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Photo by DEAN SALT

Reagan supporters numbered about 210 and Mondale supporters about 40 at a debate Wednesday night.

Students debate election issues

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Staff Writer

About 250 people debated Wednesday night to resolve the issue of whether Ronald Reagan or Walter Mondale should win the upcoming presidential election.

The debate, "Resolved: Ronald Reagan should be re-elected in the November election," began at 7 p.m. with opening remarks by Patrick Hoiby, a junior political science major, speaking in favor of Reagan. He was followed by Gary Young, a senior economics major, speaking in favor of Mondale.

"A feeling of patriotism prevails in this country which stems from Reagan's revival of the economy and a sound defense policy," Hoiby said. "Since Reagan took the oath of office, seven million new jobs have been created and morale is at a new high."

Hoiby went on to ask the audience how they would feel about Geraldine Ferraro in the White House.

"Ferraro changes her mind about

as often as she changes her clothes," Hoiby said.

Cheers came from the audience when Hoiby concluded and said: "About all we have seen from Mondale is a big smile. We all know what happened when we elected a president with a big smile."

Young began his speech by saying Reagan doesn't stand on what he says.

"Reagan signed a law in California favoring abortion, but now he calls it murder," Young said. "He also has increased taxes on the lower-class population and increased the debt to \$1 trillion."

Young also accused Reagan of being a part-time president who relies on his staff.

"Forty-five members of Reagan's staff have either been accused, indicted or convicted," Young said.

Young concluded his speech by saying all Reagan deserved was an academy award.

Following Young's speech, the audience took part in the debate. Peo-

ple in favor of Reagan sat on the right side of the room while people favoring Mondale sat on the left.

At the beginning of the debate, about 190 people were on Reagan's side while about 60 were on Mondale's side.

Much of the hour-long discussion was spent debating the issue of prayer in school, although issues including the nuclear arms race, the economy and foreign policy also were debated.

A Mondale supporter said he felt Mondale's plan to tax the upper and middle-class population would benefit Texas A&M students "because they need these breaks."

A Reagan supporter said she was in favor of the incumbent because she plans on being a member of the upper-class soon after graduation.

On the issue of foreign policy, Reagan supporters stressed the fact no soil has been lost to the Soviet Union during the present administration while Mondale supporters attacked policy in Central America.

Reagan supporters generally favored the buildup of nuclear weapons. One supporter said the United States needed to be stronger than the Soviet Union.

A Mondale supporter summed their position best: "Who cares about nuclear war, if it happens we're going to be fried anyway."

About 20 people sitting on the side favoring Mondale moved Reagan's side amid loud cheering and lively applause following a speech by a Reagan supporter concerning prayer in school.

"Catholics and Baptists pray essentially the same things," the reporter said. "I don't think we should elect a president on this issue. Nuclear arms, we need to deal with them."

A poll was taken at the end of the debate to see which candidate the audience favored.

Robin Wranosky, the Election Chairman, said 206 people voted Reagan while 38 favored Mondale.

Profs debate United Nations support

By DIB WALDRIP
Reporter

Should the United States continue to support the United Nations? The Texas A&M Bahai Club sponsored a panel discussion Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center to examine U.S. participation in U.N. affairs.

Dr. William Snyder, associate professor of political science, and Dr. Mehrdad Ehsani, assistant professor of electrical engineering, voiced opposing views on the issue to twenty people.

Snyder said the United Nations

failed to live up to the expectations of "Franklin Roosevelt's wartime dream."

Roosevelt thought the United Nations would keep the United States out of foreign disputes, and the international organization would settle the disputes, Snyder said.

Ehsani said the United Nations provides more than just a ground for settling international disputes. The United Nations provides many necessary services to the United States and to many other countries.

The United Nations helps under-

developed countries learn the lan-

guage of international policy and U.N. support organizations such as UNICEF give aid to many needy children around the world.

Snyder said the United States should not withdraw from the United Nations because the Soviet Union would take over in a short period of time, but he also said the United States is bearing too much of the burden.

The United States paid more than 25 percent of the United Nation's expenses in the mid-1970s, Snyder said.

Ehsani said the 25 percent of the

United Nation's \$600 million budget breaks down to 37 cents per American citizen per year.

Correction

The program which will sponsor the selling of computers to students through the Texas A&M Bookstore will begin in the Spring of 1985, not the Spring of 1986 as reported in Tuesday's Battalion.

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