

Leland Woman Found Not Guilty Of Giving Marijuana To Inmate

A Brunswick County Superior Court jury earlier this month found a Leland woman not guilty of furnishing marijuana last June to a murder suspect in the Brunswick County Jail.

Following 1½ days of testimony Jan. 12 and 13 in Bolivia, Loria Rivenbark, 27, of Avon Mobile Home Park, Leland, was cleared of charges that included furnishing an inmate with a controlled substance and possession of marijuana, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

The defendant was represented by Shallotte attorney Sheila McLamb. Assistant District Attorney Napoleon Barefoot Jr. prosecuted the case, and Judge Samuel T. Currin presided.

The jury returned its not guilty verdicts Jan. 13 after deliberating for approximately 90 minutes.

Court records showed that Ms. Rivenbark was charged last June with giving three bail-point pens containing marijuana to her brother, Ronnie Lee Clemmons, who was then in custody on a murder charge.

Last November, Clemmons pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

During the woman's trial earlier this month, both Ms. Rivenbark and Clemmons testified for the defense. Jailer Linwood Gray, Det. Pam Hunt and former jailer Chris Farmer testified for the state, according to court records.

Other cases heard by Judge Currin during the Jan. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 18 session of Brunswick County Superior Court included:

- Stewart Laverne Babson, driving while impaired and driving while license permanently revoked, motion to remand allowed;
- Rex Allen Ferguson, driving while license revoked, guilty plea, State Department of Corrections, 18 months;
- John Alan Parsons, simple assault, motion to remand allowed;
- Russell Dean Woodell, probation violation, revoked, State Department of Corrections, five years as committed youthful offender, to run concurrently with time now serving;
- Timothy W. Gray, simple assault, remanded.



BEACON EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Eddie Sweatt, left, accepts the top award for news coverage from Gov. Jim Martin.

Beacon Captures Top News Coverage Award

The Brunswick Beacon captured first place for news coverage and second place for general excellence in the 1987 newspaper contests sponsored by the North Carolina Press Association.

The awards were presented by Gov. Jim Martin last Thursday night at the 63rd annual N.C. Newspaper Institute in Chapel Hill. Eddie Sweatt, editor and publisher, and Carolyn Sweatt, publisher, accepted the awards on behalf of the newspaper staff.

This year's awards bring to 26 the number won by the Beacon in the past seven years. The Beacon competes with other newspapers published once a week in the community newspaper division of the association.

The 1987 contests were judged by members of the Georgia Press Association. Judges had this to say about the Beacon's news coverage:

"Good combination of news covering your county and coverage area on a timely basis. Standards of paper's writing includes clean, clear leads throughout the paper. Headlines are written to draw attention of readers who are kept informed on all aspects of their

community. Congratulations on providing your market area with a quality newspaper."

It was the third time the Beacon has been cited for its news coverage, having won first place in 1982 and third place in 1985, and it was the third time the Beacon has won a coveted general excellence award, having won first place for two straight years in 1984 and 1985.

Of the general excellence award, the judge said: "It was a tough decision on the top three. They all have their good points and very few minuses. One of the Beacon's strong points is its editorial page and all those locally-written columns. One of the minuses that kept the Beacon from moving into first place was a tendency toward gray pages inside. A bit of color on the front would have helped, too."

Another Brunswick County weekly newspaper, The State Port Pilot, won three awards. Its news editor, Richard Nubel, won first place for column writing. Nubel is a former Beacon staff writer.

Other Pilot awards are third place for appearance and design and third place for sports coverage.

New Building At BCC Has One Last Hurdle To Cross Before Occupancy

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick Community College's new \$1.8 million classroom facility will be ready for use as soon as the state puts its stamp of approval on the building's electrical system.

Campus designer Jim Pittman of J.G. Johnson Architects of Wilmington, told college trustees last Wednesday night that a final state inspection of the building "went fairly good, except for the electrical."

State construction engineers last Wednesday conducted mechanical, architectural and electrical inspections of the 35,000-square-foot building located on the college's main campus on U.S. 17 near Supply.

Pittman said inspectors found that work done by the project's electrical contractor, Reagan Electrical, was "unacceptable."

The main problem, Pittman said, was that the building's Simplex fire alarm system was not installed. Also, a transformer was not positioned correctly in a transformer room.

"I'm not happy with this at all," Pittman told trustees.

He added that minor problems discovered in other areas of the building inspection included glue on carpets, door and window frames that needed additional work, and a smoke door that did not operate properly.

A target completion date was set for Tuesday (Jan. 26), when contractors were to have completed all of their work to avoid being penalized, he noted.

Responding to trustees' questions, Pittman said he did not know when the building would be ready for occupancy, since the state must return to re-inspect the electrical work.

Pittman also brought the board up to date on other facets of the college's building program.

He said that about one-third of the footings had been poured for the Administration-Library-Student Services Building—a 40,000-square-foot facility with a \$2.9 million price tag.

Also, masonry work was scheduled to begin last week on the Interagency Building. The 8,500-square-foot building—costing about \$640,000—will house the Brunswick Interagency Program for mentally and physically handicapped adults.

Pittman added that new water and sewer lines on campus were ready for inspection last week.

Trustees also got their first look at a redesigned floor plan for the college's proposed 1,500-seat auditorium.

Pittman said a 300-seat balcony was added to the design, and an area initially planned for band practice and instrument storage was redesigned for an office and clerical suite.

Preliminary plans for the proposed \$2.8 million auditorium were being reviewed by the state, he said.

Plaque Policy
In other business at last Wednesday's board meeting, trustees adopted a policy to regulate permanent plaques that would be placed in new buildings on campus.

The action was taken partly in response to a request by a local group to donate a plaque honoring the college's former president, Dr. Joseph B. Carter, who was fired by trustees last fall.

Betty Stone, chairman of the Committee of Brunswick County Citizens, told trustees last Wednesday that her organization wants to donate an 18-inch by 24-inch bronze plaque for the new Administration Building.

She said the plaque would read: "In honor of Dr. Joseph B. Carter, Founding President, 1980-1987."

The \$500 plaque would be paid for through private donations which have already been received, she noted.

"The aim of our committee is not in any way to question the summary termination—the firing—of Dr. Carter a few months ago," Ms. Stone said.

"But we want—in the interest of Dr. Carter's potential future career in education, and to remove any possible question that might arise because of the termination as to Dr. Carter's competence and character—to express in a substantial way our deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Carter for his dedicated and outstanding work in bringing Brunswick Technical College into being during its difficult and critical early years," she stated.

The policy which was unanimously approved by the board prior to Ms. Stone's presentation outlined that no plaques will be allowed that are larger than the original plaque placed in the building at dedication; information for proposed plaques must be submitted to trustees for ap-

proval; and appropriate locations for plaques will be selected by trustees, on recommendations from the Building and Grounds Committee.

Ms. Stone said she was pleased with the policy.

Building and Grounds Committee Chairman Lewis Stanley said Ms. Stone's request would be reviewed at a committee meeting next month.

"We're trying to keep it in a process so we don't offend anyone," Stanley said, noting that plaques have also been proposed to honor other former college officials.

Other Business

In other business last Wednesday, trustees:

•Approved \$22,766 in budget revisions for an administrative allowance and additional medical insurance allotments;

•Adopted a compensatory time policy to cover college employees who work more than 40 hours per week and are covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act;

•Voted that students—except for those in certain real estate and insurance classes—will not have to make up classes that were canceled due to winter storms on Jan. 7 and Jan. 15;

•Heard a report from Student Government Association President Tim Randall that the "Miss BCC" Pageant is scheduled for Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m., at Shallotte Middle School;

•Were brought up to date by Vicki Spencer on a Feb. 13 golf tournament at Lockwood Golf Links to benefit the College Foundation;

•Were introduced to the college's new business manager, Benjamin Deblois, and new public information director, Anne Marie Schettini;

•Heard from Trustee Kelly Holden that the college is accepting nominations and applications for the president's post through Feb. 29, and that screening of applicants will be done throughout March;

•Were told by Interim President Mike Reeves that the college hopes to have a dean of instruction on board "as soon as possible;"

•Were asked to consider changing a current residency policy which now requires college employees to live in Brunswick County.

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