

## Campaign freedom contested

Rep. Phil Gramm wants to run his own campaign for U. S. Senate.

To make sure he's the one at the wheel, he's turning down \$50,000. What's more, he's asking the courts to stop the group that collected it.

Gramm says he did not authorize Americans for Phil Gramm, headed by Ralph Galliano, to raise money for his campaign.

Galliano says his objective is to keep the Senate seat formerly held by John Tower in conservative hands. He will campaign for Gramm whether Gramm likes it or not.

Galliano's contributions don't include just money. Gramm claims the group's dollars will be exchanged for a commitment to do things Galliano's way.

Does Gramm have the right to run his campaign without interference? Does Galliano have the right to support, and to campaign for, anyone he wishes?

It's up to the courts to balance the rights of both parties and decide which should take precedence.

But The Battalion Editorial Board applauds Gramm for taking a stand on an issue that most politicians would not even consider an issue.

After all, who wants to turn down money, especially in a campaign as hotly contested as this Senate race? Eleven republican candidates are on the ballot for the May 5 primary. That \$50,000 could go a long way.

To Gramm, however, the freedom to run his own campaign — addressing the issues he wants to address, supporting the causes he wants to support — is more important than the money.

Could it be we've finally found an honest politician?

— The Battalion Editorial Board



## Famous student tells grad how to spend his million

Good God! I'm a "former student."

The thought dawned on me the other day when I was fooling around the MSC reading all those swell plaques dedicated to Texas A&M's famous grads.

I figured the Association of Famous Students would be sending me stuff soon, asking me to join. And give.

So I decided that, instead, I would take the initiative and give them a ring, check out the opportunities (beyond sporting a rear-window decal) of my becoming a Famous Student, too.

I called "the man" himself, Mr. O.W. "Slim" Gordo — Class of '50, President of the Association of Famous Students.

We spoke on the phone and I admitted that I was really no one special, just an average Texas A&M grad, but that I wanted to know what I might be able to do for my alma mater if some day I should earn, inherit, or stumble upon, say, a cool one million dollars.

Seemingly enchanted by the very utterance of that figure, Mr. Gordo asked me to meet him for lunch that day at the top-floor restaurant of Rudder Tower.

Mr. Gordo was a bit late, but I enjoyed the wait, looking fondly from my eleventh-floor vantage point at the lovely campus grounds sprawled out before me. Lawns were so green, trees teemed with blackbirds, and eager young students read in the shade. It was a fine perspective.

Mr. Gordo finally showed up, muttering — though not apologetically — something about a meeting

that had run overtime. He was well-dressed, plump, and wore three gold rings.

"A million dollars?" he asked. "Well, of course I don't have it now, sir. But if I ever do..."

### reader's forum

"I made my first million in five years, son. Good lookin' fella like you — why, you'll have it in three."

"Thank you, sir."

"Slim, son."

"Slim, sir."

"Bricks, son."

"Bricks, Slim? How exactly do you mean that?"

"The average brick has a life of five thousand years. An excellent investment. Now, you put that million into bricks, boy, and it don't 'specially matter how you arrange them. However, I'm sad to say that the bell tower idea is already taken ... dammit. You know, there were five or six of us Famous Students who had plans for bell towers of our own on the drawing board, but that darned Albritton beat us all to it."

"I'm sorry, Slim."

"But I'll tell you what, boy, just between you and me, I got one up my sleeve. You know that pretty little area around the old fishpond by Sbisá? Well, I'm gonna build me a big ol' arch of triumph, just like they got 'em in Paris! What do you think?"

"What about the fishpond?"

"That old scum hole? Hell, we'll just dig it up and store it somewhere. But you know what I'm

gonna call my arch?"

"I can't begin to guess."

"Arch de Gordo! Not bad, huh? The wife thought of that one."

"Slim, I was sort of thinking I'd give my million as some kind of grant. You know, like for a biochemistry project. I hear departments like that are often short on cash."

"Son, have you ever tried to put a bronze plaque on a test tube? Well, we tried it once — little bitty engraved things — and they fell right off. Won't work."

"What about funding the planting of some new trees on campus?"

"Trees! What the hell we need more trees for? All they do is get in the way of construction."

"What about support for the faculty senate? I hear that's a worthy program."

"That glorified bunch of uppity pedants? Listen, boy, I can see the way you're thinkin': Brains over bricks. But I didn't become a Famous Student — and you won't either — by funding anything that can't hold a plaque. Your perspective will change, boy. You'll see."

Mr. O.W. "Slim" Gordo — Class of '50, President of the Association of Famous Students — paid the check and left.

I sat there a while, dazed and gazing out of the window at the campus. Tiny students scurried in and out of huge, cold buildings. Indeed, my perspective had changed.

A few days later, sure enough, an invitation to become a Famous Student arrived in my mail. I threw the envelope away, unopened.

Dave Spence  
Class of '84

## Slouch by Jim Earle



"I tend to dislike graduating seniors this time of year, until I realize it's his sixth year here."

## Citizens dream of a new Bryan

Through the years, the City of Bryan has faced times of economic uncertainty, times of boosterism and times where just plain colorful events have happened.

The recent struggle to revitalize downtown Bryan is a humorous blend of all three.

The Bryan Downtowners Association is a group of businessmen and concerned citizens who want to turn downtown Bryan into a popular area.

But the big question in my mind is: why do these people want to revive downtown?

Is it to bring back nostalgic remembrances, to preserve historic buildings — or is it to boost many of the downtown merchants' ailing commercial fortunes?

My guess is big bucks are the main reason for all the blood, sweat and tears. Every person in the association has a vital interest invested in downtown.

To me, that seems to be a conflict of interest. But all the downtowners can see is a downtown struggling to survive.

If the association has anything to do with it, they will make it survive.

Most of the downtowners believe that a historical district will be a panacea for their money problems. As a result, they are overemphasizing to the building owners the tax

breaks which would go along with the district.

Unfortunately, a historical district will do little for downtown Bryan building owners. The tax break will provide an additional five percent tax deduction on buildings 40 years or older — that's all.

But the members are so gung-ho about the idea of a thriving downtown Bryan that they are blind to any criticism regarding the downtown resurrection.

In ignoring constructive criticism, they are losing their objectivity — what little they had.

Actually, I'm wondering about their common sense. Ever since the revitalization effort began, the association has thought that declaring a part of the downtown area a municipal historical district will suddenly result in a hot tourist spot.

But even if all the buildings are restored to their original states, there is no guarantee that tourists

will flock to the district to spend their tourist dollars.

Sure, it'll work in Austin. Austin has a sub-culture which will support Sixth Street in downtown.

And yeah, it will work in Galveston. The beaches in Galveston are a tourist spot anyway, so the Strand in downtown Galveston just picks up some of the extra traffic.

But to expect the same to happen in downtown Bryan may be expecting too much.

I suppose I can't blame the downtowners for trying. Everyone likes to take pride in their city, and Bryanites are no exception.

Downtowners are having celebrations, parties and street sales right and left in downtown Bryan. They're bringing in bands, artists, choirs and even belly dancers to lure Bryan-College Station residents downtown.

Whether or not downtown Bryan indeed gets a revamping remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: the Bryan Downtowners Association's fight to preserve downtown will add another colorful chapter to the city's history.

Brigid Brockman is a senior journalism major and news editor for The Battalion.



brigid  
brockman

## Letters: Re

### Cadets don't live by A&M tradition

Editor: I am writing to tell you how serious I am at the reverence University holds for the Cadets.

I've always respected the traditions and customs of the Corps. I've always respected the history test, and the fact that had handed out three essays two days before, one would be on the test.

While the rest of the class that chance to use the quiet study, the two cadets in front used it as a chance to cheat.

One of them hadn't been recently and was copying the other one. The biggest incident when the first cadet switched blue book with one of three in his notebook and quickly erased the original blue book another book and moved it, so the other cadet could read.

It was my belief that the system was a big tradition at University. Such blatant cheating by someone supposed to uphold these traditions offends me.

If a member of the Corps is to be a model student, Texas A&M, please make it something other than cheating.

Kathleen  
Class of '84

### Ice cream to raise money for statue

Editor: On Saturday, May 5, 1984, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Joseph's Hospital is sponsoring an ice-cream fund raiser for the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. The mayors from both Bryan and College Station are assisting in the effort. There will be curbside ice at the Hospital.

As a former resident of Bryan Station and a graduate of Texas A&M, Class of '61, I encourage everyone to help support this effort to raise funds for the Statue of Liberty. The Statue is a symbol of everything good that this try stands for.

As our fundraising efforts extended across the United States, I am particularly pleased to see the participation of many people associated with my alma mater, Texas A&M. This is not surprising as A&M symbolizes many very things the Statue of Liberty stands for.

I would like personally to thank St. Joseph's Hospital for their effort in this patriotic and noble effort.

David L. ...  
Superintendent  
Statue of Liberty

### A&M rugby team hard work praised

Editor: I would like to address this to my teammates of the Texas A&M Women's Rugby Team congratulate them for the work put out to get us where we stand now.

We have won a number of games, received second place in the Texas Women's Rugby Union this spring and earned a chance to win the Southwest Women's Rugby Football Union's 1984-85 tournament this weekend in Oklahoma.

We are a relatively young and experienced team compared to our opponents, but we have blown others away. Despite the hard work of injuries, the disappointment of defeat and various personal conflicts, the team has worked together.

I want to thank my teammates for being fine athletes and individuals — a factor important to success. Also, a special thank you to our coach who has given 110 percent.

I'm not sure how we'll do this weekend, but as long as we have the enthusiasm and skill shown so far, we have reason to be confident.

Iris ...  
Texas A&M Women's  
Rugby Team

**The Battalion**  
USPS 045 360

Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

**The Battalion Editorial Board**

Bill Robinson, editor  
Stephanie Ross, managing editor  
Kathy Wiesepape, editorial page editor  
Shelley Hoekstra, city editor  
Brigid Brockman, news editor  
Kelley Smith, news editor  
Ed Cassavoy, sports editor

**The Battalion Staff**

Letters Policy  
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Editorial Policy  
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Consent to publish is granted exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches reduced to 1/2. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Assistant City Editors.....Melissa Adair, Michelle Powe  
Assistant News Editors Bonnie Langford, Tracie Lynn Holub, Kellie Dzwiazczyk  
Assistant Sports Editor.....Travis Tangle  
At Ease Editor.....Bill Hughes  
Assistant At Ease Editor.....Angel Stokes  
Senior Reporters.....Patrice Koranek, Robin Black, Bob Caster, Dave Scott  
Staff Writers.....Ed Alanis, Shawn Bellens, Dena Brown, Dainah Bullard, Leigh-Ellen Clark, Tony Cornetti, Suzi Fick, Paul Flint, Kari Fluogel, Donn Friedman, Louis Hilgartner, Scott Long, Karla Martin, Kimberlee D. Norris, Sarah Gates, Jan Perry, Lynn Rae Povec, James R. Walker  
Copy Editors.....Kathy Breard, Kave Palmmeier  
Photographers.....Dean Saito  
John Makiely, Peter Rocha, Mike Davis, John Ryan  
Cartoonist.....Scott McCallar