

Clerk

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warrants and summons, collect traffic fines, and set bonds.

The 11 men and one woman that rotate shifts around the clock issued 51,766 legal processes in 1986, said David Phillips another of the 12 people manning the clerk's office. Their official title is "deputy clerk of superior court" but most often are referred to as "clerk of court."

Everything ranging from warrants for felonies to summons to appear in court for misdemeanors is issued through the office.

That includes paper work for such varied offenses as fish and wildlife law infractions, charges brought by fire chiefs against suspected arsonists, charges brought by the state bureau of investigation and alcohol beverage control center, and the gamut from traffic violations to murder.

"Everything that happens here is unusual," said Bill Peterson, a clerk of court. "We deal with everything from people who are alleged to have committed a homicide all the way down to street people too drunk for a shaker to take."

And the staff listens to every kind of complaint brought before them to determine if there is "probable cause" before issuing a legal paper. The complaints also run a wide range from the ordinary to the bizarre.

One woman wanted to swear out a warrant against a neighbor for shooting microwaves into her house which she claimed burned her mother's skin. She also said the neighbor had hooked up sewage pipes to her fresh water supply.

"She just wants someone to talk to more than she wants to swear out a warrant," Phillips said. Whichever clerk is on duty when she comes in gets a turn to hear her out.

She visits the office at least once a week and sometimes more often, Honaker said. "I know you all are listening in on my phone calls," he quoted her as saying once. "I won't be home this afternoon, so tell everybody to call back."

The clerks listen to her complaints, offer her sympathy and

Husband's kin bails him out, raps the mother

The grandfather of a Winston-Salem man accused by his estranged wife of assaulting her, threatening their 7-year-old son and defaulting on court-ordered child support payments, claims the woman is "lying."

"That woman's crazy," Fred Berry said of Barbara Davis, 37, of 326 W. 24th St., who's been separated from Richard Davis, 29 of 308 W. 23rd St. since 1981 (see "Violent hubby still at large, June 18 edition).

"She's lying," Berry said of claims that his grandson was behind \$840 in child support payments since February 27. "I just got him out of jail tonight (Tuesday). He's lost his job and his (position) in the National Guard."

The *Chronicle* contacted both his supervisor at the restaurant where he works and his commanding officer in his National Guard unit and neither indicated that Davis had lost his positions.

When told of Mr. Berry's comments, Mrs. Davis responded, "If I'm crazy and I'm lying then why did the court give me this paper saying that he's \$840 behind? I guess me and the white folks are crazy."

Davis was arrested Tuesday on a Clerk of Superior Court-issued warrant and released on bond. According to Mrs. Davis, her husband missed two court appearances; one on June 2 (child support) and another on June 4 (assault). She said he has paid only \$140 since February 27. He is ordered to pay \$70 a week.

Mrs. Davis wants his wages garnished and a peace bond for personal and family protection.

Davis could not be reached for comment.

reassurance and send her on her way.

Some people think they are vigilantes and are performing a community service by turning in people they see committing illegal acts, Honaker said.

One such man made four trips to the clerk's office trying to swear out a warrant against a woman he saw put a quarter in a newspaper machine and then take out two papers. The gentleman even managed to drag the owner of the vending machine in once, in spite of the owner's reluctance to press charges.

The accused offered to pay back the quarter. The accuser was not satisfied. He wanted her arrested "for the principle of the thing."

Honaker does not believe a paper was issued in the case but is not sure since several clerks handled the matter at different times.

"We get a lot of the same people week after week wanting to Please see page A15

Centers

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the directors thought their centers were effective because of the interest shown by the students, report cards that reflected improvement in homework preparation and parents' appreciation at having someone to help their children with homework.

The centers focused not only on helping students with basic skills, but also on test-taking.

One learning center, located at Grace Presbyterian Church, helped students prepare for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

"They had three sessions during the year," Mrs. Allen said. "They had speakers come in and talk to students about self-concept and the importance of doing well in school and on the SAT."

Some of the centers were a lot stronger than others, Mrs. Allen said. Staffing was a problem for some, she said, which caused several centers to get off to a slow start. Professional people as well as student tutors from Winston-Salem State University and Wake

Forest University provided the staffing.

"The Kimberly Park center had Wake Forest students throughout the year," she said. "True Temple wasn't able to staff as well as Kimberly Park. Students at Winston-Salem State could not give full-time."

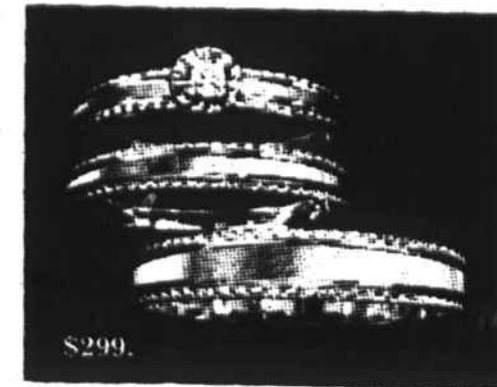
Mrs. Allen and the Education Committee are looking at ways to prevent this year's problems' from happening again.

She said that she plans to meet with WSSU Chancellor Cleon F. Thompson and his assistant, Alex Johnson. "We're working on a plan where we can get more students from WSSU and a consistency in their performance," she said.

The NAACP hopes to add two more learning centers to the 11 it operates, Mrs. Allen said.

Volunteers to tutor in the NAACP's learning centers are being recruited now, Mrs. Allen said. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Mrs. Allen at 723-0513.

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