

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have been married for 35 years and within the last 15 years my husband has developed a split personality. Well, what I am trying to tell you is: He is good and bad. For the last 13 years he has been cruel with words, but really changed when two years ago I wrote some songs and they turned out to be big hits. My good fortune just made his already jealousy and cruelty worse.

Gwendolyn, I am tired of being unhappy, but at the same time, I don't want to seek a divorce. Our home is paid for and I finally got my youngest child out of college. None of my children visit as they once did. They all live within three hour's drive. They have offered for me to move to their city and buy a condo, but I turned down the offer.

I love my husband. When he talks about bringing harm to me, I just turn it off as "loose" talk.

Liz

Dear Liz:

Your husband does not have a split personality. And if he does, how is the split? Is it 50-50? Or, is it 1-99? The 99 of course being the bad. I congratulate you for staying in your marriage for a total of 35 years (last 15 being not good). Let me tell you this: You did not stay because of love. You did not stay because of the children. Deep down inside you stayed because of 'fear.'

Liz, no one can turn back the clock. It constantly moves clockwise and life in whatever form you are living moves on. I want to tell you a true story: When I was 10 years old there was a lady who lived in our small town who went around telling everyone that her husband said he was going to kill her. She, like yourself, turned his statement off as loose talk. I'm telling you this because her husband did kill her. You cannot always assume that a man is not meaning what he is saying. And, please, never say a man is good and bad. He is one way or the other. I think you should reconsider your children's offer. If you don't, then at least be more cautious of what your husband is saying. Think about it. Too often "loose" talk — turns tragic.

Dear Gwendolyn:

Last year my husband told me to get a second job so he could buy a new car. I got a second job and worked long enough to give him the money for the down payment. The additional hours made me sick, and my doctor advised me to quit.

This is the problem: He treats me badly because I can't work extra hours needed for his car payments. I work at a daycare center and two weeks ago I had to ride the bus home. It was a day when we had six inches of snow, and the bus was running on the snow route time. I thought I was going to freeze to death.

When I finally got home, he was there with some woman saying she was a friend. He said he didn't expect me to come home on the bus. He was going to pick me up, but later, Gwendolyn, when I worked the second job for the purpose to make the down payment on his car, he treated me nice. But now since having the car, he treats me real bad. I know how to drive and have my license, but he says we cannot afford two cars.

Helen

Dear Helen:

You are having sad days when you shouldn't. You exposed your body to freezing weather while your husband and his woman were enjoying the warmth of your home. You appear to be far too meek. The average woman would have gone into a rage with anger. You need to consider leaving this man. What are you staying for? No woman should stay with a man who gives her little respect. Let me tell you this: Your situation is not going to get better. Men of his type don't change. If they do, it is when their wife dies and they remarry being sweet as honey to the new wife.

Helen, I find it puzzling for you to have a driver's license, but yet allow your husband to say "no two cars." Think about it. When you worked additional hours to buy him a car, you should have bought one for yourself.

Got a problem? Ask Gwendolyn Baines. Write to her at: P. O. Box 10066, Raleigh, N.C. 27605 (To receive a reply, send a self-addressed stamped envelope.) or email her at: gwenbaines@hotmail.com or visit her website at: www.gwenbaines.com.

Court nixes Calif. home schooling

By Charlene Muhammad
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) — Parents in California launched a petition drive to home school their children March 13 after the California Court of Appeals ruled they have no legal right to teach their children at home without credentials.

The Feb. 28 ruling reversed a previous Superior Court decision stating that parents have a constitutional right to school children in their own homes.

There are 166,000 home schooled children in California. Parents could be fined for civil contempt and children labeled truants if not enrolled in a public full-time day school or a legally qualified private day school.

The Feb. 28 decision stems from the case, *In re RACHEL L. et al.*, which developed when one of Jonathan and Mary Grace's eight children complained of physical and emotional mistreatment by their father. During investigations, child welfare investigators found that the minors were being home schooled through a non-credentialed teacher and a private school and reported that the home schooling was substandard.

Not so, said the Grace's attorneys, who argued the couple was within its rights to home school their children because they are enrolled in the Sunland Christian School, an independent-study home school program, and because of their religious

beliefs.

"The scope of this decision by the appellate court is breathtaking. It not only attacks traditional home schooling, but also calls into question home schooling through charter schools and teaching children at home via independent study through public and private schools," said Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, a legal defense organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom, parental rights and other civil liberties. It represents Sunland Christian School.

The ruling does not require non-credentialed home schooling parents across the state to immediately enroll their children in public schools, according to the institute. But the organization expects the order to drastically limit parents' rights to home school if it is not overturned.

In upcoming weeks, the institute intends to file appeals with the California Supreme Court, which could decide to review the ruling by this summer. Meanwhile, the institute encouraged home schooling parents to:

- Continue home schooling children and keep commonsense recordkeeping and documentation;
- Not to contact school districts, public schools or other public entities to determine the validity of programs; and
- Seek support of home school resolution ACR 115 from state legislators.

The petition to "Protect Your Constitutional Rights to Home school Your Children" calls on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to assist with efforts to reverse the decision. The home school ruling also follows Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposal to cut \$4.8 billion from education.

Dr. Larry Muhammad, director of Muhammad University of Islam in Chicago, reflected on Elijah Muhammad's, the patriarch of the Nation of Islam, battle with school officials in Michigan during the 1930s. That battle, he said, "is the foundation of the Muhammad University of Islam. The public school system, which the states are responsible for administering, relies heavily on money... this battle begins with the control of money and people."

Muhammad opined that states lose money, about \$5,000 to \$15,000, depending on the state and school, from every child pulled out of public education. The control, he added, is an attempt to control religion and especially religious movements the United States does not favor or support.

Black education advocates believe the ruling will heavily impact Black children and parents, who are fast becoming a part of home schooling networks. According to the National Association of African American Homeschoolers Network, the population of Black home

schooled children is between 84,000-120,000 and growing. Black parents, it states, believe that home schooling, or alternative education within their communities, helps them to rear academically and mentally well-rounded children.

"The public school systems within urban areas are struggling with academic deficiencies and violence. More and more parents are looking for another way. We are taking the destinies of our children into our own hands," the association states on its website, www.aahn.org.

According to an article written by Jennifer James, director of the National African American Homeschoolers Alliance, home schooling represents new hope for Black children. "When parents take on the sacrifices to educate their children at home the results show that minority children read on par with their White counterparts."

"In fact, White and minority home-schoolers scored at the 87th percentile in reading and minorities trailed Whites in math by a mere 5 points," she wrote in the 2004 article entitled, "Why Black Children Benefit From Home Schooling." The figures stemmed from a longitudinal study conducted by Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute in 1997. Sixty-three percent of the minorities in the study were Black and Hispanic.

Charlene Muhammad writes for the Final Call.

Jay-Z on verge of \$150m Live Nation deal

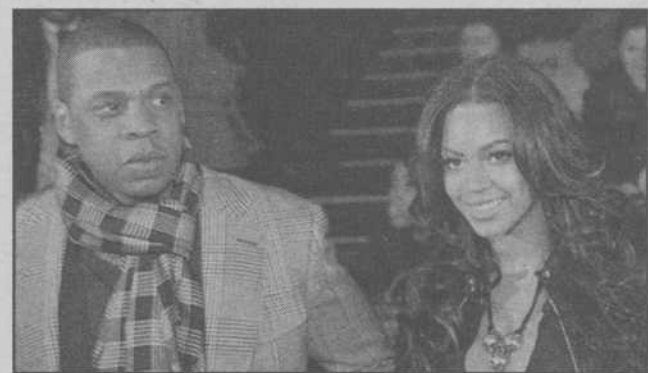
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES - Hip-hop star Jay-Z is on the verge of a deal with concert promoter Live Nation worth about \$150 million that rivals the biggest music contracts ever, *The New York Times* reported on its website on Wednesday.

Jay-Z was said to be planning to leave his longtime record label, Def Jam, for a package with Live Nation, which includes financing his own entertainment venture as well as recordings and tours over the next decade.

The deal, which sources told the newspaper should be finalized this week, comes after Live Nation earlier this week announced a 12-year agreement to handle the merchandising, digital and branding rights and touring of Irish group U2.

Live Nation, which unveiled a \$120 million deal with Madonna five months



Shawn Carter, alias Jay-Z and his longtime companion, Beyoncé seen here in January 2008, are eyeing a trip down the aisle, *People* magazine reports on its website.

ago, has been expanding its business model to develop more far-reaching and deeper relationships with artists beyond just handling their touring as CD sales plunge.

No one at Live Nation was immediately available to comment on the Jay-Z report.

Like many other performers, Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, has seen his record sales fall but he has also pursued other business ventures, such as a clothing

line, Rocawear, which he sold last year for \$204 million, and a chain of 40/40 nightclubs.

This has kept him at the top of *Forbes* magazine's annual list of "Hip-Hop Cash Kings" with estimated earnings of \$34 million in 2006.

The *Times* said the deal with Live Nation would involve the concert promoter funding a start-up of a venture called Roc Nation that would be an umbrella for the

rapper's outside projects which are expected to include his own label, music publishing, and talent consulting and managing.

The venture would split profits with Jay-Z.

Jay-Z, 38, last year stepped down as president of Def Jam Records, a unit of French media concern Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group, saying he wanted to "take on new challenges."

As well as being one of the world's best-known rappers who regularly tops the lists of richest hip hop moguls, he is also known for his romance with R&B singer Beyoncé Knowles.

People magazine reported this week that the couple had taken out a wedding license in Scarsdale Village, New York, that is valid for 60 days. But representatives for the couple have declined to comment on latest rumors of an impending marriage