

Commencement speakers give advice for future

Gramm: learning process not over

By JOE PARSONS
Reporter

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm told Texas A&M graduates Friday night that they should get involved in the political process.

Gramm, addressing graduates from the Colleges of Engineering and Geosciences, said they should make an additional effort to let their voice be heard.

Gramm also stressed that the learning experience does not end after graduation.

"The learning experience doesn't stop here," Gramm said. "Put it to work in a lifelong learning experience. People will seek you out for your leadership."

Gramm, who taught economics at A&M before being elected to Congress in 1978, said he has noticed changes at A&M since leaving.

"So much has changed (at A&M) yet so little is different," he said. "The greatness at A&M is the tradition in midst of dramatic changes."

Gramm said the real measure of greatness of a university is the quality of its graduates.

Gramm speculated as to why



Texans spoof Aggies.

"Texans spoof Aggies because Aggies are Texans' Texans," he said. "That puts you right at the top. Because Aggies epitomize things people love most about Texas. Plain old traditional values."

Gramm also speculated as to why Americans spoof Texans.

"Because Texans stand a little taller," he said. "They're a little more confident, a little prouder, because Texans are Americans' Americans."

A&M President Frank Vandiver and Board of Regents Chairman David G. Eller gave congratulatory speeches to the students.

Eller told the graduates that "wherever you go, you'll be the basis on which people form their opinion of Texas A&M. That

they are good citizens, people who can be counted on."

During the ceremony, Orvil Wayne Crisman, a retired business executive and entrepreneur, received the Distinguished Alumni Award given by A&M and the Association of Former Students for his contributions to society.

Crisman graduated from A&M in 1938 with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering and worked in oil and gas operations, real estate and investments.

Crisman currently serves as vice chairman of Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview.

Also, Pat Wood, a civil engineering graduate, received the Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Memorial Outstanding Student Award. Wood received \$5,000 and a plaque.

Tower: defense is essential

By TAMARA BELL
Staff Writer

As American citizens, the graduates of 1985 must never be so preoccupied with domestic affairs that they fail to stay abreast of external matters, U.S. Ambassador John Tower said during graduation ceremonies in G. Rollie White Coliseum Friday.

Tower, speaking to 3,526 degree candidates from the Colleges of Agriculture, Architecture and Environmental Design and Education, said maintaining a strong defense will be an awesome responsibility for the next generation.

"America is not an island," Tower said. "Our economic and social health depends on external policies rather than domestic policies."

"Our first priority is to afford security against external enemies. We need to maintain defense as far away and as close as possible."

The U.S. military shouldn't be sized according to the budget but according to the country's needs, Tower said.

"If defense is not affordable," he said, "then we have to accept the consequences. If we aren't careful, we could be delivered into the hands of our adversary."

Tower, the ambassador representing the United States at the strategic arms negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland, said he advocates a reduction of nuclear weapons. However, the threat of a nuclear war remains constant, he said.

"The best support we have is the will and determination of the

American people to do what is necessary to make sure the United States will never be threatened by attack, or put in the position to decide whether to surrender to nuclear blackmail," Tower said.

"The highest priority is to move the threat from mankind to the citizen's help," he added. "This requires the citizen's help."

The graduation program included the presentation of the Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Memorial Outstanding Student Award to David Alders, student body president for 1984-85.

The award honors qualities such as leadership, patriotism, courage and humility that are exemplified in a graduating student. Alders received a \$300 check and a certificate.

Bentsen: education is asset

By REBECCA DE LONG
Reporter

A college education is the springboard from which graduates may leap into the future, U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen told Texas A&M graduates Saturday morning.

"You are the generation that's going to usher us into the 21st century," Bentsen said. "You're our best hope for the future — don't blow it."

Bentsen told about 7,500 people that today's tough and compe-

titive world needs educated minds that will build on the accomplishments of past generations.

"Don't turn your backs on the challenges of the future," Bentsen said.

Bentsen added that a democracy can tolerate some mediocrity, but it is important that people be good at what they do.

"If you have a talent, and you somehow learn to use the whole of it, you succeed," he said.

Saying he refused to follow the traditional commencement rhe-

toric, Bentsen told graduates from the Colleges of Business Administration, Liberal Arts, Science and Veterinary Medicine, and their "impoverished parents" that finding a place in society to develop a talent is no easy task and graduates with specific plans for five years from now may be disappointed.

"A college degree has many tributes, but prophecy is not one of them," Bentsen said. "It's tough and it's a competitive world, and few people will find their place to the class of 1985."

CS top in state in education and economics, study says

By LESLIE MALONE
Reporter

College Station was ranked first in education and economics in a recent study conducted by the Institute of Urban Studies at The University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. Richard Cole, UTA's director of urban studies who helped conduct the study, says the study was based on data from 1970 and 1980. Fifty-two Texas cities with a population of at least 25,000 were surveyed. Cole says the study was based on

data collected by various public and private agencies.

"The cities were ranked on a scale of 1 to 10 by the data from 1980," Cole says. "Only one city received a 10 for each category based on the data collected."

The economic study was based on the city's poverty level, income per capita, the percentage of unemployed and the percentage and mean income of white collar workers.

The education study was based on the percentage of the population

who have completed high school and college, teachers with graduate degrees and teacher incentive pay — what the school will pay a teacher to go back to college to earn a graduate degree.

Cole says the institute is interested in the trends of the cities and whether they are improving.

"We are currently working on collecting data for 1985 to determine recent trends," he says.

College Station Mayor Gary Halter says he hasn't seen a copy of the study so he doesn't know how the study was weighted.

"I don't know what value the rankings really have," Halter says. "Different values can result from different weightings within a study."

"I think the education ranking can be attributed to the University environment and the level of education within the city because of the professors and students."

Halter also says that College Station has had the highest mean education level of any Texas city for a long time and that the level is also one of the highest in the nation.

Bob Runnels, College Station city

councilman, says he hasn't seen the study either.

"There is a lot of controversy and dismay in the various studies that are done," Runnels says. "The cities ranked low say the study's inadequate and those ranked high say the studies are perfect."

"It's pleasing to me that College Station was ranked highly in these areas. We are striving for an educated as well as a strong economic city."

School board member Deanna Wormuth says she is delighted that

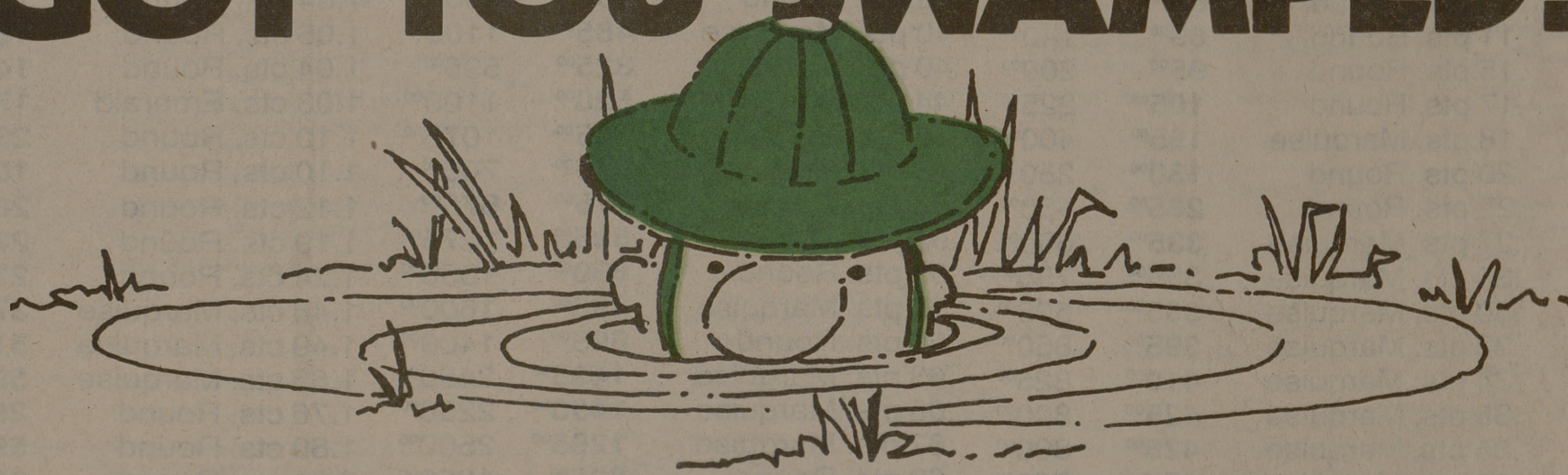
College Station is ranked number one.

"The rankings support the effort made by the district," Wormuth says. "The criteria used for the study are those that we have worked on to make our district a top-notch district."

Cities ranked number one in other categories are Austin, overall and for the quality of life; redo, for public safety; Temple, health and environment; Mesquite, for housing; San Antonio, for transportation; Dallas, for recreation; culture, and Del Rio for politics.

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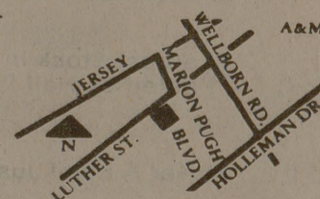
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