

Students to thank B-CS with Big Event

Organizers set goal of 5,000 participants for this year's citywide service projects

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Thousands of Aggies are gearing up for the 10th annual Big Event on April 4, planning various community service projects in the cities of Bryan and College Station.

Mark Rollins, general committee member, said the event is a way to thank the community for supporting the University over the years.

"It's our way of expressing our appreciation to Bryan and College Station and return to the community a little of the hospitality and care they extend to us throughout our years as students at this great university," Rollins said.

Most projects include highway cleanup, yard work for local residents, visiting nursing homes and minor repair work such as painting for local non-profit organizations, chairperson

Kelly Russell said. "We're working with the cities of Bryan and College Station to target specific areas that aren't meeting city building codes anymore," she said.

This year's target area is the Lincoln Center off Holleman Drive, Russell said. Last year the Big Event completed 105 projects, 25 of which were city projects.

Other project ideas are called in by local residents. The committee will try to provide supplies if the residents are unable, Russell said.

"For the most part, we ask that they (residents) donate their own supplies," she said.

This year's goal is 5,000 students, Russell said. Last year, about 3,000 students participated in the Big Event. Dorms, campus organizations, fraternities, sororities and individuals are encouraged to participate, she said.

"The Big Event needs tons and tons of motivated Ags to come out and help, otherwise these projects will not get done," Russell said.

The Big Event has several sponsors, such as a local radio station that is helping out with advertisements.

Cellular One is donating mobile phones for committee members to use the day of the event, she said.

Russell said the Dixie Chicken and Saturn Car Company also donated money for promotions and supplies.

Interested students need to complete a participation application form available in room 127 of the Student Services Building by March 9.

Individuals or organizations with questions should contact the Student Government office at 845-3051.

Texans favor wait for gun purchases

FORT WORTH (AP) — More than 80 percent of Texans in a recent poll said they support a one- to two-week waiting period for handgun purchases, and 72 percent said they favored a ban on semiautomatic weapons.

The poll, published Monday in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, also found that 73 percent of Texas voters believe the public has a right to own handguns.

The telephone survey was conducted Feb. 21-24 had a margin of error of 3.2 percent.

A March 1991 Gallup Poll found that 93 percent of Americans support a waiting period for buying handguns and nearly half want a ban on handguns altogether.

Texaco plant reopens after accident

CONROE (AP) — A Texaco Chemical Co. plant racked by a weekend pipeline explosion reopened Monday, officials said.

The explosion occurred when a bulldozer that was paving an employee parking lot struck a 10-inch pipeline carrying ethane and propane liquid gas, said Dolores Matzat, the plant's supervisor of human resources.

Texaco shut down the pipeline after the Saturday morning accident, which sent flames shooting 150 feet into the air.

Officials had to let the trapped fuel in the 16-mile pipeline burn off throughout the day and into the night.

Power was restored to the plant Sunday night, Matzat said. The facility is in Conroe, a town 35 miles north of Houston.

A contract security guard who was located "quite close" to the lot suffered blisters to his right forearm and his ear, Matzat said.

He was treated at the scene and released. No other injuries were reported.

800,000 revelers deluge coastal city

GALVESTON (AP) — An estimated 800,000 revelers turned out for the two-weekend Mardi Gras celebration, island city officials said.

A record 543,603 people attended Saturday night's raucous Momus Grand Night Parade, the celebration's main draw.

The massive party also pumped as much as \$41 million into the local economy, up from \$32 million last year, Galveston City Manager Doug Matthews said.

"Mardi Gras was extremely successful," he said. "And it was a well-behaved crowd for the most

part. We did not have a lot of problems."

More than 200 people were arrested, the vast majority of them for public intoxication. There were several stabbings and shootings, and one person was killed in an auto-pedestrian accident, Matthews said.

FBI agents try to put JFK theories to rest

DALLAS (AP) — FBI agents recently questioned two men arrested in a Dallas railroad yard the day President Kennedy was assassinated, but only to put lingering conspiracy theories to rest, the head of the Dallas office said Monday.

The interviews produced no new information, said Special Agent in Charge Oliver B. Revell.

Some conspiracy theorists have raised questions about the identities of three hobos who were arrested shortly after the assassination. They pointed to the trio's attire and grooming and the disappearance of their arrest records as evidence of a conspiracy.

Their arrest records were recently released by Dallas police. "We're not reopening the Kennedy investigation per se," Revell said.

"The broad-based freewheeling investigation has been closed, but, as always, any new information has been checked out," he said.

In addition, Revell said the agency wants to take another look at an 8 millimeter film made in Dealey Plaza the day Kennedy was killed.

The film was made before Kennedy was killed, but the agency wants to submit it to enhanced photo analysis techniques that were not available 28 years ago.

"There are a couple of other things that we're looking into," Revell said, but he would not elaborate.

The official Warren Commission investigation concluded that Kennedy was shot on Nov. 22, 1963, by Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone.

But various theories have circulated since that day that Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy.

Some of those theories were recently rekindled by the movie "JFK," which suggests the president was killed by renegade CIA elements who perceived Kennedy was soft on communism.

The film has led to calls that still-secret government documents

In Advance

The Center for International Business Studies is offering a "Commercial and Cultural French" non-credit class. Business terminology and practices, commercial habits and rules, and cultural, political and economical aspects of France will be practiced and reviewed in French.

Class will meet TR, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 3 to April 16. Registration forms and information are available in 505 Blocker, or telephone 845-5234 or 862-2313.

AGGIE HOSTESSES

Informational Meeting
March 4 6:30 Netum Steed
applications available

Meeting
March 11 8:30 701 Rudder
applications due

The Battalion
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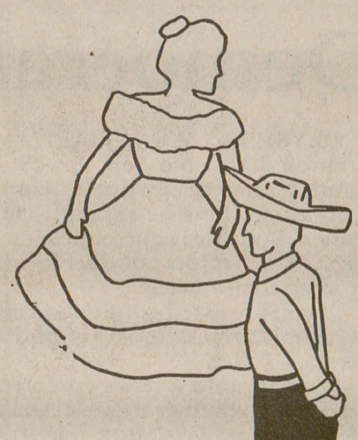
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