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Sessions to explain Open Records Act

By Alan Sembera

Texas A&M students, faculty and administrators can learn more about the public's right to gain access to government records and meetings at a sympo sium to be presented Saturday in 201

Attorneys from the State Bar of Texas will present the seminars to educate gov-ernment officials and the public about the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Open Records Act.

The acts, passed in 1973 and 1974, are designed to prohibit governmental bodies from closing meetings to the public and to guarantee public access to most government records.

The sessions, which will begin at 8:45 a.m., will review the information covered by the laws, how the courts are interpreting the laws, and what power journalists and the public have to enforce the

The symposium also will feature a panel of local government officials and media professionals who will discuss hypothetical cases involving violations and circumventions of the Texas Freedom of Information laws.

The panel will consist of James Bond, deputy chancellor for legal and external affairs for A&M; Robert Borden, assistant city editor for the Bryan-College Station Eagle; James Braun, news director for KBTX-TV of Bryan; and Dick Holmgreen, county judge.

The panel discussion will begin at 11 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Howard Swindle, assistant managing editor of the *Dallas Morning News*, will be the featured speaker at the luncheon.

Swindle edited and directed the paper's 1986 Pulitzer Prize winning project on segregation and unequal treatment in federally subsidized housing.

He also is on the board of directors of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, which is co-sponsoring the symposium with the Texas State Bar.

Nancy Monson, executive director of the foundation, said the symposium is the fourth in a series of six being held around the state to educate journalists, government officials and the public about their right to gain access to public

Educating and informing the public is the foundation's major purpose, she

"They have a right to know what their government's doing," she said. "Over the years, many government officials have found it easier not to tell the public what's going on. That's undemocratic.

The symposium is open to the public The morning seminars are free, but the luncheon costs \$15.

Anyone interested in attending should make reservations with the Freedom of Information Foundation by calling (214)

'For Crying Out Loud' will perform at benefit

Texas A&M's Students Against actually will help people in South Africa, Apartheid will sponsor a benefit concert rather than just making a statement of at Eastgate Live Friday night to raise funds for needy families in South Africa.

For Crying Out Loud, a local band which plays rock and roll with a slightly satirical edge, is scheduled to perform between 9 and 10 p.m. Cover charge for the concert will be \$3.

SAA president Jeff Dyess said the organization will use all proceeds from the concert to help needy families in South Africa through a contribution to the Africa Fund, an American organization that helps families in South Africa with dona-

"This is something we haven't really

done in the past, but it's something that we can really do to help all the people that are suffering in South Africa, Dyess said. "What we've done in the past has gotten us a lot of publicity and attention, but now we're actually doing something that is actually helping."

The most familiar of SAA's actions is

the shanty the group has built in front of the Academic Building several times during the last two semesters.

Organization members say the main Dyess said the benefit is different from any of SAA's other activities because it blacks.

purpose of the shanties is to make people aware of the plight of South African blacks.

Texan donates money to hurricane victims

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas philanthro-pist William Barrett is contributing \$100,000 and hopes to raise as much as a half-million dollars more to provide shel- officials told him about 500,000 Mexiter for thousands of Mexicans left home- cans need housing in the states of Camp-

'Texas prepared for the storm that could have wiped out thousands of homes and businesses along our own coast and even beyond. We got lucky,"

"Mexico did not," he said. Barrett, who kicked off the Good and construction of new homes

Wednesday, said that during a weekend visit to Mexico, church and government Yucatan.

Barrett, who hopes to raise \$250,000 to \$500,000 in the next two months, said Catholic Charities of Dallas will collect funds locally and turn them over to Caritas, a Mexican charity supervising repair

In Advance

Talk to focus on international students

The law firm of Samuel M. Tidwell & Associates will sponsor a seminar on "International Students," at 7 p.m. on Oct. 7 in 402 Rudder

The discussion will focus on im gration changes and regulations, a lum and naturalization. The seminary is free and open to international dents and the general public.

Western Arts Trio will perform Monday

The Western Arts Trio, a world-renowned chamber music ensemble, will perform Monday at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater as part of the University Chamber Series.

The trio consists of violinist Brian Hanly, cellist David Tomatz and pianist Werner Rose, Texas A&M's coordinator of music in the Department of Philosophy and Humanities.

The ensemble will perform three piano trios by contemporary com-

poser Robert Muczynski and "Da ky" by Antonin Dvorak.

Formed in 1973 when all were far ulty members at the University Wyoming, the trio has toured I rope, Australia, South America a Mexico. They have recorded six bumns and plan to record "The Pi Trios of Robert Muczynski," w

will be released in late 1989. Tickets are \$4 for students and for non-students and are available the Rudder Box Office.

NOVACON IV events start Saturday

MSC NOVA will be sponsoring NOVACON IV, a mini wargame convention, this Saturday and Sunday. Registration is 8 a.m. in 203 MSC Saturday and events will begin 9 a.m. Registration cost is \$4 for both

Open gaming will be held in the MSC ballroom and tournaments will be conducted in adjacent rooms. Tournaments will include Advanced Dungeons & Dragons, Star Fleet Battles, Champions, Axis & Allies, Squad Leader and Car Wars. A Dealers' Room will be provided for the interested in purchasing games, on ics, miniatures and t-shirts. NOVACON IV will also have

deo showings featuring a Vietna theme all day Saturday and par Sunday including "Apocoly Now," "Platoon," "Full Metal et," and "Hamburger Hill" as well

Students seeking more information should call the Student Programs fice and ask for NOVA at (409) & 1515.

Council offers research opportunities

The National Research Council is offering 1989 Resident, Cooperative, and Postdoctoral Research Associate ship Programs to Ph.D. scientists and engineers. The programs offer research opportunities in laboratories throughout the United States.

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For applications or more inform tion, write to Associateship Progr (GR430A-D1), Office of Scient and Engineering Personnel, Nato Research Council, 2101 Constitu

Symposium will examine Texas histor Q

By D'Ann Marie Aviles

With the turn of the century not far away, Texas is concerned with what the future holds for the state

At Texas A&M, the History Department is analyzing the history of

Texas to prepare for its future.

The Texas Committee for the Humanities and the History Department are funding and sponsoring a symposium and round table discussion on "Interpreting Texas History," Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. in

510 Rudder Tower. Speakers from across the state will lecture on Texas history from the Spanish occupation period to the pre-

By looking at and critiquing past writings, historians are trying to decide what action to take to ensure a

better future for Texas. Three A&M history professors will

participate in the symposium. History Department Head Larry D. Hill will discuss the effects of progressive reform.

Buenger will discuss economic development in Texas since 1845, and Associate Professor Robert A. Calvert will discuss changes in Texas ag-

The program will be divided into

The first session, led by Buene will cover the legacy of Spa Texas, the continued impact of revolution and the repu statehood, the Civil War and rec

truction and economic development

Hill will lead the second sess and after his discussion of refo other lecturers will speak about Te politics and Texas cities since ! and 20th century cultural life In the final session, Calvert

discuss Hispanics, women and bla in Texas and agricultural changes Calvert said that Texas' oil ed

omy is becoming a service econo and the population is changing

In order to be prepared for the ture and to gain a vital perspective how to proceed into the 21st cent Texans must recognize and add the changes occurring in the state,

By studying the past, he si Texas can prepare for the future.

"Too many historians have trid Anglo-Saxon, male point of vi Calvert said. "But we are now seen only to California in Hispanic pop tion, and the state population is

The symposium is free and open

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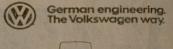
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