

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Ask Gwendolyn Baines national author and lecturer and syndicated NNPA advice columnist.

Dear Gwendolyn:

I am trying to save my marriage. I admit that for the past 25 years I have cheated on my husband. Not with the same man, but many. In all this time he has never approached me about it, but I knew that he knew. You see Gwendolyn, some women are not to settle for one man even when they are married. I was that woman. But now, I have stopped running around.

During my 'wild' days, my husband kept the children while I was in the streets until early morning. I didn't have to work and I didn't have to dress the children for school. My husband would do that because I would arrive home too sleepy to do anything — not even to prepare breakfast.

As I said Gwendolyn, all that is over now. You would think my husband would be appreciative. Our children are grown and out of the house. Time for us now. I just discovered that he is cheating on me.

I told him that I no longer desire additional men, but yet he still cheats. I am now 65 and have come in to enjoy my marriage.

Sarah

Dear Sarah:

What did you learn in those 25 years of cheating?

Let me tell you this: You did not give the age of your husband. If he is in your age range, then he too should be at home. You have (or had) a good man. Most men would not allow their wife to be in the streets while they baby sit, get the children off to school and not before preparing breakfast. It is odd you did not recognize it.

Sarah, it is amazing how women like yourself think people are stupid. You did not come in after 25 years of cheating because you wanted to. Think about it. You came in because men (especially young) could no longer deal with your "Uncle Arth—ritis."

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have been married for four years. Two years into our marriage I became pregnant. My husband was ecstatic and we looked forward to our unborn. However, just months before his birth we were advised something was wrong. After his birth, doctors informed us that our baby has Down Syndrome. We were devastated. He is now 2 years old and my husband is threatening to leave. He says he can't deal with the situation. He wants our son placed into an institution. Trying to hold on to my husband, I fear I am losing the love for my child.

Rachel

Dear Rachel:

When two people marry, that is a happy day, but in reality they go off into the unknown. I want you to read "Gifts: Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich Their Lives," by Kathryn Lynard Soper and Martha Sears — paperback 2007.

You and your husband need to seek counseling, and you need to look into a facility in which to place your son if this burden is too heavy to bear. Although, don't put him there and walk away never to return. You know that happens. Go to see him and go often. Or, better than that, there are home health centers that will come unto your home to assist in his care. This would keep him at home and yet give you some self time. Whatever decision you make, let it be your decision. Think about it. Men leave women with healthy children. Do not allow him to use your son as a factor. If there's any love to be lost, let it be for your husband, — and not your son.

Got a problem? Ask Gwendolyn Baines. Write to her at P.O. Box 78246, Nashville, TN 37207-8246, and send a SASE for prompt reply. Email her at gwenbaines@hotmail.com.

Smiley exits Joyner radio show

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Popular author and media personality Tavis Smiley said he will resign in June as a twice-weekly commentator on the syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show" after more than 11 years with the program.

Smiley cited fatigue and a busy schedule to Joyner on last Thursday night, but Joyner indicated otherwise on his program and in his blog the next day.

Joyner wrote: "The real reason is that he can't take the hate he's been getting regarding the Barack issue — hate from the Black people that he loves so much."

Smiley has taken on Obama in a series of commentaries that began as the Democrat from Illinois emerged as the party's front-



Cornell West, left, chats with media persona Tavis Smiley.

runner for the presidential nomination in early January. Days after Obama's win in the Iowa caucus, Smiley warned on Joyner's show: "Don't fall so madly in love [with Obama] that you surrender your power to hold people accountable... I'm not saying overlook Sen. Obama, but you now better be ready to look him over."

That commentary brought

a hail of critical phone calls and e-mails down on Smiley, who replied two days later on the Joyner show that he stood by his criticism. "It's all about accountability," he said at the time.

Since then, amid mounting counter-criticism, Smiley has stepped up his critiques, contending that Obama wasn't sufficiently attentive to issues involving African-

Americans.

Smiley is the author of the best-selling "Covenant With Black America" and hosts self-named interview shows on PBS and Public Radio International. He formerly hosted a show on Black Entertainment Television in Washington.

Late Friday afternoon, Smiley said in a statement that he would stay with Joyner until the end of June. He said in the statement: "Contrary to what has been suggested, I have decided to clear some things off my plate so that I can devote my time and attention to some exciting and empowering projects." He did not mention Obama.

Information from the Washington Post contributed to this report.

Black art draws collectors, money

By Lance Steagall

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK (NNPA) — Landscapes are the images that come to mind in the work of artist Richard Mayhew. The New York-born expressionist credits that to his part African-American, part Native-American roots.

"It's a dual commitment to nature," he said. "The land is very important to both cultures in terms of stimulation and spiritual sensitivity, and it's very important to me."

Mayhew's work was on display at the recent National Black Fine Arts Show, an annual event. G.R. N'Namdi, the oldest Black-owned abstract art gallery in the U.S., represents Mayhew's work. In 2003, his piece "Sanctuary" sold for \$6,000. It's now listed at \$25,000.

Collectors and dealers who gathered at the mid-February show in New York are making note of the new and higher prices; though many works of Black art are still available at a low price, the value days aren't here to stay.

Indeed, the market for African-American art is changing fast. Pieces are selling for higher prices, garnering more attention, and becoming an investment of choice for many. As the market booms, those who choose to invest are reaping the rewards, often selling works for many times their purchase price.

"It's a function of African-American art being ignored for a long time," said Melissa Azzi of the Chicago-based

Lusenhop Gallery. "Relatively speaking, African-American art has been extremely undervalued."

She likes to attribute the lack of appreciation to the attitudes of traditional art collectors. "More confrontational works tended to be ignored," Azzi said. "But now institutions and collectors are a bit more comfortable looking back and taking note."

In particular, movements of the 1960s and 70s that wove political and social commentary into their artistic vision, such as the African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists (AFRI-CO-BRA), are getting a second look.

Azzi pointed to Wadsworth Jarrell's 1972 portrait of socialist organizer Angela Davis, "Revolution-

ary," as an example. In that piece, Jarrell depicts Davis in a moment of impassioned speech, using a collage of social slogans to form the scene. "STRUGGLE," "RESIST," "HAVE TO," "GIVEN MY HEART," and other textual messages radiate from the focal point — Davis' head. The bright Kool-aid colors employed

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