

Students voice differing political opinions

Texas A&M Young Democrats praise Mondale/Ferraro

By DIB WALDRIP
Reporter

Texas A&M Young Democrats support the Mondale/Ferraro ticket and the Democratic platform wholeheartedly, said Young Democrats president, Gary Young, Friday.

Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale is a people person, Young said, and Mondale's policies represent the mainstream beliefs of the U.S. citizens.

Mondale's running mate Geraldine Ferraro is a great administrator, a very strong person, said YD vice-president Catherine Poole.

"Ferraro is a great gal!" she said. "It was a courageous move by Mondale, and I applaud him."

Ferraro is an asset to the Democratic ticket, Young said.

The platform is the most moderate platform in years, Young said. He has not heard any complaints from the YD's concerning the platform, he said.

The major disagreement within the party at the convention dealt with the minority planks introduced in committee, Young said.

Mondale will place his priorities in different areas if elected, and Mondale will shift the tax burden away from the poor and middle class, young said.

The bulk of military spending should be spent on preparing troops and building conventional weapons, not spent on nuclear arms, Young said.

Military life should be upgraded to help recruit those who otherwise would be on welfare, Poole said.

Many Democrats believe President Reagan has thrown too much money at the problem without knowing exactly what the problem is, Young said.

"We need to have a defense, but not an offense," Young said.

On foreign policy matters, the YD's believe that the people of Central America should be helped, but the solution is not military action, Poole said.

"The number one problem in Central America is poverty," Young said.

Most Democrats disagree with the way Reagan handled the Grenada situation; however, it was obvious

that some action had to be taken, Young said.

The YD's support the Equal Rights Amendment and equal pay for equal work, Poole said.

"I feel that the Republican women do not support the Republican's stand on ERA," she said. "It is an insult to all women."

The YD's believe abortion must be a personal decision, but abortion should not be used as a birth control measure, Young said.

On homosexuality, YD's believe in tolerance as long as it is a private matter, Young said. However, the YD's do not support affirmative action for homosexuals, he said.

Most Democrats support "tough restraints" on handguns as a crime prevention measure, Young said. The present gun registration system needs improvement, he said.

The Democrats oppose a school prayer amendment because the United States is a country of many religions, not just Christians, Poole said. The YD's do not oppose voluntary prayer.

Since the convention, many conservative democrats will stay with the party because of the moderate platform, Young said.

According to Poole, the Republicans will have more desertions to the other party because of the extreme positions of the Republican platform.

"Ronald Reagan is a great statesman and image maker, but he has no substance," Young said. "The debates will kill Reagan because of his policies."

The Republicans are trying to make the Democrats look less patriotic, but Democrats are just as patriotic as anyone, Poole said.

"We have a good tradition of Aggie Democrats like Sul Ross and Earl Rudder," Young said.

The YD's are working with students and the community to reverse the apathetic attitude toward politics and elections, Poole said.

Aggie G.O.P. says Republican platform suits most Aggies

By KATHERINE HURT
Reporter

The Republican platform reflects an optimistic attitude in America that has been gathering momentum since Ronald Reagan was elected president four years ago, Grant Swartzwelder, president of the Aggie G.O.P. (formerly College Republicans), said Friday.

The American public is beginning to see that the Republican party represents a better way of life because under the Reagan administration the economy has improved, taxes have been lowered and the national defense system is being restored to a position of international supremacy, Swartzwelder said.

"The platform easily suits most people at A&M," Swartzwelder, a senior petroleum engineer from Duncanville, said.

He said the Aggie G.O.P. has registered over 800 students to vote in the Republican Party in the past three days.

"These students include a cross-section of students from the Greeks to the Corps and represent the student body as a whole," he said.

Though the Republican platform has been called too conservative by some moderate Republicans, Lia Stokes, secretary of Aggie G.O.P.,

said it does not alienate moderate student Republicans in the Aggie G.O.P.

"If we (Republicans) work from a conservative base, we can relax on certain measures and become more liberal to please everyone," she said.

Many moderate student Democrats, however, feel that the Democratic platform is far too liberal, Stokes said, and many have registered to vote this year in the Republican Party because they feel more comfortable with its conservative platform.

Stokes said many student Democrats who support House Representative Phil Gramm of College Station aligned with Republicans when he joined that party almost two years ago.

There is a general consensus among Aggie G.O.P. members concerning issues in the Republican platform, Stokes said.

"We support his (Reagan's) economic plans 100 percent, as well as his plans for strong national defense," she said.

In regard to Reagan's and the Republicans' economic plans, Swartzwelder said he believes Republicans are committed to an "ironclad" promise they made in their platform to oppose "any attempts to increase

taxes," as long as the economy continues to recover.

In view of the large national deficit, Swartzwelder said Reagan's opposition to any new taxes is feasible because Reagan supports measures to cut federal spending and because Reagan supports a constitutional amendment calling for a balanced budget.

Swartzwelder said he feels a balanced budget amendment is a good idea as long as it is enacted properly.

"A budget amendment will be likely to pass as long as we (Republicans) win a majority of both the House and the Senate," he said.

Swartzwelder also supports a measure in the platform that calls for a presidential line-item veto. The line-item veto would allow the president to veto small parts of the budget without vetoing the entire budget. He believes the veto would give the president control over the federal budget that is currently denied him.

President Reagan's large national defense budget doesn't worry Swartzwelder. He said that once America's defense system regains its position of international superiority, that suffered so much during the Carter/Mondale administration, defense spending will level off.

America is safer now than it was in past years, he said, because of Rea-

gan's "sound leadership and hard-line stance on defense and foreign policy."

The Aggie G.O.P. also supports the Republican stance on nuclear power, Swartzwelder said. The government needs to continue tight control and regulation, he said, and added that "the dangers exist, but the long-term benefits (of nuclear power) outweigh them."

He said other forms of energy like oil shale and solar need to be promoted because "our natural resources won't last forever."

Stokes said the Aggie G.O.P. supports Republican opinion that "there is no necessity for the Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.)." She agrees with the idea of equal pay for equal work but said there are other laws, like the fourteenth amendment, that guarantee equal pay. Stokes said the E.R.A. is "just a feminist movement."

Swartzwelder applauded Republicans' support of prayer in the public schools because, he said, "This country was created under God and we shouldn't desert Him now because of minority complaints."

He favors non-denominational prayer by the students in a quiet period each day.

International students support republicans

By BRAD WHITTEN
Reporter

Ronald Reagan and the Republican Party have a better foreign policy than Walter Mondale and the Democrats, according to many international students at Texas A&M.

"I like the way Reagan has been asserting himself around the world," said Nabil Abou-Kheir, a Lebanese graduate student.

He said he likes the way Reagan is counterattacking the Soviet influence.

"I don't like Mondale's policies," Abou-Kheir said. "The United States was pushed around under the Carter administration. Reagan is helping to put the U.S. back into a position of respect."

Nazim Nemur, a senior in industrial engineering from the United Arab Emirates, said Reagan should be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but Mondale is for it, Nemur said.

He said he thought Reagan could do more internationally than Mondale.

Wahid Sliema, a Palestinian, said he also thought Reagan was a strong president.

"I don't think Mondale would address any of the problems in the Middle East," he said. "There is a better chance that Reagan will do something because he is in office and has already taken some initiative."

"It seems like whenever you get a new president in it takes him a while to get things together. At the end of four years they are re-

ady to do something and they are voted out of office."

He said that the U.S. was only country that could influence the Middle East and find a solution and that Reagan has the foreign policy that could bring about a change.

Claudio Carrasco, a junior microbiology from Chile, said Reagan has done something for his country by recognizing it.

"Chili is better off than under Carter," he said. "Democrats didn't give us as much support as in any way. The Republicans are much more inclined to support nations like Chili."

Eduardo Mendez, a Venezuelan working on his master's business computing science, said the U.S. has supported "bad governments" in the past but things are changing.

"Americans are more now about things in South America," he said. "Reagan and the Republicans are becoming more concerned with human rights. They aren't supporting governments just so they will be on the side of the U.S."

Estuardo Moran, a first-year agriculture student from Guatemala, said Mondale couldn't be strong as president as Reagan.

"Reagan has a better philosophy about economic aid," Moran said. "I just hope that Congress will accept his bills."

"Things in South America haven't been getting worse under Reagan like they were under Carter. We needed economic aid under Carter and Mondale would give it to us. If Reagan stays in office I think Central America will become more stable."

Crimestoppers

Sometime during the week of May 19, someone used a key to gain access to rooms 323 & 324 of the Zachry Engineering Building on the Texas A&M University campus. Burglars stole an Apple Office System Computer, serial # A3243722139508 and a TI-PC Computer with color monitor, serial # 3564130193.

In the same building, about four days later, burglars used a key to

steal a T.I. Computer, serial # 0764140571, a printer and board. These computer systems valued at nearly \$15,000.

With your help, Crime Stoppers and the Texas A&M Police Department will put the persons responsible for these break-ins in jail.

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General Meeting

Interested in meeting a diverse and exciting group of people, planning controversial and informative programs and enhancing your social life? Join us Tuesday, September 4 and find out what opportunities MSC Great Issues has to offer you!

301 Rudder Tower
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