

State and Local

Students clean up at Big Event

500 participate in annual cleanup

By Tracy Staton
Reporter

About 500 participants in the Big Event had a big job Saturday — cleaning up Texas Avenue from the north boundary of College Station to the south boundary of Bryan.

The mayors of both cities spoke at the east gate of the Texas A&M campus to open the project, which also was sponsored by Brazos Beautiful, an organization devoted to keeping Brazos County clean.

"Clean up Texas — Avenue, that is," Bryan Mayor Marvin Tate told the crowd after proudly displaying his "designer" trash pick.

Both mayors had special trash picks equipped with rearview mirrors, horns, turn signals and cap guns. The picks were designed for the mayors by Clara and Claude Mounce from the "Don't Mess with Millican" club, one branch of Brazos Beautiful.

College Station Mayor Larry J. Ringer told the students that they might receive an unexpected reward if they kept a sharp lookout while picking up trash; he had found a ten-dollar bill while working on a similar project.

After these encouraging words, the participants set out to conquer Texas Avenue with their trash bags.

The cleanup campaign was only one of the service projects sponsored by the Big Event, in which approximately 5000 students participated.

One of the projects was a picnic with children from the Brazos Boys Club. Members of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Keathley Dorm and Moore Hall ate lunch with the children at Central Park, then entertained them at the playground.

Other organizations worked at a health fair in Post Oak and Manor East malls while some students collected canned goods for the Brazos Food Bank in front of grocery stores. A large number of students worked at individual houses by doing repairs and yard work. Most of the owners were elderly or handicapped in some way.

Of the projects, the clean-up with Brazos Beautiful had the largest number of participants. Diane Mills, coordinator of Brazos Beautiful, was excited about the impact of the project.

"This is the first time we've picked up trash from city limit to city limit," she said. "It's going to be 'Don't mess with Texas Avenue' when these Ags get through today."

Mills said this project was part of an awareness campaign to teach people not to litter.



Photo by Tracy Staton

Members of Squadron 4 pick up trash along Texas Avenue Saturday.

Once the street is litter-free, he said, people will keep it that way.

John Rogers, president of Brazos Beautiful, also was optimistic about the project's impact.

"We need to work with all age groups to break the littering habit," he said. "Hopefully, working with young people will develop an attitude against littering, which would definitely pay off in the future for the community."

Rogers' plan may be effective, because some students who picked up trash already think differently about littering.

Shane Slaughter, a junior industrial engineering major, said while stuffing a wad of paper in his bag, "This makes you think twice about throwing something out."

Slaughter and fellow members of Squadron 4 of the Corps of Cadets were picking up the litter past the intersection of Texas Avenue and Harvey Road. Although their job was not glamorous, they were enjoying themselves.

The squadron's commanding officer, Brison Phillips said, "Before you come out here, you think it's going to be a pain. But it's a chance to get a tan and have fun with your buddies while helping the community."

Polish orchestra, pianist entertain crowd in Rudder

By Karl Pallmeyer
Music Critic

It's not often that Texas A&M is graced by one of the world's greatest orchestras and one of the world's greatest pianists in the same evening. Those who attended Saturday night's performance of the Warsaw Philharmonic and Misha Dichter were able to see both.

Rudder Auditorium was filled almost to capacity for the performance, sponsored by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society. The Warsaw Philharmonic, under the direction of conductor Kamzimierz Kord, began with Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky's "Francesca da Rimini, Symphonic Fantasy After Dante."

The Tchaikovsky piece is a programmatic work based on a section of Dante's "Inferno." In the "Inferno," Dante meets Francesca, a young woman who is punished for

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falling in love with her husband's younger brother. When the husband found his wife and brother together, he killed them both. The young lovers' souls were cast into the second circle of hell, where they are blown about by strong winds and prevented from touching whenever they come together.

The music is divided into sections describing Dante's descent into hell, Francesca's story and the punishment of the sinners. The first and third sections are dark and foreboding, while the middle section was tender and gentle. The orchestra performed the piece with clear precision.

Dichter took his place at the piano brought on stage for Sergi Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, for Piano and Orchestra.

Niccolo Paganini was one of the greatest violinists of all time. He wrote a set of 24 caprices for violin, inspiring other composers — including Franz Liszt, Johannes Brahms and Rachmaninoff — to write variations on the themes in the caprices. Rachmaninoff took Paganini's 24th

The orchestra and Dichter explored the theme in various fashions. Sometimes the theme was played fast and bouncy, other times it was slow and dreamy. Dichter played with blinding speed and expert technique, establishing a good relationship with the orchestra. His playing complimented what the orchestra was doing, and vice versa.

After the intermission, the orchestra performed Bela Bartok's "Suite from the Miraculous Mandarin." Bartok originally wrote the piece as music for a ballet but rearranged the music into an orchestral suite when the ballet was banned after its first performance in 1926.

The "Miraculous Mandarin" is about three men who use a girl to seduce men and bring them up to her room where they are beaten and robbed. The girl seduces two victims, a businessman and a young man, who are beaten up and thrown out by the robbers. The third victim is a strange Chinese man who refuses to leave after he is beaten and robbed. He chases the girl around the room, wanting only to hold her. The robbers grab the Mandarin and try to kill him by smothering and stabbing him. Finally, he is hanged, but doesn't die until the girl cuts him down and embraces him.

The music was strange and sometimes dissonant. The clarinet was used to represent the girl's seduction call while the percussion and brass sections were featured to represent the chase. The music got wilder and wilder, building to a drastic end.

Kord, a short man with a bush of dark hair, was most entertaining throughout the program. He coaxed, persuaded and ordered the orchestra to play to its fullest. As the music got louder, Kord got more expressive and his arms flew wildly as he conducted. He was called back on stage for two encores: Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody," a piece drawing immediate applause, and a selection from Polish composer Moniuszko's opera "Mazur."



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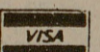
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