

# APO: Serving the Community

by Yvonne Degraw

**F**or most student groups, raising \$25,000 would be quite a challenge. But for Alpha Phi Omega it's all in a weekend's work.

With 125 active members and 170 pledges this semester, APO sometimes has trouble finding projects that are big enough, says Staci Cook, vice president of membership.

APO, a co-educational service fraternity, intends to raise the \$25,000 for the Muscular Distrophy Association at its dance-a-thon this Friday at

the Aggieland Inn.

"My personal goal is to raise \$250," says Cook, a senior finance major from Dallas.

**A**s if raising \$25,000 in 12 hours (7 p.m. to 7 a.m.) isn't enough, APO has so many other projects going it's hard to keep track.

Just a few of its projects make an impressive list.

- APO plans and runs one of the largest blood drives in the nation each semester with the

help of Omega Phi Alpha, its sister sorority, and Student Government.

A&M students donate more blood to Wadley Blood Drive than any other group in Texas and consistently rank among the top three in the United States.

- It provides manpower for Special Olympics of Brazos County.

Cook says APO will need support from the student body for the April 24-25 event.

"We'll need coaches and trainers for the kids," she says.

- APO works on at least one major project each weekend, such as painting a community service building or cleaning a park.

- It is working to form a Boy Scout troop at the Bryan boys' club.

"We are founded on the Boy Scout principles and we do a lot of things with the boy scouts," Cook says.

APO was formed in 1925 by a group of Eagle Scouts who wanted a college equivalent of Boy Scouts.



photo by Tom Ownbey

*APO member Ken Pecus, a senior electrical engineering major, watches the A&M vs. University of Southern Mississippi game with members of the Bryan Boys Club.*