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REGIONAL

Livingstone awaits student's return

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - Dread and unrest set over the Livingstone College campus as the search continues for a student who disappeared over a week ago.

Keisha Williams, a New York

native, has been missing since Jan. 20, from her Salisbury apartment.

Williams, of 231 D. Ave., Apt. 27, attended Livingstone during the fall semester, did not return to school this semester for personal reasons, friends say.

She was last seen on Jan. 19

around 10:30 p.m. by her boyfriend, George Johnson, who is also a former Livingstone student. Police reports say that he left home to exercise at a local track while Williams prepared dinner in their apartment. When Johnson returned, he found the door to the apartment ajar

and the apartment ransacked. He told police officials that food was on the stove although the stove was turned off.

One of Williams' closest friends, who requested anonymity, said she did not take any coat or shoes.

Another of Williams' associates said, "She is a very sweet

person. I can't see how someone could do this. I don't understand their motives because she has a good relationship with everyone. It's just real strange."

Rev. Daran Mitchell of Hood Theological Seminary said he's saddened by the event.

"I'm hurt. The whole situa-

tion is very mysterious and I'm praying that there is a peaceful resolution," he said. "There's just a lot of loose ends that need to be tightened up."

Salisbury police have suspended their Yadkin River search for Williams. For two days this week, officials

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UNC employees knock Speaker

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAPEL HILL - The UNC Housekeepers Association is urging legislators not to reelect Harold Brubaker as House speaker because of his reaction to his spokesman's use of a racial slur last year.

The association sent letters to incoming House members asking them not to vote for the Asheboro Republican in part because he did not take seriously enough the comment of then-press secretary Don Follmer.

Follmer admitted to referring to protesters at the General Assembly last April as "niggers and wormy kids." The slur referred to more than 100 University of North Carolina housekeepers, many of whom are black.

Follmer made the comment to Associated Press reporter Dennis Patterson in the Legislature's press room, where it was overheard by another reporter. When the comment was made public two weeks later, Follmer said he was only guilty of being politically incorrect.

Follmer said he made an offer of resignation to Brubaker, who was on his way out of town. But Follmer said the speaker told him to "FIDO" - forget it and drive on. But later, as criticism mounted, Brubaker fired him.

The letter from the housekeepers' group said Follmer's comment reflected the speaker's sentiments.

"Surely there is another member who can better represent all the people of North Carolina," the letter read.

The letter also asked the House to form a special committee to investigate what the association calls racist attitudes in the speaker's office and in the legislative press room.

The current spokesman for Brubaker called the contents of the letter "old news."

"The speaker in no way tolerates racism," said Dana Simpson, Brubaker's special assistant for communications. "Mr. Follmer was fired for what happened."

Brubaker, who was not available for comment Monday, is not worried that the letter will sway support to House Minority Leader Jim Black, who is challenging Brubaker for the speaker's position, Simpson said. The Republicans have a slim 61-59 advantage in the House.

"The speaker is confident that he will retain control of the speakership," he said.

Campus connection



PHOTO/SHAW UNIVERSITY

Marlene Shaw, Talbert O. Shaw PhD, Talieth Shaw and Patrick Shaw stand in front of the Talbert O. Shaw Living-Learning Center at Shaw University in Raleigh.

Shaw dedicates campus

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Shaw University honored its president with his own section of the Raleigh campus.

The university's Northeast Campus was named the Talbert O. Shaw Living-Learning Center. Shaw is credited with helping the university straighten its fiscal affairs, saving the school from bankruptcy. He has overseen Shaw's enrollment from 1,400 to 2,500 and the endowment grow from zero to \$8 million.

The Northeast Campus is an \$11 million state-of-the-art building that covers half a city block. The centerpiece of the construction is a three-story education complex. It has a learning center, lecture halls, offices, teleconferencing capabilities and student lounges.

Two dormitories are part of the campus, with room for 350 women and 150 men. The Northeast campus marks the first building initiative at Shaw in 10 years and is the largest single construction project in the school's 131-year history.

Supporters rally for year-round schools

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - Most kids don't want to hear any conversation about year-round school.

However, hundreds of students, parents and several school board officials are fight-

ing to keep some North Rowan year-round programs open during the summer.

Because of a proposed calendar that seeks to combine block schedules with traditional, year-round programs, North Rowan elementary and middle schools are facing a possible shutdown if the pro-

posals are passed.

Stan Welch, chairperson of the school board, said that the passing of this proposal jeopardizes a lot for the year-round program.

"If we went to the combined schedule, it would definitely put a dent in what now is the year-round calendar."

Welch claimed that the overwhelming opinion is that more people support the combined schedules.

The Board of Education will cast their ballots Monday on the options for the proposed calendar. The considerations are maintaining three different schedules, adopting to the

combination schedule, or finding another plan.

The basis of the argument rests on the possibility that if the programs are taken away, many students who need extra academic assistance during the summer months will not receive it.

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1996 crime figures mixed in Rowan-Salisbury schools

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - Rowan-Salisbury schools received a "bittersweet" annual crime report from 1996, according to Superintendent Joe McCann.

After hearing some encouraging information about violent crime rates falling in local schools, officials were hit with statistics detailing the rise of illegal substances on area campuses.

Although spirits are high because of the drop in violent crimes, drug use gives officials cause for concern.

"You're always pleased when it appears you're making progress in an area that provides a safe environment for our staff and students," McCann said.

The Rowan-Salisbury school system received reports that 118 incidents of crime were reported last year compared to 140 in 1994-1995.

The school system enrolled 19,000 students last year, which averages out to be about 6 cases per 1,000 students.

The reports are based on 13 different categories of criminal offenses. There were fewer cases in five categories, including robbery, assault causing injury, assault on school employees and sexual assault.

There was an increase in possession of weapons, possession of controlled substances and sexual offenses.

Since the state reports do not include all types of criminal activity, vandalism and student fights without serious injury are not included.

The school system's Code of Conduct requires that all incidents of disruptive and criminal activity be reported to the state by the resident principal.

The report listed a 25 percent increase in illegal substances on the campuses of local schools with incidents climbing from 40 cases in 1994-1995 to 61 in 1995-1996.

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Bob Davis to speak to NAACP jubilee in Salisbury

By Brian Powe
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

SALISBURY - The Salisbury-Rowan branch of the NAACP is holding its annual jubilee fellowship Sunday at First Calvary Baptist Church in Salisbury.

The program which begins at 4 p.m. will feature Robert L. Davis of Charlotte, president of the Black Political Caucus.

Davis, who has been involved in the political, civic, and educational fields, has served as a principal, vice principal, guidance counselor, and teacher.

Davis acts as the chair of the education committee of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch of the NAACP, the Black Caucus, and a subcommittee for the Community Relations Department of the Charlotte Police Department.

During the Jubilee Day program, Davis will deliver the message, the gospel choir of the First Calvary Baptist Church will sing, and there will be some special selections by the Washingtons, a South Carolina choir renowned for singing old negro spirituals.

This year's celebration promises to be a day of release, freedom, and emancipation. Jubilee Day has been observed by African Americans since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

There will be an installment of new NAACP officers for the local

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Davis