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by Scott McC



School gears students for real electronic work

By HOLLY A. HELT Reporter

When 42 students from the Institution of Electronic Science graduate Saturday, they will continue a 20-year tradition of 100 percent job placement.

The Institution of Electronic Science is a part of the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

The institution is an 18-month training program which prepares students for careers in electronics. The institution was founded in 1963 by Texas Instruments which wished to have a source of electronics graduates.

"We put out a graduate that's generic," said Jim Berry, program coordinator. "If it's electronic, he (the student) can work on it. He isn't intimidated if it's a computer, a laser or this or that. He hasn't been brainwashed into a particular aspect (of electronics)."

The program is split into three 6-month terms. The first term is geared toward the basics.

In the second term students take those basics and apply them to circuits. This includes putting resistors and circuitry together and building a power supply.

In the third term students study the circuits as system components.

About 160 students are enrolled and three teachers are employed by the institution. Lecture classes have a

student-teacher ratio of 75-to-1 and labs have a 25-1 ratio.

Berry said the course study is highly comprehensive. The 1,980 hours of study is divided into 30 hours a week for a 22-week period.

Preparatory tutoring classes are offered for people who have identifiable weak skills.

The institution's primary competition is the two-year junior college, Berry said. The institution's courses do not count as credit hours where a junior college's courses do.

"As part of the A&M system, we either have to be under the umbrella of academics or be non-degree granting," Berry said.

The institution uses the non-degree plan to concentrate on the technical aspect of the program.

"A junior college teaches English, history and physical education," Berry said. "Those are all fine courses but they do nothing to enhance the technical aspect of the individual."

A junior college offers a maximum of about 900 hours of technical electives over a two-year period. The institution's program gives students 1,000 lab hours in applied electronics.

Eddie Webb, a student at the institution, said, "If you want to do a lot of homework, this is the place to be. I do about 4 to 6 hours of homework a night."

The institution is not discriminate on the basis of exams. A high school diploma, general education diploma and \$870 tuition is all that is required to enter the program.

"Basically, a mathematics ground and a mathematics approach to things are the entrance requirements for us," said.

For a several years, Texas Instruments was the sole employer of graduates. But when the hit an economic slump, the institution went to other companies such as Rockwell Dynamics, E-Systems and Lockheed.

"Rockwell set up a company with us that took fifteen graduates right off the floor," Berry said. "Other companies saw what we did and made advances many of the graduates."

"The whole thing has been a big hurry up operation."

Regional offices for the Engineering Extension Service are located in Dallas, San Antonio, Abilene. Companies with offices when positions are available.

"We feel it is our goal and responsibility to get these graduates employed," Berry said.

Mattox's assistant testifies he was told to 'hold' bonds

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Attorney General Jim Mattox ordered an assistant to put a "hold" on bond issues prepared by the high-powered Houston law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski, the assistant testified Thursday.

"He told me not to forward any bond issues in the office at that time to the (state) comptroller's office — those of Fulbright & Jaworski that were in our office at that time," said

Robert "Buddy" Lewis, the assistant attorney general in charge of bonds in 1983.

Mattox is charged with commercial bribery, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

He is accused of threatening Fulbright & Jaworski's bond business unless one of the firm's lawyers stopped trying to question his sister, Janice Mattox, in another case.

Under state law, the attorney general's office must approve bonds before they can be sold. Lewis said he and two other assistants did such work for Mattox.

Testifying for more than an hour, Lewis recounted the events of 17 and 18, 1983, when he and two other assistants ordered him to hold bond issues from Fulbright & Jaworski.

Sanctuary worker convicted

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A federal court jury Thursday convicted the director of a refugee shelter of illegally transporting Salvadoran aliens while another member of the sanctuary movement was found guilty of one of three charges.

Attorneys for Jack Elder and Stacey Merkt promised to appeal the verdict, reached after about four hours of deliberations by the panel of 10 men and two women.

Elder, 41, who directs the Catholic Church-sponsored Casa Oscar Ro-

mero shelter in San Benito said the conviction would not deter him from continuing his activities.

Merkt, 30, was found guilty on one count of conspiracy but innocent of two counts of transporting two Salvadoran aliens.

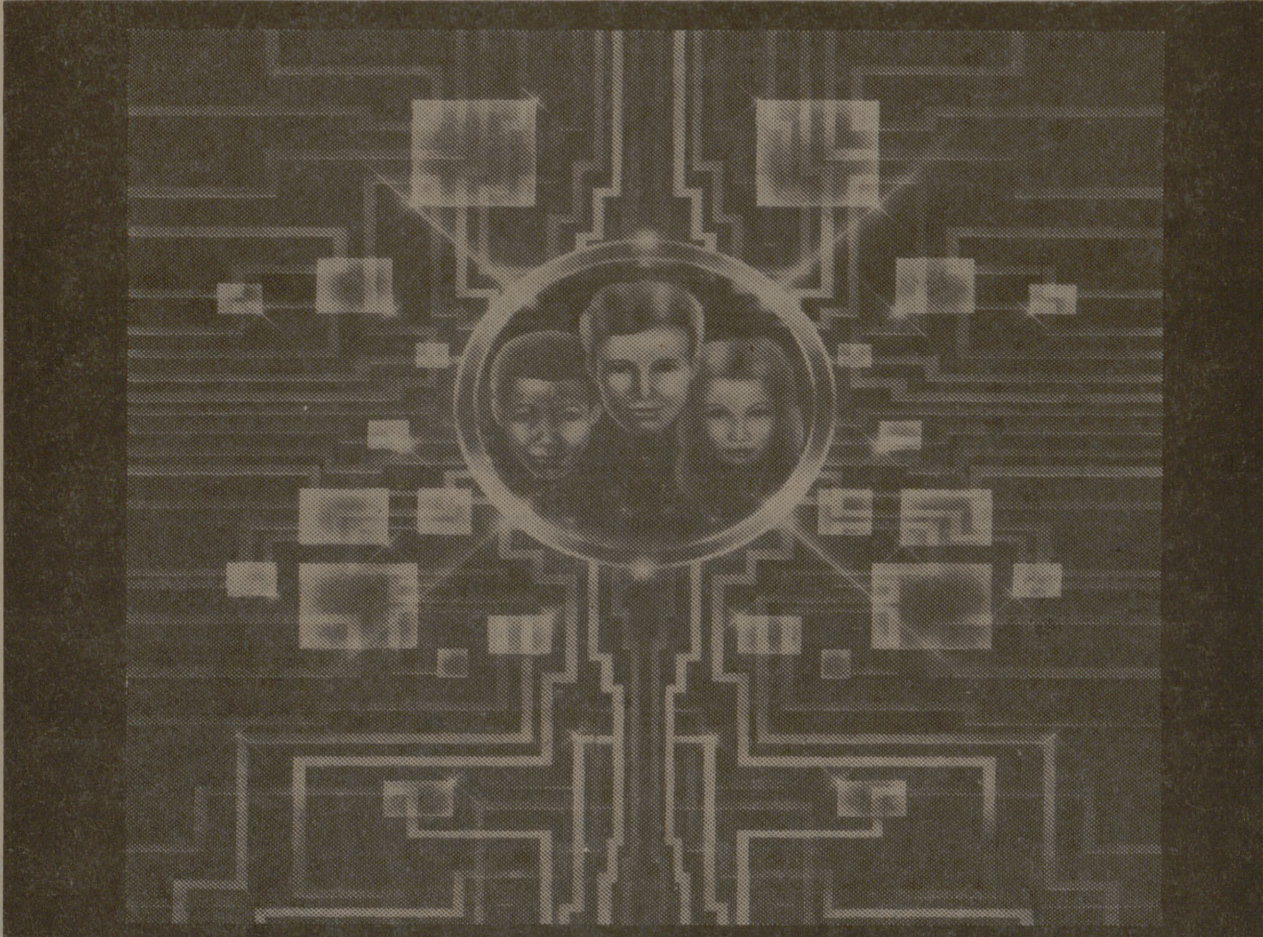
Elder could be fined \$28,000 and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Merkt faces a maximum five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela set sentencing for March 27.

Elder was charged with counts of conspiracy and of helping two Salvadoran United States illegally. He is accused of driving two Nov. 8 from the U.S. border to the shelter.

Elder was acquitted last week of charges he transported Salvadorans in March 1984. He agreed with defense attorneys Elder did not further the sanctuary movement into the States by merely giving rides to the bus station.

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