

MSC Student Programs

Committees offer opportunities for personal development

By TANYA WILLIAMS
Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

"Our goal is the development of persons as well as intellects... a place where we may come to know and understand one another."

The quote on the cover of the Memorial Student Center's Student Programs brochure says it all: development... intellect... understanding. The MSC student programs is a large division of the MSC and involves a large number of Texas A&M students. The 24 programming committees in the programs office present over 1,300 programs each year. "The MSC's student commit-

tees have quite a bit to offer students," said James Weinstock, a member of the MSC Council.

As part of the committees, students have the opportunity to learn leadership and interpersonal skills through the process of planning and organizing the many programs that the committees present. The committees offer recreational, entertainment, educational and cultural programs for the Texas A&M University students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities.

"The students have the opportunity to get practical experience in programming as well as get to know people that hold similar interests," Weinstock said.

"Working with the commit-

tees also provide leadership opportunities as well as a lot of networking opportunities," said Weinstock.

To interest new and interested students, one of the student programs, MSC Town Hall, is staging a large showcase to show all of the student committees and their opportunities.

This program will be held September 3rd at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Rudder Theater complex.

To further introduce students to student program opportunities, Weinstock says that most, if not all the MSC student programs will be represented at Open House, which will be held Sept. 6 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Carvings celebrate Aggie history

By STEPHANIE PERKINS
Reporter of THE BATTALION

In the east hall of the Memorial Student Center, across from the Flag Room, hang six wooden base relief panels: intricate carvings commemorating one hundred years of Texas A&M history.

These carvings were commissioned by Texas A&M, paid for by the Association of Former Students in 1974, and created by Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Hill of College Station to honor A&M's centennial in 1976.

The Hills only moonlight as artists, though. Rodney Hill is an associate dean for Student Services at A&M and a professor of architecture. His wife is a physical therapist at Allied Physical Therapists, P.C. in College Station.

Each wooden panel depicts a major part of A&M's history. Campus Landmarks, the Corps of Cadets, Sports and Traditions, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Science, and Engineering and the Arts.

Each panel was carved out of a slab of walnut. Walnut was chosen for its ability to hold details and for the fact that it is a close-grained wood that doesn't chip easily, Mr. Hill said. Once carved, each panel was oiled and sealed with a polyurethane finish.

It took the Hills two years to finish all six panels, but Hill said during the process there were always three panels being carved simultaneously and three panels hanging in the MSC, so the wall was never bare.

Hill said he and his wife were told very little about what the panels were to depict.

"They were really nebulous about it all," he said.

The Hills were given free rein to decide what was to be on each panel.

They researched A&M and its history by going through old shoeboxes of memorabilia given to the Archives by old Ags. They also went through library holdings and interviewed professors emeritus.

Scaled down cartoon sketches were drawn up by the Hills for each panel for consideration by the Texas A&M Centennial Committee.

The only major changes came on the panel for the Corps of Cadets.

During research for that panel, Hill had talked to cadets to get key phrases often heard within the Corps.

When the sketch was sent to the committee for approval, some former members of the Corps were shocked to see some of the more "inappropriate" slang phrases in black and white, ready to be carved into wood.

Hill said the cadets had not told him what the phrases meant, and he eliminated the slang from the sketches.

The Hills had one other blunder in the making of the panels. On the sixth and final panel, titled "Engineering and the Arts," there is a formula for the theory of the universe — a formula created by an A&M professor.

"There were all these 'p's' in the formula, but we didn't know what they meant, so we just put them into the sketch," Mrs. Hill said.

When the sketch was being approved it was discovered that the 'p's' were not part of the formula, but simply the abbreviation for "page number."

The Hills have done numerous other carvings for Texas A&M and other institutions. They have done a bronze memorial to Silver Taps and most recently they completed a wooden sculpture commemorating Muster that is on display in the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center.

They also did a number of woodcarvings for the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in College Station, including a large crucifix that took six months to finish.

The crucifix has a special story behind it because the feet and the hands of the Jesus were modeled after the feet and the hands of their two children, Bunker, an A&M graduate now living in Austin, and Brooke, a junior international business major at A&M.



Cindy Tanner (left) and Kim Soucek, a senior agricultural engineer from Palestine, while sipping on a few brews, relax on the front porch of Dudley's Draw.

Northgate bar attracts many different patrons, owner says

By BETH ORGAN
Special to THE BATTALION

Dudley's Draw, the "Cheers" of College Station, is prominently poised on University Drive in the shadow of the institution that it so proudly serves.

"It's a place where everyone knows your name," said Natalie Despasquale, a regular at Dudley's.

"Whatever your mood is, you can come in here and not feel lost. Nobody is out of place."

Despasquale, a 1991 graduate of Texas A&M University has been going to Dudley's for almost five years.

"A lot of grad students and professors hang out here. It's not a meat market like some of the bars around here," Despasquale said. People go to Dudley's to relax, drink a beer and work out problems.

Joel Clark, a senior civil engineering student, said it's a good place to go because you almost always know someone.

"Everyone here has a good attitude about others," Clark said. "People at the Chicken are not as open-minded as the people at Dudley's."

Richard Bennings, owner of Dudley's Draw, likes the people that come to his place.

"Kids under 21 are not allowed in, so there is a smaller environment," Bennings said.

"The average age is 27 to 29 years old, and most of the people are graduates and PhDs."

"Dudley's is the most educational club in town," Bennings laughed.

As for competition with The Dixie Chicken, a bar next to Dudley's, Bennings said they compliment each other.

"All businesses compete, but the Chicken and Dudley's compete fairly. It's like a symbiotic relationship," Bennings said.

"It is a piece of society here," Bennings said. "We have Greeks, cowboys and Professors."

Despasquale echoed the sentiment: "It will be here for a long time. It's not going anywhere."

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The Battalion
ATLANTIS TILLMAN, Editor-in-Chief

The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except university holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77840.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3316. Fax: 845-2647.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the contributor and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administration, faculty or staff.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-5408.

Subscriptions: Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by VISA or MasterCard, call 845-2611.

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