

Candidates sling political mud

Clements, White debate issues

United Press International
AMARILLO — When the often virulent debate between Gov. Bill Clements and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark White came to an end, the two men shook hands in a brief show of congeniality.

Then, standing almost toe to toe and surrounded by reporters, they railed at each other once again.

"For nine months, you have been saying the most ugly things about me," Clements told his opponent.

"I hope you'll stop the mudslinging, Governor," White responded.

The brief exchange exemplified the tone and content of the hour-long debate, which was broadcast Friday by Amarillo TV station KVII.

The candidates clearly focused on each other as major issues in the 1982 gubernatorial race.

White was particularly rankled by a recent article in the Texas Spectator, a Republican-backed newspaper that printed a story about his 19-year-old drunk driving arrest while a law student at Baylor University.

"I regretted it then and I regret it now," the attorney general said, angry that Clements made an issue of the arrest. Accusing the governor of taking an "ugly turn" in his campaign, White called the Spectator a fake newspaper.

"This is garbage and that is where the people of Texas will throw it," he said. "This is the lowest quality campaign stunt I've seen."

Clements responded that he reads the Spectator because it is interesting. "Everything in there is a fact."

In his summation, White accused Clements of siding with business interests, including utility companies, and the rich. He noted that Clements signed a bill allowing 24 percent interest rates on credit cards and developed a plan to employ Mexican alien guest workers at the expense of Texas workers.

"He has said the state's increase in unemployment is unimportant," White charged. "There are 500,000 Texans out of work tonight. He has sided with the rich against Texans in every case."

White said Clements was soft on environmental issues and recalled Clements' remark that a

1979 Mexican oil spill that stained Texas' beaches was "much ado about nothing."

White said that as attorney general, he blocked the Department of Energy from test drilling nuclear waste disposal sites near Palestine and that he opposed similar test drillings underway in the Panhandle.

Clements constantly referred to White as incompetent, charging that a state suit against General Motors was "a classic example of ineptness and incompetence in the attorney general's office."

White said he filed to suit because GM failed on its promise to give Texans \$2,000 rebates on new cars.

On other issues, Clements cited his involvement in getting federal disaster relief payments

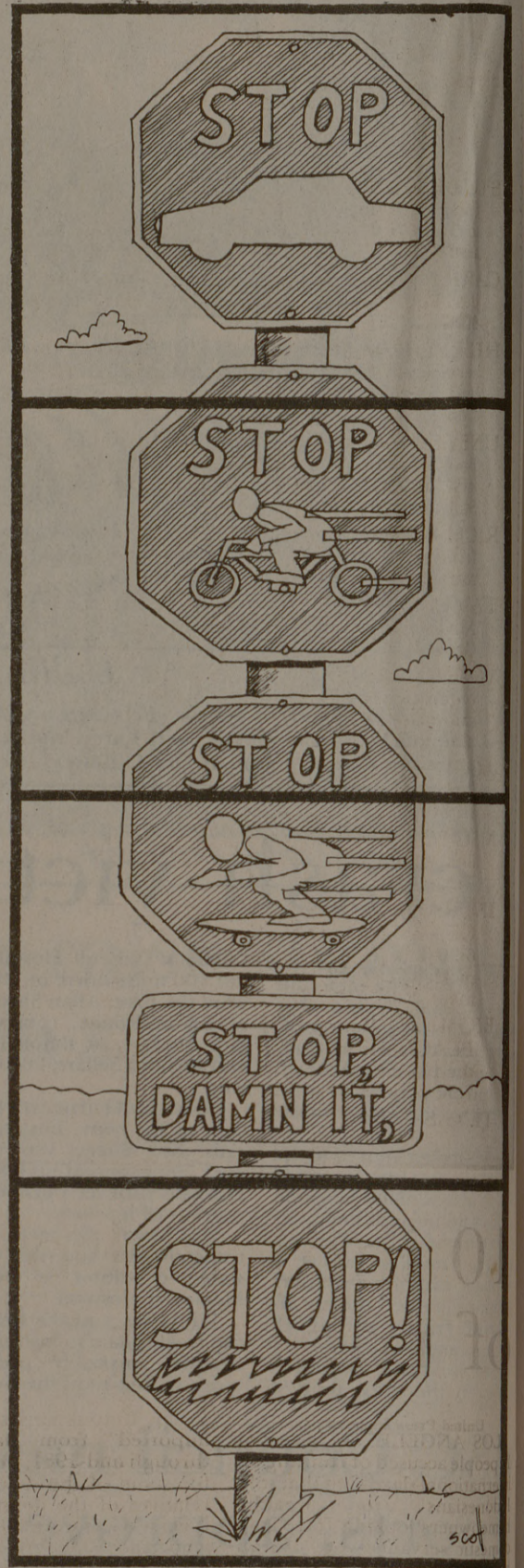
for Panhandle farmers, his crime policy and war on drugs, his work to improve relations with Mexico and policies giving Texas its positive business climate.

White said he would support paramutual wagering if legislation guarded against organized crime, work for stronger enforcement of drunk driving laws, support research for remedies to West Texas' water shortage and support higher salaries for public school teachers.

Although Clements claimed victory, telephone calls to the station gave a slight edge to White.

KVII political reporter Pat Casey said Saturday that 51 percent of the callers supported White.

Warped by Scott McCullum



Hungry thief eats and runs

United Press International
DALLAS — Authorities are on the lookout for a robber with a big appetite.

The 6-foot, 250-pounder, dubbed "Big Boy", usually strikes Dallas eateries at night and often makes off with beer, soft drinks and pizza in addition to cash, police said.

"Big Boy" has struck as many as 17 eateries, authorities said. "Occasionally, he eats before robbing a place," said Sgt. Harold Rice. "That way, he got food and money to pay for more groceries at the same time."

Big Boy became "Big Girl" July 3 when he wore a blue flowered dress and black gloves

and carried a handgun to conceal his weapon while robbing a Gulf station of \$200, officials said.

Usually, however, he is chicly attired.

For most of his robberies, he wears baggy pants and brightly colored shirts which stretch tightly across his bulging belly. His dark hair is often greasy and his eyes occasionally bloodshot. His acne-scarred face sports a few days' growth of whiskers, witnesses said.

However, his victims told police he never utters threatening words and usually leaves with parting words such as "have a nice day."

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