Courage awaits action on banned gay group

By G.R. Coleman
Daily Reporter

The recent decision by Stephen F. Austin State University's student senate to ban the school's gay and lesbian group was met with caution by NT's gay and lesbian group, Courage.

The student senate's decision can be overturned by the SFA administration. Until that does or does not happen, Courage will not take any action to help their counterparts at SFA.

"We really don't want to get involved until the school's administration makes a decision to support or not support the senate's decision," said Plano junior Scot Maitland, Courage secretary.

Texas Penal Code 21.06 originally prohibited sodomy by anyone, but was later amended in 1974 to include only homosexuals. The same law is the basis of the SFA senate's decision. The law was challenged in Travis County Courts and found to be unconstitutional. However, since it is a state law it still applies to the entire state.

Plano graduate student Michael DeGuzman, Courage adviser, said the actions by SFA are part of a larger scheme devised by the ultraconservative groups around that area.

"It's not just a gay and lesbian group that they're after. They're also targeting a women's group and an atheist group," he said. "It also seems that their organization of Campus Crusade for Christ is very militant and very intolerant of the school's liberal groups."

DeGuzman said gay and lesbian groups across the state are waiting to see how the school's administration will react before they will confront the school at all.

"Right now we're coordinating, but it was recommended that we not go because we didn't want their administration to back down," DeGuzman said. "We want to see how they really feel before we do anything."

DeGuzman said these student groups are right to be frightened by what is going on at SFA.

"Just because NT is different from SFA in size and location, I think it is wrong to say that something like this could not happen here."

SFA has not yet given a date when they will rule on the matter.