Austin makes list of final four cities considered for plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Memories Inc. narrowed the list of contenders for its big computer memory chip plant Tuesday to Austin, Colorado Springs, Phoenix and Middletown, N.Y., setting the stage for an intense lobbying effort over the $1 billion manufacturing complex and its 3,000 jobs.

"What set the finalists apart was that they showed a very balanced approach to satisfying our needs," said Sanford Kane, president and chief executive officer of U.S. Memories.

U.S. Memories said the finalists, chosen from 57 locations in 15 states, including 19 cities in Texas, were picked on the basis of financial, business, and quality of life considerations.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said he expects a tough fight among the finalists for the manufacturing complex, which would employ 3,000 people when it begins operation in 1993, with anticipated sales of $1 billion by 1994.

Austin, which nearly two years ago won the Sematech semiconductor research consortium, has offered incentives worth more than $100 million in an effort to lure U.S. Memories.

Because the project is similar to Sematech and MCC, the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. — both major technology consortia lured to Austin after intense national competitions — some local officials and outside handicappers gave Austin a better-than-even chance at making U.S. Memories' first cut.

Gramm and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said they would stress Texas' other high-tech facilities, including Sematech and the super collider, as they make their pitch for the Austin site.

"I think a decision by U.S. Memories to locate in Austin, in addition to previous success on Sematech, would make Austin the world's center in research in the electronics industry," Gramm said.

John Myers, vice president of economic development for the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, said he was pleased the city made the short list.

"We're excited about the Austin proposal and believe it's very competitive," Myers said. He said the city hasn't fully analyzed the three competitors' proposals but "we'll keep working."

The consortium of seven companies will produce 4-megabit DRAMs — Dynamic Random Access Memory — computer chips and hopes to capture the market from Japan, which now holds the edge in the "increasingly critical technology."

DRAMs are a common memory chip found in electronic products that store memory, including microwave ovens, cars, VCRs, computers and supercomputers, and most defense projects.

In Advance

OCA to plan weekend camping trip tonight

Off Campus Aggies have planned a camping trip to Huntsville State Park this weekend. Cost per student is $2, which does not include food.

OCA is leaving 9 a.m. Saturday from the Off Campus Center and will return Sunday around 2 or 3 p.m. Any off campus student and one guest can attend.

OCA will meet at 8:30 tonight at the Off Campus Center to discuss the details. For more information call Peter Brown at 846-0742.

Ft. Polk chaplains hold service in C.S. today

Chaplains from Fort Polk, La. will run from Huntsville to College Station today, ending the third day of a 400-mile, five-day God and Country Run from Fort Polk to Fort Hood.

The chaplains and their assistants will have a patriotic memorial service tonight at 7:30 at the First Baptist Church of College Station to honor those who died in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Grenada. Area veterans, family members of those who died and the public are welcome to attend.

The service will include special music from Chaplain Dierdre LaNoue from the Sandstone Center and a bugler from the Corps of Cadets.

Col. Thomas Carroll, director of Fort Polk's chaplain programs, said the run is for the chaplains to raise money for a retreat center at Fort Polk. The Fort Polk community is sponsoring the runners by pledging donations based on the number of miles they complete.

"The chaplaincy receives so much and this is our chance to give back to the post," Carroll said. "At the same time, we will honor God, our country and specifically those individuals who made the supreme sacrifice for our country."

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between October 16 and Friday.

ASSAULT:

• A student reported that a man touched her leg with an umbrella during a class in the Academic Building, and she found this contact offensive.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

• Two witnesses saw students stealing a yield sign from the corner of Ross Street and Bizzell Street, and were able to get the license plate number. The owner of the vehicle admitted to being involved in a "Scavenger Hunt" earlier in the evening.

• A backpack was stolen from an unlocked locker in the men's room in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

• An AM/FM cassette player was stolen from the Bio-Science Building West.

• A license plate validation sticker was stolen from a student's car in Parking Area 56.

• A wallet was stolen from a student who turned her back in the Chemistry Building.

• A student attempted to steal a man's backpack from outside the racquetball courts at DeWare Field House, but the owner confronted him. The suspect was released after a giving a vague exuse.

• A wallet was stolen from the Langford Architecture Building, and was found in the men's room later the same day, but without the cash.

• A bicycle was stolen from the Heldenfels bike racks.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION:

• A student was arrested for public intoxication after he attempted to direct traffic on East Main Drive during Midnight Yell practice.

• A group of males and one female verbally harassed three people as they walked into a dorm. Police found one of the harassers to be intoxicated and subsequently arrested that person.

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:

• Police located a stolen TAMU parking hang-tag in a car in Parking Area 51. The student who owned the vehicle said she found the permit in Parking Area 40. The incident was referred to student affairs.

• A stereo system was removed from a vehicle in Parking Area 62.

• A graphic equalizer was stolen from a car in Parking Area 56.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

• A concrete trash receptacle was found in the lake at the Research Park.

• The paint was scratched on a student's vehicle in Parking Area 89.

ARSON:

• Someone set fire to a paper towel in a trash can on the fifth floor of the Blocker Building.

FALSE ALARM OR REPORT TO PEACE OFFICER:

• Officer's found that someone had deliberately set a book of matches on fire under a smoke detector on the second floor of the library.

THEFT OF SERVICE:

• A vehicle on Lubbock Street displayed a parking hang-tag which had been altered from red to brown. The owner of the vehicle was not immediately identifiable. Charges are pending the decision of Parking, Traffic and Transit Department, as well as identification of the owner.

HARRASSMENT:

• A student in Hart Hall reported receiving annoying phone calls every two minutes.

A CRIME PREVENTION UNIT IS AVAILABLE TO ANYONE REQUESTING INFORMATION ON COMBATING CRIME. CALL 845-8900.

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