

State and Local

Council chooses Muller for '88-'89 MSC president

By Mark Gee
Staff Writer

Frank Muller III, a senior industrial engineering major from Tulsa, Okla., was selected by the Memorial Student Center Council Monday, Feb. 8, to be the 1988-1989 MSC president. The MSC has a \$3.2 million budget, used to sponsor such programs as last week's "U.S.S.R.—The Kremlin in Transition" conference presented by the Student Conference on National Affairs committee. Muller, who has been involved in the MSC for three years, sees his new position as a way to support the 27 MSC Committees. "The president's position is very administrative," Muller said. "If someone has a problem, I want to know if I can help them. That's what I see my job as. I want to help and anything I can do to make things work smoother or go better, I want to do it." This year he was the MSC's vice president of operations. He was involved in MSC SCONA for two years before being selected as the vice president of operations.

Muller will assume current MSC President Linda Hartman's position in April. Until then, he is working with the MSC Nominating Committee to fill the other leadership positions on the MSC Council. The first round of interviews for those positions is Saturday and Sunday. Muller said he wants to attract more general committee members to the MSC. He said about 1,500 students are involved in the MSC's committees but there is enough work for 2,500. Muller said the MSC is a place to learn and that it has opportunities for every student. "I believe the MSC is one place where you can go to learn leadership, management, organization and time-management skills," he said. "It is the whole other education. You go to class and you learn how to do a problem. But you don't apply it. In the MSC you apply it again and again and again." Muller said students in the MSC can learn and experiment without life-encompassing consequences. Students who solicit funds are an example.

"It is an intimidating experience to request \$500 from a big-time Ag or businessman," Muller said. "But it is an incredible experience because it breaks down the barrier of 'Gee, can I walk into that office?'" Working with Student Government to represent students' interests is a priority for Muller. "We have two very powerful organizations on campus (MSC and Student Government) — combine them and you're that much more powerful," Muller said. He said students' interests were not represented when Rudder Tower Dining Center was turned into a faculty club. "It (Rudder Dining Center) was a great meeting place, especially for people in the MSC," Muller said. "That is now taken away from us. Students really lost something — we really did." Muller said it is difficult for students to challenge the faculty and administration but strong ties between student organizations would increase students' representation.

"If they (faculty and administration) are trying to slide things past Student Government and the MSC, then something is wrong," Muller said. "Because students need to have a knowledge and awareness and, I honestly feel, an input into the decisions that are made on this campus because they directly affect us." Muller said he would like to see Student Government located in the MSC if the MSC is expanded because that would increase the bond between the two organizations. Along with his MSC experience, Muller has been involved in Student Government's Muster Committee, Parents Weekend and Traditions Council. He has been a Fish Camp Counselor for two years. This year he is a Fish Camp co-chairman. He is also the Commanding Officer of Company B-2. "I've seen the value of all the organizations on campus," Muller said. "And I've chosen one that I want to be a major part of next year and that will be the only thing I will be doing. I'm looking forward to that very much."



Photo by Mark Gee
Frank Muller III, an industrial engineering major, will be the MSC president for 1988-89. Muller stresses the opportunities available for students in the MSC.

Investigators search for cause of blaze

DALLAS (AP) — Fire investigators said Sunday they will interview residents and continue to sift through the rubble of a Dallas apartment complex to find the cause of a fire that killed a woman and her three-year-old child. "We'll try to piece together a scenario of what transpired to the best we can," said Capt. Don Howard, a member of the investigations division. The fire on Friday destroyed 56 apartments and caused more than \$1 million in damage, officials said. The victims are thought to be Maria Medina, 25, and her daughter, Angela, the Dallas County Medical Examiner's office said.

Residents said they tried to persuade the woman to jump off or throw her daughter from a third-floor balcony, but the woman refused. A few minutes later, the building collapsed. Firefighters later found the two bodies buried in a six-foot pile of debris. Some residents said they had smelled ether, a highly flammable chemical, when the fire started. Howard said no evidence that ether may have been a factor in the fire has turned up. Most of the 100 residents displaced by the fire found shelter in vacant apartments at the complex.

Huge coral forest in Gulf of Mexico to be protected as marine sanctuary

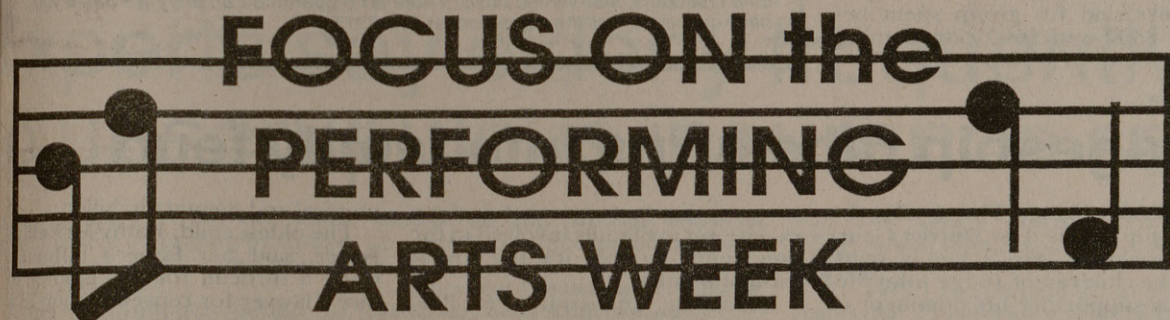
SABINE PASS (AP) — The Flower Garden Banks, a huge forest of coral in the Gulf of Mexico south of Sabine Pass, is in line for protection as a national marine sanctuary to stop damage caused by ship anchors and pollution. Coral heads in the Flower Gardens are branch-like formations that have grown one inch per decade and now stretch up to 60 feet long. "When an anchor knocks off a coral head, it falls to the bottom, gets covered by sand and dies," said John Everett, a Beaumont scuba shop owner, who has dived at the Flower Gardens for 17 years. Located about 120 miles south of Sabine Pass, the complete reef sys-

tem spans 100 miles along the outer continental shelf. The most valuable but vulnerable sections sit atop two mountainous domes, 16 miles apart, that rise more than 600 feet from the ocean floor to within 60 feet of the surface. Protective action for the Flower Gardens languished since 1980, when, a year after it was first considered, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suspended action on it as a sanctuary candidate. Designation as marine sanctuary means a NOAA division would have authority to enforce protective measures such as a ban on anchoring in the reef.

The agency had been informed that a Coral Fisheries Management Plan about to be implemented by another agency would restrict anchoring in the Flower Gardens, resolving the issue of greatest concern. When the coral fisheries regulations finally appeared, the no-anchoring provision had disappeared. The sanctuary issue for the Flower Gardens has been locked in a bureaucratic tussle since then, the *Beaumont Enterprise* reported, but the new chief of NOAA's Marine and Estuarine Management Division, Joseph Uravitch, has made a priority of the Flower Gardens sanctuary designation.

Ralph Lopez, project manager for Flower Gardens, said, "He (Uravitch) is really pushing to get these projects through. If the current schedule holds, the Flower Gardens should join the ranks of the six other underwater regions as a marine sanctuary by spring 1989, Lopez said. At two marine sanctuaries in the Florida Keys, NOAA successfully enlisted the help of commercial diving boat crews to monitor compliance with the sanctuary designation. "It's still incredibly beautiful," Everett said. "You can see the length of a football field. The water is a lot clearer than off Florida, which is supposedly the diver's paradise."

MSC OPAS presents



SUN. - FEB. 14

- 2:00 FOPA Reception - Rudder Exhibit Hall
- 3:00 BVSO: Hansel and Gretel - Rudder Auditorium
- * 3:30 Christopher Parkening - Guitar Workshop

MON. - FEB. 15

- * 2:00 U.S. Air Force Chamber Players - MSC Lounge
- 8:00 MSC OPAS: Christopher Parkening - Rudder Auditorium

TUES. - FEB. 16

- * 11:00-1:00 TAMU Dance Organizations - MSC Lounge
- * 8:00 TAMU Dance Arts Society Recital - Rudder Theater

WED. - FEB. 17

- * 12:30 Lambda Sigma Fountain Forum: "Why Texas A&M Needs a Fine Arts Department" - Rudder Fountain
- * 8:00 "Impromptu" and "Kaleidoscope - Scenes from the Modern Theater" - A&M Consolidated and Bryan High School - Rudder Theater

THUR. - FEB. 18

- * 11:00-3:00 TAMU Ensembles - MSC Lounge
- * 7:00 Paul Hersh: Lecture-recital "The Inner World of Robert Schumann" - Rudder Theater

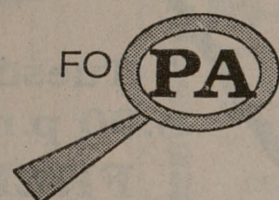
FRI. - FEB. 19

- * 12:00-3:00 Miss TAMU Pageant Talent Preview - MSC Lounge
- 8:00 University Chamber Series: Paul and Stefan Hersh, Piano/Violin Recital - Rudder Theater

SAT. - FEB. 20

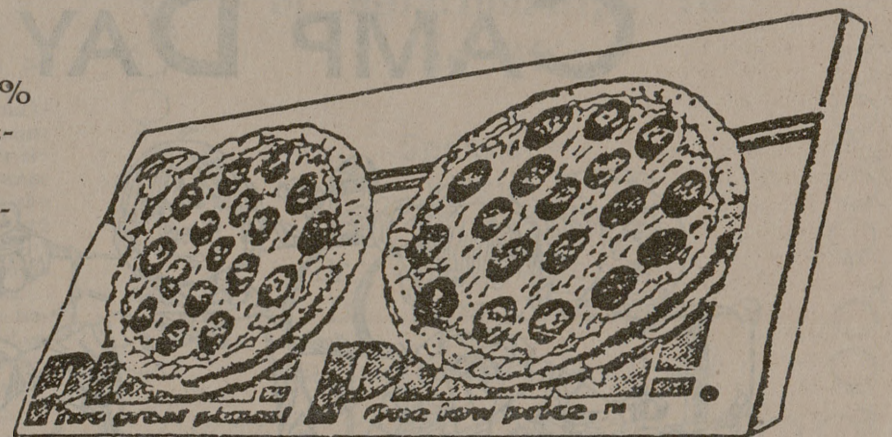
- 8:00 am MSC OPAS/TAMU Roadrunners: Run for the Arts

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