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# A dedicated keeper of tradition

MSC employee works to preserve Aggie spirit

By Traci Travis  
 The Battalion

Tradition seems to lurk in every nook and cranny of this University. But often the most dedicated keepers of the traditions go unnoticed.

For 15 years, Edith Moreno, a custodial worker in the University Center Guest Rooms, has devoted herself to making sure every guest's first impression of the Aggie spirit is a memorable one.

At age 64, Moreno spends eight hours a day cleaning up to 10 hotel rooms. This involves the usual housecleaning duties—like taking out the trash, changing the linens on beds and cleaning the toilets.

"The work really isn't that hard," Moreno said. "There are fast and slow times."

She said her favorite time of the year is football season because it's a great opportunity to meet Aggies from all over the nation. She also enjoys the A&M Mother's Clubs and Firemen's visits.

For Moreno, however, her personal job description requires more than the daily cleaning ritual.



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Edith Moreno has worked as a custodian in the University Center Guest Rooms for 15 years. Her dedication and friendliness has earned her praise from A&M administration and numerous guests.

"It's very important to be able to meet people and talk to them," Moreno said. "Regardless of their race, religion, color or creed. You have to understand them and put your feelings aside."

Over the years, Moreno said she has met many interesting people like Sen. Phil Gramm and Rep. Chet Edwards.

Recently, Moreno was recognized for her beyond-the-call actions when A.P. Wiley, a University supporter, and his family stayed at the hotel. She voluntarily

provided Wiley with a tour of the hotel facilities. Because of her friendly hospitality, the University received a significant contribution from Wiley.

Moreno proudly carries in her pocket a letter she received from Robert Smith, vice president for finance and administration, in which he said he regarded her actions with "high esteem."

With the money she earns from her job at the hotel, Moreno has managed to put two of her seven children through college. A portion of her paycheck each

week is also used to support her 10 grandchildren.

Despite her financial constraints, Moreno makes it a point to leave her family problems at home.

"Each day is a new day," she said. "You shouldn't have a chip on your shoulder."

Moreno considers her fellow custodial employees at the hotel part of her family as well.

"If someone's in trouble," she said, "we're all in trouble."

Last week, one of the employees' homes burned down, leaving her with absolutely nothing, Moreno said. So, the "family" of employees took it upon themselves to contribute what they could of their pay to help her get back on her feet.

"You don't know what it's like until it happens to you," Moreno said. "It is always nice to know there is someone there who cares."

Moreno said along with the obvious benefits of a paycheck, working for A&M provides employees with an opportunity to receive a GED, or a high school or college diploma.

"They will help you in anyway they can," she said. "You get paid during the process just like you were working."

Despite the hard work and long hours, Moreno said she has the best job at A&M.

"I wouldn't trade jobs with anyone on campus," she said. "I know my job here and I thank God every day that I have it."

## Graffiti

Continued from Page 3

drawings are usually very self-flattering, experts said.

Many scientists use graffiti to explore the psyche of those who have written it. Studies show that women use graffiti as an added method of speaking out on issues of concern.

Caroline Cole in her 1991 graffiti study "Oh Wise Women of the Stalls..." said the

graffiti of females at the University of Illinois is used as a positive form of communication.

Aspiring artists use graffiti in an effort to obtain a following. An article by Richard Lachman of the University of Wisconsin stated that graffiti writers gain a sense of audience through their graffiti and a belief that their public art will give them fame.

But despite all the insight graffiti can contribute, it is still against the law.

Lt. Kretschmar said graffiti can either be a misdemeanor or a felony, depending on the amount of damage done.

"You can even get arrested for it," Kret-

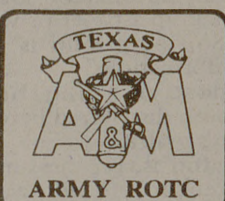
schmar said. "It all depends on if the owner (of the property) presses charges, and the amount of damage."

Even at A&M, the repercussions of writing on the wall are not pleasant.

"You can get charged a fine or forced pay restitution — or both," Kretschmar said.

Some students may be under the impression that because A&M is a public institution there is no owner to press charges.

But, "It's owned by the state of Texas," Kretschmar said. "So it's just as serious"



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**For More Information Contact Cpt. Bobby Campbell Army ROTC (409) 845-2814**