

# WEEKEND

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## Ask Yolonda

### How to show you really care

By YOLONDA GAYLES  
Syndicated Columnist

**Dear Yolonda:** I'm a social worker who works with parents who are separated or divorced. Right after the holidays seems to be the most depressing time for parents who are without custody of their children. It's particularly distressful for many of the parents who come to see me because they haven't the money to shower their kids with gifts. So, I've come up with a list of inexpensive things non-custody parents can do to reinforce their love for their children. I think all parents need to read it. May I use your column?

L.D.M.

**Dear L.D.M.:** By all means. You've given us some solid ideas. Thanks for the tips.

#### Showing Your Children You Care

Today, there's a lot of talk about the quality of time you spend with your children, as opposed to the quantity of time. Well, there's some truth to this, but the most important thing is that you spend *some* time with them. This means regularly using visitation rights. Don't allow anything, or anyone, to interfere.

Some other tips:

- Everything you give your children does not have to be costly. Try making them something. As I told one mother who claimed never to have anything to give her children:

"Make them a batch of cookies!

- Have something at your house that's theirs, even if they only see it once a week. A small, inexpensive aquarium will do. If money is a problem, try keeping a bank in which both you and the kids contribute, then purchase the equipment as you go along.



Yolonda

- Have a long-term project going on at your home that everyone's working on. Collages are great, or perhaps you'd prefer a puzzle.

- If you can afford it, once your child gets older, try having a phone installed in his or her bedroom. Tell your child that the phone is a hotline between you two. It eliminates the hassle of going through others to speak with one another.

- Make sure that your child has a framed photo of you. It would surprise you to know how many homes I've visited where the children don't even have a picture of their parent.

- Finally, once your children are at the age where they can read and write, develop the habit of maintaining a joint diary. Sharing what occurred during the week will accomplish two goals: First, you'll help your child with his writing skills, but more important, you'll accomplish the goal of keeping a closer eye on day-to-day stride towards adulthood. And, as I tell the parents that come to see me, that's the greatest reward of parenthood.

#### A Matter of Perspective

**Dear Yolonda:** I am in love with a guy who is older than I am. But that's not the problem. He is also very much married and has children who are very much older than me. That's not the problem, either.

The problem is that although we date, we've never been intimate. I want to tell him how I feel, but I can't. I want to tell him that I care for him, and that I want to make love to him, but something always stops me. I guess he thinks that by me being so young I might get pregnant or something.

Please tell me how to handle this. I believe he has feelings for me, too.

.T.

**Dear S.T.:** To make sure that you're reading this  
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#### Weekend Pass

Sailors meet some not-so-military types in Crown International's "Weekend Pass," a new comedy chronicling the sailors' adventures on a 72-hour liberty pass in Los Angeles. Chip McAllister, center, plays Desmond "Bunker" Hill, who joins the Navy to escape the Watts ghetto. The film currently is showing at the Hanes Mall Cinema.



Robert Guillaume: Back as "Purlie."

## Mark the date: 'Purlie's' coming

From the prologue's rousing gospel number to the ecstatic "hallelujah chorus" grand finale, "Purlie", the poignant and wildly comic musical, has been revived for the UNC Center for Public Television's "Festival '84." Airing Thursday, March 15, at 9 p.m., "Purlie" features Melba Moore, recreating the role of Lutiebelle that catapulted her to stardom; Robert Guillaume, who starred as Purlie in the national company, and Sherman Hemsley, who recreates his role of the sly overseer, Gitlow, for this special production.

Based on Ossie Davis' play "Purlie Victorious," the original "Purlie" opened in 1970 to widespread critical acclaim on the Broadway stage. Clive Barnes wrote in the *New York Times* that "Purlie" is "a fine mixture of humor and passion ... This is by far the richest of all black musicals ...."

The show won two Tony Awards, one for Melba Moore for best supporting actress in a musical.

"Purlie" takes place on a Georgia plantation; it recounts the hilarious effort of the cotton pickers,

headed by their preacher Purlie, to pull a fast one on the bigoted, oppressive Ol' Cap'n, played by Brandon Maggart. Melba Moore's Lutiebelle is a spirited girl who sets her cap for the Rev. Purlie, a high-prancing, self-styled churchman who dreams of having a church built and freeing his people from Ol' Cap'n's exploitation. With some elaborate scheming and a little luck, Purlie saves the day.

Star of the ABC television comedy series "Benson," Robert Guillaume won an Emmy Award for his role in the sitcom "Soap." His extensive accomplishments on the Broadway stage include roles in "Guys and Dolls," "Golden Boy" and "Purlie."

Singer and actress Melba Moore has appeared in many Broadway musicals, including "Hair," "Purlie" and "Timbuktu." Her career as a concert and recording artist includes several hit records and a Grammy nomination.

Sherman Hemsley has been a favorite with television audiences since his network debut as the next-

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#### Consumer Corner

### New game designed to entertain and educate

Looking for something to do in your leisure time that's both fun and educational?

Four young business people -- Latrissa Gordon, Murry Hollifield, Calvin Holliday and Lucy Hollifield have developed "Identity", a new game they hope will help rekindle an interest in black heritage. Identity was developed especially for black families.

Identity Concepts Inc., a black-owned and -operated company, markets the game.

"The civil rights movement helped black people of our generation see themselves in a positive light," Ms. Hollifield, president of I. C., explains, "and we hope

Identity will help do the same for children to day."

With Identity, Ms. Hollifield says, children can have fun while learning more about their cultural heritage. Each player takes a "secret" identity -- a famous person from black history.

The object of the game is to guess the other players' identities before your own identity is revealed. By focusing on the achievements and contributions of black people through-out history "Identity" helps build positive role models and instills pride in children, she says.

Identity Concepts inc. also markets "The Identity

Collection," an art series featuring portraits of 20 famous black people. The collection makes an excellent display for schools, libraries, museums and community organizations, Ms. Hollifield says.

"The Identity Game" and "The Identity Collection" are available exclusively by mail order. "The Identity Game" is \$9.99 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

"The Identity Collection" is \$13.99 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling. To order either send a check or money order to Identity Concepts Inc., 202 S. State Street, Suite 1302, Chicago, Ill., 60604, or call 312/341-0900.

#### Television/Radio

### Public television program to focus on Martin Luther King

The career of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how he touched the lives of five North Carolinians will be explored in a "Stateline" report Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. over stations of the UNC Center for Public Television.

"Stateline" is North Carolina Public Television's weekly newsmagazine program.

The King retrospective, first broadcast in January prior to King's birthday, is being repeated as part of the observance of Black History Month on North Carolina Public Television.

Report Ted Harrison interviews five Raleigh

residents who knew or worked with King about how effective they feel his efforts were. They also share their views on the decision to declare a national holiday in King's honor. Interviewed are Shaw University faculty member Dr. Grady Davis, the Rev. A. W. Ward of Raleigh's First Baptist Church retired Baptist minister, W. W. Finlator Prezell Robinson, president of St. Augustine's College, and Claude Sitton, editor of the Raleigh *News and Observer*.

In another segment, Lew Gitlin visits the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro that was site of the 1960 sit-ins by four black students from

A&T State University. He also interviews David Richmond, one of the sit-in participants, about the decision to protest and how it has affected his life since. Gitlin talks to others about how the sit-ins were perceived by both the black and white communities in the city and former *Greensboro Daily News* reporter Jo Spivey recalls how her coverage of the sit-ins led to threats and harassment from some readers. Kelly Alexander of Charlotte is the subject of a "Profile" interview with Marc Finlayson. In January, Alexander was elected national chairman of the NAACP.

In a "Speak-Out" segment, Audrey Kates Bailey asks Smithfield residents their opinions about the holiday honoring Dr. King, and in the "Analysis" spot, Public Affairs Director Richard W. Hatch discusses the impact of King's career with Milton Jordan, editor of the *Carolina Times* in Durham, and Paul T. O'Connor of the Association of Afternoon Dailies.

"Stateline" airs locally on WUNL-TV, Channel 26, and will be repeated Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19, at 12:30 p.m.