

## Charter should lose its license

The death last month of 16-year-old Tristian Sovern could cost the local Charter Behavioral Health facility its license and as much as \$6 million per year in federal money.

Sovern died when Charter staffers covered his mouth with a large towel and bed sheet to stop his screaming. During the struggle his body went limp and workers soon realized that he wasn't breathing, and they tried to resuscitate him.

**Paquita Herring**

Whether the hospital should lose its license should depend on whether the method used in restraining Sovern is a common practice at the institution. Charter was cited for noncompliance with licensing regulations regarding the use of restraints and for repeatedly using mouth coverings to restrain patients. So, if this is common practice, Charter should have its license revoked because that means staffers are not aware of all of the risks and effects of restraining a patient.

What also needs to be considered is if Charter is closed down then there will be not many other places in Greensboro for people to receive mental health treatment.

Charter's slogan is "If you don't get help with us please get help somewhere." My response is "What good is the treatment if you are being mistreated?"

*The opinion expressed in this column is that of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Bennett Banner staff.*



### THE BENNETT BANNER

*The Newspaper produced by the Phenomenal Women of Bennett College*

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*The Bennett Banner is a laboratory newspaper published twice a month during the academic year, except during months with College recognized holidays or College vacations. The newspaper is produced by and for students at Bennett College. The newspaper office is located in Shell Hall C-2.*

Some photographs published in the Banner are courtesy of the Public Affairs and Marketing Office.

Student Opinion Poll:

# Bellespeak

## Should the local Charter Behavioral Health facility lose its license?

Photographs by Ronda Stingley.



**KATHRYN EARLEY**  
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN  
 MAJOR: BIOLOGY  
 HOME STATE: OHIO

*I do not believe that Charter's license should be taken away because of the number of people that institution has helped in the past. But they should suffer some consequence.*



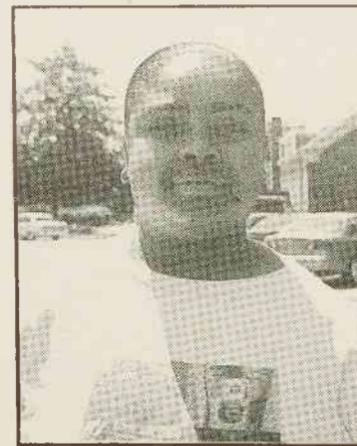
**CANDACE TAYLOR**  
 CLASS: SENIOR  
 MAJOR: ENGLISH  
 HOME STATE: OHIO

*Charter of Greensboro should lose its license because in all of my training in restraints, I've never heard of "gagging" a patient to keep him under control. It does not take a genius to understand something isn't right.*



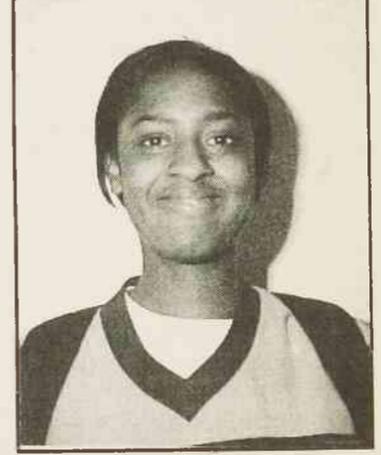
**ONDRIA TAYLOR**  
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN  
 MAJOR: POLI SCI  
 HOME STATE: NEW JERSEY

*Institutions which were made to help have been harming people and getting away with it for years. I do not feel that Charter should lose its license for a mistake made by a few careless individuals. I do think that the individual involved should be charged with accidental murder.*



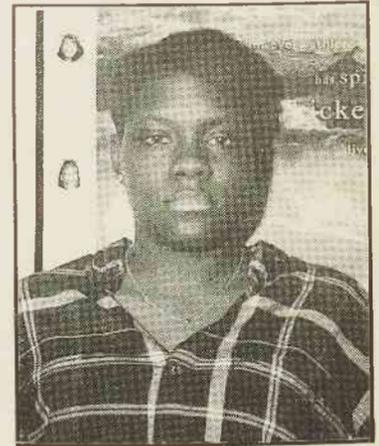
**KELLI ANDERSON**  
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN  
 MAJOR: UNDECIDED  
 HOME STATE: WASH. D.C

*The parents are responsible for putting their son in Charter. If the parents would have been paying more attention to the facility workers then the situation would not have gotten out of hand.*



**LATASHA M. GRESHAM**  
 CLASS: SOPHOMORE  
 MAJOR: DIETETICS  
 HOME STATE: MARYLAND

*Yes. Someone was suffocated while under Charter's supervision.*



**JACOLE L. LEWIS**  
 CLASS: FRESHWOMAN  
 MAJOR: COMP. SCI  
 HOME STATE: DENVER

*Charter's license should be taken away because there are several different ways to restrain people other than putting a towel over their mouth. Charter should have used a safer type of restraint.*