

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

Six months ago, my son called and informed me he was getting married. I was happy for him. He was coming home for a short vacation and bringing her with him. Two days before they were to leave, his fiancée came down sick. However, he came home without her. He lost money because her plane ticket was not refundable. When he showed me a picture of her, I thought she looked much older. I didn't think too much about it because sometimes young people look old. Then he gave me the shock. He told me that his fiancée was 12 years older than me. Gwendolyn, I couldn't believe it: Now I feel she didn't want to meet me. Her illness was planned. My son is 24 and I am 42 which means that she is 54. Twelve years older than me makes her 30 years older than my son. Since that time I have looked into her financial history. She has money — and plenty of it. Should I object to this marriage? I feel it is money my son is after.

Margaret

Dear Margaret:

Let me tell you this: If he marries her, he will earn every dime. People, both men and women, often tend to marry for financial gain. A 24-year-old man does not need to marry a woman 30 years older than he. Money alone does not make one happy — at least not for long. There is so much that makes a relationship. Think about it. Good marriages have other things going such as conversation, same interests, and a bond of true friendship. Do your best to discourage your son. When women marry older men, nothing is usually said about it. But even when they do it, too much of their youth is wasted. Also, older women are terribly possessive, sometimes to the point of causing harm. Margaret, have a heart-to-heart talk with your son. Don't view him as a man, but envision him as your precious little boy.

Dear Gwendolyn:

Four years ago a man came into my office and I fell in love with him at first sight. We started talking and later he told me that it was love at first sight with him as well. Then after dating for about three months, he told me he was married. He showed me a picture of his wife and said that he had never been attracted to another woman all the years of his marriage. But with me he didn't know what happened. The picture was a plain-looking woman with short hair. I told my girlfriend to go with me while I drove by his house. I parked across the street and waited for her to hopefully come out. After about five hours, she came out into the yard cutting dead leaves off of some plants. My girlfriend could not believe what she was seeing and neither could I. The picture gave her justice because she was not a good-looking woman — but I am. Just before we met I had undergone surgery for breast enhancement and liposuction for my stomach. I didn't have to do anything to my buttocks as they have always been fine. Gwendolyn, I do think I can get this man. They have no children. I am prettier than his wife. He adores my breasts and buttocks. From the way his wife looks you would not believe he has stayed with her.

Sarah

Dear Sarah:

I can believe it. Because they have no children should tell you something. Men sometimes say they stayed due to the children. Therefore, this lady has not held her husband on that basis. So, it must be love. I don't have a lot to say to you except the fact that while you are chasing a married man, you will probably miss a good single man. You are too vain and will be nothing but trouble for any man. Like many women you view beauty as a physical attraction. That's sad. Let me tell you this: In his wife he sees her beauty from inside out. With you he only sees — what's hanging out.

Got a problem? Write to Gwendolyn Baines at: P. O. Box 10066, Raleigh, N.C. 27605-0066 (to receive a reply, send a self-addressed stamped envelope) or email her at: gwenbaines@hotmail.com.

Obama's painting on way to D.C.

Special to Sentinel-Voice

HOUSTON (NNPA) — Houston artist, Ted Ellis, will be unveiling his painting of President-elect Barack Obama at the National Black Chamber of Commerce and the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation's Inaugural Gala, recognizing the historical accomplishment of Barack Obama becoming the 44th President of the United States, along with his other works of art. Each print measures 20x20 and will be personally signed by Ellis.

This is one of many presidential inauguration events and net proceeds will go to the NNPA Foundation and the Howard University School of Communications Building Fund (NNPA Media Wing). Taking place January 19 at the beautiful French Embassy in Washington, D.C., this promises to be one of the best events during this historic moment in history.

Tickets are \$250 each and can be purchased by going to National Black Chamber.

Security will be high at the French Embassy. Only persons whose names are on the official participation list will be admitted.

The only way you get on the list is by buying a ticket in advance (absolutely no walk ups).

The ticket provides you with delicious food and libation, dancing, entertainment



A portrait of President-elect Barack Obama is headed to Washington, D.C. The painting will be unveiled at a gala.

provided by the award-winning Howard University Jazz Ensemble, and a beautifully crafted Commemorative Book.

Ted Ellis is a passionate man. He is passionate about his family... passionate about his heritage and passionate about his art. Just ask him and he proudly declares, "I paint subjects that are representative of the many facets of American life as I know it. I like to think of myself as a creative historian. I was put here to record history... all aspects of American culture and heritage. My sole purpose has always been to educate through my art."

Ellis grew up and was educated in New Orleans, a city known for its history, style, and artistic exuberance. This backdrop inspired Ellis to capture the essence of the subjects of his childhood in the glory of their rich cultural heritage. Extremely dedicated to his craft, this artist draws on a style that was born in his childhood from impressions of his native city. Ellis is self-taught and boldly blends realism and impressionism in his work, evoking nostalgia and inspiration. The art of this man both reveres and celebrates the traditional values of his culture. Ted Ellis, the man, lives the

life he paints about. View his website at T. Ellis Art.

Below are other upcoming events at which Ted Ellis art is featured:

— Through Jan. 18: "Surviving Katrina: The Hope Healing and Rebirth of New Orleans," a series of paintings being featured at the Lower 9th Ward Community Center, located at 1001 Charbonnet Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, in conjunction with the citywide exhibit of Prospect One showcasing 81 international artists.

— Jan. 31 — Mar. 31: "Courage of Conviction: The African American Soldier," a series of paintings illustrating the undying loyalty of Black soldiers serving during the Civil War and WWI and WWII will be showcased at Stone Mountain Park Memorial Hall, 30087. A reception and lecture for the artist is being held on January 31 at 6:00 p.m.

— Feb. 1 — Feb. 28: "American Slavery: The Reason Why We're Here," over 20 paintings showing the enduring struggles and triumph of African-American Slaves. This exhibit will be featured at the library on the Texas Southern University campus. A reception and lecture will be held for the artist on February 5 at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Texas Southern University, and The Links Chapter of Spring, Texas.

Womack tops list of rock inductees

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Cleveland native Bobby Womack is headed into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

It has all the makings of a night to remember for local music lovers, not to mention an unforgettable homecoming for Bobby Womack.

The Cleveland-born R&B artist will be enshrined alongside heavy-metal band Metallica, hip-hop trio Run-D.M.C., rock 'n' roll guitarist Jeff Beck and doo-wop favorites Little Anthony and the Imperials during the 24th annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony Saturday, April 4.

"I'm very happy about being able to... represent Cleveland on that level," Womack said, reached by phone at home in Los Angeles.

Honorees were announced Wednesday by the New York City-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foun-



BOBBY WOMACK

dation, which oversees the induction process. Womack had been waiting for a call from the Rock Hall ever since he took part in a 1994 topping-off ceremony at the museum, still under construction at the time.

"It got to a point [where] I said, 'I'm chasing a rainbow that I never started out chasing,'" said Womack, 64.

"It's a thrill for me, because having traveled around the world for so many years, fans ask me, 'What about the

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?' It was very important to them. What was important to me [was] being able to reach them spiritually, most of my life, and have the response back from them."

(See Inductees, Page 7)



Legendary crooners Little Anthony and the Imperials.