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Texas A&M  
**The Battalion**

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Photo by DEAN SAITO

**Isosceles Staircase**

Mike Leggett, an engineering technology major from Wiesbaden, West Germany, takes the staircase down in the Blocker Building on his way outside Tuesday.

**Student representation**

**Elections to be discussed**

By SHERRIE COUCH  
Reporter

Elections for student body president, Student Government executive vice presidents, yell leaders, Residence Hall Association executive officers, Off-Campus Aggies representatives, class officers and Graduate Student Council positions will be March 27-28. Students interested in filing for

any of these positions in the University elections should attend an informational meeting Thursday in 501 Rudder.

A short presentation explaining important dates and general rules for campaigning will be made to the prospective candidates, election commissioner, Laura Madla, said. Then, representatives from each organization will talk to candidates

about the positions the candidates are applying for.

A minimum grade point ratio is one of the requirements that must be met by candidates.

Students may begin filing for positions Monday in 214 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Filing ends March 1.

**Subtle sex discrimination possible: prof**

Editors' note: This is the first article in a two-part series on possible discrimination against women at Texas A&M.

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

Whether women are discriminated against at Texas A&M is a difficult question to answer. While there is no statistical evidence showing that a problem exists, one A&M professor says discrimination could be so subtle students don't recognize it.

They don't care, said Dr. Terry Anderson, associate professor of history.

"The general idea here is that you put your head in the sand," said Anderson, who has acted as faculty adviser to women's organizations on campus.

A&M's 33,859 students — about 14,000 of which are women — have very little "equal rights awareness," he said.

This could have something to do with the current trend among students toward conservatism, Anderson said.

"We have very little feminist awa-

reness," he said. "I teach women's liberation in my recent history class and most of the women don't even know there's a state equal rights amendment."

"Part of it is being conservative. To many, this means being detached, uninterested. A lot of the women here aren't aware of what's going on with women's rights, probably because A&M is more technically oriented. Liberal arts institutions tend to have more student activism."

Anderson said most female stu-

dents probably don't feel discriminated against.

"There isn't any blatant discrimination against women except in the Corps," he said. "It's a more subtle form of discrimination. For example, I've had a couple of female students say they wanted planned parenthood facilities on campus. Forty percent of the campus population is female, so why don't we have that?"

The reason is not a lack of awareness, but of facilities, said Kathy Jinkins, a Registered Nurse at the AP Beuter Health Center. While the center calls in two local gynecologists

on a consulting basis, it does not run a women's clinic or offer birth control counseling.

A 1984 national study on discrimination against women on college campuses says it takes many forms and occurs in all areas of campus life. The Project on the Status and Education of Women found discrimination against women may be as blatant as verbal or sexual harassment, or as subtle as ignoring a female student's opinion.

Inequitable pay structures for

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**Prison reform costs  
could hit \$800 million**

Associated Press

AUSTIN — It would take up to \$800 million in construction and more alternatives to imprisonment for Texas to have enough prison cells over the next 10 years, according to a consultants' report given to state leaders Tuesday.

The State Board of Corrections had planned to release the lengthy, \$200,000 report at a meeting Tuesday. But Chairman Robert Gunn said Gov. Mark White and legislative leaders instructed him to keep the report confidential until Friday.

It was a matter of "protocol," Gunn said.

The report was presented to White, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Gib Lewis during a two-hour closed-door briefing in White's office.

"Everyone that has looked at this thing decided it was just so complex," Gunn said.

But Dick Merkel, spokesman for Lewis, said the speaker "certainly" didn't ask that the report not be released Tuesday.

Steve Dial, spokesman for Hobby, said the lieutenant governor did not object to the release of the report. In fact, Hobby released a written statement in anticipation that the report would be distributed.

Hershel Meriwether, an aide to White, said the report was still preliminary.

"He (White) wanted to look at it and to give some input before it was released," Meriwether said. "The in-

formation is going to be made public. That's not a problem."

The proposed 10-year prison plan was prepared by the consulting firm of Henningson, Durham and Richardson at the prison board's request.

Lawmakers who were briefed on it told reporters the study offers a detailed, unit-by-unit review of what's needed to meet growth and bring the Texas Department of Corrections into compliance with orders from U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice.

"It's awfully sobering," said Bryan Sen. Kent Caperton, adding that hundreds of millions of state dollars are needed "despite the fact that we have continued to put significant dollars into the prison system, despite the fact that we enacted significant reforms last session."

"My impression is to bring the present prison system into compliance, you're probably talking about \$350 million" worth of construction and renovation work, said Sen. Ray Farabee, D-Wichita Falls.

The "minimum" cost of the 10-year program would be \$700 million, and that would require new laws that would send fewer people to prison, said Farabee, chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee.

The report presented Tuesday includes only facilities, it did not speak to money needed for additional TDC staff.

Much of the money appropriated in past years was "squandered" by the TDC, said House Law Enforce-

ment Committee Chairman Ray Keller, R-Duncanville.

Farabee said the immediate problem is support facilities, not beds. The report said TDC's current capacity is about 43,000. TDC reported 37,400 prisoners as of Tuesday.

"We have run TDC somewhat like a blind dog in a meathouse," Farabee said. "We have tried to respond to immediate crises. We have built more buildings and we have not provided all the support facilities that you have to have."

What's needed, he said, are kitchens, urinals, showers and recreation areas.

He said the consultants offered three scenarios: TDC population would hit 92,000 by 1995 if no changes are made in state criminal laws. With some reforms to ease punishment, the population would be 62,000. A major change in attitudes on punishment would result in a 1995 prison population of about 50,000.

"It was pointed out that Texas incarcerates three times as many people as most states," Farabee said. "There are other ways that are less expensive. They may not be as satisfying. They may not be quite as secure. But we have to look at these alternatives for low-risk offenders."

Caperton said, "We are tough on criminals in Texas. I think we should continue to be so, but we can't be mindless in our approach."

**Prompt reporting  
aids crime probes**

By CATHIE ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

Bryan-College Station is modern-day America, says Bob Wiatt, director of traffic and security. If students think they're in some backwater town, they're wrong, he says.

"This is the modern world," he says. "This is not Wonderland, and we are not Alice."

Crimes are committed in College Station and on campus. Wiatt advises prudence on the part of students to help avoid becoming a possible victim and a quick report to the police when a crime is committed.

Wiatt says police investigations into crimes on the A&M campus have been hampered in the past because students didn't contact the University Police quickly enough.

Police officers might have captured a man who recently committed an assault in Keathley Hall if the victim had contacted the police earlier, Wiatt says. Instead she talked it over with her friends before reporting it two hours later to the police.

The victim was not physically injured, but the incident has been listed by police as assault because the young woman was threatened by violence.

The assailant was described as a 20-year-old black male, about 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing 120 pounds.

Since the young woman gave an accurate description and noticed unusual things about the man, police

officers probably could have caught him in the vicinity, Wiatt says.

Wiatt says security will not be increased in the dorm area. But police officers patrol the campus, and a car shouldn't be too far away if there is trouble, he says.

"We don't have the manpower to put two or three officers near every dorm on campus," Wiatt says.

The suspect told the young woman that he didn't know where a dormitory room was, Wiatt says, so she decided to show him how to get there. When they were going down the stairwell, the man fondled her.

Wiatt says that the excuse given to the victim in this instance also has been used in similar circumstances on campus. He says A&M has had relatively few assault cases.

"Students shouldn't feel obligated to take the extra, good citizen's step," Wiatt says. "They've got to start using some prudence in their actions."

Jan Winniford, assistant director of student affairs, agrees that prudence is the best precaution for students.

Winniford says students living in the residence halls tend to think of fellow residents as being "one big, happy family," but by taking this kind of attitude, they're setting themselves up for a crime.

Most research indicates that individuals committing assault or theft look for an available situation, Winniford says.

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**Supreme Court  
to consider  
school prayer**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will consider letting public schools allow students to meet during school hours for prayer and religious worship.

The justices, urged on by the Reagan administration, said it will review a ruling that banned such meetings at a Williamsport, Pa., high school even though the school allows students to conduct virtually all types of non-religious meetings during the same periods.

Administration lawyers attacked a federal appeals court's ban on the meetings, saying it casts constitutional doubt on a new federal law requiring public schools to provide "equal access" for student religious groups.

The high court's decision is expected sometime next year.

The school prayer dispute, another outgrowth of the Supreme Court's 1962 decision outlawing organized prayer sessions in public schools, arose when a group of students at Williamsport Area High School sought permission to form a religious group.

The students wanted to meet twice a week during the 2,500-student school's 30-minute activity periods.

During those periods, held just after homeroom, about 25 different student groups as varied as the Future Homemakers of America, the Spanish club, and the school newspaper meet.

The student religious group initially won approval to meet, but after about 45 students attended the first meeting they were told further meetings would be "legally improper."

Ten members of the group sued the school district in 1982, charging that their freedoms of speech, religion and association and their right to equal protection had been violated.

A federal trial judge ruled for the students, but the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the ruling.