

# Rape Defendant Sentenced

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"How did he know to call the Oasis if he hadn't been there?" asked Easley.

He noted that several times during questioning Pigott asked officers, "What was I wearing when I raped her?"

The state was not able to produce as evidence the beige cutoffs allegedly worn by the attacker.

A common thread throughout the state's testimony was the presence of "orange spots" in the assailant's hair—and in Pigott's before a trip to the barber later that day that the defense argued was routine and long overdue.

Pigott took the stand in his own defense Wednesday afternoon, the first witness called by Fairley after Easley rested the state's case.

Dressed in the long burgundy dress knit pants he and his sister said he was wearing the morning of the rape, Pigott testified he didn't recall ever owning any beige cutoffs.

Scratches on his arms, Pigott said, were not caused by the victim's fingernails, but by his young Doberman pup and in his work as a bricklayer's assistant and grocer's stock clerk. The prosecution noted that then sheriff's deputy Jody Nance testified he had not noticed any scratches on the suspect.

In his closing arguments, Easley stressed the placement and nature of the scratches, their "consistency" with the victim's description of how she was grabbed around the neck and dragged to a storeroom. There she was raped at knifepoint.

Pigott, his sister Tammy and two friends, Landis Hill and Greg Berry, testified the defendant was at an Airport Road "joint" drinking, playing cards and dancing until about 5 a.m. or 5:30 a.m., just before daybreak. They said he tried to break up an argument

between Hill and another man before getting a lift to his Mulberry Street home from Virginia Garcia and Hill. Ms. Garcia was not called as a witness.

Earlier, the victim testified day was breaking as she stepped outside the Oasis Food Mart to check on her assailant's whereabouts. She then called the sheriff's department to report the rape. The rapist had threatened at knifepoint to kill her if anyone was told, she said.

On Wednesday, two American Bakeries employees who deliver bread to the store, Wayne Simmons and Steven Brown, testified they saw Pigott in the store shortly before the time of the attack. They said they had known him by sight and/or name for years.

One of the men had warned the clerk against Pigott as having been in trouble before. He waited while she called to ask the sheriff's department to check out the subject. Testimony varied as to exactly what she told the sheriff's officer, Jody Nance, who was fired as a result of the incident.

Testifying for the prosecution, Shallotte Police Lt. Rodney Gause said his investigation of the case was hampered by the Oasis management's refusal to cooperate. While he was attempting to collect fingerprints and examine the store for evidence, he said, they insisted upon keeping the store open for business.

The defense objected strenuously throughout the trial to the use of a series of 10 mug shots lineup, from which several witnesses had readily chosen Pigott's photo. Fairley said the choice was an obvious one, being the only one depicting a young black male with no shirt and with a spot in his hair.

Pigott had been acquitted previously on a charge of assault with intent to commit rape, it was revealed in court outside the presence of the jury.

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## Permit Adjustments Eyed

A series of adjustments in the county's new building inspections program was proposed to county commissioners Monday night, with action expected on Oct. 7.

County Planner John Harvey asked the board to affirm an administrative decision concerning reconnections of electrical service in emergency situations.

It provides for speedy return of service on weekends or at night when there is a fire in a breaker box or similar problem that can be readily corrected. Harvey will allow an inspector to perform the necessary inspections by direct telephone call from either a licensed electrician or one of the electric utilities. The permits would be filed on the next working day, with other related data, and the inspector could issue a certificate of occupancy directly to the electric utilities.

The board agreed for Commissioner Grace Beasley, who operates a mobile home park with her husband, to work with Harvey in addressing several concerns relating to mobile homes, while Chairman Chris Chappell will work with him on revising the system used in the past when issuing electrical permits for multiple unit commercial and residential structures. No explanation of that system was offered.

Harvey also recommended that:  
 •A set inspection fee be charged structures that have been moved rather than requiring individual memos from an inspector, and that remodeling be included in the same schedule;

•No permit, no fee and no inspection be required for uncovered

spaces such as decks and steps that are less than 50 square feet in size;

•A \$15 per square foot charge be made for unheated, covered spaces left open on at least two sides, while the charge remain \$20 per square foot for those covered on more than two sides;

•No fee, no permit be charged for storage or other small accessory buildings without permanent flooring and electricity, if 100 square feet or less in size;

•When a manufactured unit (such as mobile home) is converted from a vehicle by placement on a permanent foundation, that a building construction fee of \$20 be charged since an inspection would be required. This would be in addition to any other required fees or inspections.



DAWN ELLEN BOYD

## Dawn Boyd Rejoins Beacon Staff

Dawn Ellen Boyd of Shallotte Point has rejoined *The Brunswick Beacon* as a staff writer. She had previously worked for the newspaper before attending college in Greensboro.

Boyd is the daughter of Dorothy D. Boyd of Shallotte Point and Samuel V. Boyd of Shallotte.

A 1980 graduate of West Brunswick High School, Boyd earned a bachelor's degree in English and Religious Studies from UNC-Greensboro, where she was a Jefferson Pilot scholar. While at UNC-G she was elected editor of the school's fine arts magazine, *Coraddi*, associate editor to the newspaper, *The Carolinian*, and editor of the university's yearbook, *Pine Needles*. She also served for three years on the University Media Board and was elected to the university's honor society, the Golden Chain.

She will cover government and community news for *The Beacon*.

## Rose's Staff Schedules Stops

Seventh District Congressman Charlie Rose has scheduled staff visits to local post offices on four dates in September.

A staff member will be available to discuss opinions on legislative issues or any problems area residents might have with a government agency. Constituents are asked to bring any paperwork or letters that relate to the problem to speed its resolution.

The schedule of stops in Brunswick County is as follows: Sept. 19—Leland, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.; Southport, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Sept. 24—Bolivia, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.; Longwood, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Sept. 25, Winnabow, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.; Ash, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Sept. 26—Supply, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.; and Shallotte, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Anyone unable to get to a post office when it is staffed may contact Rose's staff at his Fayetteville or Wilmington offices, or by calling 323-7960 or 343-4569. He can be contacted in Washington by writing to him at 2230 Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, or by calling (202) 225-7731.

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