

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

Five years ago I became a medical doctor and opened my clinic in a small mid-western town. I was able to secure a loan and hired the best staff I could find. Gwendolyn, out of eight children I was the only one to make a success with my life. In the family are three drug addicts, three alcoholics, and one (well, I don't know what to call him). They are adults and have all been married, but divorced. They now all live in the family home which was left by my parents. My parents worked hard for their home and wanted to pass it down to their children. Every other day for the last five years I have had to send money for their upkeep. I pay the fire insurance and I pay the taxes. This past summer the city gave them a citation to cut the grass or it would be cut by the city maintenance and a lien placed on the house. When I got the news, I hired a small company to cut the grass. Out of being proud, three years ago I told them my salary. Now they are taking me for a bank.

Rosalyn

Dear Rosalyn:

Your problem is experienced by many. Often you hear of siblings all doing well — a doctor, a lawyer, a school teacher, an executive, or an entrepreneur. But the usual is as you mentioned, one doing something and the others not even making an effort. Let me tell you this: Stop immediately sending money. Continue to pay the taxes and possibly the upkeep of maintenance. If they are to continue living there, let them survive on their own. Their marriages probably failed because of their irresponsibility at being adults. Think about it. As long as you provide for them, they will never provide for themselves. I don't quite know what you were thinking when you told them your salary. Rosalyn, never tell relatives your salary. And another thing, they are not taking you for a bank. They are taking you — for a fool.

Dear Gwendolyn:

Last night I had a most disturbing call from my sister. She called to inform me of her anger that I am only having Thanksgiving Dinner for myself and my children. Growing up, my parents would have a huge Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration. There would be kin folks coming from everywhere — from old to babies. However, I tried to explain to my sister that this year I only want to celebrate with my children. There is a reason for my decision. I raised my children alone while my sister has had three husbands who provided for her a good living financially. Yet, she has nothing. Her children had the best of everything. However, they grew up with no goals and ambition. In fact, they are on drugs and her son just got out of jail for robbery and attempted murder. Both of my children, a son and a daughter, are good children. My daughter is scheduled to graduate from college in May and has been accepted into law school. My son has an interest to become a medical doctor. My sister has always been jealous of me. She thinks it is wrong that I don't want her son and two girls to mix with my children. Gwendolyn, what do you think?

Gladys

Dear Gladys:

I commend you for taking a stand against your sister. People tend to think just because you are kin, you should be close to the point you become as they are. To mix your children with your sister's children would 99 percent end in tragedy. Instead of your daughter becoming a lawyer, she would become a drug addict as her cousins. And your son, instead of becoming a medical doctor would 99 percent find himself behind bars with his cousin. They would rob as a team. Gladys, you are doing right and I know it hurts, but your decision is a must. Prepare your turkey with all the trimmings and enjoy your children. You are not alone as there are many in your situation. Let me tell you this: Families try so hard to hold on to 'family bond,' but often that cannot be done. Think about it. Sometimes you have no choice except to love family — from a distance.

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.

It's All Good in the Gospel

Renowned gospel icon Dr. Bobby Jones returned to Las Vegas with his International Gospel Industry Retreat Reunion for three days of music, workshops, discussions and fashion shows. Bringing together some of the top names in the gospel industry for taping of his television broadcast, Dr. Jones felt that Las Vegas was the right place at the right time to once again experience the excitement of the past in the entertainment capital of the world.

The retreat covered an array of subject matters from social to economics; health to the state of the Black church. As always, Dr. Jones highlighted new talent as well as up and coming gospel artists during this year's event.



Dr. Bobby Jones & Donna Richardson Joyner



Angela Christy



Deitrick Haddon

Williams concert flick out on DVD

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

They say there's a thin line between genius and madness, and it's often very hard to tell which side of the line Katt Williams is standing on. I've been so curious about what makes the diminutive comic tick that I've scheduled several interviews with him, each of which he either canceled at the last minute or simply failed to show up for.

Now there are reports that the inspired comic recently underwent psychological testing at the urging of his concerned relatives. I can't say I'm surprised, given his long being associated with bizarre behavior, such as walking down a red carpet with a noose around his neck at the time that the Jena 6 case was in the news.

Whether he's insane or simply insensitive, Katt brings an undeniable intensity to everything he does as an entertainer, whether it's his standup act or playing an over-the-top character in a movie. The dude is funny-looking



KATT WILLIAMS

enough even before he opens his mouth, between his short stature, loud pimp

outfits and that flowing mane of relaxed hair. So, by the time he finally starts to speak in that high-pitched squeal of his, the audience is already well-primed to burst into laughter.

This latest concert flick captured Katt's act onstage in historic Constitution Hall in D.C., where his material appropriately covered plenty of politics and current events. He saved some of his most scathing remarks to skewer George Bush and Hilary Clinton, referring to the latter by the b-word for assuming she'd get the Black vote because of her husband.

But with Katt, a curse or an ethnic slur can just as easily be a term of endearment, as he repeatedly employs the n-word while promoting Barack Obama's candidacy. Brash, bright and brutally-honest with a unique perspective to share, here Katt Williams serves up another shocking show which definitely won't disappoint his legions of loyal fans.

Very Good (3 stars). Unrated.