

Presentation on abortion, debate end in stalemate

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

For every opinion, there is an opposite one. This was evident as pro-choice and pro-life advocates debated the issue of abortion at a presentation and discussion Thursday.

The presentation was sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women. The program opened with the pro-life film "The Silent Scream" followed by a videotaped rebuttal from Planned Parenthood. "The Silent Scream" chronicles the development of a fetus and describes the abortion process. Planned Parenthood said the film was inaccurate and presented distorted facts.

Dr. Bedford Clark, a professor in the English department, asked three questions to begin the discussion: Is a woman's choice to have an abortion affected by the issues of fetal pain, the usefulness of fetal tissue in

certain transplants or the sex of a child?

The discussion led to the topic of adoption instead of abortion, and both sides were emphatic in their stands.

Dr. Walter Bradley, a professor in the mechanical engineering department, said many people are waiting to adopt.

"The idea of the so-called unwanted child is a bogus argument," he said. "Let's not pretend that there's nobody who wants these children."

John Grillo, a research associate in aerospace engineering, said the people who want to adopt are too choosy and want perfect children.

Soon the moderator, Dr. Wendy Stock, a psychology professor and faculty advisor for NOW, urged the audience to talk about abortion and not the supply and demand of the baby market.

The question of human rights also was prevalent. Stock momentarily stepped out of her role as moderator to express her opinion.

"I am outraged that you actually think you have a right to tell me what to do," she said.

Rose Ann McFadden, a junior journalism major from Freeport, compared the decision to have an abortion to a jury's decision to execute a convicted murderer.

"There's no judge and no jury to decide if the baby gets to live," she said. "My rights do not come over the baby's rights."

Edward Narbut, an employee of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and a member of the Texas Right For Life Association, stressed cooperation between both sides.

"Let's work together and let's make an alternative that is better than abortion," he said.

When an unidentified participant expressed dissatisfaction with the discussion and asked what both sides were doing to work together, Sean Dunham, a freshman theater arts major from Round Rock, answered his question.

"What they're doing is fighting each other," he said.

Firm asks A&M, UT for help in microchip war with Japan

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M and the University of Texas have been asked to help the United States beat Japan in the microchip business.

Sematech, a microchip-making consortium of the federal government and several companies, selected A&M and UT to research methods to streamline production, said Dr. Mark Weichold, an associate professor of electrical engineering at A&M and one of the research directors of the project.

Weichold said five A&M faculty members from the electrical engineering and industrial engineering departments and at least one graduate student are working on the project.

Weichold said the industrial engineering side of the research would concentrate on producing a generic model to simulate an actual manufacturing environment.

"It would include things like introducing raw materials, new products, modifications of those products and new equipment into the manufacturing process," he said. "We want to be able to eventually take all these things into account and predict what the impact of those things is going to be on the outcome."

After the simulation is completed, Weichold said, it will be applied to a real manufacturing plant.

The electrical engineering side of the research would have input into each of the steps in developing each microchip, he said.

Dr. Don Phillips, a professor of industrial engineering and one of the A&M project leaders, said in a release that Japan now controls 50 percent of the world's microchip market. He said the United States has dropped to 37 percent of the market.

Weichold said this trend is what the program is designed to reverse.

"The Japanese are very good at manufacturing," he said. "Somehow we've lost that edge. We want to try to gain that back. Applying proven manufacturing processes and things that have been around in industrial engineering for years to the semiconductor manufacturer is a new thing."

"You would think that an industry that is perceived as high tech as semiconductors are would have all the latest tools at their disposal. That's not the case at this time. The industry has grown so fast that it really hasn't had the time to sit back and apply proven practices."

Weichold said the contract was awarded to the Texas Center for Excellence. The center competed against similar centers in other states for the contract. The five-year contract pledges \$1 million per year to be split between A&M and UT.

SUMMER JOBS CAMP DAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

MSC, ROOM 226

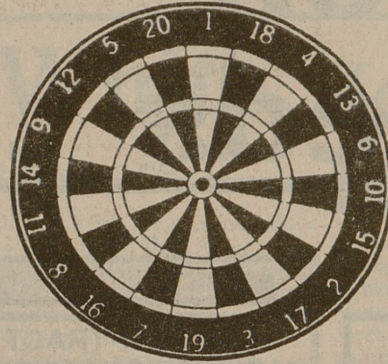
9:30-4:00 PM

Representatives from youth camps in Texas and other states will be interviewing A&M students for positions in camps during the Summer of 1989.

Students with an interest in working with youth are encouraged to attend. No appointment is necessary.

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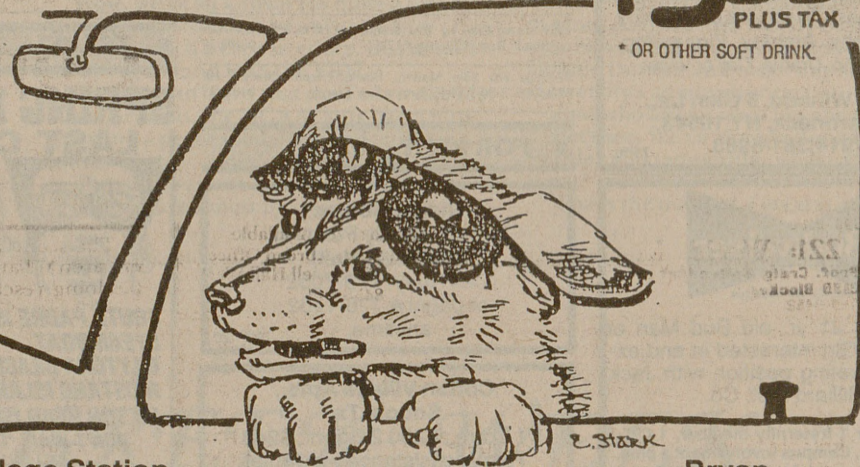
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CONVEX Computer Corporation will be at Texas A&M on the evening of March 8th for a company presentation and on March 9th for daytime interviews.

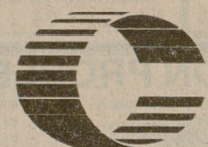
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