

# Friends raise \$\$\$ to bury slain coed

## Coppin students arrange funeral

By Pam Widgeon  
BALTIMORE — "I have read that the history of man's learning is one stemming from the need to control his environment. Those things which you cannot control like weather, life, and death, he at least tries to understand and come to peace with."

"But there is little to understand in the death of Semainesh Woldehaimanot and nothing to come to peace with. Semainesh was brilliant, warm and beautiful and she should not have died."

Miss Joann Robertson read the above statement at the 11 a.m. memorial services today (Friday) at Coppin's Student Center.

The 20-year-old Ethiopian student was stabbed to death Jan. 4 in an alley near Charles and Mulberry Sts. around 9 a.m.

Miss Woldehaimanot of Asmara, Ethiopia was a junior majoring in chemistry. She had plans to become a doctor.

Fellow Ethiopian students, teachers, and friends attended the services. Miss Woldehaimanot's body remains at the City Morgue.

Coppin students are trying to raise \$1,000 so that Miss Woldehaimanot's body can be embalmed and sent to Asmara.

However, a spokesman at the City Morgue said, "If a body is not claimed within 30 days, it is sent to the Anatomy Board."

At AFRO press time, only \$14 had been collected. If you would like to make a donation, send your check to Coppin State College, 2500 W. North Ave.

Miss Woldehaimanot of West Middle St. worked part time as a waitress at the Hilton Hotel since July 1974. She came to Baltimore last year.

An Ethiopian spokesman from the embassy in Washington told the AFRO, "At the present the embassy has not been approached by the deceased's relatives or friends for help."

"However, we have sent a telegram to the parents in Asmara about the tragedy."

Asked if the embassy will offer any help if approached by the deceased's relatives, the spokesman said, "Let them take it up with us and we shall see what can be done."

Dr. Calvin Burnett, president of Coppin State College expressed at the services, "All of us in the Coppin family share in our sorrow and sadness at this tragedy and extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Semainesh Woldehaimanot."

"She was a brilliant student and a vibrant person. Her death is a painful loss to us all as we abhor the senseless acts of violence and would hope that some way and some how soon something will be done."

Police have not made any arrest in the case. They report they are looking for a male around 25-years-old. He was wearing a dark leather jacket, blue trousers and tennis shoes.

The medical examiner has not yet determined if the student had been sexually assaulted. Police state her pants and underwear were in disarray.

Descriptions of Miss Woldehaimanot now sound unbelievable. In 1969, the National Scholarship test was given to all students seeking entry to their high schools in Ethiopia.

Miss Woldehaimanot rated the highest score in the entire country of Ethiopia. A superb athlete she won a medal in 1971 for the 100-meter dash in a national high school track meet.



ALL SMILES—Opening day at the Maryland General Assembly at Wednesday noon found broad smiles all around. Five new delegates and senators were installed in their respective houses for this session. The AFRO camera of staff reporter-photographer Angela Chatman caught the look on the members faces which really showed their inner feelings. Shown are Del. Larry Young, in the group picture. Sen. Robert Douglass, Senate President Steny Hoyer, Sen. Clarence Blount, Sen. Tommie Broadwater Jr., and Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III. End shots show House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe presenting certificate of installation to Del. Nathaniel Exum and Del. Arthur G. Murphy.

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## Md. legislators try to form strong Black Caucus

ANNAPOLIS — Organizing the members of the Maryland General Assembly's Black Caucus into an effective legislative team for this session is the first order of business according to caucus chairman, Del. Loyal Randolph (D, 40).

Mr. Randolph is heading the largest single delegation of black representatives to any state chamber of its kind in the nation. Nineteen members in all were sworn in by their respective house leaders as the gavel pounded for the opening session at Wednesday noon. Five of the assemblymen are newly elected and took their seats for the first time.

In a time of severe economic crisis which adversely affects blacks at an unemployment rate rising

to 15 per cent, Del. Randolph said legislation to be formulated by the caucus would be pointed at helping the poor and the black.

Del. Randolph said opening day was proving to be the same as it was in past years, "hectic," and that once things settled down the real work of the body could begin.

He added that he was particularly interested in legislation aimed at giving ailing state institutions a shot in the arm with more funds.

Other matters high on the Randolph Agenda for passage this session will be the bill expected to be submitted to the Senate by Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D, 40) which would give state sanction to requests by Morgan State College to be up-graded to university status.

Del. Joseph A. Chester Sr. (D, 45) acknowledged the addition of new faces in the back delegation and predicted that once the younger and newer faces learned the ropes and the gamut of the legislative process, "much would be accomplished."

Tax relief, crime, health and education are prime on his list for action by the full house. He, too, predicted that the Morgan State College bill would pass with the backing of many, many members of the mostly white deliberative chamber. Chester sees the bill as a caucus priority matter. "It is long overdue," he said.

Sources say by utilizing its trading ability as a means of assisting other assemblymen in the passage of their favorite legislation, the caucus feels optimistic about the passage of the Morgan State bill.

A common thread running through all the statements made on opening day involving the caucus was the need to display a unified front. Freshman legislator Arthur G. Murphy (D, 41) admitted that though blacks cannot control legislation in the house, they can be quite helpful in the successful progression or the planned detour of particular legislation.

Most of the other delegates seemed to enjoy the opening day ceremonies. Large numbers of black citizens—carefully dressed and bedecked with flowers—shown brightly through the usually large numbers of visitors who lined the walls of the main house floor and the gallery to witness the formal installation by the speaker, John Hanson Briscoe. Mr. Briscoe was re-elected.

A new turn in the women's movement brought loud and lengthy applause from her colleagues when Del. Ann R. Hull (D, Prince George's) was elected by acclamation as the speaker pro tempore. She would preside at the speaker's rostrum in the absence of Mr. Briscoe. Among the spectators, and a secretary to the delegation from Prince George's County, was Mrs. Ertha Rampersad, who concluded that blacks from her county were increasingly active. She pointed out that the election of Sen. Tommie Broadwater and Delegates Nathaniel Exum and Decatur W. Trotter was the result of black efforts to increase their strength in the all too-often

little-known rural areas of the state.

As proof of this, large groupings of Prince George's countians traveled to the capital to witness the swearing-ins.

Mrs. Lillian Broadwater, wife of the senator and a homemaker, was present with her children. The gaily dressed children included: Tommy, 15, Tanya, 14, Jacqueline, 12, and Anita, 10.

They had aided in the Broadwater campaign by distributing leaflets and ringing doorbells. Mrs. Broadwater served as her husband's secretary. She said, "My husband loves dealing with people."

Legislative action of importance by blacks on the first day was the resolution introduced by Sen. Welcome calling on the governor to appoint an independent panel to investigate allegations of Baltimore

Police Department spying on elected officials.

At AFRO presstime, Mr. Mandel had not responded to Mrs. Welcome's resolution which was broadcast in the local media immediately after introduction.

The governor told reporters at an unusually scheduled Tuesday press conference that for the present he accepted Commissioner Donald Pomerleau's denial of wrongdoing by his controversial Inspectional Division.

Mrs. Welcome and other black leaders have called for Pomerleau's dismissal. In other legislative business, Thursday's afternoon meeting of the Black Caucus revealed the election of new officers.

Del. Randolph was re-elected. Mrs. Welcome was named vice chairman. Del. Murphy was installed as secretary and Sen. Broad-

water will be serving as secretary.

At presstime, the name of Del. Troy Brailey (D, 40) had been submitted to become vice chairman of the Baltimore City delegation.

Among other resolutions introduced on the first day in the house of interest to black Marylanders was a proposal by Speaker Briscoe, through the Legislative Council, for a program to control high blood pressure.

High blood pressure has been reported to be a factor in the many black health problems.

The solution also introduced in the Senate would "urge citizens to have annual blood pressure checks and to support the efforts of the Statewide Steering Committee in developing programs to control high blood pressure."

Sessions of the General Assembly will adjourn April 7.

Members of the historic caucus are:

Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell III (D, 38), Sen. Verda F. Welcome (D, 40), Sen. Tommie Broadwater (D, Prince George's), Sen. Clarence W. Blount (D, 41), Sen. Robert L. Douglass (D, 45), Del. Loyal Randolph (D, 40), Del. Troy Brailey (D, 40), and Del. Nathaniel Exum (D, Prince George's).

Also, Del. Decatur W. Trotter (D, Prince George's), Del. Lena K. Lee (D, 38), Del. Isaiah Dixon (D, 38), Del. Larry Young (D, 38), Del. John W. Douglass (D, 45), Del. Arthur G. Murphy (D, 41), Del. Pinkney A. Howell (D, 41), and Del. Hattie N. Harrison (D, 45).

And, Del. Kenneth Webster (D, 40), Del. Walter Dean (D, 41), and Del. Joseph A. Chester (D, 45).



MURDER SCENE—The marked spot in an alley near Charles and Mulberry Sts. is where the body of Coppin State College coed, Miss Semainesh Woldehaimanot (inset) was found by neighborhood residents Jan. 4. The Ethiopian was a science major.

## Human cancer virus found, say doctors

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Two National Cancer Institute scientists say they have found for the first time a virus associated with human cancer.

If confirmed by additional research, the discovery could lead to improved methods of treating the particular form of cancer involved — a variety of leukemia — as well as ways of testing people for it.

that generally strikes adults.

There have been claims in the past of the detection of cancer viruses in humans but subsequent work failed to confirm them. An NCI spokesman said Gallo and Gallagher took "extraordinary measures" to guard against possible contamination of their experiments by animal viruses, a common event in virological work.

It was pointed out that the association of human virus with leukemia does not mean the disease is contagious.

## Ghana initiates bus firm deal

ACCRA — Colonel Acheampong has commissioned a giant Ghana-British owned Willowbrook bus assembly plant in Accra. The Ghana government holds a majority share in the company which is capable of producing 1,000

buses of all types annually. Colonel Acheampong expressed the hope that the company's training scheme would cover all grades of personnel to enable Ghanaians to produce the buses on their own within a few years' time.

## CAPITAL COMMENT

# Tips to boosting media response

By John W. Lewis Jr.  
NNPA Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — "Parties in Interest" is a 28-page how-to guide for groups trying to make television and radio stations respond to the needs of the black community.

The electronic media in this country remains deeply racist in most areas with little black input into the decision-making process. local controversy over civil rights and the past few years, side.

The booklet, issued by the United Church by the loss of the state's license and the of Christ's office of launching of an integrated station communication, under new, non-profit ownership that can hire a 39 per cent black staff. Black forceful negotiate to bring programming and employment changes at local stations across the country.

The phrase "parties in interest" is a legal term that describes persons who can intervene in proceedings of governmental agencies.

Until a 1966 ruling by the Federal Communications Commission, private

citizens could not take part in FCC proceedings. Since that time a procession of citizens groups have appeared before the FCC to challenge licenses and force local media changes.

The guide uses several models showing how television and radio can be significantly improved by group action. In Jackson, Miss., WLBT television, the guide said, presented "only one side in the national and local controversy over civil rights and the past few years, side."

"It had presented a weekly church program, but had excluded black stations have eliminated participation. Its emulated some of the ployes on the air had referred to blacks, in demeaning and insulting terms."

A petition to the FCC resulted in the loss of the state's license and the of Christ's office of launching of an integrated station communication, under new, non-profit ownership that can hire a 39 per cent black staff. Black forceful negotiate to bring programming and employment changes at local stations across the country.

Another petition to the FCC about discrimination at eight public television stations controlled by an Alabama state agency resulted in the

loss of the state's franchise. The only blacks who worked in Alabama public television were a janitor and a part-time clerk, and "blacks didn't show up much on the screen, according to the booklet."

Nuts and bolts topics include: how to file discrimination in employment forms, what the FCC looks for in renewing a license, how the FCC handles fairness complaints, and fairness in campaigns and issues.

An important section describes the community ascertainment process under which a licensee is required to shape "its program service to fit the particular needs and interests of its community."

The station is required to place "particular emphasis on the community's ethnic minorities" and consult with community leaders, the booklet said.

The guide, written by Robert L. Shavon, a University of Pennsylvania professor, gives the answers to most questions community groups need answered about making local media responsive.

The pamphlet can be obtained from the Office of Communication, United Church of Christ, 299 Park Avenue, South, New York, N.Y. 10010.

## Mrs. Simms was dean at Fisk University



MRS. MARGARET SIMMS

Funeral services were held recently for Mrs. Margaret Simms, 71, a former Dean of Women at Fisk University.

Mrs. Simms died Dec. 29 at the Hillhaven Convalescent Home in Tennessee. Mrs. Simms, a native of Bertram, Tex., often came to Baltimore.

She ended several careers with her work as assistant in the department of Development at Fisk University from 1970-1972. Mrs. Simms had formerly served as associate dean of women at Fisk from 1951 to 1972. During World War II, she entertained troops as a singer with the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Simms was married to the late John A. Simms. Mrs. Simms served as program director overseas with the American Red Cross from 1942 to 1945. She was a guest

solist at the White House in 1940 at a tea given by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt for the National Council of Negro Women.

She was named as woman of the year by the City Federated Women's Clubs of Nashville and the Iota Phi Lambda Society. She has served as president of the National Council of Negro Women, the National Personnel Association.

## Realty firms to cease bias

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Department of Justice has obtained a consent decree requiring a realty company to adopt non-discriminatory rental, sales and employment practices at apartment complexes in Columbus, and some 20 other cities in the East and Midwest.

She was a member of the executive committee of the League of Women Voters and was a recipient of a YWCA citizenship award.

Mrs. Simms was also a member of the Civic Forum, the Links and the Opportunities Industrialization Center new special employment benefit program.

Acting Attorney General Laurence H. Silberman said the decree was filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, resolving a housing and employment discrimination suit against Presidential Realty Corporation and its subsidiary, Presidential Management Corporation.