

THE SETTLER

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Emergency evacuation tests reliability of security measures Elevator transformer blows due to power surge

By **KIMBERLY WALKER**
Staff Reporter

An emergency evacuation was put in place in the Wood campus center Jan. 23 around 8:40 a.m.

The evacuation was successful but there was some controversy over the fact that that public safety and maintenance personnel walked through the building informing individuals that there was an evacuation in place instead of the fire alarm system being set off.

William Rogan, chief of campus police and security was not on campus at the time the evacuation took place but was informed of the emergency and went to a meeting concerning it afterwards.

"There was no actual flame, a transformer in the elevator blew which caused wires to bake, giving off smoke," explained Rogan.

When asked why the fire alarm system was not activated he said that it "was a decision by maintenance because the doors would shut and lock collecting smoke in the building."

Sandy Forrest, director of plant operations, said the elevator was being worked on at the time of the incident and the assistant director of plant operations, Jerry Whitaker was there at the time.

"Jerry Whitaker, my assistant, contacted public safety and told Lisa



A transformer blew in the Wood Campus center last Monday causing an emergency evacuation of the entire building.
PHOTO BY SANDY FORREST

Lynch that there was a problem and to have the building evacuated. She notified public safety and told them about the evacuation," said Forrest.

He explained that years ago a six amp fuse was mistakenly put in where a two amp fuse should have been. This allowed a power surge to overheat a transformer to the point that the wires

and substances surrounding them gave off a huge amount of smoke. This is the reason the evacuation was ordered.

Forrest said a decision was made not to set off the alarm system because the elevator room door goes into a four hour automatic lockdown to contain a fire when the alarm is sounded.

This is the only room where doors

are locked to contain a fire.

There are other rooms with doors that shut automatically to contain a fire on campus, but they do not lock preventing people from evacuating safely.

He also explained that there is a campus wide program set-up for emergencies. The campus has three safety coordinators for each building consisting of Vol State staff members as well as public safety personnel.

The coordinators wear orange vests and communicate with public safety through radios. They help make sure everyone gets out of the building they are responsible for, that evacuees stay at least 500 feet away from the building during the emergency, that no one else enters the building and inform people when it is safe to return to the building.

There is also a program coordinated between the disability service office and public safety. Anyone who is registered with the disability services office and may need assistance during an evacuation is part of this program.

"We have an evacuation list we send to public safety every semester with student's schedules that will need assistance in case of emergency," said Carman Lyles, secretary of disability services. Public safety then knows

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Theater production title banned from marquee

By **BRIAN ESTES**
Staff Reporter

Vol State's theatre department recently learned that it would not be permitted to use the phrase "Vagina Monologues" in any form on the marquee near the main entrance of the school to advertise its upcoming performance.

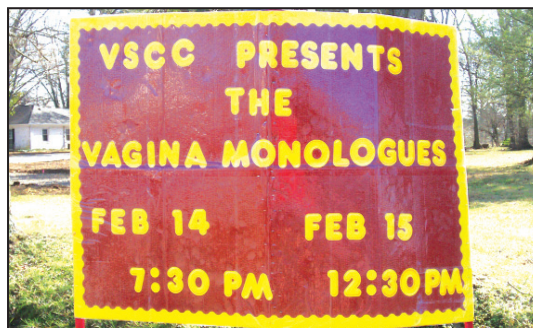
"It is going to be much more difficult to advertise the production without the marquee," said Nancy Blomgren, associate professor of English. "It bothers me because it implies that there is something wrong with the play, that it is not something we should do."

Blomgren serves as a facilitator for the play, which will be held in the Wemyss Auditorium Feb. 14 at 7:30

p.m. and Feb. 15 at 12:20 p.m.

According to Dr. Dawn Larsen, a request was made in the student services office to reserve use of the marquee so it could be used to advertise the "Vagina Monologues."

Larsen then said that she received a message from Patty Powell, dean of student services, which stated that the marquee would



This sign advertising the "Vagina Monologues" was stolen from Gallatin Road by an anonymous individual.
PHOTO BY KAYCE DRAPER

not be made available to advertise the play.

"I was confused, since we had been

able to use it the two years prior. I received no explanation whatsoever," says Larsen, an associate professor of theatre and communications.

Angie Jowers, director of public relations, released a statement from the office of Vol State President Dr. Warron Nichols Thursday that said, "after numerous complaints over the last two years the decision was made that the word vagina will not be put on the marquee."

"The college continues to support thought provoking works of art, literature, and performance as stimuli for intellectual growth. However, we also must listen and respond to concerns from the community we serve," said Jowers

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