### Evacuation procedures at A&M

## **Fire drills not required**

#### **By CARMEN MOLINA** Reporter

Many students remember fire drills in high school that provided a few minutes escape from the boredom of class. But at Texas A&M,

that diversion rarely is provided. Fire drills are not required by law beyond high school, says Harry Sti-

teler, University safety and health officer. "We would like to have a fire drill

We would like to have a fire drill in each building each semester, but it is not required," he says. The University policy does re-quire fire safety and emergency evacuation policies for each building on campus Stiteler says, but it is the on campus, Stiteler says, but it is the responsibility of the assigned building proctor or fire marshall to schedule the drills.

"There are some buildings that have never had fire drills," Stiteler says. "It is somewhat of an inconvenience

College Station Fire Marshall Harry Davis says one or two drills

per year for each building is an adequate number.

Glenn Ferris, housing operations supervisor, says all residence halls are required to have at least one drill per semester. He says the fire drills held here the last few years have

been very satisfactory. Jake Canglose, assistant building proctor for the O&M Building, says the first priority in the O&M Building is evacuation.

Canglose says he is concerned with the difficulty of vacating the multistory building. Canglose and the other staff members rehearse their drill at least once or twice a year and then make the necessary revisions.

Karen Burke, the building proctor for the Blocker Building, says Blocker has neither a building plan nor regularly scheduled drills. After the alarm goes off, everyone simply vacates the building, she says.

Rosemary – Rousseau, building proctor for Sterling C. Evans Li-brary, says one drill usually is scheduled for the library per year, but there were some problems with false alarms last semester. This has cre-ated a "cry wolf" situation for the students, and some students refuse to vacate the building, she says.

Burke says Blocker has had similar problems with false alarms and with students refusing to leave the building.

Stiteler says some of the false alarms are caused by the new fire safety system. The new system, which is more extensive and elaborate than any found in Bryan-Col-lege Station, has not yet been installed in all buildings on campus, he say

Though there are no laws that requires vacating a building during a fire drill, it is a University policy to clear the building, Stiteler says.



## Senate approves veterans' housing, prison transfer bills

#### **Associated Press**

AUSTIN — The Senate on Tuesday approved two proposals that would keep the veterans' housing pro-gram alive and would allow Texas to exchange prison-ers — including troublemakers — with other states. The Senate also approved and sent to the House a bill the would set up the timed performance for indicid

bill that would set up a two-tiered program for judicial retirement, with future judges included under a less generous benefit formula than current judges.

A proposed constitutional amendment by Sen. Lin-don Williams, D-Houston, would raise the limit on bonds for the veterans' housing program from \$500 million to \$1 billion.

Williams said the program, which allows eligible Texas veterans to borrow \$20,000 at less than 10 per-cent interest for the purchase of a home, is so popular that it will run out of money by November if the bond limit is not increased.

Williams said his proposed amendment would extend the housing program to military personnel on active duty

If the House also approves the measure, it will go

on the November statewide election ballot. Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls, sponsored the proposed constitutional amendment that would allow

the state to transfer inmates from Texas prisons outof-state

Farabee said more than 40 states now have similar authority, and the Texas Department of Corrections requested the measure.

Farabee said prisoners could be transferred for medical reasons or to rid a prison of a certain troublemaker

Another example, he said, "would be a state witness who might be in danger in a given setting." Farabee's constitutional amendment would go to

the voters in November. A bill implementing the amendment also cleared

the Senate and was sent to the House.

The judicial retirement bill is a money-saver, according to its sponsor, Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan. The fiscal note says it would cost the state \$500,000 the first two years, \$1.9 million the following two years and so forth.

If we do nothing, Caperton said, the state would be paying out \$200 million a biennium for the retirement

system starting in the year 2010. The current plan allows a judge to retire at any age with 20 years of service, and the proposed plan would raise the service requirement to 25 years.

spring vacation."

### Rejected

Slouch

#### (continued from page 1)

posed a plan to keep Basement going, but it was rejected. Reinarts says the council in-

creased Basement's budget from the \$500-\$1,000 range to \$4,000, so the committee could add variety acts to its programming. He says he asked the council to re-

duce the budget back to the previous amount and allow Basement to program acts like they had previously gotten before the budget increase.

Reinarts says committee members liked those acts better and did a better job of selling the entertainment.

According to a committee report, the program review committee considered this suggestion but decided to eliminate the committee and allow

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The report says a reduction in Base ment's budget would not allow the committee to satisfy students' programming needs.

'One of the reasons Basement has been looked upon unfavorably is because Basement doesn't do anything that is 'important' in the nature of a SCONA, Wylie Lecture Series, or OPAS," Reinarts says. "But I feel that Basement was important because it was fun. We weren't affecting as many students as say a Town Hall, but we didn't spend as much as Town Hall either.

The decision to eliminate these groups was one the council found difficult to make, Wood says. But it will probably be better for the MSC it to reapply sometime in the future. in the end.

committees know this is their mester, they are working dil "They're really trying to go out with a bang," he says.

> Basement is planning a roll show in Rumours on Feb has tentative dates for two groups. In the past Basement brought in such entertainers King Carrasco and Channel

A white water rafting trip with Rio Grande is in the works for door Recreation as well as a packing expedition to the far Canyon. The group also will be ing the Outdoor Horizon Car ence from Feb. 22 to March 2 at will feature speeches by several doorsmen.



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SNOWMAN (R)

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"He's the most organized person I know. He's already working on his excuse for leaving early for Padre Island for

### obscenity laws debat Associated Press

By Jim Earle Senate her war

AUSTIN - A Senate con heard testimony Tuesday of that would narrow the me "community standards" in qu CAROL

of obscenity. Sen. Bill Sarpalius, D-who introduced the bi statewide standards are now determine what is co obscene in accordance wit Supreme Court ruling the "community standards" she ply

Sarpalius said the bill would hibit attorneys from proobscene evidence, bought parts of the state, to jurors

Sen. Ted Lyon, D-Mesquite tioned whether the state wo 254 different standards. But Susan Hoeler, attor

Dallas, said there would no many different standards jurors have to comply with the statute on obscenity.

The statute includes pr that juries must review the nity standards and that obscene acts must be show

Hoeler said,"This bill al people in the county to de decency of their county. very diverse so the rational cable."

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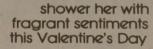
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