Partyline

Bonnie Butler hosts bonnie birthday party at the Ritz

BIRTHDAY FUN — Enjoying the camraderie at Bonnie Butler's birthday party held at the Ritz on Sunday, March 9 are (L to R) Ray Haysbert, Bonnie (the birthday girl) and Mel Rutledge.

Over 200 guests gathered at the Ritz on Sunday, March 9, for Bonnie Butler's birthday party.

Bonnie, who is Assistant to the vice president of Advertising, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers and Production Coordinator for Dawn Magazine, would not tell which birthday it was for her, but her gala provided a bonnie evening for all who attended from 5 until 9 p.m.

Guests enjoyed dancing to the sounds of the Gaynell Colburn Quintet which was very versatile in its selection of tunes and very, very good. By the way Gaynell is a lady.

For sumptuous feasting there was tossed salad, chili, rice, barbequed chicken wings and swedish meat balls.

There was also a lot of the bubbly on hand as guests drank champagne toasts as well as other cocktails and wines.

A lovely, huge white sheet cake inscribed 'Happy Birthday Bonnie' sported the twin clown faces with the two side of life depicted — the happy and the sad.

Bonnie graciously greeted her guests who partied on the terrace level until around 8:30 p.m. and then sang Happy Birthday to her.

She then gave special thanks to Gary West of the Baltimore City Police and to Neil Brockington for her cake; to her uncle James "Biddy" Wood for flying home from California for her party; to Dave Richardson, co-owner of the Ritz, for the use of the club and for his kindnesses to her in making her party a success; and to special friends Cynthia McCrorey, Gloria Jones, Cynthia Kess, Alton Wilson and Joseph Perry.

BIRTHDAY GUESTS — Checking out the action at Bonnie Butler's birthday party are Cynthia McCrorey and Cynthis Kess, "Miss Coppin." The party was held at the Ritz on Sunday, March 9.

She also recognized special guest Walter Carr, owner - creator of the publication, 'Nightlife'.

A lovely touch and end to a beautiful evening was the special invitation from Dave Richardson to all of Bonnie's guests to stay for the 9 p.m. show by the Softones, held on the upper level.

Bonnie's guests included: Thomas Brown Jr., Hilda J. Brown, Helen Gwynn, Dr. James Hall, Rosetta Ward, Joe Turner, Eddie Ransome, Leonard Pennington, G. D. Kearney Sr., Lucy McNeill, Andrew Williams, Fred Eason and Theodora Butler;

Also Eugene M. Smith, Lernadine M. Tuck, Haywood Carmichael, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Goggins, Johnny Cromwell, Ms. Margaret Thames, Don Brooks, Matilda T. Taylor, Vernon Hutchings, Gena E. Solomon, Toni Pindy and Ollie Brown;

Also Ray Haysbert, Ken Wilson, Barbara Emerson, Irene Dixon, Tina Thaniel, Purcell Martin, Walter Brown, Celestine Solomon, Charles Faison;

Also co - workers from the AFRO Freddie Williams, James W. Johnson, Ralph Matthews, Managing Editor, AFRO; Johnnie Mae Moore, Ebony Alexander.

Dolphin Cruising Club

They are on the move again. The Dolphin Cruising Club — the Premier Organization of Black Boating enthusiasts in Baltimore recently returned from Miami Florida.

They had flown to Miami for the Miami Boat Show — the largest combined boat show in the East.

The entourage also sampled other attractions in Miami, Miami Beach and Fort Lauderdale during their trip.

During the day they visited the beaches and some of the largest Marinas on the East Coast. Evenings after the Boat Show were spent sampling the attractions of the Miami - Ft. Lauderdale area.

Some local arrangements were made and supervised by Capt. and Mate Thomas and Lillian Jones.

Members of the Dolphin Cruising Club who enjoyed the Florida sun and fun included Commodore Edward and Mate Ruth Hunt, Captains and Mates William and Valetta Brown, Edward and Ethel Collic, Preston and Doris Henry, David and Mildred Pipkin, George and Catherine Taylor, James and Barbara Ann Brown.

Columbia Capers

Angela Gray turns 'Sweet Sixteen'

WE ARE FAMILY — Pictured at the 'Sweet Sixteen' Birthday party held in honor of Angela Gray at the Cross Keyes Inn in Columbia, Md. recently are (L to R): Mr. and Mrs. Major Gray, parents of Dr. C. Vernon Gray, (Angela's father); honoree Angela Gray, Michael Gray, (Angela's brother) and Dr. and Mrs. C. Vernon Gray, (Angela's parents.)

By Pinnie L. Ross

One of the nicest teen parties was held in Colombia last weekend at the Cross Keys Inn, sponsored by Dr. and Mrs. (Sandra) C. Vernon Gray for their cute daughter, Angela Gray on her "Sweet 16th birthday.

More than fifty high fashion teens and fine looking young men waited patiently for the honoree to make her grand entrance.

Finally Angela arrived, dressed in an elegant mid - calf white chiffon long sleeved dress which was completely covered with figured designs of lace with tiny rows of lace accenting around the collar and front.

Guests dined on stuffed chicken, string beans, rice and a variety of salads; in addition, two colorful heart - shaped molds were served.

After dinner the gracious hostess, Mrs. Gray, presented a complete program to the young guests and friends, a presentation of love from the family.

It read: With inspiration and love to our daughter Angela from your family: to be young and gifted and black. Oh, what a lovely precious dream.

In the whole world you know there's a million young men and women who are young, gifted and black and that's a fact . . . as Mrs. Gray read the words of the song, it was being sung and played in the background by Nina Simone after which Dr. Gray presented Angela with a dozen long - stemmed red roses.

After the presentation by her father, the "Sweet 16" year old teenager gave a token of love and appreciation to her family and extended family by presenting each one with a long stemmed rose — her mother and father, her grandparents, aunt and Godmother, brothers and sister.

After this it was time for the cutting of the beautiful birthday cake by Angela which was served with ice cream.

It was Disco Time for the pretty teens to conclude the evening with laughter and real dancing music, supplied by Debra Johnson, WEAA Radio, Morgan State University.

Guests came from near and also from as far as Detroit, Michigan. They included: Donna Tonez and Cassandra Trice, sisters of Mrs. Gray and cousin Eric Apple; Dr. Alice Seales, Godmother of Angela, and Mrs. Martha Hawkins both from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Gray's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Major Gray from Sunderland, Maryland, and sister, Renee Loftz; Mrs. Helen Cormick and daughter, Lisa;

Also, Candace M. White, Melinda Willman, Vicki Chesson, Jennifer Lynd, Elaine Renesa Johnson, Yolandra Johnson, Donna Patterson, Nanette Weatherford, Shirla Bradley, Mike Willing, Tina Johnston, Ossie G. Clay and daughter Regina;

Also Cheryl Thompson, Kevin Smith, Jeff Neale, Sybel Burroughs, Fanny Baron, Gill Speake, Iris Williams, Cassandra and Rhodney Lloyd, Denise Jennings, Robert Miller, Alice Grant and daughters, Mekinee and Genine;

Also Kevin Frazier, Glenn Thomas, Rev. Robert S. Davis who gave the invocation, Jopella Smith, Sharron Carter, Gail Perry, Keith Kelly, Raymond Smith, Dwayne Myers, Kevin Smith, Michael Gray, brother;

Also Sandy True, Neal M. Janey, Frank Turner, Erich Thompson, Debbie Johnson, Beldon Williams, and James Nelson, special friend of the honoree.

As the guests departed, they were presented a poem by Angela: "To Be Young, Gifted and Black, That's Where It's At." They also received a reminder book "Things to do, done did, not did. It read at the bottom of the book in gold script. Thank you, Angela, "Sweet Sixteen 1980."

Dr. C. Vernon Gray is a political science professor at Morgan State University. His wife, Sandra, is special assistant to U.S. Commissioner of Education, H.E.W., Washington, D.C.

Thought for Today

What we really are matters more than what other people think of us.

Woodlawn Highlights

Dennis Fisher is valuable, versatile asset to SSA

By Marjorie R. Green

Dennis Fisher, SSA Selective Placement Coordinator for the Handicapped started work in SSA in July, 1966. Prior to 1966 he was an instructor at the Maryland School for the Blind.

According to Dennis, "there was a great deal of skepticism about my employment at SSA at that time because of my blindness; however, Bert Van Engel, an Administrative Officer believed in my ability to become a valuable employee. It was through Bert's determined efforts and positive approach to the situation that I was hired.

Bert was a flexible and encouraging supervisor who helped me to gain confidence in my own ability to succeed in the Federal work environment.

As Selective Placement Coordinator, Dennis is responsible for the recruitment, placement, and counseling of handicapped employees. He has performed this function since completion of a staff development program assignment in 1973.

Dennis graduated from Morgan State University in 1964 with a B.A. in Sociology. An honor graduate, he remained on the Dean's list throughout his years spent at Morgan.

In addition to his academic successes, Dennis is an accomplished musician. He has played piano and organ since his college days and has worked with a number of local musicians and with a few internationally recognized musicians and vocalists.

Dennis recalls that one of his most memorable moments in music was a concert he played with Dexter Gordon in the early 1970s. "Dexter appeared at the Sportsman's Lounge, then known as Lenny Moore's, for a single jazz concert; and he asked Johnny Polite and myself to accompany him.

"I was worried that I would not be familiar with some of the tunes Dexter wanted to play; but Dexter soon erased those fears. His warm, friendly and self assured manner was enough to put me at ease. Critics rated the performance outstanding."

Dennis now leads his own band which consists of Lee Jeffers, alto sax and flute, and Jerome McCardel, drums. Ms. Jennifer Jones is the featured vocalist.

Dennis states that "playing music has been good for me as an outlet for expression, and as a source of additional income. But that's really not the basic reason for my extensive involvement in music. The reason can be explained in very simple terms.

Serious artists, whether they are poets, painters or musicians, perform because they feel that they have to."

A member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Beta Alpha Chapter), Dennis sees his role in a musical group as an organizer, accompanist, and catalist to a good performance.

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