

NEWS FEATURES BRIEFLY

Bugsy Spartan?... A Michigan State U. student was arrested in January for allegedly operating an extensive gambling ring from his dormitory room. The ring, which police say spanned several states, may have earned him from \$700 to \$3,000 per day. Robert Nardone, a sophomore computer science major at MSU, is charged with conspiracy to gamble, a 5-year-felony, and keeping a gaming room, a 2-year-misdemeanor, said MSU Department of Public Safety Lt. Bill Wardwell. Police said Nardone took bets from students on college and professional sports. Since Nardone's Jan. 3 arrest, police have seized \$2,000, along with the student's bank account, betting records and his mother's car. "The total seizure could be substantial," said DPS Det. John McCandless. "There is an unbelievable amount of evidence we have to sift through. We will all be surprised how big this really was." McCandless said the gambling network was tied from East Lansing to Detroit, Saginaw Valley State U., Grand Valley State U. and Las Vegas. Police said they also suspect other Michigan universities were involved. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Delaney said Nardone may have violated the federal gambling statute and could be held liable for thousands in back tax payments. In addition, all of Nardone's property could be seized, said Michigan Chief Deputy Treasurer Nick Khouri. "We have the power to take everything he owns," Khouri said. "We have broad powers to seize assets, to see that the state receives the money coming to it." ■ Jeff L. Kart, *The State News*, Michigan State U.

A Texas state judge has declared the Texas Higher Education System unconstitutional because its Hispanics are denied equal access to quality higher education. State District Judge Ben Euresi Jr. ruled in January that universities in South Texas, especially in the border region, are systematically underfunded. "The Legislature (has) failed to make suitable provisions for the support and or maintenance of an efficient system of public universities," the jury verdict said. Norma Cantu, regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense, said this underfunding denies Texas Hispanics access to masters and doctoral programs. The state, however, plans to appeal the verdict. The defendants argued that existing funding is equitable and reviewed regularly to ensure fairness and that the Higher Education Coordinating Board allocates programs justly. Texas Attorney General Dan Morales disagrees. "We have a system of public higher education that is inequitable, that is unfair," Morales said. "Clearly our state must do more to insure equity." ■ Stephen Cavazos, *The Paisano*, U. of Texas, San Antonio

Issues

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for two or three years of public service — as a teacher, police officer, social service worker or the like — after graduation.

Abortion

The volatile and uncompromising issue of a woman's right to abortion will simply not go away — despite how much politicians might wish otherwise. Although both parties will continue to seek some sort of middle

ground in the abortion debate during the campaign, the Supreme Court will thrust the issue to the forefront this term when they review abortion restrictions in *Cases v. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania*.

Most likely, the court will use the parental consent and husband notification regulations in *Cases* to chip away at abortion rights — as it has done since Reagan began using the issue as a litmus test for potential Supreme Court nominees. However, the court may choose the case as a vehicle to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the

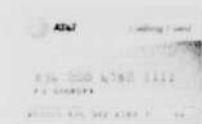
controversial decision which established a constitutional right to privacy for women wishing to seek an abortion.

Such a decision, many Republicans fear, would send many women fleeing the G.O.P. for the Democratic party. To protect themselves against such a mass exodus, the Republicans are in the process of rewriting their platform.

Meanwhile, Democratic candidates all have pledged to appoint Supreme Court justices who would uphold *Roe v. Wade* should it still be in place next year.



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