

# Neglect case raises issues Continued from A1

The day after charges were filed, the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina referred Tolliver to Black Family Focus, a support group begun in February for people like Tolliver. According to Lee Faye Mack, a counselor for the group, the Department of Social Services is supposed to refer clients to Black Family Focus, but they had not done so in this case.

From a one hour counseling session with Tolliver, Mack said she was able to recognize her client needed help. She said Tolliver was "pleading" for help. "I'm not excusing the mother," Mack said. "She needs psychological help."

"I don't think agencies should be

let off the hook," Mack said. "What have they been doing? They forget they had a responsibility here." According to Mack, the Social Services worker assigned to Tolliver, Pam Harper, had only visited her one time in the past nine months.

Exchange SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) has worked with Tolliver in the past, but is not currently helping her. George Bryan, director of SCAN, said, "We reached a point where it was appropriate that we didn't work with her." He said he was not at liberty to say exactly who referred Tolliver to SCAN, but it was not Social Services.

Tolliver has also worked with the Donna Brown, a social worker with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. Brown could not comment on the case and did not say whether she was currently working with Tolliver.

Mack said Tolliver should have been referred earlier to Black Family Focus, and a recommendation should have been made to take her sick child into protective custody.

"I would have gone in as a counselor and worked with the mother," Mack said. Several people from the support group would have helped Tolliver clean up her house to make her living situation better, said Mack.

"I'm tired of agencies getting money and not doing what they're supposed to do. Who are they accountable to when something like this falls through the cracks? Who is responsible for a situation before it even happens?" Mack asked.

"There are 100 more families just like that that need the same kind of help this woman did and didn't get it," she said.

Tolliver is now a part of Black Family Focus, and her three youngest children have been taken into protective custody. She is free on \$1,000 bond before her trial, which is scheduled for Oct. 30.

# Hunt trial nears end Continued from A1

The defense tried to discredit prosecution witness Jesse Moore Jr. as well. Moore had testified earlier that many inmates heard Hunt boast of the crime. The only other inmate Moore could name specifically, Jackie Wiemer, testified Friday that he had never heard Hunt speak of the incident.

Earlier this week, a psychologist testified that Marie Margaret Crawford, Hunt's girlfriend, had a reputation for lying. Crawford had testified that Hunt had told her he had spoken to her of the crime.

Howell Lee Hagie, brother of Donald Hagie, testified that his brother was a very dishonest person. Donald Hagie had previously testified that Hunt had spoken to him of the crime while they were in prison together.

Tuesday, Yeates, ending his closing argument said Johnny Gray, who telephoned the police on the morning of the murder, was probably involved in the crime, too, but that was an issue to be dealt with in another trial. He used Sykes' shoes as a visual aid, saying the murder not only took Sykes' life, but her dignity and privacy as well. He was graphic in his descriptions of the crime, which caused Sykes' family and supporters to cry.

He explained the inconsistencies in the testimonies as human nature. Would you feel better if their stories were exactly the same, he asked the jury.

Stein began his closing argument Tuesday, saying Hunt was not hiding behind the bedrock of rea-

sonable doubt but is standing on it. The burden of proof rests with the prosecution, he reminded the jury.

Both he and Ferguson, who began his closing argument Wednesday, asked why Gray had not been investigated but had been pampered and paid up to this point.

Ferguson spent almost four hours giving his closing argument Wednesday. Referring to the prosecution's case, he said, "A pile of trash doesn't get better as it gets bigger. It just gets harder to see through."

He said nobody disputes the tragedy of Sykes' death, but the prosecution's case is weak. The prosecution's witnesses are convicts, liars, and murders, none of whom presented evidence that was

beyond reasonable doubt, Ferguson said.

He also questioned why the witnesses all saw Hunt but didn't see each other.

Bowman also began his closing argument Wednesday afternoon, insisting on Hunt's guilt. The intent of the crime was to torture, he said. "It's sadistic. It's sick."

"The once white shroud is dripping in the blood of Deborah Sykes, battered by the truth of the evidence you've heard on the witness stand, heavy with the guilt of Darryl Eugene Hunt," Bowman said.

His argument will continue Thursday. The jury will decide Hunt's guilt or innocence when all closing arguments have been completed.

# Blacks & Democrats Continued from A1

Rena Murchison, elections supervisor in Alamance County, said voter registration activity has been very heavy for both Republicans and Democrats.

"People are just registering everywhere - the churches, schools and neighborhoods," she said. "Up until this week voter registration had been split 50-50 between

Democrats and Republicans. But now we have more blacks registered, mostly with the Democratic Party."

Contributing to the voting furor is the Senate race between three-term Republican Sen. Jesse Helms and his challenger, Harvey Gantt. Gantt is the first black Democratic Senate candidate nomi-

nated this century.

While getting voters registered is important, even more important is getting them to the polls, officials said.

"Our main concern is going to be on get-out-the-vote," said Tom Ballus, state GOP spokesman. "In 1986 we had 300,000 Republican-leaning voters who didn't go to

the polls." That was the year Democrat Terry Sanford defeated Republican Jim Broyhill for the state's other seat in the U.S. Senate.

John Humphrey, state Democratic Party spokesman, said the party is counting on strong grassroots efforts to get Democrats to the polls.

# Sparrow Continued from A1

Catherine, age 28, Barbara, age 26, Theodora, age 24, and Arthur, age 23. Catherine has given Sparrow two grandchildren: Lydia, 4 and Melanie, 2. Sparrow was born in Charlotte and is 54 years old.

Sparrow went to Duke University on a Naval ROTC scholarship to get his degree in civil engineering. After college he went into the Navy and was assigned to the USS Wasp stationed in Boston. Sparrow worked for the *Winston-Salem Journal* while attending Wake Forest Law School. Sparrow had worked in private practice in Winston-Salem from 1966 until 1987, when he became district attorney after defeating Republican James Gatto in the 1986 election. Sparrow was a Republican before he ran for district attorney in 1986. Sparrow is currently the chairman of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

### Backlog of Court Cases:

When Sparrow took office in 1986, 736 cases awaited trial, but the load of untried cases have grown to over 2200 in his time as district attorney, according to the records of the administrative office of the courts. Sparrow said when he took office

the caseload was artificially low. A total of 6,700 cases were filed in 1989, and the district attorney's office had only 12 prosecutors to deal with them, Sparrow said.

He said the percentage of cases disposed of since 1984 is down statewide. Even with the tremendous increase in the number untried cases, the median age of untried cases in Forsyth County is 80 days, while the statewide median age is 100 days, according to Sparrow.

Sparrow said that pending cases can have a chilling effect on the personal behavior of the accused.

Sparrow said he is trying to use his experience and the experience of his assistant district attorneys to make the system more efficient. He pointed out that the number of cases filed since he took office has increased dramatically, a figure over which he has no control. The court system is not going to get more people to handle the cases, Sparrow said.

Three weeks ago Sparrow initiated a "vertical prosecution" plan where six Superior Court assistant district attorneys go to Probable Cause Court, or screening court, on Friday. They pick up their cases

and follow them through from the outset. Sparrow said this will eliminate a lot of inefficiency and duplication of effort because the attorneys will get the cases earlier.

### Drugs:

Sparrow said that drugs have proliferated in Winston-Salem. In 1985 only 300 drug cases were filed, but last year the number was as high as 1300.

Sparrow said he has a "firm record" on drug prosecutions. He said Forsyth County has sent more people to prison than any North Carolina county except Mecklenburg and Wake counties. But the job of his office, he said, is to present the facts, not to sentence the offenders.

Sparrow has two assistants who specialize in drug cases, one of which was hired three weeks ago to investigate the more serious drug trafficking cases.

### Victims Rights:

Sparrow said he has no strong feelings about a victims rights amendment to the North Carolina Constitution. He said he is in the business of enforcing the law.

### DA's Role:

Sparrow said the district attorney

# Keith Continued from A1

Chapel Hill and his J.D. from Wake Forest Law School, was an assistant district attorney for two years under Republican Frank Yeager. He then entered private practice, where he has been ever since. He has used his 20 years of trial experience to give something back to the Forsyth County community; Keith shared his legal expertise by being a criminal law instructor at Forsyth Technical Community College. He has experience in federal drug cases and jury trials and was also chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Elections for four terms.

### Backlog of Court Cases:

Keith holds that one of the main problems with the local court system is the backlog of cases, which leads to atrocious plea bargaining. He believes the backlog could be alleviated if court time were utilized better. Some of his suggestions for better time utilization are as follows:

Keith wants assistant district attorneys assigned cases before the defendant's

indictment by the grand jury so the attorneys can be familiar with their cases and will be prepared to try them more quickly. He also wants them to keep time logs and flow charts of the cases they handle.

Keith said the number of African-American assistant district attorneys should reflect the racial composition of the county. He said he would hire at least four, and maybe five, experienced, competent, African-American assistant district attorneys. There are currently two African-American assistant district attorneys.

Clerks from Wake Forest Law School or paralegals could be used to help prepare cases for court. Keith said.

He would like to prioritize jail cases to reduce the jail backlog, which was recommended by the Forsyth County Jail Population Committee in its report dated Aug. 24, 1989.

Keith proposed court be in session on Fridays, as it currently is not, and several

nights a week for domestic relations court. Night court would eliminate people's needing to take time off from their day jobs to appear in court.

### Drugs:

Keith said the biggest problem bringing people in the courts today is drugs and drug-related crimes such as robbery and murder. He has been on several drug raids as an attorney in Winston-Salem and plans to continue if he is elected.

A Spanish-speaking assistant district attorney would be included in Keith's staff, he said. In Winston-Salem, drug dealers who speak only Spanish have elaborate rings, and the district attorney's office needs to be able to communicate with them when they are arrested.

### Victims Rights:

Keith favors a law, not an amendment to the state constitution, which would require that the arresting officer and the victim of the crime be notified of the suspect's trial date and of what the district

attorney plans to do with the case (try or plea bargain). He said there should be a check-off sheet in every case file where it can be recorded that the police officer and the victim were contacted.

### DA's Role:

Keith said he would be more of a hands-on district attorney. He said he loves to try cases, and he would be given a chance to perfect his trade as district attorney.

### Reason For Wanting Office:

Winston-Salem needs a district attorney who will aggressively target and go after professional drug dealers so the city does not become overrun with drugs and crime, Keith said.

Keith has worked with drug cases for years, and he said they have scared him to death. He said if the drug problem is not aggressively addressed soon, in four or five years the citizens will lose their city, and Winston-Salem will be like other big cities.

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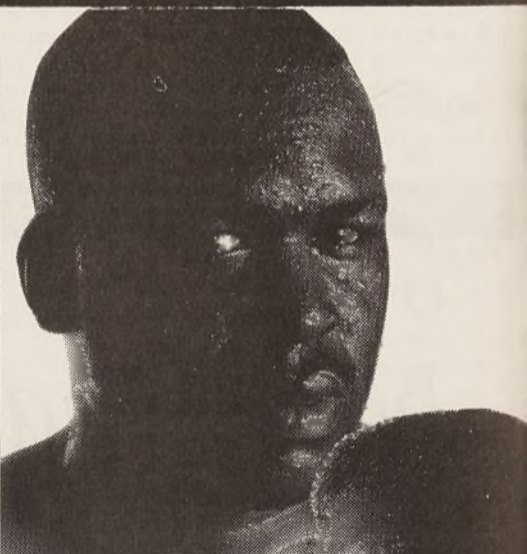


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