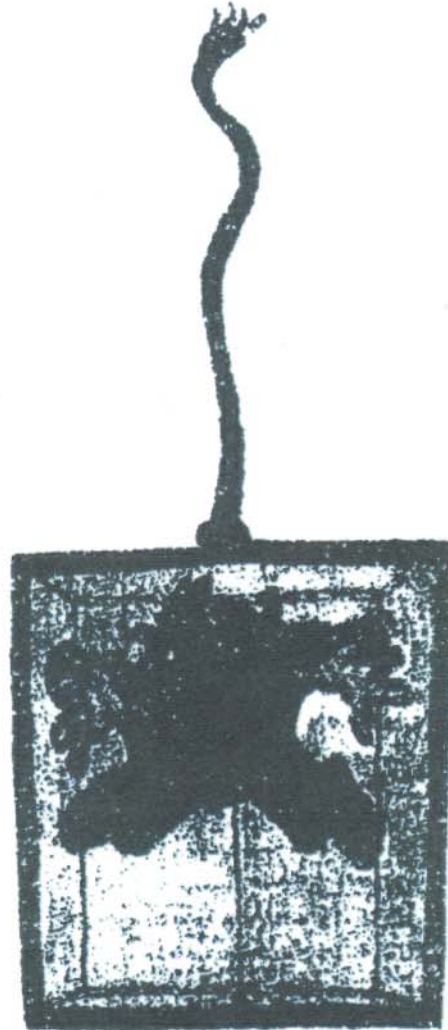


## WHAT TO DO WHEN CAUGHT IN A FALLING ELEVATOR

Forbes FYI consulted Albert Bartlett, professor emeritus of physics at the University of Colorado, who said that if you find yourself in a falling elevator you'd probably be in a state of weightlessness.

"If you're tall enough, try to brace yourself between the floor and the ceiling, with knees bent... If you're floating around, double up into a ball and put your arms around your head, to avoid it being smashed when the elevator hits bottom."  
(Bartlett has never been in a falling elevator, so he's just guessing.)

The National Association for Elevator Safety says that most elevators have safety devices that prevent free-falls. The only fall on record happened at the Empire State Building in 1945, after a B-25 bomber named Old John Feather Merchant struck the building in a heavy fog and cut the elevator cables. A woman fell more than 70 floors and survived.



Star Tribune Illustration by Dave Matheny