

## February 20 is deadline to sign up for Big Event

By ADA FAY WOOD  
Reporter

Students who want to help make Bryan-College Station a neater, cleaner, shinier place to live have until February 20 to sign up for The Big Event, a community-wide one-day clean up program sponsored by Student Government.

The second Big Event is scheduled for March 31, starting at 1 p.m.

Because of the Big Event's success last year, the requests for help from the area have been coming in at a fast pace. Yard work, painting and repair jobs have already been accepted.

"We are willing to help anybody," publicity chairman Maritza Pena said.

Anyone who has a job to be done or knows of one can call the student government office at 845-3051 to ask for help, Pena said.

Student and community

organizations began volunteering their manpower last October. So far about 40 student organizations and about the same number of community groups have signed up. About 4,000 students are involved, Pena said.

Those who want to help, but don't belong to a group, can also sign up. They will be put with a group or given a job to do individually, chairman of the Big Event, Joe Nussbaum, said.

The number of people needed to do a job determines which organization gets that job.

Organizations already assigned are the Off-Campus Aggies, which will hand out crime prevention pamphlets to apartment complexes in cooperation with the police departments; Hobby and Davis-Gary halls along with the Humana Hospital, which will paint and clean up various places in the community; Chi

Omega sorority, which will paint the College Station community center; and other groups, including the Corps of Cadets, which will clean cemeteries, wash and wax city fire trucks, and treat a youth group to dinner at Chuck E. Cheese restaurant.

A new program started this year, Friends of the Big Event, gives businesses a chance to sponsor a group or individual and donate the money to a charity or buy the materials needed for job.

Two businesses have offered special kinds of support. The Texas Hall of Fame, a favorite of country-and-western dance lovers, is giving a cover charge discount to all participating workers on the night of the Big Event. In addition, Rother's Book Store has provided Big Event t-shirts to the program at cost.

## 'Operation: Mop-Up' will pay up

By REBECCA DIMEO  
Reporter

Some students who remember what the dormitories were like after the pipes burst in December have put together a drive to help the residents whose belongings were damaged.

"The first smell when you opened the doors was mildew," says John McMaster, a senior in Hart Hall, whose room was not affected.

McMaster, vice president of the Hart dorm council, said the council took the idea for the fund-raiser, called "Operation: Mop-Up," to the Residence Hall Association. McMaster became chairman of the drive to be held Feb. 20-24.

The group plans to raise \$3000 for the victims of the freeze, he says. Dormitories affected by the freeze were Haas, Hart, Underwood, Leggett and Walton halls.

The dorm council members

will campaign door-to-door for donations in the the dormitories Feb. 20-22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. They also will set up collection tables in the Commons, the Memorial Student Center and in front of Sbis Dining Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20-24.

The dorm council representatives will wear plastic name tags marked with "Operation: Mop-Up." Posters also are being made to advertise the drive.

"We've even thought of the idea of using mop buckets at the collection tables," McMaster

says. Cash and checks payable to "Operation: Mop-Up" are acceptable. Receipts will be given for donations of \$1 or more. All money collected will be put into a sub-account of Hart Hall.

McMaster and a representative from each of the five dorms affected will decide how the money will be distributed. The committee will be advised by Cyndi Lee, assistant central area coordinator. None of the committee members will be eligible for payments from the fund.

Money will probably be distributed according to extent of

damage. Certain items — those that are old, merely sentimental, or are covered by insurance — will have low priority for reimbursement, McMaster says.

"We're talking about major things like stereos," he says. "There were quite a few stereos messed up."

Other items reported damaged were books, boots, boxes, popcorn poppers, flashlights, lamps, typewriters, pictures, guitars, clothes, pillows, refrigerators, televisions, and a teddy bear.

## 3 Texas universities rank high in National Merit enrollment

By ED ALANIS  
Staff Writer

Three Texas schools rank in the top six universities in the nation for enrollment of National Merit Scholars, a fact recently attributed to fierce competition in student recruitment.

However, the competition simply doesn't exist, says a Texas A&M official.

"Certainly national merit scholars make A&M look good," University Honors Program Director Larry Kress said, "but we're not competing with Texas and Rice to get them."

In the fall of 1983, the University of Texas led all public universities in the nation with 223 merit scholars, second only to Harvard's total of 297.

Texas A&M ranked fourth nationally with 172 merit scholars, and Rice ranked sixth with 155. Two other Texas schools finished in the top 25. Trinity University in San Antonio ranked 24th, and Baylor Uni-

versity ranked 25th.

Texas schools have more merit scholars than any other state in the nation, including the prestigious ivy league schools in Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

To an outsider, the Texas schools seem to be fighting fiercely among themselves for the state's 880 national merit semifinalists, in an effort to keep or even improve their national standings. However, such is not the case, at least not at Texas A&M, Kress said.

When Texas A&M offers a scholarship to a high school student, it's not necessarily because he or she is a merit scholar, Kress said.

"We look at the overall picture — SAT and PSAT scores, high school averages and extra-curricular activities," Kress said. "Many times we approach students before they have been declared national merit scholars."

The situation cannot be compared to the "flesh peddling" of

athletic recruiters, Kress said.

"In football, if you lose out on a recruit, then he's going to be playing for your opponent out on the field," Kress said. "Such is not the case with merit scholars."

"I want to see good students come to A&M not to keep them from going to Texas, but to make A&M a little better," he said.

Texas A&M used to outnumber Texas in merit scholars, before Texas started its honors colloquium in 1982, Kress said. The school invited 1,200 national merit semifinalists from Texas high schools to a weekend of wine and dining in Austin, at a cost of about \$150,000. The number of national merit scholars enrolled at Texas jumped from 130 to 223 in just one year.

Although these figures are impressive, Kress said that if the money was available, Texas A&M would rather offer \$150,000 in actual scholarships

### OFF THE CUFF



BY BOB DODSON

The government has made liars out of more people than golf and fishing combined.

The irony of life is that by the time you have money to burn, the fire's gone out.

Sign in office: "If you don't have ulcers yet, you aren't solving your share of the problems around here."

Our friend says he gets six miles to the gallon in his car. His son gets the other twenty.

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The Dean's Office, Faculty and Staff of the College of Business Administration extend their congratulations to the leadership and members of the Business Student Council for their highly successful planning and implementation of the 1984 Business Week and Career Fair.

Texas A&M University students, present and future, are the beneficiaries of the highly favorable impression you made on Business Week visiting executives and corporate recruiters.

## Thanks for a job well done!

### 1984 Business Week/Career Fair Committee

Marianne Dominguez, President, CBA Student Council

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