# **2STATE & LOCAL**

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## **Playing with fire**

al Firemen tame flames at training school

#### **By Richard Tijerina**

#### STAFF WRITER

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They come to Bryan-College Sta-tion 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 partic-ipants 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 par-ticipating 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

"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 in-clude rescue training, firefighter re-cruit 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 univer-sity 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

confronted Director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services Tom Williams July 27 to waive the tickets. Lannie Hatton, fire chief for the



Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire burning on make-

medics and vehicles are present in

Page said A&M has the best in-

structors and state-of-the-art equip-

simulated fires here) are real and it

shift boat at Brayton Firemen Training Field Wednesday.

Dupont Chemical Co. in Victoria structors are with the students conand a guest instructor at the school, stantly to ensure and maintain safety procedures, and emergency paradied Monday from a heart attack while attending a fire-training class. case they are needed.

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

Hatton's death wasn't the first fa-tality in the school's history. Page said heart problems were the cause erything else, practice makes perin all previous deaths at the school.

rington Classroom Building. However, this year's school has had its share of problems. Some fire-fighters have complained about parking tickets they received and About five years ago a fire-fighting exercise About five years ago a fire-field. "It's kind of like the football team here at A&M — they have to scrim-mage and practice in order to be good," he said. "That's a lot like us. "We're scrimmaging under cer-About 12 years ago, an assistant at fect. died from a heart attack in a classroom after fighting a simulated house fire earlier in the day. Page stressed that qualified in-

### 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 menths of 1020. The Sector 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 comparing Permer also 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 oppostion 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 re-leased Tuesday, said that even Plaza in Washington.

though he started from scratch in March, he has met all his fundraising 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-

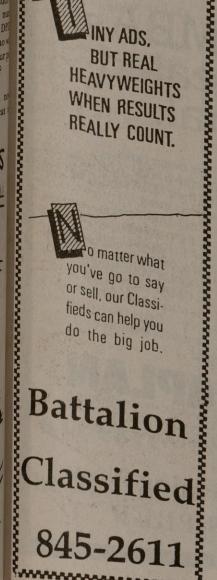
. . His Grammstanding and our fundraising will be enough to overcome his attempts to buy the election"

> - Hugh Parmer, **State senator**

page filing with the FEC, the sen-ator raised \$138,275 from political action committees and almost \$1.9 million from individual con-tributors. 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





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sively from Christian Dior,

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