

The Battalion



WEATHER

FORECAST for FRIDAY:
Continued partly cloudy with noticeably higher temperatures, especially at night.

HIGH:73

LOW:52

Dole proposes 6-month trial period for Tower

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, struggling to stave off rejection of John Tower's nomination as defense secretary, proposed Wednesday an extraordinary six-month trial confirmation period so senators could judge whether Tower lived up to his no-drinking pledge.

Senate Democratic Leader George Mitchell expressed "immediate serious concerns" over the proposal, but promised to consider it overnight.

Dole made his dramatic bid to salvage the nomination at the end of the fifth day of a draining Senate debate, and after conceding it would "take a miracle to win confirmation."

Under Dole's proposal, Tower would be confirmed, but would submit a letter of resignation to President Bush dated Oct. 1, 1989. If Tower's performance were satisfactory, there "probably" would be no need to reconfirm him, Dole said. Otherwise, "he probably wouldn't be the nominee."

Dole said he offered his proposal after discussing it with Tower. It came as the Senate neared a climax in its bitter struggle over the nomination.

Lloyd Bentsen of Texas became the third Democrat to endorse Tower's confirmation, but his speech was bracketed by declarations of opposition from Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Charles Robb of Virginia — Democrats who had been lobbied hard by the Bush administration as potential pro-Tower votes.

An Associated Press survey found 51 Democrats and Republican Sen. Larry Pressler of South Dakota either solidly opposed or leaning against confirmation with 41 Republicans and three Democrats either supporting or leaning in favor of the nomination.

Democrats hold a 55-45 edge in the Senate.

Dole made his extraordinary proposal to deal with Senate concerns over Tower's history of drinking. "I think we ought to give him a second chance that many of us have had," said Dole, who was seriously wounded during World War II but has risen to a position of power and prominence in the Senate.

"It gives this Senate a second opportunity," Dole said. "It addresses the concerns raised by the chairman and the majority leader and by others at the same time it gives President Bush his choice for secretary of defense."

Earlier, Dole suggested Tower be permitted to come to the Senate and answer the allegations against him, but did not immediately press the issue when Mitchell objected.

There was little doubt that Dole's maneuverings were his final bid to save the nomination. Earlier, he conceded it would "take a miracle" to do so, and Johnston's speech seemed to deflate Republican hopes.

"In the nuclear age we can't afford to take a chance on the man who holds the future in his hands," Johnston said on the Senate floor.

The Louisiana Democrat said he was troubled by Tower's drinking habits and

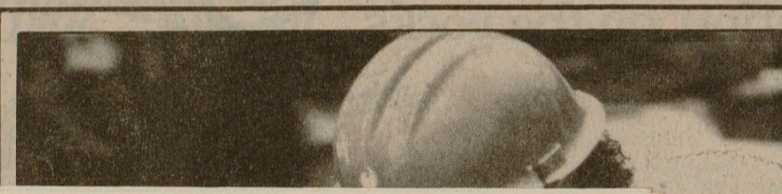
that alcohol altered the former senator's judgment. "There seems to be a personality change that occurs in Senator Tower," Johnston said.

Earlier, Bentsen became the third Democrat to support the embattled nomination, saying, "I hope that when I get the next chance to talk with John Tower about the tough job of keeping this country strong, it will be while he's in his new office at the Pentagon."

Tower said, "I'm both honored to have his prestigious support, and grateful for his humane understanding of what my family has endured."

Despite Bentsen's decision, Mitchell repeated his claim the Senate will reject the nomination, and he led a chorus of Democrats who called for a quick vote.

Witness says North pleases gained money for Contras



State senator bids to take Gramm's seat

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic state Sen. Hugh Parmer launched his bid for the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, charging that incumbent Republican Phil Gramm talks one way in Texas while he votes a different way in Washington.

Parmer, a two-term senator and former Fort Worth mayor, said Gramm is out of touch with Texas families and their values.

"He talks like an East Texas farmer in Lufkin but votes like a Wall Street banker in Washington," Parmer said of Gramm.

"In Texas, he says he wants to be tough on crime. In Washington, he voted against the appropriations for drug enforcement and even the FBI . . . In Texas, he says he wouldn't hurt senior citizens. In Washington, he voted against funding for Meals on Wheels for shut-in elderly."

Parmer, 49, became the first Democrat in the 1990 Senate race.

Many party officials had expected Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower to take on Gramm, but Hightower decided in January to seek re-election to a third term and concentrate on populist political organizing efforts.

Gramm reportedly has said he can raise \$20 million for a re-election bid. Parmer said he wasn't worried about the size of the Republican's war chest, although he admitted it would be a tough fight.

"Sure, I expect it to be difficult," he said. "One of the good things about American democracy is that we don't auction off seats in the U.S. Senate . . . If you could just buy a seat for \$20 million, then I won't have it. But I don't believe that."

"What I need is an adequate amount of money to get across a message. And the message is: Phil Gramm does not represent the values that Texans believe in, and I do. I'll have enough money to get that message across. And when I get it across, I believe I'll win."

Parmer, who never has run a statewide race, downplayed early public opinion polls that show Gramm running strongly.

SPRING BREAK 1989 ■ Student Body

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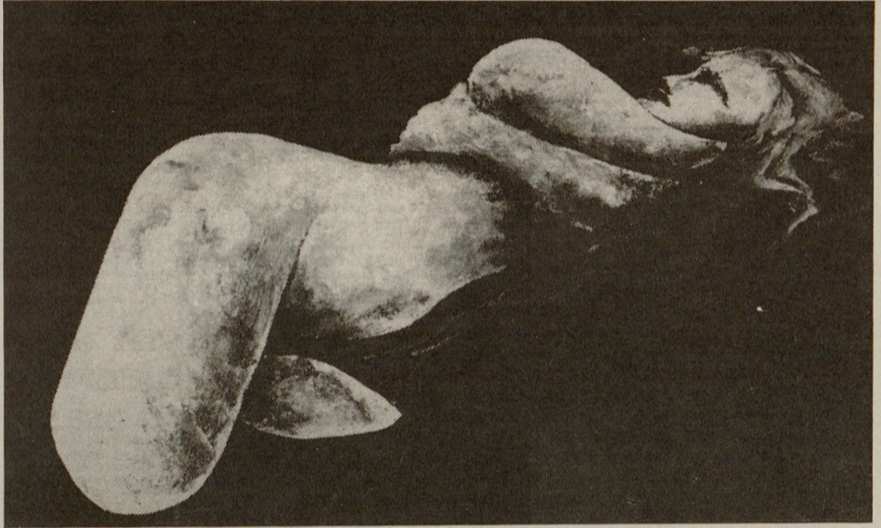
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Living by a different set of rules

By Katie Bassman
The Daily Texan
U. of Texas, Austin

If a woman is an alcoholic, people think she is promiscuous, doesn't love her children or has a weakness in her moral fiber. But for men, drinking is accepted as their reward for putting in a hard day's work, according to counselors at Austin Women's Addiction Referral & Education Center (AWARE).

These and other myths about women alcoholics are accepted by many people, said Brennan McDonald, director of AWARE.

"The nation as a whole hates the thought that the hand that rocks the cradle is a shaky one," she said.

Until recently, society would not recognize the fact that women could have drinking problems, because it was simply "a male problem," said Cynthia Lanier, co-coordinator of the Campus Alcohol and Drug Education Program (CADEP).

"It used to be ignored, but now women are coming out of the closet with their problems," said Jerry Horton, co-coordinator of CADEP.

Now that the situation has been recognized, science has begun to research alcoholism with respect to women, and there are some dramatic findings.

A woman is expected to give care; and when she not only can't provide care — due to her illness — but also needs care herself, she feels a sense of shame connected to not fulfilling her role as a woman, and a sense of shame connected to her illness.

Alcohol also has different physiological effects on women than it does on men.

"Women get more drunk, more quickly, and stay drunk longer on the same amount of alcohol consumed by their male counterparts," McDonald said.

This is because women metabolize alcohol more slowly than men. Women have less body weight and more fat cells, thus developing higher blood alcohol levels than their male counterparts after consuming equivalent doses, AWARE said.

Another factor women need to be concerned with is their estrogen level, said AWARE's Louise Warren. "A rise in a woman's estrogen level decreases the body's rate of metabolizing alcohol, so use of oral contraceptives and the menstrual cycle increase susceptibility to alcohol abuse," Warren said.

Women are twice as likely as men to die from cirrhosis of the liver, pneumonia, and other alcohol-related diseases. Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the third leading cause of mental retardation, and the only preventable one.

"Alcoholism is in a person's genetic predisposition. Fifty to 60 percent of the children of chemically dependent parents are chemically dependent themselves," Warren said.

These physiological reasons would appear to be a main concern of the female alcohol abuser, but according to Horton it is usually the adverse effects on their lifestyle that prompt them to get help.

"People usually talk about their abuse of alcohol because they are finding problems in relationships, such as the embarrassment and lack of honesty," he said.

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