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Black Caucus ready for key legislative role

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Friends raise $$$ to bury slain coed

Coppin students arrange funeral

By Pam Widgeon

"I have read that the history of man's learning is one stemming from the 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 Biddle 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

(Continued on Page 2)

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.

3 Watergate convicts freed by Sirica

WASHINGTON — John W. Dean 3d, Herbert W. Kalmbach and Jeb Stuart Magruder, three major Watergate figures, were freed Tuesday after their sentences were reduced to the time they had already served.

The judge's move came as an apparent surprise to the three men, their lawyers and the special prosecutor's office.

The release orders gave no reason beyond citing motions previously filed by lawyers of the three men asking for reduction of their sentences. But it was generally felt their cooperation with the prosecution and in the recently completed Watergate cover-up trial, at which they were the major government witnesses, weighed heavily in Sirica's decision.

The 35-year-old Dean whose decision in April, 1973, to talk to prosecutors signaled the collapse of the Watergate conspiracy, has served five months. He was sentenced to one to four years after pleading guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice and defraud the United States.

Magruder, the 39-year-old former deputy director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, has served seven months. He was sentenced to four years after pleading guilty on the same charges.

The 52-year-old personal lawyer for former President Nixon, Kalmbach, has served six months of his six-to-16 month term.

The principal money raiser for the Watergate burglars on Dean's orders, Kambach pleaded guilty to violating the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and also to an unrelated misdemenor, selling an ambassadorship.

However, Sirica's order did not exempt Kalmbach from paying the $10,000 fine that was part of the major sentence.

Black Caucus nineteen strong

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. Lloyal 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 deliber-

(Continued on page 2)

Freshman lawmakers at work

By Angela Chatman
(AFRO Bureau)

ANNAPOLIS — The Maryland Assembly's new lawmakers were down to business as soon as the 1975 session opened on Wednesday morning.

All "freshmen" have assignments and express hope for service to the state.

Enthusiastic and excited, they represent a younger breed of lawmakers.

Prince George's Nathaniel Exum, (D, 25th), told the AFRO: "I'm really excited with the whole process. I think it's an honor to be elected. I will be able to represent not only the people from my area but the entire state.

Exum has been assigned to the Economic Matters Committee. "My background and expertise in in this area. I have some plans and ideas of what I'd like to do there.

Among his plans — introducing bills concerning consumer protection, tax and revenue reform and

Continued on page 2)

Teen gets 20 years in bus station murder

Miss Tina Louise Green, 16, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for participating in the Greyhound Bus Station attempted robbery and murder last January.

Miss Green was charged with murdering Miss Charlotte Lessem, 76, of Fayetteville, N.C. in the restroom of the Howard St, bus station.

However, the state dropped the murder charge against Miss Green, since she testified against her friend, Miss Mary Washington Brown who was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Miss Green pleaded guilty to attempted armed robbery last August. Miss Lessem and her companion, Mrs. Flossie Jernigan had come on the bus and were to get lodging in Baltimore for the night. They were due to fly to Bermuda the next day from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

Miss Green testified she walked away from the robbery scene and threw her knife behind the bathroom door. However, Miss Washington kept her knife. Judge Karwacki stated, "A citizen passing through our city lost her life. This is very unfortunate."

At the time of the attempted robbery, Miss Green and Miss Brown were 15 years old.

Miss Brown was a runaway from the Montrose School for Girls more than six months before the murder took place.

MLK birthday is a holiday

Wednesday, Jan. 15 is the birthday anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Baltimore city public schools will observe the holiday on Monday. Schools will be closed.

Public employees who belong to Local 44, Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, have been granted the holiday.

Others may use vacation or personal leave day on Monday or Wednesday if they so desire. City offices, courts and banks will be open.

Employees of the AFRO-AMERICAN in Baltimore and branch offices will observe the holiday on Wednesday, the actual birthday of the martyred leader.

Vikes pin Super Bowl hopes on young Frederick phenom

When he was playing anywhere he was needed with his high school football team in nearby Frederick (Md.) — a little of tackle, once at center, and a little at end and halfback — Chuck Foreman could not foresee the day that he would be the main hope of a professional eleven in the famed Super Bowl.

That is the case today as Foreman and the Minnesota Vikings await their confrontation with the Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday at New Orleans.

* * *

Chuck is the main threat for the Vikes' running game against a Steeler defense that is rated best in pro ranks against the rush. And, at the same time, the young Marylander is his team's chief hope to rescue the offense when quarterback Fran Tarkenton is forced to go to the air against a secondary that is ranked No. 1 in defense against the past.

It is generally conceded by coach Bud Grant and his associates that an untimely injury to Foreman will spell disaster for the NFL champions.

Chuck has been Tarkenton's (and the Vikings') most reliable offensive weapon for the past two years, and it has been largely because of him that the team is in the super classic for the second straight year.

* * *

But New Orleans is a long way from Frederick, almost as long a distance as from the tiny Maryland city to Miami, where Chuck played his college ball.

At Miami, he shuttled between wide receiver and running back in his sophomore year, moved to wide receiver as a junior, then exclusively to running back in his senior term.

* * *

Drafted by the Vikings at the close of the 1972 collegiate season, Foreman carried with him to Bloomington (Minn.) the MVP awards from both the Senior Bowl and North-South games.

Chuck Foreman
pride of Maryland

His first year with the Vikes netted rookie-of-the-year honors and Pro Bowl selection.

Following Sunday's game, he will head for his second "home" in Miami's Orange Bowl to play in his second Pro Bowl game in as many years in the league. ... SAM LACY.

South Boston High reopens after month-long closing

By David M. Rosen

BOSTON (UPI) — Closed since Dec. 11 because of racial violence, South Boston High School reopened Wednesday with police outnumbering students.

About 400 students, 31 of them black, came back to classes after an enforced holiday of almost a month Attendance was less than a third of those assigned to the school.

First white and then black students passed through metal detectors to make sure they were not carrying weapons.

Some were frisked. Afro and rattail combs previously allowed into the building were banned along with spray deodorants and other aerosol containers.

Then, under the watchful eye of the police stationed in corridors and on stairways, they drifted back to classrooms.

The school was closed Dec., 11 following a stabbing incident which triggered a clash between po-

(Continued on page 2)

Richardson named envoy to England

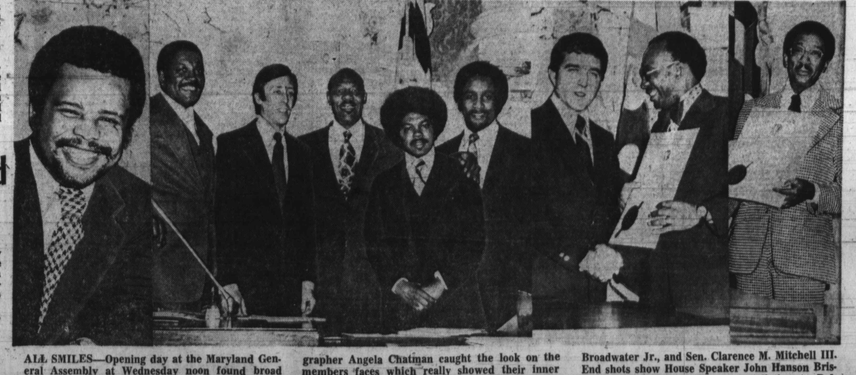
By Gene Carlson

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford Thursday named as ambassador to Great Britain Elliot L. Richardson, who resigned as attorney general rather than carry out Richard M. Nixon's Watergate orders.

Ford also telephoned birthday greetings to the former President in California.

"I warmly welcome Elliot Richardson back into the service of our country and am confident that he will represent America with the highest distinction," Ford said in a White House statement.

Richardson, who held two other cabinet posts in the Nixon administration, stepped down as head of the Justice Department in October, 1973, rather than obey Nixon's order to fire Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.



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.