

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have two boys in the same grade, the third grade. One was left behind and the younger caught up with him. This is the problem: The younger son is smart, quite smart. The older son (who was left behind) feels bad when his brother outshines him. I have made several trips to the school to talk with the principal about this matter. The principal says there is nothing he can do except place my older son into a special class. That is something I don't want. What I want is for the teacher to go ahead and give my older boy a good grade when she gives my younger a good mark. Gwendolyn, I'm getting mad. She doesn't know me. I will "jack" her up.

Tara

Dear Tara:

Giving your son who is slow in learning a high grade just to make him feel better doesn't make any sense at all. Have another talk with the principal and find out specifics about the class for the difficult to learn. Let me tell you this: I understand your concerns about the special class because parents are discovering too late that their child cannot read or write. This is mainly because in the special class the teacher or teachers either neglect them or they are short staffed. This is where parents are to step in and teach their children at home. Although many parents are illiterate themselves. I don't know your level of education, but I do know that it is not high. People with high skills and knowledge do not have the vocabulary that contains the word "jack-up." Tara, think about it. If your older son cannot deal with the high praises of his brother, then he won't be able to deal with it later. That is the mistake parents make. They try to soften or smooth an issue feeling the child is too young to understand. The older brother will turn to a dangerous form of jealousy. It seems the only thing that needs to be jacked-up is - your attitude and understanding.

Dear Gwendolyn:

One afternoon coming out of a grocery store, a beautiful red car pulled up, stopped and the driver asked, "Can I give you a ride?" I said, "No, I am in my car, but it is rather far in the parking lot." I told him, "You can drive me to it please." We exchanged telephone numbers. We started dating and then after about six months he told me he was married, but that he didn't love his wife. He told me, "I fell in love with you at first sight." I was bothered, but I too felt something at first sight. Otherwise, I never get into a stranger's car. I thought by now he would have divorced his wife and married me. You see ...that was eight years ago. My question is why would his wife allow him to pretend that he loves her? She has to know he doesn't. The feelings he has for me must show when he is around her. Two months ago I needed help on my rent. Because his wife is getting the money, he couldn't help me. I had to move in with an elderly aunt. Gwendolyn, how long do you think he will continue to pretend to his wife?

Mary

Dear Mary:

Wow! Or should I say, "Bow-wow." Before discussing him or his wife, I want to focus on you. I am sorry to know that your financial situation does not afford rent to the point you had to move. Give some real serious thought to your love life. Don't be so quick to think that you come before the wife. It is true, however, that often a man does not love his wife, but cares deeply for the mistress. Let me tell you this: I want you to listen to Tina Turner's 1984 hit, "What's Love Got To Do With It"? There is an issue you are overlooking. It is difficult for a man to pretend to his wife. Think about it. She lives with him. Therefore, she knows him. She sees his good days and bad days. However, when he comes to you, he will only come when he is in the best of mood. A man will leave his wife, but will never leave his friend. That's marriage - where two people have bonded as best friends for life. Mary, get out of this relationship no matter how much it hurts. For eight years he has not been pretending to his wife. The pretense has been — to you.

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.

Fishburne joins CBS's 'CSI' cast

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has solved the mystery of who will replace departing CBS series star William Petersen: It's Laurence Fishburne.

Fishburne, an Emmy and Tony winner, will be introduced in the ninth episode of the upcoming 10th season, the network told The Associated Press on Monday. He'll play a forensics scientist with a secret.

"I am elated and delighted to be joining the cast of 'CSI,'" Fishburne said in a statement, adding that he looked forward to a "wonderful collaboration" with those involved in the series.

Fishburne plays a college lecturer and former pathologist who is focused on why people commit acts of violence.

The air date for Petersen's final episode has yet to be determined but will be early next year. Petersen has been with the series since it debuted in fall 2000 and will remain a "CSI" executive producer, the network said.

Fishburne's character has a deep connection to his work: His genetic profile has been identified in serial killers, CBS programming chief Nina Tassler said before Fishburne's casting was announced but as rumors swirled.

"This gentleman knows this about himself and is... in this journey to discover who his true character will ultimately become," Tassler said last month — but he's keeping the crucial information to himself.

The character meets members of the "CSI" team during a murder investigation and ends up joining them.



Laurence Fishburne

Fishburne, 47, received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Ike Turner in 1993's "What's Love Got to Do With It" and a Tony in 1992 for "Two Trains Running." He was a Tony nominee this year for the one-man show, "Thurgood," about Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

His film credits include

the "Matrix" sci-fi films, in which he played Morpheus; "Apocalypse Now"; "The Color Purple"; "Mystic River"; "21"; "Akeelah and the Bee"; and "Biker Boyz." He also is a writer and director.

"CBS asked us, 'Who's at the top of your dream list?'" "CSI" executive producers Carol Mendelsohn and Naren Shankar said in a joint statement. "Without hesitation, we said Laurence Fishburne. He is a powerful and intense actor, with an incredible range."

Fishburne earned an Emmy for the 1993 premiere episode of Fox's "Tribeca" and another for the movie "Miss Evers' Boys," which marked rare TV projects for the actor. Early in his career, he appeared in shows including "Miami Vice" and "Hill Street Blues."

The long-running "CSI"

remains key for CBS: It finished last season as the network's top-rated series, ranking No. 9 among all shows with an average weekly audience of 17 million. Spinoffs "CSI: Miami" and "CSI: New York" ranked 16th and 28th, respectively.

Producers have been mum about upcoming plot points. But they said Petersen's character, Gil Grissom, will be reappraising his life after years of high-tech forensics investigations with the Las Vegas Police Department and after facing personal turmoil.

"CSI," which begins its new season Oct. 9, is ready to deal with Petersen's loss, said Shankar.

"What makes shows go off the rails is they forget who they are. We're a crime-mystery-forensics drama" and that won't change, Shankar said in July.

2008 Black Music Awards Winners

THE GOSPEL JUBILEE AWARDS

Best Male Gospel Performer: Ken Golber
Best Female Gospel Performer: Vanessa Jackson
Best Gospel Group: Nina Hooks And Spirit Of Praise Ministries
Best Gospel Choir: Victory Baptist Church "Voices Of Victory"
Gospel Music's Rising Star: LaShonda Mitchell
Best Gospel CD: Frederick

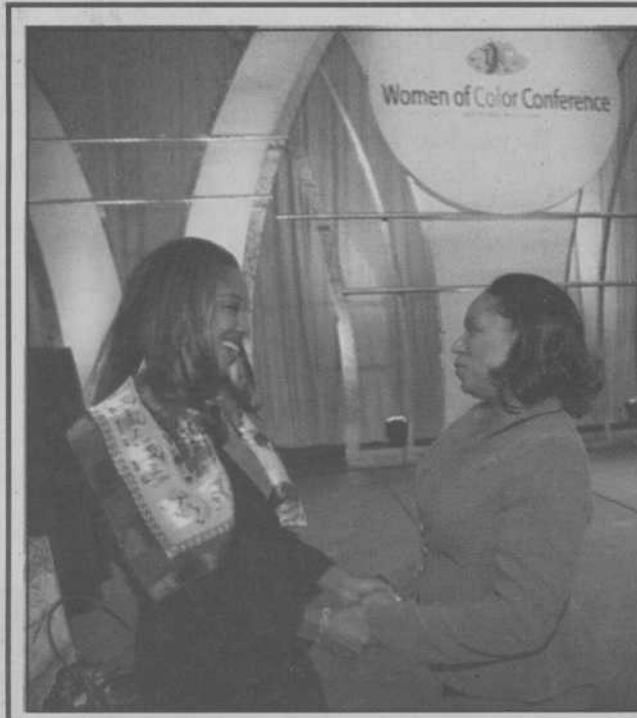
THE BLACK MUSIC AWARDS

Entertainer Of The Year: Paris Red
Best Female Jazz Vocalist: Paris Red
Best Male Jazz Vocalist: Paul Stublefield
Best Jazz Instrumentalist: Ronnie Foster
Best Jazz Band: Brothers Ali
Best Live Performance By A Jazz Instrumentalist: Ron Brown
Best Neo Soul Artist: Nikki Logan
Best R&B Band Or Group: In A Fect
Best Male R&B Vocalist: Phil Flowers
Best Female R&B Vocalist: Darcus
Best R&B Musician: Darryl Woolfolk

Best Lounge Performance: T Fox and the Fox City Revue
Best Vocal Performance In A Stage Production: Genevieve
Visiting Performers Awards: Alana Thomas and Derek Leggens
The Ambassador Of Soul Award: Micki Murphy
Best Reggae Performer: Kronik
Best Performance By A Tribute Artist: Jin Jin Reeves as Tina Turner
Best Rap Performer: TSP
Best Hip Hop Vocalist: LyNe'
Best Hip Hop Producer: Jemerson Holloway
Las Vegas' Next Big Star Award: Stephanie Anderson
"Best Image Award:" Jin Jin Reeves

SPECIAL AWARDS AND HONORS

Darcus: "Las Vegas' First Lady Of Soul"
LIVING LEGENDS
Ronnie Rathers; Billy Nunn; Woody Woods
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE
Jeffrey Osborne



Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson

WOMEN OF COLOR MEET

Alexis Levi, left, owner and president of the Las Vegas Stars Basketball team, and MGM Mirage executive Debra Nelson chat during the second annual Women of Color conference at Mandalay Bay recently. Above, panelist Mia Matisse exchanges information with an attendee.