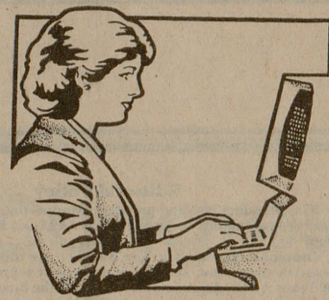


# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol.82 No.123 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, March 27, 1987



INSIDE

At Ease

THE COMPUTER AGE



Photo by Bill Hughes

## Reload!

Rudder's Ranger Pete Winter reassembles a .45-caliber pistol while practicing for a military skills competition this weekend at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Nine members of Rudder's Rangers will be competing in the regional competition after winning a brigade competition in February.

## Plan would let student groups lobby with fees

By Frank Smith  
Senior Staff Writer

State Sen. Kent Caperton plans to propose an amendment to the Senate appropriations act that would allow elected student governments at public universities to use student service fees in lobbying efforts, a stance drawing criticism from a pair of private lobby groups.

Caperton, D-Bryan, said his amendment is designed to help remedy students' underrepresentation in Texas government. But it does not authorize the use of student service fees for political endorsements.

A Caperton aide said Wednesday the amendment probably will be offered in the Senate Finance Committee on Monday, as the committee reviews general provisions in its appropriations bill.

If accepted, the amendment "will allow students, through the leaders they choose, to pay reasonable fees to their student service fees to student advocacy and research organizations like the Legislative Study Group at Texas A&M University," according to a statement released by Caperton's office.

"Students are underrepresented in Texas government," Caperton said. "This amendment should give them the tools they need to get their concerns to the Legislature. On issues like hazing, tuition increases, drug and alcohol abuse and financial aid, their voice has been very positive."

"This change gives students the right to spend their student service fees in their own best interests, and only through groups like the Texas A&M Legislative Study Group, who need little more than office supplies to operate, can we expect them to

compete with the high-dollar influence of the business lobby.

"The Legislature and the students at these schools will get a lot for a little money."

But the legality of lobbying activities by groups such as the LSG has been questioned by a private organization, the Young Conservatives of Texas, and also by one of two groups called the Texas Student Lobby. Caperton's planned amendment has drawn the ire of the YCT and TSL.

Richard A. Munisteri, a student at the University of Texas serving as state chairman of the YCT and co-director of the TSL, denounced the amendment, saying mandatory student service fees should not be accessible to special-interest lobbies.

In a statement released by TSL, Munisteri labeled Caperton's amendment as an example of "the utmost abuse of public office."

"Why should a clique of students, as a special-interest lobby, get to use public money to support their political activities?" he asked. "It defies common sense. Special-interest student lobbies, like any other political group, should not force other fee-payers to subsidize their beliefs."

But Kathy McElveen, legislative aide to Caperton, disagreed with the contention that student lobbies serve a narrow interest.

"The student government is elected through a democratic process, and the only lobby or advocacy group that would be able to be funded through these fees is that group designated by that elected student body," she said. "In addition, the agenda for that student advocacy group is dictated by those elected persons."

"And if another group thinks their views are not being fairly represented — if they are not able to petition those elected persons to add their issues to the agenda — then they need to vote out the student government, not handicap the voice of student government."

Munisteri dissented, saying that: • Electing the officials in agencies does not justify forcing membership in a political body.

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## At Ease delayed

Because of a mechanical failure at the Printing Center, At Ease did not appear in Thursday's Battalion. The Battalion regrets any inconvenience.

## \$18.5 billion tax hike proposed in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Budget Committee on Thursday proposed a \$1 trillion spending plan with up to \$18.5 billion in tax hikes, and House budget writers wrapped up a similar package as Democrats tried to outdo President Reagan's deficit-cutting efforts.

The proposals would miss the Gramm-Rudman law's goal of reducing the deficit to \$108 billion in fiscal 1988, based on Congress' own estimates. However, the Democrats in both chambers said less-stringent White House estimating would show they hit the target — as Reagan claimed he had.

Chairman Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., offered to the Senate Budget Committee a spending plan that would cut deficits \$37 billion next year, \$1 billion more than Reagan's budget proposed.

"The president is chiding Congress for not producing a budget," Chiles said. "Well, we've got one that is better than his."

House Budget Committee chairman William H. Gray III, D-Pa., declined to release his plan until next week, but he also claimed more deficit reduction than the administration's budget.

Chiles' proposal did not specify what taxes would be raised, but the senator said the committee would not raise income tax rates. Increased levies on energy, cigarettes and tobacco would be discussed, he said.

A plan allowing early repayment to the government of rural electrification loans could cut the tax need by \$7 billion, he said.

Aside from the open call for tax increases, Chiles proposed a variety of new government user fees, ranging from higher charges for grazing on federal land to reimbursement for Coast Guard services. A rough estimate put the total of those fees at \$2.8 billion.

Reagan, on a trip to Columbia, Mo., to promote educational excellence, underscored his opposition to tax increases.

Asked if he might accept tax hikes in talks with Congress on the budget, he replied, "In the negotiation that may take place, that part's out to begin with."

James C. Miller III, the president's budget director, said in a statement that he was "glad to see Senate Democrats finally moving on a budget."

"However, I am disappointed that

the chairman's mark (proposal) contains more tax and spend and whacks at defense," he said, noting the sharp cut from Reagan's Pentagon spending request.

Despite the tax increases, Chiles' plan would leave a deficit of about \$134 billion next year, \$26 billion above the target, based on Congressional Budget Office estimates.

In a move to blunt GOP criticism, Chiles released figures showing his plan would reach the \$108 billion target if the administration's economic assumptions were applied.

## Research park deals in competitive market

By Robert Morris  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M's research park has more than romantic tree-lined walkways, quaint picnic areas and two new buildings — most importantly it has a great deal of competition.

As one of a rapidly growing number of university-related research parks, A&M's park currently finds itself in an extremely competitive market.

At present, there are at least 200 parks competing for a relatively small number of applicable users, and 70 percent of those are just starting out, said Dr. Mark Money, Vice Chancellor for Research Park and Corporate Relations.

The competition for economic development is extremely keen.

However, Money says A&M is ahead of most other new parks. "We have the resources and

the first phase of our development done," Money said. "Many of them just have visions of what can be."

"In fact, I get calls weekly on parks that are in trouble wondering what they might do to improve their position."

"We're very pleased to have the two buildings — one completed and one under construction — in light of the very slow times in the real estate market in Texas."

Although the Texas economy is slow, A&M has a distinct advantage in being the only university-related park in the state, Money said.

While the park hasn't developed as quickly as Money expected, it is moving at a normal rate of growth.

"These developments traditionally start very slowly," Money

See Park, page 12

## A&M presidential candidates voice ideas on role of student government

### Debate pulls small crowd of followers

By Christi Daugherty  
Staff Writer

Witnessed by an audience so small some participants called it indicative of student apathy toward the impending Student Government elections, the nine student body presidential candidates discussed their views on campus issues in a debate Thursday night.

About 35 people attended the debate, most wearing badges or buttons that indicated their allegiance to one candidate or another. The candidates were each allowed an opening statement and then asked to answer questions posed by a panel which included Linda Hartman, president-elect of the MSC, Pat Thomasson, Corps commander designate for 1987-88, and Jay Hutchens, executive vice-president of the Student Senate.

Richard de Castongreue started the debate with some controversy by expressing the view that perhaps Student Government had become irrelevant, and adding that if it had it should be abolished.

He then fielded questions from audience members who asked, "Why are you wasting our time?" and "Why do you want to join something just to destroy it?" He responded that he was looking at government with a more objective attitude than those who were involved in it.

Most of the other candidates emphasized their experience in student organizations as proof that they could lead the Senate effectively, and many similar goals and issues were stressed by all the candidates.

All basically agreed that the major issue in this year's election is senior finals, but the candidates expressed different ideas on how the situation should be handled.

Perry Eichor, Jaime Galvan and Jose Castro all said they felt the fight was no longer over whether or not senior finals would be given at A&M,



Photo by Doug La Rue

Student body president candidates debate issues Thursday night.

but how they would be administered.

"I think that whether or not we're going to take them is no longer an issue," Eichor said. "I think we have to accept them as a part of life at A&M and work with the Faculty Senate to come up with a different calendar more beneficial to students."

Castro agreed with Eichor but said he would work toward changing the finals plan to protect traditions.

But Mason Hogan continued to express opposition to the finals plan, saying he would work to abolish them.

Castro also said he felt student government hadn't effectively done all that it could to properly represent A&M students, saying they were "playing games" instead of legislating.

Both Hogan and Miles Bradshaw defended student government, cit-

ing the Student Government Effectiveness Committee, which Bradshaw said continues to study the problems in the Senate and works to correct them.

Spence McClung said that his role as chairman of the Finance Committee had given him experience working with both people and allocating funds.

"When you have 20 people sitting around a table yelling why one organization deserves more than another, it's touchy, and you have to know how to listen and respect people," McClung said.

Jody Kay Manley discussed the lack of communication between the Senate and students and placed most of the blame on the senators, saying they should be responsible for contacting their constituents.

Christopher Davis said he would work toward optional finals for

graduating seniors, but his main goals involved helping handicapped students, particularly the deaf, who he said encounter difficulty coping and getting help on the campus.

Bradshaw said he was already working with University administrators on the possibility of developing a University cable service to compete with McCaw for on-campus students at a lower cost.

Jaime Galvan also cited the lack of effectiveness of the Senate as a problem he would combat. He said he wondered what had happened to Project Visibility, which started a year ago as an attempt to get the senators involved with their constituents.

"Communicating with our constituents is the only way we can be made aware of what they want and need, and they're the ones that count," he said.