

# Pastor files suit

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set for a spiritual and religious leader," the letter said.

The deacons fired Clark and offered him his regular four-week salary of \$1,100. The deacons asked Clark to turn over his keys and said they would seek an injunction against him if he returned to the church.

Clark was charged and convicted of drunken driving in 1969, in 1973 and again in March 1984. Three months later, Clark

was again charged with drunken driving in Guilford County. In addition to his last drunken driving charge, he was charged with simple possession of marijuana and failure to comply with restrictive driving requirements (he had limited driving privileges). The case originally was to be heard on Aug. 16, but has been rescheduled several times since then. Clark's latest court date was Monday, Nov. 26, but the case was rescheduled until Dec. 20.

Clark said in August that he doesn't deny any of the charges, but that point is moot since he has received the church's forgiveness. Clark is asking that the deacons abide by the congregation's wishes.

"We have already voted to keep Rev. Clark," said church member Susie Duncan, who also is a member of the church's deaconess board. "You are supposed to be able to forgive. If you don't like what's going on, then

you go to another church."

Shortly before Clark filed the suit, the deacons changed the locks on the church doors to prohibit Clark from holding services inside the church. Even though the doors have been locked, Duncan said that she and many other members, along with Clark, have continued to hold services at the site, sometimes in the church parking lot. Duncan said she went to the church last Sunday and was upset that the doors were

locked.

"You don't lock up something that you don't own," said Duncan. "The church is the congregation's."

"If they (the deacons) were people after God's own heart they would unlock the church. If he did something wrong, it was a sin. And if they (deacons) get so mad to lock people out, then they have sinned."

All of the deacons named in the suit told the *Chronicle* that,

on advice from their attorney, they had no comment.

Clark could not be reached for comment. He listed his address on the court papers as Miller Street, but despite repeated attempts, the *Chronicle* was unable to contact him there.

The deacons have a month to file an answer to Clark's charges. Williard did not say when he would file an answer, but said he would stay within the law and that the answer would clarify the deacons' position.

# New appointments raise criticisms

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Larry Little said of the appointments.

"These Democrats have gotten our votes time and time again, but when it comes to being appointed to a position like this, the party ignores us."

Little indicated that the Democrats' reasoning behind the two appointments was contradictory.

One the one hand, he said, Masten was appointed police chief in large part because he had seniority within the department, including seniority over Maj. Oliver D. Redd, a black officer considered in the running for the post.

But on the other hand, Little said, black sheriff's candidate Capt. Eldridge D. Alston had 23 years seniority with the sheriff's department -- six years more than Oldham.

If politics is a process of giving something with something else expected in return, Little said, then blacks have been short-changed by the Democratic leaders -- especially in light of the overwhelming support black voters gave Democratic candidates in this month's general

election.

Democratic County Commissioner James Ziglar won his seat this month thanks to strong black support, Little said, but Ziglar didn't support Alston for sheriff.

And he cited strong black support at the polls for Democratic Commissioner Mabel Holton, who was appointed to the board, but lost her attempt to retain her seat in a special election this month. Holton also didn't support Alston.

"Look at how supportive we were of Mrs. Holton this year," Little said. "We gave her 85 or 90 percent of our vote and look what she did. It's sad."

Harry James Jr., a black state alcohol enforcement officer, was one of three men from outside the sheriff's department who appealed to the commissioners for the sheriff's job on Monday night.

"It was wrong the way they did it," James said of the commissioners' appointment. "They should have given the voters time to have some input into this. They could have put a decision off until Wednesday night or Thursday night. It was done too

quickly."

James said the sheriff's department has a number of racial problems. Among them, he said, were a lack of blacks in the department's criminal division and no black supervisors in the uniform division, only a black captain over the supervisors.

"We need to implement some kind of strong affirmative action program and issue some promotional guidelines," James said. He added that he is considering running for sheriff in 1986, but

hasn't decided yet whether he will run as a Democrat.

Lancaster's resignation had been anticipated, but it's timing allowed the present Democratic-controlled board of commissioners to appoint a successor before a Republican majority assumes control in December.

Lancaster, 63, had been sheriff for 14 years. He underwent surgery Oct. 26 and spent six days in the hospital. He submitted his letter of resignation to the com-

missioners on Sunday, but the letter contained no recommendation for his replacement.

State law requires the commissioners to select a new sheriff at their next meeting following receipt of the resignation.

That meeting was held on Monday night, when the commissioners selected Oldham after a two-hour discussion. Black Commissioner Mazie Woodruff apparently held up Oldham's selec-

tion by supporting Alston for the post.

Returning from a closed-door session, Woodruff nominated Alston for the job, but her motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Neal Bedinger then nominated Oldham, who won on a 4-1 vote. Woodruff then changed her vote so that Oldham's selection would be unanimous.

But she also urged Alston to campaign for the post in 1986.

# Terror

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After witnessing the arrests of 13 black labor leaders and thousands of others by the South African security forces, what further evidence do the American people need that "constructive engagement" benefits no one, except the white minority regime there and some of its allies in the American business community?

An American public ignorant and heedless of the staggering problems afflicting its own black population can hardly be expected to care about the plight of those unfortunates thousands of miles away from our shores. What we can expect is a response similar to that given to a helpless Jewish population under the Nazi regime -- malign indifference.

With this in mind, we suggest every black American give heartfelt thanks to the five black

American leaders who went to jail during the last week for staging sit-ins at the South African Embassy in Washington to protest the illegal detention of the South African labor leaders.

The demonstrators -- Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's Delegate to Congress; Mary Frances Berry, a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Randall Robinson, director of the TransAfrica lobbyist group; the Rev. Joseph Lowery, chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and U.S. Rep. Charles Hayes -- didn't have to spend time in jail.

But they chose to in an attempt to focus renewed attention upon the atrocities now underway by the apartheid regime -- and our own government's smug acquiescence of it.



You've come a long way, baby.

# VIRGINIA SLIMS



Menthol and Lights Menthol

Fashions: John Anthony

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Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

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