

# Students cleaning up in cleaning business

by Kathy Robinette  
Battalion Reporter

Cleaning other people's homes may not appeal to you, but some students are polishing and waxing their way through college.

"It's a people business", Nancy Crouch, owner and manager of Home Care Services, a local cleaning business, said. Crouch employs students to clean homes and businesses by the hour.

The former part-time writing instructor at Texas A&M University once had her students read an assignment entitled, "Who Will Do the Dirty Work?" Crouch thought young people might be willing to do the dirty work since good domestic workers were hard to find.

With eight students and her partner's encouragement, Home Care Services began operating in April 1977, Crouch said. There was a great need for a cleaning service in the community, she said.

Ann Schultz and Debra Stengel, of Schultz's We Clean, also agreed there was a need.

As a single parent, she finds the hours fit well in her schedule. Also, Schultz didn't want to work a 40-hour job for someone else.

Schultz's services include vacuuming, dusting, doing laundry, washing dishes and other cleaning chores for a basic price of \$25.

Home Care Services also does basic cleaning tasks for \$8 per person per hour, Crouch said. She said residential customers usually pay between \$16-32 for a job.

In addition to residential cleaning, Home Care also does commercial cleaning, Crouch said. After looking over the business, a bid is given and if accepted, a monthly contract is drawn up.

The services list among their customers working women, senior citizens and bachelors. Schultz finds bachelors who don't want to clean up after their parties call her.

She remembered a time when a disorganized bachelor called and said he couldn't find anything till the middle of the week.

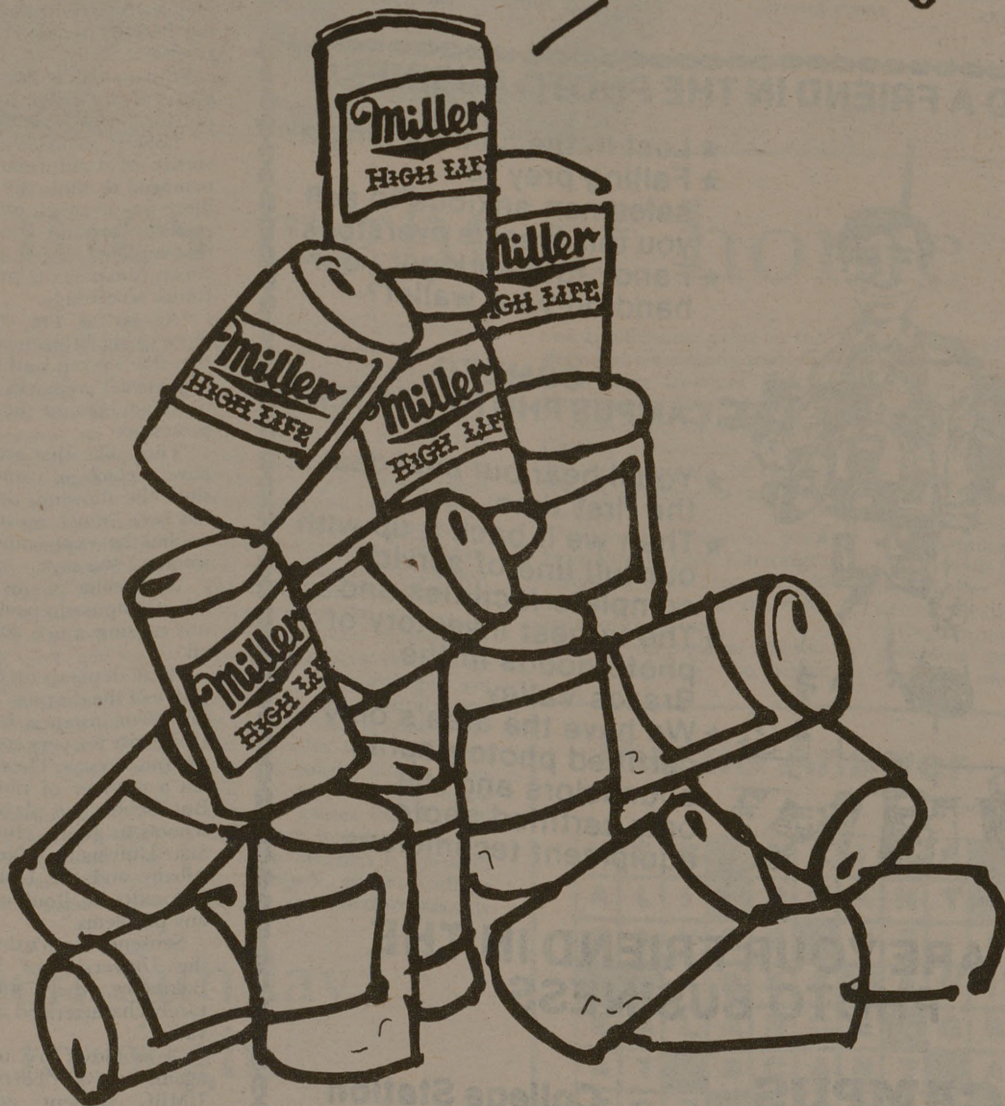
Out of Home Care's 35 employees, 15 are Texas A&M students, Crouch said. Cleaning other people's homes would be a good job for college students, she said, because she is very understanding about class schedules.

"They tell us when they want to work, not the other way around," Crouch said. She feels students are responsible, intelligent and in charge of what they do.

Home Care's Commercial Supervisor Lura Pickett, an Texas A&M graduate who began on the cleaning crew, says good pay, flexible working hours and working with people your own age are good reasons for college students to work here.

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