

STATE AND LOCAL

New council president

Davis discusses MSC

By CATHIE ANDERSON Staff Writer

If you're walking through the Student Programs Office in the Memorial Student Center with Denis Davis, don't expect to walk straight through.

Davis, the second female president of the MSC Council within its 36-year history, apparently knows quite a few of the 1,600 students working at the MSC. Davis officially took over the presidential post Saturday.

"You just can't get away from people up here," she says. "Sometimes that's good and sometimes it's bad."

Although Davis' first name (pronounced Dennis not Denise) is more than a little misgiving, she says labels and names are unimportant at the MSC. The MSC really plays upon the spirit of being an Aggie.

"The Spirit runs deep," she says. "Aggies don't care where you're from, your social position, the color of your skin or your sex, ... and the MSC lives that with its programs and attitudes."

She says the organization simply takes everybody for what they are.

"Personal imagery isn't important at the MSC," she says. "This is a place where anybody can take talent and their abilities and get a position. We use people here who never would have made it in student-government-type politics."

The image of the MSC in the past has been one of a group of work-horse people, production-oriented people — people who do the best with what they've got to develop themselves to their potential, she says. MSC Aggies and Aggies in general do less espousing and more doing.

"Aggies are confident, strong, achievement-oriented people who hold their values close," she says. "They're solid people; they're not always telling everyone about themselves because they know what they are. The success stories that I've heard from old Ags sound a lot like the steps I want to take."

Davis, who attended a small parochial high school in Houston, says she wasn't always positive about A&M, especially since most of her friends were going to Ivy League schools.

"But sometimes you need to be true to your family," she says. "They (her friends) knew that I knew I was an Aggie. I was teased, but they understood."

"I knew it was either the East Coast or Texas, Texas A&M singular. When I was a sophomore, I wished there were two of me, so I could put one there and one here. I don't wish that anymore."

Davis, a 22-year-old agricultural economics major, is a third-generation Aggie. Her uncle was president of the MSC Council in 1952, and her father was vice president of the council in 1958.

"When my granddad was at school here," she says, "there was no MSC, or I have a feeling he would have been a part of it too."

Davis says she became involved in



Denis Davis

the MSC during her sophomore year through the council assistant program. As a council assistant, Davis was in charge of the MSC Learning Research Library.

Then the library only contained a few notebooks, she says. These notebooks included information about the how-to's of programming, organization and leadership. Davis organized the notebooks, and she says that work has paid off because the library has picked up a corporate sponsorship from the IBM Corp. Three years later there's a council assistant still working on the research library, and she has shelf-space in the MSC Browsing Library and money to buy books for the library.

Also during her sophomore year, Davis became the chairman of MSC Christmas Programs Committee.

"No one wanted to do it," she says, "and I've always been the type of person who picks up stray cats and things, so I decided to apply for the chair of the committee."

That year the committee started the annual lighting of the Christmas tree with the Singing Cadets singing Christmas carols. The committee also started collecting ornaments for the tree from different classes that year. Now the committee has a variety of ornaments from all classes, with which to decorate the tree.

In 1983, Davis became the executive vice president for marketing and personnel, a position she has kept until now. As EVP for marketing and personnel, Davis performed image and demographic surveys to see what people thought of the MSC and who the MSC audience was. Davis says these surveys help MSC committees know what kind of public relations they should use to sell their programing.

While surveys came second, Orion was one of Davis' first accomplishments as marketing and personnel executive vice president. During the summer of 1984, she and Greg Hawkins, who was vice president of student development, brainstormed for ways to attract students to the MSC during their freshmen year.

"One of the biggest problems of the MSC was that people didn't find this place until their sophomore year," Davis says. "Freshmen sometimes randomly found us, but the damaging effects of not having freshmen in the MSC were beginning to show up in the number of people we had to apply for leadership positions."

"Greg and I were wondering why it is that the MSC doesn't attract

highly motivated high school student types. We finally decided that it was because the MSC is a very complicated organization. You can tell someone is going to be intimidated."

Orion was created to nurture someone's interest in the MSC, Davis says. The MSC wanted to let freshmen know that it cared enough about them to establish a program to teach them what a union is all about.

Davis had to pause and think to remember her accomplishments at the MSC, and she says she is not the type of person who revels in her accomplishments.

"I'm not the type of person to sit down and tell myself, 'You know, Denis, you done good,'" she says. "Besides it's difficult to get a grasp on how good of a job you're doing around here because everyone else is doing so good a job around you. People are always achieving something. Why, if you put a WLS, Wylie Lecture Series, up against Orion, you can see."

Davis says it's difficult to sit down and list what four years of her life has meant. But the MSC is really what Davis defines college to be. At the MSC students pick up a discipline that challenges them, meet new people that can introduce them to new ideas and participate in extra-curricular activities that coincide with their majors, she says. They have the chance to play out academic knowledge in programing.

"People joke that we're (A&M) a cultural wasteland," she says. "I think that without the MSC, A&M's perspectives would be a lot more narrow."

Davis says she is more organized and more emotionally-balanced because of her experiences at the MSC.

"I used to ride such an emotional roller coaster, but I've learned maturity in my emotions," she said. "I've learned not to take myself too seriously but also to take my job more seriously. It's like no other leadership position I've ever had."

The MSC is "a real attitude place," Davis says. MSCers, as she calls them, can make a positive attitude out of just about anything. And she says the MSC is going to turn the state's fiscal difficulties into an opportunity.

"We just don't have as much room to make as many mistakes," she says. "We'll have a marginal decrease in the amount of programs produced, so we'll just have to include more people. And our programing will have to be more developmental, fiscally sound and needed."

"The council has changed a lot."

She says that at one time the MSC's Fall Leadership Committee served to get Aggie student leaders acclimated to metropolitan life. But this function cycled out, she says. There is a natural cycle to things, and if the MSC has lost some committees, Davis says she believes it is because of this cycle.

Perhaps the appointment of another woman to the MSC presidency foreshadows a new beginning in the natural cycle at Texas A&M.

Students: action still pending against Austin police officers

By KIRSTEN DIETZ Staff Writer

Two Texas A&M students struck by Austin police after the Texas A&M-University of Texas football game Dec. 1, say action against the officers still is pending.

George Clendenin, a junior environmental design major, says he was struck in the head with a night stick, and Steve Sledge, a senior electrical engineering major, says he was struck several places, also with a night stick.

Since the incident, Clendenin says, he has filled out an affidavit and mailed it to the Austin chief of police.

Clendenin says he was contacted about 10 days ago by an officer in the Austin Police Department's in-

ternal affairs division. The officer said he wanted to meet in the College Station police station with Clendenin and witnesses to the incident, Clendenin says.

However, Clendenin says he has not heard from the internal affairs division since that first contact.

"We're not after any monetary compensation," Clendenin says. "All I'm after is to put it (the incident) on his (the officer's) record. I don't want his badge or anything."

Sledge says his main problem has been a lack of communication with his lawyer this semester.

"I never hear from him," he says. Sledge's first court date was scheduled for the same day as a final

exam last semester, so his lawyer put his case on a deferred status.

Sledge's lawyer told him that his arrest probably was a mistake, and the only way the charge can be put on the officer's record is to put the officer on the stand and force him to testify, Sledge says.

Sledge says the police have two options.

They can erase all evidence that an arrest occurred, such as mug shots and finger prints, or they can note on his record that he was arrested and acquitted.

Sledge says he and his lawyer believe it will be decided that the case is not worthy of a trial and will be discarded.

1984-85 season comes to an end for Texas A&M's Century Singers

By TRENT LEOPOLD Staff Writer

The Century Singers performed their final concert of the year Saturday night in Rudder Theater before an audience of about 225.

The audience began applauding the singers took their positions on the platform in front of a purple backdrop at about 8 p.m.

Patricia P. Fleitas, the group's conductor, wearing a white dress, took a couple of minutes to tell about the Century Singers before the first selection, "Awake the Harp" from Haydn's "The Creation" was performed.

Fleitas said the Century Singers enjoyed their past season. She said one of the highlights of the year in-

cluded their performance of Haydn's "The Creation" in Rudder Auditorium with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra and choirs from the University of Texas.

The concert Saturday night contained four parts.

Highlights of the first two parts of the program included an a cappella performance of "Jesu Dulcis Memoria" and a beautiful rendition of Handel's "And I Will Exalt Him."

Part two of the program included a pleasing performance of Amy Grant's "El Shaddai." Jeff Wright, pianist for the Century Singers, played excellently — as usual — throughout the concert, but his performance on this piece was exceptional.

An 11-member group calling themselves the "Madrigal Group" then sang three a cappella selections including "Weep O Mine Eyes." Fleitas did not conduct the group, but returned after a 15-minute intermission to conduct "An American Tribute," the opening piece of the final part of the program.

"An American Tribute" included parts from famous pieces such as "Oh Shenandoah" and "Look Away Dixieland."

"The Century Four" then took the stage with their bright red cummerbunds and comical attitude to perform several pieces including "Yes Sir That's My Baby."

NOTICE

The College of Engineering will initiate an Enrollment Management Program effective fall semester 1985. Each currently enrolled eligible freshman student must apply to be considered for admission to the major degree sequence in the engineering major of his/her choice. Applications are available in the Engineering Program Office, room 141, Engineering Research Center, or in the Engineering Departments.

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