

AGGIE life

THURSDAY
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Page 3

Freudian Slip is BACK

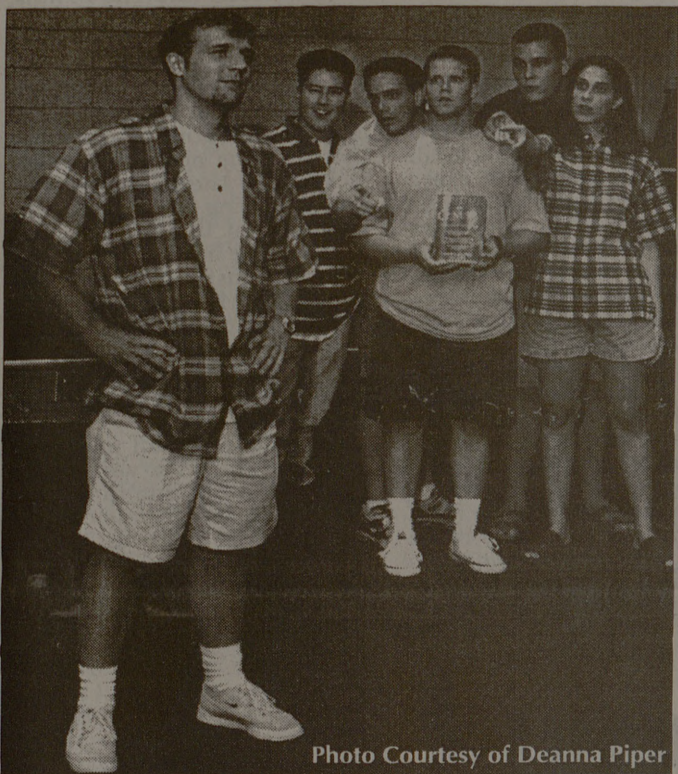


Photo Courtesy of Deanna Piper

Eric Pargac and the Freudian Slip troupe return to the Dixie Theatre Saturday at 10 p.m.

By Jeffrey Cranor
THE BATTALION

Freudian Slip returns to the Dixie Theatre Saturday at 10 p.m. with a new style and several new faces. Six of the 11 cast members are new this summer.

Eric Pargac, director of Freudian Slip and a senior journalism major, said the troupe's routines, which have historically been mostly short-form sketches, have advanced to higher levels.

Short-form sketches, he said, are often done as games or brief skits. Long-form routines, which are what Freudian Slip has been developing this summer, focus on stories and character development.

"Long-forms are much harder to learn and perform than short-form," he said. "Long-form style is about scene work and creating reali-

ties from audience suggestions."

Chris Blake, a senior management major, said "The Harold" is a long-form routine that Freudian Slip has been working on. It consists of three sets of three scenes, and each set centers around a topic volunteered by the audience.

"Then you try to draw it all together after building the scenes and characters," he said. "Short-form is usually done in single scenes."

Rachel Schafer, a senior marketing and finance major, said that as a new member of Freudian Slip, she has adapted better to the long-form style than the short.

"It is intimidating for me to jump into a (short-form) scene without knowing what kind of character I want to be," she said. "I am more comfortable with long-form because I can build a character and a scene."

Pargac said although some members are untested, they have had all summer to prepare for this performance.

"They are doing a good job. I'm excited," he said. "I think that they are picking up the harder styles very well because they don't have the hindrance of learning easier short-forms first like the older members."

Blake, who is also a new member of Freudian Slip, said even though there are several rookies on the team, all of the performers are working hard.

"We'll have a good first show. I'm sure of that," he said. "In the last few rehearsals, we've really come together, and we're starting to gel."

Blake said learning from the older members has helped the new performers develop their skills more efficiently.

"When Freudian Slip started, everything was new to them," he said. "But for the new people, we can learn from their experiences about what works and what does not."

"They have established certain standards of performing by learning from experience. And, while we (the new members) are still evolving, we have the advantage of learning from the precedence that has been set."

Schafer said she really respects the art of improvisation since it always offers something new and different, because of its on-the-spot, unrehearsed attributes, improvisation can appeal to a wide range of people.

"A&M is so large. There is such a huge variety of interests, and there are so many people here from small towns that have not had the opportunity to see something like this," she said. "Every night is unique and spontaneous."

As a special feature, Jethro Nolen, one of the founding members of the comedy group, returns to Freudian Slip on Saturday.

Blake said Freudian Slip will never be the same as it was when the founding members were there, but the difference is in style and personality, not talent or quality.

"It was a big deal when a lot of the original members left, and those people cannot be replaced," he said. "Freudian Slip may be different, but it keeps continuing to evolve and become better."

Fire Safety is RED HOT in B-CS

By James Francis
THE BATTALION

In the middle of the night, a loud, pulsating beep emits into the air — the smoke alarm.

The family dog begins to bark uncontrollably and a household comes to life.

A fire is blazing over the floorboards and creeping up the walls as smoke is noticed wafting under bedroom doors.

Family members either panic with worry about getting out of the house and saving valuables, or they follow a planned set of procedures that will allow safe passage to the outside.

It all depends on preparation and prevention.

These measures are the constant endeavors of the Bryan-College Station Fire Departments.

Year-round, the two departments and five volunteer precincts serve to protect the Bryan-College Station residents and inform them about the dangerous fire hazards.

Lt. Rick Westbrook, of the College Station Fire Prevention Division, said fires may arise from different sources, but some are seen more than others.

Westbrook said common fires stem from the carelessness of individuals, such as leaving an object on the stove.

"Grease fires are usually unattended fires," he said. "It gets to a certain temperature and then it ignites."

Other common fire instigators are tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars and pipes.

"People have a tendency to fall asleep smoking in their chair," Westbrook said.

Falling asleep in one's chair usually occurs in the living room or bedroom, but another hazardous place in the home is the garage.

Westbrook said people sometimes store gasoline improperly and the vapors from the canister can be a real problem.

"The fumes sink because they are heavy and find their way to the water heater," he said.

Westbrook said the result is nothing short of a small explosion.

Other causes of fires occur when people simply use electricity.

"People run extension cords under rugs and furniture and that eventually causes problems," Westbrook said.

He said people who continue to use extension cords must make sure they do not penetrate doorways or windows.

Even with preventive measures, some fire occurrences cannot be helped, and people find themselves caught in a dangerous situation.

The Brayton Fireman Training Field, a 120-acre facility, is home to fire training.

Volunteer firefighters and refinery companies such as Texaco and Shell send their workers here for prevention training.

Fire Marshal John Mies said the training lasts from July 7 to August 2 each summer.

"Instructors are brought from all over the world, and they teach all kinds of courses," Mies said.

Subjects range from arson investigation to leadership skills.

Mies said since the field has only been open for about 10 years, there are still new training areas being implemented.

"The hazardous materials training is probably the most up-and-coming," he said.

One of the newest obstacle training portions of the program is a simulated train wreck.

"They set up a train derailment with six passenger cars and locomotives," Mies said.

The object of the exercise is to learn how to get into a wrecked train — how to and how not to force entry.

Mies said among the 5,500 or so trainees, a large number are volunteer firefighters, but they do not go through training to sit through instructive classes.

"A lot of it is meeting other people in the same field and networking ideas," he said.

Mies said, just like other people, the volunteers are people with regular eight-to-five jobs who take time out for training.

Even though trainees make a point to go through fire training to help prevent fires from happening, there is no 100 percent way to end fires.

The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) says, 3,705 Americans died in home fires in the year 1992 — a statistic which averaged more than 10 people a day.

Each year, fires are started, people are injured, homes are destroyed, and lives are lost, but there are measures to be taken for fire prevention and safety.

Two of the most popular ways to be prepared for fires is owning smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

"Every house needs a fire extinguisher," Westbrook said. "And I know most of them don't."

If the need to use a fire extinguisher should arise, the NFPA suggests individuals remember the acronym P.A.S.S. (Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle low at the base of the fire, Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent, and Sweep from side to side).

As for home smoke detectors, Westbrook said people need to have detectors outside and inside each sleeping area and change the batteries twice a year.

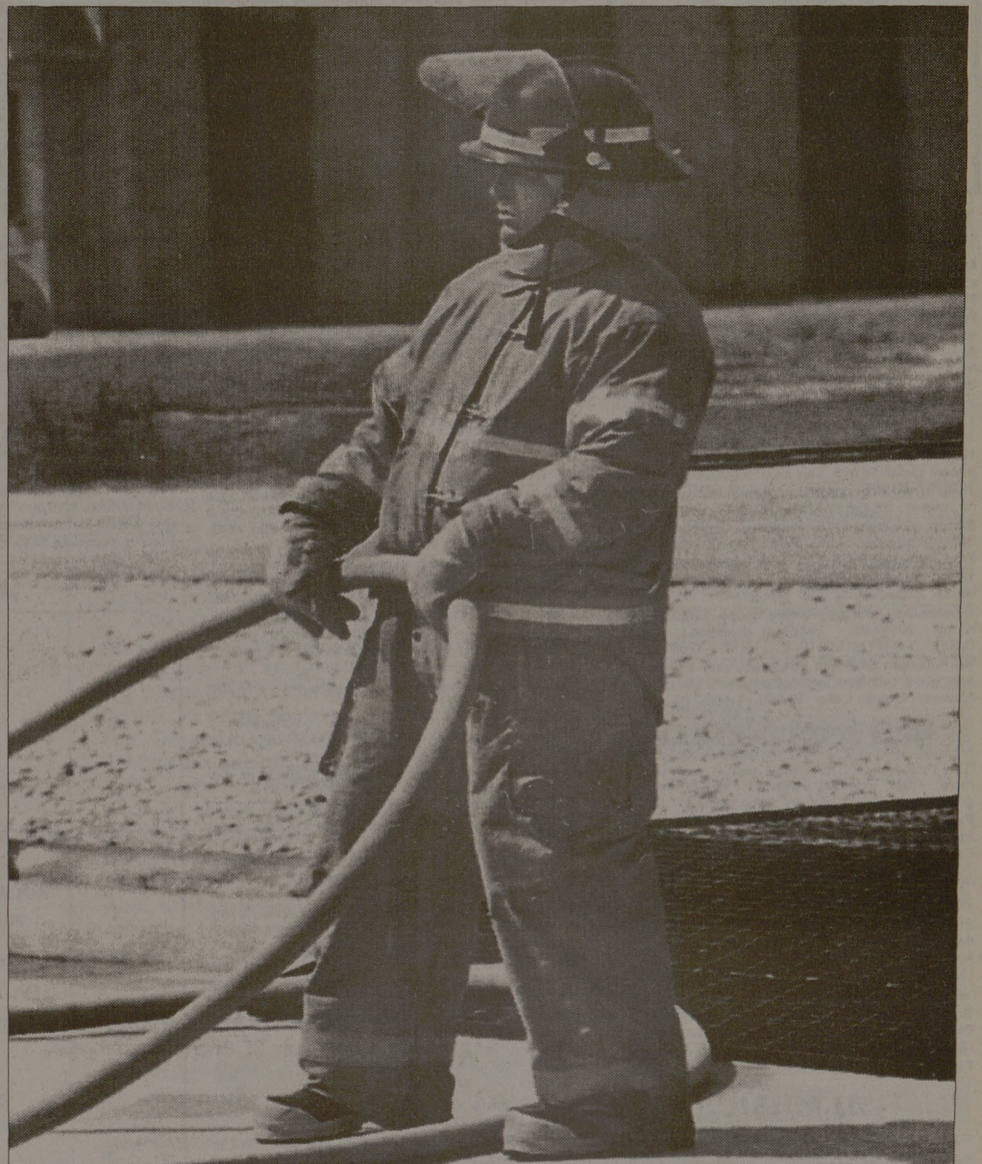
Aside from smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, Westbrook said there are other hazards to look out for.

"Store flammable liquids away from ignition sources, limit use of extension cords and be careful with smoking materials," he said.

Westbrook said college students should make sure there are no gas leaks or other problems with their apartments.

He said carbon monoxide detectors are handy, and people should remember some landlords do not live in the actual apartments.

It is the aim of the fire department and it should be the goal of individuals to inform the public.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

A firefighter performs routine drills at the Brayton Fireman Training Field.