

Evicted students charge racism

BY ALICIA HOUSTON
The Jambar

Two black students said housing officials forced them to move from university dorms because of their race.

Housing Services officials refuse to comment on the cases regarding Raymisha Williams and Charmel McDonald, both of Cleveland. Both said they are contemplating legal action because they were unfairly dismissed — Williams from Lyden House, McDonald from Kilcawley.

Williams and McDonald acknowledged they were written up for violating minor housing rules, but each said they believe racism played a part in their dismissal.

"I'm not saying I was right, but I think it was very unfair," Williams said. "It was very disrespectful; they made a fool out of me."

Officials in each of the students' cases declined to comment on both incidents. Williams and McDonald, now roommates, said they will struggle to make rent in their new home.

Williams said that on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at approximately 4:50 p.m., she was leaving her dorm room for work when she received a letter from Lyden House Coordinator Harry Meyer.

The letter explained the charges against her and informed her she had to be moved out of her room by 10 p.m. that night.

In the past, Williams said she had been written up once or twice for singing at the front desk of the dorms without an ID card and for violating quiet hours.

After receiving the letter, Williams said she went to Meyer's office to discuss the situation. She said Meyer told her she had been written up for the last time for disrespecting her resident assistant and for singing in the shower.

Williams said there were other residents in the bathrooms that were singing in the shower who were not reprimanded.

Williams' roommate, freshman Pamela Powell, was present the day Williams said she was forced to leave the dorm.

Powell said another black student, who recently moved to Lyden House from Kilcawley, also received a similar letter that day but was given an extra day to make other housing arrangements.

Powell said Williams was unjustly forced to leave the dorms.

"Other people do the same thing she did," Powell said. "She was written up for having our music up loud, but other people do the same thing during quiet hours.

"I can understand her getting written up for cussing at the resident assistant, but most of the time she got in trouble over stupid stuff."

Williams said when she explained to Meyer that she had no car and nowhere to move, he said he could not help her and suggested that she check into a hotel.

Williams, who lived on the fourth floor of Lyden House, said she then called several friends to ask for help. That night, she said she was forced to sit outside in the parking lot until approximately 1 a.m., when a friend came to pick her up.

Williams said she did not feel as though an appeal would help her case. She stayed with friends before joining McDonald in an apartment search.

McDonald said she was forced to leave Kilcawley House for violating quiet hours, however, said she had no knowledge of any prior dis-

ciplinary notices against her.

McDonald, unlike Williams, filed an appeal in order to continue to live in the dorms until a hearing, which was held on Monday, Nov. 18.

McDonald said she was embarrassed to hear the false testimonies of the resident assistants from Kilcawley House.

She said she was given an extension until Thanksgiving break to move out of her room.

McDonald said she feels as though she was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time when her resident assistant caught a group of residents violating quiet hours.

"I feel they were discriminating against me," McDonald said. "The RA didn't give any warnings or ask who was actually talking."

Williams and McDonald have recently found an apartment to rent together, although they say it will be a struggle to afford it.

Williams said because of this situation, both she and McDonald do not plan to return to YSU next year.

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