

Disabled learn job skills

by Shawn Behlen
Battalion Reporter

Severely handicapped students and Oakwood Middle School students with learning problems now have a chance to learn pre-vocational and social skills at College Station Independent School District's new Adaptive Vocational Center.

The AVC, which opened this fall, contains five classrooms, a conference room, several lab and shop areas, an observation room with two-way mirrors and a home center, which consists of a fully furnished kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom.

Phyllis Perkins, director of special services for CSISD, says the purpose of the AVC is to

teach social skills, utilizing the home center, and pre-vocational skills, which stress hands-on experience.

In the labs and shops, students are taught skills which can be developed further through high school vocational training. Those skills include several arts and crafts skills and correct usage of different tools and a variety of audio-visual equipment.

In the home center, students are taught social skills such as cooking and caring for a house.

The AVC is used by 35 students with learning disorders from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Sixth grade students work at the center in the morning learning pre-

vocational skills, social skills, language arts, reading skills and social studies.

Seventh and eighth grade students work there in the after-

"The Adaptive Vocational Center will help them perform better later on, and this is the only way these students can get hands-on experience."

noon in the same types of classes. When the students aren't working at the AVC, they are attending regular classes at Oakwood.

Severely handicapped middle school students also attend

classes at the AVC. Perkins said those students need much more care and specialized equipment, so they attend classes only at the AVC. A group of severely handicapped 3- and 4-year-olds from the CSISD Child Development Center also attend classes at the AVC.

Perkins said CSISD began building the AVC after voters approved a bond issue for it two years ago. The design of the building was chosen with input from teachers, the parent advisory committee, and the special services staff as well as the architect.

"It's been a dream for several years," she said. "Lower-performing students need this at an earlier age. This will help them perform better later on and this is the only way these students can get hands-on experience."

Perkins said she hopes the AVC can expand its program in the future to include courses in plumbing, carpentry, electrical wiring and other practical skills.

Procreative training

Horse classes held

by Kellie Dworaczyk
Battalion Reporter

Horse breeders from across the United States are here today for the first of four schools conducted by the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science on the latest techniques in horse breeding and horse management practices.

"There is a tremendous demand for this sort of thing," associate professor of animal science Jack L. Kreider says. Kreider and D.D. Householder, a horse specialist in the animal science department, provide the leadership for the schools. Staff members of the animal science department and the College of Veterinary Medicine work as instructors.

The conception rate in horses is not as good as it could be, and by learning the latest technique, artificial insemination, breeders and horse farm managers can improve the conception rate on their farms, Kreider said.

Artificial insemination involves collecting semen from a stallion, diluting the semen

with antibiotics, and injecting the semen into the uterus of a mare.

Artificial insemination has many advantages over natural mating, Kreider said. For example, the semen can be evaluated to determine whether or not the sperm is live. Breeding hygiene is increased, and because antibiotics are added to the semen, diseases can be controlled. Danger of injury to the stallion during breeding is decreased, and stress on the mare from staying in the breeding pen is decreased.

Kreider said the only disadvantage to artificial insemination is that individuals must be well trained and have the proper skills. The breeders' school is designed to provide the necessary training, he said.

Horse management practices such as nutrition, dental care and first aid also will be discussed at the school.

Through good horse management, the breeder can increase the chance of pregnancy, and increase the chance that once a mare is pregnant,

she will stay that way, Kreider said. One of the major problems on horse farms is the loss of fetuses after 30 or 40 days, he said. This often can be minimized with proper nutrition and care, he said.

Computer awareness presentations will show the breeders how they can use computers to make record keeping more efficient.

Twenty-five people are registered for each school, most of whom are stud farm managers or owner-managers of breeding farms. The farms have anywhere from two to 200 mares. Horses on these farms are used for show horses, race horses, cutting horses, and ranch pleasure horses. Each person attending the schools pays \$400 fee.

Morning lectures will be held the first two days of school in the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center.

After the lectures the breeders will spend four to five hours experience at the horse center. Day three will be spent entirely at the horse center.

Jury demands videotape in DWI dismissal case

United Press International
AUSTIN — A Travis County grand jury has asked to see the police videotape that led to the dismissal of a drunken driving charge against state Rep. Gordon Arnold Jr., D-Terre.

A letter from grand jury foreman Ernest Perales to County Attorney Margaret Moore said the jury is "reviewing your decision."

Moore dismissed a drunken driving charge against Arnold

on Monday, citing insufficient evidence. The prosecutor said the videotape, showing Arnold performing sobriety tests at police headquarters about 25 minutes after his arrest Nov. 5, would not have supported the prosecution's case.

Arnold was stopped by a police officer who saw a car weaving on Interstate 35 in Austin. Arnold pleaded no contest to a criminal mischief charge for kicking a police radio while he

sat in a squad car.

The grand jury letter said, "The majority of the members felt that there were unusual and unique steps taken with this case. In order to satisfy our consciences and lay to rest any charges of preferential treatment, we would like to view a video film of Mr. Arnold's sobriety tests."

Moore said she planned to attend the grand jury session Monday.

"The case could not be decided," she said. "I wouldn't even say it was equivocal about that."

Moore said Arnold's performance "was better than we've lost" in jury trials.

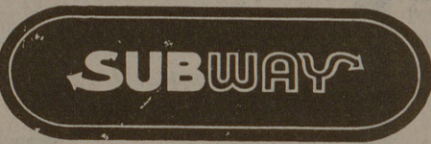
If the grand jury, which normally handles only felony indictments, Moore said, would move to dismiss the charge, partly because of the dismissal of a plea bargain.

"The case was handled in any other case in this office," she said. She said the grand jury putting an unfair emphasis on the case.

"I don't think a state legal should be held to any more stringent procedures than any else," she said.

The videotape is used to take a breath test. Suspects are asked to stand on one leg, touch their nose with their finger, to tilt their heads back, their eyes closed, to walk a straight line heel to toe and a paragraph about Texas laws.

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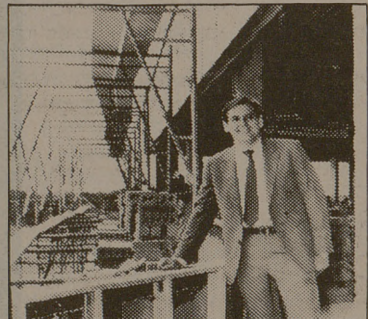
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