## State and Local

### Students at Forum hear debate about censorship of high school newpapers

#### **By Kristin Czarnik** Reporter

At the Texas A&M Forum ednesday night, students voted -27 against censorship of high hool newspapers by high school ministrators

The Forum, sponsored by the exas A&M University Debate eam, the Department of Speech ommunication and Theatre Arts, d by Student Activities, is a debate at invites audience participation. Audience members are divided

to pro and con sections. Bruce Hyvl, a junior finance ma-r, delivered his speech against

Hyvl said the Supreme Court, in a 983 case involving Hazelwood high chool, decided that high school adinistrators have the right to censor speech they feel is inconsistent ith the school's basic education.

"Student journalism," he said, "is rally fighting for its life.

Hyvl said he recently met a stuent from the Netherlands who ought a couple of things to his at-

Prior to 1975, he said, the Nethernds had a censorship law and they und out one important thing: in he urge to accept censorship, the pposite is accomplished.

"It is very much like little Johnny not the cookie jar," Hyvl said. "The more you say, 'little Johnny you cant have those cookies,' the more tle Johnny wants those cookies. ou cannot stop people from taking. "If people want to learn about an e, but they cannot write about it, ead about it or express their ideas

it, then they are going to try it. "This is where you are going to dyn." "It seems logical, then, that if the administrator must take final re-sponsibility, then they should also have final authority. "In the Hazelwood decision, the fourt decision and the first Amend hen you have the high school adnistrator with his son in the same edicament who is wondering why dn't his son know about these

With the large number of small mmunities and small school disicts in the state, Hyvl said he feels any other issue, has its limits.

censorship will lead to poorly trained and unqualified administrators who will be judging the work of high school students.

"Perhaps the saddest thing that resulted from the Hazelwood ruling is the damage done to the upper quarter of students," Hyvl said. These are the ones who are the free-speaking young people who are most concerned about these issues. They want to research these contro-versial subjects. I feel denying these students the right to work on these subjects is inconsistent with our educational policy.

Hyvl said he was told by a teacher that her purpose, along with all the other teachers, was to teach students to think for themselves.

"Are we afraid to let our young people think for themselves?" Hyvl

"Lets hope there is enough wisdom out there to recognize a contro-versial subject such as AIDS, teen pregnacy and drug abuse. These will not be solved by ignoring the issues." Sharon McCormack, a senior ac-

counting major, delivered her opposing view on censorship. "The Hazelwood case is not a

question of whether high school publications should be censored," McCormack said, "The question is one of responsibility. "Legally, minors are not held re-

ponsible for their actions. At home, the parents are held responsible. At school the administrators act in place of the parents.

"As a student enters the school yard, the administration becomes responsible for the student's words or actions.

court decided that the First Amendment does not require a school to promote certain student speech.

This decision does not promote unlimited censorship or the elimina-tion of student freedom of speech." McCormack said censorship, like



Photo by Roy D. Parsons

Adriana Martinez speaks Wednesday night for censorship in high school newspapers by high school administrators at the Texas A&M **Debate Forum.** 

"Few people advocate no restriction on student speech," McCormack said. "At the same time, few believe that students have no rights to free speech. In between there lies step closer to establishing the nec-a common point, a boundary or a essary boundaries to high school

"While the Hazelwood decision did not establish the boundaries

many hoped it would, it took us one censorship.

## **Affidavit says** informer gave **Contras** help

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) Lawyers for two men accused of being part of an alleged drug ring based in Colombia filed a federal affidavit Wednesday claiming an informant who ar-ranged an undercover bust was involved in supplying weapons to the Nicaraguan rebels

The affidavit was introduced in a pre-trial hearing for John J. Bevan, 27, of Wales, and Francis J. Otranto, 34, of Atlanta.

The two are among at least 29 people charged in the "Operation Întruder" case, in which federal agents infiltrated the alleged ring and seized 152,000 pounds of marijuana and 1,219 pounds of cocaine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Wolfe called it "the largest undercover marijuana bust ever.'

In a trial set to begin Feb. 29 in U.S. District Court in Brownsville, Bevan and Otranto face charges of conspiracy to import and importation of more than 1,000 kilos of marijuana. They were charged in connection with the importation of 128,500 pounds of marijuana, which federal agents posing as smugglers brought in by ship through Port Isabel.

U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela granted a defense motion Wednesday allowing attorneys for Bevan and Otranto to meet with informant Michael Palmer, who helped set up the massive drug operation that included ac-tivity in Colombia, Panama, Aruba and Belize.

Attorney Norton A. Colvin Jr., who represents Bevan, said in an interview Wednesday he wants to talk to Palmer to learn more about allegations that some of the the drug profits were to be sent to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. Colvin said he has no evidence

to support the rumors, but introduced into evidence Wednesday an affidavit from Alejandro Cerna Sanchez, a Nicaraguan also facing trial in Atlanta in the Operation Intruder case. In the affidavit, Cerna said

during a 1986 meeting in Panama that Palmer asked, "if we could use his (Palmer's) connections and expertise in taking a load of Colombian marijuana into the United States, with his airplane, a DC-6, which has been used by U.S. government agents, including Palmer and other CIA operatives, to fly supplies to the Con-tras in Nicaragua."

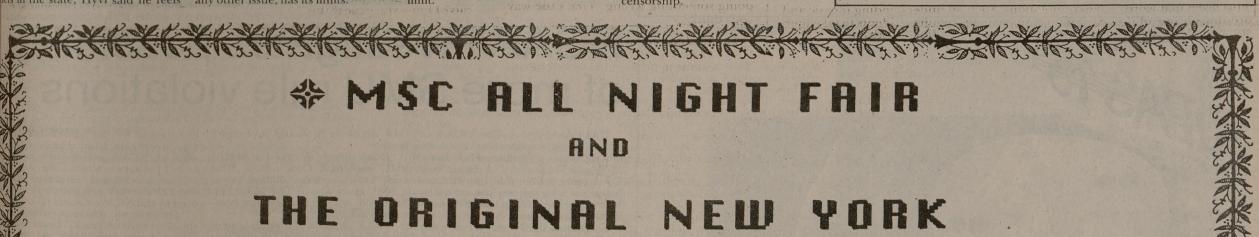
#### Police cause controversy over pastries

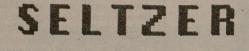
HOUSTON (AP) — A request for donated pastries at a police seminar is causing an uproar over what gratuities police should ac-

cept. The controversy began with a Jan. 27 letter from the office of Police Chief Lee Brown to Houston merchants. The letter asked for pastries to be provided for a seminar on crime prevention sponsored by the department.

In the past, Brown has admonished officers to refuse offers of free food, coffee or other on-thejob gifts routinely offered from

merchants. "Why is something that is good for Houston police officers not good for the chief's office, too?" asked Sgt. Larry Watts, a director of the Houston Police Officers Association. "It just smacks of an absolute double standard.







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