

Local

New prison worries Navasota residents

By TERRI COULSON
Battalion Reporter

When people think of prisons, they often think of the prisoners inside. And when people think of those prisoners, thoughts of fights, riots and breakouts come to mind.

Breakouts evoke mental images of everything from people being robbed to their being held hostage.

These mental images are just some of the concerns of the citizens of Navasota over the Texas Department of Correction's newest prison under construction in Grimes County.

The decision for the new prison in Grimes County goes along with the \$35 million emergency appropriation that the Texas Senate and House passed for the construction of correction facilities to alleviate inmate overcrowding.

The new prison will be situated on 5,968 acres in Grimes County, and will house about 4,000 inmates.

Although the new prison will be a maximum-security unit, some Grimes County residents said they are afraid the TDC will not have enough security guards present to control the prisoners who will be housed there.

Over the last 10 years, 140 inmates have escaped from the TDC facilities, said Raye Tilley of the TDC public relations office.

"The most recent breakout

occurred on Oct. 20 when three inmates escaped from the Ferguson unit, 20 miles northeast of Huntsville," Tilley said. "And at

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the present time, they are still at large."

With all breakouts, if the men are not found in two or three days, the TDC stops searching, and local, state and possibly federal law enforcement officers take over, Tilley said.

"No prison administrator can claim to be a 100 percenter," System Director W.J. Estelle said. "We do have escapees. I cannot and will not assure you that there would never be an escape in Grimes County."

Additionally, he said, he cannot assure anyone that someone not already in prison will not assault a

Grimes County resident. He said that when an escape does occur, it becomes top priority to recapture the escaped prisoner.

Estelle said about 85 percent of all escapes from TDC end up with the escapee back in custody within 24 hours, and without his having committed any crime subsequent to his breakout.

Another of Navasota citizens' worries is that the site of the prison will take land from the county's tax rolls, since state-owned land is tax exempt. Swank said Grimes County could lose up to \$2,400 annually in property tax.

In addition, some citizens are worrying about the effect the prison will have on the community. In fact, some of the townspeople are so upset by the proposed site that they formed a citizens' group called Citizens Opposed to Installation of a Prison in Grimes County.

Duane Prestwood, vice chairman of the group, opposes the site because, he said, it "would not do a thing in the world for the county."

The group fought the new prison site by appealing the court's decision to accept the Grimes County site, and even obtained a temporary injunction from the 3rd Court of Civil Appeals in January.

But after the appeals court gave its endorsement for the prison in March, the injunction was rescinded and the group gave up their fight.

Council to consider site for honorary donor plaque

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Staff

The MSC Council will consider tonight a proposal for hanging a plaque in the main lounge honoring former students who have given large sums of money to the University.

The Building Studies Committee discussed the plaque — which is commissioned by the Development Office — at the Council meeting Monday. However, action could not be taken until the committee took a formal vote on the issue Tuesday night.

The committee recommended that the plaque be hung in the lounge.

"We consider this an important issue and want a complete discussion by all the Council members

before making a decision," Doug Dedeker, Council president, said.

The bill calls for the names of former students who have given between \$50,000 and \$100 million to be placed on the plaques.

Paul Fisher, vice president for operations, said some questions that had come up in the committee meeting Tuesday involved the proliferation of plaques in the main lounge.

He said some questions arose concerning what the Development Office will do with additional plaques. The Development Office already has several plaques in the lounge. The committee wasn't sure where the office will want to have future plaques hung, he said.

Also, questions concerning the large size of the plaque — made of

wood and measuring 10 feet 3 inches by 15 feet 3 inches — were brought up, Fisher said.

Some members felt the plaque might be better somewhere else, he said. The Development Office would like the plaque to be hung on the north wall of the main lounge.

Dedeker said that after talking with the Development Office and the committee, the Council decided to call a special meeting so the Development Office would have a decision as soon as possible.

The Development Office would like to unveil the plaque — which is currently under construction — at a March 19 banquet honoring the special donors listed on the plaque.

Campus Names

William V. Muse

Dr. William V. Muse, dean of the College of Business Administration, has been elected vice president of the Southern Business Administration Association.

Muse was named dean of business administration in July 1979. He came from the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he also served as dean and professor of marketing. In 1977, he coordinated a management analysis project for the U.S. Office of Education.

Robert W. Sprowls

Dr. Robert W. Sprowls, head of pathology at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory's Amarillo branch, has become associate director of the system. The appointment took effect Dec. 1.

The TVMDL, administered through the Texas A&M University System, is the first line of defense in isolating and identifying

animal diseases that threaten the state's vital livestock industry. The laboratory is in College Station, with a second unit in Amarillo.

In 1975, Sprowls, 35, went to the Amarillo laboratory to head the pathology division, had been acting associate director of the TVMDL since May.

He earned an undergraduate degree, a D.V.M. degree and a Ph.D. degree in veterinary pathology, all from Texas A&M.

David W. Rosberg and J. Roy Quinby

Dr. David W. Rosberg, professor of plant sciences, and J. Roy Quinby, a plant breeder with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, have been named professors emeritus by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents.

Rosberg initially came to Texas A&M in 1940, left for the armed forces and to complete two advanced degrees, and returned in 1949. In 1960, he was named department head of plant sciences.

Quinby graduated from Texas A&M in 1924 with a bachelor of science degree, and later earned a master of science. He served as superintendent and a plant breeder at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Chillicothe from 1925 to 1961, specializing in grain sorghum genetics breeding. His work revolutionized the grain sorghum industry and greatly increased grain yields.

David J. Norton

Dr. David J. Norton, professor of aerospace engineering at Texas A&M, has been appointed assistant director of programs of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the engineering research branch of the Texas A&M University System.

The appointment, effective Jan. 1, was announced Tuesday by TEES Director W. A. Porter.

Norton, 41, has been a member of the aerospace engineering faculty since 1970, was promoted to full professor in September 1980.

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