

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have a 15 year old son who is adopted. Biologically I am his great great aunt. His mom was only 14 when she gave birth. After he was born his mother became homeless. When she tried to enter a shelter, the owners realized how old she was and called Social Services. The Social Services said they had a place for a baby and a place for a teenager, but not a place for a teenager with a baby. So, I did what I thought was the only thing I could do at the time. I took the baby, for a short time, I thought. She would not stay in the foster home and went on to have other babies. A short time grew into years and I adopted him when he was 9 years old. Now he is 15 and is the worst child ever. He got put out of school for cursing the teacher. He has grown very disrespectful to me. I am afraid he is depressed thinking life is dealing him a bad hand. He has been seen by a psychiatrist and school counselor. Nothing seems to help. Is there anything I can do? I've had him in church since he was eight where there is also a mentoring group of men who help on Saturdays. Gwendolyn, I feel that I gave 15 years of my life away.

Rose

Dear Rose:

Your life is not an isolated one. You are joined by millions of elderly women rearing a second or third generation. When you make a decision as you did at that time, you can never predict the outcome. (I want you to read *Keys To Parenting Your Teenager* by Don Fontenelle, Ph.D.-Paperback, 2000.) Reaching the mind of a teenager in today's time can be most difficult. Years ago parents could discipline their children without the interference of the law. As you mentioned, you have given 15 years of your life to this disrespectful child. Don't give up on him, and most important, don't give up on your own happiness. He must come to appreciate you and others real soon. Let me tell you this: Teenagers are committing murder at an alarming rate. They are killing mothers, fathers, siblings, and even great great aunts. So, be cautious. The genes of his mother could be dominant causing him to have no love and concern for anyone not even himself. Rose, think about it. He did not get the bad hand. You got it. His hands have always been held by the fingers of love — yours.

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have been married for 10 years and have no children. Before our marriage my husband had three children with three different women. He wanted another child. I have been to all types of doctors and have even taken the fertility treatments. Still nothing. Nine months ago I agreed for my sister to have my husband's baby. I asked him did the surrogate mother have to be my sister. He said it did not need to be a stranger. I then asked him when was he preparing to submit his sperm. He then gave me the shock. He did not want to have the artificial insemination, but to have actual physical contact with my sister. In fear of losing my husband, I agreed. They met frequently until she was impregnated. Last month she gave birth to a six month 9-1/2 lb. premature baby. Gwendolyn, this is not the end. He now wants to spend all weekends and holidays with her and his baby — not for a short time, but for the remainder of our marriage. What should I do? I am so sad.

Ann

Dear Ann:

Begin right now packing his clothes and other belongings. Your sister and your husband have played a game on you. Let me tell you this: First of all, babies don't come out 9-1/2 lb. premature. It is obvious your sister was already pregnant when your husband came to you with this crazy idea. Move from their surroundings if you feel it will help. But often when a woman relocates because of a broken heart, hurt follows. Never allow him or your sister to be a part of your life again. There will be times he may try to hold a conversation when he sees you. Do not give in to your feelings regardless to how much you may still care. Remember, after all, he was the one who opened the fence and let the dog out. If you choose to say anything at all, just say — bow wow. Make for yourself a happy life Ann. Millions of hurt women — have done so.

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.

Star Jones eyes divorce from Al

NEW YORK (AP) — Three years after tying the knot in a spectacular, over-the-top affair that caused some backlash, Star Jones has decided to end her marriage to banker Al Reynolds.

The 46-year-old TV personality quietly filed divorce papers March 26 in New York Supreme Court in Manhattan. The records are sealed, syndicated entertainment show "Entertainment Tonight" reported recently.

But a representative for Shadow PR, which represents Jones, confirmed that she is seeking to end the union.

In a statement to "Entertainment Tonight," Jones said: "Several years ago I made an error in judgment by inviting the media into the most intimate area of my life. A month ago I filed for divorce.

"The dissolution of a marriage is a difficult time in

anyone's life that requires privacy with one's thoughts. I have committed myself to handling this situation with dignity and grace and look forward to emerging from this period as a stronger and wiser woman."

It's not the approach Jones took when she threw her

uber-lavish, Park Avenue wedding to Reynolds in November 2004.

She received criticism for endlessly discussing the wedding — and plugging its sponsors — as a co-host on ABC's "The View." The negative reaction to the affair, which was attended by

guests ranging from Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton to Spike Lee, was cited by Barbara Walters as a reason why Jones' contract wasn't renewed by ABC's "The View" in 2006.

The former prosecutor recently hosted a talk show on truTV.

Study: BET, MTV programs rife with sexual overtures

(NNPA) — A quick glance at MTV and BET is sure to register racy images of rappers fondling scantily clad women and even advertisements for the pseudo-pornographic *Girls Gone Wild* film series. As a new study reports, these images are so frequent that Americans are bombarded with violent, profane and sexually charged imagery every 38 seconds on these networks.

The Parents Television Council (PTC) conducted the study which took place over a two-week period in December 2007. The report evaluated popular shows such as the early evening "106 & Park" on BET and "Sucker Free" on MTV. The PTC found that both shows depicted illegal drug usage/sale and failed to mute foul language.

"BET and MTV are as-

saulting children with content that is full of sexually charged images, explicit language, portrayals of violence, drug use, drug sales and other illegal activity," said Tim Winter, president of the PTC.

"Not only that, but we discovered that some offensive words aired only in muted form in December 2007, but as recent as March 2008, these same words were not muted."



A LEGEND SALUTES A LEGEND

Dr. Dorothy I. Height, seated, Chair/President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, presented the 2008 Uncommon Height Crystal Stair Award to Academy Award winning actor Sidney Poitier at the 10th Annual Uncommon Height Awards Gala in Washington, DC. Joining Dr. Height in the presentation, left to right, were former U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Dr. Thelma Thomas Daley, Vice Chair of the Council, and Ingrid Saunders Jones served as the chair of the Awards Gala. More than 2,000 attended the event.