

Student awaiting trial for deadly motor accident

Crystal Simenton
Banner Reporter

A Bennett student is currently awaiting trial for an accident that left two men dead.

According to accident reports 19-year-old Shonika Ridley was merging into the right lane on I-40 March 31, about 8 p.m., when construction workers began to pull out barrels.

At that point police say Ridley misjudged her distance and cut in front of motorist Thomas Handy Jr. too soon. The rear of her 1985 Nissan hit the front of

Handy's Mazda. The impact caused her to lose control of her car.

Witnesses say her car went right and to avoid hitting the wall she whipped left. When that happened she hit construction workers Mark Jeffrey Viars, 35 and Franklin Blair Bower, 41 killing them instantly. Ridley received minor injuries.

According to officer Susan McNabb, Ridley was held at the Guilford County jail on a \$10,000 bond until President Scott intervened. "When we found out

Shonika was the motorist we recommended an attorney. The attorney then talked the bondsman down to \$2,000," Scott said.

The college community has shown support for Ridley. A local club, DYH held a party April 7 and a portion of the proceeds was donated for Ridley's defense.

Bennett also held a small service in the chapel for Ridley in which money was also donated.

Police say Ridley's future is uncertain until her trial date June 8.

Always fun, educational, hunt for Children's House

By Stephanie McCorkle
Banner Reporter

Finding eggs was the name of the game on Good Friday when the children at the Children's House found their share of Easter goodies.

Juliette Jackson, director of the Children's

House said that she was happy about the outcome of the hunt and the bus ride around the city.

"It took them 25 minutes to find the eggs," she said. "We divided them up and hid them so everyone would not feel left out," she

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No show for Nubian Nuance leaves students disappointed

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performance," Jackson said.

However, Stage One's, President Walter Johnson III said that no money was fronted and that the college had not met deadlines to secure certain performers.

"Bennett never fronted us any money," Johnson said. "We lost \$2,000 dealing with this whole thing."

The initial performer requested was rapper, Queen Latifah.

According to Johnson, her agent was asking for \$25,000. After negotiating, Bennett agreed to offer her \$10,000. Once Stage One made the offer, Queen Latifah had already accepted two other shows for the desired date. Therefore, Queen Latifah — no show.

The next act an agreement could not be reached. Singer, Aaron Hall's agent was seeking \$8500, according to Stage One.

However, there was no compromise because Jackson and Johnson thought that the amount requested did not fit the status of Hall, therefore, Aaron Hall — no show.

The third act was the rap group Wu Tang Clan. Financial negotiations were settled and contracts were

finalized. However, according to Johnson, Stage One never received the proper papers and funds from Bennett to secure the act. Jackson, however, said that the group just failed to meet the deadline. As a result, the group made other engagements final, causing the Nubian Nuance another — no show.

Mosby and Jackson soon presented all problems concerning the concert to the Nubian Nuance committee, which consists of students. Those students were given an opportunity to vote on whether the concert should take place. The students, who represent the student body agreed that with the acts submitted, people would be displeased and there would be a low turn out.

"No one would have wanted to come," Michelle Huff, Interim SGA president said.

If the concert had happened, it would have included, DJ Flex, Plain and Simple, Funke Leftovers and Akinyele according to Jackson.

Johnson added two, saying that Mad Lion and Fat Joe would have also performed. Either way, no one performed causing Nubian Nuance a no show.

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