

STATE AND LOCAL

# Barton conducts town meeting

By MIKE DAVIS  
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Joe Barton voiced his support for tax reform, a balanced budget and cuts in student grants and loans to more than 100 persons at the College Station Community Center Wednesday evening.

Barton gave a synopsis of the more than 70 pieces of legislation that he has either sponsored or co-sponsored and then answered questions from the audience.

Barton said the legislation he is most proud of is the one he authored — the balanced budget amendment, which proposes that the federal government's total budgetary outlays not exceed revenues and also places a limit on the total amount of the federal debt.

"I think that we have to bite-the-bullet on the spending side before we raise taxes," Barton said.

Even though Barton voted for continued production on the MX missile, he said military spending should be included in budget cuts. Barton recommends that this be done by closing down unneeded military bases.

Barton said he has received more mail about tax reform than any other issue.

"We are going to have tax re-

form," Barton said. "It may not happen this year, but the debate is going to begin this year. It's going to be a flatter rate... there will be fewer brackets."

Barton also gave his views on other legislation:

Barton said he supports the President's proposal to limit student aid to \$4,000 per student per year; he supports raising the maximum speed limit on rural sections of interstate highways if safety will not be adversely affected; he supports the confiscation of property owned by those convicted of drug trafficking; and he opposes IRS regulations requiring detailed record keeping of business vehicles.

Even though Barton cannot vote on the state tuition hike, Barton said he supports it. He said Texas has the lowest tuition rates of any public educational system in the nation.

In order to balance the state budget, he said, a raise in state tuition is necessary.

Barton was congratulated and thanked by various persons in the audience.

"I'm not used to everybody thanking me," Barton said. "This is an unusual town meeting. I'm going to have to do these more often here in Bryan/College Station."

# Student Government's role, function debated

*'Does anybody at A&M care?'*

By SHERRIE COUCH  
Reporter

Publicity fliers for the Political Science Society and Pi Sigma Alpha panel discussion on the role of Student Government, posed the question: Does anybody care?

"Does anybody really care?" David Alders, 1984-85 student body president asked at the Wednesday night meeting. "Maybe the student body doesn't care about Student Government, but we can't force feed information to the student body."

The panel for the discussion was made up of Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student service; Dr. Murray Milford, speaker of the Faculty Senate; Diane Baumbach, speaker for the 1984-85 Student Senate; Pat Wood, MSC council president; Ed Cassavoy, columnist for The Battalion; Wayne Roberts, chairman of the student grievances committee; David Ellis, president of SWAMP; and Alders.

The discussion began with opening statements from each panel member. Next, Mike Northrup, president of Pi Sigma Alpha and moderator of the discussion, threw out questions to the panelists.

Students are given the opportunity to voice their dissatisfactions and opinions about Student Government at grievance meetings, but do not take advantage of the meetings, Roberts said.

Artificial obstructions, such as keeping information that should be public record from the public, is a major shortcoming with Student Government, said Ed Cassavoy, staff columnist for The Battalion.

"Student Government is a student organization (designed) to hear and to help students," Cassavoy said. Roberts agreed with Cassavoy about artificial obstructions within Student Government, but said the problem was in the Student Senate. The Senate is really not concentrating and devoting enough time to the issues, Roberts said.

Student Government needs to become a legislative force, Ellis said. The focus should be on lobbying, and not the promotional side of Student Government, he said.

Another question Ellis raised was why a student was not a member on the Board of Regents.

Baumbach said senators have never brought this issue to the Senate before. Either senators have never thought about it, or did not think the issue was worth pursuing, she said.

"Basically students at A&M are content," Baumbach said. "Content is a very wrong word," Ellis disagreed. "Maybe bored. Apathetic is a good word."

Apathy is a severe problem and there is potential for the problem to be solved, Wood said. Student Government has the opportunity to take on the big issues that people care about, he said.

Koldus and Murray Milford touched on the administration's concerns with Student Government. Koldus said he tries not to influence Student Government. Milford stressed the need for the Faculty Senate and the Student Senate to work together.

# Commander wants professional attitude developed in Corps

By ROBIN ROBERTSON  
Reporter

Corps Cmdr. Curt Van de Walle said Wednesday during Sully's Symposium that he wants to create a more professional attitude in the Corps of Cadets.

"The Corps now goes back to building blocks," he said. "Let's build in the right direction."

"We must get the Corps built back after we had our feet knocked out from under us. I'm not stressing a military approach as much as I am professionalism in the Corps."

Van de Walle said he does not want to change Texas A&M into a military academy. He does want to hang on to traditions of the Corps and the University, he said.

"I am not trying to do away with what the Corps is or what it stands for," said Van de Walle.

However, Van DeWalle said the cadets can build a new system for the Corps.

"We can make the Corps what it should be," he said.

Van de Walle said a lot of the cadets are confused and do not know where the Corps is going.

"The cadets need to think about what they can put into the Corps and what they want to get out of the Corps," he said.



Curt Van de Walle

The number of cadets may decrease next semester; however, once the rebuilding begins, the enrollment should increase, he said.

Van de Walle said many people have many of misconceptions about the Corps.

"We need to get away from these misconceptions," he said, "but it is hard for non-regs to understand. They only see the bad."

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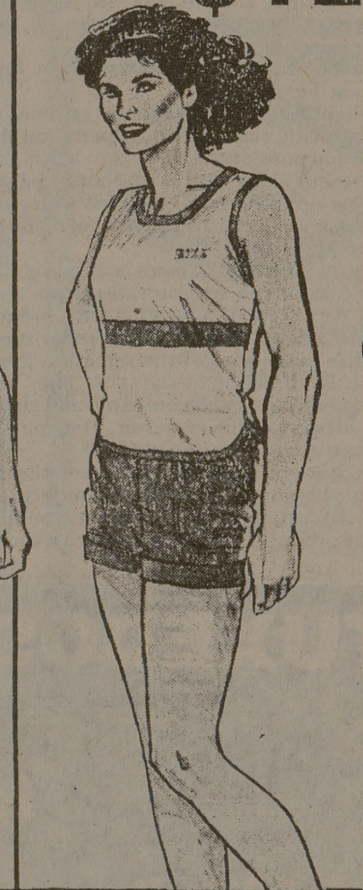
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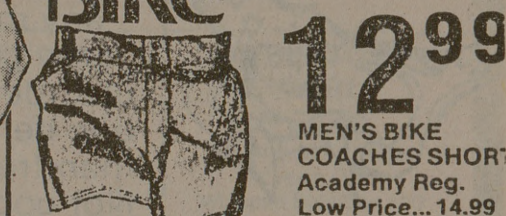
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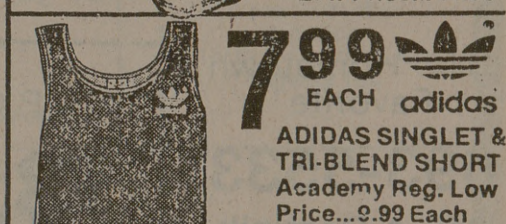
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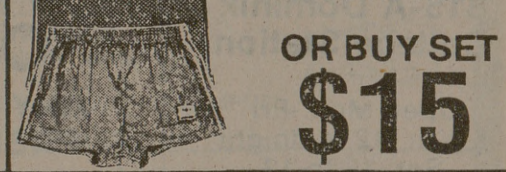
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