

arts & leisure

Television, Radio, Advice, Music

Ask Yolonda

Troubled Daughter And Mom Trying To Cope With 'Changes'

By YOLONDA GAYLES
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda: I recently made the mistake of telling my mother that she may be going through "the change." She's 45.

The reason I made the statement is that, recently, her whole outlook on life has changed. For example, we gave my four-year-old niece a party. One of the kids dropped some candy on the floor. She went right off, ("Oh no! Not peanuts on my floor!"). My sister and I said to her: "Mom, you don't have to get upset about the peanuts. We're going to sweep them up."



Y. Gayles

Well, she went off over that.

The house is clean every day. Dinner is ready when she gets home from work. She has high blood pressure, so we try not to upset her. But she does all this to herself.

I ask her a simple question, like "Have you seen the bread?" and she goes right off: "No, I haven't and I'm not going through the change!"

We can't sit down and have a small conversation without her telling me that she's not going through the change.

I now wish I hadn't said anything to her. What I

was trying to say to her was whatever she was going through, we were here to go through it with her. Now, all that happens is that I get a lot of harsh treatment.

I know she can't afford to pay all the bills by herself, but I think it's time for me to move out. I'm 27. Any suggestions?

Just sign me C.H.

Dear C.H.: The correct name is menopause. If it's a natural part of life, I think we should be willing to call it by its right name. But there could be many reasons for your mom's reaction.

If at all possible, you might mention her behavior changes to her doctor. As you suggest, her actions could have something to do with her blood pressure.

Still, if your mother continues to be so unforgiving, ask her is she'd rather you move. Your mother's not the only one who's changing.

At 27, you've changed into a woman with your own ideas. Perhaps you're ready to strike out on your own.

Pledging Causes Problems

Dear Yolonda: Please advise as to whether or not there is a way that an "over-30" woman can become a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. without doing it through the teen-age groups.

I am a first-year college student with a B+ grade-point average.

Maelisabeth

Dear Maelisabeth: I called the local AKA sorority, only to find that if you join as an undergraduate, you

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Broadway Is My Beat

She Really Is Louise Jefferson

By JOEY SASSO
Syndicated Columnist

Observations in covering the night beat:

Isabel Sanford of "The Jeffersons" once was beaten up by the man she eventually married, she discloses. "But I went ahead and married the man -- can you believe that? says the 65-year-old actress.

She admits that she and her husband Sonny, who died in 1960, fought frequently -- but, she says, she usually threw the first punch. "The reason was because I knew he was going to hit me," she explains.

That first time, though, it was Sonny who swung first, on a stroll along a New York sidewalk. "It was

a reaction to something I did or said," she recalls. "I fell and hit against the hydrant and I cracked my tooth. My face was so swollen. Of course, when I got myself together, I lit into him. And there was a man standing there on the street just looking -- doing nothing."

Isabel says she was so embarrassed by her bruises she sneaked into her mother's apartment with the lights out. "Next morning, I put cold water on the swelling but it didn't help a bit," she says.

"And still, I married that man. Marriage is no easy go -- I don't know if I'd do it again. I've got some money now and I want to leave it to my children, and

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Mary Jane Girls



Weaving Her 'Spell'

"This album is a continuation of the creative flow that I established with Stevie Wonder some years ago. Finally, I feel that my true musical personality is coming through," says Syreeta of her newest album "Spell." Produced by Jermaine Jackson, "Spell" allows listeners to peek into what could be the streamlined future of pop music. The album features Stevie Wonder executing some haunting synthesizer work

Musical Notes

James Unveils Mary Jane Girls

In the 50s, Bo Diddley and Chuck Berry played some sassy guitar licks and conjured up a rhythmic beat that set the music world on fire. It took the likes of Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley to popularize the sound, but pop music has never been the same since the birth of rock and roll.

Almost three decades later, Rick James is on to something that's equally as explosive. It started off as "punk funk," and now it's evolved into a more definable sound he calls "funk and roll."

As with rock and roll, there was some early resistance, but Rick James, his Stone City Band and now the first legitimate female funk and roll group, the Mary Jane Girls, are out to prove that funk and roll is here to stay.

The Mary Jane Girls -- Jo Jo, Candi, Cheri and Maxi, are the final realization of a musical concept Rick conceived about five years ago.

"My concept was to create female characters women could identify with musically," he says. "I wanted to form a group that exuded the same sort of

theatrics and fun that I'd established with the Rick James character."

Recording projects with Teena Marie, The Stone City Band, The Temptations, Bobby Militello and his own albums and national tours prevented Rick from developing the concept further. But, late in '82, he finally began his search for the Mary Jane Girls.

He held auditions in New York and Los Angeles, and after screening some 200 girls, chose four. Rick says his final selections were based on their combined talent, ambition, personality, beauty and singing ability.

Two weeks later, Jo Jo, Cheri, Candi and Maxi were at the Record Plant in Sausalito rehearsing songs and recording.

After completing almost an entire album, Rick took the product back to Los Angeles to land a record contract for the group. He didn't have to look too far. He signed the Mary Jane Girls to Motown, the same company that launched Rick and his funk

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Marvin Gaye: How Tragedy Spurred His Growth As An Artist

By VERNON GIBBS
Contributor

This article is the second in a two-part series.

Marvin Gaye has triumphed over adversity before. His classic "What's Going On" came out of the period of mourning that followed the death of Tammi Terrell, his favorite singing partner. Before that, even though Gaye had said he felt he was destined to "do something to change music," his output had been just like the other high-quality pop that Motown had

been churning out for a decade.

From Washington, D.C., where he grew up singing and playing organ in his father's church, Gaye was one of the first artists signed to Motown after Berry Gordy heard him singing with Harvey Fuqua's final version of the Moonglows. The hits started immediately, beginning with "Stubborn Kind of Fellow," "Hitch Hike," "Pride and Joy," "Can I Get a Witness," "You're a Wonderful One," "Baby Don't You Do It," "How Sweet It Is To Be Loved By You," "I'll Be Doggone," "Ain't That Peculiar" and so many more spanning the 1960's.

Even though he was a successful solo performer, Motown paired him in a series of duets throughout his career, beginning with Mary Wells ("What's the Matter With You Baby") and Kim Weston ("It Takes Two") and culminating with Diana Ross in 1973-74. But it was with Tammi Terrell that he had his most memorable duet hits, including "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "Your Precious Love," "If I Could Build My Whole World Around You," "If This World Were Mine," "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing" and the all-time classic, "You're All I Need To Get By."

Of his duet partnerships, he says, "I never had any thoughts that my singing with anybody could possibly injure my progress, even with top billing. It is always enjoyable to work with someone. It's something new. New excitement in life. I don't like to follow my footsteps and my shadow. Singers are afraid to branch out and try something new and exciting. I did."

The excitement seemed to come to an end when Tammi Terrell collapsed in his arms onstage. She died three years later of a brain tumor and during the

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