

Got A Problem?

By Gwendolyn Baines

Dear Gwendolyn:

I have been at the hospital for the last two days with my mother and my father. My mom received a call around 2 a.m. informing her that my younger sister was admitted into the hospital. Our first thought was that she had been involved in an auto accident. She always drove like a bat out of the sky.

When we arrived, my parents were told she was on critical listing. Some man had shot her in the head. This is my problem: My sister has always walked 'on the wild side.' She has never wanted to work and quit school before entering high school. She took a job working in a massage parlor, making almost a thousand dollars a night.

Ava

Dear Ava:

A thousand dollars per night? No child. By giving massages she didn't. Once upon a time a big sister could give advice to a little sister and it was accepted. But now that we are living in a different time with new rules, so many good values and high morals from the past were left in the past.

Pray for your sister's recovery and for her memory to be intact. Up to now your advice has not be received, but don't stop giving it. There are too many young girls dropping out of school for the fast money. Fast money is blood money.

Let me tell you this: Some girls are just considered to be wild. They run amok — like wild horses. It is hard to catch and train them. But think about. Just as a horse can be 'broken' — so can a woman.

Dear Gwendolyn:

About ten years ago while working at a large corporation, I met a lady and we have become great friends over the years. Two months ago she was supposed to get married. She sent out invitations and I gave her a bridal shower three weeks before the wedding.

This is the problem: She called off the wedding about an hour before the vows were to take place. The church was filled with her friends, family, and co-workers. They had all brought their gifts to the church and placed them in the downstairs reception area. Keep in mind that she received a sizable amount of gifts from the bridal shower. I told her I wanted my gifts back. I paid a lot for them. She is refusing. Since the wedding did not take place, do you think it is wrong for me to want my gifts back?

Gwendolyn, this you won't believe. She has been engaged five times to five different men, and called off the weddings at the last possible moment. This was to be her sixth wedding plan.

Rachel

Dear Rachel:

No, you are not wrong for wanting to have your gifts back. As you say, the wedding did not take place. However, often you hear of brides calling off the wedding and keeping the gifts.

Let me tell you this: It is not wise to pay a high price for any gift during this economic crisis. Some parents have given gifts such as a new car or down payment on their daughter and son-in-law's house. This is not happening as much during these difficult times.

Rachel, I don't intend to seem mean and cruel. However, sometimes the truth hurts. Think about it. For a person to invite people to a wedding five different times and five times call it off, that sixth invitation should have been ignored. It is obvious she has a problem. But she is not alone. It would be nice if she would give back all the gifts to all the people. Then all of you who got dressed again for a wedding (knowing her history) could use the refund money to secure the services of a psychiatrist — for group therapy.

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 or visit her website at: www.gwenbaines.com

Actress opens new academy

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES — Jada Pinkett Smith is adding another title to her resume: schoolmaster.

The 37-year-old actress-producer-musician and her husband, Will Smith, opened the New Village Leadership Academy last fall. The private school, for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, has 60 students, according to the website.

Pinkett Smith hopes to open a companion campus for upper grades. "My plan is to eventually have a high school," Pinkett Smith said. "I'm keeping my fingers crossed. I'm just trying to make it through this year."

Pinkett Smith, who is set to star in and executive produce a new series on TNT, said she decided to open the elementary school after creating a home-school program for her children, 10-year-old Jaden and 8-year-old Willow.

"More and more parents were like, 'Can we come?'" she said. "Then my house started to fill up. We had like 20 kids and I said, 'We might



Jada Pinkett Smith and husband, Will Smith, opened the New Village Leadership Academy in Los Angeles last fall.

as well start a school." The New Village Leadership Academy generated some controversy when it

founder L. Ron Hubbard. The school's director has said it isn't a Scientology facility.

Hubbard's "study technology" is a secular course akin to a Montessori approach, the website says.

Pinkett Smith said the school stresses "100 percent mastery," encouraging students to retake exams until they score 100 percent. The student body is ethnically and economically diverse, she said, "which is a very difficult thing to find in Los Angeles, Calif."

She called the school project "serious business."

"It's probably the hardest thing I've ever done," she said, "but it is really rewarding."

Pinkett Smith shared her thoughts on education during a cocktail party celebrating her new show, "Hawthorne," in which she plays a widowed nurse struggling to overcome her grief while balancing her duties at the hospital with those as a single mom of a teenage daughter. The show is set to premiere in June on TNT.

Jackson adds dates for London

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LONDON — As Michael Jackson once said: Don't stop till you get enough.

Concert promoters on Wednesday more than doubled Jackson's summer run of concerts in London after advance tickets sold out within hours of going on sale.

AEG Live said an advance allotment of half the tickets for the 10 shows in July sold out soon after going on sale. Seventeen con-

certs have been added into September, and more shows are possible.

Ticketseller Ticketmaster apologized for problems experienced by fans after its computer system crashed. Managing director Chris Edmonds said the glitches were the result of "an unprecedented level of demand."

Tickets, priced between \$70 and \$105 (50 pounds and 75 pounds) are currently on sale to buyers who registered online. Half the tickets for each show have been held back and go on sale to the general public Friday morning.

The 50-year-old King of Pop has said the shows at the 20,000-capacity O2 Arena in south London will be his last in the British capital.

Jackson has sold more than 75 million albums and won 13 Grammys, but has not staged a major tour since 1997 or released an album of new material since 2001.

Jackson has

appeared in public infrequently since being acquitted of child molestation in California in 2005, and he has struggled to pay his debts. Last year, he was forced to give up the deed to Neverland, his 2,500-acre ranch and miniature amusement park in California.

The London shows are entitled "This is It," and Jackson said they would be his swan song — although AEG said the gigs could be part of a bigger, final world tour.

But it remains to be seen whether Jackson is up to a lengthy tour. His last live performance in Britain was at the 2006 World Music Awards, when he managed just a few lines of "We Are the World" before leaving the stage.

A video of Jackson trying to record a new single, shown at a British court last year when Jackson was being sued for breach of contract, showed him struggling to keep up his powerful vocals.



MICHAEL JACKSON



Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School is pleased to announce the addition of the FOURTH GRADE for the 2009-2010 School Year!

Rainbow Dreams Academy is now accepting enrollment for full day kindergarten through fourth grades. Registration packets may be picked up at the school between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Rainbow Dreams Academy is also seeking teachers for primary and intermediate positions. This is an opportunity to teach in a nurturing and well-disciplined learning environment. Teachers must have a clear, valid Nevada teaching license. To apply e-mail your resume to rd charter@yahoo.com or by fax at 638-0220.

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