

Crowd at debate favors legal pot

By PEGGY C. McCULLEN
Battalion Reporter

What was labeled a debate turned into a description of two sides in a multifaceted issue.

Thursday night's MSC Great Issues program, "Marijuana: What's the Crime?", examined decriminalization of marijuana and legalizing its use.

R. Keith Stroup, founder and chairman of the board for NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), supported liberalizing existing laws.

"They can put a man in prison for smoking a joint when a man who kills his wife while intoxicated is put on probation," he said.

Dr. Robert C. Petersen, assistant director of the Division of Research of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, opposed legalizing the use of marijuana because it is harmful to health.

Stroup said he is a daily pot smoker.

"I've been a pot smoker for 10 years and I'm tired of being treated like a criminal," he said.

"When some 43 million people in the United States smoke marijuana, you're a pervert of a sort if you don't smoke."

"The legal system hasn't caught up with the social system," he said.

Stroup said the government's "excuse" for keeping pot illegal is protecting people's health.

"I've been arrested twice and not once did they send a doctor in to check my health," he said.

Petersen, speaking as a private individual and not as a federal government representative, said researchers are just beginning to know the parameters of smoking pot.

He said that before it is legalized, more research should be completed. In the meantime, he said, the use of marijuana as a legally available intoxicant should be discouraged.



Keith Stroup

Fiedler might go to China

United Press International
BOSTON — Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor Seiji Ozawa has invited recuperating Boston Pops maestro Arthur Fiedler to join the orchestra on its tour of China in March.

Ozawa has asked his 84-year-old mustachioed colleague to share his baton at concerts in Peking or Shanghai, but whether or not Fiedler accepts will be decided by his doctors.

The popular white-haired maestro is recovering at his suburban Brookline home from brain surgery he underwent last month to relieve difficulty he was having walking. His recovery is progressing on schedule, his doctors said, but a decision has not been made on the China trip.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra will be the first American orchestra to perform in China since diplomatic relations were established Jan. 1. The trip is slated for March 12-20.

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GROMETS to sponsor war games in MSC today

By JULIE SMILEY
Battalion Reporter

Beware of army tanks, flying balls of fire and medieval armor—or at least scale models and imaginings of like—today through Sunday in the Memorial Student Center.

Warcon V is the fifth annual war games convention sponsored by James Replication Offering Mil-

tary, Economic and Tactical Situations (GROMETS) through the MSC Recreation Committee. Registration begins at noon today in Room 140 of the MSC for anyone interested in war games.

Ed Tatom, a senior pre-med student from Pasadena and Warcon V chairman, said he expects about 200 people from Texas, Louisiana and

Oklahoma to attend. Warcon V tournaments begin tonight and continue until award presentations Sunday at 3 p.m.

A war game is a game based on wars which have been fought, or wars that will be fought according to players' imagination and creativity. Players can use balls of fire, old guns and ships, or Star Wars-type equipment to fight imaginary battles.

Tatom said one highlight of Warcon V will be a medieval fighting demonstration given by the Society for Creative Anachronism Saturday at 3 p.m. Other games include Kingmaker, Nuclear War, and Dungeons and Dragons.

Dealers will be selling war games during Warcon V, and Tatom said.

Cost for Texas A&M students is \$2.50. Non-student advance registration is \$2.50 or \$3.50 at the door.

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Denver judge doesn't think coke adds life; declines snort

United Press International

DENVER — It was going to be legal, but District Judge Susan Barnes still said a defense lawyer's request for her to snort some cocaine was out of line.

Attorney Jonathan Olom, defending Richard Schwartz against

charges of possessing and conspiring to sell cocaine, requested the judge to sample the drug to verify it is not a narcotic.

Judge Barnes declined the motion and said despite the lawful use of the drug, a judge must avoid matters of personal experience to make fair decisions.

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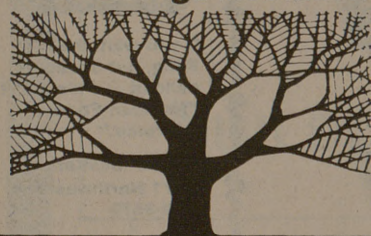
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25th Year	23,879.19	47,758.38	95,516.74	119,395.93
30th Year	37,461.76	74,923.52	149,847.04	187,308.80
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