

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 83 No. 20 USPS 045360 14 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, September 26, 1986

House approves federal tax overhaul bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House easily approved a watershed overhaul of the federal tax code today, promising a tax cut for millions of Americans and an increased burden for business.

By a 292-136 vote, the House passed the sweeping measure and sent it to the Senate, where final congressional approval is expected by the end of next week.

Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., a chief author of the bill, said, "We are going to let the American people know that their legislative process is

working, that when they request of their leaders in Washington a change, that we respond."

The legislation, he added, responds to a public demand "that the family down the street or the corporation across town can't beat the system any longer."

Rep. Jack F. Kemp, R-N.Y., said, "We must not pass up this historic opportunity to make a contribution to those elements of the American economy that have long been neglected: the working poor, the family, labor and capital."

Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, D-Mass., in closing the debate, said, "This is the most sweeping tax-reform legislation in the history of this nation. If we pass this bill, the 99th Congress will assume a special place in the history of this country."

Within moments of the bill's passage, Rostenkowski strode to his office and hanged a "Gone Fishin'" sign on the door.

The bill would cut individual and corporate tax rates deeply and eliminate or reduce several deductions

and exclusions, including those for Individual Retirement Accounts, consumer interest and sales taxes. On the average, individual taxes would be cut about 6.1 percent — less than \$4 a week — and more than 6 million working poor would be dropped from the tax rolls. Several million couples and individuals would face tax increases.

Over the next five years, corporations would pay a \$120-billion greater share of the tax burden and business would lose a major incentive for job-creating investments —

changes that worry some lawmakers and economists.

Members of both parties spoke against the measure — expressing fears that it would damage an already sluggish economy, impose another burden on the middle class or destroy jobs in their districts.

Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, said, "There is both good and bad in this bill. The risks associated with the bad outweigh hoped-for benefits of the good."

Archer tried to have the bill sent

back to the Senate and House negotiators who produced the final compromise — a move that probably would have killed it. He was defeated, 268-160.

Rostenkowski told the House the poses no threat to the economy.

"About the only people I haven't heard from are those people this bill does the most for — low- and middle-income families," he said. "They are the men and women to whom we must make our case, no matter which way we vote."

Alumni gifts to UT, LSU may escape tax rules

Athletic boosters to receive tax deductions

By Sondra Pickard
Senior Staff Writer

With a little strategic lobbying, a little luck, and what amounts to being in the right place at the right time, the University of Texas and

Louisiana State University have managed to outsmart the nation's tax reform bill in at least one area — athletics.

A timely pork-barrel addition to the bill will make UT and LSU the only two schools in the country whose athletic boosters will be able to make tax-deductible contributions as charitable gifts.

Earlier this year, an Internal Revenue Service ruling eliminated the deduction for donors whose gifts earned them the right to purchase specially reserved tickets for athletic events. Scholarship donors who receive similar ticket privileges at other universities will be prohibited from taking the tax write-off.

For UT, the special addition is a result of the work of Rep. J.J. Pickle, D-Austin, while Sen. Russell Long, D-La., was the first to achieve the exclusive legislation for LSU — located in his hometown of Baton Rouge.

John Havens, Pickle's press secretary, said concerned UT lobbyists asked Pickle if the ruling prohibiting deductions on contributions could be changed. Later, Pickle was told by the IRS that the ruling could not be overturned.

Meanwhile, in the Senate, Long was able to get the write-off for LSU, at which time legislators decided the House also should have the opportunity to write in what is commonly called a "transition rule."

"Mr. Pickle happened to be the only member who raised the entire issue on the House side," Havens said. "There was very little he could do but say yes. It wouldn't have been a good decision on his part to refuse it for UT because he felt like the previous ruling was bad."

Havens said Pickle's original intent was to get the ruling overturned for all universities, but he said UT was the only school to get the offer,

so Pickle naturally took advantage of the situation.

He said transition rules are by no means unusual.

"The reason this one came to such attention is that a lot of other universities out there feel these two were singled out," Havens said. "We're taking a bad rap on this but there was never any effort to exclude A&M or any other school."

"UT was the only school in Texas to bring it to Mr. Pickle's attention."

An A&M System official said this kind of "horse trading" in committee is quite common. The official said Pickle obviously has a close relationship with UT.

"Every member probably got to put in a little pet project," the official said. "That's part of the way they do business — that's pork barrel."

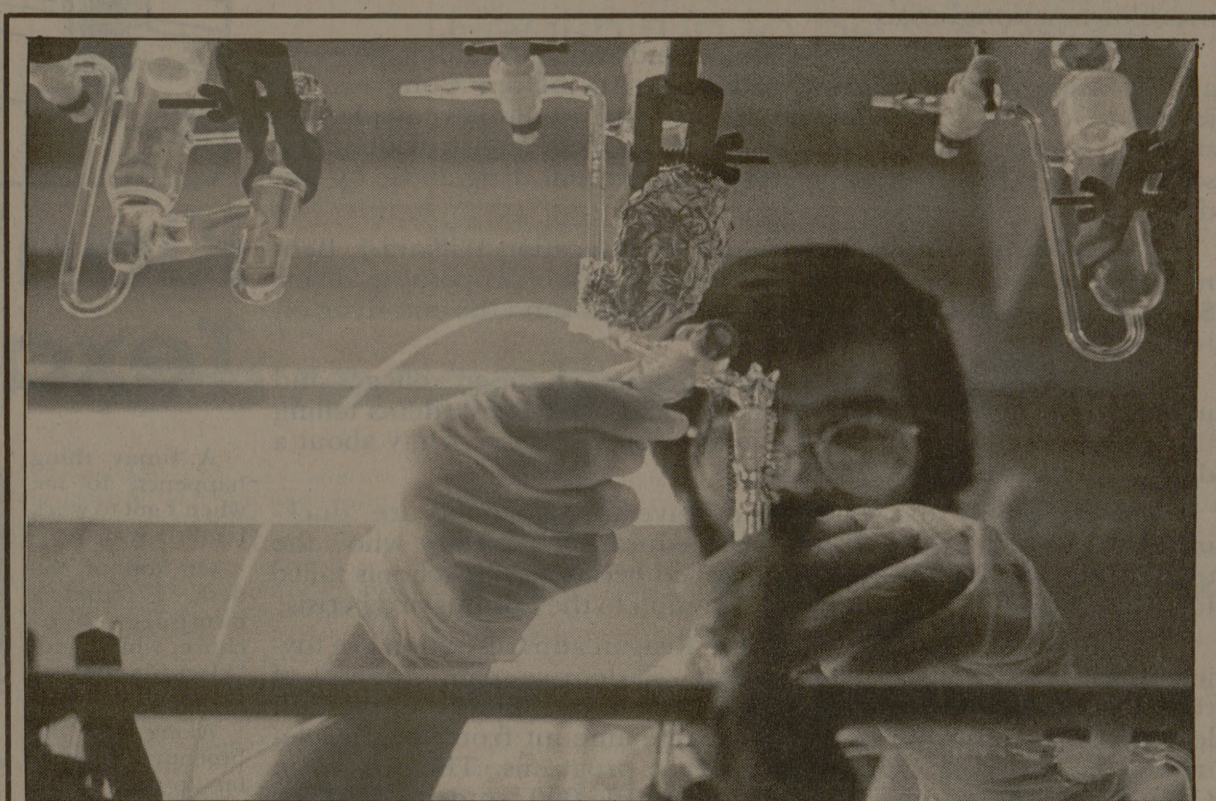
Neither UT nor LSU is specifically mentioned in the tax bill's pages. But Craig Helwig, UT assistant athletic director for development, said the added wording clearly indicates which schools are designated.

UT is referred to as an "institution . . . mandated by a state constitution in 1876 . . . established by a state legislature in March 1881, and . . . located in a state capital."

Also, the bill says "the campus of such institution formally opened on Sept. 15, 1883, and such institution is operated under the authority of a nine-member board of regents appointed by the governor."

Harry Green Jr., executive director of the Aggie Club, said he doesn't understand how a section of the tax ruling can be confined to only two universities in the country.

"I would think it's either going to have to be amended to do away with those two," Green said, "or amended to include everyone."



Down The Tubes

José F. Rodríguez conducts an experiment involving the electrochemistry of iodine Thurs-

day afternoon. Rodríguez is a Texas A&M doctoral degree candidate.

Handcuffs used in hazing at UT

AUSTIN (AP) — Handcuffs were used to restrain fraternity pledges during the night of activities that led to the alcohol-induced death of a University of Texas pledge, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported Thursday.

Quoting unnamed sources close to the investigation, the newspaper said the finding increases the likelihood that hazing played a part in the death of Mark Seeberger of Dallas.

Seeberger, 18, was a pledge of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. His body was found in his dormitory last

Thursday, and authorities said he died of alcohol poisoning.

Investigators in recent days have said that Seeberger died after cruising in a van with three members of the fraternity, two other pledges and a woman who attended UT.

The other pledges were put out of the van and left to find their own way home, but Seeberger was considered too drunk, and was brought back to his off-campus dormitory, the *American-Statesman* reported.

The newspaper said details of what occurred while the handcuffs were applied to the pledges were not

available. It also said it was unknown whether all pledges had been restrained or whether the handcuffs had been used all evening.

The fraternity told university officials last Friday that the cruise in the van wasn't a fraternity-sponsored event and that no one had been forced to take part.

Randy Leavitt, lawyer for two fraternity members and the woman student, said that his investigation indicated everyone in the van acted voluntarily and had intended the outing only to be fun.

Cuts 'driving faculty away from Texas'

AUSTIN (AP) — Spending cuts the Legislature is on the verge of approving are already taking a toll on Texas universities, and the damage must be repaired next year, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said Thursday.

Hobby said \$510 million in spending cuts, plus a rollback in raises for state employees and other cost-cutting measures, have caused some professors to leave Texas schools and kept others from moving to the state.

A survey of 25 of our 37 state universities showed that 217 faculty members had resigned by mid-July and 220 prospects had declined jobs in Texas," he said.

In most of those cases, Hobby said, the faculty members cited higher salaries, better benefits and more research opportunities available in other states.

"Our future economic diversification depends on our commitment to excellence in higher education," he said. "And state government has a key role to play in higher education and job creation."

Student Body President aims for tangible goals

By Rodney RATHER
Staff Writer

Texas A&M Student Body President Mike Sims says he hasn't set lofty goals for his administration — he's set attainable goals.

Instead of promoting abstract concepts that can't be measured, Student Government will implement tangible services that benefit the students, says Sims, a senior agricultural education major.

"I feel like I have to be realistic, because I've only got nine months to do the things I want to do," he says.

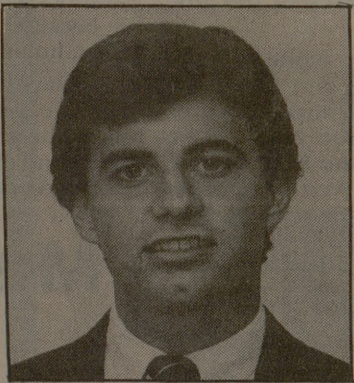
One year isn't enough time to realize objectives such as adding

40,000 books to the University library or solving A&M's parking problems, he says.

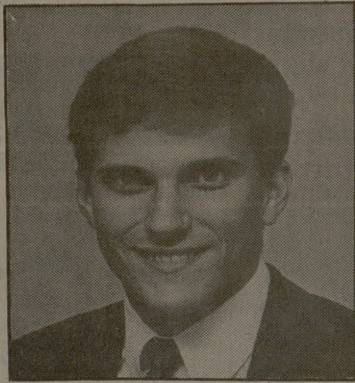
More feasible projects, like revamping a campuswide quiz file, creating a tutorial program and forming a committee to oversee the University Police Department are being launched by Student Government this year, he says.

A campuswide quiz file, sponsored by Student Government, already exists at the University library, but few people know of it and it's hardly been used since its creation three years ago, Sims says. He says

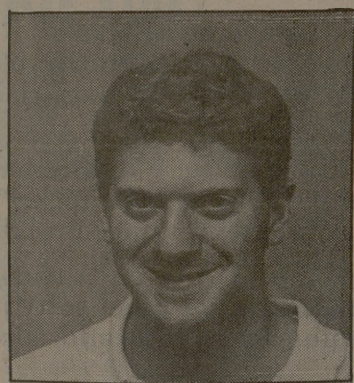
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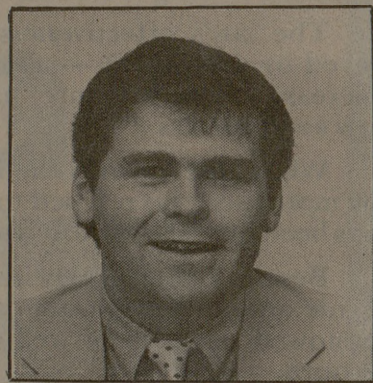
Brett Shine



Mike Hachtman



Marty Roos



Jim Cleary

Former candidates active on campus

By Rodney RATHER
Staff Writer

Those who campaigned unsuccessfully last spring for the student body presidency remain active in Student Government and other campus organizations this year.

Former presidential candidates Mike Hachtman, Jim Cleary, Brett Shine and Marty Roos were defeated in the election by Mike Sims, but that hasn't kept them from pursuing other interests.

Hachtman, a senior industrial distribution major, is the Student Government liaison to the College Station City Council — a position he's held for more than two years.

"I'm not directly connected with the mainstream of Student Government," he says.

"I'm still in Student Government,

but I'm off on my own tangent, doing the same stuff I've done every year," he said.

Since he isn't involved directly with Sims' administration, Hachtman says he doesn't know much about his policies, but believes the Student Government's "Get Involved" campaign, which is a drive to get students active in Student Government, is a good idea.

Cleary, a senior history major, is the Student Government representative to the Faculty Senate — a post he was appointed to by Sims.

"I accepted the position because I felt that I could be competent and help Student Government in an area that few people know much about," he says.

Cleary says Sims should be a good leader simply because he's different from past student body presidents.

"I think Student Government really needs a shot of somebody who has a different approach," he says. "No matter what happens, I think it will be good in the long run."

"I think Mike's smart enough, also, to bring in people who help him in areas where he really doesn't have a lot of knowledge."

Shine, a senior political science major, also accepted an appointed position from Sims.

He's co-chairman of the student body president's advisory board, he says.

Shine says his job is to coordinate the views of both student leaders and less active students as they pertain to Student Government.

Sims' down-to-earth attitude is the reason he'll appeal to students, Shine says.

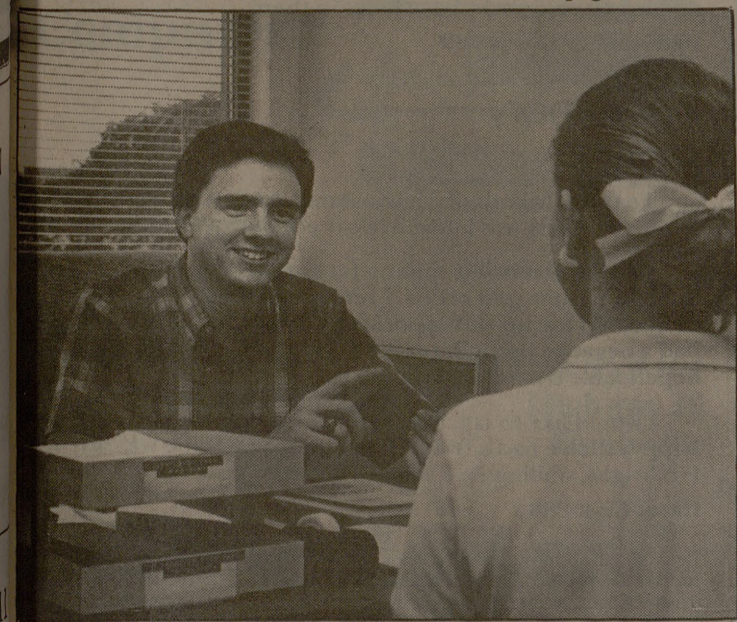
"In the past, Student Government's been more administrative," he says.

"It hasn't been very active to serve student needs, and Sims is really committed to getting out and helping the students, which is what it's all about," he says.

Roos, a senior accounting major, is the only one of last spring's candidates not currently involved in Student Government.

Because of his involvement with Memorial Student Center committees, like Town Hall, Roos says he doesn't have much time for Student Government.

Although Roos says it's too early to discuss Sims' policies, he does say Student Government needs to focus on realistic objectives.



Student Body President Mike Sims