

- It provides child care one night a month so professors can go out without having to pay a babysitter.

- APO members drive the night shuttle on campus.

- It adopted a 4½ mile stretch of highway.

**C**ook says this semester marks the 25th anniversary of the Texas A&M chapter of Alpha Phi Omega International. To celebrate, they will work at a Boy Scout camp out of town the weekend Big Event is held.

"It's kind of funny," she says. "The service fraternity that does this every weekend won't be recognized because we're going out of town to do our project."

The local APO chapter — Xi Delta — is proud of more than its age. It also claims to be one to the largest chapters in the country.

"Last year we were fifth in the nation in size, while Alpha Rho at Texas was third — if you count fall paid active dues," Cook says. "But we consistently have larger pledge classes in the spring. So we're in the top three or four."

Cook says APO occasionally works with other service organizations including Circle K, which has about 20 members, and OPA, which has about 60 members.

"We're so large that we sort of dwarf everyone else," she says of APO. "We can get 100 to 150 people at a project with no problem." An average Saturday project attracts 50 to 75 members.

**S**o, where do they find enough large projects to keep this many people busy?

Winfield Kang, vice president of programs, says the secret is communicating with the community.

"We make a lot of phone calls to different groups and city officials," he says. "They've gotten to the point where they know who we are, they know

what we do and they call us back and let us know where they need help."

Some ideas come from other APO chapters. Baylor University's chapter originated the "profs' night off" child care project.

Other projects are internally generated. Cook says some people join APO because they have a pet project.

**P**ledges need to work 60 service hours in one semester to become active members.

Cook says that other than not being able to vote or drive the "rape van" pledges are treated fairly.

"There's no hazing," she says. "Well, I mean, we shoepolish cars, but nothing obnoxious."

Since pledges don't always get 60 service hours the first semester, they can always try again.

"For instance, when I pledged I couldn't do it all in one semester," Cook says. "So I held over and . . . started over again."

Members pay dues of \$10 per semester and a party fee of \$8 to \$10. "We are one of the most inexpensive chapters around," she says.

"The reason we're here is service," Cook says. "We have great parties and we have a lot of fellowship, but we'd rather you spend some time on service."

But as with social fraternities and sororities, the best aspect of APO is the friendships that are formed, she says.

"I joined it and instantly I have 200 friends that see me on campus," she says. "It was better than Fish Camp ever was. I met a lot of people at Fish Camp but then we all went our separate ways."

**E**ven if you aren't a member of this friendly service fraternity, you can help the

Muscular Dystrophy Association, Cook says.

The Pet Peeves, a rock'n'roll band, will play at the dance-a-thon Friday.

"Somebody who just wants to come and dance with people is more than welcome to come

join us for a while," she said.

There is a \$5 registration fee for the dance-a-thon. APO will be taking registrations at a table on the first floor of the Memorial Student Center today and at the Aggieland Inn starting at 5:45 p.m. Friday.

## Aggie Men's Club a unique fraternity

by Adrienne Dunbar

The Aggie Men's Club doesn't have a Greek name, but it calls itself a fraternity. And its motto — "Aggies first" — doesn't sound like a typical Greek fraternity objective.

"We like to think of ourselves as an alternative fraternity," says Jeff Hurley, president of AMC. "If I had to classify us, we would be a social organization, but we're more than just a party group."

"We are a group of guys who wanted a social type of organization," Hurley explains, "to have a Christian atmosphere of fellowship and also have an impact on the community through service."

The idea of a Christian fraternal organization originated in 1984 when a group of about six friends realized there were many more people around Texas A&M who shared the same beliefs. These men gathered their friends who wanted to participate in such a group, and the Aggie Men's Club was born, according to founding member and Vice President Eric Thode.

"It has been time consuming coming around," Thode says. "At first, the meetings were primarily a time to get to know each other and have fun."

"Service has been playing a bigger part of AMC now, and it's been good quality time we've spent together."

The Aggie Men's Club is involved with the Bryan Boys Club and Special Olympics. They contribute to the Brazos Food Bank, and help with the Brazos Valley Animal Shelter.

In 1986, AMC became part of the Adopt-a-Highway

program, taking care of a two-mile stretch of highway north of Bryan.

Founding member Jeff Cox says AMC is fellowship with a group having the same beliefs and convictions. "We encourage each other," Cox says, "and that atmosphere is what we wanted."

The Aggie Men's Club selections process is a very simple one. Three "get-togethers" are planned every fall where the active members can meet the prospective members. The AMC charter keeps membership under 100 members, so only 30 or 40 candidates are selected.

"With a larger group, some would be alienated, and we would lose their fellowship. It is important to know everyone," Hurley says.

The candidates then go through several weeks of learning about AMC and participating in the service projects, and are named active members at the Fall Formal. There is no "initiation."

At present the Aggie Men's Club meets on campus. (They became affiliated with Texas A&M last year.) They have no meeting house, but it is a long-term goal. The 1986 candidate class set up an endowment fund that will someday allow the club to have a meeting place.

"I've gained friendships with people who have the same commitment in life that I have," AMC member Madison Lyle says. "'Aggies First' is a common bond that we all (AMC members) share, but it is something that we share with everyone on campus."