

## Ask Yolonda

### Where--and where not to breast-feed infants

By YOLONDA GAYLES  
Syndicated Columnist

**Dear Yolonda:** Several months ago, there was a meeting that was well-attended by everyone in our community. There was a young lady there with two small children, one an infant. You could tell that the young lady was a black nationalist type, complete with the "dreadlocks" hairstyle and the African-type dress.

When the young lady's baby started crying, she immediately flipped up the top of the dress and began to breast feed!

I don't consider myself squeamish, but I found it difficult to listen to what was being said at the meeting, when here was a woman who half-exposed her breast.

A few weeks later, one of my girlfriends who recently had a baby was at my house. We were sitting around talking, and the baby got hungry. Well, what did she do? The same thing. She put a blanket on her shoulder, and begin to breast-feed. I felt uncomfortable.

Because this woman was a friend, I felt I could say something to her. I told her my feelings. I have a son that was breast-fed, but I would never think of doing what she did. I always fed him in private. I also mentioned to her that, if my husband had been home (while she breast-fed), I would have had a fit.

She became angry and started telling me that I've been brainwashed by white customs. I'm not against breast-feeding. I just think we shouldn't be so open with it. Especially this woman, who happens to be very busty.

Has the practice of breast-feeding in public become acceptable among the "now generation" in our society? What are your feelings on this?

Donna

**Dear Donna:** Well, as the saying goes, while in Ghana, do as the Ghanians do. But we're in America, now. In other words, tell your friend that you'd appreciate her being somewhat more discreet in your home. Breast-feed in private.

#### Unprotected In Jail

**Dear Yolonda:** I'm locked up in a Beaufort County jail, awaiting trial. Last year, a man broke in, held the jailer at gunpoint, and sent him to the back of the jail to get out one of his friends. Meanwhile, the deputy went out the back door, leaving the jail unprotected. When the man saw what was happening, he started firing. I was hit in the right foot, and the left toe.

I filed a lawsuit, but the lawyers in this town won't take the suit. I have been unsuccessful in finding one that lives in another town. I have a wife and four boys. What can a man in my situation do to get legal help? I feel that the deputy should have provided more protection for me while I'm here.

#### Virgil In Wilmington

**Dear Virgil:** To find an attorney to handle your case, try contacting the American Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 3094, Greensboro, N.C., 27404. I was advised that this is not the type of case that they handle, but perhaps they can refer you to the right lawyer. Let me hear how things work out.

For a personal reply, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Yolonda Gayles, P.O. Box 19412, Chicago Ill., 60619.



Michael Jackson, shown here with Diana Ross, who helped give him and his brothers their big break as the Jackson Five, had a fairly decent year in '83, with a platinum

album, fast-selling duets with Paul McCartney, the narration of an "E.T." storybook album, and a pair of award-winning music videos.

## Night Moves

### Frat House: Customer's always first

By JOHN SLADE  
Assistant Editor

What makes the Ebony Frat House different from other night spots in Winston-Salem is its management, says Teresa Holmes.

As manager of the club, located at 2230 Patterson Ave., for a little over a year now, Holmes says the Frat House's strongest point is its concern for its customers. "We are interested in pleasing our customers," she says. "Everybody is out to make money, but we place our customers first, and giving them a nice place to enjoy is our first concern."

The Ebony Frat House caters to a clientele that ranges between the ages of "25 and 50, and maybe some even older than that," says Holmes. "We have a mixed group -- which I think is very important." Her theory is this:

"Young people -- and I'm talking about the youngest age I mentioned -- like to be around older people sometimes. They are getting to the point that they might be getting ready to settle down, and they are sort of easing their way out of the really fast life."

Though it's a relatively small facility, the Ebony Frat House has a strong following. The 1984 membership drive is just under way, reports Holmes,

but the members-only club already has 250 to 300 members who are regular patrons. "I couldn't say whether that's (membership) good or bad," she says. "The year has just begun and I'm sure our membership will grow."

Surprisingly, the membership fee is only \$2, but Holmes says there's a reason.

"Being in the black community, we know that all blacks don't have a lot of money," she says. "You have to help people be able to come out (to the club). And first with me is the customers. And we do all we can to help them."

The Ebony Frat House's special interest, says Holmes, is social clubs, such as the Sophisticated Ladies, a service-oriented group of women, and other clubs expressing positive intentions in the black community. The club has formed the Inter-council of Social Clubs, which is an organizing body for the social groups that belong to the Ebony Frat House and regularly hold fund-raising functions there.

In addition to a full bar, dance floor and lounge with a color TV, the Ebony Frat House features Dr. Music, the club's colorful and well-liked deejay. "The customers really love him," says Holmes.

The club is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, and coupled with a 7 to 10 p.m. happy hour

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The customer always comes first at the Ebony Frat House, says Teresa Holmes, the club's manager (photo by James Parker).

## Spotlight

### 'Pearl' goes from making shots to making hits

Success seems to be second nature to Earl "The Pearl" Monroe. His incredible record as a college athlete and his legendary 13 years in the NBA are testaments to his determination and ability to rise above the crowd. And while his achievements as one of basketball's greatest players are known internationally, Earl has spent the last 10 years building an equally outstanding reputation in another arena: the entertainment industry.

Growing up in Philadelphia, young Earl had his eye on a career in baseball. However, by his 14th birthday, he had already grown to his full height of 6-3. Basketball seemed more promising, and the switch ultimately proved to be the right choice.

As a senior at Winston-Salem State, Earl's 41.5-point average carried the school to a 1967 NCAA division II championship. Earl was a first-round draft pick by the Baltimore Bullets and played

with the team from 1967 to 1971.

In 1967, he was named Rookie of the Year, wrapping up a season in which he scored a career high of 56 points against the Los Angeles Lakers.

The transition from stellar sports professional to show business entrepreneur has been an easy one for Earl, principally because both have always been in his blood. His attraction to the stage may, in fact, be a trait inherited from his father, who performed as a dancer with famed blues singer Bessie Smith. Earl's first inspiration came from the greats of an earlier era. During his college days at Winston-Salem State, he performed as a comedian, borrowing most of his material from "Pigmeat" Markham. By his junior year, he was doing stand-up routines at the famous Lyric Theatre in Baltimore. "It was an experience," Earl says with laughter. "It let me know that I was not cut out to be a stand-up comic."

However, Earl still enjoyed performing before an audience, and at halftime during games, he often dazzled the crowd with a magic act.

An interest in music began for him as a youngster with a singing group in his hometown of Philadelphia. Though Earl never studied music formally, he could pick out tunes and listened intently to songs on the radio. "I didn't have a voice really, but I knew where all the ooooh's and aaah's were supposed to go," he says.

The interest in music stayed with him throughout his years on the court and Earl began considering it seriously as a second career once he retired from basketball.

He didn't wait, however, until he had played his last game to get involved in the business. Julie Rifkind, president of Spring Records, called Earl in

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Earl Monroe, president of Pretty Pearl Records.