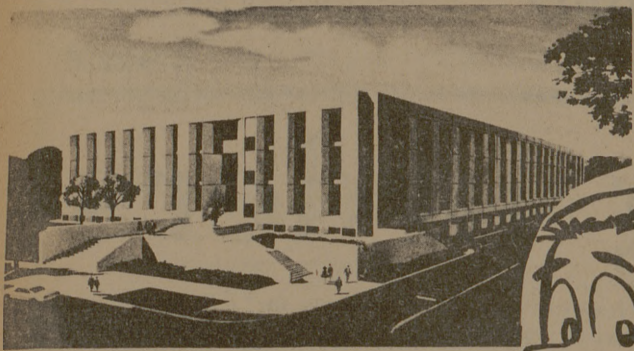


CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle

COME SEE US!



ENGINEERING CENTER

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY



Mutscher, associates assessed five year suspended sentences

ABILENE, Tex. (AP) — A judge assessed Texas House Speaker Gus Mutscher and his two aides five year prison terms Thursday and then suspended the sentences.

Dist. Court Judge J. Neil Daniel probated the sentences of Mutscher, his aide Rush McGinty and state Rep. Tommy Shannon following their conviction on bribery conspiracy charges.

"Somebody's got to hang," McGinty said afterwards. The "mob instinct" surrounding the trial dictated that "somebody has to pay. So they call on us to pay."

"The main reason I was put on trial was because Frank Sharp was given immunity . . . somebody's got to be hung," McGinty said bitterly.

"God knows I am innocent," Mutscher told newsmen as he embraced his tearful wife, Donna, a former Miss America.

"I am innocent . . . and I think I will eventually be completely vindicated," asserted the silver-haired Shannon, seated beside his subdued, red-eyed wife.

"I'm not looking for vindication," declared McGinty. "All I want is justice."

The judge's ruling thus ended the 14-day politically significant bribery-conspiracy trial of the powerful Texas House speaker and his legislative lieutenants.

A predominantly female jury convicted the trio Wednesday of conspiracy charges stemming from the Texas stock fraud scandal and its key figure, Houston promoter Frank Sharp.

In light of the outcome of the trial, the defense gambled and lost when it chose Monday to offer the jury no new evidence in the case. It rested without calling a witness.

The prosecution paraded 14 witnesses to the stand, including Sharp, whom the defense elected not to question.

The battery of lawyers argued that the state had failed to prove its case and told the jury repeatedly during its final arguments that the defendants were never established "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The defense said throughout that the deals between the defendant and Sharp were just routine business.

Chief Prosecutor Bob Smith of Austin offered no objections to a defense plea for probated sentences, noting that Sharp's three-year prison sentence was probated.

Certainly his character is no better than the character of these defendants," Smith said.

"Sharp, portrayed by the state as a master manipulator who in turn became the manipulated, pleaded guilty to minor banking violation in return for immunity from prosecution.

Despite the probated sentences, the defense said Thursday all three guilty verdicts would be appealed.

The state alleged that Sharp offered the defendants bribes in the form of unsecured loans in exchange for banking legislation favorable to Sharp's troubled Houston bank.

The defendants used the loans to purchase stock in Sharp-controlled National Bankers Life Insurance Co. and harvested handsome profits from their quickie investments.

Gov. Preston Smith, who vetoed the controversial legislation, was among a number of other political figures who profited from Sharp's generous loan-stock deals.

"I am disappointed and distressed at the verdict of the jury, but I have not lost faith in our system," Mutscher told a hastily assembled news conference at the Taylor County courthouse Thursday.

Listen up Team likes 'Diamond Darlings'

Editor: In comment to Miss Meyers' lecture to the students of A&M; we the members of the Aggie Baseball team do not take so lightly the implication that we "recruited" our Diamond Darlings as sex objects. It seems that Miss Meyers has also neglected to attend the last two doubleheaders when the Diamond Darlings performed. At least her statement concerning the hot pants was more fallacy than fact.

If an injustice towards the women of A&M has been made, surely the irrational accusations about our 12 Diamond Darlings is that injustice. They've worked hard and have done a great job in creating a new winning spirit on our team.

We the players, believe that the Diamond Darlings have become a tremendous asset and a worthwhile contribution as a part of the team.

Jim Atterbury Karl Bystrom, and 18 other names that space will not allow us to run.—Ed.

Editor: Tuesday, after a weekend of no "Aargh's, I raced to the stack of Battalions to procure one of my own. I opened it eagerly. What!!! There was no "Aargh"

in its customary place on page 2. I looked on the front. I looked on the back. I looked on the side. No "Aargh."

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaargh!!!!!! As you have possibly perceived I was distraught. No "Aargh!" Within a short time I inquired into this matter. It seems that there was no room for the "Aargh" that had been prepared. I find it difficult to see, looking at the Tuesday Batt, what exactly would have been more worthy of a little space than "Aargh."

When I heard that today there was no "Aargh" once again, I didn't bother to even look at the Battalion. Unless the odious practice of discarding the good stuff that comes your way is discontinued, I will encourage all my semi-illiterate friends to deluge your office with pro-"Aargh" letters, besides feeling personally affronted that you did not heed my own.

Cindy Wilke See the letter below.—Ed.

Editor: You lied to me. You did, you did, you did. Tuesday when there was no "Aargh" in the Batt, I called you up. "What has become of 'aargh'!" I exclaimed.

"Oh, we just ran out of room today. It will be back tomorrow." Ok. Good. I wouldn't have to march on campus publications or anything like that."

Then we both laughed.

But you lied to me. All the "aargh"-lovers are hereby summoned to the Services building Friday night, after the dance-concert, to demonstrate for "Aargh." A chant to cause Hayden Whitsett to have a wart on his belly will be held, and refreshments will be served by the WCTU. Green armbands are optional.

Steve Goble Sorry about that. In our joy over the Mutscher conviction and the resultant effort to get it into The Battalion, we totally overlooked Aargh! I have sinned and

I pray to the science fiction club, who have jumped all over me, for forgiveness. Arrgh!, as you may have noticed, is back.—Ed.

Editor: The last time I checked the filing office in the MSC no graduate student had yet filed for a position in the spring election. I feel that this is highly important in light of the passage of the new Student Government Constitution. I have no idea how many graduate students voted in the referendum that approved the new constitution, but it puts graduate students squarely into student government.

This year I have served as a senator representing the Graduate College. My election was not much contested because it took place at a Graduate Student Council meeting last spring with few visitors present. According to the old constitution the GSC elected eight senators to represent the graduates. This had its advantages, if you choose to call them that. Graduates did not have to worry whether or not anyone was representing them. The GSC took care of it. Also, it was easy for us to make replacements as senators left school and vacated seats. And we managed to have graduate senators at all meetings. That was the way it was this past year.

This coming year will be different. Many student leaders, mostly undergraduates, fought hard to include graduates in student government when they wrote the new constitution. They believe that all classifications of students, freshmen through graduates, should be represented as equitably as possible and that people living off-campus should be represented equally with those living on-campus. Due to the efforts of the many senators who believe this way and the students who voted in the referendum, graduate students are

now guaranteed 17 senate seats, specifically allotted to them, with an opportunity to win 14 at-large positions plus any of the officers' positions they may care to seek. And no one has filed for a seat that an embarrassingly few votes will win.

I urge graduate students to run. I found the Senate an exciting place to be. The senators are bright, energetic people interested in the same issues as you are. They are willing to be challenged, to investigate problems and to discuss alternatives. The students have made room for you. Accept their invitation. I sincerely believe that your stay at A&M will be enriched if you choose to work with them.

Dick Zepeda

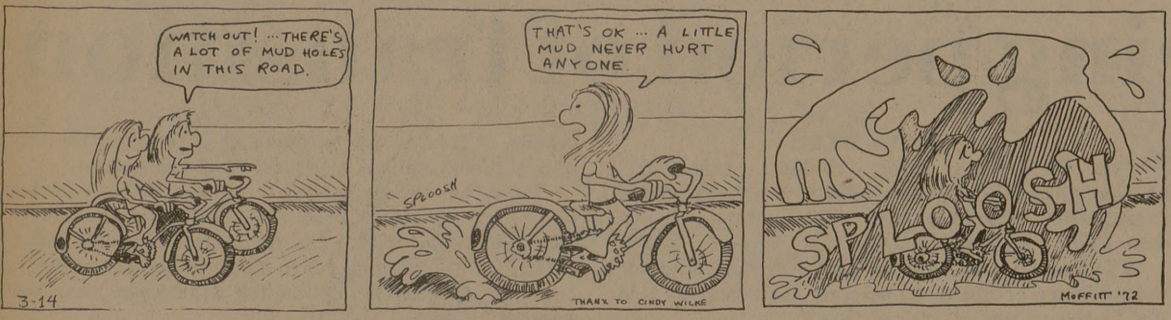
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ALL OTHERS \$1.50
SEASON TICKETS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
"AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE"

AARGH!

...John R. Moffitt



The Battalion

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PEANUTS
POW!
SHE DID IT! SHE HIT A HOME RUN!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STAND OUT BY HOME PLATE, AND KISS HER! YOU PROMISED!!
SHE'S ROUNDING FIRST...SHE'S ROUNDING SECOND...SHE'S ROUNDING THIRD...SHE'S HEADING FOR HOME! IT'S KISSING TIME!
LA DE DA DE DA DE DA DE DA