STATE AGGIELE

THE BATTALION

By Lisa Falkenberg

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sophomore creative writ-

ing student applied time and

again to hold forums - on cen-

sorship, on lead, arsenic and chil-

dren and even one event compar-

ng campus administration to

Saddam Hussein — at the student

union at the University of Texas

miversities across the state,

caught the attention of state law-

makers, who are pushing a bill

intended to cut down on the use

"Unfortunately, Texas univer-

environment for students," said

ree speech rights.

at El Paso.

THE BATTAL

ed by predictions

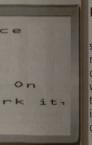
-Denise Schor

ezone.com

the world a much sm Time and again, he was sy to talk to someone denied. The student union wasn't in one of the two "free speech the time difference. ones" on campus. empts to make it ea After months of tangling with it is anywhere in the administrators and a net of es maps of time zon bureaucratic application proceor specific countries. dures required to give a speech, g where daylight save 1. The Web site feature Ruben Reyes sued the school's administrators and the University laylight and where it of Texas System Board of es given in 12 hours Regents for allegedly violating of the information is his First Amendment rights. ne the Web site is load His battle, one of many at

llent tool for anyon n regarding time. It time zones and provi through the Texas Legislature the military keeps s to be explained, of designated speech zones and nation can be found other limits universities place on site has against it i ents. While the adve provided free of sities are not meeting their obligathe page design. So tion to provide a free learning cross due to the adstil

bill author Rep. Norma Chavez, orth the trouble, as D-El Paso. "This bill ensures that nvaluable tool to any universities provide students with or who knows some



Lockheed union votes in new contract to end strike

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - The union striking for better wages and relief from high medical insurance and prescription drug costs at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. voted Sunday on a new contract proposal that it anticipates will offer a better health insurance package than the one it turned down two weeks ago.

Representatives of the 4,000-member

a chance to express their ideas outside of four designated "free to students without reservations, without fear of being arrested or disciplined unfairly.

The concept of so-called "free speech zones" caught like wildfire at colleges and universities across the country over the past two decades. Universities argue the zones facilitate orderly expression. Students say such zones stifle debate by limiting access and by allowing administrators, often the dean of students, to make the final decision on what speech gets heard.

Reserving the zones, which may be required weeks before the event, is also problematic, students say, because it's often impossible to demonstrate over timely events.

Students at UTEP aren't the only ones bucking free speech regulations.

University of Texas students successfully challenged the school's policy of allowing demonstrations only in certain areas. Since February, the entire campus has been open to speeches and demonstrations.

Students at the University of Houston said their lawsuit had the opposite effect.

The Pro-Life Cougars student organization won their first legal battle last fall when a judge ordered the group be allowed to display graphic pictures of dead fetuses in one of the university's main thoroughfares. UH originally refused to allow the display

speech zones."

But the anti-abortion group sued again shortly afterward, claiming that a new UH policy, which limited speech to only four designated zones, was more unconstitutional than the previous one.

66 This bill ensures that universities provide students with a chance to express their ideas without fear of being arrested...

> - Rep. Norma Chavez D-El Paso

"Thirty-five thousand people and there's these four small areas and that's it," said law student and Pro-Life Cougars chairman Jonathan Saenz. "It sent the message to the students that your speech isn't that important. We can put you in an area over here and you're just going to have to deal with that.

"It's contrary to what a lot of people think the college experience is about — challenging what you believe and what others believe.'

A fifth speech area is available

NEWS IN BRIEF

Machinists Union local and Lockheed Martin agreed early Saturday morning to a new contract proposal.

Pat Lane, president of Machinists Local 776, called a meeting of the union membership for 2 p.m. Sunday at Cowtown Coliseum in the Fort Worth Stockyards.

Lane wouldn't divulge details of the contract or say whether he would recommend its approval. A majority vote is required for approval of the contract. The strike, the third since 1984, began on

April 14 after about 4,000 IAM members voted against accepting a proposed contract with wage increases that some union members said would be sharply cut by higher health care costs.

One of the most objectionable provisions, according to workers, was a change requirng greater co-payments on prescription drugs by workers.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics President Dain Hancock said that a 107 percent increase in health care costs was the reason that health insurance benefits were tightened.

just not accurate," Cinelli said, but he added that universities have the right to limit demonstrations or displays that could "disrupt the academic mission of the university.

At UTEP, students say administrators have used intimidation tactics such as summoning campus police to supervise demonstrations and threatening administrative action against students who push the limits on speech.

equipment are prohibited.

tional because universities have

a legal right to regulate time,

place and manner of speech. "The idea that this campus

is not open to free speech is

'What they use is this phrase: Would you like to endanger your relationship with the university?" said Reyes, a politically active student who is running for city council in El Paso. "They are becoming more strict, more Draconian with their limitations."

A UTEP university spokeswoman said administrators could not comment on pending litigation although Schafer was quoted in the El Paso Times in March shortly after the lawsuit was filed saying the university supports "the free exchange of information and expression.'

Some legal experts say the concept of speech zones is simply unconstitutional.

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Monday, April 28, 2003



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DRIVE-IN STYLE MOVIE 8:30 pm: Shrek 10:30 pm: Armageddon Food/Popcorn all night long (Don't forget your blankets)

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