by April 1877.

Southern Pacific, then called Houston and Texas Central, ran four trains regularly through College Station, according to information compiled by the University Archives. They were the



The original College Station depot for the Southern Pacific railroad.

Owl, the Sun Beam, the Hustler and the Central Express.

But progress ran its course. College Station, as well as A&M, quickly grew, and trains were used less by people as a mode of transportation.

Eventually, passenger service in this area was discontinued.

The depot, which had earlier been expanded, became a haven for termites and was torn down.

Dan Whitt, assistant vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said a small building, which stood next to the depot, was a factor in the decision to build the new depot in 1972. The building was demolished by the University from Southern Pacific months ago for \$10.

"The \$10 fee was waived providing the building was torn down," Whitt said.

He said the railroad got rid of an "unsightly structure" the University got rid of an "unsightly structure."

Texas Commerce, Chemical NY Corp. to merge

HOUSTON (AP) — Chemical New York Corp., the nation's sixth-largest bank holding company, and Texas Commerce Bancshares Inc. announced plans Monday to merge in a deal worth \$1.1 billion, making it the largest merger in U.S. banking history.

"The consolidation and combination we're talking about is really an historic development in banking in this country," said Walter Shipley, chairman of Chemical New York.

"It represents the first really large transnational consolidation of two great banking institutions into one better institution than either of the two individually have been," Shipley said.

Ben Love, chairman of Houston-based Texas Commerce, said, "Texas banks have been under some additional need to bolster funding. That need, as far as Texas Commerce Bank is concerned, evaporates with this merger because we have the funding abilities to supplement our funding abilities."

Love denied that the deal, which exceeds in value the \$1.07 billion acquisition of Crocker National Corp. by Wells Fargo & Co. earlier this year, was an acquisition or bailout.

Texas Commerce is considered the strongest bank in the state, but its recent performance has suffered due to heavy loan losses and nonper-

forming assets. It reports \$18.9 billion in assets and is the 26th largest bank holding company in the country.

At least 22 Texas banks have failed this year, primarily because of problems in the state's real estate and energy industries.

Texas Commerce, in the first nine months of the year, has charged off \$96 million in bad loans and lists another \$840 million during the same period as non-performing, said the bank's chief economist, Mark Shapiro.

"I don't think this could be characterized as a rescue from any perspective," Love said. "The financial services industry is changing. Texas

Commerce is itself a product of 54 mergers, most of which have occurred since 1972. So this is simply a continuation of a pattern."

Shipley and Love said the identities of the banks would not change and each will have representation on the two boards of directors. No jobs will be eliminated, Love said.

Texas Commerce, the state's largest banking system with 70 branches, will continue to operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Chemical.

"I'm looking to expand," Love said. "I never would enter into a merger like this to contract." Love, joined by Shipley at a Hous-

ton news conference, said the merger was a factor in the decision to build the new depot in 1972. The building was demolished by the University from Southern Pacific months ago for \$10.

Love said Texas Commerce has been too preoccupied with sale loans and hoped to merge with Chemical to make it more competitive at the consumer level.

The merger, which Shipley said should be approved by regulatory agencies and shareholders early next year, would create a company of \$75 billion, making it the fourth-largest in the nation.

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big COTTON BOWL Special Section on Tuesday, December 30th. Sorry, no companies. Only the name of an individual will be taken over the phone. If you would like to compile a list of names, bring it to the Eagle building located at 1729 Briarcrest Drive. Lists must be typed or neatly written. The Eagle reserves the right to refuse any name.

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