

# Gramm: taunts won't hurt

by Maureen Carmody

Battalion Staff  
Ex-Democrat Phil Gramm said he wasn't too concerned with the verbal attacks of Rep. Bill Alexander, D-Ark., and other House Democrats who have accused him of being a deceitful "double dealer" who lied for the Reagan administration.

"I don't take their attacks personally," Gramm said. "I know they were told to write these letters by House leaders. Abraham Lincoln once said, 'If you have strong views you are going to have strong enemies.'"

Gramm said House leaders tied without any success to tell how to vote in Washington. Now they're trying to tell the people in the district how to vote.

"I suspect they will be just as unsuccessful at this," he said. "I don't believe name calling ever has been successful."

Gramm also said he thinks the National Democratic Party needs to think out its campaign strategy a little more.

"The strategy by the National Democratic leadership is to try to fragment the vote to produce a runoff," he said. "I don't think that strategy is well thought out. I don't think that many people will go to vote on Saturday (Feb. 27) who aren't sure who they'll vote for."

There are two main issues the



Republican candidate Phil Gramm

people will consider when voting, Gramm said. The first issue is whether a congressman should vote for the people or for the leadership of his party. The second is the issue of balancing the budget and taking care of the deficit.

Gramm said he thinks he has a big advantage in this race.

"I live in the district, went to school in the district, and taught at A&M for eight years," he said. "My wife taught at A&M for eight years and my children were born here. We know the people. This produces a type of

grass root."

Gramm said he first looked to the Democratic Party not only because he came from a family of Democrats, but because he thought he could promote Democratic ideals.

"I feel my views and my record are perfectly in line with the founder of the Democratic Party, Thomas Jefferson," he said.

Gramm said the two most important items that need attention are the economy and the prevention of the government's waste of the laborer.

Gramm said he remains conservative toward the issues of abortion and prayer in school.

"The issue that I have voted on is federal funding of abortion and I have consistently opposed this," he said. "I have also supported prayer in public schools as long as it is voluntary."

Two considerations should be made on the issue of tax credits for parents with children in private school, Gramm said.

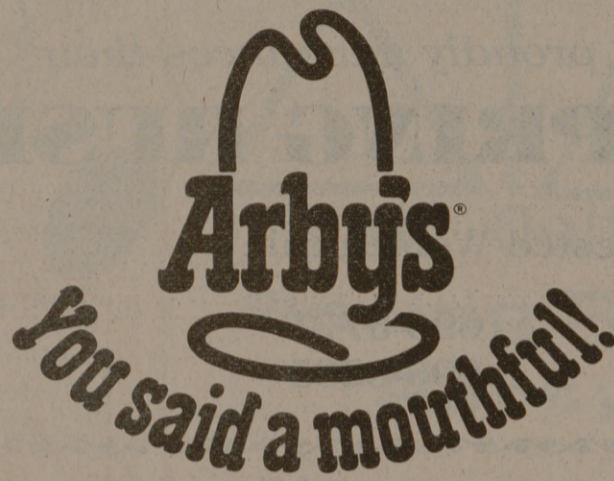
"Number one, I don't think that we can spare the revenues," he said. "And number two, I have been concerned that such tax credits might undermine support for public schools."

Gramm said his next campaign move will be this weekend. He plans to take a bus tour of the district and his wife, children and friends will join him. He also plans to visit shopping malls and city halls with a country & western band accompanying him to provide entertainment.

Gramm said he plans to visit Texas A&M Tuesday.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he said. "I wonder how many students realize I have spent a third of my life at A&M? I'm really proud of that."

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United Press International  
How strong is the acid in our stomachs? Apparently strong enough to digest razor blades.

Swallowing a razor blade can easily kill you. But David E. Hatoff, a gastroenterologist at the University of California School of Medicine in San Diego, noticed recently that mentally ill patients who swallowed them were sometimes the worse, reports Science Digest magazine.

To find out why, he placed different blades in stomach-length acids. He found that corrosion could destroy as much as 18 percent of the blade in a single day.

Since injuries can occur when a blade is removed from an uncooperative patient, Hatoff says that in some cases the best policy is to wait until X-rays show that the blade has disintegrated, then help the patient high-fiber foods to help remove the remnants.

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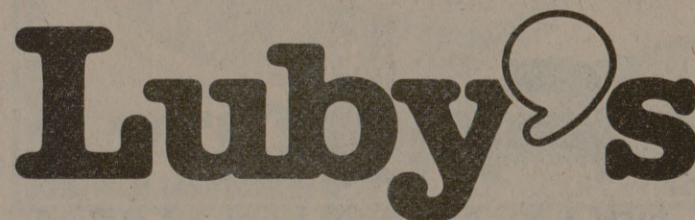
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