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**17-YEAR-OLD REGINA HAIRSTON**

...West Charlotte senior

## Lovely Regina Hairston Has An Exciting Year To Look Forward To!

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

Seventeen year old Regina Hairston has an exciting year to look forward to. A senior at West Charlotte High School, she is enjoying all the benefits of being an upperclassman with the heady delights of a prom and graduation before her. But Regina also expects another starry night in her horizon. In March of 1985 she will make her debut at the Delta Sigma Theta Cotillion.

Preparations for the cotillion have already begun, says Regina. She is now involved in raising money and having fun in all the social activities laid out for the 36 debutantes.

Asked by her mother's friend to participate, Regina saw the opportunity to meet a lot of people. "I know I'll enjoy it," she smiles. "And it will be something I can always remember."

The enjoyment has begun for her. Regina and all the other debutantes just recently had a great big pajama party. Other activities planned for them include a fashion show, makeover, a community awareness seminar and career education seminar. And relates Regina, "A lot of rehearsals," for the big night.

"The winner is the girl who raises the most over \$2,000," this beauty informs. Regina is buckling down to obtain her share selling \$25, \$50 and \$100 ads and \$5 sponsorships. "I'm planning to have a bake sale," she tells, "with help from my mother and aunt."

When Regina is not handling her debutante responsibilities she marches onto the playing field as one of the members of West Charlotte's Marching Band. She plays the clarinet with this band and also with the school's Concert Band. At West Charlotte Regina is in the Spanish Club, the Order of the Lions, The Ambassadors and also on the yearbook staff.

"I like sports," comments Regina, who is also, surprisingly, the manager of West Charlotte's Boys' Varsity Basketball team. "I get towels, water and run the clock during practices," she explains. The boys don't pick at her, she assures. They give her the utmost respect, at least, "most of the time," laughs Regina.

This enterprising young lady also is employed at Burger King. And any spare time she has left, after all her many activities, is spent, admits Regina, talking on the phone to her girlfriends.

Regina has no competition for time on the phone since she is an only child. Her mother is her favorite person. Regina tells, "It's just me and her and we spend a lot of time together."

Though she's anxiously waiting on graduation, the high school senior is thinking ahead to pursuing a career in computers. She hopes to attend college at either the University of North Carolina at Greensboro or A&T State University.

Regina attends First United Presbyterian Church.

### At Adam's Mark Hotel

## NAACP's 41st Annual Convention Underway

Hundreds of NAACP members from all parts of the State will begin arriving in Charlotte by plane, bus and car on Thursday, October 18, for the 41st Annual Convention of the North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches, at the Adam's Mark Hotel - Convention Headquarters. The annual "Ministers and Church Emphasis Day" meeting will be the main activities Thursday.

Rev. L.O. Saunders of Morganton, N.C., Chairman of the NAACP Religious Affairs Committee and Pastor of the Gaston Chapel A.M.E. Church, said, "This year being a presidential election and a most important Senate and governor's race, the political action role of Church and organized religion will be a major discussion of the 'Ministerial and Church Emphasis Day' meeting. Ministers in attendance from across the state will emphasize the close relationship of the Church and NAACP."

Kelly M. Alexander Sr., State Conference President, stated that, "Ministers play the most important leadership role in communities and give support to the NAACP program for equality and justice."

The meeting will also focus attention on "Vital Issues Facing the Black Church in America Today." Branches in North Carolina are



**Kelly M. Alexander Sr.**  
...State Conference president

encouraged to develop effective local Religious Affairs Committee. The NAACP is endeavoring to get more ministerial and lay religious

## Housebreaking Is City's Biggest Crime!

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

The following are fictional accounts of possible cases that could be found in any police log:

Case (1) As Mrs. Smith told the police her story they looked on her with sorrow. The 69 year old widow had been beaten and all her valuables stolen. The police had checked for evidence of a break-in but found none. "How did the assailant gain entry to your home?" asked the investigating officer. Mrs. Smith cried, "I let him in."

Case (2) Curtis and David Brown's mother had saved all year to purchase two nice bicycles as Christmas presents for her boys. On Christmas Eve she removed the bikes from their boxes and placed the empty cartons on the front sidewalk for collection. The next day the boys were elated to see their much yearned for presents, they could not wait to tell their grandmother about them. But after the family returned from the grandmother's house that evening they found nothing beneath their Christmas tree. The bikes and all other presents had been stolen.

Case (3) "I own a G.E. 19 inch color television," informed Mr. Jones, "and a Pioneer stereo system. My wife also recently purchased a G.E. microwave oven and we also own a Panasonic video tape recorder."

"Thank you, Mr. Jones," answered the voice on the telephone. "You're a very good candidate for the survey we are conducting on the reliability of certain consumer goods. When can a representative come by and cover further details on your questionnaire?" asked the very congenial sounding young man.

"Well, I work from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.," replied Mr. Jones. "And my wife works from 10 a.m. to 3. Any time after 5, I suppose."

"Very good sir," the voice rang out. "We'll send a representative by tomorrow evening."

When Mr. and Mrs. Jones came home that next evening, they did not find a representative from the consumer goods survey but they did find that their TV, stereo system, microwave and VCR were missing.

All three of these crime stories have two common factors. First, each person involved availed themselves as easy marks, almost "inviting" a robber to come into



**Dave Stephens**  
...Charlotte Police officer

their homes. Secondly, each individual could just as easily prevented becoming a victim.

Housebreaking is one of the biggest crimes in Charlotte. In 1979, 4,000 homes were broken into, and millions of dollars were lost in stolen and damaged property. Add to this, over 40 percent of rapes and robberies occur in residences where victims let the perpetrator into their homes.

Your chances of being burglarized or victimized in your home are increasing each year, whether your income is high or low, whether you are white or black, young or old, apartment dweller or homeowner.

"Crimes of this nature are on the rise in such Charlotte areas as Statesville Ave., Old Steele Creek, Enderly Park, Tuckaseegee Rd., Grier Heights and Wendover Rd.," quotes Officer Dave Stephens of the Crime Prevention Unit. "In the month of September," he continues, "53 burglaries have occurred in these areas."

The reasons behind the rate increase of housebreakings are not clear cut. But one thing is sure, notes Officer Stephens, "Burglars are concerned with getting in and out of a house easily without being seen." He deduces, "If people make it harder for robbers to enter their houses and steal their valuables, chances are there may be a decrease in the amount of housebreakings."

To illustrate, consider the preventive measures that should have been taken in the previous cases:

Case (1) A peep hole installed in her door would have enabled Mrs. Smith to see who was there without opening it. At which time she

could have asked the person his business was and also for identification. If she was not expecting a service call from any company she would have left the man outside with the door closed and called the company to verify his credentials. If they did not check out, Mrs. Smith should have called the police.

Case (2) When Mrs. Brown placed the empty bicycle boxes out in front of her apartment she inadvertently placed an advertisement, for all to see, that she had two new bikes in her residence. Moreover, in their haste, Mrs. Brown and her sons neglected to secure the locks on the windows of their bottom floor apartment and they turned off all the lights leaving their home in total darkness. Had Mrs. Brown crushed the empty cartons and disposed of them and if she had locked her windows and left her apartment well lit, the robber would not have known she had something worth going after nor have gained easy access to it.

Case (3) Mr. Jones instinctively gave out all information over the phone as to what he owned and when was the prime time to break into his house. He should have told the phone caller, after hearing the nature of their call, that he did not want to participate. But say Mr. Jones was destined to be robbed anyway. As a precaution, he should have had his possessions engraved with his driver's license number. By doing this, if his valuables were later discovered they can be easily traced to him. Also the markings may have deterred the robber in the first place. Thieves are aware that engraved items are not easily fenced.

The preventive measures interwoven throughout these cases are all ways people can make it tough on thieves by robbing them of the opportunities to commit crimes. They are all recommendations offered by Officer Stephens as means for individuals to help police combat the rising rate of housebreakings. "If persons need help in securing their homes," states Officer Stephens, "they may call 336-2310 and an officer will come out for a free residential security check."

Another effective way in which the individual, the community and the police work together against crime is the Neighborhood Watch Program. For information on this program persons can call 336-2310.

"Taking these precautions is not a guarantee that your home will not be broken into," admits Officer Stephens. "But they can assure you of certain peace of mind about leaving home." And when you return, there's a good chance that you'll still find your "Home Safe Home."

### City, County Capital Needs Committee Named

Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt and Commission Chairman T. L. (Fountain) Odom have announced that they will appoint a joint City-County committee which will make recommendations on funding for capital needs in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

The committee, to be appointed immediately after the November elections, will be composed of current elected officials as well as new County Commissioners who take office in early December. The group will meet during December and January and make its report to the City Council and County Commission by early February.

The joint committee will work with the City and County Managers to develop a priority ranking system for such improvements as roads, water and sewer projects, parks and other community needs. The committee's report will include a strategy for obtaining state and federal participation in the planning and construction of roads.

**TURTLE-TALK**



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