

White criticized for being 'nerd' by opponent

Associated Press
AUSTIN — Criticizing Gov. Mark White's refusal to ease the no-pass, no-play rule, gubernatorial candidate A. Don Crowder said Wednesday he believes White's failure to participate in high school activities may have made him "one of the first nerds in Texas."

Crowder, a Democrat, displayed a copy of White's high school yearbook entry to a news conference and said White's lack of extracurricular participation may account for the governor's problems with Texas teachers.

White campaign spokesman Mark McKinnon said, "The governor was very active during junior high and high school and worked to support his family since the seventh grade. In addition to working after school, he was quite active in a number of school activities, including school plays and church activities. "The governor is 100 percent, four-square behind education and behind teachers. He's just trying to raise the standards."

Crowder displayed what he said was a photocopy of White's high school yearbook entry from Lamar High in Houston. It showed a photo

and White's name but listed no extracurricular activities for him.

Pushed by White as part of the state's school reform laws, the no-pass, no-play rule prohibits students from all extracurricular activities for six weeks if they fail a class.

Crowder said the rule should be eased to bar only students who don't make a 75 percent average of all their course grades. Failing that, the suspension period should be reduced to one to three weeks, he said.

Crowder, former law partner of Attorney General Jim Mattox, also accused the governor of becoming "vicious" with teachers who complained about White's endorsement of limited drug testing of public and private workers, including teachers.

When leaders of some teacher organizations complained, White said those individuals didn't look closely enough at his remarks to understand that he means testing only in cases where drug use is suspected.

"After the drug testing controversy arose and the teachers complained about the language he used, he said they weren't literate, referred to them as illiterates and said they weren't capable of interpreting what he said," Crowder charged.

Chaplain gets 5 years for assault

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — A Lackland Air Force Base chaplain was sentenced to five years in prison for pleading guilty to charges of sexually assaulting two boys, one of whom was sexually assaulted.

"I wish I could tell you why I did these things," Capt. Thomas McClurg told a 10-member panel of senior officers Tuesday. "I don't know why I did it."

McClurg, 33, pleaded guilty Tuesday to sexually assaulting, molesting and threatening to kill a 14-year-old and to assaulting and molesting a 10-year-old.

The panel ordered a 12-year sentence but the penalty was reduced to five years because of a plea agreement.

McClurg, a United Church of Christ chaplain, admitted to sexually molesting a 5-year-old boy between September 1983 and October 1984 while he was stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

He also said he hit the boy, choked him and threatened to kill the child if he told anyone.

Mexican president entering debate over reducing smog

Associated Press
MEXICO CITY — President Miguel de la Madrid is stepping into a growing controversy over what measures should be taken to reduce the thick blanket of smog that has blanketed Mexico City since December.

Earlier in the week, the Department of Urban Development and such as to issue a series of orders to reduce traffic in the capital by staggering work hours. It also announced that car owners would be required to keep their cars at home on alternate days a week.

But the government newspaper El Nacional reported Wednesday that de la Madrid has asked the National Commission on Ecology to come up with a list of ways to reduce the air pollution. Once the president has the agency's suggestions in hand, he will decide which steps are necessary.

The latest announcement appeared to indicate the government was backing off, at least temporarily, from the strong steps the Urban Development Department ordered.

With 18 million residents, Mexico

City is the world's largest metropolitan area. It also generally is considered to be the most polluted. Since December city residents have suffered from increased levels of air pollution, blamed on thermal inversions that have trapped, under layers of cold air, pollutants from factories and the area's 2.2 million vehicles.

In addition to limiting traffic, the program ordered the installation of anti-pollution devices on city buses, strict monitoring of factory emissions and the probable transfer of 32 factories out of the city by 1987.

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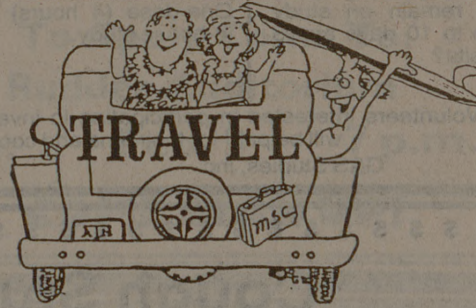
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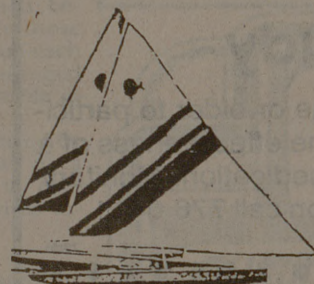
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