

MSC strives to attract all students

This is the second of a series of articles dealing with the campus-wide programming under the division of Student Services, the MSC Council and Directorate.

By RAY DANIELS
Battalion Staff Writer

"Hey, come on up, liquor's free on this floor!"

"Hey, there's a party going on up here on the 20th floor."

J. Wayne Stark, director, describes a 1939 Aggie yearbook cartoon showing the dreams held for the then non-existent Student Union Building.

When the Ags got their student union in 1950 it was called the Memorial Student Center and was a far cry from the visions of the past. The happenings inside were not of the format of that early cartoon and neither was the building.

The building stood three stories high, housing bowling and games facilities, student and alumni offices, snack bar and the motel. Free drinks and perpetual parties were not included.

The decision was made to have a strong program to start with," Stark said.

The MSC Council and Directorate are largely responsible for those programs, that being their stated purpose. The committees of the directorate strive to attract all of the students of the university through cultural, recreational, and educational events.

The chairmen of the directorate committees take office in the spring of each year. Over the summer, most of the program plans must be made and committees who survive on self-made money must meet their goals.

When school opens in September, things are ready to roll, but the work is just beginning. Publicity is sent out for every event, tickets sold, contracts made, stages set-up and taken down, programs printed, audiences ushered, performers greeted, debts paid, rooms reserved, and a dozen other details looked after.

All of these jobs are attended to by students of the directorate committees.

In both providing and attending programs, students are a vital aspect. Another equally vital part is money.

Funds for student programs come from several sources. The first is contributions, a form some committees such as SCONA depend upon entirely. A second is proceeds from events, which plays some role in most committees but entirely supports others like Aggie Cinema this year.

The major and easily most complex of financial sources is Student Service Fee monies obtained from the University. This Student Service Fee notches \$19.80 out of fees for a full time student, allowing them to attend events free or at a substantial discount.

The University collects the money and each spring recommendations on its distribution are made by Student Government. Last year, 13.7 per cent of the allocated Student Services Fees went to the Council and Directorate. This money, totaling \$416,626 is appropriated into three accounts. Town Hall received \$45,000, Great Issues \$16,200, and Political Forum \$12,926. The council and remaining directorate committees fall under the MSC Student Programs account of \$342,500.

Viewing finance and budget from the directorate chairman's position, it seems to be an everlasting process.

In the first few weeks of office,

chairmen are faced with drawing a working budget for the coming fiscal year running from September to September.

This budget must fit the funds now approved on the basis of a preliminary budget made by the previous chairman in November. In addition, the working budget of his first few months in office is that of the previous chairman, just as his budget will affect his successor.

In the MSC Council and Directorate, as in any funded organization, budgets are an everlasting task. Each month, chairmen meet with the vice president of finance to review their budgetary standing and preview coming programs.

In November, three months after the fiscal year has begun, preliminary committee budgets for the next year must be drawn and submitted to the Council. The Council assesses all the committees' budgets and submits its budget to the Student Government Student Services Fee Allocation Committee. This budget, while including requests for funds, must include any plans for making money, so authority to spend the money may be given.

The fee allocation committee considers the Council's budget along with other fund requests and, after making deletions or additions as they see fit, submit a budget to Student Senate for approval.

Upon approval, this budget goes to the desk of Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president of Student Services, as a recommendation of how Student Service fees should be spent.

Koldus wields the authority to amend the budget in any way before it is submitted to the President and the Board of Regents. It is at this point, Koldus' desk, that the Council and Directorate has a chance to recover any losses suffered at the hands of Student Government.

Hal Gaines, senior staff advisor for the Directorate and primary financial authority, may appeal to Koldus for needed funds.

"I might say, 'I just can't live with that.' Usually however, the Fee Allocation Committee and Koldus are understanding and helpful."

In any case, Gaines is responsible for defending his requests, just as each link in the chain leading up to that point must.

When the budget is finally approved by the board, money going to the Council and Directorate is split into four accounts. This is when the working budget for each committee is drawn and approved by the council. Any cuts in the requested budget must be absorbed at this time.

The allocated money is deposited in the Fiscal Office and is obtainable through the filing of a State of Texas Purchase Voucher. Any other funds for which authorization has been given (i.e. admission receipts) is usually deposited in this account.

In the case of a committee which collects dues, or must have a ready source of cash, accounts in the student finance center are appropriated. Purchase Vouchers to draw funds from the Fiscal Center take two to four weeks to process once they get to the Fiscal Office. Prior to that, the committee treasurer must obtain the voucher, the chairman must sign it, the staff advisor must sign it; Gary Brown, vice president of finance for the Council, must sign it and Stark must sign it. It then goes to MSC accounting where the actual voucher signed by Gaines is written up. This goes to the Fiscal Office to be paid.

"A cash account is so much quicker," said Brown. "That's the main reason we have it. It's faster for receipt and payment instead of going through Fiscal Office. Like Outdoor Recreation, they don't have enough time to put their money in a Fiscal account and write a voucher for all their trips together. It's almost instantaneous."

With so much money passing through as many channels, occasional overspending might be expected.

"Well, it probably wouldn't get to that point," Brown said. "I see all the vouchers and it says how much money they have available and how much they are going to spend. Basically you can kind of feel it. You know how much programming they're doing and what's going on."

Teague heads panel

Congressman Olin E. Teague (D-College Station) has been elected chairman of a joint House-Senate energy conference to draft final budget recommendations for the new Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

The House has already passed a \$4.7 billion authorization for the ERDA and the Senate has authorized \$5 billion.

The conference headed by Teague will reconcile the House and Senate versions before Congress passes the final bill.

Authorizations for fossil, solar and geothermal energy and conservation research are among the major items involved.

One major item to be resolved in conference is whether to include in the final measure a loan guarantee provision.

Teague said he favored such a provision because it is "the only way to insure that companies other than the largest ones have an opportunity to compete in the development of new energy sources for our country."

Bicentennial program started

A Bicentennial Awards Program with cash awards totaling \$100,000 is being sponsored by the Wells Fargo Bank.

The program, called "Toward Our Third Century," will take entries in three categories from anyone who would like to participate.

The categories are: essays by entrants under 18; essays by adults; and film and tape entries.

Entries should suggest recommendations for the future in one of the following areas: individual freedoms in our society, American arts and culture, science, technology, energy and the environment, family life, work and leisure and the United States and the world.

Judging for the awards will be based on creativity, imaginativeness and effectiveness of expression.

Deadline for entry is Jan. 31. For more information write "Toward Our Third Century", P. O. Box 44076, San Francisco, Calif. 94144.

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Scholarships for juniors available

By JACK HODGES
Battalion Staff Writer

The National Space Club has asked the Federation of Americans Supporting Science and Technology (FASST) for help in awarding a \$2,000 scholarship to university students. The scholarship is named in memory of Dr. Robert H. Goddard, America's rocket pioneer.

Requirements for the scholarship, which will be used in the 1976-77 school year, is that the student be a junior in an accredited university and have the intention of continuing undergraduate or graduate studies in science or engineering for the duration of the scholarship. The applicant must be a United States citizen.

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Applicants who wish to apply must provide an official transcript of college records, letters of recommendation from faculty and evidence of personal qualities of creativity and leadership. They should also include their own scholastic plans in aerospace sciences and technology.

Personal need for the scholarship will be considered, but it will not be the final determinant for selection.

Applicants should apply no later than Jan. 2, to the National Space Club, in care of James Murray, 1629 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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