

# The Battalion

## WEATHER

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

HIGH:73

LOW:52

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College Station, Texas

Thursday, March 9, 1989

## 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 night 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

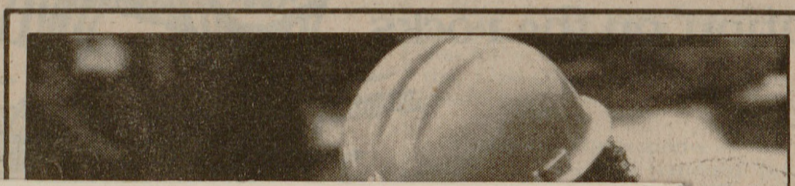
that alcohol altered the former senator's judgment. "There seems to be a personality change that occurs in Senator Tower," Johnston said.

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.

## State budget

to syllabi content and distribution. The bill, introduced by senators Beth Ammons and Mark Williams, came amidst concern over the failure of some professors to adequately explain course content or tell students of books and supplies that would be needed for their course.

Williams said the bill is not trying to restrict the professors at all, but require them to inform students up front how much they're going to have to spend for the class.

Also during the meeting, a resolution was passed encouraging the position of an Advisory Student Regent to enhance communication between students and the Board of Regents.

The bill, which was introduced by Ty Clevenger, a sophomore genetics major, passed unanimously endorsing the position, while supporting the Legislative Study Group's effort to present this viewpoint to the Texas Legislature.

One viewpoint the Senate hopes George Bush will hear, is that A&M wants to be the site for the George Bush Presidential Library.

Clevenger introduced the resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee. The University of Houston, Rice University and Yale University also are in the running to attract the library.

"We want to stir up enough support to give A&M an advantage in getting the site," Clevenger said.

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### THE NATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

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### COMMENT AND OPINION

## Exam anxiety awakens the beast in us all

By Rich Zimmerman  
The Daily Collegian  
Pennsylvania State U.

A couple of weeks ago, my friend Mike and I were in the library studying for an exam. We were looking at some old exams from the class when this girl ran up to us. She had that wild-eyed look of someone lost in despair.

"Is that the exam?" she asked. "We told her it was and that she could look at it when we were done."

"Thank God," she said. "I haven't been to class for weeks . . . I don't even have the book!"

Mike and I both fell in love with her right then and there. She'd anchor the curve. We called her the Anchorwoman. It was a callous way to look at it, and we were sorry. But exams bring out the worst in people. In me anyway.

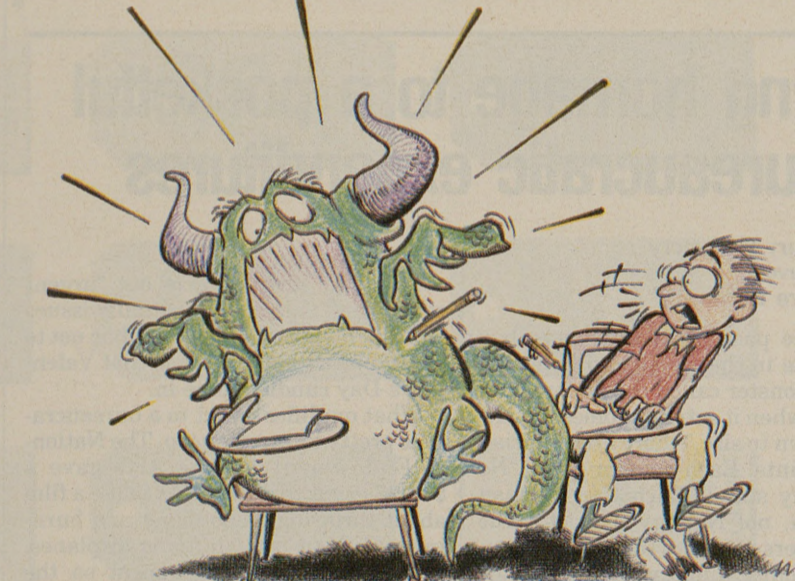
One reason for this is my calendar. It has these really big squares on it that I go through so quickly only to land on the big square that has "exam" on it. The other reason is that professors — no matter what their field, religion or race — all have their exams on the same day.

Usually, I don't mind it. I take a lot of English exams which are kind of fun. You get to mix stuff you've learned with stuff you've made up. You say things like "it seems." You can't say, "It seems that force equals mass times acceleration."

Anyway, I have three exams this week on the same day and none of them are English.

Whenever I'm under this kind of pressure I either choke or go right to work. I took out some paper and frantically tried to figure out how many pages a minute I would have to read to finish the 2,000 pages for the three exams.

Finally, I went to a review session. There was a professor there who looked a little confused because he had



never seen any of our faces before. "This exam will be made up of questions," he said. "The questions will be based on the material and oddly phrased to confuse and fool you." "There will be no . . . possible way to cheat on this exam," the professor said. "I have arranged for each and every one of you to sit next to a very dumb person." Then the professor said something I had suspected all along. "The best way to do well on this exam," he said, "is just to study for it."



## Scorning a 'see no evil' mentality

By Robert Willett  
The Brown Daily Herald  
Brown U., RI

Recently I saw an incident which left me shocked and confused. Confused not only about what had happened, but about the people I pass on the streets. A friend and I were leaving heartland around midnight. Driving towards (Highway) 195, a car stopped ahead of us in the middle of the road. A woman ran from the car toward us. She wore white heels and a short skirt. Behind her a man of about 250 pounds began dashing toward us, and my car.

"Need a ride. You've got to help me . . . please," she begged. I opened my door but the man grabbed her by the hair. My seat belt gripped me as I looked straight into her wide eyes. He pulled her back into his car and sped away.

We drove to a nearby movie theater where the manager told me he had seen the man punch her and had called the police. As we spoke, blue flashing lights were approaching.

I told the police everything: men . . . they were both black. No she wasn't bleeding but it was dark and I couldn't see clearly . . . I got the license. It was a van license — T LOVE. I heard the policeman search it over the radio. It turned out to be registered to Thomas Love of Providence.

I felt guilty. Guilty because they were black; guilty because it ran through my mind that he was a prostitute and he was a pimp, and also guilty because I hadn't gotten out of my car to help. I reasoned that it all happened too fast and that he might have had a gun.

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