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Civil damages would be filed *Bill would limit liars*

United Press International
AUSTIN — A West Texas representative has proposed legislation which would prohibit a politician from telling lies about his opponent during a political campaign by making the liar subject to a civil damages suit.

Rep. Bob Simpson, D-Amarillo, said Thursday his "truth in campaigning" bill would allow candidates for public office to collect monetary damages if they suffer politically from untrue statements made by their opponents.

Simpson, who claims he has been a victim of unfair campaign tactics, said a candidate would be able to recover the amount of money an opponent spent making the false statements as well as the amount the victimized candidate must spend to refute the allegations.

"My opponent talked about me being a labor's boy, which in my district is very bad," Simpson said. "He also implied that I was working to repeal the right-to-work law, which is an out-and-out lie and political dynamite in my district."

Amarillo's economy is entirely based on agriculture and its residents are strongly in favor of the right-to-work law, he explained.

"A local union there had endorsed me, yes, but to tie my endorsement to working to repeal the right-to-work law is totally fallacious," Simpson said.

His bill, co-authored by Rep. Lanny Hall, D-Fort Worth, also would allow a candidate to recover attorney's fees and to obtain an injunction preventing the

opponent from repeating the false statements.

Simpson believes candidates are "open game for open abuse," under current libel and slander laws.

"It creates an opportunity for someone who is willing to lie and use the 'big lie' technique to do that knowing nothing can be done about it," Simpson said. "The politician is not the one who gets hurt from the deal. The public is the one who loses. They may vote against someone based on misinformation."

Simpson had introduced legislation during the last session which provided for the American Arbitration Association to come in and settle unfair campaign practice disputes, but the bill died in a subcommittee.

As it stands now, candidates have two choices when charged with false statements, Simpson said.

"You can either ignore it and not respond to it, but by doing that there's a lot of people who are going to believe it's true," he said. "The other approach is deny it and try to set the record straight, but that adds publicity to the charge itself. You're putting the public in the position of trying to find the truthfulness of a candidate."

Simpson admits that some legislators now in office are the same ones who employed unfair campaign tactics.

"In the middle of a hot political campaign people start thinking more about the ends than the means," he said. "People who are otherwise upstanding citizens use unfair campaign tactics."

Skillful dancers to perform again

By SUSAN DITTMAN
Battalion Reporter
You'd never know they were still learning.

The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble gave a skillful but sometimes bizarre performance to about 1,300 people at Texas A&M University's Rudder Auditorium Thursday night. Tonight's 8 p.m. show will be slightly different than Thursday's.

The dances ranged from colorful jazz to sultry modern with a touch of exotic ballet.

The twelve members of this traveling group are part of the Alvin Ailey School of Dance. Although they are students, they exhibit art on stage that reflects the professional style. This style is developed as they perform on stages all over the United States.

The opening number, full of exuberant movements and bright yellow and orange costumes, set a mood of celebration that was broken only by a few dances mid-way through the show.

This second set of dances, entitled "I See The Moon ... And The Moon Sees Me" was a quartet of lifts, frenzied floor movements, solos and high-flying leaps — all combined to depict the moon in four different phases. But the music, which sounded like everything from a space odyssey pin ball machine to an ocean windstorm, did not mesh with the theme the dancers tried to convey.

The third act revived the celebration atmosphere through a series of short dances set to traditional black gospel tunes, such as "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" and "I Want to be Ready." Beginning with solemn and dramatic motions, the dancers pleaded with and praised God by reaching and gazing hopefully towards the sky. After several similar dances, the mood became light and joyous. The entire company pranced on stage dressed in white, complete with streamers, scarves and umbrellas. The accompanying steel drum music set many toes tapping in the audience.

The finale was typical of a Sunday revival in a hot country church. The women did an almost comical piece with old-fashioned fans, wooden stools and yellow floppy hats. They were joined on stage by the men, wearing their Sunday best. Together, they concluded the performance with an energetic dance to "Rocka My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham", receiving a standing ovation.

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Bus wreck due to equipment failure

By BERNIE FETTE
Battalion Staff
A Texas A&M University shuttle bus carrying 35 students ran into a tree when it turned from Houston Street onto Joe Rountt Boulevard

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shortly before noon Wednesday. No one was injured in the accident.

A broken rod in the steering assembly caused the accident, according to a Texas A&M University Police report.

Even though the accident was the

result of equipment failure, Gene Oates of the Texas A&M University Department of Business Services said most of the shuttle buses can be trusted as much as most people trust their own cars.

The bus, like the others in the fleet serving Texas A&M, is owned by Transportation Enterprises, Inc. of Austin.

Oates said the chief mechanic of the local transportation enterprises division has been on vacation during the past week. As in the past, Oates said, the shuttle bus system has had some problems getting off on the right foot.

Oates said the system usually takes at least the first two weeks of the semester to get rolling smoothly. He said he expects the system to be back to normal by next week.

The bus involved in Wednesday's accident was a 1973 model. Oates said none of the buses are over ten years old.

Some universities, Indiana University for instance, have their own university-supported and operated shuttle bus systems. Although this possibility has been discussed for Texas A&M, Col. Thomas Parsons, director of traffic and security, said, "There is no way of telling how many millions of dollars that would cost."

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