

Man arrested in disappearance of students

by UPI

NEW ORLEANS, April 20 (UPI) -- Police in New Orleans searched for two missing college students after charging a man with kidnapping them, investigators said Monday.

Kenneth J. Barnes, 22, was charged with aggravated kidnapping and home invasion after the disappearance Sunday of Fitzgerald Phillips and Calyisse Perkins, both 19, The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported.

Phillips and Perkins, both students at Southeastern Louisiana University, were kidnapped from Perkins' apartment by two men, police said.

Barnes was arrested Sunday after police found Phillips' car parked outside a home where Barnes was staying. At least one suspect was still being sought, police said.

Barnes also was charged with possession of stolen items, illegally carrying weapons and drugs, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and being a felon with a firearm, the Times-Picayune reported.

Police cadets Monday used cadaver dogs to search for Perkins and Phillips in abandoned homes and other buildings in New Orleans, police said.

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