

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No penalty too stiff for Cooper

The way I see it: I don't know Patty Cooper - wouldn't know her if I saw her. By the same token, I don't know Fonda Reeves, either. However, these women have several things in common.

Both were trusted employees - Mrs. Cooper for the City of Bullard, Mrs. Reeves for the Hide-A-Way Lake Club, Inc. I have to believe both women were paid a decent salary, as both stayed on their jobs several years - that is, until they were found to be embezzling from the employers who trusted them.

In other words, they probably had enough to live on - without stealing.

Sometimes greed gets in the way, and I guess they wanted more.

Most people would be happy with their jobs or try to find a better one - not steal from the people who trust them. To me, embezzlement is just a nice word for the real one - stealing.

And here's another thing I don't understand: Judge Kerry Russell sentenced both women.

As we know, Mrs. Cooper received a slap on the wrist and for those who don't know, Mrs. Reeves received 30 years in prison. Both pleaded guilty. How fair is that?

Mrs. Reeves did embezzle \$424,000, while Mrs. Cooper's amount could only traced to \$100,000 - that we know. So why wasn't Mrs. Cooper given at least 1/4 of the amount of prison time that Mrs. Reeves received?

What exactly does the phrase "justice will prevail" mean?

Mrs. Cooper wrote a letter of apology - printed in the Tyler paper. She starts out by writing that she "pled guilty as not to bring any more embarrassment" to her family.

How about "I pled guilty because I am?"

She goes on to write that

she is proud of the honors that were given to her during her employment (while she was stealing).

How hypocritical is that? Doesn't she have a conscience?

As I wrote in the first paragraph, I know neither woman, so it's nothing personal. It's just a big question mark that I can't figure out.

What about Mrs. Cooper tampering with government records? Same thing.

No punishment for this either?

When I was a child reading fairy tales there was always a moral to the story.

I guess you might say that the moral of this story is this: If you steal money from your employer, don't spend it all. Save some so that if you get caught, you have something to bargain with.

If you don't get caught, then you have a little nest egg for your future. Prepare a letter of apology in case you are caught - although you are only really sorry that you got caught, not that you stole.

If you are sorry, why did you do it in the first place?

Mayor Pro-Tem A.W. Hines asks for citizens to speak up now and let our representatives know what they want.

If Mrs. Cooper had gotten the sentencing she deserved then I might agree with Mr. Jessup - who said recently that we shouldn't pursue further charges against her.

The same judge sentenced one woman to 30 years in prison and the other next to nothing.

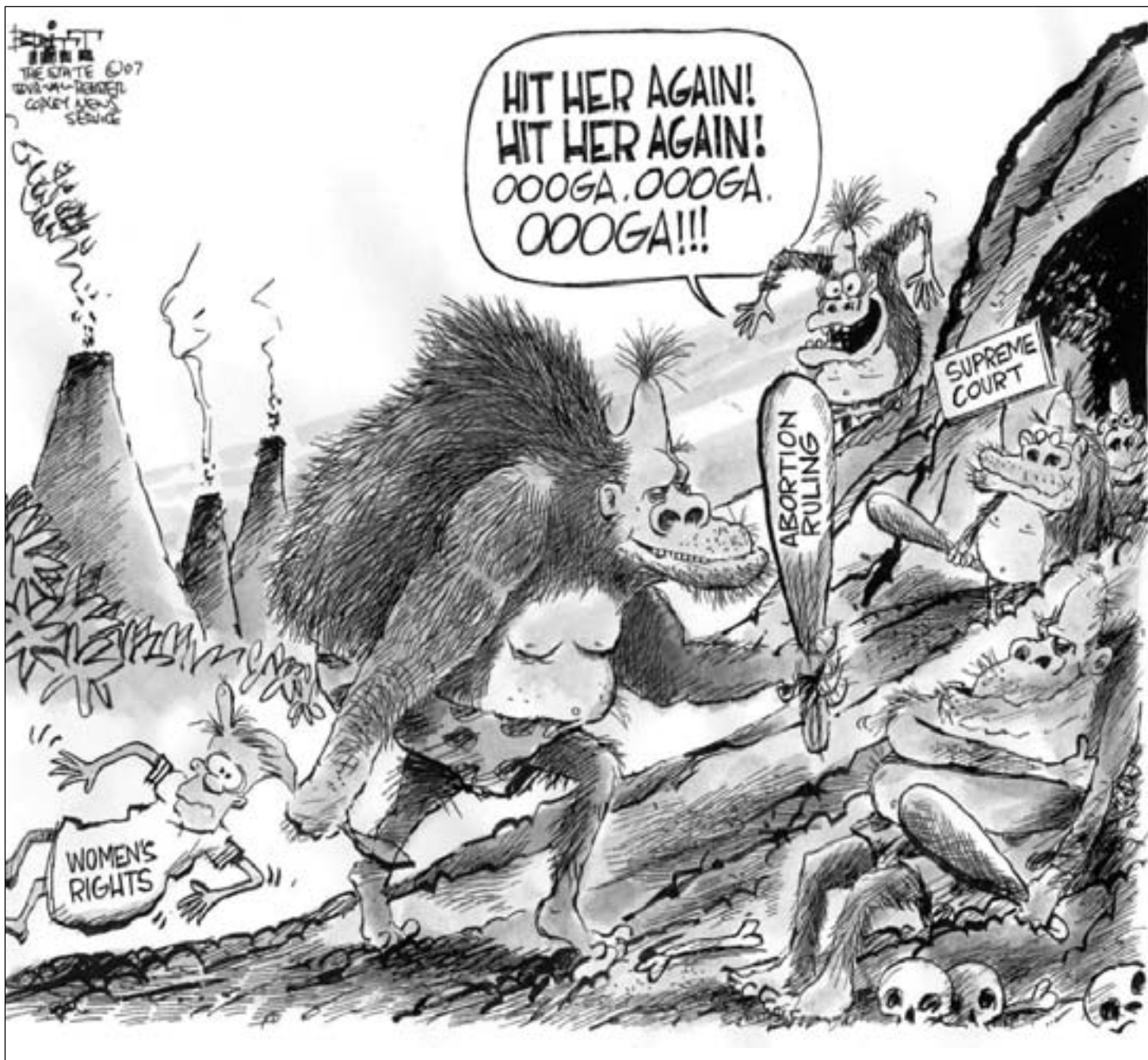
He seems to be saying that Bullard doesn't count.

If this is dropped now, it seems we are agreeing with him.

I don't think any penalty is too stiff for Mrs. Cooper.

Cleo Newburn, Bullard

CARTOON



COLUMN

Library thanks after National week

DEBBIE BROWN
BULLARD COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Bullard Community Librarian Debbie Brown wrote this in honor of National Library Week, celebrated April 15-21.

Bullard Community Library would like to take this opportunity to recognize our regular and long-time volunteers:

Cora Tomlin - volunteer for over 12 years faithfully comes in two days each week to do a large portion of the cataloging necessary to place books on the shelves for circulation.

Cora's knowledge of the collection at Bullard Community Library, particularly the genealogy collection, and her skills at cataloging, make her an especially highly valued volunteer.

Jane Purtle - one of the founding member of the FRIENDS of Bullard Community Library, has found a niche in the FRIENDS Book Store which she oversees. Jane spends each Monday at the circulation desk in addition to frequent assistance with FRIENDS projects at the library, weekly columns for the newspapers, and the many duties necessary to make the Book Store a success.

Jane keeps our patron information up to date.

Her friendly, helpful manner are vastly appreciated.

Denise Laflamme, a new resident of the area, has recently begun volunteering on Fridays at the circulation desk.

She keeps track of weekly and monthly circulation statistics to assist with records required for our annual report to the Texas State Library.

Wayne Hoffmann donates his time whenever possible - his "other" job of daily transporting school children, both on a regular bus route and special field trips, and the frequent call for his services as a substitute teacher sometimes keep him

away from the library.

But when he isn't performing these special services for our local school children, he can be found in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays - until time to take children home again.

Wayne's expertise with computers has led him to teach basic computer classes for adults, and to assist in maintaining the library's computers.

Kevin McCugh regularly volunteers outside the library and outside library hours. He maintains our lawn throughout the spring and summer.

He collects aluminum cans from a collection point at Brookshire's and throughout his neighborhood to assist the library's recycling efforts.

Kevin will be making some improvements outside the building as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Doug Saunders has an out-of-sight, off-site volunteer job, but his work is widely seen - Doug redesigned and maintains our Bullard Community Library website at www.bullardlibrary.org.

He has made numerous improvements to the website and is always on top of any dated material that needs to be added, changed or removed.

We recognize the value of his creativity, his proficiency and his time.

And we thank his wife Sandy, who graciously accepts the loss of his company while he's doing this.

Story Hour readers come to the library each week to read to young children. The time spent comes to only about an hour

every few weeks for each volunteer, but the value of our readers is tremendous - they help us to provide a program aimed at instilling a lifelong love of reading in young children.

And the children get to see a variety of adults, who all love reading, who share that love enthusiastically with unique and diverse personalities.

Martha Dinwiddie does the behind-the-scenes work of Treasurer for the Bullard Community Library Board, which means she handles the finances for the library as well.

While much of her work can be done at home, it also requires regular visits to the library and continuous communication.

She's unflagging in her commitment to high standards in the library's record-keeping.

Martha's work is vital in the smooth running of library functions, and her records are another necessary part of the annual report required by the Texas State Library.

It takes many community- and service-minded people to make the Bullard Community Library what it is.

Let's applaud these volunteers and others who serve through the FRIENDS, who donate their time and money to make the Library a vital community resource.

And if you're thinking you'd like to join this dedicated crowd there are a couple of things you might consider - joining and actively participating in the FRIENDS, or investigate on our website www.bullardlibrary.org for a list of suggested ways volunteers can help with existing library functions, or create new programs that mesh with your vision for our community.

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To be considered for publication, letters should be original, bear the signature of the author and include an address and telephone number for verification. (Address and telephone number will not be printed.)

Short letters are most likely to be chosen.

Deadlines: Articles, Classified and Display ads: Thursday noon.

Errors: Errors will be corrected upon being brought to the editor's attention before the deadline of the next issue.