

MSC funds raised by 12 committees

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Reporter

With the help of some generous former students, about \$300,000 is raised each year by 12 Memorial Student Center committees.

The MSC operates on a budget of \$3.5 million, excluding endowments, making it one of the largest college unions in the nation in terms of student involvement and programs produced.

Most of the funds come from student service fees or operating revenue, but the remainder is raised by the fund-raising committees, says Becky Noah, vice president for development in the MSC.

"For the MSC, it (the fund raising) all started with SCONA (MSC Student Conference on National Affairs) 30 years ago," she says. "They originally needed outside support because of conferences they wanted to have. Then SCONA evolved into a self-supporting group."

The fund-raising committees solicit three types of donations: corporate funds, foundation grants and individual donations, Noah says. Most of the money comes from individual donors.

"The former students are great," she says. "They go out of their way to help out. They still feel a bond with Texas A&M."

Pat Wood, president of the MSC, says the fund raising is two-fold.

"It provides a learning experience for the students," he says. "This experience will help them their whole life. Then there's the financial side. We have to cover what we need now and we have to have endowments to maintain the MSC for the future."

More than 1,600 students are in-

involved in producing more than 1,350 programs for more than 280,000 people each year. The MSC has provided the concerts, lectures, seminars, movies, conventions, trips, performances, social activities, conferences, games, contests and retreats for the community, Noah says.

The MSC Council is in charge of the money appropriations and directing the MSC officers and programming committees.

"There are four main things we do," Noah says. "We put out a newsletter which goes to the donors. We coordinate for the committees in their individual needs. We are in charge of the fund raising in which we coordinate trips to Houston, Dallas and Austin, and we keep a file of possible donors. We only allow a donor to be contacted once every six months. The fourth thing we are in charge of is finance."

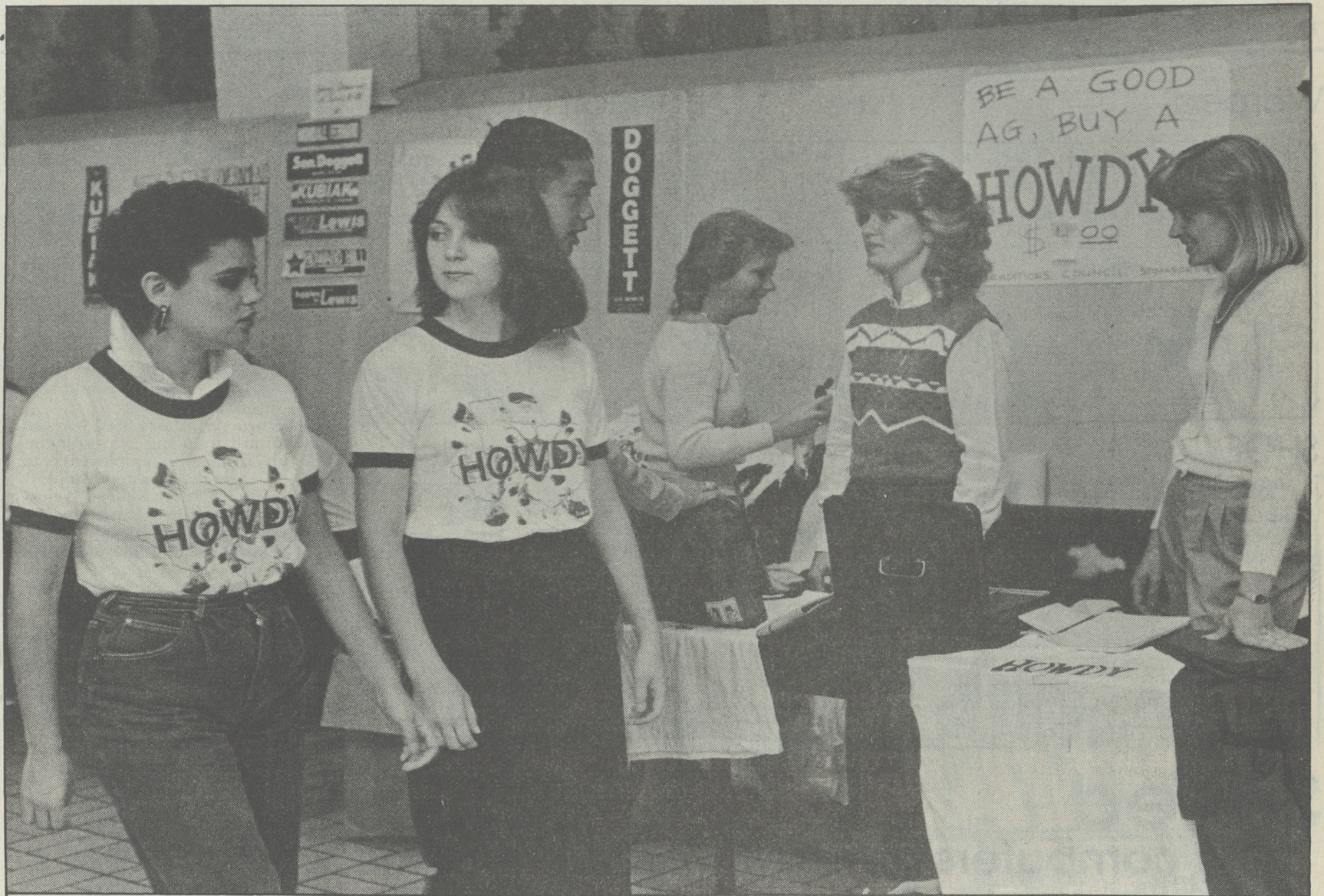
A MSC Enrichment Fund Board consists of 24 successful former students who oversee the students, Noah said.

"They take on the bigger needs," she said. "They let us use their offices, give us names of possible donors and set up appointments for us."

The endowment categories which the MSC Council seeks to fulfill are travel, art, leadership and speakers, she said.

The MSC Enrichment Fund was established to receive contributions that support MSC programs for the future. The tax deductible gifts come in many forms — cash, real estate, stock, equipment and deferred giving, Wood says.

In June, the Endowed Lecture Series received a \$500,000 gift from James E. Wiley Sr. and A.P. Wiley Jr.



Howdy

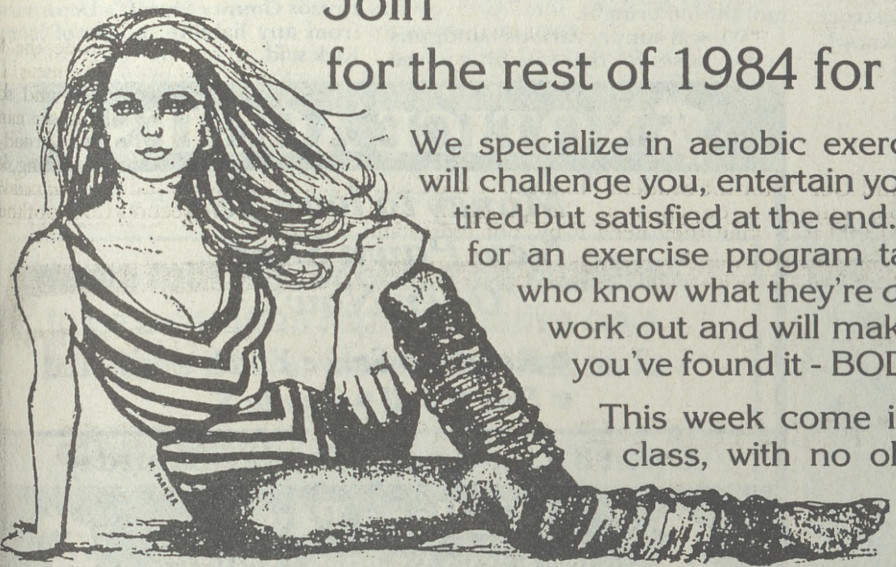
Freshman Rose Garcia, left, a journalism major from Clear Lake, and Susan House, a biomedical science major from Houston, stroll through the MSC while wearing their Howdy

shirts. The Traditions Council is sponsoring the sale of the shirts through the rest of Howdy Week. Howdy Week is designed to renew the tradition of saying "Howdy" on campus.

Photo by MICHAEL SANCHEZ

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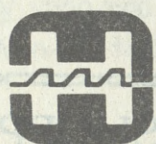
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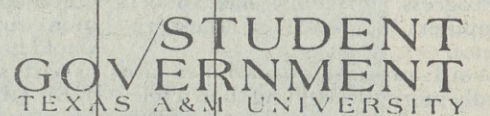


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WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

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