

# Man Pleads Guilty To Attempted Murder By Ajax Poisoning

One of two suspects accused of trying to kill an unconscious man by pouring cleaning liquid down his throat was sentenced to nine years in prison after pleading guilty in Brunswick County Superior Court last week.

Douglas Franklin Lacy, 29, was living at the Holiday Motel in Belville when he was arrested for allegedly beating, robbing and attempting to poison a fellow tenant of the rooming house last October.

The victim, Terry Davis, 40, was found badly beaten, unconscious and bleeding from the mouth by a Wilmington Police officer on patrol near a city park, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Steve Mason, who helped investigate the case.

After several days in intensive care under treatment for severe internal injuries, Davis told Mason that he had been drinking alcohol with two other rooming house residents when he "got more drunk than the others and passed out."

Witnesses said the two suspects went through Davis's wallet, stole some papers and found a business card that led them to believe he was a police informant, Mason said. The two men became angry at Davis and said "they ought to kill him and throw him in the river," the detective said.

Lacy then assaulted Davis "with his fists, beating him about the face, head and neck, further striking him about his chest and back while the victim was unconscious," according to the indictment. Lacy then "poured a mixture containing Ajax into the victim's mouth."

During the investigation, a witness said that he ran from the scene after seeing Davis "throw up blood," Mason said. Lacy and the other man allegedly removed a watch, jacket and tennis shoes from Davis before carrying him to a vehicle and driving him to Wilmington, where they beat him some more and dumped his body in a park.

"He was black and blue from head to toe," Mason said.

Two days later, Brunswick Detective Ken Messer arrested Lacy and 28-year-old Valdez Whitmore and charged them in the assault.

Lacy pleaded guilty Monday to one count each of common law robbery and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury. As part of a plea bargain, Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger agreed to dismiss a charge of first-degree kidnapping.

In addition to his prison sentence, Lacy was ordered to pay \$400 for his court-appointed lawyer.

Judge Knox Jenkins presided over four days of superior court in Bolivia last week. Bollinger and Assistant District Attorney Rick Green prosecuted cases for the state. Lisa Aycock served as courtroom clerk. Other defendants whose cases were heard, with their charges, pleas and judgments include:

■Charles Anderson Clarida of Route 1, Bolivia, had a sentencing hearing on earlier convictions for attempted second-degree rape and misdemeanor breaking and entering. He was sentenced to two years, suspended three years on payment of court costs and \$400 attorney fees. He was put on unsupervised probation for three years.

■John Dudley Bryant, 51, of Northwest Road, Leland, pleaded guilty to a charge of possessing drug paraphernalia. In a plea bargain, the state dropped two charges of cocaine possession and one charge each of disseminating obscenity and maintaining a dwelling for keeping a controlled substance.

■Jeffery Phillip Sheppard, 29, of Sunset Beach was sentenced to five years and six months in prison after being found guilty of felony hit-and-run, reckless driving and driving without insurance. He was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and restitution for his victim's medical bills. But first, the judge said he should reimburse the state for his court-appointed lawyer.

■Hollie Lee Daniels, 33, of Route 1, Longwood, was sentenced to eight years in prison after admitting a probation violation and pleading guilty to possession with intent to sell cocaine.

■Michael Byron Edens, 30, of Forrest Hills Drive, Leland, was sentenced to three years after admitting a probation violation. He appealed to the N.C. Court of Appeals.

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Bond was set at \$10,000 secured.

■Bryan Lee O'Daniels, 19, of South Shores Drive, Southport, was sentenced to six years and 120 days after admitting to three counts of violating probation and pleading guilty to three counts of driving while his license was revoked and one charge of driving while impaired by alcohol. The judge recommended that he receive an assessment and treatment for alcohol abuse.

■Bruce Daniels, 22, of N.C. 904, Ash, was jailed for 30 days after he pleaded guilty to one count of selling cocaine. He was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended five years on the condition that he pay a fine of \$200, court costs and \$300 attorney fees. He was put on supervised probation for five years.

■Roy Fowler Jr. of Northeast 6th Street, Long Beach, pleaded no contest to charges of assaulting a handicapped person, assault on a female and communicating threats. The judge issued a prayer for judgment continued in the case.

■Angelo Lonell Walker, 24, of Water Street, Leland, pleaded guilty to a charge of driving without a license. He was ordered to pay the costs of court, with a prayer for judgment continued.

■Arlyn Deion Vernon, 22, of Route 1, Leland, pleaded no contest to a charge of second-degree trespass and was found in willful violation of his probation. He was sentenced to 30 days, suspended 12 months on the condition that he pay court costs and \$250 in attorney fees. He was transferred to intensive supervised probation for six months.

■Jimmy Davis Hunter, 25, of Fair Haven Mobile Home Park, Leland, pleaded guilty to one count of felonious possession of marijuana. As part of a plea bargain, the state dropped five charges of conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana, two charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and one count each of selling and delivering marijuana, misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was ordered to pay court costs and \$400 in attorney fees and to sign over the title of his 1990 Ford vehicle to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department. Hunter was put on supervised probation for three years.

■Vanessa Everett, 37, of Leland pleaded guilty to one charge each of felonious welfare fraud, felonious medical assistance fraud and misdemeanor foot stamp fraud. She was sentenced to five years, suspended on the condition that she pay restitution and court costs. She was put on supervised probation for five years.

■James Edison Garrell, 36, of Walker Street, Leland, pleaded guilty to two counts of misdemeanor possession of marijuana. As part of a plea bargain, the state dropped a charge of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of keeping a controlled substance. He was sentenced to two years, suspended three years on payment of court costs and \$400 attorney fees. He was put on unsupervised probation for three years.

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controlled substance. Bryant was given a two-year suspended sentence and two years unsupervised probation. He was ordered pay court costs and to sign over the title to a 1993 Ford Explorer to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

■Manning Belton Soles, 28, of High Street, Shallotte, pleaded guilty to a charge of unauthorized possession of alcoholic beverages and was given a two-year suspended sentence and three years probation.

■Freddie Elmer Smith, 37, of Southport pleaded guilty to three counts of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and three charges of selling cocaine. He was sentenced to 10 years, suspended on the condition that he continue hospital treatments and that he pay court costs, \$300 to his court-appointed lawyer and \$260 restitution to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics division. He was ordered to maintain a 7 p.m. curfew and put on five years supervised probation.

■Johnny Mack Brown, 38, of Route 1, Longwood, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and selling cocaine. The judge issued a prayer for judgment continued.

■Clarence Lewis Jr., 43, of Route 5, Leland, pleaded guilty to charges of felonious possession of cocaine, possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and selling cocaine. He was given a 64-day jail term, with credit for time served awaiting trial, and sentenced to five years, suspended on the condition that he pay court costs and submit to warrantless searches. He was put on intensive probation for five years.

■Ricky Ellis Fulford, 38, of Shrimp Street, Holden Beach, was found guilty of driving while impaired by alcohol. He was sentenced to six months, suspended on the condition that he pay a \$100 fine and court costs. He was ordered to undergo an assessment for alcohol abuse within 30 days and to perform 24 hours of community service. He was put on unsupervised probation for two years.

■Randy O. Brown of Route 1, Ash, pleaded guilty to four misdemeanor employment security violations. He was sentenced to two years, suspended on the condition that he pay court costs and \$719 restitution. He was put on supervised probation for two years.

■John Edward Holland Jr., 50, of Route 4, Leland, pleaded guilty to speeding 65 miles per hour in a 45 mph zone. He had been charged with speeding 79 mph. The judge issued a prayer for judgment continued on payment of court costs.

■Robert Wesley Moore of 9th Street, Southport admitted violating his probation on an earlier conviction for possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine. He was transferred to intensive probation for six months.

■Lloyd Lee Bolt, 26, of Leland admitted violating the terms of his probation on an earlier conviction for felonious breaking and entering. He was ordered to continue on probation under modified terms.

■Bennie M. Stanley, 22, of Route 4, Shallotte admitted violating the terms of his probation on a conviction for possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine. He was ordered to perform 48 hours community service and to continue on supervised probation.



As If By Magic...

Paulette Golden demonstrates the art of churning butter to third-graders at Supply Elementary School. The students learned that butter comes from cows, that whole milk is made of both milk and cream, and that Holstein cows give more milk than Jerseys. They helped with the churning, learning that it takes a long time. After the butter was made, each child sampled it with crackers.

## DA Gore Opts Not To Prosecute 'Citizens' Unless Election Law Violations Continue

BY SUSAN USHER

District Attorney Rex Gore announced Monday he plans to take no action against the Concerned Citizens of Long Beach for apparent violations of state election laws unless the group continues to act illegally as a political committee.

In a letter dated Monday and mailed to individuals who have been identified in some way as members of the committee, Gore states, "Despite the violations by the Concerned Citizens political committee, I am not going to prosecute for its prior acts."

However, Gore states that his office will take legal action if, from January 1, 1994 forward, there is continued non-compliance with state election laws.

He said choosing not to prosecute past violations was simply a matter of priorities for his office and the SBI.

"I can't tell they were doing anything except not filing the papers, and frankly we've all got better things to do," he said. "If we were to pursue it I would have to call the SBI in and it would spend 40 to 80 hours investigating and building a case. It's just not worth it. It just wasn't important enough."

But if the violations continue, his office will prosecute not only new violations but those that may have occurred within two years prior to any warrants being taken out, he told the *Beacon* Tuesday.

Any group that raises money or spends money for a candidate, endorses a candidate and takes other political stands is considered a political action committee. Political committees are required to have elected officers, maintain income and expense records and register with the N.C. Board of Elections.

During the Long Beach municipal elections last November several candidates ran under the purported endorsement of the Concerned Citizens, and advertising supporting their election was purchased on behalf of the group, though it was never registered with the state.

After a preliminary investigation the State Board of Elections turned the matter over to the District Attorney's office to investigate, saying that it had been unable to pin-

point the identity of group members or officers. When contacted by a state election official, one citizen activist associated with the group, Eileen Kellagher, wrote back that to her knowledge the group had no officers.

In his letter to purposed Concerned Citizens members, Gore urged the group to "act responsibly" while applauding its interest in community affairs.

"You and your friends have demonstrated a deep interest in the welfare of the community in which you live, he concludes. "You have given voice to concerns that needed to be raised. You have urged community leaders to act responsibly in their dealings with the public. I am

now asking you to do the same. You have nothing to hide."

While not relishing the idea of prosecuting any persons who "try to monitor our public officials," Gore reiterated he would bring to court "anyone identified with Concerned Citizens" if the group chooses not to comply with the law.

Long Beach Mayor Joan Altman, who was re-elected in November by a substantial margin despite opposition from the Concerned Citizens, commented only briefly on the decision.

"If Mr. Gore has decided it was okay for them to do it (violate state laws) in the past but not in the future, that's most unusual," she said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

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