

# Guatemalan students form new organization

By LORI SHULER  
Battalion Reporter

Guatemala is about 800 miles from College Station, and that's a long way from home for the 30 Guatemalan students who attend Texas A&M University.

Jon Brandt, a freshman agronomy major, is one of those students. Last semester he began the ground work that has now established the Guatemalan Student Association.

The group became a University recognized organization just three weeks ago, but leaders have already begun planning activities and setting purposes and goals for their organization.

Brandt, who is an American citizen but a Guatemalan resident, said he wanted to establish the group to bring the students from Guatemala together because none of them knew exactly who else from their country was here.

Brandt said he first learned about

Texas A&M when he saw a Texas Aggies T-shirt in Guatemala and also from the many Texas A&M former students living in Guatemala.

Unlike most other students, Brandt was able to visit Texas A&M before coming as a student last fall.

"The first time almost everyone else comes to A&M is when they come to study, so they don't know much about it," Brandt said.

He said his group has taken steps to set up correspondence with the guidance office at the American School of Guatemala to help students planning to come to Texas A&M with housing arrangements. The group also wants to give them an orientation when they get here.

Brandt said when he goes home for spring break he will take catalogs and applications and he and members of the association will answer questions prospective A&M students have about the University.

Many students in the association

are from Guatemala City and attended the American School of Guatemala, which Brandt said is like a high school in the United States.

Most of the students speak both English and Spanish fluently and most of them are agriculture or engineering majors.

Brandt said bringing knowledge about Guatemala to Texas A&M is one of the association's main projects. He said the group would like to expose the country's culture and native folklore in some form of an art exhibit.

The group has also planned a trip to Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington for next month and a "churrasco," which is something like a barbecue where steaks, beans and tortillas are served.

Brandt said the group is charging dues of \$5 per semester and will submit a budget requesting funds from the University to help finance other activities and projects.

# Trustees request final plans

Battalion Staff

With the Soil Conservation Services deadline approaching for improvements at the Middle School, the A&M Consolidated School Board Monday authorized the acting superintendent and architects to draw up final plans.

The district may lose the funds SCS has allocated to the project if it doesn't submit specifications by March 31.

Under the agreement with SCS, Consolidated is responsible for 20 percent of the money needed for the improvements; SCS pays the remaining 80 percent.

Improvements at the Middle School, designed to eliminate erosion problems, will include either layers of top soil or concrete blocks and a new sprinkler system. SCS is responsible for approving the specifications of the soil or blocks and installing the sprinkler system.

Improvements at all five campuses are planned. The district has \$125,000 to spend and there is \$205,000 worth of initial work to be done.

The board authorized administrative personnel to consult with architects Fred Klatt and Michael Murphy to draw up a list of priorities.

In other business, the board voted to keep the current tax ratio of 80 percent of the property's market value for the 1979 tax year.

A liability insurance policy that will cover school personnel and, in particular, wrongful acts committed in good faith by the trustees, was adopted by the board. Jack Woods, school district attorney, who advised adoption of the \$1,859 policy, said "that's as far as you can go now in buying insurance."

Trustee Rodney Hill reported that the long-range planning committee is looking at four possible sites for a new school and a classroom addition at the high school. The information gathered is not sufficient to make a decision yet, he said.

Trustee Bill Wasson suggested the committee should meet to clarify its goals for the next year.

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