

A&M school principal program earns honors

By Beverly Click
Reporter

A Texas A&M program aiding school principals was acknowledged Friday by the American Association of School Administrators at the annual AASA awards ceremony in New Orleans.

Dr. David Erlandson, professor and head of the A&M Department of Educational Administration, accepted the award for the Principals' Center — an A&M institute offering five weeks of intensive management skill training. The center was recognized as an exceptional program for supporting the principals of Texas.

"The first major program that A&M started was the Principals' Institute for new and prospective principals," Erlandson says.

Erlandson says participants attend the institute in the summer and re-

ceive six hours of graduate credit for their work.

In 1983, Erlandson says he was concerned that while the institute had good programs for preparing principals, many certified principals needed help. So, he says, the Principals' Center was formed.

The center was created to provide training, technical assistance and other kinds of support to principals on the job, he says.

In 1984, House Bill 72 gave a boost to the center by requiring principals, superintendents and other administrators to have additional training each year in three areas: instructional leadership, teacher assessment and management skills.

Principals somehow had to get the training, Erlandson says, and one way the center provided this is through the Summer Academy.

"The academy is a single, inten-

sive week for practicing principals," he says. "From morning until night, they get high-power training."

Another program is the formation of regional clusters, Erlandson says, which are geared toward groups of principals.

"Our concern is not only with getting the principals technically profi-

cient in doing all that House Bill 72 demands," Erlandson says, "but also developing a person who is really in control of that school."

The center offers other programs, including a toll-free number called the Hot Line which gives any information or help a principal might need.

Guardsman

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A&M student and Aston Hall resident Anthony Eppolito was driving in the vicinity of the parking lot and offered a ride to Jarrott, Wiatt said. Eppolito and Jarrott then pursued Grammas to Lubbock Street, where Grammas drove up on the lawn in front of the Quad and fled the car, dropping his pistol on the ground, Wiatt said.

Police said Grammas then returned to his motorcycle and was chased by police officers from PA 24 on the south side of campus to PA 30 behind the USDA Building, where he was arrested.

Grammas also has been charged in Clute with burglary of a habitation, which has a maximum penalty of two to 20 years in prison, Wiatt said. Police believe the burglary was committed late Saturday or early Sunday.

Grammas will be tried in Brazos County first because charges against him here take precedence over the Clute charges, he said.

Police found items in the room of Grammas' friend in Dorm 9 that they believe are connected with burglaries in Clute, Wiatt said.

Wiatt said Grammas originally claimed that would-be assailants had chased him through woods near Lake Jackson and had left him for dead after shooting him three times — being unaware that Grammas was wearing armor. But after further questioning, Grammas admitted that he had shot his clothes himself, Wiatt said.

Grammas reportedly told University Police that he participated in a auto-theft ring in the Killen/Copperas Cove area in 1984-1985, but claims that he was forced to commit the thefts against his will, Wiatt said.

Eviction

(Continued from page 1)

believes the action by the campus officials was drastic.

"We've (students) talked to so many people that said they had to do something, but this is kind of drastic," Bolner said. "I wouldn't

call myself an innocent bystander because I was written up last semester. But I was told to straighten up and I did. It's kind of strange when you stay out of trouble and then you get booted anyway."

Reform

(Continued from page 1)

ators attended the meeting when the bill was voted on.

The Senate already has a strict absence policy — after more than one absence per semester, senators are called before the Internal Affairs Committee to explain their actions. But Hays says the policy is lightly enforced — all a senator must do is show up before the committee after being notified by mail and he'll be pardoned.

"The absence policy now really says that the only way to get kicked out is to fail to respond to a certified letter," Hays said.

Student Body President Mike Sims said some senators have been concerned for three years that the Senate has been acting at less than peak efficiency. But while he deplors the failure of the bill, he says he understands it.

"Psychologically, no group would want to cut itself in half," he said. "But it appears apparent to me that a student body of about 36,000 can't support a Senate of over 51 members."

But many members disagreed — some quite vehemently.

Douglas Baird, chairman of the External Affairs Committee, said he didn't think such a small number of senators could effectively legislate for over 36,000 students, because that would leave only one senator to each 1,500 students.

He said the bill was an attempt to solve all the Senate's problems at one time.

"I think they were trying to solve the problems the wrong way," he said. "If something's not broken why fix it?"

"If attendance is the problem, develop an attendance policy. We need to look at the leadership of the Student Senate and make sure it's doing its job. I think it is, to some degree."

Jose Castro, chairman of the Student Services Committee, also lobbied against the bill and suggested the Senate, which is considered to have about 50 active members out of 87, might end up with only 30 active members if its total size were cut to 51.

"Usually in an election it's not who is the best leader that gets elected, it's who has the best sign," Castro said. "We always try to get people involved and by cutting the Senate in

half, we could lose the really good people."

Castro also laid part of the blame on the Senate leadership.

"I think it's the duty of the speaker of the Senate to keep senators involved and interested," he said. "Ever since I've been in the Senate, the speakers have done the same thing. There ought to be something else, something extra that we do to make it more interesting."

Bradshaw said he didn't think it was his job to make sure everyone gets involved and has a good time.

"There are a lot of social organizations on campus, and if Jose wants to be social he should join one of those," he said. "As speaker, I can only do so many things, and I'm not getting much help from the chairmen."

"We have the problem of 87 people with different opinions of whether to recreate or legislate, and I think most want to do their jobs and go home."

Castro suggested alternatives to the reform bill, such as a stricter attendance policy or making the Senate a bicameral government with a house and a senate.

Bradshaw responded wryly, "Let's

hear it for bureaucracy."

So the debate continues — and the issue is far from dead.

At Wednesday's meeting, a strict attendance bill will be introduced which mandates that if senators miss two meetings, they will lose their positions.

These seats would remain vacant until the end of the semester. From past attendance, this could, in effect, cut the Senate size in half by the end of next year.

But many consider the stigma of irrelevancy to be the real stumbling block facing the organization. And as the Senate will take final action on no more than two bills at this week's meeting, that question will remain open.

Hays says that although the bill failed to reach its goal, it did publicize a longstanding Senate problem.

"A lot of people took it as a personal attack, and it wasn't meant that way at all," Hays said.

"We just want to make this group something people want to be a part of," he said.

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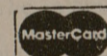
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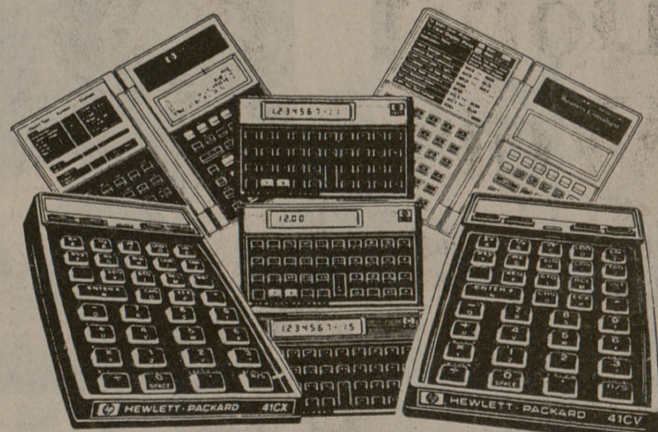
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