

## MSC Council and Directorate has active fall programming

by Nancy Weatherley  
Battalion Staff  
Last semester was one of the most active semesters in programming for the Memorial Student Center, the MSC Council and Directorate president says. "We're trying to emphasize the arts more, have some cultural events, as well as the speakers and entertainers," President Doug Dedeker said. However, last semester's increasing number of programs raised questions of overprogramming and a possible "burn-out" of students.

"We are probably, for the first time, having to seriously look at the quantity of programs we are producing," Dedeker said. "We're going to have to have less, but bigger (programs). We're going to have to be very careful this spring, because since we produced so many programs, we used quite a bit of our funds. Dedeker said all of the committees are growing — "as the University grows, so does our organization" — but said it is important for the organization to

realize "that we're not trying to create a need, that we're fulfilling one." The Council and Directorate went through a reorganization process last spring that affected its fall operations. As a result of the reorganization, five Council officers were added, bringing the total to 24. In addition, six vice presidents — development, finance, operations, programs, public relations and student development — were added, and 17 director and coordinator positions were created to assist the vice presidents. "I think we did a very good job (of reorganization) last year," Dedeker said. "We do have some fine tuning to do, but that can be expected. That should be done every year; there should be minor changes (that) occur every year."

MSC Director Jim Reynolds said there were three major

goals in regard to reorganization that the Council wished to accomplish: • Establish a structure for the MSC Council and Directorate that would allow the organization to successfully produce and evaluate all MSC programming. • Devise a system of Council and Directorate positions that would be feasible for students to accomplish. • Increase the number of Council officer positions and thereby provide the opportunity for more students to hold important positions. "The productivity of the Council and Directorate had outstripped the organizational structure, so we needed to catch up and develop a new organizational structure, which would allow us to watch over effectively that which we were already doing," Reynolds said.

## Applications program available for Fellows

by Steven B. Larkin  
Battalion Reporter  
The University Undergraduate Fellows Program now is accepting applications from qualified juniors who wish to obtain a "complete research experience," says Dr. Melvin Friedman, program coordinator. The Fellows Program, a part of the University Honors Program, allows students to pursue independent research during their senior years. This research counts as six credit hours. To be eligible for the program a student must have an overall grade point ratio of 3.5 at the end of his junior year, must make a commitment to be at the University for the fall and spring semesters of his senior year and must have the endorsement of his faculty

adviser, department head and dean. The number of students who can participate in the program is unlimited and prior involvement with the University Honors Program is not required. The program involves five steps designed to improve the student's research, communication and organizational skills. First, a four-to-six page research proposal must be turned in along with the program application. The proposal should state the title of the research the student wishes to do, outline the objectives for the research and be endorsed by the student's faculty research adviser, department head and dean. The student begins the re-

search, following acceptance of his proposal. During the fall, the student usually will pursue the broad scope of his research topic. His research will become more specific during the spring. The third step is participation in the Community of Scholars. This working group of 10 to 15 Fellows meets monthly to discuss the progress of their research. In mid-April, a symposium is held where Fellows give a 20-minute speech and present professional papers detailing the completed results of their research. The fifth step involves writing Senior Honors theses which are placed in the University Archives. Each year about 20 percent of the completed theses are commercially published.



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## Development of arcing fault device gains prof national engineering honor

by John P. Lopez  
Battalion Reporter  
A project developed by Dr. Don B. Russell, an electrical en-

gineering professor, was named one of the 10 best engineering achievements of 1981. The arcing fault detection system, developed for improved protection of power distribution lines, was chosen by a committee of judges from the 80,000-member National Society of Professional Engineers.

The system works by implementing fault detectors at sub-stations along power lines. These fault detectors monitor electrical distribution feeders and detect any problems in the system.

In the case of a downed line, the device will shut down the affected part of the system. The system works on the principle of detecting changes in high frequency current that normally would not be detected. "These changes are unique enough that they can be differentiated from other things that you would not want to detect as faults," said Mike Aucoin, who assisted Russell in developing the device. Russell started work on the device in 1977. "At that point in time (1977),

there was interest shown on the national level of solving the problem," he said, "and (we) got together and revised the idea and started making plans for tests." The Electric Power and Research Institute, which Russell said was very cooperative in the research and development of the device, funded tests on the project at several utility companies across the country. "The field tests were exceptionally successful," Russell said, but were also very time consum-

ing since the project had to be tested several times. In addition, the performance of the device had to be analyzed. The problem of detecting faults in power lines has been worked on for about 75 years, Russell said. Although the system is 100 percent efficient, Russell said, it adds a totally new dimension to the current system and expands considerably the capability of the present system. The rights to the device already have been assigned to General Electric Co.

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## Houston grand jury indicts man in Alley Theater murder

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A Harris County grand jury Monday returned a capital murder indictment against a man who was arrested in Los Angeles and charged in the apparent robbery-strangulation of Alley Theater Director Iris Siff. The panel indicted Clifford

X. Phillips, 47, after hearing from at least one witness, who prosecutors refused to identify but who was believed to be the man's girlfriend. Phillips had been held since Thursday in California on an arson charge in the burning of some of Siff's personal belongings.

Investigators said Phillips worked as a security guard at the theater from mid-November to mid-December, although his employment ended about a month before Siff's body was found in her theater office suite the night of Jan. 12. Detective Gil Schultz said Phillips, also known as Abdullah Bashir, was brought to Houston Friday after waiving extradition. Houston authorities also brought a woman companion of Phillips back to Texas as a material witness. Investigators had earlier said Siff, 58, knew her assailant, and had confronted him with thefts from her office the night of Jan. 12. Her body was discovered by another theater employee at 10:30 that night, Schultz said. Several hours after the discovery, Siff's black Lincoln Continental was found destroyed by fire and abandoned along a railroad right-of-way. Charred

fragments of her fur coat, television and purse were found elsewhere, Schultz said. "That's where the charges come up," Schultz said. Officials said a friend of the suspect saw him destroy some of Siff's property. That witness cooperating with authorities. Siff's body was found on the floor of her fourth-story office strangled with a thin cord. Medical examiner investigators noted bruises and cuts on her face. She was fully clothed. Police said they were still searching for physical evidence in the case, such as some of the missing jewelry and the license plates from her car. District Attorney John Holmes said he did not want to jeopardize the case by commenting, but verified the case would be taken to the grand jury next week. The suspect was indicted on the arson charge Wednesday by a grand jury. Two security guards who worked at the theater the night Siff was killed were questioned about her death but not charged. One of them, Robert Wesley Taylor, 30, was held for four days under a \$100,000 material witness bond but was released without charges. A note found near Siff's body which said "I had enough," was written by Taylor, officials said. But, detectives said the two men had nothing to do with the slaying.

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