

Political Issues Forum: U.S. Health Care

Students voice views over current medical programs, feel government change needed

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Editor's note: "Student Political Issues Forum" is a non-scientific poll of A&M students and does not reflect the editorial opinion of The Battalion Editorial Board, Battalion staff members, or the faculty and staff of Texas A&M University. It is intended solely for the purposes of disseminating differing views held by students of Texas A&M University.

The students in this weeks "Student Political Issues Forum" were asked to respond to the possibility of a line-item veto for the president of the United States.

The health care situation in the United States will be a deciding factor in the presidential election, according to a recent poll.

At Texas A&M, many students also are ready for a change in the current health care program.

In a February 1992 poll by Louis Harris and Associates, 25 percent of those polled said health care was one of the two most important issues determining how they will vote in the election.

Both the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates are proposing reforms to the current health care system.

Some of the proposals in President George Bush's plan include making quality care accessible and affordable.

By providing financial help for those who lack insurance, health care will be made available to everyone, while maintaining the highest quality health care in the world.

Governor Bill Clinton's plan includes: workplace coverage, protection for small business, improved preventive and primary care, expanded long-term care and intensified health education.

Though some students were unsure of how the U.S. health care system could improve, or even if it needed to, many students said they were certain that the system should change.

Corbett Nichter, a junior mechanical engineering major, said he agreed with Clinton's proposals.

"In the eight years of Reagan's term and the last four years of Bush's term, it (health care) has gone to shit," he said. "We need Clinton's plan. We need anything that will change it (the system). We're stagnant right now. There's got to be a change and I think Clinton is the only one who can do it."

Penny Workman, a senior community health education major, also agreed with Clinton's plan, but said if it is implemented the government should be careful not to become too socialized.

"I think Clinton's idea of nationalized health care system is good to a point," she said. "I don't think going as far as Canada has gone is good for us."

"If someone needs emergency care, they can't get it because they must go on a waiting list, but Bush's ideas would be too expensive."

But Doug Pohla, a math engineering major from Houston, said he leans towards Bush's health care plan.

"I agree with Bush's (plan) be-

cause Clinton's (plan) is centralizing health care more," he said. "I don't think the government should be able to tell you what doctor you can have."

Gina Carbone, a senior political science major, said she agrees with a more comprehensive plan that makes health care available to everyone.

"I agree with the fact that we should probably have an across the board public health policy for everybody regardless of poverty level," Carbone said. "Just because you're wealthy doesn't mean you deserve a better doctor than anybody else."

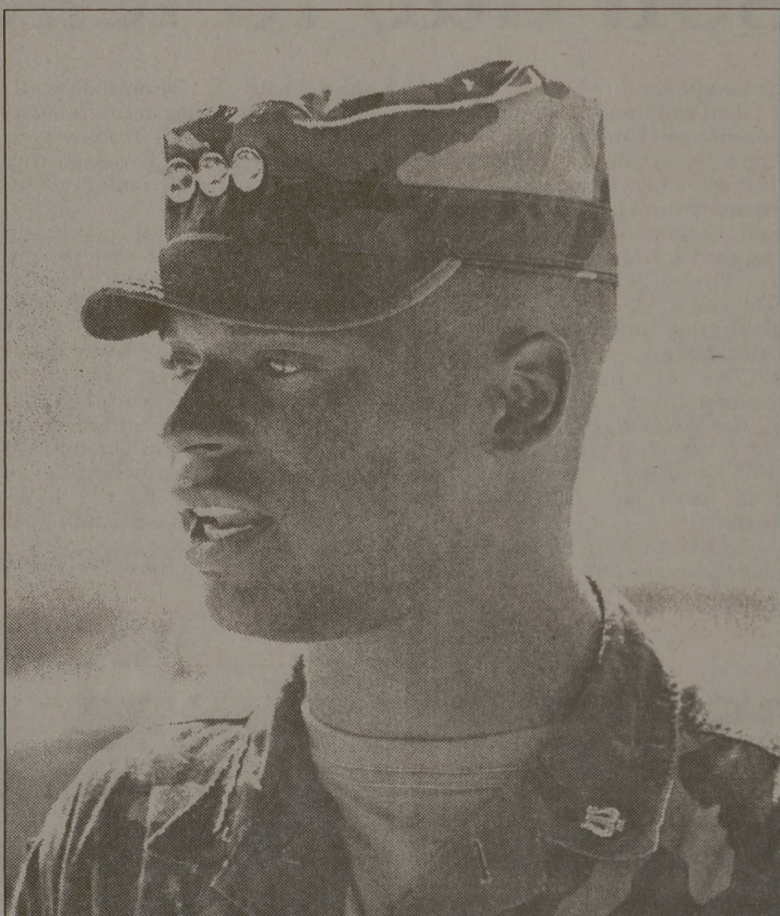
"I think we should all be able to have good doctors," Carbone said. "Bush's plan is more of a capitalistic way — the more money you have, the better doctor you should be able to have and the poor person doesn't get to have as good as quality of health care. I don't think that's very fair."

In another poll by Mellman and Lazarus/Public Opinion Strategies taken last January, most Americans agreed government has an obligation to provide coverage, but they are reluctant to pay higher taxes.

Only 36 percent polled said they would be willing to pay \$100 or more per year in additional taxes to cover people who are not insured.

Thirty-one percent said they would not be willing to pay an additional \$50 a year for health care.

Joseph Thomas, a senior political science major, said raising taxes would help, but only if they



SANDRA ALVARDO/THE BATTALION
Joseph Thomas said raising taxes would help U.S. health care.

are used in the right way. "I think inevitably we will see higher taxes, but as long as you use those taxes to cut the waste and spending," he said.

If they actually do what they say they're going to do, I think it's going to pay off in the end."

Carbone said if a tax hike is necessary to improve the health

care situation, she said she believes that it should be implemented.

"I'm in favor of a tax hike if I can get better health care — if it's not spread bureaucratically so my congressperson doesn't get an increase in pay next year," she said. "I think we should have our own choice and it should be a diversified choice."

Good service key to success

By TANYA SASSER
Staff writer of THE BATTALION

Fred Brown, Texas A&M student and owner of three successful car dealerships, "drove" point home to members of Alpha Kappa Psi, A&M's professional business fraternity, Wednesday night.

Brown told the audience secret for running a profitable business was to keep customers satisfied by using "terms of dearmment."

"Businesses know that they're going to be on the cutting edge of customer satisfaction in the 90s, they have to get with it," he said. "Because you as a customer and myself as a customer we're looking for that term of dearmment."

Brown encouraged students to make customers their No. 1 priority if they want to succeed at college.

"It doesn't matter what business you go into," he said. "Customer service is everything. If you realize how important the customer is to your total organization, the sky's the limit."

Brown entertained the group with funny stories about customers he has dealt with in the past. Brown's policy is that the customer is always right.

We go out of our way to satisfy the customer, even if it means losing money, he said. It is important to keep your customer happy.

"If you give them service the love, they'll stick with you forever and ever," he said. "That's the exciting thing about it."

Brown encouraged students to have a professional attitude once they get out into the "real world." A K Psi is a good training ground for students.

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