Kelly Hill

SINGLE PARENTING

WHEN CHILDREN GROW UP

It's not enough that single parents must wear many different hats. But dreams can become nightmares when raising children between the ages of 11-17. I am talking about the adolescent years and what a parent must do in order to survive the battle.

It isn't enough to win the battle and lose the war, it is important to be an understanding and caring parent. Jonnie, a young boy of 12, was often left to watch his younger sister while his mother was at work or worked on her part-time job. Even though Jonnie's mother made sure that he had dinner and enough things to keep him busy while she was at work, Jonnie was experiencing some problems that his mother wasn't aware of. Jonnie's father communicated very little with him about growing up. He was beginning to experience strange feelings and wondered just what was going on.

Somewhere between the age of 10 and 11, his mother thought she had discussed everything with him pertaining to how his body was going to change, including his voice. But what his mother failed to realize was that Jonnie was beginning to display his authority as a young man. Even though he was good in school, Jonnie had his own feelings about how much punishment his mother should mete out to him.

It was a pretty fall day and Jonnie's mother restricted him from going outside because his grades weren't up to par. Jonnie decided that the punishment was too severe and decided that he would run away from home while his mother was at work.

What Jonnie didn't know was that he could talk to his mother about his punishment, and that she cared. After a tearful afternoon of trying to find her son and realizing that he ran away to his father's, Jonnie's mother didn't scold him but decided to find out what was on Jonnie's mind.

In some instances, a parent would immediately punish the child for running away. But, a parent must first think about what should be done or said before flying off the handle. Try to find out why children do the things that they do. There are the attention getters, or passive ones who take no interest in school, and we can't forget our class clown, who wants to be noticed by all.

In the case of the child (Jonnie) who ran away to his father's, his reply to his mother's question of "why," was "I thought that the punishment that you gave me was too severe . . . I felt like I was getting punished every day for small things that I didn't do around the house as well as in school."

Even though we are the parents, we should still stand firm on our punishments but let our children know that we discipline them because we love them. Examples have to be set, and children must abide by your rules. Also let them know that if they feel that the punishment is too harsh or not appropriate, that you will listen to what they have to say.

Children who run away from home do so because they are unable to express themselves at home, and they encounter parents who never bend, or parents who never listen to their side of the story. It is the responsibility of parents to pay attention to their children when they ask for help. Regardless of how they get your attention, the important thing to look at is they are trying to tell you something. Don't be too busy to listen; they are asking for your help; these are the leaders of tomorrow.

On Saturday, October 25, Black Single Parents, Inc. will hold their monthly Teen Symposium for kids between the ages of 11-17. The topic for discussion will be Drugs and Teenage Pregnancy.

Speakers from the Baltimore City Police Department and Baltimore Family Support Centers for Teens are slated.

Cost is $5.00, which includes lunch. The meeting will take place at 11 E. Chase St., Suite 1-B, from 12:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. Prior registration is required. For more info called the BSP Hot Line at 332-4122.

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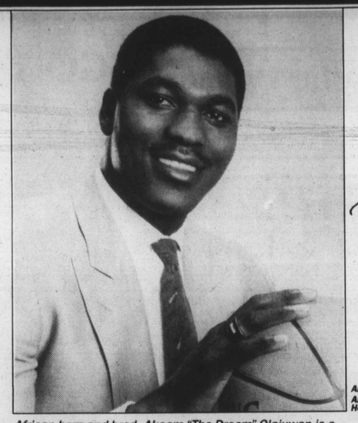

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PLAYING CARDS for worthy Big Sisters' causes are (L to R): Howard Contee, Charles Johnson (who also garnered a raffle prize); Audrey Brooks and Lillie Johnson.

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS are (L to R): Ida N. Nicholas, Imogene B. Douglas, Rita K. Selby, Joan Johnson-Ledbetter, Charlene Cooper-Boston and Sydney A. Lee.

Photos by Paris Gray

EISA NEFERTARI-ULEN (Second from R) receives a scholarship award from Iris Williams, chairperson for the Scholarship Committee, during the Big Sisters' annual Luncheon-Card Party held Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Palladium, Liberty Hgts. Ave. and Druid Park Dr. Looking on proudly is Cheryl T. Duguid, the awardee's mother.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the luncheon-card party are (from L): Flora G. Johnson, Big Sisters' president and chairperson for the affair; Lilyan F. Slater, Ida N. Nicholas, Ernestine Bland, Phyllis Shamwell and Joan Johnson-Ledbetter, co-chair and emcee for the occasion.

Big Sisters host luncheon-card party

Playing cards for worthwhile causes is a big part of the agenda for socio/civic clubs in Charm City—much to their credit.

Kicking off this fall's batch of such activities were the Big Sisters of Baltimore, who hosted their annual Luncheon-Card Party at the Palladium, Liberty Heights Ave. and Druid Park Dr., Saturday, Oct. 25.

There was much in store for the nearly 500 guests who attended the festive affair, which began at 11:30 a.m. and ended in late afternoon.

There were cocktails before, during and after the luncheon. The sumptuous luncheon fare boasted stuffed boned breast of white hen, potato souffle, string beans, assorted dinner rolls, coffee, hot and iced tea, sanka and milk, and for dessert, "melt-in-your mouth" cheesecake.

Squeals of delight could be heard as many guests won lovely door prizes. Two big winners, who garnered the raffle coffer, were Charles Johnson and Ethel Johnson.

Emcee for the occasion was Jean Johnson-Ledbetter, co-chairperson for the event. Greetings were extended by Flora G. Johnson, Big Sisters' president, and prayer before lunch, by Imogene Douglass.

Iris C. Williams made the scholarship award presentation, which was given to Eisa Nefertasi Ulen, a graduate of Western High School and a freshman at Sarah Lawrence College.

Following the luncheon, guests and members got down to the fun-filled business of playing bridge, pinochle and bingo. High Scorers at bridge and pinochle won beautiful prizes, as did the winners of each bingo game. To add to the pleasure of the guests, there were on sale during the affair eye-catching jewelry, handbags and Fashion Fair cosmetics. It was a lively afternoon, and all for a worthy cause.

Civic contributions consistently made by the Big Sisters include, in addition to the scholarship award, awards to the United Negro College Fund, the AFRO's Mrs. Santa, League for the Handicapped, Inc., Provident Hospital, the AFRO's Clean Block campaign, Blue Chip-In, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A Camperships, the N.A.A.C.P., Camp Farthest Out, the Montrose School and the Maryland Leagues of Women Voters. The club is now readying for their 50th anniversary in 1987.

Big Sisters members are. Ernestine Bland, Charlene Cooper-Boston, Willa Bouldin, Lucille Brown, Vivien Burnett, Elizabeth Cooper, Imogene Douglas, Norma Felder, Bernita E. Fuller, Irma Givens, Sara L. Jerkins, Flora G. Johnson, Joan Johnson-Ledletter, Madora LaForse, Janis Langley, Sydney Lee, Ida N. Nicholas, Gladys F. Parker, Ernestine Press, Shirley M. Roberts, Mary Robinson, Rita K. Selby, Phyllis C. Shamwell, Lilyan F. Slater, Cathryn Stanford, Barbara Wheeler, Credella White, Gloria H. White and Iris C. Williams.

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Authority: R. S. Gray, Treasurer

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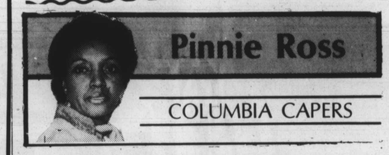

Pinnie Ross

COLUMBIA CAPERS

LINKS — A GIVING ORGANIZATION
NAT'L LINKS' GIVING

The Columbia Chapter of Links, Inc. ushered in the new year with its fall meeting at the Columbia Hilton Hotel last month. The lovely hostess for the meeting was Mary Bracey, newly appointed Vice President who will be serving out the term of Janice Skinner. Janice resigned the vice presidency for personal reasons. Jan was a SUPER vice president whose organizational skills will be sorely missed. Links vice presidents are responsible for the chapter programs and Mary will do a superb job as usual.

President Sandra Gray presided at the meeting and as usual kept the agenda moving nicely.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of plans for the upcoming fundraiser to be held during the spring of 1987. Jeanne Cooper will once again chair the event "An Evening of Emerald Elegance." You must know that the previous event raised more than $8,000. "Praise the Lord."

Many charitable organizations in Howard County and the nation received part of the income from the affair. Among the recipients were the Howard County Branch NAACP and an adult female who wished to return to school to further her education. Another organization which will receive a sizeable gift from the Links will be announced later.

The purposes of the Links are: to promote and engage in educational, civic and intercultural activities in order to enrich the lives of its members and the larger community and to work together towards achieving common goals.

The ladies in the Columbia Chapter of the Links will pair off to help distribute Thanksgiving baskets to several needy families in the Howard County community.

The annual meeting of the Links Foundation was convened by newly elected National President Regina Frazier recently in Nashville, TN. Past Link National President, Dr. Dollie Adams was a SUPER STAR — a lady who was instrumental in purchasing a huge national headquarters building in Washington, D.C. located at 1200 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. which was dedicated on November 16, 1985. One amazing thing about the building is that it was fully paid for at its opening.

Roberta Briscoe was our chapter's delegate to the national assembly and gave a detailed report of the activities at the meeting.

Each year it is unbelievable the amounts of money that the Links' 214 chapters raise for grants. Links giving in 1986 included: Black Seed, $5,000; Fisk University, $15,000; Katherine Dunham's Children's Workshop, $5,000; Howard University Divinity School, $5,000; Morehouse School of Medicine, $5,000; Morristown Neighborhood House, $2,000; National Black United Fund, $10,000; National Achievement Scholarship Program, $24,000; NAACP, $10,000; NAACP Legal Defense Fund, $5,000; United Negro College Fund, $47,000 and the Women's Resource and Development Center, $5,000.

It gives us all a great feeling to know that dues and assesments for the National Chapter go to worthwhile grants for deserving charities.

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