

# 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

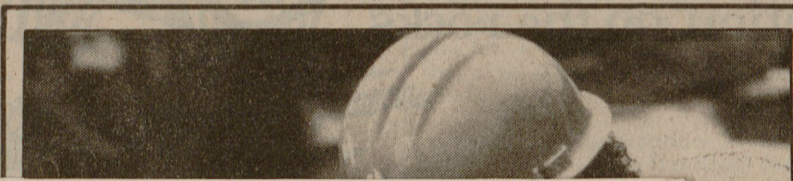
that alcohol altered the former senator's judgment. "There seems to be a personality change that occurs in Senator Tower," Johnston said.

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.

WEEKEND BREAK 1989 ■ Student Body

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### Break

Continued From Page 1

homeless in Washington D.C. and Nashville.

New additions include a YMCA project in Nashville that will match students with Cambodian refugees, and an urban project with homeless in Washington D.C.

The program's goal focuses on education outside the classroom, both before and after the experience. Prior to the actual spring break, preparation includes reading lists and guest speakers to familiarize the student with the environment.

At the Sioux Falls site, students will stay with host families on an

American Indian reservation, and at the international site in Mexico, homes for orphans and the elderly will be constructed.

ASB began three years ago as a re-

**"The communities we visit are very receptive, and we can make a difference just by being there, even if we don't always build schools and churches."**

— MARGARET HORN

sult of a brainstorming session between Vanderbilt students and professors at an honorary society meeting.

Afterward, follow-up sessions help

the students re-adjust to the Vanderbilt environment and assess the benefits received from the program.

Horn said students feel a culture shock following their return to Vanderbilt after participation in ASB.

"Initially, (after returning to Vanderbilt) I'm angry at the students with tans and at myself for having so much stuff — all those material possessions," she said.

"But you eventually learn to integrate yourself and keep the happy memories."

ASB, an entirely student-run and organized program, receives funds from gifts from the administration and money from the Student Activities Fee committee.



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advised  
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Loney, a biology major. "I've never had him for a class or lab, so he doesn't really know me. He seems interested in success and where I'm going, but he doesn't have time to follow up. He has so many other interests . . . So I've done most of my own advising."

Several students pointed to the university's size as a hindrance to advising. Like small liberal arts colleges where the small liberal arts colleges where the semester are the norm, students at the university usually see a departmental adviser for several minutes each semester. The system's heart is in the right place, but it deals with so many numbers and so many people with such diverse interests that it can't really fulfill the needs of students," Loney said.

Junior Karen Trent, a Russian and English major, has always been advised by departmental advisers. Although she has found her advisers helpful, she admits they often are unaware of rules that affect the major they advise. Her first adviser was pretty helpful in that he knew a lot about linguistics, but he didn't know a lot about GERs (general education requirements). He wasn't a lot of help in the basic classes."

sophomore Lisa Engel had difficulty determining how classes she had taken at a community college transferred to her adviser, a political science professor, was no help.

"I wasn't sure how those filled in some of the GERs, and he didn't know either," she said. "Under political science I don't get very good advising because the advisers just did not know how to do certain things."

The UT's 600 English majors are advised by the department's 44 full-time faculty members, and approximately 240 sociology majors are advised by four of the department's 18 full-time professors.

In many liberal arts departments, graduate students assist with the advising, and in still others secretaries distribute registration cards and sign add slips.

Anthropology Chairman Michael Smith advises students in his department about necessary major classes and GERs. He believes an adviser "should know the GERs). I don't think that (an adviser) is really being responsible if you just saying 'It's your responsibility,' because a lot of students really don't know the (requirements). That's why you need your jobs as an adviser is to see if they're meeting the requirements. An adviser should know that stuff or at least know where to look for it."

Wright Nicholson, chairman of the Physics and Astronomy Department, agrees. "As a faculty member, I do know the details of the GERs. And I want to know them because they change all the time.

"I can't keep all the stuff straight, so I tell the kids to all buy the general course catalog and read it. I tell every student they are their own best adviser. They don't rely on faculty members to remember all those detailed requirements. I know about math, and I know about physics. And that's all."

rick D. Joe

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## vice fee 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.