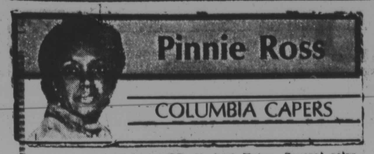


Pinnie Ross

COLUMBIA CAPERS

KWEISI MFUME NAACP BANQUET SPEAKER

By Pinnie L. Ross

The Jessup Howard County Holiday Inn was the scene of the 43th Annual Maryland State NAACP Convention recently.

"Strengthening and preserving the Black Family" was the NAACP's chosen theme.

The three day convention opened on Thursday with a pre - convention music extravaganza and mass meeting at First Baptist Church of Guilford. The Rev. Dr. John L. Wright is pastor of the church and Howard County Branch President.

Friday and Saturday, there were interesting sessions held with outstanding speakers and panelists. Among many were: Dr. Lawrence Gray, Director of Institute for Urban Affairs and Research, Howard University; Dr. Emmet C. Burns, Director NAACP Region VII and Pastor, Rising Sun First Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD; Delegate Elijah Cummings, Chairman, Maryland State Legislature Black Caucus; the Honorable Kurt Schmoke, States Attorney, Baltimore and Commissioner Bishop Robinson, City Police Department, Baltimore.

The Freedom Awards Banquet was held Friday night. Guest speaker for the banquet was Baltimore's popular young two - term councilman, our very own friend, Kweisi Mfume, who gave a fantastic speech that has been talked about since the convention.

The Rev. John L. Wright served as emcee for the Awards Banquet. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" which set the tone for the evening was sung by the audience, followed by invocation by the Rev. Curtis L. Mitchell.

Greetings came from NAACP National and local NAACP President, Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, Nathaniel K. Smith, Maryland NAACP President; Rochel Brown, Jr., Community Development Coordinator, and Howard County's own Dr. C. Vernon Gray, Howard County Council Chairperson.

Mrs. Elizabeth Waters rendered a selection followed by grace offered by St. John Baptist Church minister, the Rev. Herbert Eaton. Several selections came from The Emanon Men's Group, Howard County.

The guest speaker was introduced by a very charming lady—Mrs. Alice Cornelison, instructor at Coppin State College and Howard County NAACP Black Heritage Committee Chairperson and Board Member. Her introduction was very unique and different from the traditional ones.

Standing before the podium just as articulate and immaculate as always was guest speaker Kweisi Mfume, dressed in a conservative navy blue suit, white shirt and red tie.

"What is fundamentally right and wrong with this society" was the theme of his speech.

He spoke about the address given by Abraham Lincoln in 1858. "Those words have gone unheeded and unanswered by a nation and a democracy which does not understand who it is or whose it is. . . ."

He said, "Unless this nation is willing to resolve the historic conflict between Blacks and Whites and to eliminate racism for all facets of life, we will solve none of our problems, whether they are foreign or domestic. (Applause and more applause came from the audience). "As a nation we confess to be something we are not. We speak with the voice of Jacob, but we move with the hand of an Esau." "Amen, Amen, talk son," said Dr. Rev. Wright.

Mfume stared and paused to say, "You know Jesus was hated not because he was a Jew, or because he had long hair . . . . It was because of the damaging words that he had in his mouth that undercut roman imperialism, materialism, false worship. In the message content they saw danger in that man."

BARNUM AND BAILEY WORLD, A PHONY ONE

You could hear a pin drop as the speaker spoke about a world that degrades the real thing and lifts up the artificial things.

With his raised voice he said, "It's a Barnum and Bailey World, it's phony as can be. If you try to be honest and have integrity and stick to principles, people will say, "what's wrong with you?" But if you want to be the spiritual hypocrite, the spiritual prostitute, the intelligent bigot, they will greet you with open arms, and that's why men and women are bought and sold on the marketplace today, and the true message of Jesus has been crushed beneath the earth and the world has been given a phony message." (There was much more applause).

The Councilman had to pause before he could continue his speech. Someone said aloud. "It's so true, just keep on telling it like it is."

YOUNG GENERATION WANTS A NEW WORLD

The young civil rights fighter began to elevate his voice, talking without looking at his notes. "The young generation wants a new world, they want teachers, but new teachers, teachers who teach for life and not for a living, or because they can't help it"— A voice from the near podium said, "Preach Doc."

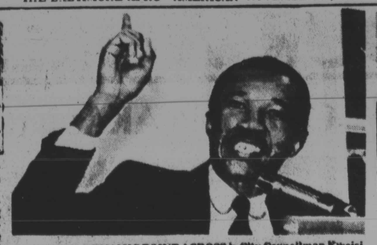
Mfume continued to say with facial expressions, "They want lawyers, but new lawyers, lawyers who are more concerned about justice than trying to get a judgeship. They want new doctors, doctors who are more concerned with public health than private wealth." "Amen, Amen," shouted the yelling audience.

Then he said. "They want preachers, but new preachers, those who will prophesy not profiteer. They want a new day." The house was in an uproar and young Mfume was getting louder and louder.

"Every goodbye ain't gone and every shut eye ain't asleep, a new day, a new definition."

He talked about a basic philosophy that the young people need and also said they need an agenda.

In closing he asked the audience, those who have humanistic understanding and those who know what is fundamentally right and wrong with the world to go as messengers.



GETTING A DYNAMIC POINT ACROSS is City Councilman Kweisi Mfume, NAACP Banquet speaker, who electrified the audience with his speech.

COUNCILMAN MFUME (L) is seen with Dr. Silas Craft, NAACP national board member and Mrs. Roberta Briscoe, local board member.

Our Kweisi received a standing ovation at least for one and half minutes.

The NAACP Howard County members would like to thank all of the clubs and organizations, individuals and companies for their generous contributions and support of the 1985 Maryland State NAACP convention.

The lovely Ms. Dorothy M. Craft, wife of former president and national board member Dr. Silas Craft was host chairperson and the charming Mrs. Marjorie R. Green, AFRO - AMERICAN News columnist, was convention coordinator.

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7. Martin Plaza Shpg. Ctr., 1306 Martin Blvd., Balt.
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SAVE 40% on selected mink, fox, raccoon, coyote and sable fur coats

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Natural mink coat, regularly 4900.00, sale 2940.00 . . . with additional 20% off 2352.00

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Coyote coats, regularly 5500.00, sale 3300.00 with additional 20% off 2640.00

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Prices effective thru Sat., Nov. 16, 1985 in Giant stores in the city of Baltimore, Baltimore, Harford & Howard Counties, Glen Burnie, Severna Park, Annapolis and Edgewater. This merchandise is not offered for sale or available to retailers, restaurants or other commercial enterprises.