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COUPON

GSS

Warped

by Scott McCull

Continued from page 1

The court case, which has been going on for about seven years, is the main factor that pulled the group into the political arena, he said.

The highly-publicized case has brought a lot of exposure to the organization, he said, and that is evidenced through the group's growing membership.

Attendance at the bi-monthly GSS meetings is around 50 or 60, he said, and it is growing all the time.

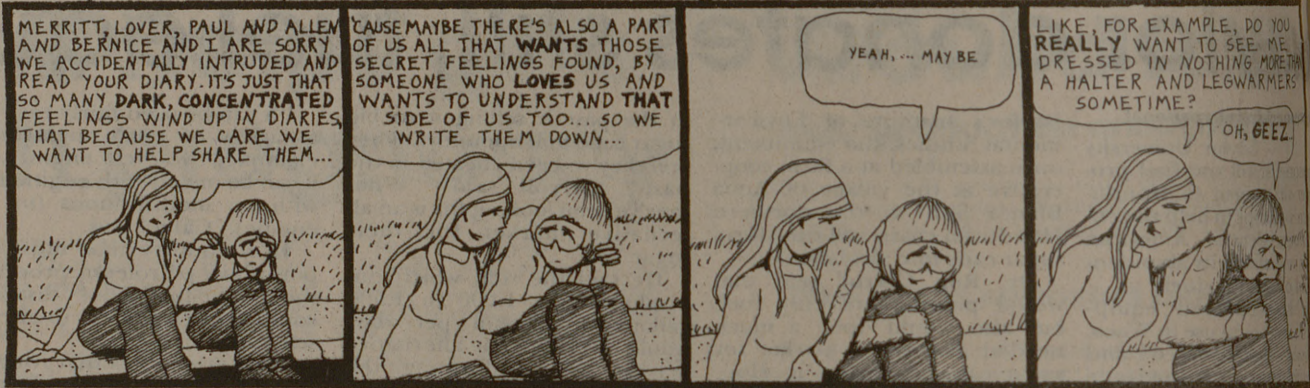
Part of the increased exposure of the group is due to the Texas Gay-Lesbian Student Organization Coalition.

The objective of the TGLSOC is to keep a steady exchange of information flowing between organizations across the state, especially those at universities.

TGLSOC also provides referrals to members moving to a new area, and DePalma said the organization has gotten several new members through this service.

DePalma, who works for the University, said he is surprised that he has not been reprimanded in any way by the University for his involvement with the group.

The final briefs in the court case involving the University and the GSS were presented in November, and the decision from the U.S. 5th District Court is pending.



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Can banks open in B-CS

By JANET M. DURAN
Reporter

'Pop a top again,' says country-western singer Jim Ed Brown. After all the tops have been popped and a pile of empty beer and soda cans has accumulated, you can exchange them for money at a local Can Bank.

A Can Bank is a bright blue and dark brown machine that crushes and weighs aluminum cans, then gives the customer who brought them money.

After sorting, the cans are weighed and the customer receives 24 cents per pound, or a penny a can. According to a brochure from the manufacturer, the machine's cycle is one to two minutes long; then the customer gets his money.

The machine, which is more than 9 feet tall, receives cans through an opening in its side, and begins sorting the cans when the start button is pushed.

Some people have tried to cheat the machine by weighting their cans down with sand, but the Can Bank isn't that gullible.

'You cannot fool the machine,' says Dr. Clair Nixon, who owns three machines in Bryan and College Station. The machine detects and rejects attempts at fraud such as loading the cans with sand. It also won't accept Pepsi cans and some other varieties that are not all aluminum.

Nixon, who is an assistant

professor of accounting at Texas A&M, calls the process reverse vending. He says it's a good way for people to make a little money off a reusable resource.

He says clubs and other organizations can make money by collecting cans, then feeding them to the Can Banks.

'I've been surprised at the response,' says Nixon's Can Bank manager, Clint Young. Young says he checks up on the \$25,000 machines and he can be contacted if any problems arise.

Young also helps empty the Can Banks when they are full; capacity is about 2700 pounds. The cans are loaded into a truck and are taken to the Aluminum Company of America in Houston for recycling.

'We're hoping to use the Can Bank as a springboard to get into further recycling,' Young says.

Nixon says he got into the recycling business more than a year ago in Utah for a number of reasons other than allowing people to make some money. Nixon says he is concerned with cleaning the environment, preserving the aluminum resource and providing convenience for the public.

There is a Can Bank in operation at Culpepper Plaza. By Friday there will be operational Can Banks in front of El Chico at Manor East Mall and in downtown Bryan, Nixon says.



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Democrats want absentee box

By CAMI BROWN
Staff Writer

The Brazos County Democratic Party has asked to put an absentee ballot box in the city of College Station municipal building for the March 10 election of the district 14 state representative.

"The Brazos County Demo-

cratic Party feels this will make it easier for both the students of Texas A&M University and the people of south Brazos County to exercise their right to vote absentee," said Democratic Candidate Chairman Ron Gay.

Republicans have been encouraging absentee voting for Texas A&M students and faculty who will be on spring break vacations on the election day. The special election day was set by Democratic Gov. Mark White, and because the majority of voters on campus are Republican, some feel this is an attempt to hurt the Republican vote.

"It was not the intent of the

Democratic party to disenfranchise anybody," Gay said. "We are sensitive to the fact that it is the start of spring break and for many people in College Station it would be easier if there was an absentee box."

Gay said that the Democrats were not in favor of locating the ballot box on campus.

"Because of the impracticality of finding a parking space on campus we decided to ask for it (the ballot box) to be somewhere else in College Station," Gay said. "We were asked by the city of College Station to use the municipal building."

Gay said the use of the municipal building, located on

Texas Avenue, is free would save the county the expense of renting space at other location. The other locations considered by the Brazos County Democrats are: the College Station Community Center and the municipal building.

The request for a location for the absentee ballot box must be approved by the United States Department of Justice.

"We favor everyone exercising their right to vote in a critical election," Gay said. "We are just trying to be accommodating to those who wish to vote absentee in College Station."

Gay also released the list of Democratic candidates in the upcoming election.

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