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 exchange 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.

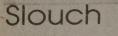
But The Battalion Editorial Board applauds Gramm for taking a stand on an issue that most politicians would not even consider an issue.

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



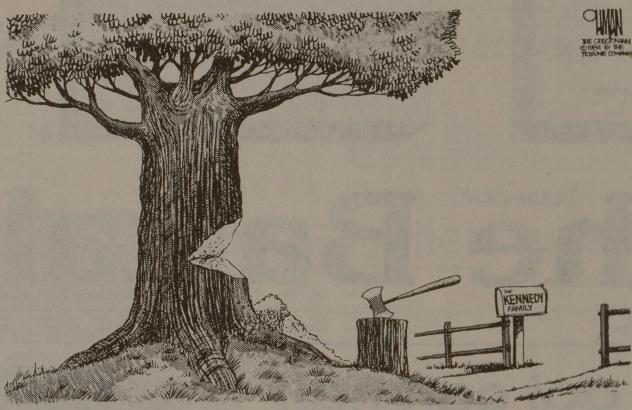


"I tend to dislike graduating seniors this time of year, until I realize it's his sixth year here."

The Battalion

The Battalion Editorial Board

The Battalion Staff



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 rearwindow 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 by Jim Earle upon, say, a cool one million dol-

> 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

"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 Sbisa? Well, I'm gonna build me a big ol' arch of triumph, just like they got 'em in Paris! What do you

'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

"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 plant-

ing 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

"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 the envelope away, unopened.

Dave Spence Class of '84

Letters:

Cadets don't live United P by A&M tradition FAIRBAT

I am writing to tell you ate visit rious I am at the revere University holds for the Con Day.
As he 1

I've always respected teck, Reaga forts and traditions but whitious obje nessed today makes me sidans-oceanie a history test, and the pas flourished had handed out three essential object tions two days before, one le Chinese would be on the test.

while the rest of the dever-sensi that chance to use the que lationship study, the two cadets in from used it as a chance to cheat

One of them hadn't been so recently and was copying other one. The biggest ins when the first cadet switt blue book with one of three in his notebook and quid ered the original blue boo By DAIN. another book and moved its so the other cadet could read Dr. Norma

It was my belief that the el Prize wir system was a big tradition finternation University. Such blatant, pregronomy at tated cheating by someone uesday that supposed to uphold the grating roblems. tions offends me.

If a member of the Corps fabout 25 p dets is to be a model studence effects of Texas A&M, please makehin agricultur tive something other than ilities of agr

Ice cream to rolloom being money for statue

Editor:

On Saturday, May 5, 19 tweeen 10 a.m. and 4 pung the envi Joesph's Hospital is sponsoraid. Howevice-cream fund raiser for new technol storation of the Statue of Larmers to pr The mayors from both Bryanthout incre College Station are assisting effort. There will be curbside Borlaug sa ice at the Hospital.

As a former resident of copulation.

Station and a graduate of fan to return A&M, Class of '61, I encouraft 'the good eryone to help support this effort to raise funds for the of Liberty. The Statue is as of everything good that this try stands for.

As our fundraising effort extended across the United® I am particulary pleased to of United Pre the participation of many & SAN ANT associated wih my alma Mansmen, in Texas A&M. This is not surphe Alamo tas A&M symbolizes many fuesday were very things the Statue of lefiant securi

stands for I would like personally wind two un St. Joseph's Hospital for the port in this patriotic and harles Lee

David L. M Superint

A&M rugby team hard work praise

Editor:

I would like to address thi to my teammates of the A&M Women's Rugby Team congratulate them for the work put out to get us when stand now. We have won a number of

naments, received second pl the Texas Women's Rugby ball Union this spring and ear chance to win the Southwest en's Rugby Football Union's torial Competition this week Oklahoma.

We are a relatively young experienced team compared opponents, but we have blow others away. Despite the hard of injuries, the disappointm defeat and various personal flicts, the team has worked w gether.

I want to thank my tear for being fine athletes and it uals — a factor important to success. Also, a special than our coach who has given 110

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

> Texas A&M Won Rugby

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

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

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 brockman 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

brigid

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 sup-

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

port Sixth Street in downtown.

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.

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