

Taking care of business

Custodial crews face the good, bad and ugly of campus clean-up

By Kelcey Rieger
THE BATTALION

Mary Green, custodial supervisor of the South Campus Custodial Crew has had her share of behind-the-scenes dorm life.

"There always seems to be crazy things going on in Eppright Hall," Green said. "One time, some of the residents in the hall took trash cans from every floor and dumped all the trash from the cans in the stairwells from the fourth to the first floors.

Unfortunately, we were the ones who were faced with cleaning it up."

Although it is often overlooked, the custodial staff of Texas A&M is essential to keeping campus buildings and dormitories clean.

"Recently, we had to clean some graffiti off the walls and other areas of Southside," Green said. "It is incidents like that, pranks and whatnot that are the worst to deal with."

Green said her job has led to awkward — and sometimes shocking — experiences.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but a couple of years ago when I was cleaning one of the halls, I was witnessing the events that led up to the murder of a student," Green said. "I was cleaning a student's room, going in out, and I noticed the student was chatting online."

Green said the student, 20-year-old Kerry Kujawa, was chatting with someone he believed to be a woman. Green said it was later discovered that the "woman" was actually a man who later met and killed Kujawa.

A typical day, however, can be somewhat predictable. Green said a full workday begins early and typically ends in the late afternoon.

"A typical day for a member of the custodial staff begins around 7 a.m.," she said. "We usually follow our basic cleaning schedules until about 3:30 in the afternoon, unless there has been a major accident."

Green said she thinks students often take

the custodial staff's work for granted.

"Sometimes we have students thinking, 'We pay your salary, so we expect you to do that,'" Green said. "There are usually a couple students who take this attitude, but they don't seem to understand we are sometimes short of staff and must 'team-clean.' We will get everything done, just not on the regular schedule."

Brenda Jackson, supervisor of the Northwest Campus Custodial Crew, said she enjoys her job and notices students' appreciation for the custodians.

"There is one student who frequently brings flowers to the office, as well as other students who just bring gifts, to show their appreciation and respect for the job we do," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, Moses Hall has the most incidents for which the custodial crew is needed.

"Although they have improved, the (Moses Hall) residents still do things that are unnecessary that create huge messes," Jackson said. "But it is not only Moses. We have had incidents of students urinating in water fountains and probably the most senseless stunt — a skunk in the dryer."

Linda Taylor, supervisor for the Northeast Campus Custodial Crew, said she has seen an improvement in resident life. However, as a 10-year employee with the University, Taylor said some things never change.

"Of course we must deal with the dead animals around our area," Taylor said. "There is also the infamous shaving cream on stairways outside the dorms. Students have shaving cream fights outside of their dorms, and we get to clean up the leftovers."

According to Taylor, some of the worst cleanups are not inside the residence halls, but outside.

"The pebble gravel that is all over campus is the worst to deal with," Taylor said. "After students have egg or flour fights, custodians must come along and clean up the pebble gravel. The

"The best thing for students to do to help us would be to prevent incidents from getting larger."

— Linda Taylor
supervisor for the Northeast Campus Custodial Crew



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

(flour and eggs) get stuck between the pebbles, and it is almost impossible to clean up.

Compared to previous years, the entire custodial staff and hall residents' attitudes have improved, Taylor said.

"The best thing for students to do to help us

would be to prevent incidents from getting larger," Taylor said. "Report an incident immediately so we can come and take care of it before it can become an even larger problem. This way, we can maintain the facilities and take good care of the area you live and work in."

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

In observance of the 3rd Anniversary of the tragic collapse of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire, the following events have been scheduled. I invite you to join your Aggie Family as we fellowship together, remember our past and pay honor to our injured and fallen comrades.

In The Aggie Spirit,

Zac Coventry '02

Zac Coventry '02
Student Body President

Bonfire Remembrance 2002

Timeline of events

November 17, 2002

4:30 p.m. Reception at Jack K. Williams Administration Building. Food and drink provided. Open to All

5:30 p.m. Silent Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Polo Fields. Ceremony will conclude with *Amazing Grace* played on bagpipes. Open to All

November 18, 2002

Throughout the Day Pictorial exhibit outlining the history of Bonfire on display in the MSC Flagroom. Open to All

Students from the Bonfire Coalition for Students will be passing out Bonfire Remembrance ribbons.

2:42 a.m. Allbritton Tower will toll twelve times in honor of our 12 fallen Aggies followed by "The Spirit of Aggieland" and "The Twelfth Man."

2:42 p.m. Allbritton Tower will again toll twelve times, followed "The Spirit of Aggieland" and "The Twelfth Man."

8:00 a.m. MSC LEAD program on the history of Bonfire held in Rudder 601. Free tickets at MSC Box Office. Open to All

NEW YORK SUB

Hey Ags,

IT'S THAT DAY OF THE WEEK AGAIN

FORGET ABOUT IT FRIDAY

\$1 Pints
\$2 Chuggers } 5 pm - 1 am
EVERY FRIDAY
(All Beers!)

Bud, Bud Light, Miller Light, Coors Light, Shiner Bock, Amber Bock

Store Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 11 am - midnight

Fri-Sat: 11 am - 2 am Sunday: Noon - 10pm

BEAT THE HELL OUTTA MISSOURI!

301-A College Main

(In Northgate at the corner of Church & College Main)

846-8593

ACCEPTING ALL MAJOR DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS AND OF COURSE... AGGIEBUCKS