

Thursday, August 3, 1989

Playing with fire

Firemen tame flames at training school

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

They come to Bryan-College Station from over 775 cities, 25 states and several countries. And they stay on the Texas A&M campus to play with fire for three weeks, leaving their families behind.

They are the close to 3,000 participants in this year's 60th Annual Texas Firemen's Training School, being held at A&M.

This year's three-week school, sponsored by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, ends Aug. 4.

Training is done through operational classes, student participation, class discussion and field exercises.

Instructors and firefighters participating in the school stay in the Commons and in local hotels.

Charles Page, director of the A&M Fire Protection Division and Firemen's Training School said the firefighters and instructors who take part in the school must give up part of their everyday lives.

"They are dedicated," Page said. "Many of these volunteers are barbers, dentists, etc., from small towns who give up a week's income to be here and learn."

"Instructors often give up a week of their vacation to come here and train these volunteers. They volunteer their expertise."

The school is separated into sessions for hazardous materials control, municipal firefighters and industrial firefighters.

Page, who has been at A&M since

1971 and the fire protection division head for about five years, said this year's school is one of the largest A&M has had.

Page also said the school, one of only 10 others nationwide, is the largest.

"We are the acknowledged leader in hydrocarbon, or petroleum, fire-fighting," he said. "The other schools are good, but there are no others in the country of this magnitude."

Class discussions at the school include rescue training, firefighter recruit training for volunteer fire departments, air crash firefighting, fire protection, arson, dispatcher training and emergency rescue training.

Guest instructors at the school find it easier to teach classes here than at other schools, Page said.

"The instructors and fire marshals like teaching classes in Rudder Tower because of its university atmosphere," he said. "It's a learning environment. They appreciate that."

Field exercises for the Firemen's Training School are held at Brayton Field, the 62-acre site near A&M. Classes are held in Rudder Tower, the Memorial Student Center, the Military Sciences Building and Harrington Classroom Building.

However, this year's school has had its share of problems. Some firefighters have complained about parking tickets they received and confronted Director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services Tom Williams July 27 to waive the tickets.

Lannie Hatton, fire chief for the



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenback

Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire burning on makeshift boat at Brayton Firemen Training Field Wednesday.

Dupont Chemical Co. in Victoria and a guest instructor at the school, died Monday from a heart attack while attending a fire-training class.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was administered but Hatton was pronounced dead on arrival at Humana Hospital.

Hatton's death wasn't the first fatality in the school's history. Page said heart problems were the cause in all previous deaths at the school.

About 12 years ago, an assistant at the school died in his dormitory room. A retiree died from a heart attack about seven years ago while watching a fire-fighting exercise during a company-sponsored class. About five years ago, a firefighter died from a heart attack in a classroom after fighting a simulated house fire earlier in the day.

Page stressed that qualified in-

structors are with the students constantly to ensure and maintain safety procedures, and emergency paramedics and vehicles are present in case they are needed.

Page said A&M has the best instructors and state-of-the-art equipment for firefighting. He said the school is successful in honing the skills of firefighters because, like everything else, practice makes perfect.

"It's kind of like the football team here at A&M — they have to scrimmage and practice in order to be good," he said. "That's a lot like us."

"We're scrimmaging under certain situations, but (the training and simulated fires here) are real and it will burn you if you don't do what you're supposed to do to put that fire out correctly."

Gramm holds \$4 million in campaign warchest

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Republican Sen. Phil Gramm of Bryan has nearly \$4 million in his campaign treasury for a 1990 re-election race, while his only announced opponent, Democratic state Sen. Hugh Parmer, had \$175,043 in the bank at the end of June.

In campaign spending reports filed with the Federal Election Commission, Gramm said he raised just over \$2 million and spent \$684,410 in the first six months of 1989. The first-term senator listed no debts and cash on hand totaling \$3,725,060.

Parmer said he has raised \$218,316 and spent \$158,465 during the reporting period, and has borrowed \$64,900 from Landmark Bank of Fort Worth for his campaign. Parmer also transferred \$50,100 from his state Senate account into his U.S. Senate campaign fund.

"Unless we see a dramatic change in the fortunes of the opposition here, Gramm ought to coast," said Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Ornstein said both of Texas' senators, Gramm and Democrat Lloyd Bentsen, "have the ability to raise awesome sums of money," which has an "enormous chilling affect for any serious or significant opposition."

But Parmer, in a statement released Tuesday, said that even

though he started from scratch in March, he has met all his fund-raising goals.

"Phil Gramm will obviously outspend us, but his Gramm-standing and our fund-raising will be enough to overcome his attempts to buy the election," Parmer said.

Countered Gramm spokesman Larry Neal of Parmer's efforts: "It doesn't sound like a very successful fund-raising operation."

According to Gramm's 428-

"... His Gramm-standing and our fund-raising will be enough to overcome his attempts to buy the election"

— Hugh Parmer, State senator

page filing with the FEC, the senator raised \$138,275 from political action committees and almost \$1.9 million from individual contributors. Parmer raised \$7,000 from PACs and \$211,316 from individuals.

Gramm's fund-raisers ranged from spending \$1,815 at Stacy's Deli in Nacogdoches to events at the Waldorf Astoria on Park Avenue in New York and a \$10,609 fund raiser at Loews L'Enfant Plaza in Washington.

AUGUST

Make a date at Foley's

infashion
BACK TO SCHOOL



TEENS, PICK UP AN APPLICATION TO BE A MODEL

Foley's is sponsoring this exciting model search for young men and women ages 15-20. Two final Competitions, to be held in Dallas and Houston, Texas in conjunction with our Back to School Fashion Shows in late August, will determine 4 lucky winners (2 boys/2 girls). Prizes: a trip to New York for an interview with a top New York agency, a photo in a Foley's newspaper ad, a 500.00 back-to-school wardrobe, and an appointment with the Kim Dawson Agency for the Dallas competition or Intermedia Models for the Houston competition. Finalists (1 boy/1 girl) will be selected from each store's applications. Details on entry in Juniors and Young Men's. Post Oak Mall: Now through Saturday, August 12.

COME SEE WHAT'S NEW IN FRAGRANCES

New at Foley's, an exciting fragrance for men! Ours exclusively from Christian Dior, Fahrenheit, a woody fragrance enlivened with balsamic notes. Available after August 15, but come in now for a sample. In Men's Fragrances. Ladies, receive a barrette for your hair with any purchase of Loulou by Cacheral, while supplies last. Or, try Red, the distinctively different fragrance from Giorgio Beverly Hills. Nothing so soft was ever so exciting. In Fragrances.



SPECIAL EVENTS:

Call toll-free 1-800-472-6437 for information, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No purchase necessary to register for contests, prizes or giveaways; all contest winners are notified by mail. Foley's gift certificates are redeemable for merchandise only.



CLASSIFIEDS



MINY ADS, BUT REAL HEAVYWEIGHTS WHEN RESULTS REALLY COUNT.

No matter what you've got to say or sell, our Classifieds can help you do the big job.

Battalion Classified 845-2611

FOLEY'S OF COURSE