

MSC committees provide activities

This is a first of a series of articles dealing with the campus-wide programming under the division of Student Services, the MSC Council and Directorate. The location of this group is Room 216, MSC.

By Ray Daniels
Battalion Staff Writer

The MSC Council and Directorate are A&M's answer to a student union. Typically, student unions are a significant aspect of college life. "Do you know what the MSC Council and Directorate is?" students were asked recently. "No." "Vaguely." "I guess they are the biggies that do all the crud at the MSC."

"Why the hell do they spend my money all the time?" asked one senior.

Student Service Fees, \$19.80 per year for full time students, totaled \$845,808 in allocations to student organizations last year. A \$116,626 portion of that went to the MSC Council and Directorate.

These funds provide speakers, movies, concerts and contests. "I like the movies... sometimes," said one student.

"Uh... I don't go unless it's in my major," said another.

When students were asked if they approved of how the money was being spent, they answered: "Not really." "I'm too busy." "I come to some of the concerts."

Concerts are sponsored by three committees, and films are shown by three committees, leaving 12 unmentioned.

"The purpose of the MSC Council and Directorate," said Jane Logan, MSC Council President, "is to provide cultural, recreational, and educational experiences for the university community."

The committees of the directorate range from Recreation and Travel to Political Forum and Arts.

In addition to the previously mentioned activities, Free University holds classes not offered in the curriculum. Camera provides dark-room space for photographers, outdoor Recreation has hiking and camping, and Arts brings displays to the Exhibit Hall.

Each committee is headed by a chairman selected in the spring by the MSC Council. These chairmen

EPA tests mileage for 1976 vehicles

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says government test results are now available showing the gas mileage expected from 1976 cars and trucks.

The gas mileage guide, a joint publication of the EPA and the U.S. Federal Energy Administration (FEA), may be obtained free by writing: Fuel Economy, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

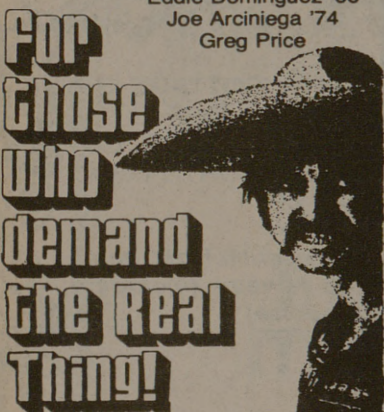
Data included in the guide shows fuel economy figures based on dynamometer tests conducted by the EPA at its laboratories in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The tests simulate a number of different driving conditions for each car.

The figures provide an accurate basis for comparing the fuel economy of new cars because each is tested in exactly the same way, the EPA said. The actual economy a driver gets from his new vehicle will depend on individual driving habits, maintenance, traffic conditions, optional equipment and road and weather conditions.

The guide gives mileage information on both automobiles and light-weight trucks, according to engine size, type of transmission, number of cylinders, type of fuel injection system and whether emissions are controlled by a catalytic converter.

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have the responsibility of making the committee function.

Planning, budgeting and execution of programs also falls into the lap of the chairmen.

Programming is the exclusive property of the committees, said Logan. Sometimes J. Wayne Stark, director of the MSC, does some programming also.

The MSC Council oversees the directorate. Seven student officers: president, three vice presidents and three directors, head the council which sets policies of the MSC as well. The council assesses the needs of the university, having the power to create and disband committees in accordance with student needs.

Two former students and five faculty members along with the Student Body President and two directorate-elected representatives hold voting positions. Non-voting members include class presidents, the Battalion Editor, Graduate Student Council President and other input sources.

"The movement started as a union building in England in 1840 of '50, when the students wanted to meet and rap about things in their

society of the day, but there was no place on campus at which they were welcome." Stark, director since 1947, explained some of the early history.

"Students began to meet in the back of pubs," he said. Eventually the idea came to move on campus through their work and funding and unions were begun.

Early in this century the idea caught on in the U.S.

Following World War II many schools were inspired to build memorial student union buildings for alumni who had died in battle.

To begin the A&M building, alumni funds from 1942 to 1947 were donated in war bonds totaling \$230,000 to \$250,000 of the \$2 million needed, according to Richard "Buck" Weirus, executive director of the Association of Former Students (AFS).

In 1946, the late Gibb Gilchrist, then university president, appointed a strong committee of faculty, students and alumni to draw the plans for the building. The \$25,000 funding for the initial study also came from the AFS.

Porter Butz, a consultant from the

University of Wisconsin, was hired. He suggested architect Carlton Adams and director Stark be hired at that time.

Studies were made by the committee, architect and director before the plans were formulated. The architect and director visited many universities known for their student unions, studying organization and design.

In 1950, the Memorial Student Center was opened.

The facility provided space for bowling and games previously housed in the YMCA Building, a gift shop, snack bar, student programs office, alumni office, browsing library and hotel.

Then, building policies were set by the council. Since the 1973 addition, control is shared by the Building Studies Committee, Food Services and the office of the vice president for business affairs.

Stark emphasizes the importance of training student leadership through their tenure with the council and directorate activities. "It's how much and how far can you go on this kind of thing," said Stark. "Where the student can have a

learning hand and bloody his nose and not have a lot of damage, hurt a lot of people."

To help the chairmen, six fulltime staff members are assigned as advisors to the committees of the directorate.

It is their job to advise chairmen on the details of the entertainment trade so they can deal with professional companies fully aware of the situation.

The officers of the council and the chairmen of the directorate are selected by the previous council in these selections is limited, with Student Council President holding the only student vote.

Chairmen usually have committee experience, though they may not be appointed to a committee they were on — or had requested.

Council officers often come from Council Assistant positions.

Chosen from the elite freshman ranks by the new council each spring, the assistants help the officers and train in the operation of the council. As part of their duties, each is expected to serve on two committees for additional experience.

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