

Entertainment

A Cuban Christmas

By Gail Bohannon

The Christmas season is upon us and most of us will be celebrating Christmas traditionally like our parents and grandparents did years ago. But for some Americans a touch of cultural Christmas will be celebrated aside from the American tradition.

Although Dr. Carmen Rossitch, a math instructor, left Cuba over 20 years ago, she still celebrates "Nochebuena" which is the big family dinner on Christmas Eve. The dinner usually consisted of traditional dishes such as roasted pork, rice and black beans and sometimes for dessert, Turron, which is a Spanish nougat. The traditional beverage was a very light and sparkling Spanish wine, made from apples, called "Sidra."

After Nochebuena, families would attend "Misa del Gallo," the midnight mass in Catholic churches.

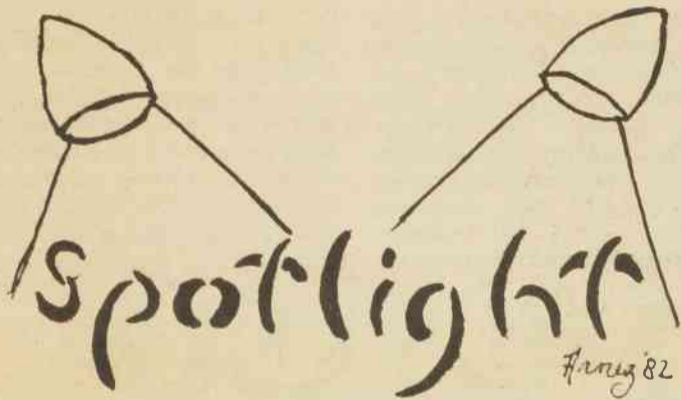
No gifts were exchanged on December 25. Instead, the day was spent quietly at home, and many people attended church services.

The gift receiving day was on the feast of the Epiphany which was January 6. Gifts were placed under a Christmas tree (with lights and ornaments) by "Los Reyes Magos," the three wise men, who brought toys to the children and gifts to the adults.

Today in Cuba, things are a lot different. Cuba is under Communist government and because of this Dr. Rossitch says, "Their emphasis is not believing in God and they don't want people to believe in God. They're driving people away from God and away from religion, so Christmas is not a day to celebrate, except privately in their homes."

Dr. Rossitch started celebrating Christmas the American way years ago when her five boys noticed that all the other children received their gifts on December 25. Although January 6 was only a few days away, it was just too long for the children to wait. So instead of both Santa and "Los Reyes Magos" bringing gifts, "Los Reyes Magos" stopped coming.

When asked if she ever went home for Christmas, Dr. Rossitch replied, "This is my home. I have relatives and in-laws in Cuba, but maybe I'll go back for a visit if Cuba ever has a new type of government, but I consider this as my home...my adopted country."



Johnny Mathis and Denise Williams are at it again but this time their collaboration will be the musical theme of a weekly television series which will dish in about a half a million dollars for CBS records. HBO look out!

Well, Chaka just ended marriage number two. It seemed that hubby just couldn't deal with the super sensuous sensations that Chaka had been putting down, but to know more you "just got to be there."

Good news gospel lovers, Andre Crouch is no longer being held and the charges of possession of cocaine against him have been dropped. It seems that the Minister-Singer just didn't have enough to satisfy the prosecution. A gram? Come on now.

Teddy Pendergrass is at home and is doing well. It is reported that Teddy has regained some feeling in his paralyzed limbs. Hopefully he will be back on stage soon singing and dancing and remembering how they almost closed the door.

Tony Dorsett and wife Julie are back together now and as of yet are not talking about the causes which led to the separation. Sports you say? Well, after being hit with \$2,500 a month in support I would say a reconciliation on the part of Dorsett would be to his advantage; after all it's like Johnny Taylor said "It's cheaper to keep her" and that's entertainment.

THEY'RE OFF!



Editors "Digest" Bible

By Connie Lowery

Can you imagine editors gathering together in a meeting to discuss cutting the Bible? Well, this happened, with some of Readers Digest editors. They gathered together in a Holiday Inn room and decided the Bible is too thick and informative for the public and proceeded to take out what they thought should be taken out. They cut 25% of the New Testament and 50% of the Old Testament and came up with the Readers Digest Revised Standard Version, a condensed bible called the Readers Digest - R.S.V. - Condensed Bible.

The group consisted of John Walsh, senior project editor, John Beaudouin, editor-in-chief, Herbert Liebermann, executive editor and Bruce Metzger, professor at Princeton University, who is an instructor of religion later read the manuscripts and approved them.

The Digest editors found through reading the Bible that it was too long and complex. So they proceeded to overtake condensing the Bible as they thought it should be.

Moses' 40 year journey became condensed into 3 days and 2 nights. Noah's ark full of animals were reduced to an old man in a rubber raft. They speeded up the creation, cut out repeating words, repeating thoughts, incidents that are repeated, such as in Jesus' life which was reported by Matthew, Mark and Luke. They cut material that does not pertain to the 20th century, readings like births, geographics, buildings, and historical details. They list only 7 of the famous 10 commandments because 3 of them were found to be too long.

The Digest has taken great pains to design the Condensed Bible so that it will look more inviting than most others.

The publication date was Tuesday, September 28th of 1982 by Random House. There are also plans for the Bible to be condensed in some other 7,000 languages. The predicted number of sales for the Bible is a projected 450,000.

As questioned by Minister Charles Cession. If anything is left out of the Bible, then is it really the Bible, or just excerpts? And if the whole Bible is not needed, then why not use a New Testament?"

According to Pastor George Pass, "I do not agree with the cutting of the scriptures and no man should tamper with the word of God. For if they do Revelations warns against such."

As written in the passage from the Bible:

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them. God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

This serves as a warning to copyists. Normally, it means the Bible can be copied, but copied faithfully. Coincidentally, this is one of the scriptures left out of the Readers Digest Bible.

Movie Bombs Out

Sell out crowds have trekked to movie theaters all over the east coast to see the first black-oriented film since "Body and Soul." Sell out crowds have left the theaters in disgust about the movie "One Down, Two To Go."

This film was made in the late 60's, early 70's, as a last minute attempt to save the Black film. Po' Boy productions, owned by Fred Williamson, has made several films including this one, and all have flopped. So Williamson decided to wait and release the film now.

The movie starring Richard Roundtree, Fred Williamson, Jim Brown, and Jim Kelly, is about the rigging of a karate championship by the mob. Jim Kelly and Richard Roundtree are the losers, so of course they want revenge. They call their boys (Brown and Williamson) as added forces.

The same stereotypes that trap Blacks into the psychedelic green suit, white platform shoes type role are represented in this movie. Flashy cars, sex and women, guns, bell bottom polyester knit pants, platform shoes and fighting, make-up 75% of the movie. The other 25% consist of shooting.

The only thing missing is the naked black women exposing their bodies or performing sexual acts. But Williamson covers this in a sly but crude way.

Now I admit it is time for Black movies to make a come back. But Black people no longer go for the type of theme represented in this movie. Movies like "Stir Crazy" and "Body and Soul" received overwhelming reviews because they showed themes that affect Blacks of today. This movie most definitely failed to do so.

The Parkview theater in Winston-Salem has the true value of the movie...99¢.