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Charged with murder of jailer

Joan Little trial underway

From Staff and Wire Reports

RALEIGH—Heated debate between defense and prosecution, the tedious selection of jurors, and bomb threats marked the opening days of the Joan Little trial in Raleigh, N.C.

Little is charged with the August 27, 1974 murder of Clarence T. Alligood, 62, a white Beaufort County jailer whom Little maintains was attempting to rape her.

Chief defense attorney Jerry Paul entered

a plea of "not guilty" Monday to the first degree murder charge, as Little stood in silence.

Under North Carolina law, a conviction by the state would mean the death penalty for the 21-year-old black defendant.

A number of verbal skirmishes have taken place between Paul and Superior Court Judge Hamilton Hobgood, who is presiding over the case. Clashes have centered mostly on matters related to jury selection.

At one point during Tuesday's

proceedings, Paul asked Hobgood to remove himself from the trial when the judge thwarted continuation of the defenses' line of questioning prospective jurors.

Paul had been using what he termed "the scientific method" in jury selection. Aides to the defense kept score as prospective jurors were asked about such things as hobbies, travel, and the magazines to which they subscribe. Part of this method asks prospects to respond with "agree or disagree" to a series of statements dealing with racism.

Only one juror a day was selected in the trial's opening two days. The first was Cornelia Howell, 20, a Raleigh waitress at a health foods restaurant. Seated Tuesday was a white State Department of Corrections counselor, 25-year-old Jennie Lancaster.

Although two bomb threats were received on the second day of the trial, proceedings continued in the third-floor courtroom of the Wake County Courthouse without evacuation.

Conflicting reports emerged Tuesday about an inmate in the Beaufort County Jail who could have been a possible witness to the ice pick stabbing of Alligood. Without eye-witnesses, the state must rely on circumstantial evidence to prove the stabbing was part of an escape plot.

The trial got under way Monday as hundreds of Little's supporters staged a day-long demonstration outside the downtown courthouse.

Women's groups, civil rights groups, and prison reform groups have focused on Little's case, viewing it as a symbol of their causes.

A woman's right to defend herself against rape is one question many women's groups say the trial will decide.

Helping to catapult Little's case into the national limelight was a direct-mail campaign sponsored early this year by The Southern Poverty Law Center, headed by Georgia State Senator Julian Bond. Most of the \$115 thousand bond which freed Little from women's prison in March was posted by the center.

The trial has drawn reporters from national television networks, wire services, and leading newspapers and magazines to Raleigh.

Little has spoken at several rallies held in her behalf around the country, including one last week in Oakland, California.

Chapel Hill has been a North Carolina stronghold of Little support. She was hosted at a well-attended reception in March at the Community Church. Making a second local stop, Little addressed a capacity crowd at UNC's Great Hall earlier this month.



Staff photography by Brooz-Lobraloo Conglomerate

Joan Little trial

Planning Board votes support for D.U. house expansion, 5-0

by Michael Fawcett
Staff Writer

Despite strong protests from nearby residents who feared excessive noise, the Chapel Hill Planning Board voted 5-0 Tuesday night to recommend to the Board of Aldermen that Delta Upsilon (DU) fraternity's request for a Special Use Permit be granted.

The permit, if adopted by the Aldermen, will allow the fraternity, located at 407-A E. Rosemary St., to construct a new building for cooking, dining, meetings and social functions. This building would enable DU to retain its historic Dey and Bain houses, located in front of the proposed site. The two houses had been marked for destruction in

DU's original 1972 plan, which it withdrew even though approved by the Aldermen because of opposition by community residents and some DU members.

The permit contains five stipulations—an acceptable plan for construction of sewers, acceptable landscaping, a brick wall at least 6 feet high "screening... the parking area (of DU) from the view of abutting properties on the north side of the lot," an agreement that the new modification replaces all previous such plans, and the condition that construction begin by July 1, 1977 and end by July 1, 1979.

The debate on the permit, which took less than an hour, featured arguments by the DU neighbors that excessive noise would be caused. Hugh Stohler reminded the Board

that the town's noise ordinance was less likely to be enforced on Friday and Saturday nights, the nights when parties were most likely to be held.

Margaret Knoerr, who with her husband George remains among the fiercest opponents of the DU extension, delivered a strong objection. The Knoerrs believe that DU's noise will hurt property values and disturb children, including the Knoerr's own 13-year-old.

They presented copies of letters from two local realtors (Foushee and Olsen) and one assessor-realtor (Fisher & Fisher) supporting their position.

George Knoerr was bitter about the Board's decision, calling it "a disgusting indictment."

Planning Director Mike Jennings expressed disappointment at Knoerr's comment after the meeting, saying he believed Knoerr misunderstood him. Jennings said the offended residents should have called the police and used all other "proper channels" before bringing their complaint to the board. As it was, he said, these resources were not exhausted.

At least one board member (Blaine Liner) expressed the same sentiments during the debate, saying, "I'd hate to see this board get involved in subsidiary issues." Both men felt laws already on the books made any singling out of the DU noise problem unnecessary.

Jennings added that of the fraternities and sororities in the Rosemary St. area, only DU had been the subject of a complaint—"What's the difference between a quiet DU house and a quiet AEP (Alpha Epsilon Pi sorority) house?" he asked rhetorically.

A heated exchange between Acting Chairman Jonathan House and DU's law student defender, Alan Pugh, added some brief tension. Pugh had introduced stipulations of his own, and after hearing the residents' objections, he first warned that DU might not accept changes, and finally said he was withdrawing his stipulations. House responded with controlled anger, informing Pugh, "You've acted precipitously." Pugh then consented to leave in the stipulations. House, cooling, suggested, "Let's forget the last 30 seconds of debate." The Board, however, did not accept Pugh's stipulation.

Board member Sid Cohn, who later said he will resign on Monday because he is leaving Chapel Hill, commented that he generally feels fraternities do not belong in residential areas like the one around the DU house. However, he said, DU was an existing fraternity, so fairness demanded that its request be accepted.

Little trial sparks Raleigh

Not your average day

by Jim Brooz
Staff Writer

RALEIGH—A steady drizzle was growing toward a full-fledged rain Monday morning outside the new Wake County Courthouse, while inside on the third floor, the highly-publicized Joan Little murder trial was beginning.

About two miles away, 400 to 500 demonstrators assembled near the N.C. Women's Prison for a march to the downtown Raleigh courthouse in support of Little. As the police-escorted demonstrators neared their destination on Fayetteville St. at about 10:45 a.m., officers from the Wake County Sheriff's Department, N.C. Highway Patrol, and Raleigh City Police stood in attentive readiness for possible disturbances.

Despite the unrelenting rain, demonstrators remained spirited; the cheering was loud and smiles were plentiful. Some marchers carried large banners, while countless others brandished cardboard placards, most of which read simply "Free Joan." The defendant's name was spelled with one "n" as often as two.

A poster carried by a black youth reading "Jail the Rich, Free the Poor" and a button worn by a young white female which read simply "Stop Rape" helped symbolize the wider-ranging significance Little's trial has taken on.

From atop a car parked in front of the courthouse, Larry Little (no relation to the defendant), a Winston-Salem Black Panther leader, instructed the demonstrators to line up in twos, so their parade before the high-rise stone and glass

structure would not interfere with normal pedestrian traffic.

The rain had let up some as the Little supporters filed back and forth rhythmically chanting, "Everybody-clap your hands-let's get together and free Joan." With varying degrees of enthusiasm, the demonstration continued through the waning minutes of morning and throughout the afternoon.

Spectators lined the front of Belk's Department Store across Fayetteville St., their ranks swelling when workers paused during lunchbreaks.

Inside the courthouse, a handful of police officers patrolled the airy lobby—a reminder that this was not just any Monday. Another reminder was the camera crews from NBC and ABC news occasionally resting on the lobby's gold-carpeted floor, their backs leaned against the walls and arms resting on their knees.

In the ground-level offices of the Wake County Clerk, it was business as usual, except for assistant clerk Barbara Mobley, who is issuing press passes during the celebrated trial. "I'm sorry, but I have to have authorization from your editor on file," Mobley sympathetically informed one hopeful reporter early in the day.

Orange colored passes go to press personnel who have reserved seats in the courtroom, while white passes give members of the media access to the third floor pressroom and another courtroom wired with the sound from the Little proceedings.

Heavily guarded by Wake County sheriff's deputies, the third floor is off limits to persons without authorization. Deputy Harry Holland said late Monday afternoon that all unauthorized persons, when asked to leave, had done so without incident. "We haven't had any situation of a controversial nature," he said.

Holland is in charge of an electronic metal detector secured from United Airlines, which screens all persons entering the courtroom where Little is being tried. He said passage through the detector had progressed "very smoothly" and that only objects such as keys had caused any delays.

Deputies and reporters chatted amiably with one another during court recesses.

Across a spacious waiting area from the Little courtroom is the jury lounge. Men and women wearing tags which read "juror" in bright red letters, came out occasionally to use the restrooms a few feet away.

As Little left the courthouse for a noon hour recess, she and her small entourage was deluged by the press and well-wishers. When the Little entourage left for the day shortly after 5:00 p.m., the crowd again swarmed in, this time disrupting rush-hour traffic. When police moved in, the crowd scramble back to the sidewalk and slowly began to disperse.

UNC may owe over \$2,000 to Forsyth

UNC may be assessed over \$2,000 for property taxes on three parcels of land in Winston-Salem, if a recent Forsyth County claim is upheld.

Forsyth County officials filed the claim in late June, on property valued at \$17,920 in 1968.

The North Carolina Attorney General's staff, serving as counsel for UNC, filed an appeal last week, when Forsyth Tax Supervisor Harvey Pardue notified officials of the claim.

The assessment, which also includes Winston-Salem city taxes, has a joint evaluation of \$1.71 per \$100 of property. If the claim is upheld, the University will have to pay 1975 taxes on the land, plus back taxes and a 10 per cent penalty fee for the past five years.

Forsyth County is the fourth local government to file tax claims against UNC property not part of the actual campus.

Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County have all made assessments on utilities and other property in Orange County valued at over \$40 million.

All four claims are expected to be appealed in September when the state Property Tax Commission meets.

The local governments are basing their claims on 1973 tax exemption statutes which state that only university property used for public purposes may maintain tax

exemptions. The attorney general's staff, however, has cited an earlier statute that exempts UNC from local taxes.

"Our argument is that the older act, which clearly exempts the university, is the overruling statute," Assistant State Attorney General George Boylan said Friday in a "Chapel Hill Newspaper" article.

The university has also claimed that its off-campus holdings are being used for public purposes, since resulting revenue goes to UNC.

"First we'll have to see if UNC is subject to taxes," Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Business and Finance John Temple said Tuesday, "and then we'll have to determine what we use the property for."

There's really "mass confusion" about how the laws were established, Temple said. "It's going to have to come down to a court decision about which statute will govern."

"If we are subject to taxes, then it will be a long and drawn-out process," he said. "Other state institutions will be involved too—if we're liable, they are too."

A similar property tax assessment has already been made against UNC at Charlotte, Temple said.

No claims have been brought against the university outside Orange and Forsyth counties, although UNC owns land across the state.

Kupec loses his appeal, inks with WFL Hornets

Chris Kupec lost an appeal in federal court last Monday and UNC lost an all-conference quarterback Tuesday when Kupec gave up his court bid for another year of eligibility in the Atlantic Coast Conference to sign with the Charlotte Hornets of the World Football League.

After U.S. Circuit Court Judge Braxton Craven upheld a lower court ruling Monday, denying Kupec a preliminary injunction against the ACC, Kupec began serious negotiation

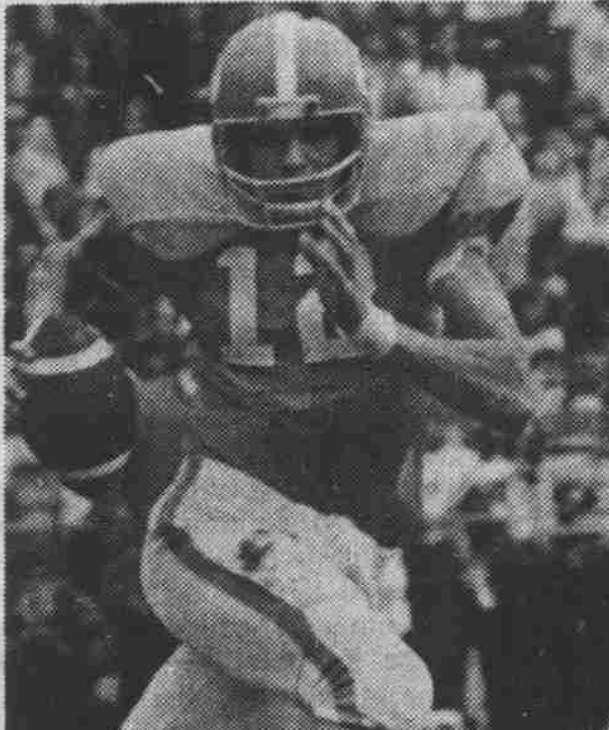
with the Hornets and announced his signing Tuesday in Charlotte. Terms of the contract were not disclosed.

"We are very pleased to have a player of Kupec's caliber join our football team," said Hornets president Upton Bell. "We feel we've got one of the outstanding quarterbacks in North Carolina and the nation."

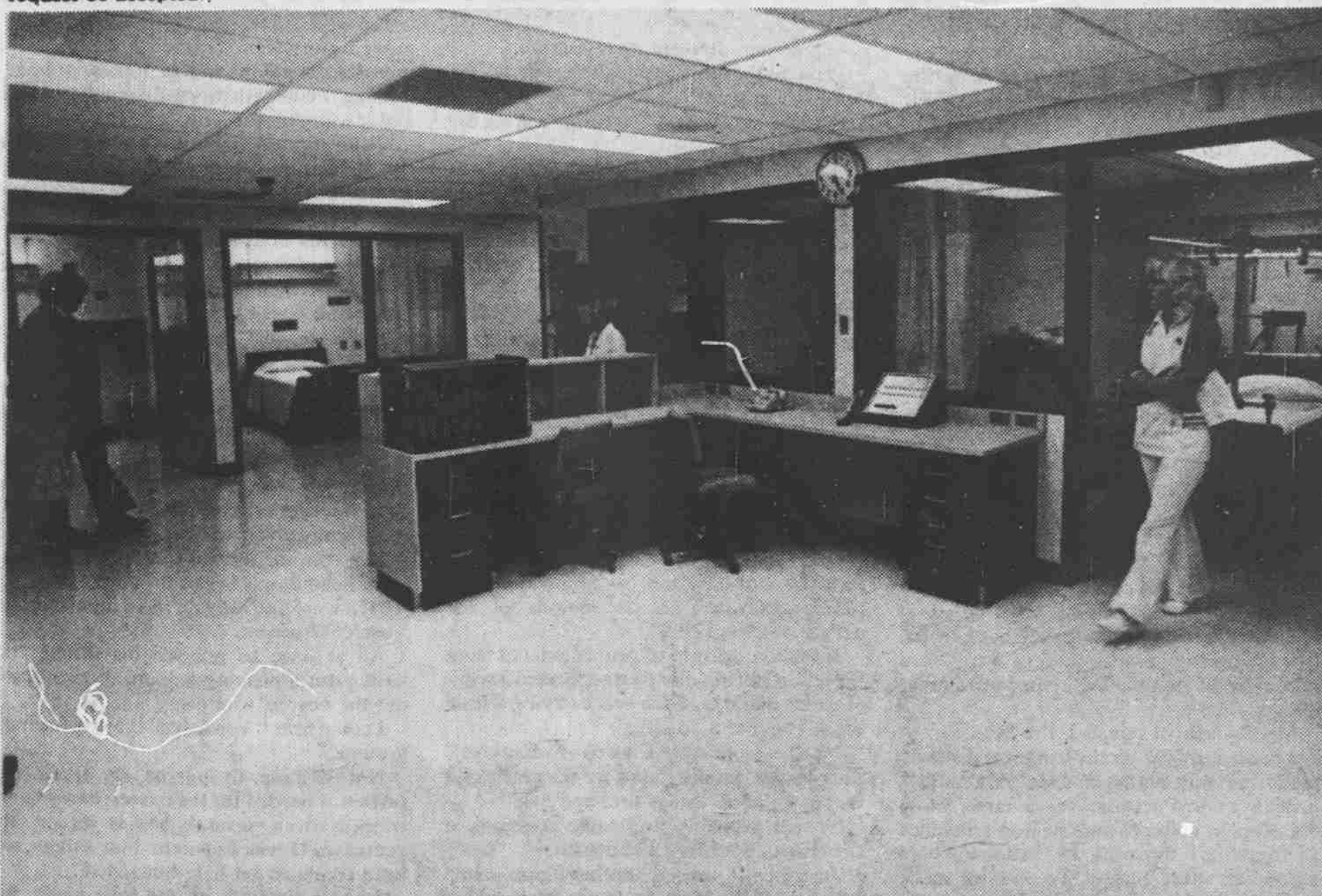
"I have watched his progress throughout his college career and know that he is not only a top prospect but that he is also a winner. He has the size, the arm and the mental ability to play in the World Football League. The Hornets look forward to a long relationship."

Kupec, who led the nation last year with a 69.5 percent pass completion average, began workouts with the Charlotte club Wednesday in preparation for Saturday's preseason game with the Chicago Winds, in which Kupec is expected to see limited action.

"I'm obviously behind since the club has been in camp for three weeks," Kupec said. "I must first get to know the system, as well as the coaches and players. We have some solid runners and wide receivers and I'm especially looking forward to playing with Randy Cobb (former Duke wide receiver), whom I played against in college."



Chris Kupec



New hospital facilities

N.C. Memorial Hospital held an open house last Sunday on the eighth floor of its new 131,000 square foot Bed Tower addition. The new addition provides 219 beds, 80 per cent of

which are in private rooms. Each floor of the addition will have its own color scheme, closed circuit television and six-bed special care unit.

Staff photo by Gary Lobraloo