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FAM President 'Adopts' Nigerian

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — A Nigerian girl whose father was murdered in the Biafran conflict has been "adopted" by Florida A&M University President B. L. Perry's family so she can complete her education.

Ironically, when 24-year-old Genita Ekpenyong completes her education with a master's degree in biochemistry, she hopes to return to Nigeria because violence in America disturbs her.

"It's nice here, but I think I prefer Nigeria. I think it's a more peaceful place . . . too much violence here. Riots, people get killed, they have all these bombs being put here," Miss Ekpenyong said in an interview.

Her father was seized by the Biafran rebels last year after he had gone into the town of Uyo. He was shot after being held captive.



DR. B. L. PERRY
... takes boarder

Her father was a lecturer at the University of Nigeria. That's where he met Perry, who was a guest professor.

"This happened down in our village. He went to the town, they took him for some questions. It was a check, a long time of waiting and hoping," Miss Ekpenyong recalled.

She now is a sophomore at Florida A&M, a predominantly black institution, where she has a scholarship. It covers tuition, but isn't enough for living expenses. So she lives at the Perry home on campus.

"We are guardians to her. It's our pleasure," said Mrs. Perry.

Adjusting hasn't been hard, except perhaps for learning the game of football. In Nigeria, soccer is the big game.

She fit right into the miniskirt fashions, which were current in Nigeria.

Miss Ekpenyong said that some of the African-style fashions worn by blacks in America aren't even seen in Nigeria. For example, she said the Afro haircuts and the flowing "dashikis" aren't seen over there.

"A lot of the ideas they have here we don't wear in Africa," she said.



MRS. B. L. PERRY
... Nigerian girl

