

Grand jury indicts Hutchison on misconduct charges

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — A grand jury Monday handed up indictments against U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and two former aides, charging them with official misconduct during her 2 1/2-year tenure as state treasurer.

Hutchison was charged with official misconduct, tampering with governmental records and tampering with physical evidence. All are felony charges.

Hutchison defeated appointed Democratic Sen. Bob Krueger in a June 5 special election to become the first woman senator in Texas history. She had been elected treasurer in 1990.

Also named in the indictments that followed a 3 1/2-month investigation were

Michael Barron, former deputy treasurer, and David Criss, who was planning director for the Treasury.

Barron was charged with official misconduct, tampering with governmental records and tampering with physical evidence. Criss was charged with official misconduct.

Hutchison, a Republican, has denied any wrongdoing and accused District Attorney Ronnie Earle, a Democrat, of conducting a political witch hunt.

Hutchison's spokesman, David Beck-



Hutchison

with, didn't immediately return calls. But Texas GOP executive director Karen Hughes called the charges politically motivated.

"I am sickened but frankly not surprised that a grand jury made up of Democrat primary voters is trying to win through the judicial process what they were unable to win in the last election. This is a new low for partisan double standards in state government," Hughes said.

But Saadi Ferris, foreman of the grand jury, disputed the charge.

"The grand jury has deliberated on each and every occasion with independence of politics and political persuasion; independence of the district attorney and his staff; independence of the news media

and all outside influences," he said.

Since shortly after Hutchison's June 5 victory, the grand jury has been looking into allegations that Treasury employees were used to conduct political and personal errands for her, and whether documents were destroyed in a cover up.

The indictments handed up Monday accused Hutchison of using state employees, facilities, equipment and supplies for "her personal benefit."

The indictments also accused her of destroying computer records from the Treasury.

Earle's office had raided the Treasury June 10 and issued more than a dozen subpoenas for current and former agency workers. More than 30 former Treasury aides and Hutchison campaign operatives

went before the grand jury during the probe.

The senator denounced the inquiry as a politically motivated conspiracy by Earle and other Democrats to derail her political career.

Citing the fact that she would be at the top of the state's Republican ticket in 1994, Hutchison said Democrats were stooping to the lowest level to keep her from leading a strong GOP showing next fall.

Earle said Hutchison's claims that his office was leading a partisan attack was a standard rebuttal from a public official under investigation.

"Every one of them says it's political, whether they are Democrats or Republicans," Earle said.

Making Aggies laugh

Battalion cartoons create traditions

By Susan Owen

THE BATTALION



Oh, did I spit on you? Well, you'll get used to it.

Fish Blotto (above) began the tradition of Ol' Sarge when the strip began in 1938. dp (below) has been a feature in The Battalion since 1977.



Over the years, several of The Battalion's cartoonists have developed unique and influential views of Aggieland. Three of them have given Texas A&M students a sympathizing voice, a reason to support Aggie sports and a symbol as instantly recognizable as the University seal.

In 1938, the first version of the character who would become Ol' Sarge appeared in The Battalion Humor Magazine, drawn by Pete Tumlinson, Class of '42.

Named Magarkin, he was a prison convict rejected from Alcatraz and sent to A&M. This "tough guy" became a regular character in Tumlinson's strip, "Fish Blotto."

"Fish Blotto" was a hapless underclassman in the Corps of Cadets, harassed by upperclassmen like Magarkin.

"I was partly inspired by the A&M tradition," Tumlinson said.

"Sergeants are supposed to be pretty tough, you know," Tumlinson said he only remembers drawing Magarkin once with sergeant's stripes. "Somebody else promoted him after I was gone, I think," he said.

Tumlinson served as an Air Force pilot in World War II, then returned to A&M in 1945. He kept up his strip even after he graduated a year later and moved to Bryan, but eventually he left to work as a cartoonist in New York. He later drew cartoons for the New York Post and Timely Comics, which became Marvel Comics.

After Tumlinson left A&M, decals appeared using a square-jawed sergeant as a symbol for the school. "In the '50s and '60s, you'd see cars driving around with these decals of Ol' Sarge," he said.

Tumlinson said he "never heard any more about it" until he was invited back for an anniversary celebration in 1988, 50 years after his prison convict first appeared at A&M. GIGEMAG magazine sponsored a special brochure that reprinted many of the old Fish Blotto cartoons.

The longest-running Battalion cartoon was "Cadet Slouch," which appeared for 33 years, from 1953 to 1985. Dr. Jim Earle, Class

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Committee narrows search for V.P. to six

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

The search for a new vice president of student services at Texas A&M University has been narrowed to six individuals.

Ron Sasse, A&M's director of student affairs and chairman vice presidential search committee, said the list consists of the six most qualified applicants.

The finalists are:

- Dr. William A. Bryan, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

- Dr. Richard Correnti, vice president for student affairs at Florida International University.

- Dr. William Harmon, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

- Dr. David Markee, vice president for student services at Northern Arizona University.

- Dr. Malon Southerland, interim vice president for student services at Texas A&M University.

- Dr. Martha Sullivan, vice president for student affairs at Tulane University.

The position became available after former vice president of student services, John J. Koldus, retired last summer after 20 years at A&M.

The committee held an open forum in June to get student input on the replacement of Koldus. Some students expressed concern the new vice president should come from the University community; others suggested the position be filled by a minority or a woman.

Sasse told The Battalion in June that the forum was helpful and gave the committee ideas and points to consider.

Jan Winniford, assistant vice president for student services and a member of the committee, said the ideas given by the stu-

dents were taken seriously by the committee.

"We had a meeting after the forum in which we summarized the major themes that were presented to us," she said.

Sasse said the most important qualities in the applicants they considered were the individuals' dedication and commitment to students.

Winniford said they are looking for someone who can get along well with others, be a good public relations representative and possesses leadership abilities, as well as total dedication to the students and to the University.

"We want someone with a vision of where we need to go in the next century," she said.

Sasse said Interim University President E. Dean Gage has approved the list.

The search committee is in the process of setting up interviews with each of the finalists. The interviews will begin in early October, he said.

"I'm hopeful we can get the interviews done before the semester is over," he said. "Whether it's realistic or not is totally up to the applicants."

Sasse said, ideally, the new vice president should begin working by the beginning of the spring semester, but that depends on the individual and how well the move will fit into their schedule.

Sasse said he is very confident about the choices for finalists.

"We believe we have assembled an excellent group of candidates and look forward to meeting each one of them personally during their visits to the campus," he said.

Once a final decision is made, it will be subject to approval by the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System.

Resident near Alamodome found with high levels of lead

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Health officials have detected high levels of lead in one resident living near a landfill adjacent to the Alamodome.

The director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District said Sunday that when blood tests revealed lead levels high enough to pose a health risk, the department began an environmental assessment and investigated personal histories to try to pinpoint the source.

"We have tested about 70 to 75 people, and we don't have all the reports yet. But samples we've looked at so far have shown only one elderly gentle-

man — no children with significantly elevated lead levels," said Dr. Fernando Guerra.

About one month ago, letters and fliers went out to residents in the Alamodome neighborhood stating that tests would be available at some health department clinics.

Tests were being financed with \$10,000 from the dome construction budget, officials said.

"We don't have the resources to test every household," said Guerra.

The project began after residents near the dome complained about 45,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil buried on the southeast corner of dome property.

A report on the tests will be released within two

weeks when all the results are in, said Guerra. He said the unidentified man who tested positive may have been exposed to lead at work.

State Sen. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, wrote Guerra on Friday to urge that hair samples be taken from Alamodome-area residents, particularly children who attend Herff and Douglass elementary schools.

Douglass Principal Mardretta Clack, during a neighborhood meeting Wednesday on the landfill issue called by Madla, demanded that all 1,000 students in the two elementary schools be checked for lead poisoning.

"I'm not sure that (testing the schoolchildren) really is going to provide significant information beyond

what we already know — that there is a population of children spread throughout the city who have been exposed to lead," said Guerra.

Guerra said that lead contamination can arise in several ways, including lead-based paint flaking from homes in older neighborhoods.

Since its summer opening, the Alamodome has been the venue for a number of events, including the WBC welterweight title fight between Pernell Whitaker and Julio Cesar Chavez earlier this month.

The U.S. Olympic Festival was also held at the dome in July. A Dallas Cowboys-Houston Oilers exhibition game and another between the Oilers and New Orleans Saints were also played there.

Alcohol drug of choice for Aggies, official says

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

Although recent studies indicate that the popularity of marijuana and LSD among high school students has been on the rise, one Texas A&M University official said the drug of choice for college students is alcohol.

Dennis Reardon, coordinator for the Center for Drug Prevention and Education, said because Texas A&M is a conservative school with students coming from conservative backgrounds, problems with illegal drugs are not as evident in the student body.

Reardon said only a small per-

"Society promotes alcohol and drug use, but people don't look at what is going to happen if they become addicted."

— Micki Baudoin, director of chemical dependency at the Desert Hills Center for Adults, Youth and Families

centage the A&M student body uses the illegal drugs that have been prevalent in other parts of the country.

Micki Baudoin, director of chemical dependency services with the Desert Hills Center for Adults, Youth and Families, said among the percentage of college

students using drugs, LSD, Ecstasy and other designer drugs are the most popular.

"These drugs are party drugs. They are seen as social drugs," said Baudoin. "That is why they are appealing to college students."

Baudoin said the accessibility

of these drugs makes them especially appealing.

"They are relatively easy to make and to get a hold of," Baudoin said.

Baudoin also said the consumption of alcohol has increased significantly.

"The unfortunate thing about it is that people tend to look at alcohol consumption among college students as a phase and not an illness," said Baudoin. "The denial is very difficult to overcome."

Reardon said new hybrids of marijuana have developed in recent years, making it a stronger drug.

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WEATHER

• Tuesday: sunny and warm, highs in 80s, lows in 50s to near 60

• Wednesday: sunny, a little warmer, highs near 90, lows in 60s

• Extended forecast: fair sky, highs around 90, lows in 60s