

## Agency refers volunteers

# Students aiding community

**By DEBBIE GOLLA**  
The number of Texas A&M University students who volunteer their services for different Bryan-College Station agencies has declined, said Ross Talbot, chairman of Student Volunteer Services.

"I think a lot of students don't know that the SVS is in existence, or what the SVS is," Talbot said. "We are a referral agency, not a club. We refer the students to different agencies who have asked for volunteers." The SVS was formed a few years ago by students who were interested in community activity. SVS now has a Board of Directors of 10, and is geared toward four main fields: the aged, health, society, and youth. It is located in Room 216 of the Memorial Student Center.

"When a student comes in wishing to volunteer, we set up an appointment with the agency the student is interested in helping," Talbot said. "In a couple of weeks, we will get back in touch with the student to see how everything went."

One agency that asks for volunteers is the Sherwood Health Care Facility, one of four nursing homes in the Bryan-College Station area. Debbie Sulik, in charge of recruiting volunteers at the nursing home, said that many Texas A&M students offered their services in the

last two years, but that this year only a few are turning out.

"I think that a lot of students don't know we're around," Sulik said. "Reading and writing letters, helping on walks, playing games, taking the men out for an occasional beer — these are just a few of the everyday things volunteers can help with," Sulik said.

The Sherwood Health Care Facility is holding a Rock-and-Roll Jam-boree on Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. at Sherwood. The residents will rock in rocking chairs to raise money for the American Heart Association. Help is needed with this project, along with volunteers who could provide entertainment.

Volunteers are needed at the Miss Brazos Valley Nursing Home Pageant which will be held March 8 at Manor East Mall from 1 to 5 p.m. Nine counties will participate.

Maxine Blackburn, who works with volunteers at Bryan Hospital, said that they have averaged 30 volunteers each semester from the University, but this semester they have only 20 volunteers. "We get mostly pre-med and pre-nursing students volunteering," Blackburn said.

If a student wishes to volunteer for Bryan Hospital, he can pick up

an information packet at Student Services Department, Room 216 of the MSC.

"We have an orientation program for the students," Blackburn said. "We show them around the different departments of the hospital. There is also a new policy this year. We require that the student to help in patient care before working in any other department. We feel that helping people is really what a hospital is all about."

Other agencies that ask for volunteers include the Humane Society and the Neal Child Development Center.

"The majority of students who wish to volunteer are interested in being a Big Brother or Big Sister," Talbot said. "We presently don't have a Big Brother-Big Sister program, but we are working on it."

SVS representatives will be in Austin March 20 to talk with Big Brothers of Austin to get ideas on

starting a program. "We tried to get the Human Resources Department (Welfare Department) to help us get a program for Big Brothers started, but they couldn't offer their time," Talbot said. "So, we're trying it on our own."

Hassle Free, an off-campus information program, is sponsored by SVS. It is responsible for posting bulletin boards for off-campus students and for helping them with problems. Its office is located in the Puryear Dorm lounge on campus.

A table will be set up by SVS next Wednesday at the MSC to offer information for students who are interested.



Bill Weldon looks as if he's lost patience with Ellen Dowling, as they perform a scene from "A Streetcar Named Desire." In "Desire" Weldon and Dowling play Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kowalski. They are also married in reality. The play will be presented Thursday through Saturday and next Wednesday through March 4. Battalion photo by Chris Piccione

## Couple acts together

By CHRIS PICCIONE

Bill Weldon ran in and threw a package of raw meat at his wife Ellen. "I'm going bowling," he shouted.

It's not a domestic quarrel, it's a scene from Tennessee Williams' play "A Streetcar Named Desire," the Aggie Players' latest production. Stella and Stanley Kowalski are being portrayed by a married couple, Ellen Dowling and Bill Weldon.

Dowling and Weldon are not Texas A&M University students. Because the Aggie players have open auditions, any interested person may try out for a part.

Dowling is an English and drama instructor at Texas A&M. She received her doctorate at the University of New Mexico in dramatic literature.

While in school at New Mexico, Dowling said she was involved in "experimental theater and a few avant-garde, one-act plays." These are plays with unusual themes not usually performed for the general public.

Dowling also directed a play entitled, "The Birds," and wrote a satirical version of a Greek classic.

Dowling said being a wife playing a role opposite her husband is not difficult at all. "Bill and I work well together because we know each other so well," she said.

Weldon received his masters degree in English literature at the University of North Dakota. He met his wife at the University of New Mexico while he was working on his doctorate. Weldon dropped out of the doctoral program to write.

"There are more possibilities in selling my plays than selling myself as an English professor," he said. "Besides, one Ph.D. in the family is enough."

While he was in school, Weldon directed two acting companies. His wife was a member of one of the companies called, "The Bugger City Poverty Players." This company performed about 50 plays for the English department of the University of New Mexico.

"I did plays as academic projects," Weldon said. He wrote, produced and directed plays instead of writing papers.

Weldon is interested in the theater as a form of education. "I always wanted to be a teacher, but now I want to teach when I write," he said.

Weldon has written eight plays, six of which have been produced. His plays deal with historical events, Weldon said his plays are not only entertaining, but have important themes.

Weldon said he likes working on plays with student actors, and he hopes to perform his latest play, "The Legend of Lord Byron," with the Aggie Players.

Weldon said he finds it easy to work with his wife because he has no doubts about her ability.

Although Dowling has been involved with many acting companies she said, "The Aggie Players work well together. I've never seen such enthusiasm. It's the nicest atmosphere I've ever experienced."

Weldon said that since he and his wife have had acting experience, the student actors can learn from them. Terry Martin, an Aggie Player working with Dowling and Weldon, said, "They've done a lot of plays before and I'm learning from them."

In the future, Dowling said she hopes to continue acting, directing and teaching creative dramatics. But, this weekend she and her husband will be busy playing the part of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kowalski.

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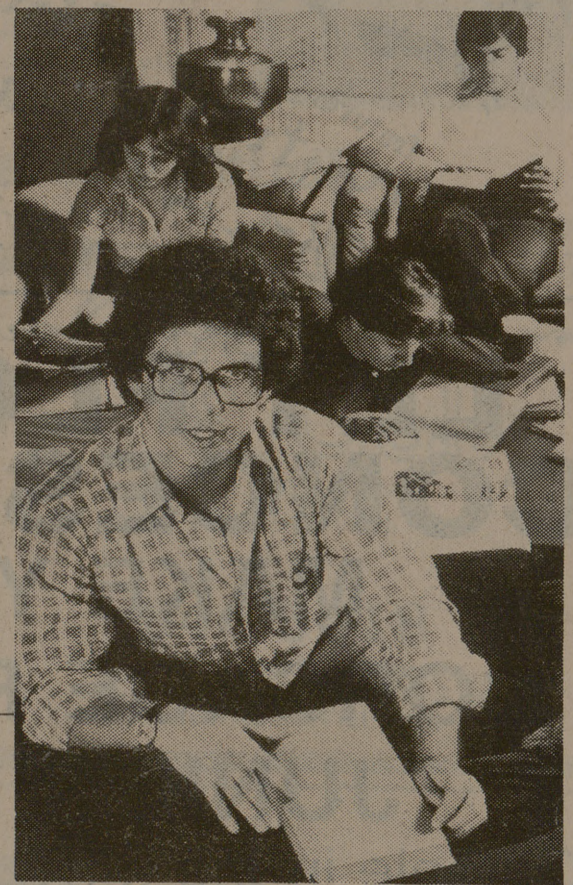
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