STATE AND LOCAL

Former student leaves artistic legacy to A&M

By WENDY JOHNSON Reporter

The Benz School of Floral Design only one portion of the legacy M.
uddy" Benz left Texas A&M
en he died in 1980.

He also willed to A&M an eclectic d "dearly cherished" art collection t includes sculptures, paintings, nts and containers from various riods in history. For example ere are Renaissance paintings and onze vessels dating from the time

Emily Twitty, curator of the Benz t collection, says, "Benz was an old ggie who started the first school of oral design in Texas.

She says it's the oldest continously operating floral design thool, and it was the first program Texas to be certified.

"It's sort of like a short, glorified ade school," Twitty says. "It is ally good for hands-on experien-

James L. Johnson, director of the nz School, is Benz's hand-picked ccessor, Twitty says. Johnson was e of Benz's students when Benz aght floral design in his Houston ne in 1958.

Twitty says Benz also established only Endowed Chair in Floral ign in the United States and pos-

the world. The school has classes in basic flodesign and the business aspects floral design. Students learn what e experts look for when they buy owers, how to decide on the price ark-up, what the shelf-lives of vaous flowers are, and what to carry a floral shop. Students also learn appropriate flowers and designs weddings, funerals, parties and

The courses last two weeks and e offered four times a year. A 500-fee is required and pays for all naterials except the textbook and ousing. The school limits enrollent to 20 students.

The services of the Benz School e available to the University and to e community. Johnson has ar-inged flowers for the Memorial udent Center Wiley Lecture Sees, the MSC Student Conference National Affairs, MSC Hospital-

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ews Editor ge Editor



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER "The Geisha Girl"

ity, the Board of Regents and other

"The school makes enough money to perpetuate itself, but where we really make the money is in the books," Twitty says. "They're

Benz willed his San Jacinto Publishing Co. and the copyrights to all his books to Texas A&M.

He wrote four books about floral design — the only floral design

more than one printing, Twitty says. Benz's book "FLOWERS: Geometric Form" is considered the Bible of the floral design industry and is in its ninth printing, Twitty says.

Benz made his money in flowers and did not return to A&M for 20 years, Twitty says. She says it is ru-mored he would not return until a professor he disliked had left.

Benz became a Distinguished Alumnus in 1973, Twitty says, and he regarded it as the highest honor



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Bananas & Creme-The monkies go ape over this one.

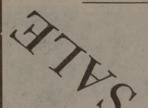
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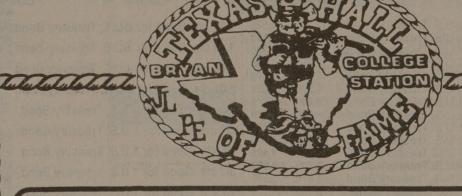
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