

Beatty sentenced to 46 months

contribution to society upon her return."

The approximately seven months Ms. Beatty has already served will be credited her and other time may be knocked off her sentence based on her behavior in prison, Mr. Little said. She will probably serve about three years in jail, he said. The federal guidelines practically disallows probation.

In essence Ms. Beatty did not have a defense, said co-counsel Dusenbury. "She had a mental condition that contributed to her behavior impairing her ability to think rationally to some extent, but not severe enough to support an insanity plea.

"The essence of what we were asking for, while we didn't have a legal defense, was for the judge to

take into consideration her mental condition as an extenuating circumstance when rendering his verdict."

Mr. Little in fact pleaded for mercy on Ms. Beatty's behalf and introduced actor Antonio Fargas as a character witness for her.

"The judge by no means bent over backwards to be lenient, but he did give her what was prescribed according to federal guidelines," explained Mr. Dusenbury. "Her sentence fell smack in the middle of what the guidelines call for. It's certainly probably less time than she may have gotten before the federal guidelines were enacted."

Her attorneys aren't sure where Ms. Beatty will serve out her time, but the federal facility in Lexington is one of a few in the state that can offer

women with mental problems treatment, Mr. Dusenbury and Mr. Little said, adding that their client could be sent there.

Ms. Beatty will be leaving a son, mother and a community of friends and supporters who have described her as a "socially conscious," "wonderful person." But she is holding up well under the circumstances, her attorneys said. "I think she is obviously depressed over the circumstances of spending three more years of her life in prison," Mr. Dusenbury said. "Her recent dilemma in life is not an easy one for her to deal with. She's having some anxiety but behind that I think she is showing a kind of resilience at this point. She's ready to get on with this experience and realizing that there is life after this."

Honeycutt's attorney

did not know from whom, and the person told them they need not show up for Friday's proceedings. Their telephone calls, they said, were similar to ones they received earlier last week which told them to appear in court. Detective Sims said officials in the DA's office told her she didn't have to appear in court Friday.

Mr. Walden asked the mothers if Mr. Sparrow said he would "see to it that the case was continued" and if he said he would continue the case until November when Judge Sharpe would be rotated to another court, they said no.

"When we asked for a continuance Mr. Sparrow said he would try but there was no guarantee," Ms. Cherry testified. "He said the judges rotate and we may possibly get another judge."

Ms. Grooms' recollection of the meeting the mothers had with Mr. Sparrow was nearly identical to Ms. Cherry's testimony. "He stated he didn't know whether we could get a continuance or not," Ms. Grooms said. "He stated that it was possible we could get the same judge or a different one because they rotated."

Mr. Walden asked Mr. Totten about his office's rotation schedule and how he ended up trying a case in Forsyth County Domestic Relations Criminal Court when prosecutor Victoria L. Rhoemer had been assigned the court for the month. The former explained that Ms. Rhoemer had asked if they could switch so that she, the newcomer in the DA's office, could get some experience in traffic court. They had originally discussed switching for a week but that boiled down to one day, Friday, Oct. 20.

However, the defense attorney said the DA's office intentionally placed Mr. Totten in the courtroom where Mr. Honeycutt was to be tried because the latter had a conflict of interest and the district attorneys knew the judge would have to continue the case, possibly until November when she would no longer be assigned to District Domestic Court.

Mr. Totten testified that he has known Mr. Honeycutt since he was in the sixth grade. He said he explained his conflict of interest to the judge Friday morning but he was expecting to either continue the case or voluntarily dismiss the charges so there

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would be no need for him to try Mr. Honeycutt. Ms. Rhoemer confirmed Mr. Totten's statements in her testimony.

After two hours of testimony Tuesday morning and a half-hour of summation after lunch by Mr. Walden and prosecutor Pansy Glanton, who worked with Ms. Rhoemer during Mr. Honeycutt's first trial, Judge Sharpe ruled that there was no misconduct on behalf of the district attorney's office. She declined rendering a final decision on Mr. Walden's double jeopardy motion but noted for the record that it be admitted into evidence in the event that other charges are filed against Mr. Honeycutt based on the Sept. 11 incident.

In addition, Judge Sharpe admonished the state in view of Mr. Walden's motions, his client would "very likely prevail" in any future criminal proceedings. She also instructed the prosecution's witnesses, the parents and their children, that if charges are filed in the future against Mr. Honeycutt and the double jeopardy motion stands, they could have civil and criminal charges brought against them.

Parents are undaunted

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But is William Honeycutt really the man he appears to be?

Parents who saw their children come home on Sept. 11 with bruises and scratches, parents who tried to soothe their children's cries, parents who wrestled with their children, trying to get them to go back to Mineral Springs Elementary School don't think William Honeycutt is the man he appears to be.

Assisting the parents during this six-week-long episode has been the Concerned Mothers of Forsyth County. Throughout Mr. Honeycutt's trial the parents involved have said they feel like the accused instead of the victims in this case.

During Tuesday's trial the Rev. Lee Faye Mack said she was told that attorney Daniel S. Walden was fearful for his client's life. Mr. Honeycutt and his wife sat in the jury box with the press and other courtroom workers during the most recent hearing. On Oct. 10 and Oct. 20 he waited in a nearby courtroom for his trial to begin, while the children sat for five hours in a crowded

courtroom hearing accounts of wife beatings and of fathers failing to support their children.

"If this man is so fearful of violence then we wouldn't have a case," said Valerie A. Hall, assistant president of the Concerned Mothers. "If he was so afraid of violence, he would not have pushed and shoved our children."

"Children are the most precious things in a mother's life," explained President Mack. "He's already admitting to pushing and shoving the children and trying to get them in a seat. He caused those children bodily harm."

The parents point to an alleged record of abuse by Mr. Honeycutt against students since he's been in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system.

"Honeycutt has a record of abuse of black and white children," Ms. Hall said. "He has no respect of color. He has this temper that just goes out of control."

Despite Judge Margaret

Sharpe's warning of what future charges filed against Mr. Honeycutt could mean, the parents said they are glad she ruled the way she did. However, said Ms. Hall, the judge's ruling would not deter the parents from judicially pursuing Mr. Honeycutt if they decide to do so.

"As far as what pretty much amounted to a threat from the judge, that will not affect the parents' decision," Ms. Hall said, adding that she is a Christian woman and that God indeed called her to help the parents in their time of need.

"If they decide to file new charges, the Concerned Mothers will have support to lend them and back them up all the way. It's about justice. People who say he's innocent, people who say what they would or wouldn't do in this situation . . . you do not know what you'll do until you see the faces of these mothers and of these children who've had their homes torn apart because of this incident."

Art collection on display

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over here. He goes to Africa a lot and what happens is that he has met a lot of people over there and made a lot of friends. When people come to visit him they bring him gifts. He has something from someone that was the friend of a king."

Mr. Hatmaker said that many of the items in the exhibit are not as old as they appear. Most of the beadwork is from the 17th century. But Mr. Hatmaker said that people often make the mistake of thinking that the African art they have is very old. In actuality, he said, very little is more than 75 years old.

"That's simply because things like masks don't keep well," he said. "Things like masks are made of wood and they just don't keep in that particular climate. Also, they are made for a function and when they no longer serve a purpose they are discarded in the jungle or somewhere where the bugs eat at the wood. So they just don't last. That happens a lot in tropical areas."

Mr. Hatmaker said that most of

the jewelry in the exhibit is primarily purchased for display as opposed to actual use. He said that in many cases the sheer weight of the large pieces of jewelry fashioned from gold and brass make them difficult to wear. Also, he said, the price of the jewelry makes it impractical for casual wear.

One of the centerpieces of the exhibit is a four-foot ancestor figure from the Cameroon. The figure is a wood sculpture, covered with fabric and adorned with thousands of beads. Mr. Hatmaker said that many Western collectors mistakenly refer to such objects as fetishes, but that the actual term is an ancestor figure. He said that traditional ancestor figures are constructed as offerings. The thousands of beads that adorn the figure in the exhibit, would each represent a prayer, and Mr. Hatmaker said that some ancestor figures are constructed to include offerings on their interiors and are then covered with other materials.

Each of the items in the exhibit is for sale. The gallery, located at

858 W. Fourth St., is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

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Ms. Beatty graduated from Shaw University in 1986 with a degree in international studies. She had worked

with the N.C. Black Repertory Company and Twin City Chrysler Plymouth. In 1987, she joined Witness

for Peace as a delegate and traveled to Nicaragua to oppose the United States' aid to the Contras.

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Designers who are creating these sophisticated separates include Carole Little, Christian de Castelnaux, Adrienne Vittadini and Karen Kane.

Their designs are featured in the new Progressive Sportswear department opening this week in the newly remodeled Belk of Hanes Mall.

"Some of the looks in this department are really unique," said Marilyn Koonce, the fashion/special events coordinator for the store. "One is a quilted jacket and pants, both in a floral print, and the jacket has a black velvet collar."

Prints are popular in this department - as they are in departments all over the store, she said.

The fabrics are really soft, really comfortable. A lot of the designers use gauze or rayon. The looks are completed with a lot of attention to details - ribbons, braid trimmings and other passmenterie.

The attention to details, fabrication and prints echo looks in other women's wear departments, Ms. Koonce said.

"These are fashions for the lady who knows how to blend fashion, comfort and an active lifestyle."

Here are some of the events featuring designers from the Progressive Sportswear department:

- Karen Kane trunk show and informal modeling, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 28.
- Carole Little trunk show, 2 to 4 p.m. November 4. Carole Little Week will be November 28 to December 2.
- Adrienne Vittadini customer clinic, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 6. At Belk, we do it Just For You.



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Hey, we're chauffeured to work everyday now. You would think the boss lady up there was really a "boss lady" instead of a girl Friday. But she did make the executive decision to ride in the WSTA Vanpool. We think that's a step in the right direction.

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