

Clean

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Hickey, the administrative personnel supervisor," Williams said.

Pat Durkel and Sarah Esley work on the day shift. Durkel will have worked at Rockdale High a year in November and Esley has worked there almost 10.

Durkel is responsible for 20 classrooms and bathrooms, and Esley cleans 12 rooms and bathrooms. Both perform other tasks also, such as cleaning the cafeteria after lunch. They agreed that work benefits were good.

"It's hard to say whether or not the work is appreciated," Durkel said. "Nobody ever says you do good.

"Look at this cafeteria," she said, gesturing resignedly towards sticky table tops strewn with trays and scraps of food and towards floors sprinkled with bread crusts, peas and napkins.

"Students leaving trays on tables is a big problem in here," she said.

Students have been pretty good about not leaving messes this year, she added.

"But it was pretty bad last year," she said. Both women felt the problems were aggravated by a lack of supervision in crisis areas.

"People should watch the cafeteria and bathrooms more closely," Esley said.

Bobby Shepherd and Rico Shepherd maintain the gym area at Rockdale High.

Bobby, 43, has worked there almost one year and Rico, 23, has been at it for five years.

"Rico has the bottom floor and I have the top floor to take care of," Bobby said. They must strip, wax and mop these floors in addition to performing other duties.

"I believe our work is taken for granted by most of the students," he said. "Practically every day you have to tell them. We try to keep it clean for them, and they don't help us."

Bobby holds teachers partly responsible for failing to properly discipline the students.

"I believe that if they (teachers) put forth a little more effort, it would be better for everybody," he said.

"There is a lack of co-operation from students and sometimes from faculty," Rico added.

Bobby also felt that a lack of supplies made his job unnecessarily difficult.

"You just can't do a good job if you don't have enough to do it with," he said.

Shepherd cited deodorants, stripper, gum remover, and other "little simple things" his department needed.

"Toilet bowl cleaner," he emphasized.

"They want you to go in there and clean the bathroom, because it smells, and you just go in there with soap and it cleans it but it doesn't get rid of the odor," he said. "And the way the kids leave these bathrooms, I'm scared to go in there myself."

Like other custodians, Bobby believed a certain amount of student carelessness was inevitable.

"As long as we have kids, I guess we'll have to deal with it as best we can," he said.

"But I'm satisfied, because if I wasn't I believe I would be gone," Bobby added. "It's a job that's got to be done, and somebody's got to do it."

"I feel that I am underpaid," he added.

Despite perceived weak points in discipline policies, a good relationship exists between the school's custodial staff and an its administration.

"We all get together and work together," Williams said.

Except for few blind spots, the administration is receptive to custodial needs, Shepherd said.