

CASS TECH SENIOR, 17, KILLED BY STRAY BULLET

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The shootings in Detroit "have to stop somewhere" said a Detroit mother Monday after making funeral arrangements for her 17-year-old daughter, who died last week in what appears to be a random shooting on the city's northwest side.

Mary Williams, 17, was talking on the telephone about 11:25 p.m. Thursday, said her mother, Pearlene, who was upstairs in bed.

"I heard a shot, but it sounded far away," Pearlene Williams said. "Then seconds later I heard three more shots. But you hear so many gunshots, you become immune to them."

Williams said she was not aware anything was wrong until one of her daughter's friends who was visiting ran upstairs and told her Mary had collapsed.

The bullet passed through Mary's head and lodged in a wall, Williams said.

"It was just a stray bullet that came through the front door of our house."

Mary Williams, a senior at Cass Technical High School, died at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital a day later.

Police would not release details of the shooting, but said the investigation was continuing. A preliminary report said "an unknown person fired into (the Williams') house" in the 19700 block of Gilchrist.

Mary worked part-time job and had earned \$2,000 for college, her mother said. Nine colleges were interested in her daughter, Williams said. "She had a good future ahead of her."

Williams said she doesn't believe anyone was shooting at her house. Police told her there may have been a robbery on the street that involved shooting, she said.

"They (police) told me these people aren't experts with guns," she said. "They just start shooting."

Cass Tech Principal Jeannette Wheatley said Monday that **Mary Williams** was a good student who participated in a school program in which she did volunteer work at Henry Ford Hospital.

Visitation will be at the Pye Funeral Home at 17600 Plymouth Road after noon Wednesday, with a family hour from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday. The funeral will be at the First Baptist Institutional Church, 17101 W. Seven Mile Road, at 11 a.m. Friday.

According to police statistics, there have been 411 homicides in Detroit between January and the end of August.

"It was a freak accident," said Williams. "It's just the same old story."

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