## Pinnie Ross

### COLUMBIA CAPERS

### WHAT IF THERE WERE NO CHRISTMAS?

Christmas is the commemoration of the birth of Christ. It is one of my special seasons. There should be Christmas, giving of gifts and sending of greetings to friends, that's a form of celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Every year about this time people begin to find fault with Christmas. Some say, "I'm not going to send Christmas cards, it's expensive" and it is. There are people who only give gifts when they think they're going to get one back—and so often that is the case. They say, "Christmas is supposed to celebrate the birth of the Lord," and it is true that many celebrate Christmas in ways that have little to do with religion.

All these charges are justified, at least, in part, Christmas is commercial, it's worldly, it's useful—but what if there were no Christmas. If there were no Christmas, many people would forget the birthday of Jesus Christ.

Take dear ol Santa Claus—"Illusion!" Some people say, and I suppose he is. But if we are going to give our children an illusion—and oh, how many we do give them!—could we give them a lovelier one? What would we have them grow up believing? That the world is a bore and a grim affair.

I feel that there are many who would teach us that reality is dark and painful. But is it? I believe that most of us find there are more sunny than rainy days in our lives, reality turns out to be on the whole pleasant, if not always as exciting as we think we might wish; it is our dark anxieties that make up most of our illusions, our worries rather than our hopes that hardly ever come true.

If there were no Christmas, it would be as if a light went out along a dark street we have to walk along at night.

A Christmas light is the brightest light that I've ever seen, it sheds a romantic radiance over all of us who pass beneath it. As long as the earth shall wonder at its curious and as long as human beings shall inhabit it, there will be the love of light when the lights dim, and of color when the colors fade and the urge to rekindle the fire when the warmth begins to slip away.

There will be children—falling asleep at night with visions of waking in the morning to a world of dreams come true.

### LORD BLESS THIS CHRISTMAS

I know that the kind of Christmas I have will be the kind of Christmas I make it, for Christmas starts in my heart.

I think about the birth of Jesus and relive its wonder, beauty and meaning. I feel anew the birth of Christ within me.

We all should feel blessed this Christmas season, and should give our blessings to all. Everyday things and happenings take on new and delightful meaning as we meet each day with joy and peace and expectancy. As I give the gift of myself, I give of my love, my faith, my understanding. We all should give in little ways—perhaps just a nod, a big smile, a word of praise.

Let us make Christmas day to give thanks for those who express their appreciation of us, a day to express our appreciation of others. Christmas is a good time to accept the gift of forgiveness, a good time to give the gift of forgiveness, it is a good time to heal human relationships.

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### AGNES CHAMBERS HONORED

Reminder to all residents of the State of Maryland to give freely to the UNFC Campaign. Call your pledges in December 28 from 6-12 p.m. WBAL Channel 11.

Mrs. Laura Knight, a Baltimore school teacher is the very fine program chairman for this worthy cause, and her charming and talented daughter, Mrs. Karaleigh Knight Henson is production consultant.

To Howard County residents, call your pledges into the WBAL station between 8 and 9 p.m. Star panels will be ready to take your pledges—any amount you pledge will be accepted. Or come by and make your pledges in person.

May the Good Lord Bless and keep each and everyone of you and may you have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

**And let the peace of Christ rule in your heart... and be thankful.**
**Col. 3:15**

## Kelly Hill

### SINGLE PARENTING

### TEENAGE PARENTS

When we think of parenting, we automatically assume that the parent is an adult. However, studies are showing that there are more and more teenage single parents than ever before.

With the increase in births among young adolescents, I can't help but wonder what they have to say about this new trend.

To the young mothers of America, what is being said about you leaves a lot of questions unanswered. How do you feel about taking on an awesome task at a young age? Surely as young adults, you want to have some input about what is being said about you.

There are so many older adults who, at an early age in life, got caught also with being pregnant. What happened to them ruined their careers. Back in the early 50's 60's and 70's, if the school found out that you are about to become a mother, you were expelled from school, labeled by teachers as being promiscuous, and no one ever harassed the father.

But now times have changed. The school system does not expell the young mother anymore, young fathers don't run and hide. The general society's attitude toward casual promiscuity is acceptable, until the epidemic of young teenaged mothers increased to the point that it is called "babies having babies." But still again, you don't hear from these young parents. How do they feel about being a single parent before age 18?

Of the three teenaged single parents that I spoke with, to them it was like taking on responsibilities of being an adult and having something to call their own.

However, after the baby had grown to two years of age, they were somewhat disappointed on how hard it was to find a babysitter, a job, or a place to live without adequate resources.

All three mothers that I spoke with went back home to live and were unhappy about their situations but felt that there wasn't anything they could do to improve their circumstances.

If there are any young teenaged parents, both fathers and mothers, who would like to voice their opinion please send your reply to Kelly Hill, P.O. Box 26542, Baltimore, MD 21207.

The DC Chapter of Black Single Parents, Inc. will sponsor a gala reception during the month of January. If you would like to receive an invitation, please let us know by calling the BSP Hotline 301-466-5554.

**Living With Diabetes Series**

The Saint Joseph Hospital Outreach Team will sponsor "Living with Diabetes," a series of four classes for diabetics and their families on Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., in the hospital's School of Nursing.

The goal of the series, based on the guidelines of the American Diabetes Association, is to provide the individual or family with diabetes skills and knowledge that will enable them to become self-sufficient in the daily management of diabetes.

For more information and registration, call 337-1680 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Marjorie Green

### WOODLAWN HIGHLIGHTS

### AGNES CHAMBERS HONORED

"She is genuine. She is authenic. She is the same wherever she is. Her mission in life is helping people."

The banquet hall echoed with the sound of similiar words voiced by each of the speakers who participated in the Celebration of Love And Recognition held recently in honor of Mrs. Agnes Chambers, former director of the McCollough Headstart Center.

The dinner celebration, jointly sponsored by the Baltimore City Head Start program and friends of the honoree, was held at the Pimlico Center on Park Heights Ave. It was one of the those cold damp nights outside but it was all smiles and warmth inside when guests arrived around 7 p.m. and after signing the guest register began sampling the attractively decorated fruit and cheese arrangements.

Soloist Katie Davenport, accompanied by John Brown on the piano, opened the program with a deeply moving selection that set the tone for the evening of love and recognition.

Ms. Adrienne Koram, brilliantly served as emcee for the program held before and after the sit-down dinner was served.

During the moments of recognition, Mrs. Chambers received a plaque presented by members of the Head Start Board of Directors.

Ms. Carlethea Johnson represented the Baltimore City Head Start Program, and Ms Belinda McLean was the McCollough Head Start representative Dr Bettina Scott spoke on behalf of the Concord Baptist Church family.

Mrs. Chambers has been an active member of the Church located on Liberty Heights Ave. since leaving Faith Baptist Church in the late 1950's to join her husband Charles in Concord.

Mrs. Ella Hardy, a longtime friend and member of Faith Baptist Church, shared moments of the past and present with the enthusiastic gathering of friends and family.

The retirement gift, a pearl necklace with matching pearl earrings, purchased by the committee, was presented by Ms. Barbara Smith, Director of the Emily Price Jones Head Start program.

Prior to the honoree's remarks, her husband Charles dedicated an original poem entitled "My Lady." Two of her four children, Charles, Jr. and Carol also got in the family act by singing a song written by their father.

In her remarks, Agnes Chambers made it clear that she didn't retire based on years of service or age. "I came home, not to preach, but to serve with a ministry not bound by the dollar bill." She talked about a ministry of love—A love she learned from her mother who occupied a seat at the head table with other family members.

"My mother taught me to respond to the needs of my sisters and brothers. She taught me that if I responded to their needs, God would take care of me." A lot of her mission work centers around the cities "bag ladies" she stated. "I greet them with a hug and a kiss and their response is spontaneous and automatic."

The evening tribute was a befitting one for "Lady Agnes" whose gestures of affection will be greatly missed by her co-workers in the city program.

Ms. Gladys Combs and Ms. Jennifer Branch were also members of the celebration committee. The minister of the evening was the Rev. Franklin Spriggs, a relative of the retiree.

**"YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" We wish all of the Woodlawn Highlight column readers a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

## —Cross Keys Fraternity

Continued from page 7

Studies.

Maurice Yancey MSU class of '79, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. As the program opened greetings were rendered by Septimus KaiKai, MSU class of '68, Chairperson, Catonsville Community College Economic Department and Dr. Earl S. Richardson, Morgan's President. The invocation was given by George W. McKnight, Past President, National Cross Keys Fraternity.

Herbert Duberry MSU class of '73, reflected on the early days of Morgan when Mu Chapter was being formulated; how the evening students were encouraged by the administration; and how they worked hand in hand to improve the campus and make things more home like for the students.

He said he remembered when members of Cross Key s tutored Freshman and other students who needed assistance with their work.

Adding to the festive nature of the event, the Morgan Singers sang like angels to the awe of the crowd. Next, Dr. Beryl W. Williams, Founder of Mu Chapter Cross Keys Fraternity, gave the history of Mu Chapter, including the way the National let Morgan use Mu even though it was not the next Greek letter.

Past President Albert Gondo presented Vivian Reckley, Mu Chapter Advisor, with donations for the Beryl W. Williams and Bernard Gibson Scholarship Funds.

Dr. Steve Gibson, MSU class of 61, represented his late brother, in an expression of appreciation. He reminded everyone of the diligent work that his broher had done and how much he supported Mu Chapter Cross Keys. His brother Bernard Gibson was a past president who died suddenly.

Mu Chapter voted to start a scholarship in his name and members contributed to the fund. His family makes contributions each year to the scholarship fund. He also introduced his family members and his late brother's employer and friends.

Closing remarks were made by Maurice Yancey, President, Mu Chapter. After this enlightening program was completed, a delicious buffet dinner was served to the members of Cross Keys and their guests. Later in the evening, everyone rose to the occasion and danced to the music of the Dennis Fisher Band.

Sharks reportedly attack men ten times more often than they do women.

Being Black in America: A Real Picture

The love's the same ... the woman has changed.

Some things are so special they endure forever. One of them is a mother's love. From generation to generation, Black mothers have passed on a legacy of caring, nurturing, and protecting.

Mothers of today have broader horizons, more opportunities, and a stronger status in the community. If they are able to offer their children more, it is because they are aware of the sacrifices made by other women before them.

Anheuser-Busch continues to support educational and vocational opportunities for women by creating an environment where the challenges faced by women are met with confidence.

A real picture of being Black in America includes all of us. The potential to realize our dreams is the promise of America. And, in the fulfillment of our goals, we make the American dream a reality.

Building a future in partnership with the community.

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