

Bill could prohibit regents' approval of gay groups

By GLENN WHITLEY
Battalion Staff

A bill introduced March 3 in the state senate would make it a misdemeanor for college regents to approve gay students' organizations.

Senate Bill 800 was introduced by Sen. Walter H. Mengden, Jr. (R-Houston). The bill is directed at any member of the governing board of a state-supported institution or an administrative official at such an institution who formally recognizes or allows use of campus facilities to a group whose purpose is to promote the interests of homosexual individuals.

A person violating this act could be punished by a fine of up to \$500, confinement in the county jail for up to 30 days, or both.

The bill was introduced three days after the Gay Student Services Organization (GSSO) filed suit against Texas A&M University in an effort to become a recognized student organization.

"He doesn't like queers!" said Art Kelley, Mengden's administrative assistant, when asked why the senator introduced the bill.

Mengden was unavailable for comment.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee. Sen. Oscar H. Mauzy, chairman of the committee, now must decide when or if to place it on the committee's agenda for consideration. He was unavailable for comment, but one of

his aides said no hearing on the bill is presently anticipated.

Mengden introduced the same bill in 1973 and 1975. Kelley said the bill was not brought out of the committee for consideration by the Senate either year.

Dr. John Koldus, A&M vice president for student affairs, yesterday said that he had not read Mengden's bill, so he couldn't comment. He did say that the bill seemed to support A&M's stand on the GSSO issue.

Mauzy's aide said that Mengden was well known in the legislature for his introduction of repressive legislation. Recently, Mengden came out in favor of the move to rescind the Equal Rights Amendment, which was passed in Texas in 1975.

Top of the News

Campus

ROGER McBRIDE, 1976 Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. President, will speak in Rudder 701 at 8 p.m. on March 22. A reception will be held afterward in MSC 205.

Texas

LA RAZA UNIDA party has filed a federal lawsuit against Gov. Dolph Briscoe. Attorney General John Hill, and several state and federal agencies. Jose Angel Gutierrez, national chairman of the predominantly Mexican-American party, said yesterday that the suit will allege repression of the party. Cutierrez, county judge of Zavala County, said harassment by government officials ranged from Briscoe's blocking of a \$1.5 million federal grant awarded for a cooperative farming venture in Zavala County to alleged monitoring of Raza Unida by the CIA.

National

"MOONIES," young followers of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, show "little or no awareness of

the outside world," testified a psychiatrist, Dr. Samuel Benson, after examining them. Benson gave the testimony yesterday in San Francisco before Superior Court Judge S. Lee Vavuris on behalf of the parents of five children. The parents are seeking custody of their sons and daughters for 30 days so they can be "deprogrammed" by the Freedom of Thought Foundation in Tucson, Ariz. The "Moonies," ranging in age from 21 to 26, are challenging the guardianship petitions by their parents who are from New York.

"SUPERPIC," a mechanical device weighing some 4,000 pounds, will inspect the 800-mile trans-Alaska oil pipeline by running through the pipe, detecting dents and wrinkles, an Interior Department official told members of the House Interior Committee yesterday. If the defects are not found, big problems will result when oil starts speeding through the pipeline at speeds up to 35,000 gallons per minute.

A COURT DECISION outlawing all joint newspaper-broadcast ownerships in the same town will be appealed by the Federal Communications

Commission. The decision struck down FCC rules allowing most existing newspaper-broadcast combinations to continue unless "the evidence clearly discloses a cross-ownership in the public interest."

THE NUMBER of banks with problems swelled to 384 this week despite improving economic conditions, today said Robert Barnett, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation chairman. One-hundred fifteen of them are in the two most serious categories. Based on experience since 1973 outlined in the FDIC annual report, eight of the banks will fail and three others will be forced into mergers with stronger institutions. The number of seriously troubled banks has dropped from a peak of 128 last spring to 115.

A FEW CLUES have been found in the killing of boxing figure Howie Steindler, model for the crusty manager in the movie "Rocky," who was grabbed by three men, shoved into his own car, beaten and suffocated. Steindler, 72, managed a number of fighters, including World Boxing Council featherweight champ Danny "Little

Red" Lopez and his brother, welterweight contender Ernie "Indian Red" Lopez, and managed the Main Street Gym. Steindler was kidnapped as he arrived at his home in Encino in the suburban San Fernando Valley Wednesday night.

World

THOUSANDS of heavily armed "mercenaries" have invaded Zaire from Angola, placing eight American Methodist missionaries under arrest, the U.S. Embassy reports. Zaire said it had "retaken" two of five towns in a counteroffensive. The embassy said the missionaries—including five women—were being held in Kapanga, one of five villages captured.

IN ROME, parliament has indicted two former defense ministers on charges of accepting bribes from the American Lockheed Aircraft Corp. Luigi Gui, a Christian Democrat, and Mario Tanassi, a Social Democrat, will be the first cabinet officials to be tried before the Constitutional Court in postwar Italy. After a week of debate by a joint session of parliament, the indictments were voted yesterday.

Research aid passes \$37 million mark

Support for research at Texas A&M University pushed past the \$37 million mark in February, the highest total ever for mid-year.

New research received aid valued at \$3,265,718 last month, placing the cumulative for the first six months of the fiscal year at

\$37,190,613, said research director Dr. Robert R. Berg.

The September through February total—more than \$4 million above the same time last year and nearly \$10 million more than for the same period two years ago.

Largest amount of February aid went to the College of Engineering, Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Texas Transportation Institute, which shared \$1,348,105.

Other support included a total of \$923,793 for the College of Agriculture and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station while the College of Geosciences received \$444,861; The College of Science, \$359,013; the College of Liberal Arts, \$121,987; the College of Medicine, \$40,459; and Center for Energy and Mineral Resources, \$27,500.

A&M to hear Libertarian '76 candidate

Virginia farmer and 1976 presidential candidate Roger MacBride will speak March 22 at Texas A&M University in a Political Forum presentation.

"Libertarianism in the U. S." will be his topic.

MacBride ran against Carter and Ford last year on the Libertarian Party ticket, a "third party" choice in 40 states. He is a pro-capitalist and says he believes Americans should make more decisions themselves about their private lives.

A Princeton and Harvard-trained attorney, co-creator of the NBC-TV series "Little House on the Prairie," author of three books that combined with three he edited for over a million sales and battler of bureaucracy in Vermont, MacBride made history in the 1972 Republican convention. He bolted and cast the first vote ever for a woman in the history of the U.S.

The MacBride vote went to Libertarian Party presidential candidate Theodora Nathan.

His books are "The American Electoral College," "Treaties Versus the Constitution" and "A New Dawn for America."

Political Forum Chairman Lynn Gibson said the free MacBride program will be at 8 p.m. in Rudder Tower 701.

Photo contest offers \$50 prize

Set the shutter speed, adjust the focus, and remove the lens cover. The MSC Camera Committee of Texas A&M University has announced Salon '77, a photo contest with a \$50 prize.

Color and black-and-white prints will be judged April 16-17. Besides the \$50, a "Best of Show" plaque, and first, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in each of 12 categories.

Student photographers may enter no more than two prints per category, at 75 cents a print. All entries must be mounted and turned in by April 12.

Winning photographs will be exhibited April 17-May 7 at the MSC Gallery.

More information and entry blanks are available from the Camera Committee in the MSC Student Programs Office or by calling 845-1515.

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