

## Editorial Board endorsement

Five good candidates. That's The Battalion Editorial Board's consensus. The slate of hopefuls running for student body president is well-balanced, well-informed and generally well-qualified. Any one of them — David Alders, Diane Baumbach, Keith Carmichael, Jay Holland and Grant Swartzwelder — would make a good president.

But this is an important election — not only for Student Government, but for the entire student body. Texas A&M students cannot afford to elect a candidate on name recognition alone, nor should it elect a candidate who isn't willing to take a stand.

The Faculty Senate has already shown it is serious about making changes around Aggieland. Texas A&M students need to make sure their elected representatives are serious also. That is the only way the student viewpoint can be presented — and listened to. In decisions that affect students, the

students should have their say. After serious and sometimes heated discussion, the Board decided, considering the importance of this election, to endorse a candidate for student body president. It was a controversial decision even among the Board members. The editorial page editor was opposed to endorsing a candidate because of the ethical issues involved and abstained from the final vote.

But after meeting with each of the candidates, the Board feels one candidate would be best able to stand up for what the students want. That candidate is Diane Baumbach.

Baumbach's emphasis on foresight is important. Foresight — so that students aren't caught unaware on issues such as senior final exemptions — is crucial. Potential decisions on core curriculum and student service fee increases will affect all Texas A&M students, and our student body president needs to make sure the Student Senate

is aware of all issues facing students — and is ready to deal with these issues. Her aggressiveness and dedication to standing up for the students — without alienating the "powers that be" — impressed the Board.

Baumbach is knowledgeable on the issues that Texas A&M will face in 1984-85. Her willingness to work with other student organizations — such as the MSC Council — is a plus.

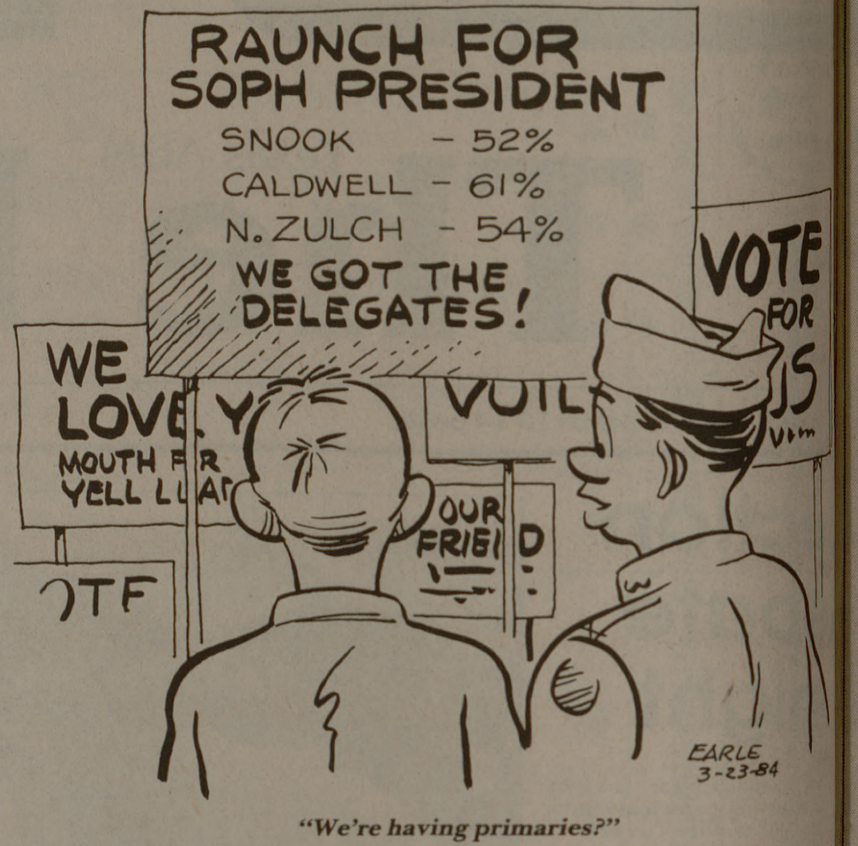
But perhaps her strongest quality is her ability to see what Student Government is now, and to envision what it can become. She is perceptive enough to see the strengths and weaknesses of the present system and is not afraid to make changes to improve it.

On the basis of her interview with the Board, we endorse Diane Baumbach for Texas A&M's 1984-85 student body president.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"We're having primaries?"

## Students endorse candidates

### Alders qualified and committed

**Editor:** David Alders is the man for student body president. Students must be an integral part of the policy-making process at Texas A&M. Under Alders' leadership, we can be assured our interests will be represented professionally and credibly. Alders has earned the respect of those who know him — his peers, the faculty and the administration. As speaker of the Student Senate, student representative to the Faculty Senate, member of the Chancellor's Student Advisory Board, and state president and national vice president of FFA, Alders has exhibited the qualifications necessary for the position of student body president.

However, these positions represent more than just titles — they stand for experience, performance and commitment. It is this proven commitment which warrants the support of all students.

A year from now you will be glad you elected Alders student body president.

**Kelly Kiesling, Class of '84**  
**Alan Hill, Class of '84**  
**David Klosterboer, Class of '86**  
**Brian Terrell, Class of '84**

### Baumbach for action, foresight

**Editor:** Diane Baumbach is the candidate who has the ability and experience to represent the students of Texas A&M.

An effective student body president needs foresight, communication and action. Baumbach has the ability to foresee future issues and provide solutions. She has promised to take action on such issues as campus security, the core curriculum program, student fees and short-range parking solutions.

Baumbach stresses the need to effectively communicate with the student body and student organizations. While speaker pro tem, she developed and implemented "Project Visibility," a program to increase contact between senators and their constituents. Baumbach has the commitment to meet with other student leaders to solve campus problems.

Baumbach is the one candidate with substantial experience outside Student Government. This year, she was chair-

man of MSC ORION and served on the Student Financial Aid Board. She also has former experience in Student Y, Fish Camp, MSC Fall Leadership and various honor societies.

Baumbach exemplifies the qualities I see as important to any student leader. She will be one of the most dynamic student body presidents ever.

**Mike Cook**  
**Class of '85**

### Carmichael for cooperation

**Editor:** I would like to take this opportunity to share with you and your readers who I feel is the best candidate for student body president.

Keith Carmichael is not only committed, dedicated and concerned for the job he does, but also for the people he represents.

The main qualities Carmichael possesses that would make him the best choice for student body president are his outgoing personality and his sincere desire to represent each individual.

Carmichael has the ability to reach out to people and make their problems his problems, something this position requires. He has a genuine understanding of the job of student body president and feels that it is more than just a position of leadership — it requires the coordination of 36,000 students.

If Carmichael were elected he would truly be a president of the student body, not just the leader of Student Government.

If you're looking for a candidate who will make use of the entire student body through joint cooperation in trying to solve whatever problems we might face, I encourage you, along with me, to support Carmichael for student body president.

**Darrell Pickard**  
**Class of '85**

### Holland to take a stand on issues

**Editor:** The name Jay Holland should be familiar to most students by now. He is running for the most important student office on campus.

Holland will bring many new and refreshing changes to Student Government. Student Government is a very worthwhile organization, but it definitely needs a facelift.

There are too many people within

Student Government who refuse to take a stand on the issues. Holland will take a stand — in the students' favor — no matter how controversial the issue is.

Inadequate representation stems from the do-nothing policies of many members. Holland is concentrating on people, not politics. He will best represent you with an open door policy. He will enact new ideas and suggestions from you, the students.

Unlike many in Student Government, Holland has taken the proper mixture of responsibility and student input and run with it. Unlike many, he has fulfilled his responsibilities to date.

Under the leadership of Jay Holland, Student Government will take a turn for the better.

**Mark Maniha**  
**Class of '85**

### Swartzwelder to increase input

**Editor:** I would like to offer my endorsement for Grant Swartzwelder for Student Body President.

As a Student Body Vice President, Swartzwelder has proven his willingness to go to the students with information on issues of concern. He realizes that representative government is only as effective as the input it receives.

As Student Body President, Swartzwelder will strive to unite the student organizations. This coordination requires a student body president able to relate to a variety of organizations. Swartzwelder has been active in groups from engineering societies to Parents' Weekend to various national political campaigns.

Swartzwelder has the background to ensure that his objectives become reality. His experience with the Office of Academic Affairs will aid the student body's fight to maintain optional finals and to represent student views within the administration and Faculty Senate.

It is time Student Government has a leader that is willing to show direction through an increased dedication to quality student representation and involvement. Swartzwelder will positively ensure a Student Government responsive to the student body.

**Scott Murray**  
**Class of '85**

## Student organizations favor fee hike proposal

By now many of you have no doubt seen students walking around campus wearing yellow tags that read, "Vote I(b) We Need It!!"

Hopefully, you took a few minutes to find out just what it is we need.

The tags refer to the upcoming referendum concerning the student center complex fee. The referendum will be held in conjunction with the spring elections on March 27-28. Item I(b) is an alternative on the ballot recommending a \$10 increase in the current \$10 fee over the next three years, \$6 of which will go to the University Center and \$4 of which will go into a special reserve fund. The new reserve fund will provide

the Memorial Student Center, a facility that we will need more than ever in the future. While students campaign an entirely new facility, the reserve fund will ensure student participation in the planning and construction stages of any renovations. Students play an active role in the distribution of any funds from the reserve account.

The University Center Fee has remained at \$10 since 1973. Expenses have skyrocketed due to Legislature mandated salary increases, inflation, developments and escalating costs.

If the fee is not increased, changing student users for staff and special services will increase, a surcharge assessed on all ticketed events, and rent vital services offered within the Center could be reduced. All these possibilities would have a severe impact on students.

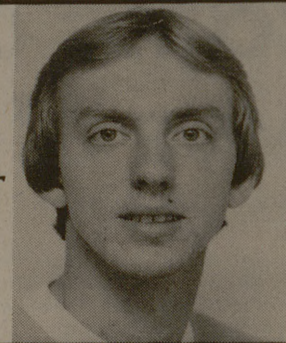
Some concerns students have over the fee increase is the concept of user versus a student-wide payment. A wide range of services offered by the University Center makes it impractical to assess higher fees on just the user of the Center. Expenditures for maintenance and upkeep, recarpentering, reupholstering are difficult to attribute to a specific user.

The Student Senate at its last meeting passed a resolution in favor of option I(b). Student leaders from OCA, ISA, MSC and the Corps of Cadets strongly endorse option I(b) and the concept of a reserve fund. Regarding your decision, we hope you make an effort to read the flyers and articles you have a good understanding of what are voting on.

Guest columnist Eric Conner, MSC executive vice president for administration, student body referendum coordinator and a senior civil engineering major.

eric

conner



for student management and input into the services the University Center provides and establish a means for long-term additions or improvements to the Center.

Most importantly, the reserve fund will provide a source of money to be used for student-supported priorities within the University Center.

At present, students have little input into the way University Center fees are allocated. Consequently, students have little opportunity to direct money to areas within the University Center that would provide expanded space and services to students.

With the overcrowded conditions in

## Student senator says Proposal I(b) will not increase student's input

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed increase in the University Center Fee which the student body will have the option of accepting by referendum in the student elections on March 27 and 28.

In my three years as a senator in the Student Senate, I have had the opportunity to hear and discuss the proposed University Center Fee increase. I agree that an increase in the fee is needed, but I don't have the faith in the "guarantee" that students will have significant input as to the use of the fee or any reserve fund it may generate.

On March 21, the Student Senate discussed a resolution supporting option I(b) of the referendum, which would essentially establish an extra reserve fund which could be used to expand or improve the Memorial Student Center.

I objected to supporting this option. In the past, student input to the administrative operation of the MSC complex

has been nil, and no written understanding has been established with the MSC Director about the future.

Student Body President Joe Jordan pointed out that the Student Govern-

reader's

forum

ment had already passed a bill which included the request that the MSC Director should report his activities to the MSC Council, so that they could be kept informed and propose student ideas. Also, Jordan stated that the extensive negotiations that have brought this referendum to the student body would be kept on the record so that ideas on increased student input could be documented.

With this we were expected to get

guaranteed student input if the reserve fund under option I(b) is approved, but I can't believe this.

By state law the University Center is contractually bound to accept student input, but I feel that the students deserve a written understanding from the MSC Director and the University administration that student input is actively sought and given careful consideration.

With this referendum, the student body will have control of the "purse strings." If defeated now, new negotiations with the administration can be pursued to reach our goal of getting student input. Then the issue can be put to a vote in next fall's freshman senate election.

Though the Student Senate voted 13 to support option I(b), with all senators absent, I hope the student body will join me in voting for no increase in the University Center Fee.

CHIEF

Grad student, Chemical Engineering

### The Battalion

USPS 045 360

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#### Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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