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CAMPUS

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THE BATTALION

Friday, Mar 2

Students encouraged to sign up for The Big Event

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

Today is the deadline to register for The Big Event. Aggies who wish to volunteer one afternoon to help the Bryan-College Station community through The Big Event have until noon today to get their registration forms turned in.

The Big Event is a one-day service project where students at Texas A&M go out into the community and say "thanks," said Marcie Sanford, Expansion and Development Sub-Chairperson for The Big Event and a junior finance major.

"The Big Event is not just for the needy, but for the whole community," she said. "It's a way to tell the community how much we appreciate their support throughout the year."

Participation forms can be picked up from The Big Event cubicle in the John J. Koldus Student Services Building, a table located in the Memorial Student Center or The Big Event Website.

Many people help with The Big Event through an organization they are involved with, but one does not have to be in an organization to volunteer, said Will Slack, a staff assistant for The Big Event and a senior biomedical science major.

"If a group of people [or an individual] wants to help, they need to get a form and all sign it," he said.

The program began in 1982 with six students cleaning out a cemetery but has grown over the years to become the largest student-run one-day service organization in the country, with over 5,000 participants, Sanford said. The Big Event is listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the number of participants.

The Big Event is not only happening at Texas A&M but has expanded to other colleges across the country.

"There is a Big Event at Louisiana State University-Shreveport, Tarleton State University and Texas A&M-Galveston and Commerce," Sanford said. "Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma also have a Big Event." Oklahoma State University began hosting the project in 1998 and in only two years has grown to incorporate 2,500 participants.

"It's great to see them growing at such a fast pace and we hope they continue to grow," Sanford said.

In 1999, the Big Event consisted of 5,000 students

and 525 jobs, she said. This year the number increased to 547.

"Jobs usually last about four hours, some and some a little longer," Sanford said. "Jobs last only an hour and the students stay and help [they are helping]."

Jobs range from painting and yard cleaning houses.



JP BEATO

Napster programmers modify mp3 software

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A company that writes software for downloading music from the Internet says the program has been changed to please dozens of universities that had banned it because students were clogging up the schools' computers networks.

The problem arose late last year when some universities saw the connections between their own systems and the Internet bogged down by heavy traffic. Officials discovered that the traffic jams were caused by students who were downloading free music by using an application from Napster Inc.

So far, only Indiana University, which worked with the San Mateo, Calif.-based company on the changes, has confirmed it will try out the updated version, though other schools are waiting.

"We'll be watching," Alan Cubbage, a spokesperson for Northwestern University, said Thursday. "It's nice to not be the guinea pig."

The technology's capabilities have not endeared Napster to the Recording Industry Association of America,

which accuses the company of encouraging people to break the law by pirating commercially recorded music from the Internet.

Many students feel otherwise.

"I'm a poor college student, and I can get on Napster and download any music I want for free," said Indiana freshman Ryan Bruner, a daily Napster user before the school blocked the application last month.

Bruner set up a Website and petition drive for students at 196 universities that he says have banned Napster.

Eddie Kessler, Napster's vice president for engineering, said the changes will mean search requests will first be handled locally — on the special, high-speed network shared only by universities and other research-based institutions.

Only if a request cannot be satisfied will it cross the school's pipeline to the larger Internet, he said, greatly reducing the traffic on those roads.

"We fully expect this will do what needs to happen," said Mark Bruhn, who helps set information-technology policy at Indiana University.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 1

person's coming in also and this person wants to share some views too and I'd like to let you hear what they have to say and what they have to offer."

Lane said that to prevent actions like the closing of Aggie Alley from happening again, students' elected representatives must stay abreast of campus issues.

"The quicker you can identify the problem and anticipate it, you're able to voice your concerns better if you can get ahead of the ball. Whether that was done with Aggie Alley or not, I don't know, but that's part of it. It's a 24-hour job, and you've got to pay attention to what's going on," Lane said.

Corey Rosenbusch, a junior agricultural development major, said while student government does a great job with programs such as Big Event and Replant, it has fallen short in the area of student advocacy. Too often, student body presidents spend their term

checking off their platform on a laundry list, Rosenbusch said, and to address students' changing concerns.

"If you're walking across campus and you notice the lighting is really bad, you go home and pick up your phone and call student government? No. Should be able to? Yes," Rosenbusch said.

"We've got to equip that office of students will know this is where you have a problem, an issue or concern and then we need to follow up with a letter back to them letting them know what's being done on the issue."

The student body president must be able to effectively relay those concerns to University decision-makers, Rosenbusch said.

"The real power of student government doesn't come in the ability to communicate and the breadth of edge to really influence the actions on this campus," Rosenbusch said.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

in any way representative of what other programs gross."

Johnson said, the rules seem to be indirectly aimed at black greek and multicultural greeks.

"African-American greeks and multicultural greeks are the only ones who open parties on campus," Johnson said. "By implementing these rules, they're essentially driven off campus."

Hodge said the policy is not intended to discriminate and that there might be security at some predominately white events, depending on the nature of the event and the risk factor involved.

"Every event is unique and the amount of security depends on the character of the event," Hodge said. "You can't say that there is a similar event and that thing's the same except the participants are white, that doesn't exist."

"If we had a Smashing Pumpkins concert, which is a primarily white audience, we'd have more security than I had for [Greek Olympiad]," Hodge said.

Hodge said the open party policy was initially a scheduling concern. The policy was revised a couple of years ago to set safety and security parameters.

"We had some problems with an event and it caused us to reevaluate the policy," Hodge said. "It was SBLSL and a greek dance which happened on the same January several years ago."

Johnson said it's impossible for NPHC to hold private parties.

"Because of the number of African American students at this school, we have students from other campuses to attend our parties and unless you have the support of those people, they can't come in if alcohol is being served," he said.

Johnson said the money the organizations raise from having these parties to sponsor programs and community service projects and that the open party has made it less appealing to put on these programs.

"The open party policy makes it very difficult for my organizations to maintain financial stability they need to continue to provide the campus with quality programs help the community and the student body," Johnson said.

News in Brief

MSC Hospitality to host conference

Memorial Student Center Hospitality will host "Aggies Embracing Diversity," a one-day conference designed to increase cultural awareness Saturday, Mar. 25 at 9:30 a.m. in 301 Rudder Tower.

Activities will include a cultural video, small group discussions of the importance of diversity, performances by campus cultural groups and a speech from Benjamin Akande, chairperson and associate professor of the division of business at Wayland Baptist University.

Free tickets to the conference are available at the MSC Box Office.

George Bush Library visitor surprised

Bill Batchler got more than he

bargained for when he walked into the George Bush Presidential Library Thursday.

Batchler was the 500,000th visitor to the Bush Library and received a framed Benjamin Knox print autographed by President George Bush, a gift certificate to the Museum Store and a scrapbook to mark the occasion.

Batchler, a schoolteacher from Ferris, was visiting the library because one of his students was in a competition in College Station.

The Bush Library opened on Nov. 10, 1997, as the 10th presidential library in the nation.

Library and Museum hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$3.50 for senior citizens over 62 and groups of 20 or more. Children under 16 are admitted free.

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