

Charlottesville man, 21, drowns while swimming at rock quarry

By **ADAM GOLDMAN**
Daily Progress staff writer

ZION CROSSROADS — A 21-year-old Charlottesville man drowned Monday night at a rock quarry off Route 607 after jumping from a 15- to 20-foot-high cliff, authorities said.

Friends said Arjuna S. Williams landed in the clear water and started to swim back to the quarry's edge after taking the plunge, according to Sgt. Roy McGehee of the Louisa County Sheriff's Office.

But Williams suddenly began to panic and went under the water, never to resurface, McGehee said.

McGehee said the Sheriff's Office received a call at 7:18 p.m. and rescue workers arrived within 15 minutes. Divers from Louisa and Fluvanna counties were not able to recover the body until 8:17 p.m.

Emergency personnel found

Williams' body in about eight feet of water, McGehee said.

Williams was not visibly injured, but his body was sent to the medical examiner's office in Richmond for further examination.

Police said alcohol was not a factor and investigators do not suspect foul play.

Williams recently was a witness in the murder trial of 16-year-old Carlton Arnold, who was convicted May 20 of killing a clerk at the Country Store Shell Station on Ivy Road in September.

Identified in court as a friend of 18-year-old Isaac Sheldon Brown — an accused accomplice in the slaying — Williams testified he was sure that Brown, not Arnold, was the person photographed by the gas station's surveillance camera. Brown is awaiting trial, along with 21-year-old Dylan Lopez Tyree, who is also accused in the killing.

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